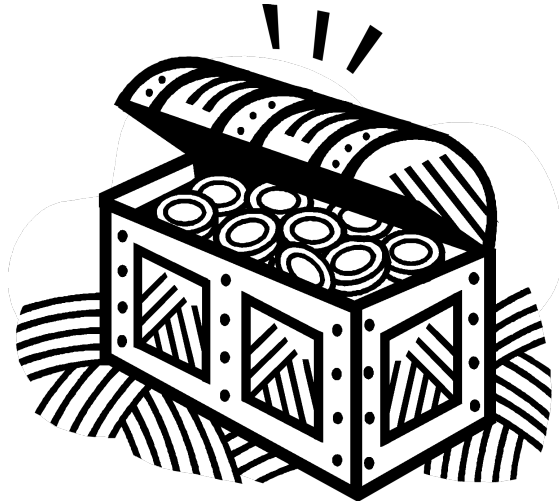
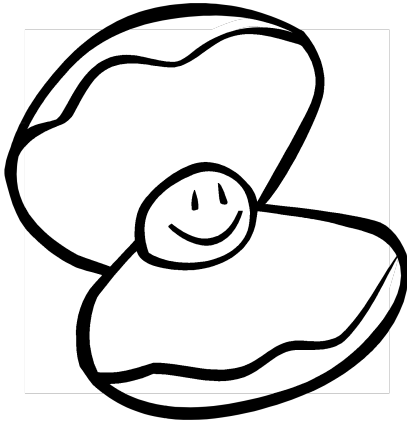


Bible Lesson

21. Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl

Matthew 13



The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.

Matthew 13:44a

Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl

What is the kingdom of God? Jesus told two stories to help us understand this world we cannot see.

“A man found treasure buried in a field. It was hidden under the ground, but very valuable. He hid it again.

The man wanted that unseen treasure but the field cost a lot of money. Did he forget about it? No way.

He went home and sold his house, his furniture, and his silver trays. He sold everything.

With joy, he took that money and bought the field. He really bought it for the buried treasure. The kingdom of God is that hidden gold. We can't see it, but it is priceless.

The kingdom of God is also like an unseen pearl. The jewel is hidden inside an oyster under the water. We can't see the pearl, but it is priceless.

A man found that oyster and knew something special was hidden inside. He sold everything he had to buy that one pearl of great price.”

We can't see God's kingdom, but it is priceless. Would you give up everything to have God's kingdom inside your heart?

Questions

1. How are the treasure and the pearl like the kingdom of God?
2. Why did the men in the story happily give up everything to get something they couldn't even see?
3. The Bible tells us that the unseen is what lasts forever. How is Jesus the truly priceless treasure?
4. What would you give up, in order to follow Jesus into his unseen kingdom?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
YOU are the unseen treasure. YOU are the priceless pearl. I want to be a part of your joyful kingdom.
Amen

Put an x over what you might lose to keep what you can never lose. Put a circle around what may be (or may not be) unseen but lasts forever.

money certain friends bad habits Jesus heaven

my own time the family of God God's Word Truth

Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing 21. Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever found something valuable? How did it feel?
- b) Did you go on a treasure hunt? What was the treasure you were hunting for?
- c) What is the most valuable thing you can think of? Does God think it is valuable?

After you read:

Tales and Parables

This story can confuse children. Kids are concrete, literal thinkers who need to see, smell, hear, taste, and touch. Even adults have a hard time valuing the unseen. Perhaps this is why Matthew 13 is full of similar parables. Explain that a parable is an earthly story about a heavenly truth. Jesus used familiar things that people could see to explain realities in the Kingdom of God that they cannot see. To view a slide show from Matthew 13, see:

<http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parables-kingdom-heaven/>

Goodbye to the Temporal (Part 1)

Write on the board 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIRV): "We don't spend all our time looking at what we *can* see. Instead, we look at what we *can't* see. That's because what can be seen lasts only a short time. But what can't be seen lasts forever." Give each child a Styrofoam plate and a permanent marker. Have them write on the plate unseen things that last forever (love, the Holy Spirit, souls, kind deeds, etc.) Let them write in washable markers things they see that will not last into eternity (houses, clothes, beauty, jobs, etc.) Dip the plates into a bucket of water and watch the temporal things wash away). Place the white plates (which will represent clouds) on a high shelf and label it "The Kingdom of Heaven." Ask how they can put the kingdom of God above everything else in their own lives.

Goodbye to the Temporal (Part 2 Options)

Two ideas along the same lines: Write the temporary on balloons and pop them. Write the eternal on a good rubber ball to keep. Or use paper cups as the temporary. They will turn to ashes one day. Stomp them. Use clear, hard plastic, disposable cups to write each eternal, unseen value using permanent marker that will last forever.

Eternal Eyes

Look up 1 Samuel 16:6-8. Like the treasure and pearl, the heart is hidden inside. Man looks at the outside but God looks at the heart. Have each child write on a heart (cut out of paper) three things he or she would love to do. They also write a heartache they had. They fold the heart and place it on their lap. Choose a child to sit in a chair. Take turns describing what you can see about this person: Kayla has curly hair; she is tall; she likes to chew gum. Now ask God to give you eternal eyes to see inside Kayla's heart. Let her share her joys and hopes and heartaches. Tape the heart on the clothes. Use eternal eyes to treat others well, especially when they are having a bad day.

Inside Out

Things can look junky on the outside, but be eternally valuable on the inside. And the opposite can be true as well. Talk about the outer trappings of the treasure box in the story (probably worm-filled and caked with dirt and rust) and the barnacle-covered, crusty oyster shell. Beforehand, wrap up some "valuable" things inside layers of toilet paper: coins, jewelry, dollar bills, etc. Wrap worthless things inside fancy gold-tinged wrapping paper: rock, dirt, broken button, junk jewelry, etc. Let the kids reread the stories and 1 Samuel 16:7 and 2 Corinthians 4:18. Take turns opening the items. Talk about how things of this world can look fancy on the outside and be full of uselessness on the inside. Don't waste your life pursuing looks!

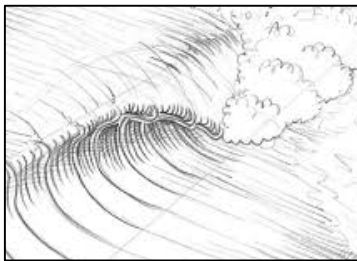
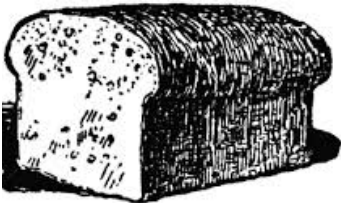
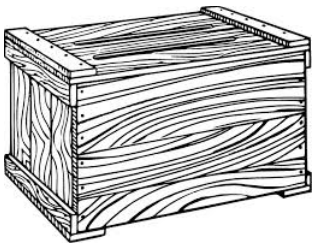
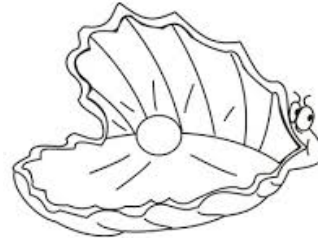
Story Surprise

Meet Bible teacher Mary Nelson and her free lessons while you discover her fun crayon-resist storytelling method of this story.

<https://missionbibleclass.org/bright-ideas/art-and-drawing/crayon-resist/> ©2011-2017 Mission Bible Class, used by permission

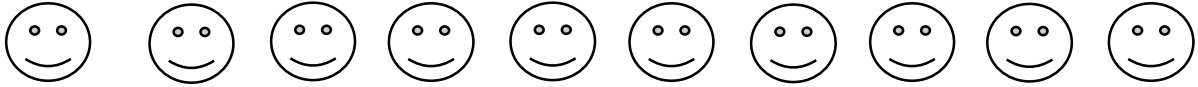
Taste and Teach

Jesus used things that were ordinary on the outside to share what can be valuable on the inside: a box – treasure; an oyster – a priceless pearl; the dirt – a mustard tree seed; waves – tasty fish; and crusty bread – unseen yeast. Taste bread and show the kids a packet of yeast. Without it, we would only eat crackers. The eternal is the best. Color the unseen (on the right) with bright crayons and the outer trappings (on the left) with gray pencil.



Unseen Treasure – Too Priceless to Measure

Wouldn't it be sad to waste your life on yourself? Jesus rescues us from this fate using two powerful but tiny stories inside three verses. If a person truly understood how joyful and priceless the kingdom of heaven is, it would profoundly change his or her every choice. Does your understanding of God and eternity affect your decisions? Color, cut out and tape this prayer to a mirror to pray every day.



The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his **joy** went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Matthew 13:44

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**Help me make every choice so that YOU
rejoice. Amen**

Seen or Unseen

On paper, have each child draw an empty chart and fill it while you ask them what is seen, unseen, etc. (as below). Let the kids draw eyes on the unseen while repeating 2 Corinthians 4:18: "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Fold to display the unseen and ask God to give you eyes to see the hidden treasures of the kingdom of heaven. Man looks on the outside. God looks at the heart.

<p style="text-align: center;">SEEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">on the outside temporary, not as valuable earthly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UNSEEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">hidden, on the inside eternal, priceless, lasts forever Kingdom of Heaven</p>
<p>money</p> <p>riches</p> <p>bank accounts</p> <p>designer clothes</p> <p>ipads, phones, computers</p> <p>make up, beauty</p> <p>fancy cars</p> <p>gorgeous house</p> <p>face in the mirror</p> <p>impressive resume</p> <p>bodies, skin, muscles</p> <p>jobs</p> <p>movies</p>	<p>our spirits</p> <p>love</p> <p>good deeds</p> <p>thoughts</p> <p>prayers</p> <p>heart</p> <p>unborn babies</p> <p>heaven</p> <p>angels</p> <p>our ancestors</p> <p>truth</p> <p>praises to God</p> <p>donations</p>