

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM



Bible Reference: **Matt. 13; Mark 4**

Date: **9/27/26**

1st Service

Grade: **PreK /Kindergarten**

Memory Verse:

"Shine your light before others so they see your good works and give glory to God." **Matthew 5:16**

Big Picture Question:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Christ Connection

- Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
 - Kindergarten in Large Group Lesson @ 9:20.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Friends from Afar.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Group Game.....10 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

We are inviting you to join us on **October 18** from **12:30-2:00** for our **Fall Shepherd Lunch and Workshop**. We will be discussing ideas from the book 'Lead With Prayer' to grow more in our understanding of the influence prayer has on different roles we hold. Don't worry if you haven't read the book- we will have a guest speaker leading us!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

More than 100 years ago, a group of missionaries developed a unique way to illustrate the idea of committing everything to the kingdom of God. These Christians were known as one-way missionaries because they would buy one-way tickets to their mission destinations with no intention to return.

They were so confident they would never return to their homes that they would pack all their belongings in a coffin that would be used to “bury” them when they died on the mission field. As they traveled to the ends of the earth, they said goodbye to everyone and everything they had ever known, all for the kingdom of God.

Jesus’ parables about the hidden treasure and the priceless pearl represent an encounter that changes everything. In one, a man stumbles upon treasure buried in a field. In the other, a merchant who has searched his entire life for fine pearls suddenly discovers one so valuable nothing else compares. In both cases, these men sell everything to obtain what they’ve found.

From a worldly perspective, selling everything to obtain one thing seems reckless and unwise. And yet, the man sells all he owns “in his joy.” This isn’t about grim duty or forced giving—it’s about overwhelming delight. When you truly see the worth of the kingdom, sacrificing everything you have for it doesn’t feel like loss. Rather, it brings great gain.

Many times, we find ourselves chasing a thousand smaller treasures, such as comfort, reputation, and control. But none of those treasures ultimately satisfy. They demand more and give less. But when we encounter Jesus, the true treasure, everything else finds its proper place. Paul echoes this in Philippians 3:8: “I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

This week, lead your kids to value Jesus above all and seek their deepest joy in the one who gave everything for us.

JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

Over 100 years ago, some missionaries bought one-way tickets to go tell people about Jesus in far-off places – they didn't plan on ever coming back. They were so serious about it that they packed their stuff in a coffin, since they figured they'd die out there. They said goodbye to everything familiar because they believed following Jesus was worth it.

Jesus told two stories that explain why. In one, a guy digs up hidden treasure in a field. In the other, a merchant finally finds the one perfect pearl after searching his whole life. In both, the person sells everything they own to get what they found.

That sounds crazy — who sells everything for one thing? But here's the key: the guy sells it all "in his joy." He's not sad or forced into it — he's excited. Once you see how amazing what you found really is, giving up everything else feels like winning, not losing.

We often chase smaller stuff instead — being popular, comfortable, in control. But that stuff never satisfies: it always wants more and gives less back. When you really encounter Jesus, everything else shrinks down to its right size. Paul says it himself in Philippians 3:8 — everything else is basically garbage compared to knowing Jesus.

So this week: value Jesus more than anything else, and find your real joy in the one who gave up everything for you first.

As the kiddos continue to settle in to their new classes, we want to focus on growing the amount of trust we have with them. Each time you prove that you are reliable, you help that child to trust you a little more.

It's kind of like saving money in a piggy bank. If you put a few coins in it each day, its value grows. When something happens that you need a lot of money, you can go to your piggy bank and rely on the stored coins for what you need! When we are trying to prove ourselves trustworthy, we have to do it a little bit at a time. Maybe you show one of the kids that you are always willing to sit next to them during story time, or you show them how to build a taller tower with the blocks. They are learning to trust you. Then maybe they get into an argument with another child in your class. Because they trust you, they might ask you to help them solve the problem!

Everything we do around children helps them to see whether or not they can trust us. What can you do to add more to each child's piggy bank of trust?

OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome each child and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Gather kids in a circle and explain that you need their help to build a story. Invite kids to fill in the blanks with their ideas. Choose your own prompt or use this one: "One day two kids named ____ and ____ traveled to _____. When they got there, they saw a large _____. As they were walking, they looked on the ground and found a shiny _____. They were feeling hungry, so they stopped and ate a _____ and drank some _____. At the end of the day, they rode a _____ all the way home."
- SAY I love to tell and hear stories! Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. These stories are called parables. The story we made up was just for fun and pretend. But we know the Bible is true, and Jesus really did live and tell these stories during His ministry on earth. We will learn some more of Jesus' parables today.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Ask children what they think about when they imagine a kingdom.
- SAY Who rules a kingdom? [Allow responses.] That's right, a king or queen rules a kingdom. Jesus told stories called parables. The parables He told teach us about God and His kingdom. Jesus came to bring God's kingdom. God's kingdom is different than any earthly kingdom. I can't wait to tell you more!

Bible Story

- Jesus taught people about God's kingdom. He often told stories, or parables, to help them understand. One day, Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a man who planted good wheat seeds in his field. But an enemy came at night and planted some weed seeds. The wheat and the weeds grew together. The man said, 'Wait until harvest. Then we will gather the wheat and get rid of the weeds.'" Jesus told another story. He said, "God's kingdom is like a mustard seed—the tiniest seed. But when it is planted, it grows into a tree. Birds rest and build nests in its branches." Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like bread yeast. A woman mixed it into flour, and the whole batch of dough began to rise!" Later, Jesus explained: "The good seeds are people who belong to God. The weeds are people who do not follow Him. At the end, God will separate them. God's people will be with Him forever." Jesus told more stories. He said, "God's kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field. A man sold everything he had to buy the field." Jesus also said that God's kingdom is like a pearl worth a lot of money. After a man found the pearl, he sold all he had to buy it. Lastly, Jesus said that God's kingdom is like a large net catching all kinds of fish. Later, the good fish are kept and the bad are thrown away."



Christ Connection

- Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

Review Activity

- Gather the kids at a table and distribute a small ball of play dough to each child. Review the story by forming the play dough into different items from each parable. Items could include seeds, a large tree, bread, weeds, treasure, pearls, fish, and a net.
- SAY Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. You made play dough into different items in parables to remind us about Jesus' teachings about God's kingdom.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

In your bin are several "Find It" bottles by filled with colorful beads and a few larger, white beads to resemble pearls. Show a "pearl" bead to the group. Form small groups and give each group a "Find It" bottle. Challenge kids to take turns moving and shaking the bottle to find a "pearl."

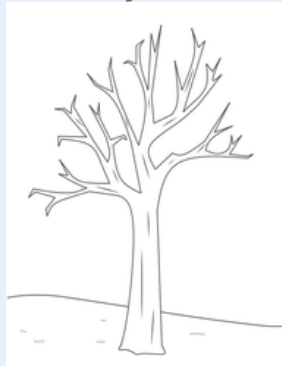
SAY What color was the pearl you searched for? [Allow responses.] A pearl is a very special gem, or treasure. Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. Jesus said that God's kingdom is like a pearl worth a lot of money. Knowing God is more important than the most expensive pearl someone could find.

Craft

5-7 minutes

Make Mustard Trees

- Give each child a "Mustard Tree" printable. Give each child a sheet of dot stickers and encourage them to place the stickers throughout the branches like leaves.
- SAY Jesus told a parable about a mustard seed. A mustard seed is very small, but it grows into a large tree! Jesus said God's kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed. When it is planted it grows into a huge tree, and birds rest and build nests in its branches. Do you remember who came to bring God's kingdom? (Jesus) Because Jesus died and rose again, people can be part of His kingdom forever when they trust in Him.





Music

5 minutes

You will find music and video resources on the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included. Necessary supplies are located in your bin.

Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, thank You for the Bible and that every word is true and from You. Please use these stories to teach us about Your kingdom. I pray that one day each child will put their trust in Jesus. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Write the Bible memory verse in big letters on your whiteboard. Find the flashlight in your bin, and dim the lights in your room. Shine the flashlight on each word as you say the verse as a group.
- SAY We have been learning that Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. Our Bible verse reminds us that when we follow Jesus, and do good works for His glory, others will see and give glory to God too!

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who told a story about God's kingdom? (Jesus)
4. What did Jesus say God's kingdom is like? (a man who planted good seeds, a mustard seed, bread yeast, hidden treasure, a pearl)
5. Who can be part of God's kingdom? (Anyone who believes and trusts in King Jesus can be part of God's kingdom.)
6. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

SAY Jesus told a story about a farmer who planted good seeds and a person who came at night and planted bad seeds that caused weeds to grow. Jesus told a story about a tree that grew big from a tiny seed, and a story about bread dough. Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. God rules with all power over the world He made. He wants people to follow Him and believe and trust in His Son, King Jesus.





Group Game

10 minutes

- Write the word **Treasure** on a small piece of paper and show it to the kids. Crumble the paper into a ball. Place the ball under one of three cups turned upside down. Mix the cups so the children can see you shuffling them. Ask the kids to guess which cup is hiding the treasure. Lift the cups one at a time to reveal whether they guessed correctly. Repeat the activity several times to keep it fun and engaging.
- **SAY** You searched and found the treasure! Treasure is something very special and valuable. Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom was like. Jesus said God's kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field. A man sold everything he had to buy the whole field; he knew the treasure was valuable. Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

Additional Activities

As Needed

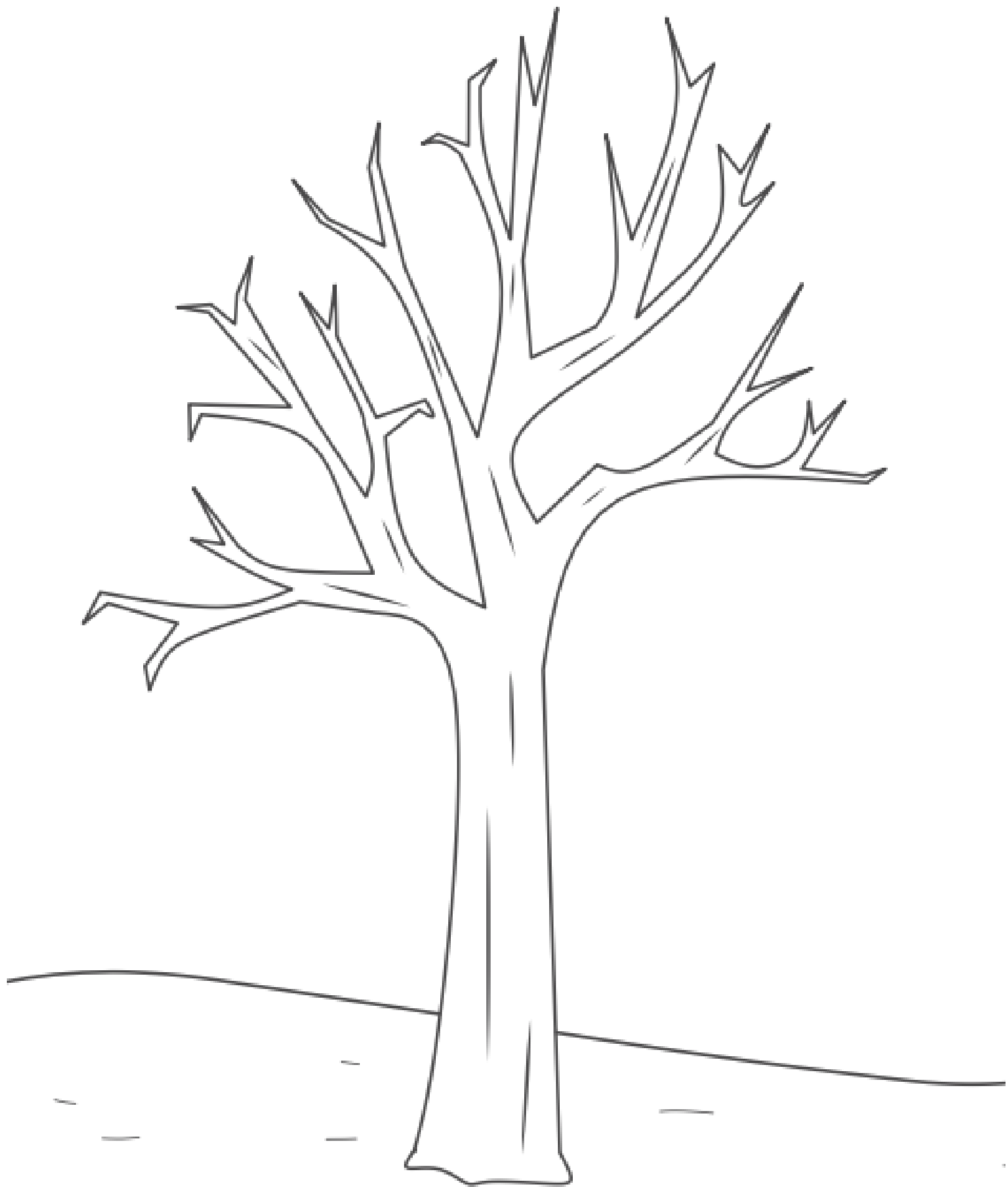
Sort Seeds

- Set out a variety of seeds such as sunflower and pumpkin seeds or corn kernels on a tray. Provide muffin tins or bowls. Guide the children to sort the seeds by type or size. Lead older preschoolers to make patterns with the seeds. Consider providing tweezers or tongs for children who do not want to touch the seeds. Remind children to not put the seeds in their mouths, noses, or ears.
- **SAY** Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. Many of the stories He told were about seeds. Which stories do you remember? [Allow responses.] That's right, Jesus taught that God's kingdom is like a man who planted good wheat seeds in his field. But an enemy came at night and planted some weeds. The man said they had to wait until the harvest to sort the wheat that grew from the weeds. Jesus said the good seeds are people who belong to God. The weeds are people who do not follow Him. When Jesus returns, God will separate them, and God's people will be with Him forever.

Draw on Paper

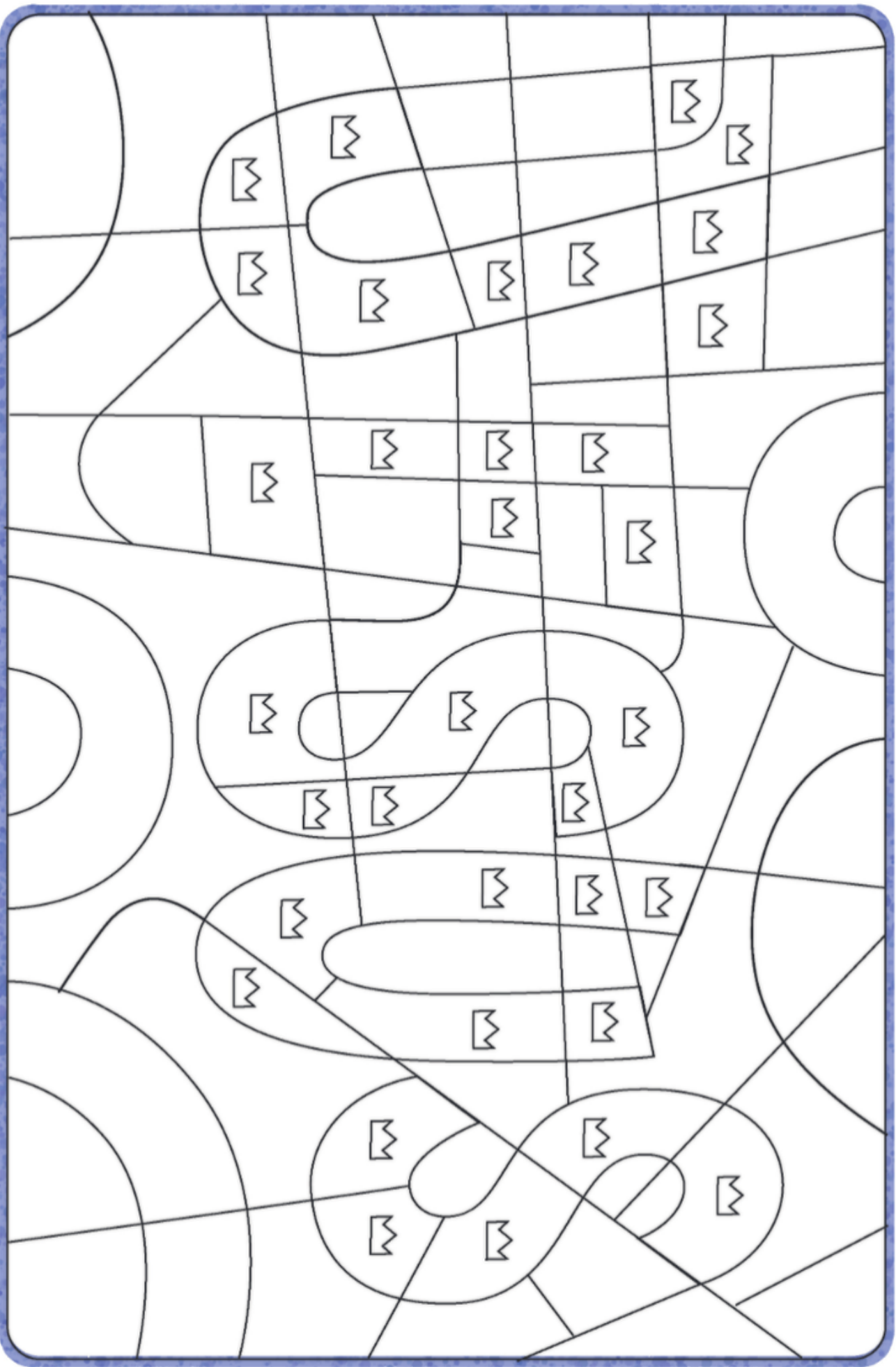
- Give each child a piece of paper and crayons or markers. Remind children of the portion of the Bible story where the man found treasure. Ask them to draw a picture of what they think the treasure might have looked like. Allow children to tell you about their pictures.
- **SAY** Jesus told a story about a man who found treasure buried in a field. It was so valuable, he sold everything he owned and bought the field so he could keep the treasure. Jesus told this story when He was teaching the people about God's kingdom. He was telling the people that being part of God's kingdom is the best thing anyone can do. Jesus is King. When we trust in Him, we can be part of His kingdom forever.



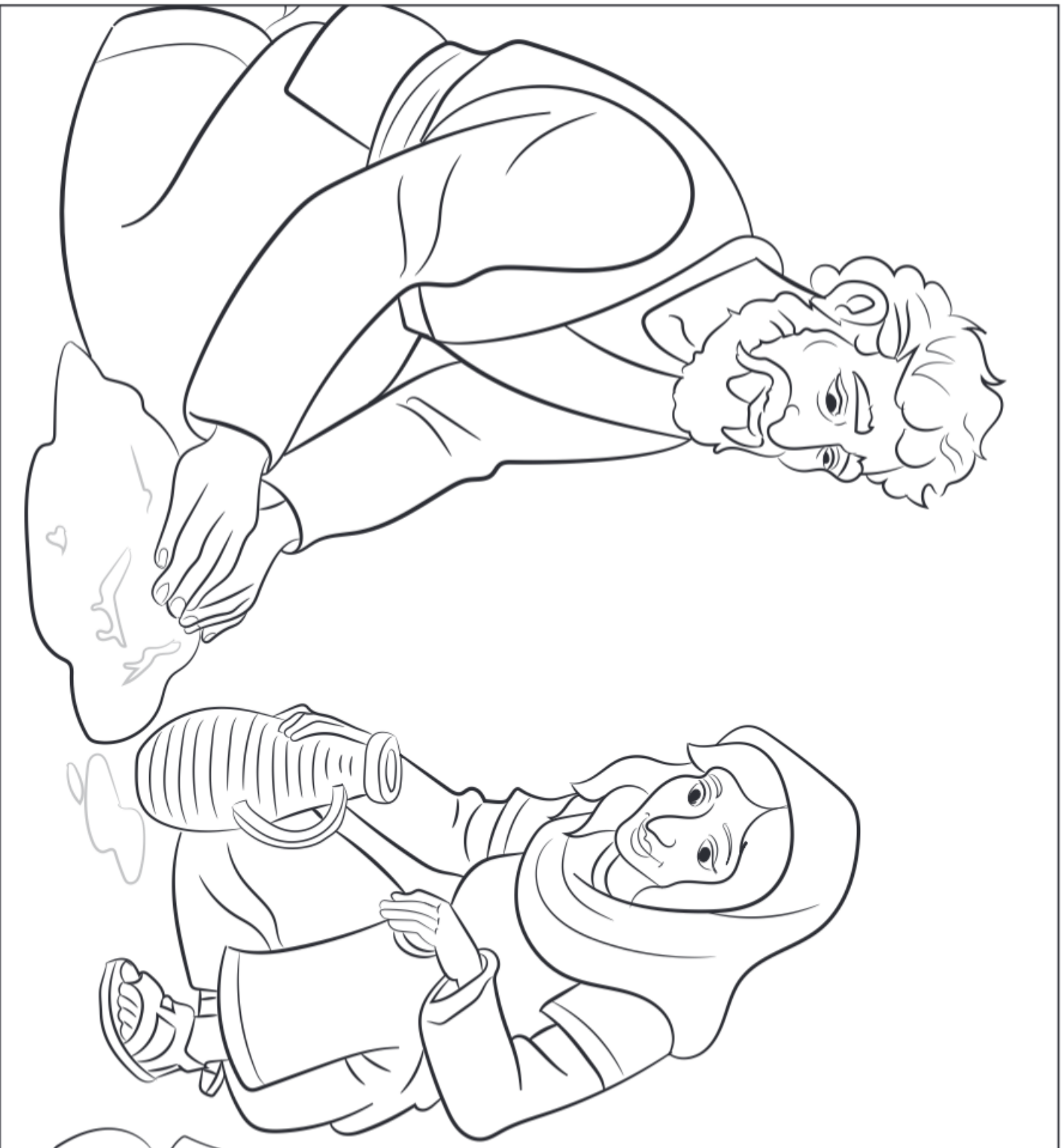


Who Came to Bring God's Kingdom?

INSTRUCTIONS: Color the shapes that contain a crown to reveal who came to bring God's kingdom.



NAME: _____



Jesus Taught about the Kingdom

Matthew 13; Mark 4

STORY POINT:

Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 40:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Scan the QR code
for resources to
use at home!

