

Life of Christ

The Treasure and the Pearl

Matthew 13:44-46

Younger Verse

Your heart will always be where your treasure is.

Matthew 6:21 (CEV)

Older Verse

Your heart will always be where your treasure is.

Matthew 6:21 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that God gave up His best, Jesus, for us
Learn that eternal life is the best treasure of all
Learn to have a desire for God

Welcome Time

If you had to leave your house and could only take one thing with you, what would you take? It is probably the thing that means the most to you. Today we will learn about the best kind of treasure.

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 before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have talked about several stories Jesus told to teach about the Kingdom of Heaven. Can you remember one of the things Jesus compared to His Kingdom? (mustard seed, wheat and weeds, 4 types of soil) Each parable taught something different about God's kingdom.

Today we will learn about two more stories Jesus told. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a **treasure** that was hidden in a field. **Ask: What is a treasure?** A treasure is something that has a high value. For most people, treasure is gold or other jewels. In Jesus' parable, a man found treasure in a field. He buried the treasure and found the owner of the land. The man sold everything he owned to buy the field with the treasure!

Jesus told another story about a salesman. This man 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) One day, the salesman 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 best.

Jesus wants us to know that accepting Him into our heart is the most important thing we can ever do. When we ask Him to come into our heart, we get to have **eternal life** with Him. **This means that we know Him and we get to be with God forever in Heaven!** *Even though we cannot see this treasure, it is the most valuable thing we can have.*

God loves us so much that He gave the very best thing *He* had. Do you know who it is? Jesus! God loved us so much that He gave us His only Son, Jesus. 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 isn'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.

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.

Review Questions

1. What did the man do when he found the treasure? (sold everything to buy the land and get the treasure)
2. Why did the salesman sell everything he owned? (to buy the precious pearl)
3. What did God do for us that cost Him everything? (sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins)
4. What is the most valuable thing we can have? (eternal life)

Prayer Time

Thank God that He was willing to give us His best so that we can be saved from our sins. Pray that we would give God our lives and our best for Him.

Life Application

Some people live their lives to be rich and have many possessions. But wise people know that these things will not last. Jesus told His disciples not to store up treasures on earth. He said to store treasures in Heaven. **Ask: How do we store treasure in Heaven?**

First, we need to make sure we are saved from our sins so we will be in Heaven. Once we have eternal life, we must help others know He loves them, too! And as we get to know Jesus better, we are preparing for Heaven, when we will see Him face to face.

God knows what is most important to us. He knows our desires. God wants us have more of a desire for Him than for anything else. We can pray for a desire to know God and follow His ways.

1 John 2:17 says, "The world and its desires will pass away, but the man who does the will of God will live forever." Only the things we do for God will last. Everything else will be gone one day. So let's remember to put God first—**He is our treasure!**

Planning for Next Lesson
Jesus is Sad
Matthew 14:3-13a

Preschool Lesson for The Treasure and the Pearl

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

Jesus told 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.

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 Treasure and the Pearl

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.”

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.