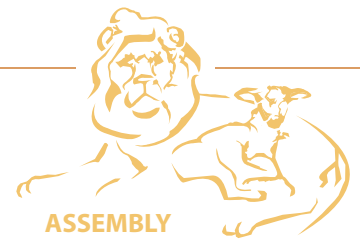


THE HIDDEN TREASURE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 13:44-46



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

HIDDEN TREASURE

Supplies

purchase enough gold foil covered chocolate coins for the entire class, fill several pages in a large study Bible with the coins

Select the pages containing scriptures about Christ such as John 3:16. Tell the children that there is hidden treasure in the classroom. See if they can discover where it is. If they are having trouble, give “hot” and “cold” verbal clues to lead them to the Bible.

As soon as they touch the Bible, acknowledge that they have found the treasure. Open up to one of the pages. They will be enamored by the gold coins, but you can point them to the greater treasure of the testimony of Christ found in the Bible. Pass out the coins and talk about the parable.

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Supplies

purchase or borrow a pearl necklace for this object lesson (you can often purchase a real cultured pearl necklace from a jeweler for a modest sum)

Read the parable and pass around a pearl necklace. Tell the children that pearls are valuable because they form naturally when a small grain of sand gets stuck in an oyster. It could take over ten years for the pearl to form in the oyster.

So, to find a great pearl among other pearls is a rare find indeed. Talk to the children and ask them who the pearl represents in the parable. It is, of course, Jesus. Knowing the pearl of great price is Jesus, what does that tell us about how we should relate to Jesus?

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 13:44-46

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The Gospel is the heart and message of the Kingdom of God. We can share in the Kingdom of God because Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we could be forgiven for our sins. The center of the Gospel message is that Jesus took the punishment for our sin. The Kingdom of God, or His rule over our lives, comes to us when we believe.

This is truly the greatest treasure to be discovered. When we place our faith in the death of Christ on the cross for our salvation, we become heirs of the Kingdom of God and therefore, the wealthiest men and women to ever live. Surely this is worth giving up everything else!

