



## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

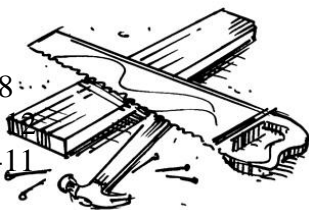
November 15, 2020

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11]

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

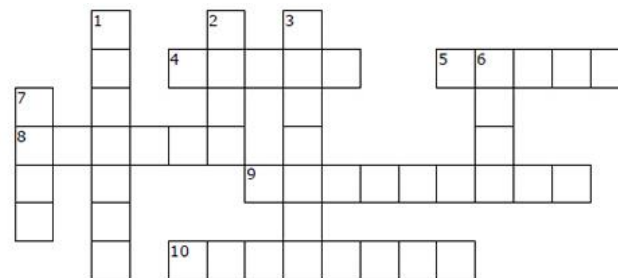
Hellooooo friends! I have a question for you this morning. What are some things that you do exceptionally well? I am a good hugger. I listen well. I write well. I take care of my family well and I make a great peanut butter pie. I cannot reach things on the top shelf; I do not climb well. I used to speak fluent French, but I didn't practice for a long time and now I no longer speak it well. We call that "use it or lose it". How about you?

In our gospel lesson from Matthew today, Jesus is speaking to his friends. He tells them a story about a boss who gives his workers lots and lots of gifts (in the story, these gifts are called talents). One of the workers chooses to NOT use the talents that were given to him. Instead, he buries his talents, and did you hear what happened after he buried his talents? That's right! Later on, he lost all of his talents after he buried them. In other words, that one worker didn't use his talents and then experienced the "losing" part of "use it or lose it" when it came to the talents and gifts he had been given. Just like speaking French or playing a musical instrument, if we don't practice, the "gift" can go away.

See, in our baptism, God gives ALL of us gifts and talents. And Jesus is trying to remind his friends and us not to lose the gifts and talents that God gives us. He also reminds us through this parable that when we DO USE our talents to serve the Lord, those gifts grow bigger and better and brighter! God uses the gifts we've been given to bring joy, to bring glory to God, and to help our neighbors, by using our talents to be Christ's light in the world.

Loving God, help us to see what our gifts are. May we use them in ways that glorify you. Amen.

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

4. The coins and bills that are used to buy things
5. To divide or use something with others
8. To be filled with fear
9. A feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, or joy
10. To be trusted or loyal

### DOWN

1. A trip, especially one over a great distance
2. The opposite of bad
3. A person who is employed to do work for another person
6. Put something in a place where it cannot be found
7. Not willing to work

AFRAID	HAPPINESS	LAZY	JOURNEY	FAITHFUL
GOOD	HIDE	SHARE	MONEY	SERVANT

**Activity:** This week, try your hand at different things! Maybe paint a picture, write a poem, sing a song, bake a cake, and then share it with your family.

**Discussion Question** What are the gifts in your family? How can you use your talents to help those in need?

### Family Table Prayer for November:

God you provide all that we need, your blessings are all around. Help us to open our eyes to all that you do and where your love can be found. Amen.

**November Memory Verse:** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell everyone of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1



## The Parable of the Talents

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