

Youth & Family Worship Gifts 11/15/20



Call to Worship #1

L: Come! Share the joy of the Lord!

P: Delight in God's goodness!

L: Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared.

P: Lord, we thank you for these gifts!

L: Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

P: Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us.

AMEN

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/8508/worship-connection-november-15-2020>

Children's worship song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT_8U8oTUm0&ab_channel=StPaulQC



Opening Prayer

O Lord, we gratefully acknowledge the gifts you have given to each of us for service in your world. Gifts of teaching, healing, inspiring, challenging and creating are all among the myriad of things you have placed in our lives. Direct our lives to use these gifts as we reach out to our neighborhood and nation, witnessing to your love and your healing mercy. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/8508/worship-connection-november-15-2020>

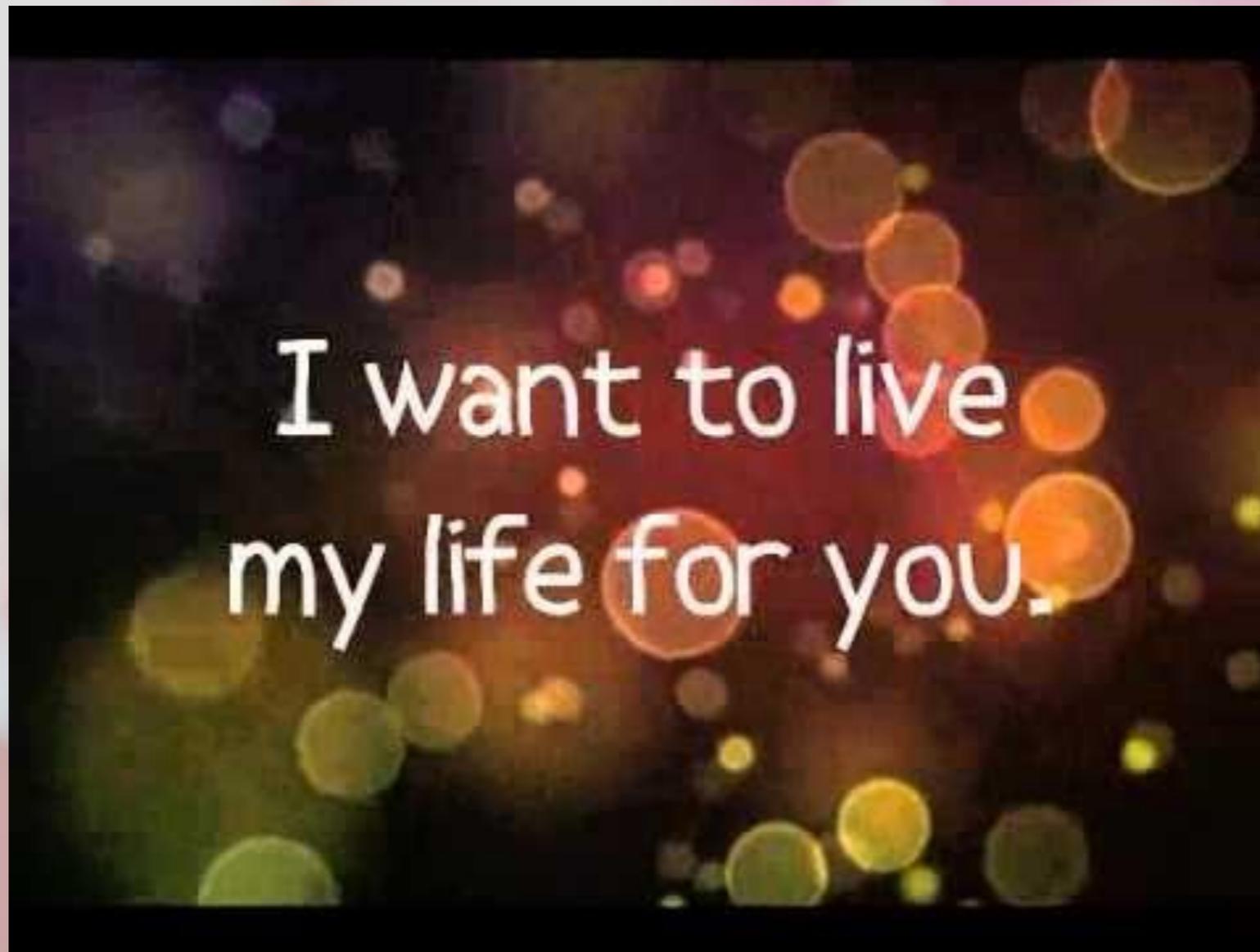
Bible Story: The Parable of the Talents

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4w7v-WDfJk&ab_channel=Sharefaith



Children's worship song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ9f8x9aXoY&t=51s&ab_channel=BioscirusX



Matthew 25:14-30

25:14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
25:15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

25:16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

25:17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

25:18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

25:19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

25:20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

25:23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

25:25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

25:26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?

25:27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

25:28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

25:29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away

Youth & Adult Lesson

For journal or discussion

This week's scripture is another one of Jesus' parables.

What is the lesson Jesus is trying to teach through this story?

Do you think it was fair to treat the servants differently? (This could be a culture thing; see how the students respond. Should we support the "everyone gets a trophy" mentality?)

It's not every day that we are given money. But what are we given each day? (Time, talents, relationships.)

How can these nontangible possessions be multiplied?

How can we use these nontangible possessions for the glory of God?

Youth and Adult Worship song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32HiCoFzIU&ab_channel=ChrisTomlinVEVO



Message

This week's parable initially may seem a little cruel. I personally think the message is important but the delivery can be a little intense. My guess is that it's because of the way it is translated. But anyways if you can get past that part, (where he calls him wicked and lazy) we can get to the importance of this story.

Jesus is saying that we need to use the spiritual gifts and blessings we're given to not only increase our happiness but to bring joy to others. I know from experience that if I do something simply for my own gain it doesn't make me as happy as when I do things for others. The joy comes from doing something you are gifted in and love, for other people. I have friends that love to sing or build things and when they use that God given talent the joy is so much better when it is being done for someone else. Doing that takes risks however, it means you may have to sing in front of someone, give a testimony, stand up for injustice, help a stranger, or open a preschool in the midst of a pandemic.

It is easier to bury what God has given us to use. It is easier to respond to the fear. After all, if you don't try, you can't fail. Sometimes living up to God's expectations are incredibly hard. Even Mother Theresa agreed when she said: "I know that God won't give me more than I can handle. But sometimes I wish God didn't trust me quite so much."

In my psychology class I teach a chapter on Existentialism. That is the theory where a person looks back on their life and evaluates whether they have lived it to the fullest or made a difference by being here on earth. (Think of Gorge Baily in *It's a wonderful Life*) Can you imagine being given all these incredible gifts and resources and never using them to better someone else's life? or even your own?

It's never too late. You can start anew right now. Instead of seeing this story as cruel, let's see it as an invitation. God gives us gifts and asks us to use them to build a life. That life might include telling others about God or your church, it might be healing others, or running a soup kitchen or becoming a voice for the oppressed. It could be anything – God gives us the chance to change the world. That's an incredible gift within itself. Why sit around and wait for a miracle to come...when we can be one.

Youth and Adult Worship Natalie Grant ~ Be one

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyCv_qdFUxM&ab_channel=GaryMcDuffee



Benediction, Blessing, Commission

As you have been blessed, now go to be a blessing to others. Go, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and the God of peace will always go with you. AMEN.

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/1843/worship-connection-november-15-2020>