

Maximize Your Talents

6 - Devote Yourself To Service

God's will for your life is revealed, in part, by what He has given you as gifts, talents and abilities. Highly maturing Christians are those who develop the skill of maximizing their talents through the habits of life-long learning and service to others (Matthew 25:14-30).

Christian maturity—and faithfulness to God—involves a recognition that the assets we “own” actually belong to our master, and have been entrusted to us for “proper distribution.” The Bible puts it this way, “*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful*” (1 Cor. 4:2).

Welcome

Comment on the following statement: “*You develop your abilities faster by learning to make and keep promises or commitments.*” In what ways have you found this true in your own life?

Worship

Read Psalm 57 and move into a time of worship.

Inform the group that your worship time next week will be a “worship potluck.” Ask everyone to come prepared to share “a dish” with the rest of the group—either a scripture, prayer or song.

Word

Read Luke 12:42-48

1. *How would you define the role of the manager? Who does the manager serve—only the master, only the household servants, both the master and the servants?*
2. *In what way does the word picture in this passage provide a good description of the way we should regard our life in the kingdom of God? [A manager must prove faithful in two directions. His master has assigned him to meet the needs of his household servants. The servants look to him for their food allowances at the proper time. The manager cannot distribute food unless it is first provided by the master.]*
3. *What dangers are warned against which could tempt the manager to do wrong and abuse his position? Which of these dangers is most likely to be a problem for you?*
4. *How does Jesus summarize this passage (vs 48)? Take a moment and consider all the things that God has entrusted to you as his manager. If you knew that in 30 days' time Jesus was returning, what would you do to get things ready for inspection?*

Works

What do you believe God wants you to do in response to this study? What promises or commitments do you need to make as a way of being a faithful servant?

Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you live “expectantly,” being available to make the most of the opportunities He places before you.