Using My Time, My Talents, My Treasure for the Lord's Work

Looking it Up:
Ephesians 5:15-16a, 1 Peter 4:10, Hebrews 13:5
[Ask and assign three clubbers to look up one of the verses and be ready to read when asked.]

Thinking
When you think of TNT or dynamite, what do you think of? Maybe you thought of the power of dynamite, how it is used, who uses it or even the importance of handling it correctly and the dire consequences if its handling is not taken seriously.

In this lesson, T-T-T is the focus. In the same way that TNT must be taken seriously and used properly to make a dynamic powerful impact, so it is with T-T-T. What is T-T-T? We are talking about our time, our talents and our treasure – all gifts given to us by our Lord. We would have nothing if it were not for His hands giving it to us first. By using our time, talents and treasure in service for the Lord we are displaying His heart and vision. We are being His hands and feet.

When each of these items are placed in the hands of an expert for His proper use – amazing things happen! As dynamite is used by experts in the demolition and construction business so God can use your time, talents and treasure in His business – of demolishing strongholds and constructing lives that bring Him honor and glory. In fact, as you serve in Awana you are doing just that, allowing God to use you to impact others for Him. Thank you!

This lesson will cover how to encourage your young people to use their T-T-T intentionally and purposefully as a demonstration of their love and obedience to their Lord. It is a godly response to God’s commands given in His Word. Just as when dynamite is not taken seriously but played around with, serious, even fatal, outcomes can occur, so it is with us when we do not use our T-T-T for the Lord. Let’s be a powerful life changing force in our churches and communities by faithfully using what God has given us!
**Showing**

God cares about the way I spend *my time* – Have clubbers give you activities that they do throughout the week. Add them to the large calendar page in front of the class. You will refer back to this calendar during “Telling” time.

God wants me to use *my talent and gifts* to honor Him – Show the items you brought that demonstrate talents and gifts. Examples of talents are cooking utensils, musical instruments, photos, books, drawings and a football. For gifts, consider a photo of your preacher, music director and so forth. Be creative and keep in mind some of the talents and gifts visible within your church body. Can any of you sing? Play an instrument? Sew? Cook? Play a sport? Memorize? What else? [Hint: consider the talents and gifts within your club. Try to highlight one or two of them, maybe even using them in club that night. Be sure to speak with the clubber and family so they can be prepared.]

God wants me to use *my treasure* (money) wisely – Hand out 10 Awana bucks [or whatever amount you decide] per clubber. Tell them to place them in their Bible (or handbook) until later when further instructions will be given.

**Telling**

God cares about the way I spend *my time* – Using the large calendar up front, go over the activities shared. Some of them we all do – like sleeping, eating, school or work and so forth. Others may be unique to an individual, like music lessons, ballet, archery and so forth. This calendar shows us how we use our time, doesn’t it? Any surprises? Did church, Awana, Sunday school, family devotional time, studying Bible verses, mission service projects, and so forth, get mentioned? If so, where do they fall in comparison to all the activities mentioned … same amount of time allotted?

Encourage the clubbers to think about how they “spend” their time. Also stress that it is really not *my time*, it is the Lord’s time given to me to use. We all have the same amount of time to spend each day, so let’s maximize its use. Have clubber read Ephesians 5:15-16a.

God wants me to use *my talent and gifts* to honor Him – Talents are abilities we have to do certain things well. On the other hand, gifts are things that God gives believers to serve others. Each of us is a unique and special creation of God. God has uniquely equipped us to impact our world. God had a plan when He created us. Therefore, God desires to use both our talents and gifts to fulfill His plan as well as honor Him. Remember everything belongs to Him – He is creator and owner of everything! Allow Him to use your talents and gifts for your good and His glory. You can be part of God’s plan now.

Some of you shared wonderful talents and gifts that you have been given. Let’s think about how they can be used for the Lord. Anyone want to share? (This would be a great place to highlight the one or two clubbers who were chosen to share their talent or gift.) Where could you use that talent or gift? Can it be used only at
church? Why or why not? Encourage them all to “spend” their talents and gifts in service for the Lord. Encourage them also to spend time improving and using their talents and gifts for the Lord. Have a clubber read 1 Peter 4:10.

God wants me to use my treasure (money) wisely – Is money good? Bad? Let’s play a game to see if money is good or bad. Have the clubbers put their thumbs up if the example is how God would want us to spend our (His) money. If not, have them put their thumbs down.
- Give money to help someone in need.
- Buy a $100 pair of jeans.
- Buy food to give to a needy family.
- Spend money on candy when given to you for church.
- Give to missions.
- Buy $100 name brand sneakers.
- Buy toys for shelter.
- Buy school supplies for a back-to-school ministry.

Have a clubber read Hebrews 13:5.

What does the Bible say about money? The “love” of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Money can accomplish good or bad depending on how it is used. One great thing to use money for is doing God’s work. Go to www.awanainternational/missionsmonth for great ways your money can help children locally and around the world. Money can purchase a lot of things, but it cannot buy the most important thing. Who can tell me what that is?

That’s right! It is to be saved from our sins and given the gift of eternal life. The cost of our sins is great but the gift of salvation is free! No better deal around!

Challenging

God cares about the way I spend my time – Hand out the blank calendar page to each clubber. Allow them time now or during Handbook Time to fill in what this next month looks like for them. Give them stickers to add in Bible time (Bible), showing love to others (heart), and so forth. Help them learn that how they use their time is important to God.

God wants me to use my talent and gifts to honor Him – Have clubbers list on the back of their calendar three things that they do well or love to do. Next to each thing, place a way that they could use that talent for the Lord. For example: Love to cook – make cookies for church shut-ins. Love to play baseball – invite baseball team member to Awana.

God wants me to use my treasure (money) wisely – Have them take out the Awana bucks you gave them earlier. Have them share how they would like to spend them. Make a list on the board. See if any thought about giving any of the money to missions. Encourage them to tithe (10%) a portion of the Awana bucks given to them to help the Missions offering being taken this month.

God has given us so much, may we give Him our time, our talent and our treasure in His service for His glory! As a child of God, serve Him now! Be part of His plan now!

Your Mission – should you choose to accept it . . .

Use your time, talents and treasure in service for the Lord!
Family Follow-up

God cares about the way I spend my time – Encourage family to make a Family Calendar each month that can be displayed prominently in the home. Encourage them to place on things with a godly focus or priority like devotions, family night (see Awana at Home for additional resources), studying Bible verses, mission service projects and so forth. For older clubbers have them place their personal activities for one week on their calendar. Then have them add up the time spent for each activity. List these times. Check to see where they are spending their time. Do any changes need to be made?

God wants me to use my talent and gifts to honor Him – Encourage family members to talk about what talents and gifts they see in each other. As a parent, what do you see in each of your children? How could you strengthen that talent or gift? How can you encourage your child in using that talent or gift in service for the Lord?

God wants me to use my treasure (money) wisely – Allow children to do jobs around the house for extra money or allowance this month. Encourage them to tithe that money to church and give even more as their offering. Discuss what it means to tithe and give an offering.

Also, the family could discuss one snack to give up this month. The money that would have been spent on the snack could be given to the missions offering.

Teaching Ideas:

Consider having parents or church members come that have a special talent or gift. Have them share and, if possible, show how they use it in service for the Lord.

Game Ideas:

1. **Juggling Act** – Objects that stand for activities shared on their calendar will be used in this relay race. Take the number of objects you have and use the same number of clubbers to play the game. First lap, clubbers will hold one object and run around the circle. They will hand their object to the next clubbers in line who will pick up another object (each now has two objects) to carry as they run around the circle. Continue adding an object as each clubber takes a lap. First team who completes the laps with the objects in their hands and runs in for the pin wins! If at any time, an object is dropped, the clubber must stop, pick up the object, then continue play. Choose the number of objects used based on the age of the clubbers – probably four for Sparks but challenge the kids in T&T Ultimate Challenge with up to eight.

2. **Blast Away Relay** – Make a structure built with colored plastic cups (red, blue, green, yellow) in the triangle area of their team color. The object is to use bean bags to knock down their team colored structure. The next clubber will run in and rebuild it. The next one will use the bean bag to demolish it, then it will be rebuilt again. This last clubber will grab the pin when the structure is rebuilt. Starting with the structure built allows the team to see the pattern they are to follow when rebuilding it. The number of cups stacked should be dependent on the age of clubbers.

3. **Clock Relay** – Purchase inexpensive clock, plastic or foam. Play any of the relay games using the clock to pass instead of a baton. To add excitement, make it a timed event. If played again, teams can try to beat the fastest time.
4. **Beat the Buzzer** – Colored plastic cups in the center triangle area of each color team. At “go,” the team runs into their triangle and builds until the timer goes off. The highest structure wins! If you have a lot of clubbers – consider playing several times with different clubbers each time.

5. **Talent Relay** – First clubber runs lap singing Jesus loves me, next clubber bounces basketball while running around circle, next one stirs spoon in bowl while running around circle, and final clubber sweeps floor while running around the circle. Option: Be creative, come up with other activities.

6. See games suggested in mission lessons on Using Our Time, Using Our Talents, Using My Treasure for the Lord's work on the Missions Month website.

**Teaching Options:**

1. If you have an Awana Store, consider having an offering plate somewhere along with the items for the clubbers to spend their shares on. No matter what time of year or how often you have store, encourage clubbers to give some of their shares to the church or to a missionary. You could have a container with the prayer card or photo of the missionary on it or your church.

2. Throughout the club year, highlight the talents and gifts of your clubbers during club. Have one lead music, teach a lesson, play an instrument and so forth. Also have early arrival clubbers help you set up for the meeting as well as later leavers help with clean up. Get them involved in service early and often.

**Additional Resources**

- **Awana at Home** – go to [www.awana.org](http://www.awana.org) and click on Parents then to Awana at Home for terrific resources on raising spiritual champions.

- **See Kids Reaching Kids Tool Kit** – go to [www.awanainternational.org/toolsandresources](http://www.awanainternational.org/toolsandresources)