God’s Big Story: Treasure Hunt!

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| scripture focus |
| Matthew 13:44-46, 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30; Mark 10:17-31 |

big picture

The parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price are short, but full of imaginative potential. Who hasn’t dreamed of finding a hidden treasure? What a wonderful way to think about Jesus’ kingdom! In teaching this parable, it’s important not to give the idea that we *earn* the treasure in the field by what we do or what we give up. We’re not able to earn or buy the treasure God offers to us. But we can’t hold it if our hands are holding on to other things, like money or possessions. God’s treasure is a gift that we need open hands and hearts to receive. The rich young ruler did the right things, but he couldn’t let go. Jesus wants to be more important to us than anything else, the treasure we would leave everything behind to pursue.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “Treasure Hunt!”, p.250-255*Favorite Parables:* “The Precious Pearl” p.32-57; “The Little Gate” p.136-161 | Matthew 13:44-46Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30; Mark 10:17-31 |
| discuss/ ask | What is one thing that you’ve really, really, really wanted? Why did you want it? If you got it, how did you feel when you got it?Have you ever found something valuable that you weren’t expecting to find? Tell the story.What is valuable about Jesus and about following Jesus? Why is that like a treasure?Have you ever had to give up something valuable in order to gain something you wanted or needed? Were you happy or sad afterwards? Tell the story.What kinds of things do you think we are asked to give up in order to follow Jesus? Why do you think we need to give things up? How do we know it’s worth it? Why do you think the rich young ruler wasn’t able to give away his money, even though it made him sad? |
| do together | Do a treasure hunt! Hide something special in the house and have your kids search for it, or (even better) bury it outside and let them find it with a map and a shovel. Or hide a small “treasure” in a pan of rice or a sand pit. When they find it, they need to re-hide it and come to you to ask how they can make it their own. Make sure that they are only able to receive it into empty, open hands. |