

CONVERSATION STARTERS

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

This is a guide to help start a conversation about this week's message. Feel free to pick, choose, re-order and adapt as you see fit. You know your group best and can facilitate their experience by modifying as necessary.

ICE-BREAKER

1. Ask the group if anyone enjoys watching *Shark Tank*. What do you like about this show? Any memorable pitches come to mind? What's the best deal you've seen?
2. If it's not too personal, what's the best financial investment you've ever made? The worst? Has anyone ever received an investment to start a business? How did it go?

REVIEW

1. You may want to watch this week's message with your group as a refresher. Or, try picking a spot with 10-15 minutes to go to review the main application(s). Messages are found at southridgechurch.ca/messages.
2. Feel free to try one or two of these. What did you hear in this week's message? What ideas stood out? What did you agree with? Disagree with? What questions came to mind? How did it make you feel?

REFLECT

1. Read [Matthew 25:14-30](#). Before you read, invite everyone to listen for one phrase that catches their attention in this passage. After reading, share the phrases with each other and why they stood out.
2. How do you think it felt to be the servants with the 5 or 2 bags of gold, as they received the praise, promotions, and invitations to participate in the joy and life of their boss? What phrases stand out?
3. What do you think the servant with 1 bag was feeling when he chose to hide the money rather than invest? What kind of relationship do you think he had with his boss? What do you think could have made this relationship healthier? And how might that have changed the outcome?
4. Which servant did you feel the most connection to in this parable: the ones with 5 or 2 bags of gold or the one with 1 bag of gold? What makes you feel that way?

RESPOND

1. What did this message and passage teach you about the character of God and how he wants to relate to us?
2. What has God given you right now, big or small, that he wants you to invest to help spread his kingdom? Brainstorm as a group. Be creative to go beyond things like time and money, thinking also of unique skills, relationships, opportunities, or interests among the group.
3. If each person in the group thinks of one thing they could invest in God's purposes to a greater degree, take time to pray for each person, inviting God to help them leverage their time, talents and treasures for his sake. You may want to try breaking into pairs so each pair can pray specifically for each other.