

RESPONSIBILITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value RESPONSIBILITY. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Responsibility

We all have gifts, abilities and talents (the word talent originated from the word used to describe a gift of money in the Bible story opposite). We have a **responsibility** to use our talents for the good of others not just ourselves. Sometimes this will be enjoyable and fun but sometimes it will be hard work and might involve making sacrifices.

- What are your special talents?
- How are you using your talents to help others?



READ TOGETHER... The Parable of the Talents

A 'talent' in the time that this story was written was a large sum of money.

Jesus told a story about a master who had three servants. He was going away for a long time. So he called his three servants to him and gave each a share of his money. To the first he gave five talents, to the second he gave two and to the third, one talent. The master wanted his servants to make the best use they could of his money while he was away.

When the master finally returned home he asked his servants how they had used the talents they had been given. The first servant had doubled his money to ten talents by buying a flock of sheep and selling all the lambs. The master was really pleased. With a big smile on his face he said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have proved yourself trustworthy with little, now I will give you even more **responsibility**."



The second had used his gifts as a potter, bought some clay, made some pots and sold them. Now he had four talents.

Again his master was delighted. "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have proved yourself trustworthy with little, now I will give you even more **responsibility**."



But the servant who had been given just one talent had hidden it. Quietly, he told his master that he was afraid and had buried his talent in the ground in case he lost it. The face of his master became angry. "You lazy servant. You could at least have put the money in the bank and gained a little interest for when I returned." And he ordered the one talent to be taken from him and given to one of the other servants.

Jesus wanted us to understand that however much money, or whatever talents or abilities we have been given, we each have a **responsibility** to make the most of these things, otherwise we risk losing them altogether.

Bible story based on Matthew 25:14-30



FAMILY FOCUS

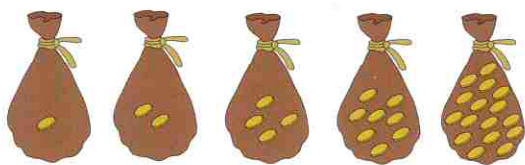
Buried Treasure

When the man in the story buried the 'talents' that he'd been given, it didn't do him or anyone else any good! Challenge each member of the family to write down 2 talents that they recognise in each of the others. When you all share what you've written (there may be some surprises!) decide how these talents could be even further developed and used for the good of others.



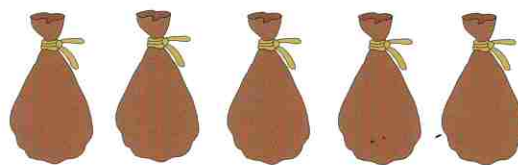
QUIZ Growing Talents

You have been given 1 talent. If you double it in one year, and each year double it again, after four years you would have 16 talents!



After.. 1 yr = 2, 2 yrs = 4, 3 yrs = 8, 4 yrs = 16

How many talents would you have after 4 years if you started with 2 or 3 or even 5 or 10?



After.. 1 yr = ..., 2 yrs = ..., 3 yrs = ..., 4 yrs = ...



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Budding Businesses

The Parable of the Talents is about making the most of what you have for others.

Why not use £1 (or even £5 if you can afford it) from your pocket money and see how many times you can multiply it. Decide on a good cause that would benefit most from your gift.

For example;

- you could buy some card and use stencils to make gift tags to sell for Christmas
- clean the cars of family friends or relatives
- buy ingredients to make biscuits or cakes to sell

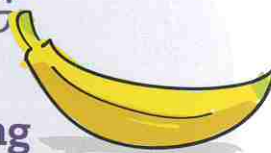


THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"With great power,
comes great **responsibility**"
Spider-man



FASCINATING FACTS



Responsible Shopping

Fairtrade® began in England in 1992. The company was built on a belief that it is the **responsibility** of richer nations to ensure that workers are paid a fair price for their labour and the goods they produce, wherever in the world they live.

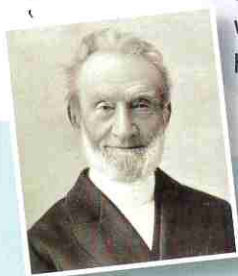
One of the first groups of workers to benefit were banana growers. Fairtrade® bananas first appeared on our supermarket shelves in 1994 and now 1 in 4 bananas sold in the UK comes from a Fairtrade® producer. Across the world people spend £10 billion per year on bananas.

Sylvie's family grew bananas in Ecuador. Her father used to sell bananas at the local market and barely earned enough to buy food and clothes for his family. But, working with Fairtrade, he and other farmers in the villages nearby were able to sell their crops across the world and they made enough money to build a school and a Medical Centre. Sylvie and her friends went to school each day. Now that same school has computers and its pupils are able to learn about other children all over the world! Sylvie was really happy to be one of the first in her village to go to school every day and went on to become a teacher herself.



HALL OF FAME

George Muller



As a teenager growing up in Germany, George felt confused about what he wanted to do with his life. He often stole money from his parents to buy alcohol, got drunk and ended up getting arrested for breaking the law.

One Saturday in November 1826, George and his good friend Beta were invited to the house of a Christian for a special meeting. People read from the Bible, sang songs of worship to God and prayed. George wrote in his diary, 'I have found the treasure I have been seeking all my life.' He was 21 years old.

Soon after this George sensed God was calling him to become a missionary, but his father was so angry he refused to pay for his training. From this point George learned to trust God to provide for his needs.

When he moved to England and visited Bristol, George saw children on the streets with no homes to go to and no food to eat. He felt an overwhelming sense of **responsibility** to do something for them. He rented and bought large houses for the children to live in, ensured they were well fed and taught them to read and write. He never asked for money. Instead, George prayed and found that people were moved by God to give things that could be sold and money to pay the rent. The money kept coming - sometimes a sixpence from a child, sometimes £5000 from a businessman!

As each child in his orphanages became old enough to move out, George would pray with them, placing a Bible in their right hand and a coin in the left. He explained that if they held on to what was in their right hand, God would always make sure there was something in the other hand as well.