

# Bible Lesson: The Greatest Treasure from Matthew 13:44-46

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March 29, 2013



This free lesson plan will help children understand the value of God's Kingdom. The study is based on Jesus' parable of the hidden treasure. Everything else in life is worth giving up to know God more.

**Gospel Connection:** There are many wonderful things that we treasure here on Earth that we can treasure, but the greatest treasure that we could ever obtain is Heaven. As Christians we should be content to give up our Earthly treasures so that we can store up our treasure in Heaven.

**Learning Aim:** Children will learn that there is a wonderful place called Heaven, which is a greater treasure than anything else in the world.

**Lesson Title:** The Greatest Treasure

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 13:44-46

**Target Age Group**<sup>st</sup> Grade

**Learning Context:** Sunday School

**Target Time Frame:** 45 minutes

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 13:44 “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.”

### **Basic Supply List**

1. Bible
2. Construction Paper
3. Crayons
4. Candy Bar
5. Sensory Table or large tote
6. Rice
7. Costume jewelry
8. Pipe cleaners
9. Pony beads
10. Glue
11. Sequins

**Note:** In the teaching plan below the words in *italics* are meant to be read aloud. The regular text is simply directions for the teacher.

### **More Ideas for Teaching on the Parable of the Treasure**

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- See all our [teaching resources related to Matthew 13:44-45](#)
- See this [craft video demonstration](#) on our [YouTube playlist](#)
- Compare our [Sunday School lesson on this parable](#)
- See our [Pearl of Great Price children’s sermon](#)

### **The Greatest Treasure (Matthew 13:44-46) Sunday School Lesson for Kids**

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**Introduction:** Begin the lesson with an art project to get the children interested and thinking about today’s topic. Give each child a large piece of construction paper and crayons. Ask them to draw a picture of their favorite things. If they need help thinking of ideas of things to draw, ask them what their favorite toy or food is. If they have a pet, that could be their favorite thing, etc. Allow the children to work on their pictures for about 5 minutes, then put the crayons away and ask them to share what they drew. After everyone has shared their picture say, *The things that you drew today are like treasure. Treasure is something that is of great value to you. There are many things in life that we treasure, but the Bible teaches us that Heaven is the greatest treasure that there is. As Christians, we should be willing to give up all of our treasures so that we can have Heaven instead. Heaven is the very best thing in the world.*

**Biblical Evidence:** Ask the children to sit down and get ready for story time. Show the class a large candy bar and ask, *What is the best thing in the world? When you see something like this large piece of candy you might think that it is the best thing in the world, but the Bible teaches us that there is greater treasure in Heaven. Heaven is better than the best thing that you can imagine.*

Read Matthew 13:44-46. Say, *The Bible teaches us that Heaven is like buried treasure hidden in a field. Heaven is hard to find. Only Christians will get to go to Heaven someday. To be a Christian you must believe that God is real and ask forgiveness for your sins so that God can forgive you, and you must be willing to give up everything in your life to follow God. When I showed you the candy bar a minute ago you all wanted it. What would you do if I told you had to choose between vegetables and the candy? You would probably want to eat the candy bar, but you should eat the vegetables because they are good for you. They will make you grow big and strong and brilliant, but right now they candy bar seems like it would be better. Being a Christian in this world is kind of like that sometimes. We have to give up things of the Earth, like the candy, so that we can have the vegetables. It is very hard to give up things that we want, but that might not be good for us. However, Heaven is the greatest treasure that there is for Christians.*

Say, *What do you think Heaven is like?* Explain that no one knows exactly what Heaven will be like. It might be like a big party or family gathering. God will be there in all of His glory and we will be able to praise Him all day long. There will be no sadness or pain in Heaven. It is better than anything that we can imagine.

Read Matthew 13:45-46. Say, *what is a pearl? A pearl is a very precious stone that is used to make jewelry. Pearls are very beautiful and are worth a lot of money. In our story, the man was willing to give up everything that he had so that he could have the pearl. That is what it is like for Christians in the world. It might be hard to give up everything for Heaven, but it is worth it because Heaven is so wonderful.*

**Digging for Treasure:** To remind children that they must constantly be searching for God and trying to please Him, have children search for their own buried treasure. Fill a sensory table with rice and hide costume jewelry in the rice. All the children to take turns digging for buried treasure in the sensory table. If you do not have a sensory table a couple of large buckets or totes would suffice. Remind the students that the man in the parable was so happy when he found the buried treasure that he sold everything that he had to buy the treasure and the field where it was buried.

**Pearl Bracelets:** To remind students that Heaven is like a precious pearl, make beaded bracelets. To make the bracelets, give each child a pipe cleaner and a bowl of pony beads. Supervise the children closely when they are using the beads to make sure that they don't

try to put them in their mouths. Have the children string the beads onto the pipe cleaner and twist the ends together when they are done.

**The Greatest Treasure Craft:** To make this craft, have an adult write “Heaven is the Greatest Treasure” in glue on a piece of construction paper. Then give the paper to the child and have them cover the glue in sequins. After they dry, have the children take home their posters as a reminder of the greatest treasure in the world.

**Review Questions:** Use the following questions to review the main ideas of the stories.

1. What is the greatest treasure? *Heaven*
2. In the story, what did the man do when he found a great treasure hidden in the field? *He sold everything that he had to buy the treasure.*
3. What is a pearl? *It is a very valuable stone.*
4. What did the man in the story do when he found the precious pearl? *He sold everything that he had so that he could have the pearl.*
5. What do we have to do if we want to go to Heaven someday? *We have to be Christians, which means that we believe that God is real and ask him to forgive our sins and live in our hearts.*
6. Should we be happy or sad when we have to give up Earthly things so that we can have Heaven? *We should be happy because even though it is hard to understand because we can't see it yet, Heaven is the greatest thing in the world.*

**Closing:** Close by reminding the children that Heaven is the greatest thing in the world and that they would be willing to give up everything so that they can please God and go to Heaven someday. End with this prayer, *Dear Lord, we thank you for promising that we will get to go to Heaven someday. Amen.*

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# “A Treasure Worth Having” Craft Ideas for the Parable of the Pearl of Greatest Price

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What makes for better crafts than the topic of treasure? Jewels, sparkles, and beautiful objects naturally lend themselves to crafting. With these ideas, children will celebrate the parables as well as the concept of what has value. As with any craft, adapt to suit the needs and interests of your students. Have fun!

## Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider...

*“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.*

<sup>45</sup> *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.*

*-Matthew 13:44-45*

*God’s kingdom...the most valuable treasure!*

*Seek Heaven first: it’s worth it!*

*The pearl of greatest price: God’s love*

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## Extra Ideas:

- Make a collage with “valuable” items found in magazines and catalogs
- Use beads to make a necklace, bracelet, or ring of “great worth”
- Write items that are valuable to you, and place on paper cut out in pearl shapes. String using a hole punch and yarn or pipe cleaner.



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# Craft one: “Pearl in an Oyster Plate”

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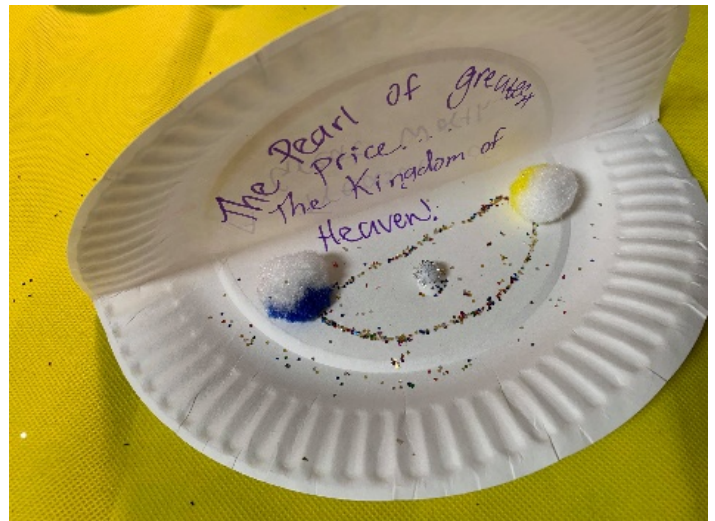
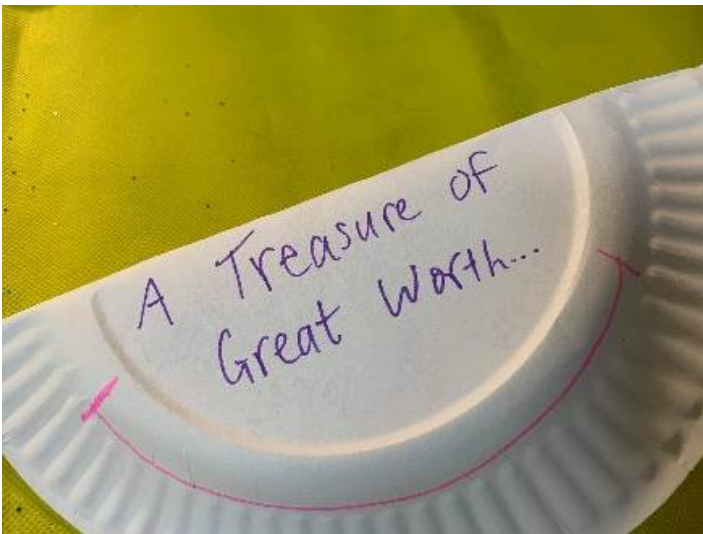
## You will need:

- Paper plates
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or staples
- Glitter, sequins, or sparkles
- Pom-poms or cotton balls



## Procedure:

1. Use markers to decorate the paper plate, adding a written or glued on verse/caption.
2. Fold the plate in half like an “oyster”.
3. Glue a pom-pom “pearl” into the plate.
4. Embellish with glitter, sequins, or stickers.
5. Unfold the plate to reveal a “pearl” of great worth!



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## Craft Two: “Treasure Box”

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### You will need:

- Box or container (any size)
- Glitter, sequins, cross, or paper
- Tape and/or glue
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers or crayons



### Procedure:

1. Inside the box or container, place a cross, verse, or caption.
2. Decorate the box inside and out with glitter, markers, jewels, or other elements
3. Add a verse or caption, inside and/or outside
4. Provide additional decoration as desired.



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# Craft Three: “Price tag Necklace”

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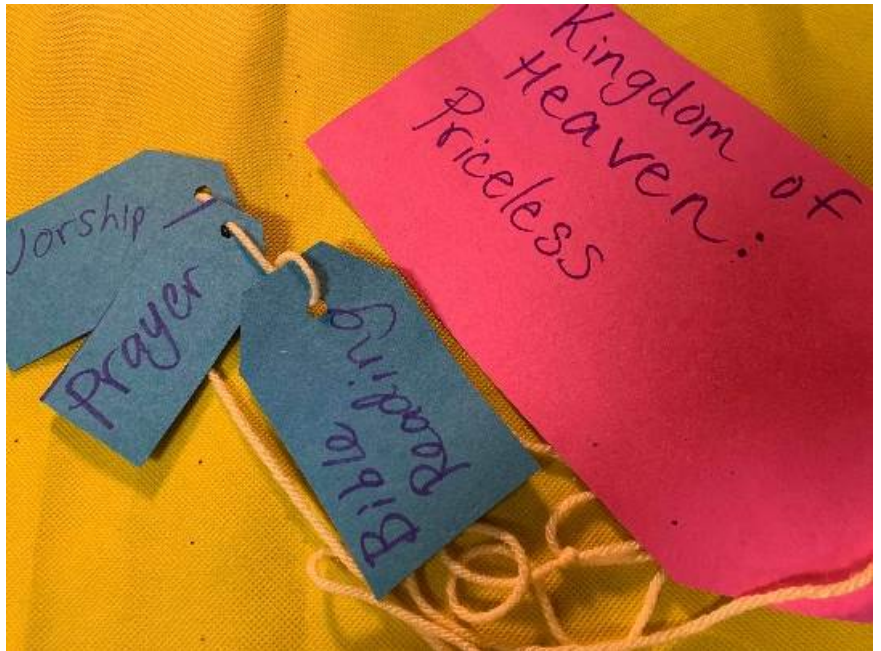
## You will need:

- Yarn or string
- Construction Paper or cardstock
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Caption or verse
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors



## Procedure:

1. Draw an outline of a price tag shape or another shape, selecting the paper color and type of your choice
2. Decorate the “price tag” with verses, captions, and/or pictures
3. Cut the tag out of the paper
4. Attach a string or yarn to serve as a hanging decoration or necklace
5. Additionally or alternatively, place small tags on a string with reminders of what is truly important, and how to obtain it.







These craft ideas were prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

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2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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