

**Called & Confident Bible Study Series with Genette Howard
Session 1**

**I. The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30**

Keys:

- You have not only been given gifts, you have been _____ to use them, **even if you only have one.**
- God is the giver of talents, gifts, strengths, and abilities. These are extremely valuable in His eyes. They are as valuable as _____.
- Each of the servants received a reward for using what they had been given and bringing the owner a _____.
- God wants _____ from what He gave you. He wants you to use the gifts to increase His Kingdom.
- God also wants to increase _____. Using your gifts should also bring personal profit.
- The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of _____. That includes _____.
- The servant with one talent hid what he had been given because he was _____.

Discussion: What do you think the servant was afraid of? What are you afraid of?

II. Confidence Matters

- Confidence is the most critical element in achievement. In the personal development world it is called _____ - _____ a or belief in one's own abilities to achieve something.
- To _____, you must believe you can. To _____, you must believe you can. To _____ your mission, you must believe you can.
- Confidence is a way of _____, nothing more or less.

- Confidence is built and maintained by focusing on what is _____ with you instead of what is _____ with you. Focus on your _____ and not your _____.
- Key to Confidence: _____ your strengths. _____ your strengths. _____ your strengths.
- You are not held accountable for what you don't have. But you are held accountable for what you do have. Your _____ and _____.

Discussion: How often do you think about what's right with you? What are your confidence-killers?

III. Your Character Strengths

- Character strengths are universally valued, innate personal traits that a person _____, _____, and _____.
- They are the positive parts of your personality that impact how you _____, _____ and _____. They are keys to you being your best self.
- They reflect the "real" you — who you are the _____. Who you are without _____. The part of you that is always _____.
- Researchers have found: People who use their character strengths experience a high level of self-esteem and self-efficacy. They feel good about themselves and their ability to succeed.
- As a result, they enjoy greater authentic success, just being _____.

IV. This week...

- If you are interested in discovering your signature character strengths, go to www.viacharacter.org for a free online assessment.
- Daily journaling: What's right with you?
- Reading for next week's class:
Exodus Chapters 6-8 — Gideon's Calling & Conquest