

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 13:44-46



The STORY

Read the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price in Matthew 13:44-46.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did Jesus compare the treasure in the field to? (Jesus compared the treasure to the Kingdom of God.)
- Why did Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to treasure? (The Kingdom of God is the rule of God. God's Kingdom is supremely valuable. It is of greater worth than gold or silver. When you get the Kingdom of God, you also get the king. This is no ordinary king, but the very one who created all, including gold.)
- What did the man in the parable do when he found the treasure? (He covered it back up again then sold all that he had to buy the field.)
- Why did he want to buy the field? (He knew that if he bought the field, the treasure he found would belong to him.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a man uncovering a large treasure chest in a field. Engage the children by asking:

- What were the different things the man could have done when he found the treasure? (He could have stolen it, taking it home with out telling anyone. He could have left the treasure there and walked away. He could have told the owner of the field what he found.)
- Why does Jesus have the man cover the treasure back up in the parable and buy the field? (The treasure was worth more than the field. Jesus wanted to show His disciples that the Kingdom of God is so valuable that anyone who truly understands its value would do whatever it took to acquire it.)
- What is the message for us in this parable? (We should do what ever it takes to know Christ and His Kingdom, Christ ruling in our hearts, and receive the salvation He promises.)
- How do we acquire Jesus and the Kingdom? (The Bible is that field in which the secret treasure is buried. In it we find that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. And, if we turn away from our sins, repent, and put our faith in Jesus and His payment for our sins, we can be changed by His Spirit. When God changes our hearts He makes us heirs of His Kingdom. An heir of the Kingdom is a son who receives the Kingdom as a gift.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- If the Kingdom of God is like a treasure that a man sold all that he had to acquire, what should we do? (The man in the parable stopped at nothing to buy the field that contained the treasure. He sold all that he had. He knew the treasure was worth more than what he sold. We should follow his example and recognize that Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are worth giving up everything in the world to acquire.)
- Can you think of anyone who gave up everything to follow Jesus? (Jesus called His disciples to lay down their fishing nets and other jobs to follow Him. In the end, though they gave up much, they had all that they needed.)
- How can we give up everything to follow Jesus? (So many people seek first the things of this world but in Matthew 6:31-34 Jesus told His disciples to seek first the Kingdom of God and all that they needed would be provided.)

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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!

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

