

LESSON 19

The Hidden Treasure

MATTHEW 13:44-46



BIBLE TRUTH

CHRIST, OUR TREASURE, IS WORTH EVERYTHING WE OWN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: dollar bill or toy prize

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 97)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 19—one for each child; markers or crayons

Hidden Treasure

SUPPLIES: enough gold foil-covered chocolate coins for the entire class; large study Bible filled with the coins

What Would You Spend?

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn the parables of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great value.

Prior to class, hide a dollar bill or a toy prize somewhere in the room where the children will be able to find it later.

When class starts, guide discussion with the following questions:

- **What is a treasure?**
(a collection of valuable things such as gold, silver, or gems)
- **Why would a person want to find a treasure?**
(It would be worth a lot of money.)
- **What is a pearl?**
(A pearl is a round gemstone created by oysters and prized for its beauty. Large pearls can be very valuable.)
- **What is the kingdom of heaven?**
(The kingdom of heaven is the place where God lives.)

Explain to the children that you hid a dollar bill (or a toy prize) somewhere in the room and you are going to see who can find this treasure. Gather the children into the center of the room, count to ten, then have them search for the treasure. After they find it ask the following questions:

- **Was it fun to search for the treasure? Why?**
(Accept any answer.)
- **If the kingdom of God is a treasure, where can we search for it?**
(The treasure of the kingdom, the gospel, can be found in the Bible. That is why it is so important that we read the Bible.)

Take time to pray and thank God that he is such a treasure for us. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 97, “The Hidden Treasure,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

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

- **To what did Jesus compare the treasure in the field?**
(Jesus compared the treasure to the kingdom of God.)
- **Why did Jesus compare the kingdom of God to a treasure?**
(The kingdom of God is the rule of God. God’s kingdom is supremely valuable. It’s worth more 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.)

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).

- **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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- **The kingdom of God is like a treasure that a man sold all that he had to buy. What does this have to do with us?**

(The man in the parable sold all that he had to buy the field that contained the treasure. 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.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

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

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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.)

Hidden Treasure

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ enough gold, foil-covered chocolate coins for the entire class
- ✓ large study Bible

Before class select pages in the study Bible containing Scriptures about Christ (e.g., John 3:16). Insert the gold coins into these pages.

During class tell the children that there is hidden treasure in the classroom. See if they can discover where it is. If they have 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 delighted 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 about the treasure.

What Would You Spend?

To get an idea about what your students value, ask them to name their favorite toys. Ask them if they would give their favorite toy to you. They should say no.

Ask what they would want to trade for their favorite toy. Then draw the parallel back to the man who gave all he had to buy the pearl of great price.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

SUPPLY ALERT: In two weeks (lesson 21) you are going to need some moldy bread for an object lesson. If you jump ahead now and take a look, you can prepare for this object lesson in plenty of time.

LESSON 19 - THE HIDDEN TREASURE

