



# The Stories Jesus Told: The story of the three workers

By Lisa Debney

**Actions: On the phrase 'use what you're given', place one hand out. On 'use what you can', place the other hand out too. On 'try to make a difference', do a weighing action. On 'part of the plan', click and point (channelling your inner rap artist!)**

There once was a man, a real big boss:  
he knew about money and profit and loss.  
He said to his workers, 'I'm going away,  
and before I leave you here's some pay.  
I'm setting you a challenge, I'm setting you a task.  
I don't think it's too much to ask.'

**So, use what you're given, use what you can.  
You can make a difference, it's part of the plan.**

The first worker looked at the gift in his hand:  
five bags of gold, well, isn't that grand!  
I'll get to work and I'm pretty sure  
I can use what I have to make some more.  
**You've gotta use what you're given, use what you can  
to try and make a difference, it's part of the plan.**

The second worker looked at the gift he had:  
Two bags of gold, well, that's not bad!  
If I try really hard, then I'm sure I'll learn  
how to make a profit with what I earn.  
**You've gotta use what you're given, use what you can  
to try and make a difference, it's part of the plan.**

The third worker looked at what he'd got:  
One bag of gold, that's not a lot!  
I'd better not lose it; I'll hide it away  
in a hole underground, and there it can stay  
**You've gotta hide what you're given, hide what you can.  
It won't make a difference but, hey, it's a plan.**

Sometime later the boss returned.

‘Right you lot, let’s see what you’ve earned.

I’m just so excited to see what you’ve done with the gifts that I gave you, so up you come!’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

The first worker said, ‘I went to the trouble of taking what you gave me and making it double.

I started off with five bags, here’s five more, and that’s ten bags, I’m pretty sure.’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

The second worker said, ‘I used what you gave to earn some more and here’s what I made.

You gave me two bags, here’s two more, And if I’ve got the maths right, that makes four!’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

‘Great, said the boss, ‘you’ve both done well.

I’m very pleased, as you can tell.

You both did just as I required, and I’m pleased to tell you that you’re hired!’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

‘Hey,’ said the third guy, ‘how about me?

I think you’re going to be pretty pleased.

Here’s your money, safe and sound.

I’ve kept it hidden underground.’

‘You what?’ yelled the boss. ‘I told you to use it!’

‘Well, yes,’ said the man, ‘but I didn’t want to lose it.’

‘Good grief,’ said the boss, ‘this takes the biscuit.’

‘Okay,’ said the man, ‘I just didn’t want to risk it.’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

‘I’m sorry,’ said the boss, ‘this is hard for me to say, but there really is no other way.’

The third man said, ‘Does that mean I’m hired?’

‘Um, no,’ said the boss and pointed: ‘You’re fired!’

**You’ve gotta use what you’re given, use what you can to try and make a difference, it’s part of the plan.**

So what does it mean, this story today?

We’re all given talents, in our own way.

So go on and use them, don’t hide them away.

They could make a difference to somebody’s day.

**We’ve gotta use what we’re given, use what we can to try and make a difference, that’s part of the plan.**

**And if you use what you're given, use what you can  
you will make a difference, 'cos you're part of God's plan.**