# Title: Using Your Talents

**Key Questions:** When do we have to think hard to solve problems?

How have the followers of T\* explored their texts in order to find what they believe to be the answers to life’s problems?

What can the answers T\* give to life’s problems help me with?

Is it sometimes better to be realistic rather than constantly thinking of new or better things?

Is it ever right to tell a lie?

How do the followers of T\* identify and understand the concept of truth?

How do I show my respect for ideas I believe to be true?

Is truth ever too challenging?

**Key Concepts:** The significance, importance and influence of stories and/or parables that communicate religious, moral and spiritual truths.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| LO: to consider what talents we have and why it is important to use them. | What a clip of talented people doing what they are good at (e.g Ronaldo playing football)  Explain to students that there is a Birmingham Secondary School that has this tweet from Pope Francis on the wall.  “Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”  Ask the students:  Why do you think they would put this up? What does it get their students to think about? What does it remind them?  Pope Francis is talking about a parable that Jesus taught.  Read/watch the parable of the talents.  Students could either summarise the parable in 50 words or draw a storyboard of it.  Ask students to discuss:  Who do you think the different characters represent?  (Rich Man =God  Workers = His followers.)  What do you think Jesus is trying to teach his followers?  Do you think it matters if you are like the servant who hides his talent?  Feedback.  Show students some pictures of inspirational Christians such a Martin Luther King, Corrie Ten Boom, Brother Andrew, Oscar Romero, Joy Walker, William Wilberforce. They may also need short biographies of their lives if they’ve not studied them elsewhere.  In groups discuss how these people would have been motivated by this parable. What talents did they have? How did they use them for God?  Ask the students to quietly reflect upon the following questions:  What talents do you have? Where do you think they come from? Are you proud of them? Do you use them for good? Do you ever feel like you don’t have any talents? What big dreams do you need to have?  End by reminding students that all people are not the same. Some people may have very obvious talents like being good at sport, music or art. Other people have less obvious talents such as being good listeners, being able to make people laugh or being good at solving problems. Whatever your talent is use it and be proud of it. | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS6bcgv5mVg> (First 2.40 minutes) Matthew 25:14-30 <http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/23/parable-of-the-talents/>  The Faith in Action Series of Books could be useful for this.  <https://rmep.hymnsam.co.uk/category/christian-books/secondary-743/faith-in-action-series-754> |