

DISCUSSION GUIDE || September 20–25, 2026

REFLECT

1. What's something from this week that you're saying **"Thank you, God"** for?

REMEMBER

- A **parable** is a disruptive story in which something ordinary is laid down (*balo* in Greek) next to (*para* in Greek) something else in order to challenge us to reimagine our thinking, prioritizing, or living.
- **Jesus tells 2 short parables** in which something is *hidden* and *found* before the finders *sell everything they own* in order to *buy what they found*. What these people find is **so valuable that they liquidate their lives** in order to have it.

READ MATTHEW 13.44-46

2. What **word, phrase, or story element** stands out to you the most about these parables?
3. What is **so surprising** (or disruptive) about these brief stories? (Remember the original context of these religious seekers...)
4. What is it that Jesus wants us to see as **so valuable** that it's worth liquidating one's life for?
5. What are other kinds of **treasures and pearls** in our culture that tend to vie for your attention, value, and time?
6. How is this parable **challenging us to reimagine, reconsider, and relate** to these other kinds of treasures and pearls in our life? What if those other things are good things (like family, work, and necessities)?
7. On Saturday, we considered how we may have a **vision** problem if we're bored, distracted, or devaluing the gospel. German theologian Dorothee Solle said, "*What really happens in mystical union is not a new vision of God but a different relationship to the world—one that has borrowed the eyes of God.*" **What do you make of this quote? What is its connection to these parables?**
8. What do we need to pause and pray for this week?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Bible Study—JAMES: LIVING FAITH. Saturdays after worship from Sep. 19—Oct. 24, 6:30 to 8pm
- YOUTH NIGHT @ CHURCH after our Gathering on Saturday, 10/3
- LADIES GARDEN TEA PARTY @ the Riddel home on Friday, 10/9
- BAPTISM CELEBRATION for Elizabeth Campbell on Saturday, 10/10