



Road Trip: Rule #1 Your Bus... You Drive | June 20, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Summers are for road trips! Surprisingly, we can learn a lot about our faith journey from the trips that we go on.

Key Verses

Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Discussion

The worst part about trip planning, especially when you have lots of teenagers involved on a student ministry trip, is figuring out which type of vehicle and how many seats you need. Buses, motorhomes, giant vans... the options are really endless. The even worse part, however, is that regardless of how well you plan, communicate and execute, something almost always manages to go wrong. If you're lucky, it's something small. But if you're not, it could be something like a flat tire (with no spare), a bus driver who doesn't show up, or a mechanical problem that takes days to fix.

1. What is your favorite summer road trip memory?
2. Have you ever led a trip (of students or adults) before? Describe what it felt like to be in the driver's seat of that trip.

A great advantage of student ministry trips is getting a kid outside their normal environment. By doing so, you allow them to experience new things, serve in new ways and grow in their faith. Summer is the perfect set up for these kinds of trips – students are primed for adventure and excitement. Just like a summer road trip, our individual faith is a journey as well. And regardless of what happens (good or bad), we get to sit in the driver's seat. It's our bus, and we must drive it to continue growing in our faith.

3. In what ways is our faith journey like a road trip? Name some similarities and describe what your "trip" has been like.
4. Do you feel like you are currently sitting in the driver's seat of your faith journey? Why or why not?

In Matthew 25:14-30, we read about a master who leaves town and gives his servants different quantities of money. He expects them all to do something with the gift... to invest and grow it. When he returns, he finds that the servant to whom he gave the least amount of money didn't do anything. Because it was a small amount, he felt like he needed to protect it. The master becomes furious! In the same way, we have all been entrusted with a life... God has given us each a bus to drive! And instead of playing it safe, he wants us to invest in and grow it. He wants us to take the trip!

5. Put yourself in the servant's shoes... would you have protected the money or grown and invested it? Why?
6. In what ways do you think God is prompting you to think differently about the bus He has entrusted you with? What might you do differently to be a more active driver?

What's Next?

This week, consider your own driving. Are you on an adventure, active in the driver's seat of your faith journey? Or is your bus broken down? Do you need to do anything different in your faith journey to fix or fuel it? Be excited about the journey you are on and about the bus you have been given to make an impact in the world. Lastly, don't forget to include others on your journey. Invite them onto the bus to experience and grow alongside of you.