A NOTE TO PARENTS

A "talent" was a unit of weight in the ancient world, and therefore a unit of money. But Jesus' story about the servants who were entrusted with their master's riches has given the word a whole new cluster of meanings. For, as Jesus undoubtedly meant us to understand, our "talents" are among the most precious of the riches that our Master entrusts us with. And the point of the parable is that they are not ours, but the Master's. He will want to know what we have done with them, not for ourselves but for him.

Children keep a sharp eye on their own abilities and those of others. But young children are rarely very accurate or objective in their judgment. If they have a positive self-image, they will think highly of their own accomplishments, display them proudly, and be generous in their praise of others. They will not be overly competitive, or be unwilling to try new things for fear of failure. But if they are anxious about their own worth, they will seem timid or arrogant—showing off, or burying their talents.

In Jesus' story, the master does not give the same amount of wealth to each servant. Every child can see that some are stronger, quicker-witted, more graceful, more musical than others, and that weakness in one area is not necessarily balanced by ability in another. But the master entrusts at least a little to each of us, and when we make something of it, he is pleased: he uses the same words of praise with the servant who turned two talents into four as he does with the one who turned five into ten. He does not ask us to catch up with the superstars, or compensate for what he has not given us. But he does ask us to do *something* with what we have. He seems to think our fears of failure are ground-less: he has no patience at all with the servant who hid in the ground the one talent with which he had been entrusted.

When your child proudly calls you to look at a new accomplishment, remind each other that the power to do these exciting new things comes from God. When we use our abilities thankfully and with generous hearts, we are using them for our Master.

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THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA
203 - 624-2520 • www.the-sunday-paper.com



THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

Year A
PROPER 28
TRACKS 1 and 2



One servant had FIVE TALENTS. One servant had TWO TALENTS. One servant had ONE TALENT.



The one with FIVE talents started a business. Soon, he had TEN talents!



The one with TWO talents started a business. Soon, he had FOUR talents!



The one with ONE talent was afraid he would lose it, so he buried it.



The master was pleased with the servants who used his money to make more money for him.

Jesus said that God is like that master. God gives us TALENTS. Our talents are the things we are good at. We need to use them for God.

What are your talents? Draw yourself using your talents. Draw a friend using his or her talents.