

General Church Education



The Parable of the Minas

Luke 19:12-27

Lesson 20

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

The Parable of the Minas

Luke 19:12-27

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

The Lord told the parable of the minas when He was on His way into Jerusalem for the last time. He knew that He would soon be leaving His disciples. This parable focuses on the message that each of us is given the means to salvation. That is, we have the knowledge of truth and good from the Word to guide our lives. What we do with it determines what our life after death will be like.

Everything we have is from the Lord. Our spiritual gifts, all the goodness and truth that come to us, originates in Him. Our natural gifts, the abilities we need to live in this world, are also from Him. The world we live in was created by the Lord for the use of people. If we recognize this and use these gifts well in the service of the Lord and the neighbor, we are good servants and enjoy the kind of happiness the Lord can give. If we do not use the spiritual gifts the Lord has given us to become wise, but keep them only in our memories—or use them for evil purposes—then we will lose all that we have attained when we come into the spiritual world.

The Lord provides the necessary means for salvation to everyone. It is up to us to use our rationality and freedom to choose the life that leads to heaven.

Ideas for Children

- Parables are stories with a hidden message.
- The Lord uses parables to lead people to understand the truth and how it applies to them.
- The Lord wants us to use the teachings from the Word to make good choices.

From the Writings

The Lord is life itself. People who acknowledge the Lord but separate charity from Him, only acknowledges Him with the lips. Their acknowledgment and confession lack faith; for they lack spiritual essence, since charity is the essence of faith. However, people who do charitable deeds and fail to acknowledge the Lord as being the God of heaven and earth—one with the Father—can perform only deeds of natural charity, which do not contain everlasting life. People in the church know that all good which is essentially good comes from the Lord, who is the true God and everlasting life (1 John 5:20). The same is true of charity, since good and charity are one. Faith without charity is no faith and charity without faith is no charity, and both are lifeless unless the Lord gives them life. In the Lord, charity and faith make one, just as in a person life, the will and understanding do, and if they are separated, each of them is destroyed, like a pearl collapsing into dust. See *True Christian Religion* 367

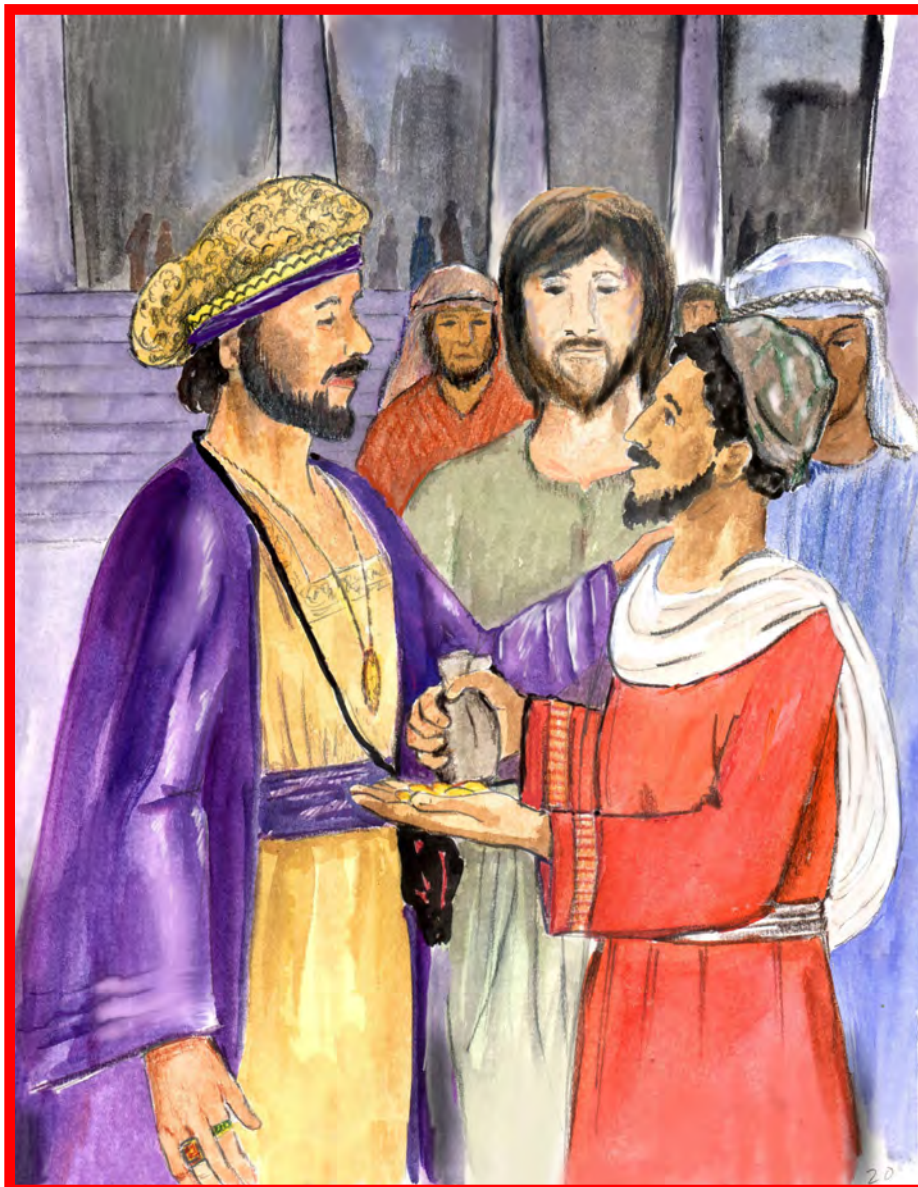
By “pearls,” in the spiritual sense, are meant the knowledges of good and truth which are from the Word, particularly from the sense of its letter. The same knowledges are meant by pearls in parable of the merchant seeking pearls in Matthew 13. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 727

The Parable of the Minas

The Lord told many stories while He was on earth. As we have learned, large crowds of people gathered around Him to hear Him teach about life. They were happy to learn from the Lord.

The Kingdom of Heaven

Now we have another parable teaching about heaven. When the Lord told this parable to His disciples, He knew that His time on earth would soon end. He knew it, but His disciples did not. He wanted them to learn to choose heaven and hoped they would remember this story when He was no longer with them on earth. The Lord wants everyone to choose heaven because He would like all of us to be happy to eternity with Him.



This parable is called the parable of the minas. A mina is a large amount of silver money, worth about three months' salary. Have you ever seen any large silver coins that are valuable? Imagine what it would have felt like to have a wealthy man like the one in this story give you a large amount of money. Let's read now and find out what the wealthy man asked his servants to do with this money.

Read Luke 19:12-13. How many servants did the nobleman call to him? (Ten.)

How much money did he give to each one? (One mina.)

What did the nobleman tell the servants to do with this money? (To do business until he returned.)

Yes, the servants were to use this money in the daily business of life, to trade and make more money with it. How do you think they will do? Let's read and find out.

Read Luke 19:14-27. What happened with the first servant? (He had managed his money well and now had ten minas. He was given ten cities to rule.)

What happened with the second servant? (He had also used his money well and now had five minas. He was given five cities.)

And what happened with the third servant? (He had not used his money at all, but had put it away in a handkerchief. He gave excuses for his behavior. His mina was taken away from him and given to the man with ten minas.)

The people nearby wondered why the nobleman took the mina from this servant, but he told them that “to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.” Then the nobleman's enemies who did not want him to rule over them were all killed.

The Message Within the Story

Let's see how this parable teaches us about heaven. The nobleman gave each of his servants a mina or a large amount of money to use, just as the Lord gives each of us a treasure. This treasure is found in His Word. In the Word everyone can find out how to live a good life. The Ten Commandments tell us clearly what is good, and there are many more teachings in the Word to help us know right from wrong as well. But we need to *use* these teachings, just as the servants were told to use the money.

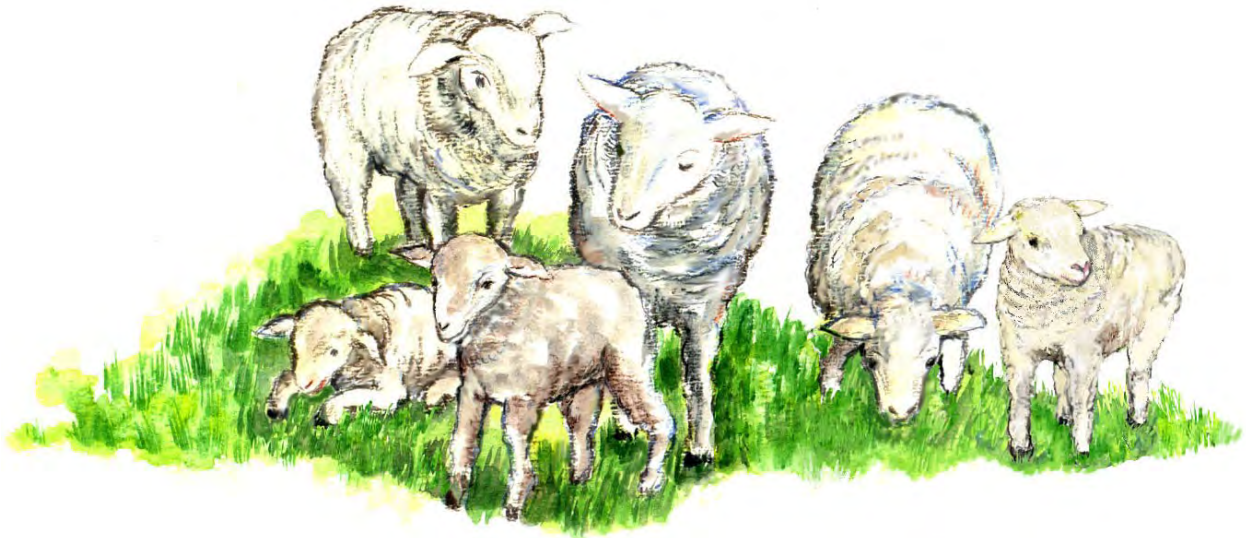
How do you think the Lord can be with everyone at the same time? (Answers may include that the Lord is infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing, and loves everyone equally.)



When we use the teachings from the Word to make good choices in our daily lives, we are like the servants who obeyed their master and traded their minas to make more money. When we learn the truth and just keep it in our memory, without trying to use it in our lives, we are like the servant who hid his mina away in a handkerchief.

When we come into the spiritual world, all those who have been good servants of the Lord and tried to obey Him in their lives will be given even more happiness. But those who chose not to use the truths from the Word will have those good things that they know taken away.

The Lord told this parable to His disciples because He wanted them to use the teachings He had given them after He was gone from their sight. The Lord wants each of us to use the instruction we have from Him too. Yes, sometimes we set His truths aside and forget about them, but true happiness comes from learning the Lord's truths and living them.



Discussion Questions

- What do you think this parable tells us about getting to heaven? (When we use the instruction the Lord gives us in our lives, we gain the happiness of heaven. When we just learn about what is good and do not do it, we do not learn to live in heaven.)
- Can you describe a time when you chose to use a good thing you had learned? Think of a time you obeyed a commandment or were kind to someone.
- What are some good things you know right now? How might you use them today?

Activity Overview | The Parable of the Minas

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45, 46

Songs

You Are the Vine

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-you-are-the-vine/>

Trust and Obey

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-trust-and-obey/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Gifts from the Lord
- Activity 2 | Investing Our Talents
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- Use your talents to do something special for someone.

Activity 1 | Gifts from the Lord

Our talents are gifts from the Lord. Talents can be as simple as a beautiful smile, a lot of energy, or the ability to stay with a job until it is done. Our talents increase as we use them. People who have learned to say kind words to others, play the piano well or swim fast have worked hard with talents the Lord gave them to make themselves His useful servants. What gifts has the Lord given you? Better still, how are you going to use His gifts to serve others?

Materials

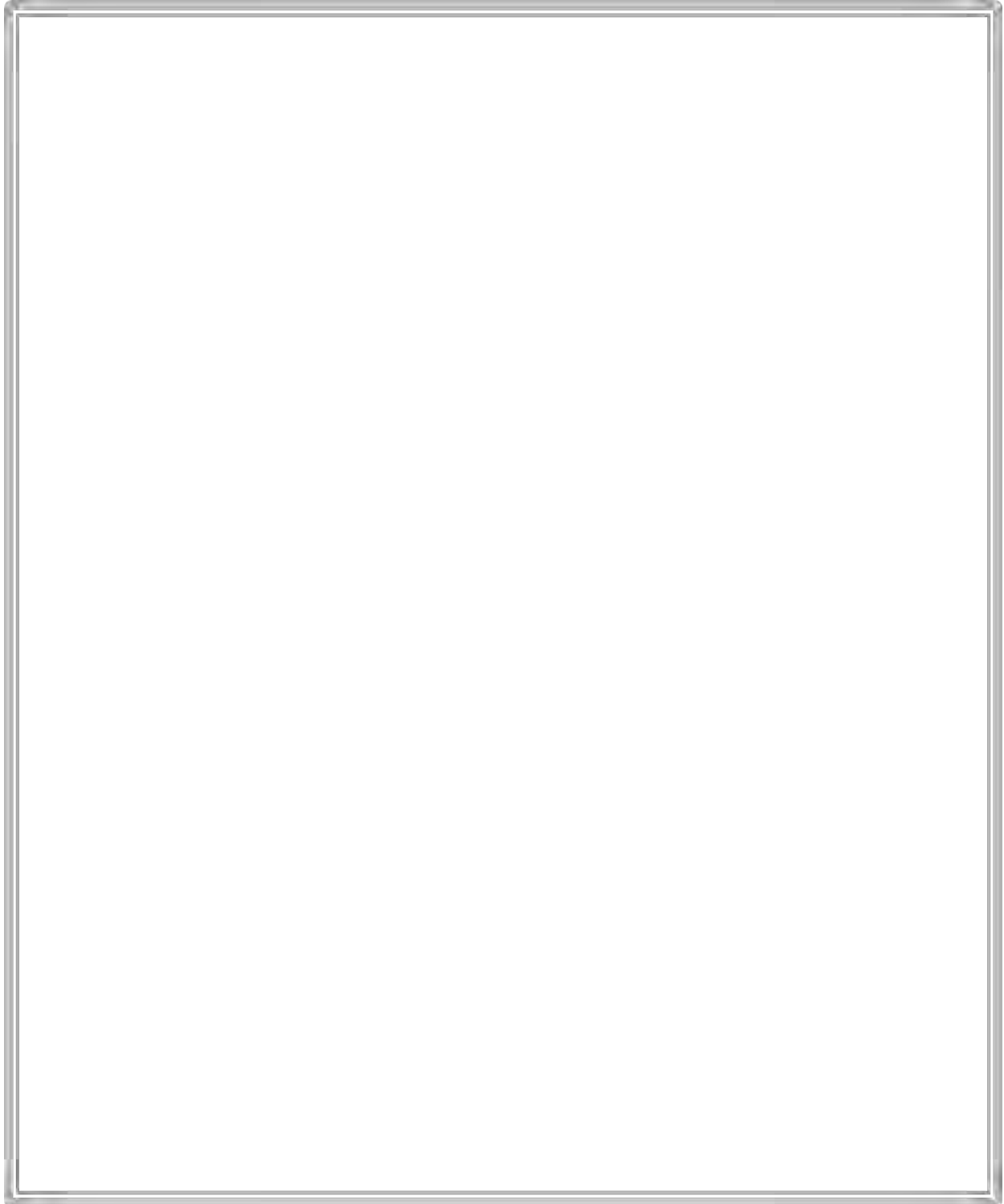
a copy of the *Talents are gifts from the Lord* page
crayons, colored pencils or markers

Instructions

- Brainstorm a list of talents the Lord has given you. Now think of ways in which you could use your talents.
- Draw a picture of yourself using the talents the Lord has given you to thank Him for His gifts or to serve others on the *Talents are gifts from the Lord* page.

Talents are gifts from the Lord.
What you do with them is your gift to the Lord and to others.

Draw a picture of yourself using the talents the Lord has given you.



Activity 2 | Investing Our Talents

The Lord calls us all to use the gifts He gives in His Word by investing them through our words and actions. When we do this our lives can become more and more fruitful, just as the faithful servant earned ten minas when he invested just one. Create a picture that shows the coins the three servants presented to their lord when he returned.

Materials

The Parable of the Minas page

Coins page (optional: printed on silver, grey or brown paper)

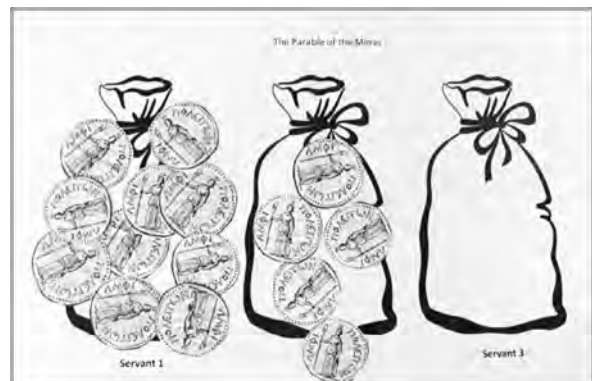
scissors

glue

crayons, colored pencils or markers

Instructions

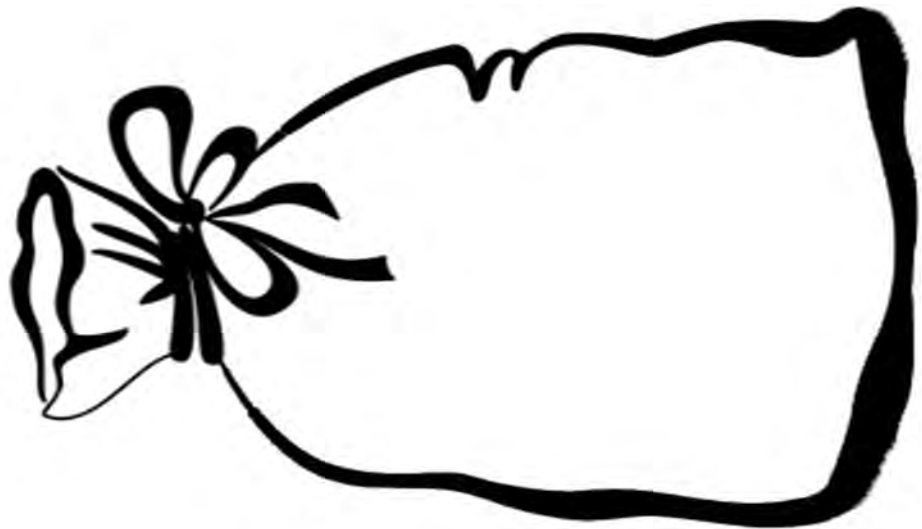
1. Fill the sacks on *The Parable of the Minas* page to show how many coins the servants earned while their master was away. (Do not include the original coin each servant received in the sacks.)
2. *Optional:* If *Coins* page is printed on white paper, color the coins tan or grey before cutting them out.
3. Cut out enough coins (10) to fill the sack of *Servant 1*. Glue the coins inside the sack.
4. Cut out enough coins (5) to fill the sack of *Servant 2*. Glue the coins inside the sack.
5. How many coins should we cut out to fill the sack of *Servant 3*? (0)
6. What did the lord say to Servants 1 and 2? (Well done, good and faithful servant.)
7. What reward do we receive from the Lord when we invest the talents He gives us? (heaven)
8. What did the lord say to Servant 3? (Take the mina from him and give it to him who has ten minas.)
9. What did he mean by this?



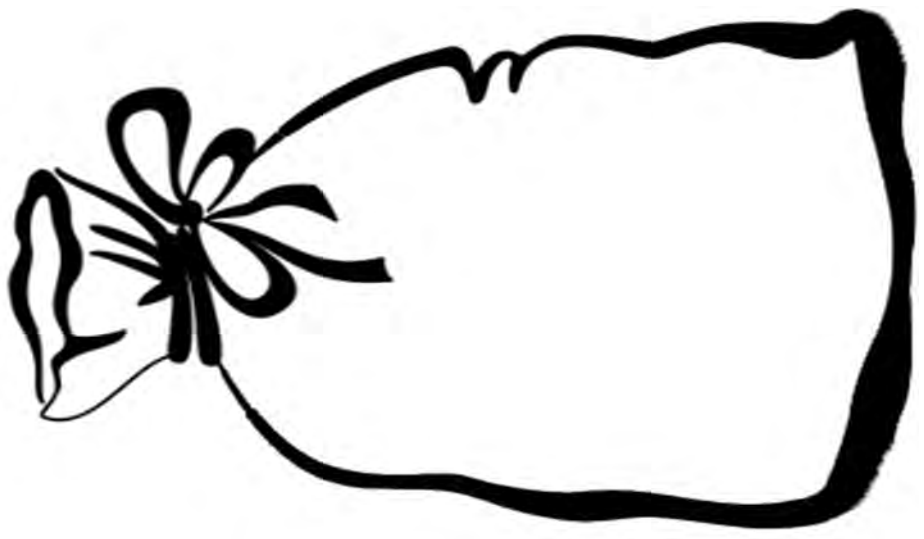
The Parable of the Minas



Servant 1



Servant 2



Servant 3



