

# The Treasure and the Pearl

## Week Six

Matthew 13 v 44- 46 taken from Youth Bible New Century Version 1993.

- 30 minutes session
- Over an hour session
- God Slot talk ideas – 10 mins

### Teaching point:

To encourage your group to get excited about their relationship with God again – as exciting as if they had found a priceless pearl or buried treasure.

### Equipment:

Chocolate coins  
Lining paper and felt pens  
Love Life Live Lent booklet  
Lots of craft objects and house hold objects  
Ball of String  
Bibles  
Musicians and music etc for a praise party.

### Opening game:

#### **Treasure hunt (10-15mins)**

You know how these work – hide a whole load of chocolate coins around the room and your group have to find them but here's a few twists to the game, either...

- Give them cryptic clues to find them
- Set them off in pairs one is blind folded the other has to direct and not touch the treasure.
- Set a few people off at a time telling if they are hot (close to the treasure) or cold (further away)

Or any other tricky way you can think of to make the task more challenging

If you have a small room you could play **Human Treasure Hunt** and instead of finding coins you call out things around the room or items of clothing they need to bring you. Split them into teams and the first team to bring you the item wins a point, their prize is treasure coins (chocolate coins)

### Bible Study. (10-15mins)

Ask your group is there anything worth giving up all they had to attain? Would they give up everything they own for a girlfriend or boyfriend? Would they sacrifice everything for a good job or lots of money? Is there anything that is really worth selling everything you have in order to buy it?

Read Matthew 13 v 44-46

So Jesus tells this story ask your group what is he saying through this tale?

Read the beginnings of verses 44 and 45 “the Kingdom of heaven is like...” Jesus is trying to tell us that the kingdom of heaven is worth giving up everything for, but what is the kingdom and Heaven?

Brainstorm some ideas of a large sheet of paper.

Draw out any points about a relationship with God and a lifestyle that you live as a result. Also pull out all the promises that go with having a relationship with God such as heaven, protection, blessings these can all be part of God’s kingdom.

Ask them is the kingdom of heaven a place or more of an attitude, a way of being.

For this session make the point it is more about an attitude a way of being than a place, ask them so what’s so amazing about this way of life, about being a Christian that would make you give up everything just to get it?

### **Your testimony (5-10mins)**

This is your chance to give your reasons for why being a Christian and therefore being part of this kingdom of heaven is just so well worth it.

You could even ask more than one member of your team to give their testimony or if you have anyone in your church with a story about their conversion that is exciting and challenging ask them to come along to your session and tell the young people about it.

You may have a young person who has become a Christian recently who is still full of all the excitement about loving God, ask them to share their story and why their life has been so changed by God.

### **Make your Mark (10mins)**

This is to get your group thinking about just how great it is to be a Christian. On the floor roll out a roll of lining paper from one end of the room to the other, give everyone a few felt tip pens and then get them to sit along both sides of the paper. Encourage them to write or draw all the things that are great about being a Christian; you could start them off with...’great Christian friends who watch out for you and pray for you.’ Etc. Put on some upbeat Christian music while they do this so they get into the celebration mood. If you have any members of your group that aren’t Christians then ask them to write down all the positive things they see about Christianity and see in those that are Christians.

Ask them in a different colour to write down any things they feel they have given up because they have become a Christian, they ask them – is it worth it – they can be honest!!

## Action

### **Booklet time. (5-10mins)**

Take a look at this week's actions in the Love Life Live Lent book. Make the point that if we think it's so brilliant to have a friendship with God then we need to tell others about it too by our words and deeds. Which actions from week 6 will your group have a go at this time?

Ask them how week 5's went are there any they are going to keep up even after lent?

### **Bits and pieces (10-20mins)**

Gather lots of craft items, paper, pens, playdough, lolly sticks, post it notes, marbles, pipe cleaners, blue tack, selotape, etc and then some other objects you might have round the house, a small cross, wooden spoon, scissors, book, bible, photo etc.

Place them on the floor and ask the group to have a good look at all the items. Then encourage them to think about their relationship with God, do they feel they would give everything up to keep it, do they wonder whether or not they have a relationship with God?

Ask them to look again at the objects in front of them and to take the ones that they feel symbolise where their friendship with God is at the moment – they can create something with the bits and pieces if they like or just take one piece.

When they've finished ask if anyone wants to share their thoughts about what they've picked or created – if you have had a go too you could go first encourage your leaders to do the same. You could play some music as they create so it's not totally silent.

## Prayer and worship

### **String thing (5mins)**

Get your group in circle; give one person a ball of string. They must think of one thing to say thank you to God for and say it out loud then holding onto one end of the string, throw the ball to some one else across the circle from them. That person catches the string and then says a thank you prayer. They then hold onto the string and throw the ball to some one else. Go round the whole circle until everyone has had a go. You should now have a big web of string in the middle of the circle if everyone holds onto their string and pulls tight.

Then make the point that you are now all joined together by everyone's prayers, you are a community all these people are your neighbours and they are all loved by

God. Finish off with a prayer, then you could always see if you can trace the string all the way back to the beginning!!

### **Praise Party. (10-20mins)**

This is work well if your group at used to singing together and you have some musicians to lead the singing, but you can have a bash and a giggle with your group whatever they are used to.

Ask some musicians to come and lead your group in some sung worship – praise songs about just how great God is.

Or ask your group what their favourite worship praise song is, using that as inspiration can they write their own song or poem praising God and thanking him for who He is and what He has done for us. Use the psalm as inspiration if they get stuck.

Read them out to each other afterwards.

### **God Slot**

Ask your group is there anything worth giving up all they had to attain? Would they give up everything they own for a girlfriend or boyfriend? Would they sacrifice everything for a good job or lots of money? Is there anything that is really worth selling everything you have in order to buy it?

Read Matthew 13 v 44-46

Tell them that Jesus is making the point that having a friendship with him is worth giving everything up for because it is so amazing you will never regret it.

Tell your own story of coming to faith or ask a member of your team to give their testimony. Maybe have anyone in your church with a story about their conversion that is exciting and challenging ask them to come along to your session and tell the young people about it.

You may have a young person who has become a Christian recently who is still full of all the excitement about loving God, ask them to share their story and why their life has been so chanced by God.

Finish by asking if any of them want to give this friendship with God a go, say a prayer over the group and encourage those people who want to have a friendship with God to come and see you or another leader afterwards – say you have never regretted the decision you made to be a friend of God's