**Leveraging Your Experience Leader’s Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. What do you like about getting older? What do you hate about getting older?**

**2. If you were making a treasure box to depict your life and giftedness, what object would you include? {Or – Go around the circle. Suggest what objects best describe the strengths of the that person}. (In field testing in our home group, the second version was better)**

**3. Do positive experiences tend to transform us more than negative experiences or the other way around? What +/- experience transformed your life the most?**

**BOOK/LOOK**

**Read Matthew 25:14-30.**

**4. Is this story about financial stewardship or stewardship in general?**

**5. On what basis are each of the servants given different amounts of money?** (It’s the owner’s choice; “each according the their ability.”) **How is that consistent with a biblical understanding of God-given spiritual gifts?** (1 Cor. 12:7 – gifts are given by grace as God determines. 1 Pet. 4:10 – “each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”)

**6. What did the Master expect of the servants?** (To use the money to make more money; to multiply what they had been given for the good of the Master.) **Is money multiplication a good or bad thing for a Christ follower?**

**7. Do you feel sorry for the third servant? Why or why not? Why was the master so upset at the third servant?**  (He called him ‘lazy’ and ‘wicked’. He refused to use what he was given for the Master’s gain.)

**8. Does the church suffer more from those who have 5 talents and don’t use them, or those who have 1 gift and don’t use it?**

**9. Matt. 25:21,23 repeat the praise of the Master**. **We get to share God’s happiness when we’ve used what He’s given for His purposes. Is your experience of God that He is generous or stingy with praise? What words would you like to hear at the end of your journey on earth?**

**10. What might the Master have said to the first two servants if they’d have lost the master’s treasure in an unfortunate financial investment?**

**TOOK**

**11. What kinds of actions make you truly happy and want to praise your children or coworkers?**

**12. True or false: The value of a life is always determined by how much of it was given away.** (There are things to be said on either side of the debate. Does the value of a life depend on service? Or are we valuable simply by virtue of our Maker? Perhaps what we give away determines our heavenly rewards but not our value.)

**13. What would you consider to be your best investment so far in your life?**

**14. If it’s true that our maximum impact happens when we align our spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experience in the service of others, what would need to change in order to maximize your impact in serving God?**