

NOVEMBER 16, 2014
23RD SUNDAY OF
PENTECOST

Encourage others to use the
gifts God has given them.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Luke 19:11-26	A king and his servants
Tuesday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Using our gifts
Wednesday	Romans 12:4-8	We have different gifts
Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:7-11	Each has a gift
Friday	Ephesians 4:11-16	Christ's gifts to the church
Saturday	Psalms 24	All belongs to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11
(NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for all you have given us. Help us to be faithful
servants who make the most of your gifts. Amen. (Matthew 25:14-30)

Mealtime Prayer:

For food and drink and happy days we offer up our thanks and praise.
In serving others, Lord, may we show our thankfulness to Thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and
always. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 5:5,8)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What talents has God given to those in your household or group?
- What helps us use our talents? What stops us from using them?
- In what ways are you using your talents to serve God? What does God promise to those who use their talents well (see Matthew 25:29)?

DEVOTIONS

God has given each of us special talents and qualities to serve and to bless others. In your home devotional times this week, focus on each member of your household in turn. Share the talents and qualities you see in him or her, and suggest ways in which he or she might use these to serve God. Encourage your family members through prayer, asking God to help them make the most of their talents.

SERVICE

Think of a person in your church or community who is developing or using his or her God-given gifts and talents, and whom you would like to encourage as a household. Write an encouraging note or prepare an encouragement gift to give that person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The apostle Paul wrote, "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Spend some time this week affirming and encouraging one another. For instance, you may wish to finish these sentences for each family member:

A talent I see you have is. . .

One thing I really appreciate about you is. . .

Something I'd like to encourage you in is. . .

I felt very proud of you when. . .



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