

WE'RE SO GLAD

YOU'RE HERE TODAY!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The Westwood Kids team is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out westwoodcc.org.



Invite friends and family to the Westwood Wheelers 13th annual car and motorcycle show. Display your special car or motorcycle or just come and check them out. There will be live music from A Bit of Gorgonzola, food and fun.

**Saturday, August 25, 10:00am–1:00pm,
Lower Level Parking Lot at the Chanhassen Campus.**



We love our volunteers. If you are a volunteer or if you want to learn more about ways to get involved, join us for Team Night. It will be a night of celebration and encouragement! Register online.

**Chanhassen: Monday, August 13, 6:30–8:00pm
Minnetonka: Wednesday, August 15, 6:30–8:00pm**

What do work, success and wealth mean to Christ-followers?

Five lessons from the Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14–30

1. Success is the fruit of our _____.
2. What God gives, God _____.
3. God gives according to your _____.
4. We work for God's _____, not personal _____.
5. Responsibility breeds _____ to God first.

Tell Me A Story ♦ August 12, 2018 ♦ Joel K. Johnson

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

BIBLE READING PLAN

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. These verses are chosen by our staff and designed to complement the Sunday message.

You can find it on our app or at westwoodcc.org/readingplan

- Matthew 25:14-30
- Luke 19:12-27
- 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Deuteronomy 10:12
- Romans 12:3-8

TELL ME A STORY

Stories
Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30
August 12, 2018

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How do you define success? Who influenced you most in terms of your definition?
2. Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30.
3. Pastor Joel asked the question: What does work, success, and wealth mean to Christ-followers? He followed up by giving five lessons from the Parable of the Talents. Review each lesson and answer the questions.
 - a. **Success is the fruit of our work.**

What does the parable say about work and what is implied by the word “entrusted” in verse 14. ? What does our culture say about work? How do I view work? How does God’s view of work align with my personal view of work? Pastor Joel said we are wise to guard our hearts from passively waiting for Christ to return or viewing our salvation simply as a ticket to heaven. What is the implication of active waiting?
 - b. **What God gives, God multiplies.**

Read vs 16. What does God want us to do with what He gives us and what does God intend to do as we are faithful with what He’s given us?
 - c. **God gives according to your ability.**

How do you understand the phrase in vs 15 – that he gives ‘to each according to his ability? We are not equal in ability, but we are equal in responsibility. Do you agree? How should we view effort in terms of our salvation and sanctification? Define ‘talents’ from the parable and how are they different from human abilities? How do you keep in check gift envy?
 - d. **We work for God’s glory, not personal gain.**

What happens to our understanding of work, success, and wealth when we work for God’s glory and not our own gain? Why is this motivation so important for the Christ-follower?
 - e. **Responsibility breeds accountability to God first**

The parable clearly speaks about reward for the servants. Read Matthew 5:26. What reward is there for those who are faithful with what God has given?