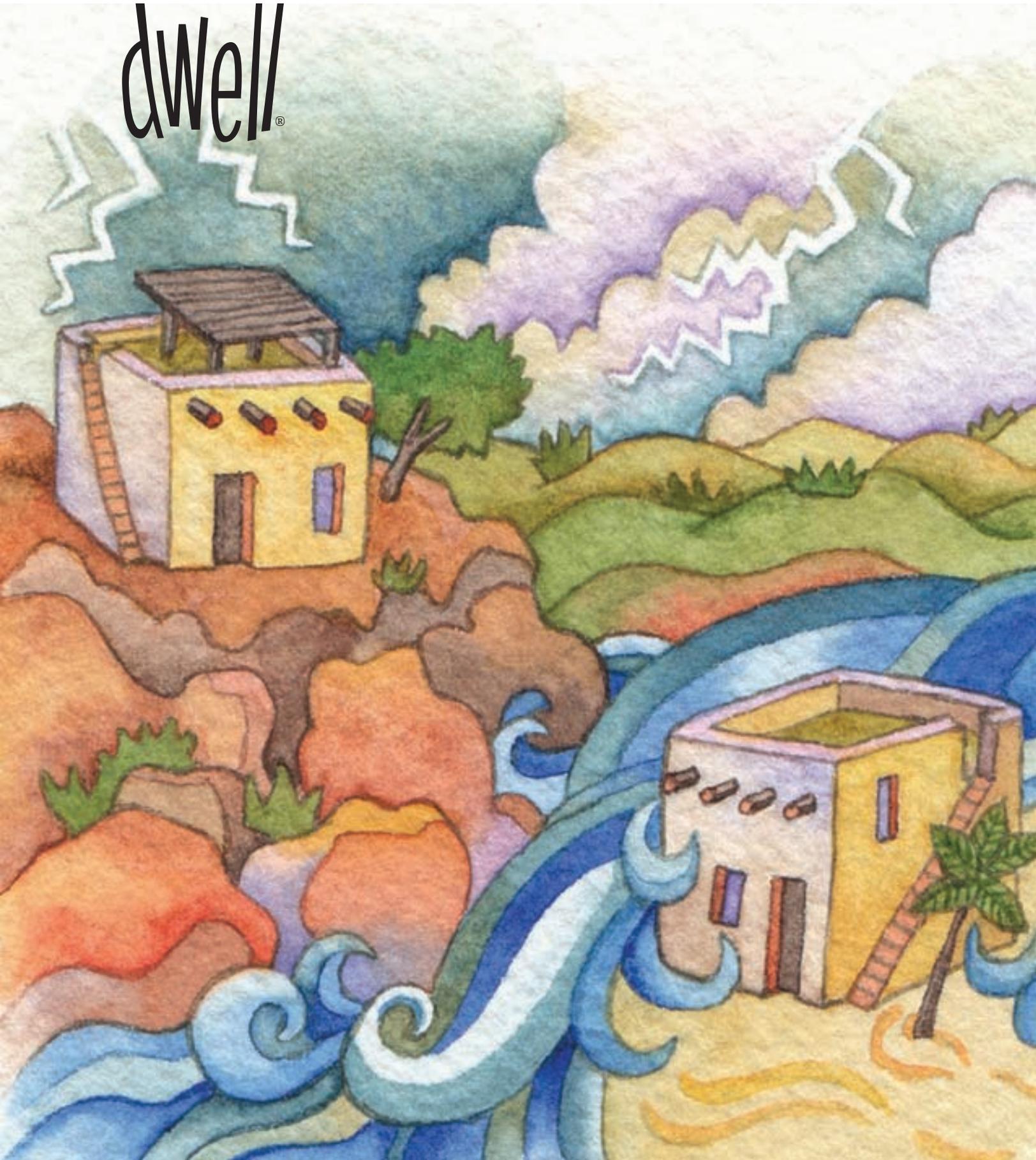


dwell<sup>®</sup>



Dear Family,

Thank you for allowing your child to explore the amazing parables of Jesus with me. Unit 2 will continue our discussion of the parables of Jesus that we began in unit 1.

During the next six weeks, take time to marvel at these stories with your child, to wonder what they mean for your lives, to live into them together. Your set of God's Big Story cards will help you do that together.

Here is a glance at the upcoming sessions with suggested questions to ask your child each week:

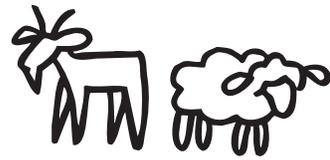
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ The Unmerciful Servant

Why do you think the unmerciful servant refused to show compassion to the other servant?



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sheep and Goats

How do you think we should live our lives to be more like "sheep"? What are things we should avoid doing so that we don't become like "goats"?



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ The Good Samaritan

Who are our neighbors? How can we show love and compassion toward others this week?



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

How do we sometimes act like the Pharisee in the story? What are things we can do to have an attitude more like the tax collector's?



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ The Talents

How much was a talent worth in Jesus' day? What are the gifts and "talents" God has given you that you can use to serve him?



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Wise and Foolish Builders

How can we put God's Word into practice? How can we live our lives like the wise builder?



Our Memory Challenge for this unit is Matthew 22:37-39. You can download a great song version of this Memory Challenge at [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org). Or consider purchasing a copy of the *DwellSongs* CD at [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org).

I look forward to continuing this exciting faith journey with your child!

Sincerely,

## Memory Challenge

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

—Matthew 22:37-39, NIV

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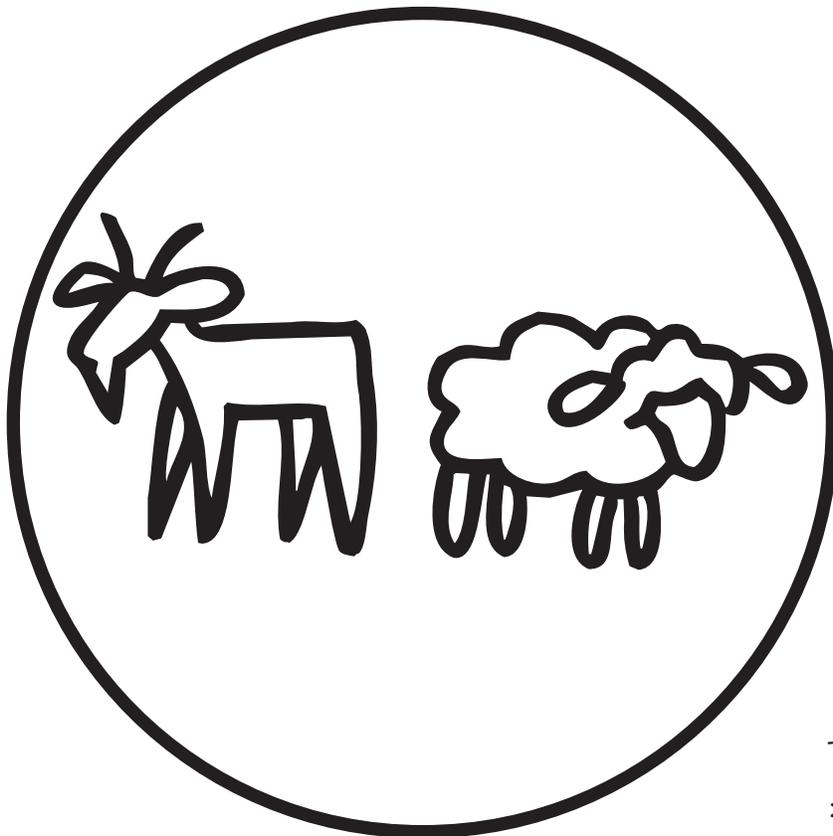
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Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 1



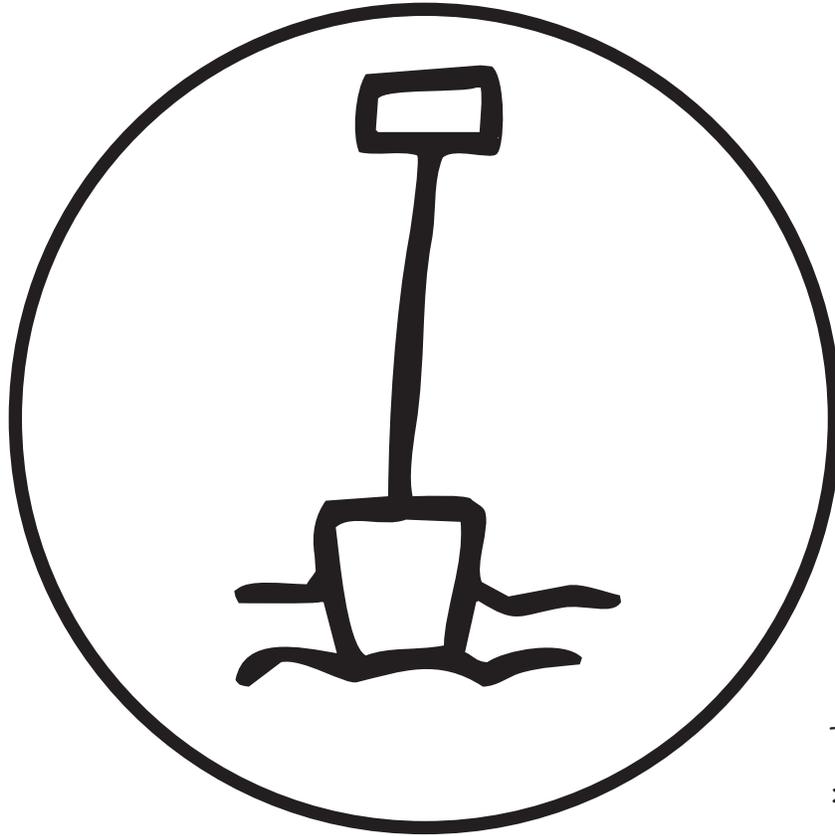
Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 2



Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 3



Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 4



Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 5



Marvel  
Year 1, Unit 1, Session 6

# The Unmerciful Servant

## Characters

King  
King's attendants  
Darius  
The other servant

**King:** (*looking through his checkbook*) Hmmm . . . looks like my servant Darius owes me some money—and not just a few dollars either. He owes me a million dollars! Attendants, bring Darius to me at once!

(*Attendants bring in Darius*)

**Darius:** (*looking scared*) Yes, your highness? You called for me?

**King:** I was looking through my checkbook, and I noticed that I let you borrow a million dollars last year.

**Darius:** Yes, your majesty . . . that's correct.

**King:** It looks like you never paid me back!

**Darius:** Yes, well, I'm still working on getting that money. It turns out the restaurant business isn't all it's cracked up to be.

**King:** Too bad—I'm going to have to sell you and your entire family into slavery to pay off this huge debt.

**Darius:** (*on his knees*) Oh please, sire, please give me a little more time! Be patient with me, and I will get your money very soon!

**King:** (*to himself*) Well, you are a pretty hard worker, and you've been a decent servant to me . . . I guess I could let your debt go this time.

**Darius:** (*bowing to the king*) Oh thank you, your majesty! Thank you so much! You won't regret this!

(*King, Darius, and attendants exit; other servant enters and pretends to wipe tables*)

(*Darius enters*)

**Darius:** (*talking to himself*) What a day! I was behind in my debt to the king, my restaurant business is barely afloat, and my whole family was almost sold into slavery! That king sure is merciful—I thought I was dead meat!

(*Looking at the other servant wiping a table*)

**Darius:** Hey, you missed a spot—can't I get any help around here?! I've got lazy servants working at my restaurant! (*pauses*) Wait a minute . . . don't you owe me twenty dollars?

**Servant:** Uh, yes sir, you gave me a loan last week and said I had until the end of the month to pay—

(*Darius grabs servant and begins to choke him*)

**Darius:** I said no such thing! You owe me money, and I want it NOW!

**Servant:** I'm sorry, sir, but I don't have it yet. If you just give me a couple more weeks, I can pay you back. Please be patient with me.

**Darius:** You want me to be patient with you? After I showed you kindness by giving you money to take your nephew to the doctor?

**Servant:** Actually, it was my elderly mother.

**Darius:** That's not the point! The point is that I want my money, and I want it now. As a matter of fact, why don't I just make a call to the local jailer and have you thrown in prison until you can pay me back! That'll teach you never to abuse my generosity again!

**Servant:** No, please! Wait!

(*Darius grabs servant to haul him off to prison*)

(*Attendants and king enter; an attendant whispers something in the king's ear*)

**King:** Darius did what?! After all the kindness I showed him, he had the nerve to throw one of his servants in jail over a few measly dollars? Attendants! Bring him to me!

(*Attendants bring in Darius*)

**Darius:** Hello, your highness! Why, aren't looking you well today! Have you lost weight?

**King:** How dare you throw one of your servants into prison after I canceled the huge debt that you owed me? You owed me hundreds of thousands of dollars more than your poor servant owed you! Now you will be thrown into prison and will be tortured until you can pay off all that you owe me! Attendants, take him away!

(*Attendants take Darius away*)

**Darius:** Noooooooooo!!

Marvel

Year 1, Unit 2, Session 1

# Forgive Me?

Here's the challenge: With your group, make up a skit that shows what forgiveness (or the lack of it) looks like in real life. Either choose one of the scenes below or come up with your own. You'll need to do the following:

- Decide who the characters will be and who will play each role.
- Plan your skit with two endings—one with forgiveness and one without.
- Be ready to tell the group how the parable Jesus told could help the characters in your drama.

**Scene 1:** Alissa sends out an untrue email to her friends saying that Andrew cheats on tests. (She's jealous because he always gets good grades.)

**Scene 2:** Ian borrows his brother's new hoodie without asking—and then loses it.

**Scene 3:** Sara gets angry at her Mom and yells "I hate you."

**Scene 4:** Jake borrows his friend's new video game and returns it broken.

# One Cold Night

One cold night in December, a boy named Trevor Ferrell watched TV in the living room with his family. As he flipped through the channels, a news program caught his attention. It was about homeless people who lived in the downtown streets of Trevor’s own city, Philadelphia.

Filled with sorrow, Trevor watched hundreds of homeless men and women sleeping on cardboard boxes with nothing but old newspapers to keep them warm. They didn’t have any money to buy food, and many rummaged through garbage cans in search of something to eat.

Trevor turned off the TV and looked around him. He was sitting on a warm sofa wrapped in a soft blanket. He thought of the comfortable bed he would sleep in that night. He didn’t have to wonder about where his next meal was going to come from—there was a refrigerator full of food in the kitchen. He thought again about the homeless people on the television, and something pulled at his heart. He wanted to do something—but what? He was only eleven years old.

“Mom, Dad, can you take me downtown tonight?” he finally asked. “We’ve got tons of blankets around the house that we don’t even use, and I’m sure some of the homeless people downtown could use them . . . please?”

Trevor’s parents were touched by his tender heart and compassion. How could they say no? They gathered a few blankets they found in their basement and loaded them in the car. As Trevor and his parents drove downtown, Trevor kept an eye out for people lying on the streets.

On 13<sup>th</sup> street they stopped when they saw a man in a tattered winter hat and a baseball sweat-shirt sitting on the sidewalk hugging his legs to keep warm. Trevor and his dad got out of the car and gave the man a thick, warm blanket. The homeless man looked surprised and delighted. “Thank you,” he said. There was a sparkle in his eyes. “You’re welcome,” Trevor replied with a smile. That night they gave away five more blankets to other homeless people. Trevor went to sleep in his warm bed knowing that God was pleased.

The next day, Trevor went to his neighbor’s houses and asked if they had any extra pillows and blankets they could donate to the homeless people downtown. Each night, Trevor and his family went back to the cold Philadelphia streets in search of more homeless people to bless with a warm blanket or pillow. Pretty soon, others heard about what Trevor was doing and donated blankets, food, and clothing. Newspaper reporters wrote articles about the eleven-year-old boy with a generous heart. Others started helping homeless people in surrounding cities.

Trevor was excited about the difference he was making in so many peoples’ lives. “Just think,” Trevor’s dad said one day, “this all started one cold night when we saw that news report.” Trevor thought back to that night and smiled. He remembered the sparkle in the homeless man’s eyes. Jesus’ words echoed through his heart: “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.”

## More About Trevor

Trevor’s first trip to downtown Philadelphia happened in December of 1983, and he’s still helping homeless people today!

His small beginning (bringing blankets to a few homeless people) became a huge nonprofit organization called Trevor’s Campaign that has helped many thousands of people.

Today, in addition to other things, Trevor runs Trevor’s Thrift Shop and Distribution Center in Philadelphia. When people are ready to start a new life after living in homeless centers, he gives them (for free!) the things they need to start their lives over.

# The Sheep and the Goats

## **From *The Message***

When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Enter, you who are blessed by my father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.”

Then those “sheep” are going to say, “Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

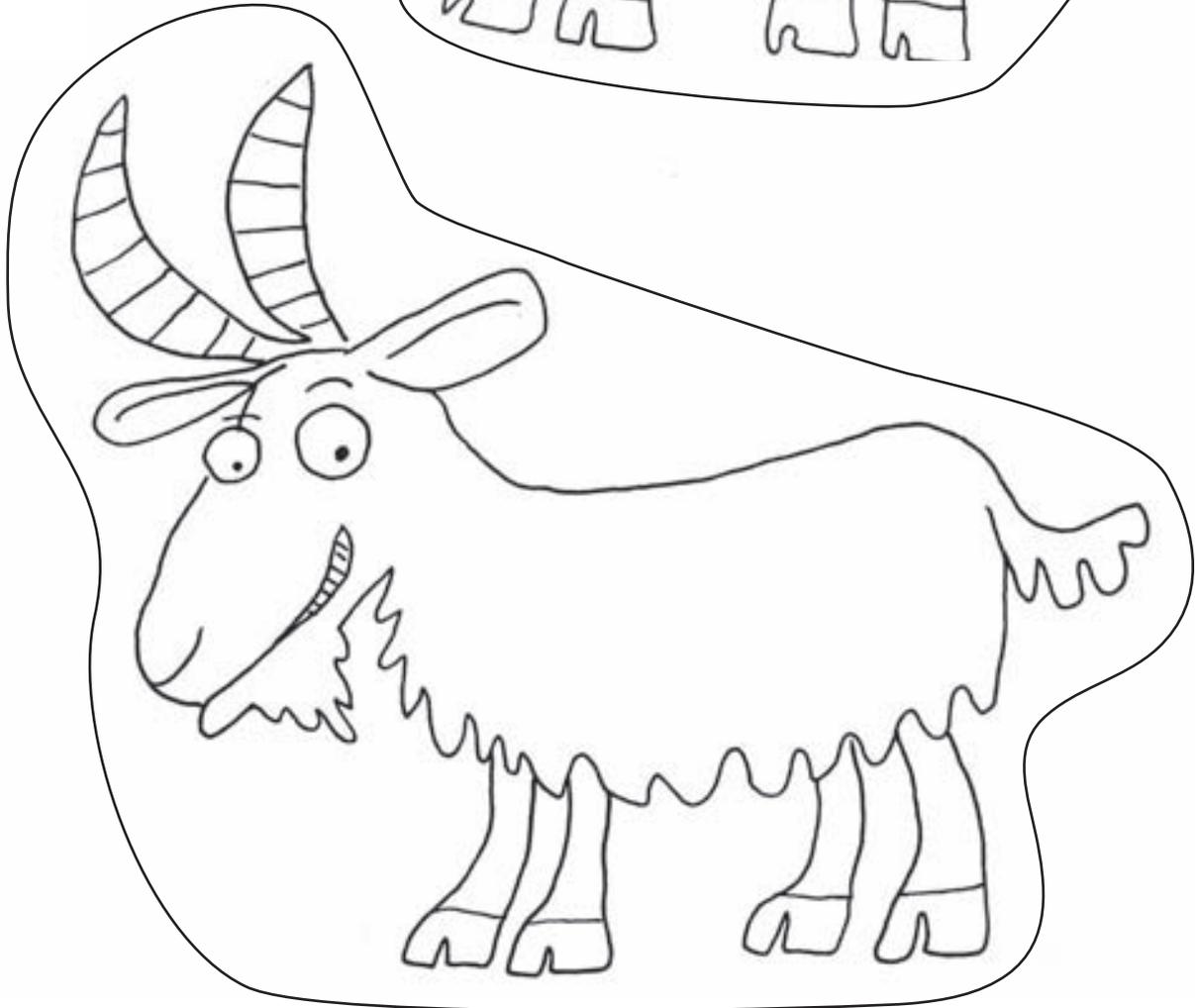
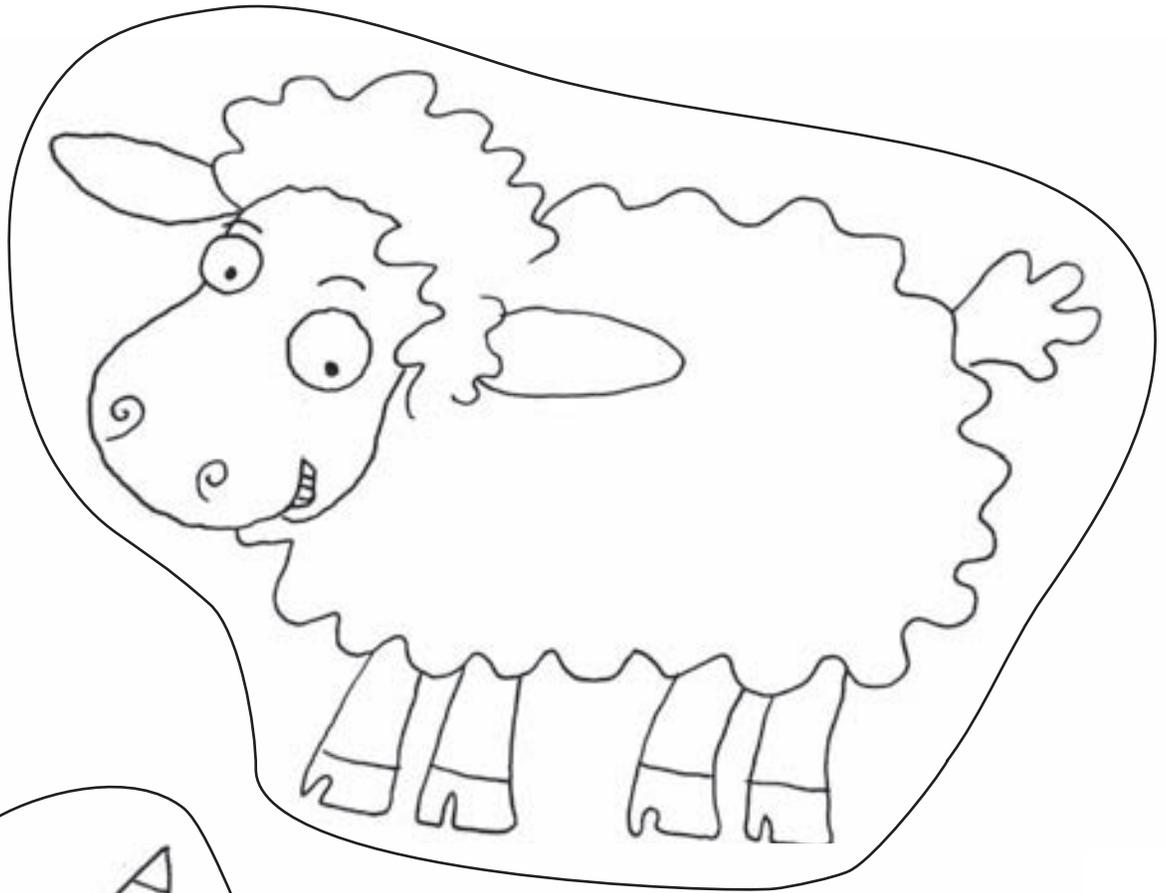
Then he will turn to the “goats,” the ones on his left, and say, “Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,  
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,  
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.”

Then those “goats” are going to say, “Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?”

He will answer them, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it for me.”

Then those “goats” will be herded to their eternal doom, but the “sheep” to their eternal reward.



# Who Is My Neighbor?

Shalom, friends. I am fortunate to be here with you today. A few weeks ago I could have died! I am so thankful to be alive that I just had to come here and tell you my story.

It all began when I was traveling to Jericho to visit some of my relatives. As I was walking along the road, a group of robbers surrounded me and demanded all my money. I was terrified. Even though I gave them my money, one of them pushed me to the ground and kicked me and the others beat me with their fists again and again. I tried to fight back, but there were too many of them. I was completely helpless.

They stripped me of my robe, my turban, even my sandals. They took my money and left me to die on the side of the road. I was in such pain that I couldn't even cry out for help. So I just lay there—knowing that if someone didn't come along soon, I would die.

Finally I saw someone walking toward me—a distinguished looking man in a long, tasseled robe. *Praise God*, I thought. *It's a priest—a servant of the almighty God. I know he will help me!* I tried to move and call out for help, but the pain was too much. All I could muster was a faint moan.

The priest glanced at me. He even stopped for a moment. He bent down and hesitated . . . and then he moved on. He walked right past me and never looked back.

Later on I heard footsteps again—another man was approaching. By the way he was dressed, I could tell he was a Levite—another servant of God. Levites often lead Jewish congregations into worship and fulfill other duties in the temple. Surely *he* would help me!

But once again I was wrong. The man didn't even come close enough to see if I was dead or alive. He just kept right on walking as if he didn't notice me.

The sun was still high in the sky, but I could feel my strength slipping away. If servants of God were not willing to help me, who would? I thought about my family and how I would never see them again. They must be wondering what was taking me so long. . . .

Suddenly, I heard the braying of a donkey. Still another traveler on the road to Jericho. But this time it was different. This man stopped right next to me. He got off his donkey and knelt down beside me. "The poor man," I heard him whisper to himself. He took some wine and oil, cleaned my wounds, and bandaged me. Then he gently hoisted me onto his donkey and walked beside me the rest of the way to Jericho. When we reached town, he took me to a hotel and paid for a room where I could rest and have plenty of food and water. After a few days, I was able to stand on my feet again. My strength was returning! I asked the innkeeper what had happened to the man who helped me.

"You mean the Samaritan who brought you in? He had to go away, but he gave me money to take care of you, and said he would pay for any extra costs when he came back."

*A Samaritan!* I thought. *We Jews can't stand Samaritans. We don't even like to travel through their town. But in spite of all that hatred and bad history, this Samaritan man still helped me!* I could hardly believe it.

A few days later, when the Samaritan returned, I thanked him again and again. I owed him my life. The priest and the Levite didn't bother to stop, but this kind Samaritan had compassion on me. I will never be the same again. Now I truly understand what it means to be a good neighbor.

Thank you for letting me share my story with you today!

# What Would You Do?

**Directions:** Read the following two situations and come up with excuses why people might not want to help the person. Then write or draw ways you could help Kiera and Mrs. Davis.

In the third box, come up with another situation—maybe something you have encountered in real life. Develop excuses and an action plan for it too.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Situation</b></p> <p>Kiera uses a wheelchair to get around. Sometimes she needs help going through narrow hallways and door entrances at school. She doesn't have many friends.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Excuses</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What Would You Do?</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Situation</b></p> <p>Mrs. Davis is an elderly woman in your neighborhood. She's not always very pleasant—especially to kids—but she needs help shopping for groceries and taking care of her yard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Excuses</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What Would You Do?</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Situation</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Excuses</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>What Would You Do?</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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# Two Prayers

Andre and Tara sat right next to each other in Ms. Gardner’s fifth grade class—but they couldn’t have been more different. Andre got straight “A”s on his spelling and math tests. Tara did poorly. Andre went to church every Sunday. Tara’s family often didn’t make it. Andre had lots of friends. Tara spent a lot of time alone.

One morning Tara was running late for school. Her baby sister had been up crying most of the night, and Tara hadn’t gotten much sleep. To make matters worse, her mom’s car broke down on the way to school and they had to wait for a tow truck to pick up them up on the side of the road. Tara finally made it to school and quietly slipped into class. “Good morning Tara,” greeted Ms. Gardner. “You’re just in time for our spelling test. Take your seat and we’ll get started.” *Spelling test!* Tara’s stomach began to ache. She had completely forgotten to study last night. Tara slowly made her way to her seat beside Andre. *I bet she won’t even get half of her words right,* Andre said to himself with a smirk.

As Ms. Gardner started the test, Tara’s palms began to sweat. Her head was spinning as she tried to remember how to spell each word—but she couldn’t remember any of them! Tara frantically looked around the room. Everyone else was busy writing. Desperate for help, she pretended to drop her pencil. If she could just see a few letters in the first spelling word, she might remember how to spell it. As she bent over to pick up her pencil, she quickly glanced at Andre’s paper. “Hey, stop cheating!” Andre blurted out loud. Everyone’s eyes were on Tara.

“Tara, please see me at recess.” Ms. Gardner said solemnly. Tara felt a huge lump in her throat as she tried to hold back her tears. Andre glared at Tara and covered his paper with his arm. He couldn’t believe Tara had looked at his paper! When the class finished their spelling tests Andre leaned over to Tara and whispered, “I saw you cheating. You’re gonna be in so much trouble. You’re *pathetic*.” Sadly Tara stared down at her pencil.

During recess Tara talked to Ms. Gardner. “Did you try to look at Andre’s paper during the spelling test?” she asked. Tara couldn’t hold back her tears this time. “I’m so sorry, Ms. Gardner,” she said through sobs. “Last night I forgot to study, and I didn’t want to get another bad grade. Please forgive me.” She felt so ashamed.

“We all make mistakes sometimes, don’t we?” Ms. Gardner replied as she gave Tara’s shoulder a squeeze. “I am going to have to talk to your mother, but I think you’ve learned your lesson. Let’s see if we can set you up with a tutor to help you study for the next test.” Tara sniffed and wiped her eyes. “Thank you, Ms. Gardner. I’d really like that.”

That night before Tara went to sleep, she knelt by her bed and prayed to God.

“God, please forgive me for what I did today. Help me to do better in school and to make better choices. Amen.” Tara went to sleep peacefully, knowing that God had forgiven her.

That same night, Andre also prayed to God before going to sleep.

“Dear God, I’m so glad you did not make me like Tara. She gets bad grades in school and is a no-good cheater! I always get good grades on everything I do. Thanks, God, you’re the best!” Andre went to sleep satisfied and happy.

That night, Andre had a dream. He dreamed that he and all the other Christians in the world were lined up at the gates of heaven. Jesus stood by the gate and spoke lovingly and tenderly to each person. All who entered heaven received a beautiful, sparkling crown and a bright, shiny robe. As each person walked into his glorious kingdom, Jesus said, “Welcome home!”

Andre could hardly wait to receive his crown and robe. His would be the most beautiful of all! As he waited in line, Andre noticed Tara ahead of him. *Tara! What’s she doing here?* Andre was surprised when Jesus gave Tara a big hug and said, “Welcome, my child. Your sins are forgiven. Come and join me in paradise!” Suddenly Tara was wearing a gorgeous crown with sparkling jewels and a brilliant white robe.

*Humph*, Andre huffed silently. *My robe will be ten times better than hers!*

When Andre finally approached Jesus, he was grinning from ear to ear. “Well?” he asked Jesus. “What do I get?” He was surprised to see Jesus looking at him with eyes that were filled with love and sadness. Andre didn’t understand. “Jesus, it’s me—Andre!” Jesus looked down at Andre’s clothes. Andre looked too, and saw that his clothing was covered with blotches of dirt and grease stains. Andre stared in disbelief. “What’s going on?” he cried.

He touched one of the dirty spots and remembered a mean comment he’d made to Tara. He touched another spot and remembered how he had mocked Tara and other kids in their class. Andre realized that all the dirt and filth on his clothes had come from the inside of his heart.



## Your Character

What kind of person is he?

Describe his attitude toward himself.

Describe his attitude toward God

How did he show these attitudes?

Who is he most like in the story of Andre and Tara? Why?

# Bible Story Challenges

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## Act It Out

*What you need:*

Bibles, “The Talents” (printable page 60), three hats

*What you should do:*

Prepare to present the Parable of the Talents to the group—using both mime (acting out silently) and a narrator. Decide who will play the servants (the same person can play all three, using a different hat for each of them) and who will be the narrator. Either use the

story from your Bible or the script “The Talents.”

Practice your drama once or twice!

---

## Sing or Rap It

*What you need:*

Bibles, an old song or tune you know well (“Row, Row, Row, Your Boat” or “The Farmer in the Dell”) or a rap beat

*What you should do:*

Choose a tune and write song lyrics that tell the story of the Talents—motions too if you want! Here’s an example to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

The master had to leave  
The master had to leave  
He packed his bags and closed his house  
The master had to leave

He called his servants in . . . (*and so on*)

Practice singing your song and prepare to sing it for the group.

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## Cartoon It

*What you need:*

Bibles; “The Lesson of a Lazy Servant” (printable page 61); markers, pencils, colored pencils; construction paper or newsprint, optional

*What you should do:*

Your challenge is to tell the story of the talents in cartoons—or stick figures. Either use “The Lesson of a Lazy Servant” or draw the cartoons on bigger pages that the group can view more easily. You don’t need a lot

of detail—just enough to let the group see what’s happening in each scene.

Plan how to use your drawings to tell the story to the group.

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# The Talents

**Narrator:** Jesus told the disciples another parable about the kingdom of heaven. He said that the kingdom of heaven will be like a man who called his servants to take care of his money while he was gone on a long journey.

*(Man enters with sacks of money in his arms. Servants enter behind the master to receive their money.)*

**Narrator:** To one servant he gave five talents—that is, five bags of gold. To another servant he gave two talents, and to the last servant he gave one talent. Each servant received the amount of money he was able to handle. The man told each of his servants, “I’m trusting you to take good care of my money while I am away. When I come back, you will be rewarded based on how well you managed my funds.”

*(Man gives sacks of money to each servant, waves goodbye, and exits.)*

**Narrator:** The man went on a trip and did not come back for a very long time.

The first servant took his bags of gold and bought three large fields. He hired extra workers who helped him till the soil and plant seeds of grain. At harvest time, he sold his crops and earned five extra bags of gold for his master.

*(Servant pretends to work in a field and harvest crops.)*

**Narrator:** The second servant took his master’s money and bought a large herd of cattle. He diligently took good care of the sheep, goats, and cows by providing enough food and water for them. Over time, the animals had lots of babies. He sold the extra cattle to other farmers and made twice as much money for his master.

*(Servant pretends to feed and take care of animals.)*

**Narrator:** The last servant went to an open field and buried his master’s gold because he was afraid that he might lose the money.

*(Servant pretends to dig a hole and bury his gold.)*

*(Master enters and goes to each servant.)*

**Narrator:** When the master finally returned from his long journey, he went to each servant to find out how he had managed his talents.

*(Master enters and goes to first servant.)*

“Master,” said the first servant, “You entrusted me with five bags of gold, and look, I have earned five more talents for you.”

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” said the master. “You’ve been faithful with a few things. Now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

*(Master goes to second servant.)*

The second servant said, “Master, you entrusted me with two bags of gold, and look, I have earned two more bags for you.”

“Well done, good and faithful servant!” said the master. “You have been faithful with the few things I have given you. Now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

*(Master goes to third servant)*

The third servant stood sheepishly before his master. “Master,” he began, “I know that you are a hard worker. You often produce crops where you didn’t even plant them! Since you are such a hard man, I was afraid I would lose the money you gave me, so I buried the bag of gold in a nearby field. Here it is.”

“You lazy servant!” the master replied. “Since you knew that I am a hard worker and expect my servants to work hard too, you could at least have put my money in the bank—and then my money would have earned a *little* interest. Get out of my sight! I do not tolerate lazy servants in my household!”

*(Servant is thrown out of the house by the other servants.)*

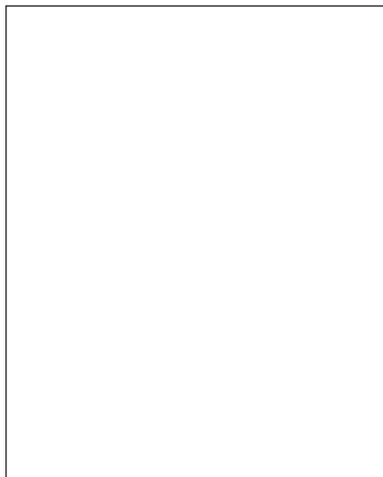
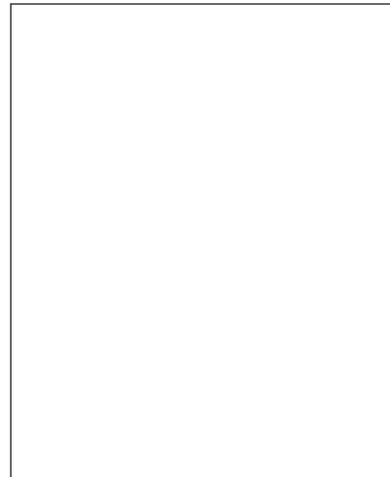
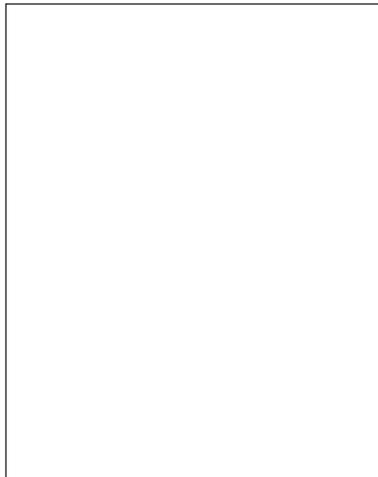
**Narrator:** The master took the lazy servant’s talent and gave it to the one who had ten bags of gold. Jesus concluded the parable by saying that those who have, will be given more, but for those who do not have, even what they *do* have will be taken from them!

# The Lesson of a Lazy Servant

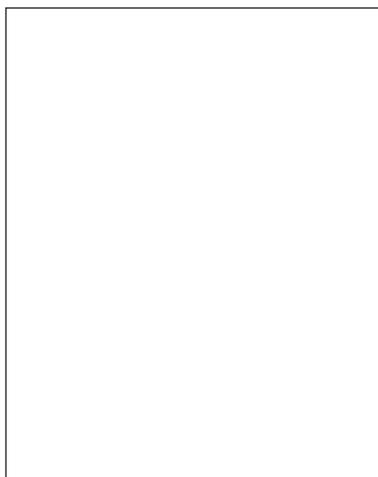
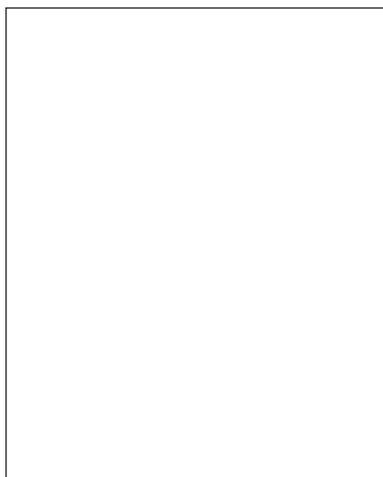
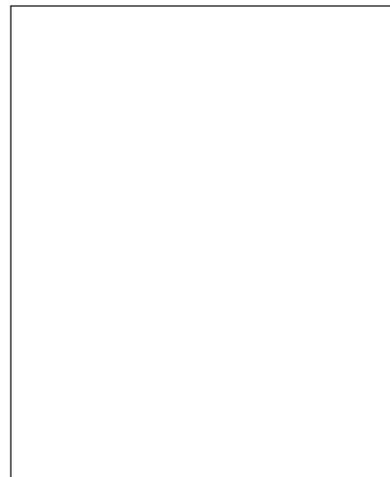
Fill in the empty boxes to tell the story of the Talents.



Jonas, Reuben, Levi, I'm going on a trip. Jonas, here's \$5,000. Reuben, here's \$2,000. Levi, here's \$1,000. Please make good use of my money while I'm gone.



Jonas, Reuben, Levi, I'm back from my trip. How have you used my money?



You lazy servant! How dare you bury my money! Throw this man outside at once!

# The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-12, *The Message*

**Reader 1:** You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

**Reader 2:** You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

**All:** You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

**Reader 1:** You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

**Reader 2:** You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being “care-full,” you find yourselves cared for.

**All:** You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

**Reader 1:** You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

**Reader 2:** You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

**All:** Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

# Do!

Choose one of the activities below to explore the parable you liked the best.

## 1. Poster

*What you need:*

Newsprint, construction paper, markers, magazines, scissors, glue

*What you should do:*

Take a sheet of newsprint or construction paper and write the name of your parable at the top. Use the art materials provided to draw or portray the scene in the parable that was most meaningful to you.

At the bottom write one sentence that summarizes the main point of this parable.

## 2. Main Idea Chart

*What you need:*

Parable chart (printable page 64), pencil

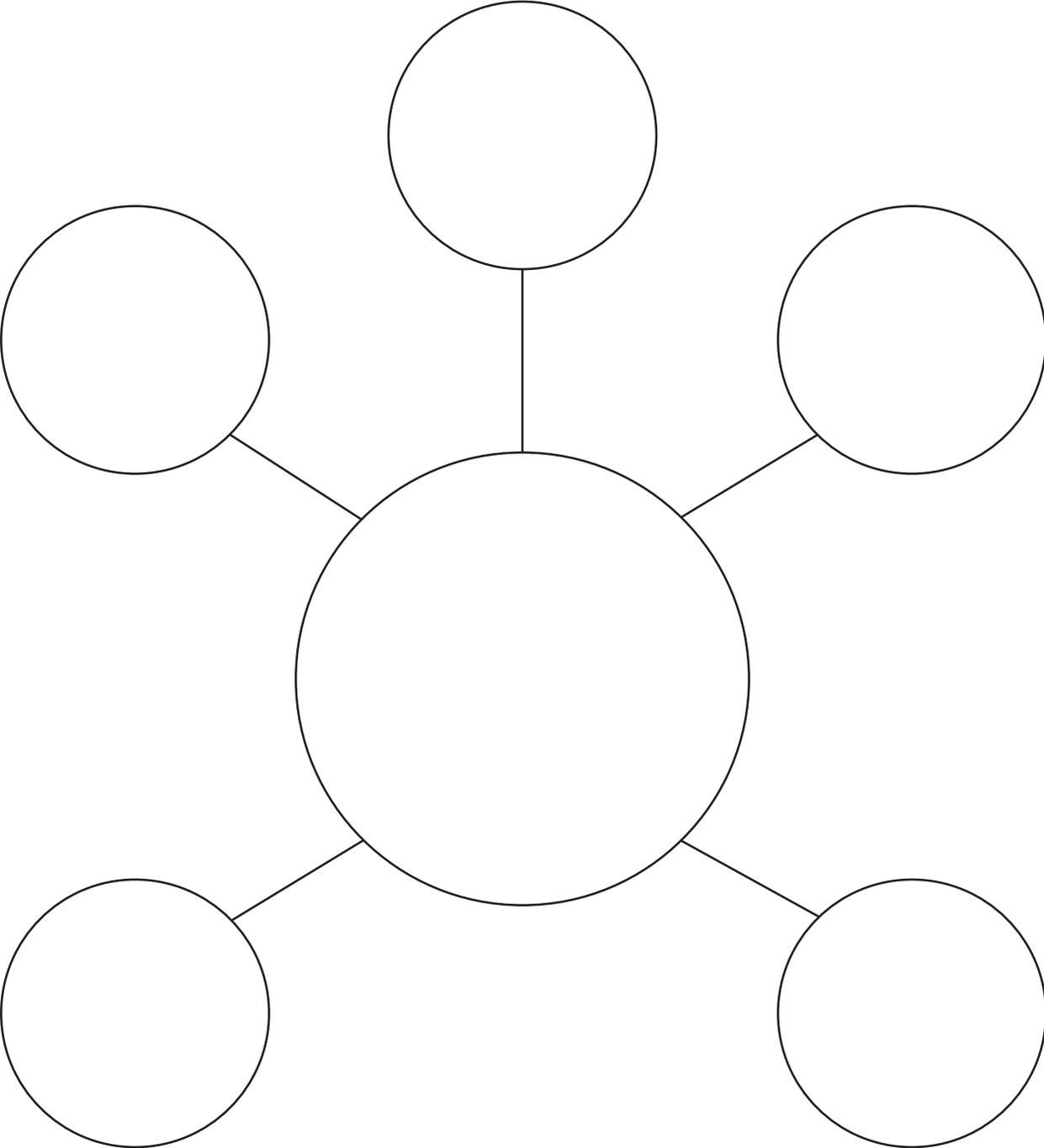
*What you should do:*

Write the name of the parable you chose at the top of the page and draw the symbol that goes with that parable. In the center circle write the main point of the parable. In the circles that come out of that point, write or draw ways that listening to that parable and doing it might look in your life.

# Parable Chart

Name of parable: \_\_\_\_\_

Symbol:





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**Year 1**

**Unit 1** Marvel . . . at God's Love

**Unit 2** Marvel . . . at God's Mercy

**Unit 3** Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Power

**Unit 4** Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Work

**Unit 5** Marvel . . . at God's New Beginnings

**Unit 6** Marvel . . . at God's Protection

**Year 2**

**Unit 1** Marvel . . . at God's Faithfulness

**Unit 2** Marvel . . . at God's Wisdom and Strength

**Unit 3** Marvel . . . at God's Message

**Unit 4** Marvel . . . at God's Staying Power

**Unit 5** Marvel . . . at God's Persistence

**Unit 6** Marvel . . . at God's Plan

  
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