

Meeting

2

Talents Are Gifts from God To Be Used

Bible Verse:

1 Corinthians 6:20

Extra Bible Verse:

1 Timothy 4:14

Provide:

- A small, smooth stone
- Wrapping paper
- Clear tape

To Do:

- Wrap the stone with 12 to 15 layers of wrapping paper.

Provide:

- A whistle
- A small, smooth stone

To Do:

- Enlist a coach to read the part of the stone from a concealed place.

Purpose:

This meeting can help children learn that God has given everyone special natural abilities or talents which should be used in serving Him.

Bible Material:

Talented David (1 Samuel 16:14-23; 17:1-51)

Warm-up

Get-involved Activity
(10 minutes)

As the children arrive, invite them to sit in a circle. Give one child a large bundle you have prepared earlier by wrapping a small, smooth stone with 12 to 15 layers of wrapping paper. Direct the children to pass the bundle around the circle.

Stop the music at various times. The child who has the bundle when the music stops should unwrap and remove one layer of paper. Start the music again and begin passing the bundle again. Continue this pattern until finally the small stone is revealed.

Pass the stone around the circle again, this time letting each child tell one thing that could be done with the stone. These suggestions can be serious or silly. Finally, take the stone and say: "Today you will learn about a young person who had a real talent with stones like this one."

Workout

Group Study
(30 minutes)

1. TELL THE BIBLE STORY. Blow your whistle to begin the meeting. Show the stone again and remind the children of some of their ideas about using this stone. Tell them that you know about a boy who had a real talent with stones. Say, "If this stone could talk, it could really tell us a story." Pretend to listen to the

stone when suddenly a little voice (actually from a coach concealed out of sight) surprises you. Continue to react to the stone as it tells the following story.

Talented David

Stone: What do you mean, if I could talk? I can talk!

Head Coach: So you can! Do you know a story about a boy who could do some marvelous things with plain stones?

Stone: Yes, I do. I was there. I saw the whole thing.

Head Coach: Listen, little stone, do you have a name?

Stone: Sure. My name is Rocky.

Head Coach: Welcome, Rocky. Tell us your story.

Stone: I know I'm just a little stone, but I'm very old. All of us stones have been around a long time. I spent most of my life down in the creek in the Elah valley. One day some soldiers from Israel came and camped nearby. Then the Philistines camped on the other mountain across the creek. These fellows were big and mean. There was one of them who was a lot bigger and a lot meaner than the rest. This giant was over nine feet tall! His name was Goliath. Every day Goliath would come out from his camp to make fun of the Israelites and challenge them to battle. He'd say: "If any one of you will come out and fight me, let him come out. If he kills me, all my people will go home with you to be your servants. If I kill him, then you must be our servants." He did this for 40 straight days.

Head Coach: Rocky, were you afraid?

Stone: Well, his voice would sure shake the ground. We stones decided to just lay low.

Head Coach: What happened next?

Stone: I didn't actually know all the story until later. It seems a boy showed up in the Israelite camp. His name was David. He was just a shepherd boy. He came to deliver supplies to his brothers who were soldiers. That's when the boy heard Goliath's challenge. He couldn't believe the Israelites were all afraid of this giant. David's brothers laughed at him, but David wouldn't let the matter lie. He actually wanted to fight the giant. David went to see King Saul.

Head Coach: What did King Saul do?

Stone: He told David he was too young to fight Goliath.

Head Coach: Well, I guess they sent David back to the sheep ranch.

Stone: Not at all! David insisted that he could take care of himself. While protecting his father's sheep, he had killed a lion and bear. So, King Saul let him go.

Head Coach: I'll bet David pulled out some big spears, swords, shields, and all kinds of weapons.

Stone: No, he didn't! Saul offered his own armor, but it was too big and heavy for a boy to wear.

Now this is the best part. (*His excitement grows.*) This is where I came in. David came down to the creek where my friends and I were lying around. He stooped down and picked me up along with four other smooth stones. He dropped us in his shepherd's bag. Then he started across the valley to meet Goliath. Goliath roared with anger that a boy would come out to face him. David shouted back, "I am a soldier of God. I will fight you and win. The world will know that God rules Israel."

As Goliath closed in on David, David reached in his pouch. I felt his fingers close around me. The next thing I knew, David had slipped me into his sling. Around and around I flew. I zipped through the air. Imagine me, a rock, flying through the air like a bird! That's when I hit him. I hit Goliath right between the eyes. I wish I could have seen his face. That big giant just fell on the ground. Thanks to me, David won.

Head Coach: I thought David said God would help him fight.

Stone: Well, I guess I was just in the right place at the right time.

God did help David. The Philistines and the whole world learned that God did rule in power and might.

Head Coach: Thanks, Rocky, for telling us the story of David and Goliath.

—based on 1 Samuel 16:14-23; 17:1-51

Provide:

- 2 pieces of poster board
- Marker

To Do:

- Write the Bible verse (1 Corinthians 6:20) on one piece of the poster board.
- On the other poster board print *Glorify—Praise, worship. Admire, point out the good in.*

2. PLAY CHARADES. Show the poster you made of 1 Corinthians 6:20. Lead the children in reading it aloud. Ask: "What does the word *glorify* mean?" Let the children give their definitions. Then show the definition poster you have prepared. Explain that when we use our bodies to glorify God, we make God feel proud of us. Say that using our talents and abilities for God brings Him glory and honor.

Ask the children to think of things they can do to glorify God. Challenge them to think of ways to act out those things. As an example, a child might pantomime playing the piano. Let volunteers take turns coming to the front of the room and acting out their ways to glorify God. When children guess the charade, lead all the children in saying the verse aloud together. Encourage all coaches to act out a charade.

Finally, ask the children to see who has memorized 1 Corinthians 6:20. Remove the poster and lead the children in quoting the verse from memory. Remind the children that memorizing Bible verses helps you learn about God.

3. REVIEW DAVID'S TALENTS. Lead the children to remember the story about David fighting Goliath. Ask: "Can you name some of David's talents?" (*shepherd, good with slingshot, brave*) Help the children consider events in David's life that prepared him for the battle with Goliath. (*killing animals and trusting God when he was a shepherd*) Say: "God often uses different experiences in life to prepare you for future

opportunities to serve and honor Him. Name some ways David used his talents for God.” (*conquering Goliath to show God’s power, taking care of the sheep*)

Say: “God wants everyone to use their talents and special abilities to honor Him.” Let the children name people they know who use their talents or special abilities to honor God. Ask them to share what talent that person has and how they honor God with it. Ask: “How do you feel when you use your talents for God or see someone else do so.”

4. THINK ABOUT YOUR TALENTS. Say, “God has given each person talents and special abilities.” Ask the children to name at least one thing each one of them can do well. After the children finish, give each one a ribbon or badge and distribute markers to share.

Direct the children to write on the ribbon or badge one talent or special ability that he or she has. Children may receive help from a coach if needed. Tell the children to wear their talent ribbons or badges as a reminder that God has given each one a special ability or talent.

5. THANK GOD FOR TALENTS. Ask the children to bow their heads. Direct their prayers by encouraging them to thank God for the special talents He has given each one of them. Suggest that they ask God to help them find ways to honor Him with their talents and special abilities.

6. MAKE A TRANSITION. Call on each coach to lead his group by name to STRETCHING. When the children hear their names called out, tell them to answer by saying their talent or special ability, instead of saying “here” or “present.” Challenge the children to use their talents and abilities during STRETCHING to honor God by learning more about Him.

Stretching

Activity Page Time
(20 minutes)

Answers for activity pages are found on the last page of this meeting. You may choose to provide photocopies of this page to the STRETCHING coaches.

Provide:

- Markers
- 1-inch-wide ribbon or name tags
- Safety pins
- Masking tape

The Tournament

Games and Activities

(20 minutes)

Provide:

- A whistle

Provide:

- Balloons
- Plastic trash bags
- Slips of paper
- Marker
- Masking tape

To Do:

- Use masking tape to mark a starting line.
- Write each of the following words on a separate strip of paper. Prepare 1 set for each group of 8 children.

God has given everyone natural abilities or talents.

Provide:

- Masking tape
- Chair

To Do:

- Use masking tape to mark a starting line.

Provide:

- Masking tape
- Large gift bags
- Basketballs
- Jump ropes
- Whistles
- Tops
- Yo-yos
- Bell

To Do:

- Use masking tape to mark a starting line.
- Place one of each of the above items in a large gift bag. Prepare one bag for each team of six players.

Blow the whistle to begin THE TOURNAMENT time. Choose from the following games and activities.

Balloon Blowout

Group the children into teams of no more than eight. Ask each team to line up at the starting line. Place each team's bag of balloons at the opposite end of the playing area.

On your signal, the first player on each team runs to their team's bag of balloons, pulls out a balloon, pops it, picks up the paper inside the balloon, and runs back to their team. The remaining players on each team take turns doing the same.

When teams have popped all of the balloons, players work together to unscramble their words.

When players finish working, ask: "How are you special? How can you use the abilities and talents God gave you?"

Movement Madness

Group the children into teams of no more than five players.

Explain that in this relay race players will choose a way to move from the starting line, around the chair, and back to the starting line. Each member of the team must move in a different way. Players may hop, crawl, run, skip, or crab-walk. Give players a moment to decide how they will move.

Start the game by giving the signal. The first player on each team starts. When he crosses the starting line at the end of his turn, the second player takes her turn. Continue until each player has a turn.

Ask: "Did you get to choose a way of moving that you do well? How did you feel about yourself? I hope you had fun using the special ability that God gave you."

Movement Madness

Group the children into teams of no more than six players. Ask each team to line up at the starting line. Place the prepared gift bags at the opposite end of the playing area, one bag across from each team.

On your signal, the first player on each team runs to the bag, selects an item, and uses it to perform an action five times. If it is a whistle, she blows the whistle five times. If the item is a jump rope, she jumps rope five times. When she finishes, she puts the item on the floor, runs back to her team, and tags the next player in line, who repeats the process. Play until all of the items are out of each bag.

Ask: "Did you have fun using your gifts to complete these tasks?" Say: "God gives each of you unique gifts and abilities."

Cool Down

Refreshments and Conclusion

(10 minutes)

Put the cookies on trays so that each coach can serve the children in his or her STRETCHING group.

Ask the children to be seated on the floor in their STRETCHING groups and to remember the wrapped gift at the beginning of the meeting. Say: “You have learned that talents and special abilities are God’s gifts to you that you can use for Him.”

Tell the children that today’s refreshments are gifts from their coaches. Allow the coaches to take a tray of cookie bundles and distribute them to the children in their groups. Coaches should give each child a bundle and a beverage, saying something affirming to each child. Allow a volunteer to lead the group in a prayer to thank God for the snack. Encourage everyone to open their bundles and enjoy their cookies.

After the children eat and put away their trash, call their attention to the offering plate. Tell the children that offering plates remind you to give back to God. Inform them that God really wants you not just to give money to Him, but also your time, abilities, talents, and whole lives.

Tell the children to bow their heads and think about the talents or special abilities they wrote on their ribbons or badges. Tell them to think about how God could use that talent. Encourage them to give their talents and abilities to God. Instruct them to quietly get up and place their ribbons or badges in the offering plate as a way to show God they want Him to use their talents. Remind them that even if they cannot think of how God could use their talents, He can use their talents anyway.

Pause and let the children respond. Conclude in prayer, asking God to use their talents so everyone can “Live for Jesus.”

Provide:

- Cookies
- Colorful napkins
- Colorful ribbons or yarn
- Milk or fruit juice
- Trays
- Offering plate

To Do:

- Unfold the napkins and place several cookies on each one. Lift up the corners and tie them with ribbon.
- Place the offering plate on the floor in the center of the room.

Meeting 2 Answers for Activity Pages

Grade 1–3

Connect the Dots

A harp

Grades 4–6

Bible Story Recall

1. David, 2. playing harp, using slingshot, 3. guarding his sheep