



WEEK FOUR

SPF: Say Prayers Frequently--and Read the Bible too!

As we continue our journey of cultivating our talents, add the following to your family's prayer time this week.

Behold, O my soul! The Master entrusts to you a talent. Receive the gift with fear; lend to Him who gave it; distribute to the poor, and gain the Lord as a Friend; that you may stand on His right, when He comes in Glory, and hear His blessed voice: "Enter, O servant, into the joy of your Lord!" In Your great Mercy, O Savior, deem me, who has strayed, worthy of this joy.

As a family, go over the scriptural passage and discuss the following questions (if you have younger children, please paraphrase for their understanding):

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them." His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." He also who had received two talents came and said, "Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them." His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." Then he who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours." But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will

have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” - Matthew 25:14-30

- What is the overall meaning of the passage?
- How can we, like the good and faithful servants, multiply the talents God has given us?
- What are some of the reasons we might hide our talents?

GOING FORTH: Faith in Action

It's interview time! This week we would like you to interview two faithful people with different life vocations. A vocation is your calling—this can be a formal job or an informal one. Take notes, snap pictures, or even make a video—whatever you and the person interviewed are comfortable with. Here are some suggested questions to get you started (but try to think up some of your own!):

- What role does your Orthodox Christian faith play in your, or your family's, daily life?
- How would you describe your vocation in life? How were you drawn to it?
- It has been said that your talent is God's gift to you, and what you do with it is your gift to God. How can God be glorified through one's vocation?
- Is there a saint that inspires you in your vocation?

DIVE IN: Apostles Log

Week Four Journal Entry:

Look at the list of talents you made last week. Now, consider how you can use those gifts to give glory to God in your home, in your church, and in the world. Encourage everyone in your family to share one of their talents for someone's benefit during the next week.

Take pictures, and don't forget to share with us!
#soakuptheSON

VITAMIN D: Memory Eternal

God has appointed us all as stewards of His Kingdom. What does that mean for our lives? Watch Episode 39 of Y2AM's Be the Bee to see how we can all be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted us with. <http://bit.ly/kings-stewards>



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