

# Life of Christ

## The story of the treasure, the pearl and the net

Matthew 13:44-49

### Younger Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6

### Older Verse

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

### Lesson Goals

To see why a person should become a Christian  
To understand how special we are to God and how much He loves us

### Welcome Time

Have you ever found something while you were walking or doing something? What happened? (wait for a variety of stories) Share how today's lesson is about a story Jesus told about special treasures that were found.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Teachers: Small children will not fully understand this lesson. Please have fun and share how Heaven is like a beautiful treasure or a great big pearl!

Lots of people wonder why it is so important to be a Christian. Some think that they can become a Christian later. Others think that everyone will go to Heaven. Have you ever looked in the Bible to see what it says about why a person should be a Christian?

Jesus told several stories to help us see what Heaven is like and why we should want to go there. Let's read the stories and think about what they mean.

Jesus said Heaven is like a treasure that is hidden in a field. One day a man is walking by the field and finds the treasure. He is so excited! He can't believe what he has found. It's a miracle! He buries the treasure again and finds out who owns the land. He sells everything he owns to buy the field because he knows that it has treasure on it. He knows that this treasure is better than anything else in the whole world.

Jesus told two other stories. Let's read them and then we'll talk about what they mean.

Jesus told another story about a salesperson. This person was looking for the best pearls in the whole world. Do you know what a pearl looks like? (show a picture or example of a pearl) He had been searching everywhere to find a pearl that was the most beautiful pearl in the world. One day as he was buying and selling jewelry, he found it! He saw the most beautiful pearl in the whole world! He was so excited! He went and sold everything he had to get money to buy that one pearl because he knew that it was the biggest and the best.

Jesus' next story was about fishing. Back in Jesus' time, fishermen used nets to catch lots of fish. When the fishermen caught lots of fish in their nets, they pulled up the nets onto the beach and sorted out the fish. They kept the good fish and threw away the bad fish.

Why did Jesus tell these stories? He told them so that we can understand what Heaven is like and that the only way to get there is through Jesus Christ.

What were the people in the story trying to find? (treasure, a pearl and good fish) What was so important about it? (They wanted only the very best) When the people found the items, what did they do? (They sold everything to buy them; kept the good fish)

Jesus is trying to explain that Heaven is the best place a person can ever go. It's like the biggest treasure or the best pearl in the world. God is there and we can be with Him forever. Why would we want to be with God forever? God created us and loves us. He wants to spend time with us. Heaven is a place where we will be with God and show Him how much we love Him.

So what does a treasure, a pearl and a net have to do with God? God loves us so much that He gave the very best thing He had to us, so that we could come to Heaven if we believe in Him. Do you know who it is? Jesus! God loved us so much that He gave us His only Son, Jesus. Jesus is like the people in the story. They gave all they had to buy something very precious. Jesus gave His life, all He had, to buy something precious—US! Jesus knew that there was only ONE way for us to get to Heaven. IT wasn't by being good or just living a good life. Jesus is the only way to help us get to Heaven. He died on a cross for all OUR bad wrongs (sin) that we have done. Then three days later, He came back to life. Because He died and came back to life, we can go to Heaven and be with God if we trust Jesus and ask Him to forgive all our wrongs and come into our life. We can only get to Heaven with Jesus' help.

Lots of people think that everyone goes to Heaven. Guess what? The story of the net helps us see that God will separate out the good fish from the bad fish. That means, He will separate those who believe in Him from those who do not believe. Those who believe in Him will go to Heaven. It is not about just knowing Jesus in your mind. You have to believe and trust Him with your heart.

Some people want to wait until later to follow Jesus. Jesus wants us to make a decision now—just like the people who immediately bought the land or the pearl. If you want to know more about trusting Jesus, please talk to us about it anytime.

#### **Learning Activities**

This is a fun lesson to dramatize. Have fun and help the kids learn the reason for the lesson—Heaven is the best place to be.

#### **Memory Verse Activities**

Talk about how Jesus is the ONLY way to Heaven. It is only through believing in Jesus that we can go to Heaven.

#### **Prayer Time**

This may be a special week when a child asks how to become a Christian. Be sensitive. You may want to share how you became a Christian as you circle to pray.

#### **Snack Time/CleanUp**

Make pearl sandwiches or pearl cookies. (see last page). Share fun snacks and laugh with the kids.

Planning for June 29th  
Jesus is sad  
Matthew 14:1-13a

Preschool Lesson  
for  
The story of the treasure, the pearl and the net

Teachers: Small children will not fully understand this lesson. Please have fun and share how Heaven is like a beautiful treasure or a great big pearl!

(Teachers: You may choose to leave out the net story. It is very hard for little people to comprehend what it means for God to separate out fish; especially because the “good” fish are not people who are “good” but who have trusted Jesus.)

Before the lesson, hide a box with costume jewelry or chocolate coins in the room.

Jesus told three stories to help us know what Heaven is like.

Once upon a time, there was a field where people plant vegetables and grain. One day, a man was walking by. (Stand up and begin walking—or pretend walking) While he was walking, he saw something buried in the ground. Quickly, he started digging. Guess what? He found a buried treasure chest! (Walk to the hidden box and show everyone!)

When he opened the chest, what do you think he found? TREASURE! (Show what is in your box.) He looked around and no one saw him. He put the treasure back in the ground and buried it. Then, he ran to the person who owned the land and bought the land so that he could have the treasure! He used all the money he had to buy the land with the treasure!

Jesus told another story:

Once there was a man who wanted to find the most beautiful pearl in the world. He traveled everywhere to look at pearls. (Teachers, show the kids what a pearl is.)

Then, one day after looking everywhere, he found it! He found the most beautiful pearl in the whole world. Do you know what he did? He sold everything he had to buy that pearl. He was so happy.

Jesus told one more story:

One day, some fishermen went to the water to catch fish. They lowered a big net into the water and waited. Finally they pulled the net up and saw that they had caught many fish. They took the net of fish to the beach and picked out the good fish to sell to people.

Just like the treasure and the pearl, Heaven is a beautiful place. Jesus wants us to know that we can go to Heaven one day if we believe in Jesus. Jesus loves YOU and cares for you.

Sing, “Jesus loves me.”

Hands-on Activities  
for  
The story of the treasure, a pearl and a net

Make pearl sandwiches. Each child will spread peanut butter (or marshmallow cream) on a hamburger bun. The bun represents the oyster. Now place one marshmallow in the “oyster” to represent the pearl! Enjoy!

Bring round white powdered donuts or cookies (also called Mexican Wedding cookies) to resemble pearls!

Create a hidden picture. Draw a treasure or pearl first, then add scenery. Exchange pictures to try to find the “treasure.”

Copy and cut out pictures of “good” fish and “bad” fish. Let the kids collect fish in their “net” bags and separate “good” fish from “bad” fish.

Bring a box of sand with special “treasures” hidden in it. Let the kids take turns hunting for “treasure.” (This activity is best done outside) If sand is not convenient for you, try using packing peanuts or even cotton balls.

Make a pretty treasure chest out of a shoe box. Decorate with paper, add glitter, sequins or other sparkly things.