

# Dwelling in the Word

## Instructions

Read Matthew 25:14-30 aloud. Participants can follow along in their Bibles or handouts, or simply listen.

After the reading, allow a moment of silence to settle.

Each person should find a reasonably friendly-looking stranger to engage with. Ask the friendly-looking stranger to share what image, question, or thought stood out to them as the passage was read. The pairs should listen attentively and be able to summarize what the other person has shared. Don't forget to introduce yourselves and exchange names, so you can introduce each other when sharing during the reporting time.

The pairs return to the larger group, introduce their partners, and share what they heard from each other. The facilitator will ensure that everyone has been introduced, and if time permits, further discussion of the passage may follow.

Take a moment to reflect as a group on how Dwelling in the Word can be used within the congregation to facilitate conversations about finances and money.

## Preparing for the Future: Planning for Financial Sustainability in your Church

God has a future instore for your congregation and ministry



Matthew 25:14-30 ( The Message)

**14-18** "It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

**19-21** "After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

**22-23** "The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

**24-25** "The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last

cent.'**26-27** "The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

**28-30** "'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.'