



Small Group Discussion Guide

April 2, 2017

Sermon Title:

"Managing Life: Your Response"

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: In what areas of your life are you asked to be accountable for something and/or to someone? Are you in a position where you have to hold someone else accountable? Describe the feelings you may have for one or both of the roles.

Discussion:

1. **They started with what they were given** (v 15). What would your reaction have been if you were given 60% or 80% less gold? Would you have resented being told your ability did not merit a full share? If the servants grumbled, we are not told, but we know each one had the ability to take what they were given.
2. Which servant do you identify with? The one who was given 5 bags of gold (you appreciate the confidence or perhaps you believe too much responsibility has been placed before you)? The one who was given 2 (you are comfortable or maybe desire more/less)? The servant who was given 1 bag (frustrated, feel slighted, scared of even the 1)? How does starting with what you have make a difference in your focus, attitude, and growth?
3. **They were ready to give account** (v 19). The scripture said the master was away for a long time before coming back. How do think the servants felt as they waited, never being quite sure when they would have to answer for their work? What does this teach us about our life and faith?
4. **They recognized the gifts were a trust** (vs 20, 22). The bags of gold the servants used were not their own. Two of the three understood these resources were "entrusted" to them. Think of a legal trust, what does it mean or involve? Consider the seven areas of management the pastors presented, how do we hold them in trust?
5. **They received their reward** (vs 21, 23). What was the reward the faithful servants were given? Do you understand the reward to be a reference to heaven? What about an earthly reward (see John 10:10, 15:11)? Practically speaking, how does managing life in areas the pastors discussed lead to greater joy?

6. Take a moment to discuss and reflect upon the series overall. What spoke to you? What did you find meaningful?
7. Finally, you were asked to consider your personal response to managing life in the following areas. As you are willing to do so, share with others in your group your commitments. Ask each other in future sessions (accountability), "How are you doing at managing the seven areas of life?"

The Gospel

My witness of actions:

My witness of words to:

Time

For God I will offer:

For my family I will offer:

Health

Through this change in lifestyle:

Relationships

I will express my love and appreciation to:

by:

Abilities

I will use this ordinary ability:

to:

I will use this unique ability:

to:

Money

I will manage my money so I can:

give \$ _____ a _____ to God through the ministry of the church.

save \$ _____ a _____ for a difficult time or for the future.

Creation

Passive action:

Direct action:

Closing: Close by praying for each other. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!**