

## The Parable of the Hidden Treasure- Matthew 13

### THE POINT

Focus:

The Kingdom of God is worth more than any earthly treasure.

Application:

We should pursue the Kingdom of God wholeheartedly.

We can trust that the Kingdom of God is a good gift.

Last Week: The Parable of the Mustard Seed & The Parable of the Unleavened Bread

2 Weeks Ago: The Parable of the Sower

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### HEART CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

#### Treasure Hunts & Better Gifts

- Colored beads or another small object you have on hand to hide (felt pieces, tissue paper squares, etc.)
- Small prizes (1/child) that they would prefer to the bead you've hidden (ex: bubbles, a glo-stick, stickers, or a piece of candy).

#### **Content:**

Before the children come back to your worship space, hide your small items all around the room. Keep track of how many pieces you've hidden and divide by the number of children if you think that a few enthusiastic children might find more than their fair share!

Explain that in your story today, you're going to be finding out about how precious the Kingdom of Heaven is.

- Have you ever had to work hard to find something special?
- Have you ever saved up your money for something special?

Explain that today you're going to go on a treasure hunt and then have the opportunity to exchange your findings for an even better treasure. make sure to give clear instructions about what they are looking for, and how many.

\*If you have concerns about age groups hunting together, have younger children hunt for one color of bead, and older children hunt for a different color. This way you can hide some in higher or more difficult spaces.

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## STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Parable Rolls

### Optional:

- Rain for Roots: *The Kingdom of Heaven of Heaven is Like This* available to download [online](#) or as a [CD](#)

The instructions are listed below. You may want to review some of the other stories about the Kingdom of Heaven with the CD before or after you read these parables. The lessons this month all explore the Kingdom of Heaven from different viewpoints.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*These stories are almost alarmingly short! Thankfully, Jesus thought they were just fine at the length they are at. You will spend a bit more time going in-depth with the text this week, and then*

Matthew 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.

*Unroll your parable roll. Spread out the gold background. Place the green square down as the field. Place a bead underneath it, and replace the green square to cover it (you can place the green hexagon on top, too)! “Pay” the rest of the beads by counting them out and placing them down the side of the cloth to “purchase” the green field.*

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.”

*Roll out the brown felt on your gold background. Place a bead underneath it, and replace the brown square to cover it. “Pay” the rest of the beads by counting them out and placing them down the side of the cloth to “purchase” the green field.*

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder how excited the man felt to give all he had for the treasure or the pearl.

I wonder whether it was ever difficult to give up one thing for another.

I wonder what God might call us to give up for the Kingdom of Heaven.

I wonder how special a treasure the Kingdom of Heaven is for me.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**