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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a famous parable that Jesus shared. A parable is just a story that teaches an important lesson in a creative way. In this parable, Jesus was talking about a hidden treasure. A guy finds a treasure, buries it, goes and sells all of his other belongings, and buys the field where he hid the treasure. Now, I bet everyone was confused by the story. Why would a guy find a treasure and not go and spend it all on cool stuff? And, why did he bury it again and sell all his stuff to buy the field? Well, Jesus was trying to teach bigger lessons to the people. See, the real treasure is Jesus. When we meet Jesus, we have found the real treasure because he offers us forgiveness from sins and new life in him. So, we should be willing to give up everything to have him. And, another lesson we learn from the parable is that we shouldn't bury Jesus and hide him. We should share him with our friends and family. Jesus is the real treasure so be sure to share him with others!

Big Idea

Jesus is our most valuable treasure

Key Question

How can we help others to find Jesus?

Memory Verse

Matthew 13:44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field"

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
 2. (5 min) **WARM UP: If you found a hidden treasure, what would you hope to find in it?** (Tip: Maybe it's full of your favorite video games, candy or a stack of \$100 bills! All that stuff is great but nothing compares to Jesus!)
 3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
 4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
 5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
 6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Share Jesus with them and invite them to church.** (When we find Jesus and learn that he loves us so much that he died for our sins, gives us a new life, and the hope of heaven, how can we not want to share that news with others?! Tell your friends about him and invite them to come to church with you! Jesus is the best treasure ever!))
 - **Bonus Questions:** What should you share with your friends about Jesus? How does inviting friends to church help you to share Jesus? **4-5th** Who told you about Jesus? Who can you invite to church next week?
 7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Matthew 6:19-21. Why shouldn't we care more about our stuff than Jesus? What do our priorities say about our hearts?** (Answer: Our stuff can't make us truly happy. Our video games or stuffed animals can't forgive our sins or help us to live a life that honors God. Only Jesus can do all of that. And, an important lesson for us to remember is: what we care about the most, is where our heart will be. That means, if we care more about buying more stuff or being popular, we'll spend our time chasing those things instead of chasing after Jesus. But, if we keep Jesus as our main priority, our hearts will fall more in love with him.)
 8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: JESUS IS MY TREASURE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a small envelope and a Treasure template (page 5). Have kids color their envelope brown to make it look like a wooden chest. Then have them cut out the phrase and glue it to the envelope, below the flap opening. Have them cut out the heart and color it red and have them place the heart on the inside of the envelope. Then, have them cut the lock and color it black and have them tape it at the tip of the flap.
- As they work, read the parable of the hidden treasure from Matthew 13:44. Remind the kids that the point of the parable isn't about finding a treasure full of money and stuff. Our real treasure is Jesus and we should share him with everyone we know!

Supplies needed: Small white envelopes (1 per kid), Treasure template (pg. 5, 1 set per kid), Crayons, Scissors, Glue, Tape

OPTION 2: FIND THE HIDDEN TREASURE GAME

Instructions:

- Before class, hide the coins (page 6) around the room or have the kids put their heads down and close their eyes so you can hide them.
- When you say, "Go!" have the kids race to find the hidden treasures. Each time they find a coin, have them tape it on the whiteboard. Once all the coins are found, work as a class to solve the hidden message. The message is "Jesus is our most valuable treasure"

Supplies needed: Coin template (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 set per class), Tape

Q3

LIFE OF JESUS

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

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What would you do if you found a million dollars hidden in a field?

Key Points:

- Jesus told a story to describe the kingdom of _____. Matthew 13:44
- _____ himself is the treasure in the field.
- For lots of people, Jesus seems _____.
- A _____ with Jesus is the most valuable thing in the whole world!

Memory Verse:

Matthew 13:44 The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field...

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *If you found a hidden treasure, what would you hope to find in it?*
3. *What is a parable? What was Jesus trying to teach through this parable?*
4. *Why can Jesus be hard to find? Who needs to help people to find Jesus?*
5. *Read Matthew 6:19-21. Why shouldn't we care more about our stuff than Jesus? What do our priorities say about our hearts?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

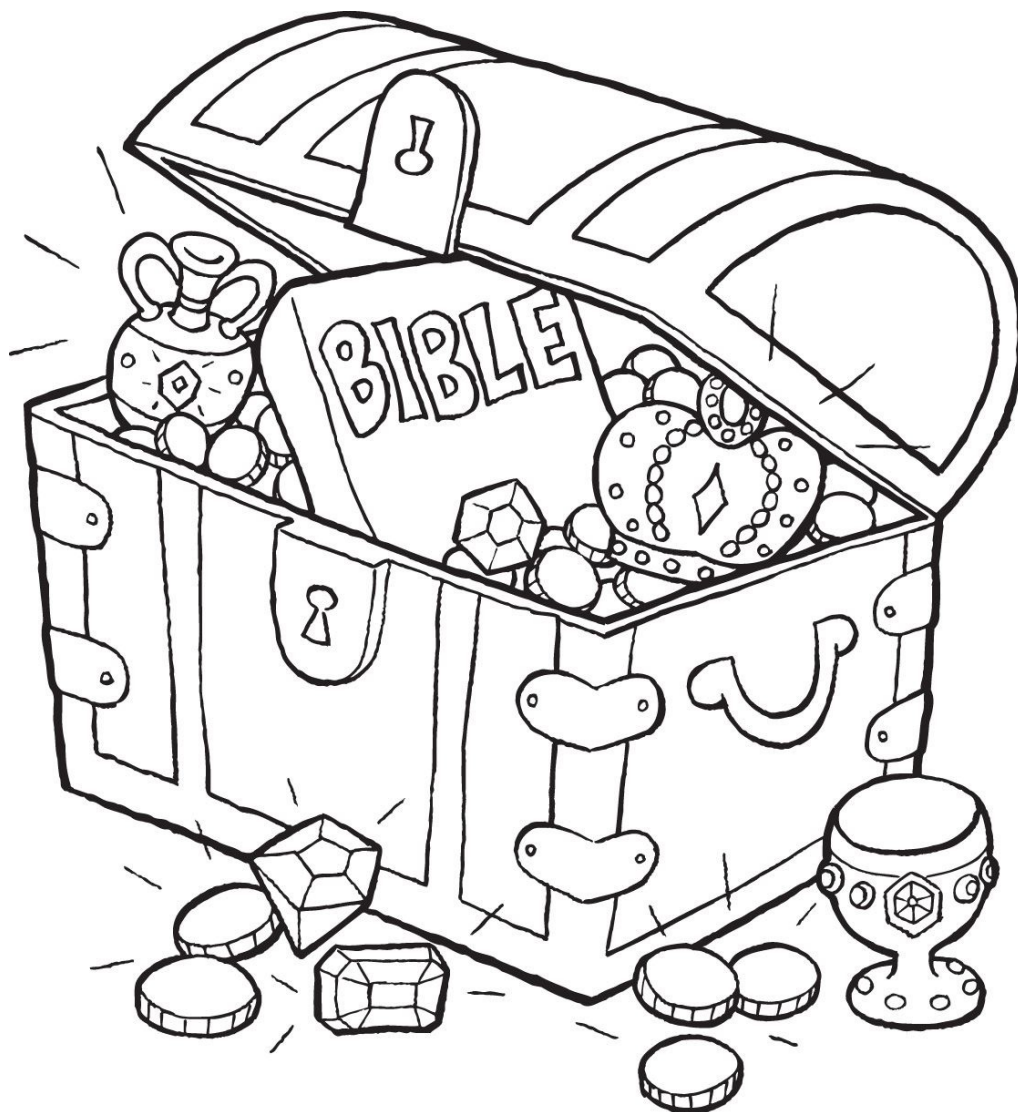
JESUS IS OUR MOST VALUABLE TREASURE

Key Question

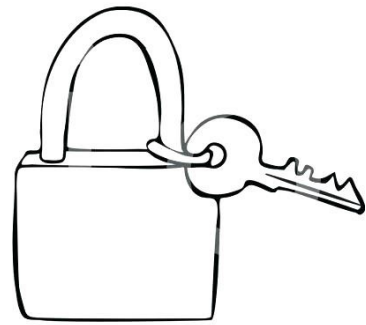
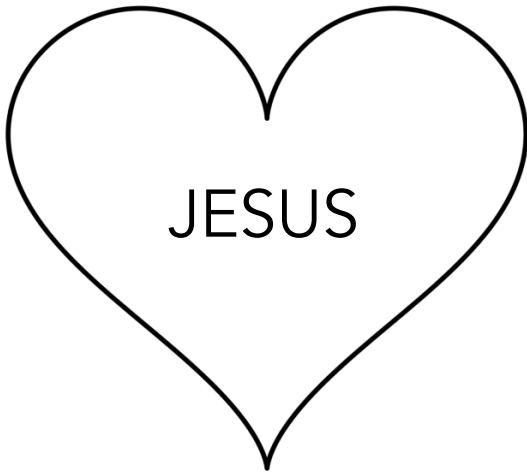
How can we help others to find Jesus?

Memory Verse

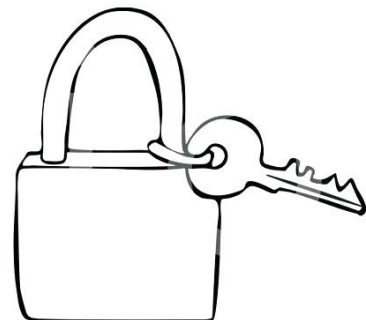
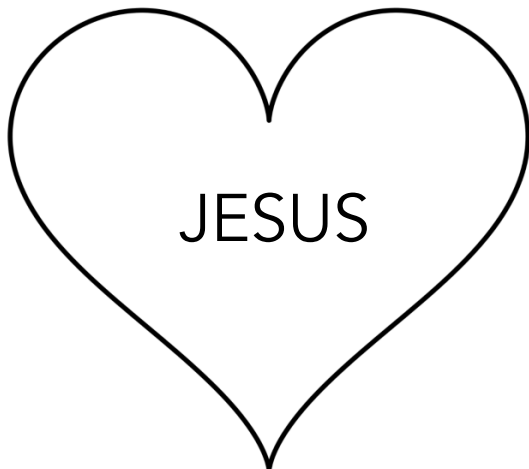
Matthew 13:44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field"



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