

Drama: Talent should show

This sketch illustrates what talents might look like in our lives.

Notes to the director:

God has the most lines; ideally God should be off the stage – a disembodied voice across the PA system perhaps – allowing the actor to read the lines. The other parts are smaller and can take cues from the dialogue.

You can change the names and sex of the characters, if needs be, to fit your available actors. Don't forget to alter the references to names in the script though.

[Stage directions appear italicised in square brackets.]

Cast

Josh (Teenager)

Helen (Adult)

Dorothy (Elderly person)

God (Voice only)

Script

All *[All 3 cast members are leaving a meeting/service]*

D Good talk today – I've always liked the parable of the talents. Imagine! Being given all that silver...

J You'd be like a banker with his bonus! See you next week.

H Yes, safe journey home all – see you then.

All *[J bounds to one side of stage. D to the other, slowly and with a little difficulty. H stays centre. All do big stretch and yawn, then flop heads forward as if asleep. Make a few sleepy, snoring sounds.]*

God *[In loud, but friendly voice]* Dorothy!

D *[Wakes, looks about startled]*

[Tentatively]: Is that you God?

God Aaah! I do like it when people recognise my voice! Glad you like my parable of the talents. Now, I've not given you piles of silver – but I've given you talents, haven't I?

D Erm... well, yes, I'm sure you have. I'm just not sure I know what they are. Oh dear – have I buried them?

God *[Chuckling]*

No, not at all. Do you really not see what you have? What about that casserole?

D Casserole? Oh yes, the one I took round to Carl and Anna. Well, baby Ella's not been well – crying through the night all week! The least I could do was give them a night off cooking. I don't get the chance to cook for other people much now I'm on my own.

God Your cooking was an answer to prayer – you didn't just feed them, you made them feel loved and supported.

D Well, I suppose cooking is a talent! And yes, I suppose I can use it as a way of showing love. There must be more though?

God Your garden...

D Oooh my garden. I do so love my garden. And I thank you for it every time I am in it.

God You do thank me. But have you thought about sharing it?

D I suppose I could...

God What about a church picnic to raise money for work overseas? Your garden is big enough and more convenient than the park. You'd bless not just the church, but people all over the world.

D What a good idea. I'd be a little bit worried about my roses with the children running about...

God *[Interrupting]* Treasure doesn't gain in value when you hide it away.

D You're right! Well, of course you are... you're God! What I mean is, yes. I will offer it to the minister when I see him next week.

God That's the spirit! Never bury your talents. You just need to realise the talents you have to use them better. Sleep well now.

D *[Yawns and returns to head bowed pose]*

All *[Brief pause]*

God Josh.

J *[No response]*

God *[A little louder]* Josh...

God What is it about teenagers?

[Finally shouting] JOSH!

J *[Startling awake]* Who's that?!

God It's God.

J God? Cooooo! How's it going?

God *[Little bit taken aback]* Oh, er, very well thank you. So few people ever think to ask me that. Anyway – I'm here to ask you about your talents. I've come to call you to account!

J Oh right! Well, I am a pretty talented individual. There's my dazzling football skills! And I've been using them for you as well. I organised that mini tournament at the church weekend, and I've been coaching the junior team.

God You have. And even if I do say so myself – you're good – I think I've given you a rather exceptional talent!

J Too right. And of course – I'm pretty popular.

God [*Laughing*] Modest too!

J Yeah, but I use my social networks for good! I'm getting everyone to campaign about climate change – lobbying the college to recycle more and save energy.

God True. And you use your Facebook group of Christian friends to circulate prayer requests and lobby me! But is there anything else you could be using for my kingdom? What about your most prized possession?

J [*Sighing as if in love*] My new camera.

God Yes, you were pretty, er, 'lucky' finding that model second hand at such a low price.

J Was that you God?

God No comment!

J Do you have a plan for the camera and I?

God [*Gleefully*] Well now you mention it, I do. But you're bright – you'll spot the opportunity I give you to put your beloved camera to work for me.

J Great – I'll look forward to it.

God [*Cheerfully*] Pleased to hear it. You sleep well now.

J [*Yawns and returns to head bowed pose*]

All [*Brief pause*]

God [*Gently*] Helen... it's God here.

H [*Warily*] Am I dreaming?

God No. But people do seem to have such trouble grasping I am real. Now, I want to talk to you about talents.

H Talents? Oh, like in the parable of the talents.

God Exactly. So – tell me – what's the return looking like on that great job of yours. How's the office?

H Fine, mostly. Well – Tina's been a bit quiet. I think she's being bullied by the others in her team. But there's not much I can do from where I sit, and I hardly know Tina. If I interfered I'm sure I'd make it worse.

God You're right that she's unhappy at work – you are very sensitive to these things. But you're wrong about not being able to help. What if you suggested meeting for lunch? She'd really appreciate a friend. Having someone be nice to her for would make all the difference to her confidence.

H What if she turns me down or thinks I'm being nosey?

God That's a risk you need to take to spread some peace in your work place. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! Talking of courage – when's that wonderful voice I've given you going to be heard beyond the shower?

H [*Shocked*] You've been listening to me in the shower?! Well, anyway, I can't sing, I...

- God** [*Interrupting*] Don't start – you know you can sing. And you know they always want people to help lead the worship at church.
- H** Alright – I can sing. But I'm not good enough to lead worship! I'd get nervous, make a mess of it and ruin the whole service! That would hardly bring you glory.
- God** I'd be more pleased by you using your gift than hiding it away. I seem to remember asking for people who worship in spirit and truth – not note by note perfection!
- H** But I'm not very confident and ...
- God** You have the talents that I gave you! And I have plans for you. But I need you to use what you already have!
- H** Yes, you're right of course. I suppose you did make me the way you want me to be. And I'm sorry I always say I'm not good enough. From now on I will trust you and use what you have given me properly.
- God** [*Sighing contentedly*] Aaah... now that is music to my ears. Goodnight.