

November 19, 2023

# ATTITUDE OF ABUNDANCE

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

Whether together or apart, we wonder and learn from amazing stories of God's people shared from generation to generation.



We join the Matthean community as they receive Jesus' teachings and encouragement to live in a way that reflects God's vision and reign.

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This week, a parable about three servants encourages us to live more joyfully and generously as we live into the reign of God.

## Risk and God's Reign

Read [Matthew 25:14–30](#) or **listen** to the audio story "[An Upside-Down Story](#)," or **gather** around as someone tells the story "[The Parable of Three Workers](#)."

**Watch** The Bible Project's introduction to Jesus' [Parables](#).

- **What stories or parables have helped you understand something about life with God?**

## Make, Spend, Create, Pray

### Spending love

**Make** [coins of love](#) to spend this week.

### We all have gifts to offer

On this week's [activity sheet](#), write, draw, or collage with magazine pictures ways you can use your abilities and gifts to make a difference in the world.

### Build each other up

**Pray your hope** for mutual encouragement by taking Paul's words to the church in [1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#) as a focus for your prayer and your hope in a simple breath prayer.

1. Invite Paul's hope to become part of your breath.
2. Inhale on the first line and exhale on the second. Allow the breath to carry the words along with it. Say the prayer over and over (silently or aloud) like a mantra.  
Line 1: Build up each other,  
Line 2: as indeed you are doing.
3. Allow the breath prayer to gently lead you to that place of inner silence and calm – where you don't need to say the words anymore.
4. You could make a small card with these words, or a picture, to remind yourself of the prayer or another that is helpful as a reminder to carry with you this week.



## During the Week

### Something to think and talk about

Some scholars, notably William Herzog, suggest that the third servant in this week's parable is a hero. This servant stood up to a demanding boss who encouraged his employees to increase their wealth and bank accounts by making loans or investments that charged exorbitant interest rates. Burying the funds kept them from being used for such corrupt purposes. The third servant embraces God's reign of justice and equity by refusing to take action that would have oppressed others.

The realm of God is here, in part, and we are signs of that radical, upside-down way of life.

- **Taking the third servant as our example, how might we resist the pull of greed and enact God's radical, abundant generosity this week?**

### The practice of contemplation

The person who received one piece of gold in Jesus' story said they were scared. They were afraid of losing the gold and hid it. Sometimes, we are also fearful and unable to be our whole selves because we are afraid of what might happen or what other people might think of us.

For this contemplation, you need a bowl of water and stones.

1. Reflect on your fears, whether in the past or present. It might be something specific, such as a fear of heights or more general, such as uncertainty about the future.
2. Imagine how your fear might be represented in a physical way and pick up a stone. Feel the weight of it.
3. How has this fear overwhelmed or even buried you?
4. Where is this fear most present?
5. Move your stone to the other hand. As you feel the weight of it, consider what might come if you were to allow this fear to release its power from you.
6. Move quietly to the bowl of water and prepare to let this fear go to God.
7. Place the stone in the bowl and feel the water of new beginnings welcome something new within you.
8. Touch and feel the lightness of the water on your hands and remember how heavy the stone felt.
9. Offer a prayer to God that this lightness and freedom will continue to renew and strengthen you.

### Prayer

Name items around your house that could be shared with others. For example, a table could be shared by hosting others with a meal. A game or toy could be shared with others by having a play date. A yard could be shared with others by having a neighbourhood ball game. Thank God for the gifts you have been given, and open yourself to new ways God might be calling you to share them.

**Listen** to the song "Be God's" (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase as a single download.

**Visit** [Lecture Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week's scriptures.

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