

LESSON 19

The Hidden Treasure

MATTHEW 13:31-46



BIBLE TRUTH

CHRIST, OUR TREASURE, IS WORTH EVERYTHING WE OWN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Matthew 13:31–46 from the Scriptures or read story 97, “The Hidden Treasure,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Effects of the Kingdom

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two batches of dough, one with yeast and one without (See lesson for dough recipe.)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Find the Pearl

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an inexpensive pearl necklace cut to unstring the pearls—one pearl per student
- ✓ masking tape

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 19—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Thrown into the Fire

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven—Matthew records a series of Jesus’ parables that teach us about the kingdom of God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven (yeast), Jesus describes two very small items that multiply and grow into something much larger. Consider how this applies to the story of Jesus. The kingdom of God began with Jesus calling twelve men. Together they spread the message of the kingdom across the land. With that, the kingdom began to grow. Others like the apostle Paul were called to proclaim the gospel, and it spread mightily. Today we also are called to share the gospel with those who have not heard it. We are a part of that mustard tree growing to reach people from every tribe, language, and nation.

The parable of the hidden treasure—Imagine finding treasure in a field. You can’t take the treasure because it belongs to the field’s owner. But if you sell everything you own to purchase the field, the treasure in the field becomes yours. If you knew that the treasure was worth far more than all you owned, you would not mind selling everything to purchase it. Once we better understand the value of living in and for God’s kingdom, we gladly give up the distracting things of the world to follow Jesus. Jesus said we should store up treasure in heaven, not on earth. Jesus told a rich young man that to become his follower and have treasure in heaven he had to sell all that he had and give to the poor (Mark 10:21).

The parable of the pearl—A merchant searched for valuable pearls. When he found a pearl of great value, it so captured his affection that he sold everything he had so he could buy it. Many people are searching for the “pearls” of true happiness or ultimate joy. They might find some happiness and joy in the world—lesser pearls. But it is only in laying hold of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins that we will know eternal joy—the “pearl of great value.”

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In Matthew 13:35 Jesus quoted Psalm 78:2 to explain why he was speaking in parables. These parables reveal the secrets of the gospel that lay hidden since the creation of the world. The treasure in the field and the pearl of great price have great value because of the gospel.

The gospel is an invaluable treasure because it makes a way for us to become children of God and enter his kingdom. Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Matthew 13:31-46 from the Scriptures or read story 97, "The Hidden Treasure," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Effects of the Kingdom

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two batches of dough, one with yeast and one without

Make two batches of dough. Make the first one without yeast, wrap it in wax , and then place it in a sealed container. (Remember, even if a little yeast gets in it will multiply, so make this batch first.)

Dough Recipe (Note: omit yeast in first batch.)

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup warm water
- 1 package active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1½ tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ cup milk
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, approximately

Preparation:

1. In large bowl, add the warm water. Slowly stir in dry yeast. Continue to stir until yeast is dissolved.
2. Add salt, sugar, oil, and milk to bowl. Stir.
3. Mix in the first two cups of flour. If needed, begin adding more flour, one tablespoon at a time, until the dough chases the spoon around the bowl.

Make a second batch with yeast, cover, and then refrigerate. Prior to class, take the yeast batch out and allow it to rise in a warm place.

Tell the class about the two doughs. Show them the dough without yeast and allow them to come up and touch it. Then show them the dough with the yeast. If it has risen nicely the class will be amazed that both quantities of dough are the same.

Use this as an illustration to talk about God’s advancing kingdom. You may want to find some stories of how people are still being reached with the gospel today. You can use testimonies from church members or from missionaries. Read Matthew 13:31–33, the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven (yeast). Take time to thank God that his kingdom is still advancing.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 **10 MIN**

Find the Pearl

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an inexpensive pearl necklace cut to unstring the pearls—one pearl per student
- ✓ masking tape

Prior to class, hide the pearls around the room. Hide them behind objects and tape them under objects so they are all well hidden. After reading today’s passage, send the children on a treasure hunt to look for the pearls. Explain that they can only find one pearl. When a child finds a pearl they should come to show it to you and then stand in the front of the class until they all have one.

Talk about how Jesus is the pearl in the story and invite the children to keep their pearl to remind them of what today’s lesson was all about. Then discuss why Jesus is considered a valuable pearl by going over the gospel. Ask the class to tell you what Jesus did for us that makes him our “pearl of great value.”

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

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.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 19—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is the man so happy in the picture?**
(He found a treasure in a field.)
- **What would you do if you found a treasure in a field?**
(Accept any answer.)

■ **Why did the man cover the treasure back up and buy the field?**

(The man knew that if he bought the field the treasure would be his. 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?**

(Since Jesus is the treasure, we should do all we can to get Jesus in our lives. To do that we need to believe in Jesus and put our trust in him.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Thrown into the Fire

Explain to the children that together you are going to act out the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds. You can be the narrator. Choose children for the following roles: one sower; one enemy (the devil); two servants; and of the remaining children, one-third will be the wheat and two-thirds will be the weeds.

Narrator: Jesus told them another parable, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.” *(Have the sower pantomime sowing seed, and at the same time have the children who are playing the wheat fall down in a ball where the wheat is sown.)*

Narrator: “But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.” *(Have the enemy pantomime sowing weed seeds, and at the same time have the children playing the weeds fall down next to the wheat.)*

Narrator: “So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.” *(First have the children playing the wheat begin to stand and stretch their hands over their heads, and then have the children playing the weeds also stand and stretch their hands over their heads.)*

Narrator: “And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him *(have the servants point to the wheat and the tares and shake their hands in confusion)*, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has

done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.’”

Narrator: Announce to the class that harvest time has come: “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned.” *(Have the servants touch the head of the weeds and pull them away from the wheat into another corner of the room, where the weeds should tremble and make pained facial expressions to indicate they are being punished.)*

Narrator: “But gather the wheat into my barn.” *(The servants should then gather the wheat over to the narrator where all those children should jump up and down in celebration.)*

Conclude the drama, having the children return to their seats and asking them which they would rather be, the wheat or the weeds.

Reread Matthew 13:37–43 where Jesus explains the parable, and share the gospel with the class explaining that the passage concludes with a warning, “He who has ears, let him hear” (Matthew 13:43b). Hearing means obeying, and in this case obeying means turning away from the world’s treasures and living for Jesus.

LESSON 19 - THE HIDDEN TREASURE

