Living the Church Year Lesson Plan:
6th Sunday of Advent

Ages 9-17

Sixth Sunday of Advent (Hisnag)

Length: 30-40 Minutes

Theme: ***Using Our God-Given Talents for Christ and Others***

Materials: Be ready to watch Fr. Vazken's Sunday Expressions video https://youtu.be/K4ow5XZ1Knc

Scripture: Luke 19:11-27

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand the meaning of the Parable of the Minas/Talents.
2. Recognize that God gives every person gifts and abilities to be used for His glory.
3. Connect Christian stewardship with service to others.
4. Identify practical ways they can use their talents at Church, family, school, or community.

Opening Prayer

Begin with the Lord's Prayer or a brief prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, You have blessed each of us with gifts and talents. Open our hearts today to recognize those gifts and give us the courage to use them to serve You and our neighbors. Amen.

Icebreaker: "What's Your Talent?"

Go around the room and have each teen answer:

- What is one thing you are good at? What is one thing you enjoy doing?

Examples:

- Sports, Art, Music, Technology, Helping people, Listening to friends, Studying, Speaking Armenian, Working with children

Point out that talents are not only athletic or artistic abilities. Kindness, leadership, organization, faithfulness, and compassion are gifts from God too.

Video Review and Discussion

Ask:

1. What happened to the servants who used their money wisely?
    - They were rewarded.
2. What happened to the servant who hid his pound?
    - He lost it because he failed to use it.
3. Why was the servant afraid?
    - Fear kept him from acting.
4. What was the main message of the speaker?
    - God expects us to use the gifts He gives us.
5. What lesson did the Christmas lights story teach?
    - Talents should be used to bring joy, glorify Christ, and help others.

Armenian Orthodox Connection

Explain: In the Armenian Church, every baptized Christian is part of the Body of Christ.

God blesses us with gifts not merely for ourselves, but for the building up of:

- The Church, Our families, Our community, The Kingdom of God

Examples:

- Serving on the altar and singing in the choir
- Helping at church events
- Teaching younger children
- Supporting local & Armenian charitable projects

Scripture Reflection

Read or summarize: **Luke 19:13**

"Trade with these till I come."

Ask:

- What does Jesus mean by "trade with these"? Does He only mean money?

Guide students toward:

- Time, Talents, Opportunities, Faith, Relationships

Discussion Question

"What's worse: failing and trying, or never trying because you're afraid?"

Connect back to the servant whose fear stopped him from using his gift.

Activity: Talent Inventory of God's Gifts to Me

Give students paper and have them complete:

God Has Given Me:

- One talent:
- One strength:
- One opportunity:
- One person I can help:

This Month I Will:

Choose one action:

☐ Help at church
☐ Volunteer for a charitable project
☐ Encourage someone struggling
☐ Use social media positively
☐ Help a family member
☐ Share my faith through actions
☐ Other: _____

Invite volunteers to share.

Closing Challenge (2 minutes)

Say: The man in the Christmas lights story used creativity, hard work, and generosity to point people toward Christ. The question for us is not whether we have talents. We do. The question is whether we will use them.

Challenge: This week, use one God-given talent intentionally for someone else without expecting anything in return.

Key Takeaway

God does not ask us to be the most talented. He asks us to be faithful with the talents He has already given us.