Focus: We need to use our talents for God.

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 [14] "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. [15] To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. [17] So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.[19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'[21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'[22] "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'[23] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'[24] "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'[26] "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.[28] "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Materials Needed: Bags of coins

Preparation: Before Story Time, put coins in bags to use as props when telling the story.

Story Time: Say to students, "Today I am going to tell you a story from the Bible that Jesus told. There once was a man who was going on a trip so he called his servants to him. To one he gave five bags of gold. To the next one he gave two bags of gold. The last one, he gave one bag of gold. He gave this according to their abilities. The first servant took the five bags of gold and put it to work and earned five more bags of gold. The servant with two bags took his and put it to work and earned two more bags. The servant with one bag of gold was scared of the master, so he buried his gold. When the master returned home, the first servant showed the master the ten bags of gold. The master was so pleased that he put him in charge of a lot more. The second servant showed the master four bags of gold. The master was again pleased so he put him in charge of much more, too. Then the last servant came in. He told the master that he knew he was a hard master, so he buried it. He showed him the 1 bag of gold. The master was not happy. He gave the one bag of gold to the servant who had the ten bags. He told the servant that he could have at least put the gold into the bank to earn interest on it.

The message Jesus was telling people about was not about bags of gold, but that he has given each different talents (things that we are good at) and he wants us to use them for God. What talents do you feel you have? Are you good at saying nice things to people? Are you good at helping others? Are you good at singing? You need to use these talents for God."

One talent that we all have is being able to help other people. Do you feel good when you help your parents or your teacher? When you help others, you are helping God by using your talent to do nice things. This week, you have used your talent of bringing your offerings to be nice and help other people. You helped children in Nicaragua to have a nice home, be able to go to school and have food to eat when they are hungry. Your offering allows Rainbow Network to hire doctors to use their talent to heal people when they are sick. *Show the first picture*. Your offering also helps people set up businesses such as small stores or making hammocks to sell so they can support their families. *Show the second picture*. You used your talent by bringing your offering to the Rainbow Network. Let's pray."

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for all the talents you have given to me. Help me to see these talents and use them for you. Amen.

Story Time Activity: Take students outside and pick up trash. Share that this is a way to clean up God's world.