

I Dare You

Module: Connected

Lesson 3: Connected to Your Gifts

Objectives:

Students will

- Explore God's purpose in giving us Spiritual Gifts
- Identify and implement ways of using our Spiritual Gifts towards enhancing the body of Christ
- Consider the implications of not putting their gifts to use
- Be encouraged to commit to using their gifts

Materials Needed

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Youtube clip of “Wii Scream”¹
- ☐ Youtube clip of “Lego Parable of the Talents”²
- ☐ Youtube clip of “The Parable of the Talents Rap”³
- ☐ Song and lyrics from, “I will go” by Starfield⁴

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n41c6eXWZwM>

² http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUtXrQ_ZAOk

³ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gcHZxhbVMs&feature=related>

⁴ <http://www.myspace.com/starfield>
<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/starfield/iwillgo.html>

Minds On

Show the clip from Youtube called “Wii Scream.” Have students contemplate the following: Besides screaming like an animal, how does someone show that they are appreciative of a gift? (They use the gift.)

Say something like: Unless you use the gift that you receive, you don’t actually appreciate the gift and might even offend the person who gave that gift to you. Have students share a time when they received a gift and did not use it. (Have an example of your own to get the discussion going.)

Action

Read Matthew 25:14-30

What is a Talent? Not our gifts or abilities but it was a weight of currency. A talent equalled 15 years worth of wages for a labourer. Put this figure up on a whiteboard/chalkboard for them to see:
 $\$35,000/\text{year} @ 15 \text{ years} = \$525,000$. Therefore $5 \text{ talents} \times \$525,000 = \$2,625,000$.

Have students watch the Youtube clip, “Lego Parable of the Talents” or “The Parable of the Talents Rap.” Have students break off into two groups and create their own version/modern day retelling of the Parable of the Talents.

Or,

Tell the story of Michael Jordan as an example of someone who took what he was given and made the most of it.

Michael Jordan

- Not the tallest or the strongest
- He didn’t make his high school basketball team
- He wasn’t drafted 1st overall
- He worked at it to become the greatest of all time

Have the group break off into 3 groups in order to look at one of these passages. (Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 14-26, Romans 12:3-8). Have them answer these questions and share their responses once they come back.

- What is this passage talking about?
- Make a list of all the Spiritual Gifts in this passage
- What is the purpose/reason behind these gifts?

Say something like: Gifts are given not for our own selfish gain or to show off but rather to help the body grow. As we are part of the body, if we help the body grow, we ourselves grow. Ask the group

- What happened in the story of the Parable of Talents to the one that buried his talent?
- How can we avoid ourselves from burying our talents?

Optional: Have the group listen to song, “I will go” with lyrics. How does this song fit in with what we're talking about today?

Consolidate/Debrief

Say something like: God gifts us in different ways and cares more about the effort we put in to using our gifts than the results. We do not all have the same gifts but it's how we use them that matters. We are given spiritual gifts to edify the body and to help others in their faith journey. We are gifted for our community and to use our gifts to grow in our walk with Jesus. It is when we are being used by God, that we can truly start living with a purpose.

Do your students know what their spiritual gifts are? If yes, are they putting them to use or are they burying your gifts? If not, encourage your youth to take Spiritual Gift Tests to help them discover their gifts.⁵ (This could be a homework idea.)

⁵ If your church does not have a spiritual gifts test tool, you can find some free tests on-line (Google it).