



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**THIS WEEK:** Matthew 25:14-30 “The Kingdom of God is like a Landowner who distributes unequal amounts of wealth to three different people.

## GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

*What do you like and dislike about weddings? Why?*

## QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “What we call unfair, is really unequal”? What’s the difference?

In what way does an obsession with fairness keep us from taking responsibility for what we do have?

In what way can embracing our gifts etc... as a “on loan from God”, no matter if they are 5 bags, 2 bags or 1 bag help us become responsible with their investment in God’s Kingdom?

What does it mean that God is like a landowner who entrusts you with gifts, wealth, opportunity, time etc. in different measures and will eventually hold us accountable for how we have invested them?

In what way does this parable help us to be more content and less envious?

## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Matthew 25:14-30]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What did Jesus compare the kingdom of God to in this parable? (25:14)

What did the man in the parable give to his servants? (25:15)

What did the servant who received five talents do with his money? (25:16)

What kind of return on his investment did the servant with two talents get? (25:17)

What did the third servant do with the one talent his master gave him? (25:18)

How did the master react to the report of the first servant? (25:20-21)

What was the response to the report of the second servant? (25:22-23)

What excuse did the third servant give for not investing his talent? (25:24-25)

How did the master respond to the third servant’s explanation? (25:26-27)

What orders did the master give about the third servant’s one talent? (25:28-29)

What judgment was handed down to the "wicked, lazy" servant? (25:30)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

With what gifts or resources has God entrusted you?

Besides money or material possessions, what are some resources God has placed in our care?

What thoughts or attitudes prevent us from investing all we have with what we have?

What are the risks of investing our gifts?

What are the rewards of investing our gifts as God's servants?

What people can benefit most from the gifts and abilities you have?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?