

There are two similar stories:

The Pearl of Great Price

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

(Mt 13:45-46) NRSV



The Hidden Treasure

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

(Mt 13:44) NRSV

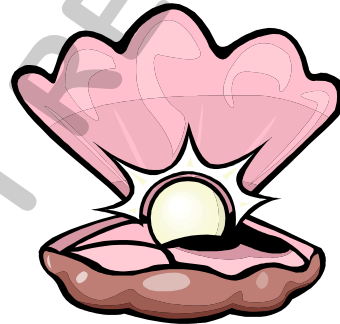
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Parables on the Run

For You and Your Child

By Beth Belcher

The Pearl of Great Price And The Hidden Treasure



Have you ever found something you thought was really valuable? Maybe a gorgeous shell along a beach, or a beautiful flower garden? Or maybe you found a friend, or found room in your heart to forgive someone?

Jesus told parables as a way of bringing the love of God to all people, and the Kingdom of God onto the earth. He used everyday objects and experiences to help explain how to live lives of joy and hope.

Check inside this pamphlet to see ways of modeling these stories for your child.

The Pearl of Great Price

There was once a merchant who searched for the finest in things to buy and sell. The merchant found a most beautiful and rare pearl—the most perfect of all treasures. Realizing his good fortune, and the possibility of having everything his heart desired, the merchant sold everything he owned in order to purchase the pearl for his very own.



*The Pearl represents heaven, the complete and total union with God. It stands for the relationship with God that is based on a covenant, “I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Jer 31:33b)



*The merchant represents humanity; each person searching for the one thing which gives their life meaning.

*Speak with your children about what is meaningful in your family and how God fits into those priorities.

What Do The Stories Mean?

The Hidden Treasure

The parable of the Hidden Treasure refers to the joy that a person feels when they find the perfect treasure that they have been looking for all of their lives.

They re-bury the treasure and joyfully sell everything they have in order to buy that field. The prospects that the treasure brings are so great that the person will give up everything for that treasure.



*Finding the Hidden Treasure represents the realization of Christ in a person’s life..

*The joy that is referred to in the parable comes from Christ. It is that joy that allows ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the name of Our Lord.

*It is impossible to share something that you do not own. The treasure is re-buried until the person can buy the field and then as the owner will be able to share his joy in Christ.

*Children learn to share and have joy in the gifts of God when their parents model that behavior. Help your child remember that joy comes from Christ and

