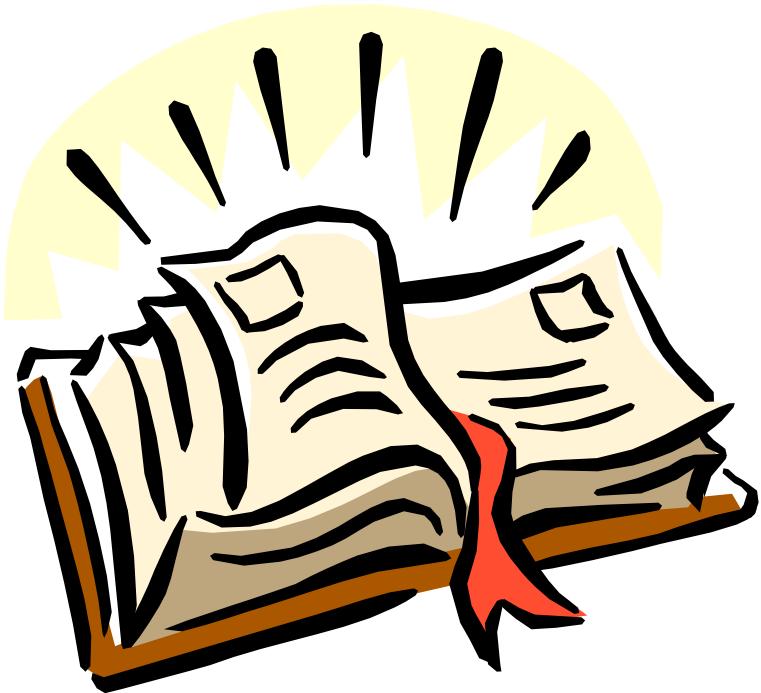


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

**LESSON TITLE: Parables of the Treasure
and the Pearl**



THEME: We are God's special treasure.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44-46

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about two parables that Jesus told. They both had to do with something very valuable - **treasure** and a **pearl of great price**. We learned that **we are God's special treasure**. So much so that He was willing to leave heaven in order to become a man and die on the cross in order to "purchase" us.

He did it because He loves us. It wasn't anything that we did or because of who we are. We are a treasure to Him because He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. What an amazing thing that Jesus would pay that great price in order to purchase us, His special treasure. Let's learn more about how much the Lord loves us as we look into God's word each day.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 13:44-46**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

God's Special Treasure

Text: Exodus 19:5 - "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine,"

Also read Exodus 19:3-6

Joel was exploring one day near some caves at the beach. As he ran through the sand and the water washed up onto shore he would look under the rocks and peek into the caves. His mind wandered and he began to think of the pirates who may have long ago landed on this very beach. He thought about all of the great treasure that could be buried in one of the very caves he was exploring. Then all of a sudden he stumbled across an old bottle with a paper inside. He opened up the bottle and pulled out the paper. "It is a map of some sort. It is a treasure map! It even has an "x" that marks the spot. That's the place where the treasure is hidden. I cannot wait to get my hands on it!" he thought to himself.

"Joel, wake up! It's time to get ready for church!" dad said. "Oh not yet," Joel sighed, "I was just about to find the pirates treasure!"

Have you ever had a dream like that? You are just about to find the treasure and then you wake up? Did you know that God has a special treasure? Oh, He owns all of the gold and silver in the whole world, but this treasure is even more precious to Him. His treasure is you and me. He loves His children very much. In the parable of the pearl of great price we see a picture of how that pearl was so valuable to the Lord that he sold everything in order to purchase it.

We are that pearl. We are His pearl because of how much He loves us. Not because we are so good or even worth loving. So many times we sin or do things wrong, even hurting the Lord. But He still loves us, so much so that He died on the cross for our sins. When He died on the cross He purchased our salvation. We can now have a relationship with Him. Isn't it wonderful to know Jesus and be His special treasure? Let's thank the Lord for how much He loves us.

- Have you ever been on an adventure to find buried treasure?
- What is God's special treasure?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



God's Special Treasure: His people whom He loves very much.

Day Two

Rich - Poor - Rich

Text: **2 Corinthians 8:9** - "For you know the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

Also read Hebrews 11:24-27

Most of you are familiar with the story of Moses. In our reading today we see something very interesting that he did during his life. Moses grew up as Pharaoh's son. He had all of the treasures of Egypt. He could have had anything that he wanted. But he walked away from those riches so that he could suffer with God's people. He would rather do that than enjoy those riches. Serving God was more important than anything Pharaoh could offer him. He knew that people would hate him for wanting to serve God and do what God wanted him to do. But, he also knew that serving God was greater than all of the treasures of Egypt!

What was it that made him feel that way? In our Bible reading it says that he looked to the reward. He didn't look at what he left behind, but he looked forward to what he would gain. What was behind him didn't matter any more. He knew that he would receive something much more valuable if he followed God. He would be able to know God and walk with Him every day. He would lead God's people. He would have eternal life and all of the rewards of heaven. That is worth more than anything in this world. He didn't fear Pharaoh or anyone else, but put his faith in God.

Jesus was also rich and had everything imaginable in heaven. But He laid it all aside and became poor for us. Of course the treasures that Moses left in Egypt do not even compare to what Jesus left in Heaven, but Moses' life gives us an example. Jesus set heaven aside and became a man. He was born in a simple manger in Bethlehem. He never owned very much while He was here on this earth, but He did purchase something very valuable to Him. It was our salvation. He became poor so that through his "poverty" or death on the cross we could be made rich. We can now receive all of the blessings and riches of heaven because of what Jesus was willing to do for us. Are you rich in "heavenly" things through Jesus?

- What did Moses do with the treasures of Egypt?
- How did Jesus become poor in order to make us rich?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Poverty: Without money or material possessions.

Day Three

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Text: Psalm 139:14 - "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul know very well."

Also read Psalm 139:14-18

Have you ever sat down and just thought for a while about how much God loves us. In the Bible, we see so many ways that God pours out His love into our lives. Psalm 139 is just one of those areas of the Bible. It tells us how great God's love is for us. One of the ways that we see His love for us is in our reading today. We are told that God has a great big book. Maybe you have some big books at your house. Imagine having a big book that has written in it all of the things about your life and had every day recorded even before it happened. That would be a pretty amazing book. God knows us so well that He has a book like that. He has recorded all of our days in that book even before the days get here.

Imagine all of the sand at all of the beaches in the whole world. If you could imagine counting every grain of sand, God's thoughts towards you would be more in number than all the grains of sand put together. It is incredible to think that God loves us so much that He actually has a book with everything that we have and ever will do written in it and He thinks about us so much that we could never number His thoughts. But that is exactly what the Bible says. What this says to us is that God thinks about His people a lot. In another part of the Bible, we learn that His thoughts toward us are always for our good (Jeremiah 29:11). This is because He loves us very much.

Remember, you are God's special treasure. You are very important to God. He wants to have a relationship with you and give you eternal life. He wants to spend eternity with you. He has done everything that He can to make that possible. He sent His son, Jesus to die on the cross so that we could spend eternity with Him. Have you asked Jesus into your heart? You can ask Him to come in today!

- How does God's great big book show us how much He loves us?
- How many thoughts does God think towards us?
- What have you learned about how much God loves you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: It is awesome how God has created us.

A Hen and Her Chicks

Text: **Matthew 23:37** - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Also read Matthew 23:37-39

The dark clouds were gathering and off in the distance there was a funnel cloud. There was going to be a tornado. Joel was visiting his cousin Nathan in the Midwest. He was from California and had never seen a tornado. Nathan lived on a large farm. Their family was listening to the radio and they heard that there was a tornado watch and that they needed to get into the storm cellar before it arrived. They all hurried to go down into the cellar. As they went outside the wind was blowing hard. Joel's uncle was getting all the animals to safety.

Just before getting to the cellar, Joel looked over, next to the water hose by the house he saw a mother hen. She had her wings spread out and her seven small chicks were all under her wings. She looked kind of nervous, as if she knew the danger that was coming. But then he looked at the chicks and saw something amazing! The chicks were just playing under the safety of her wings. It was like they weren't worried at all. Joel waved to his uncle and pointed to the hen so he could see her. His uncle ran over and picked up the hen and her chicks in his arms and took them to safety. Then they all went into the storm cellar to wait for the storm to pass.

Jesus used a hen and her chicks as an example one time to show the people in Israel how much He loved them. He said, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings." Jesus could see the danger that was coming their way, and because He loved them He wanted to protect them. But they weren't willing to let Him protect them. Jesus also loves us and wants to protect us. But He will never force us to be protected by Him. We need to run under his wings and receive His protection. If you are ever scared, run to Jesus and He will help you.

- Have you ever seen a hen protect its chicks?
- What should we do when we get scared?

Kid Bible Dictionary



Protection: Keeping away from harm.

Day Five

A Work of Art

Text: Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Also read Ephesians 2:8-10

In the Bible we learn that we are God's special treasure. We also learn that we are His work of art. Sometimes when we think of treasure we also might think of special works of art or famous paintings. As we give our lives to Jesus He will begin to work in our lives to make us a work of art so that He can get all of the glory. When we look at a beautiful painting many times we will praise the painter for doing such a great job. It is the same thing when the Lord gets a hold of a life. He does such a beautiful job of changing a life that we can't help but praise Him for the beautiful work that He does.

Have you ever watched a painter work? He gets out his canvass and all of his paints and brushes. Then he begins to brush very slowly, one small part at a time. Sometimes it is hard to tell what the picture will end up looking like as the painter paints because it isn't complete. But in the painters mind he already has a finished picture. He knows exactly what he wants his work of art to look like. It can take an artist a long time, even years, to get the painting perfect.

It is the same with the Lord. We can't always see what our lives will look like while He is doing His work in us. But we can see Him working in us one brushstroke at a time. Each day, He continues to add to His artwork. It gets more and more beautiful as He goes. Then finally one day the picture will be done. We will be able to look back over our lives and see how He made them a work of art as we put our trust in Him. The Lord will be working with us for the rest of our lives so that we can become a beautiful work of art just as He has promised. Let's allow God to do His work in us so that we will be a beautiful work of art that gives Him all of the glory.

- Have you ever watched a painter work?
- How is Jesus like an artist?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, thank the Lord that you are a special treasure to Him. Thank Him for leaving the riches of heaven so that He could pay the price to give you eternal life. Ask Him to help you to be His work of art so that He gets all of the glory.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"For you were bought with
a price; therefore glorify
God..."

Third Grade and Above

"For you were bought at a
price; therefore glorify
God in your body and in
your spirit, which are
God's."

1 Corinthians 6:20