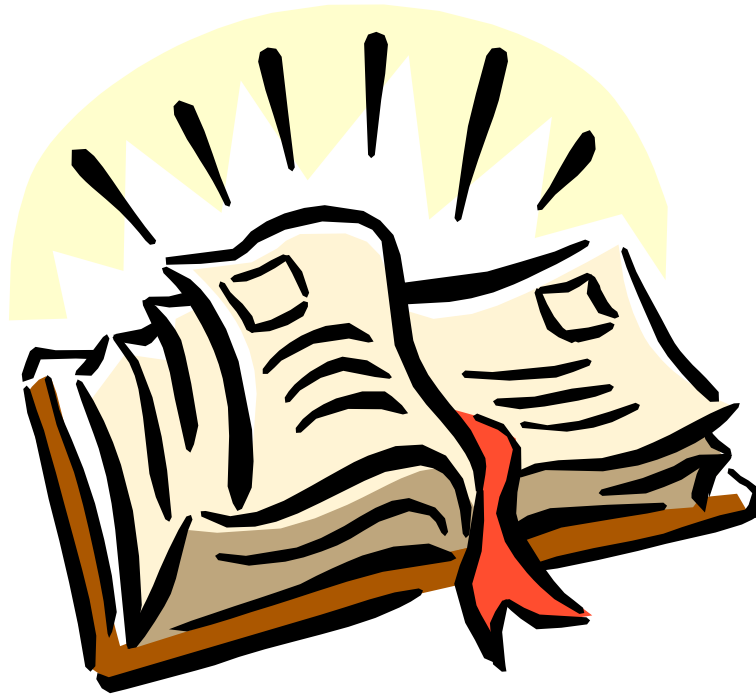


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



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

THEME: We are God's treasure.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:44-46

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about two parables that Jesus told. (**Matthew 13:44-46**). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Both parables 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 and wants to have a relationship with us. It wasn't anything that we did or because of who we are. What an amazing thing that Jesus would pay the 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.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's 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 at the beach one day, running through the sand, dodging the water that washed up on the shore, investigating small creatures under the rocks, and peaking into the many little caves along the bluff that lined the beach. His mind wandered to thoughts of the pirates who may have long ago landed on this very beach. "Treasure could be buried in one of these caves," he thought to himself. Then, all of the sudden, he stumbled across an old bottle with a paper inside. He opened up the bottle and pulled out the paper to discover something that looked like an old map. Joel's thoughts were racing now. "It is a treasure map! It even has an "x" that marks the spot--the place where the treasure is hidden. I can't wait to get my hands on it!" "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 been on an adventure to find buried treasure? All of us can imagine the joy of finding lost or hidden treasure. 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. God loves His children. In the parable of the pearl of great price, we see a picture of a pearl that was so valuable to the Lord that he sold everything in order to purchase it. We are God's pearl. Even though we have failed and done so many wrong things, God puts great value upon us. So great is the value God has put upon us that He was willing to send His only Son to die on the cross, taking the punishment we deserved, in order to bring us into a relationship with Himself. Isn't it great to be treasured? Let us celebrate and thank the Lord for His great love!

- What is God's special treasure?
- How did God prove that He values us as a special treasure?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



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

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. Moses grew up as Pharaoh's son. 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, choosing instead to suffer with God's people. Serving God was more important to him than anything Pharaoh could offer him—greater than all of the treasures of Egypt!

How could he feel that way? In our Bible reading, it says, "he looked to the reward." He didn't look at what he left behind; he looked forward to what he would gain. What was behind him didn't matter any more—he knew if he followed God, he would receive something much more valuable than all the treasures of Egypt. Moses would be able to know God and walk with Him every day. He would lead God's people. And, he would have eternal life and all of the rewards of heaven—that is worth more than anything in this world!

Jesus was also rich, seated at the right hand of the Father and rich with all the treasures of Heaven. But, He laid it all aside and became poor for us (2 Corinthians 8:9). Of course the treasures that Moses left in Egypt do not even compare to what Jesus left in Heaven. And yet, because of His great love for us, 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 of great value to Him—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 139:1-18

Have you ever sat down and just thought for a while about how much God loves you. The Bible illustrates so many ways in which God has poured out His love to you. Psalm 139 magnifies (makes huge to us) God's great love. We read that God knows every detail of our life: the events that occur, the way we choose to take, every thought we think and even where our thoughts come from! In His love, He has hedged us about (protecting and guiding) and has laid His hand upon us. We cannot escape or hide from His involvement in our lives. Even in the uttermost part of the sea, His hand will lead us and hold us! When we are surrounded by darkness, He will cause the night to shine as the day. He created us, fearfully and wonderfully, and fashioned our days.

David exclaimed, "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand..." (Psalm 139:18,19). 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 toward 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 is continually thinking about us, so much that we could never number His thoughts. In Jeremiah 29:11, we learn about the nature of His thoughts—always for our good, "to give us a future and a hope."

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 has done everything that He can to make that possible. He sent His Son, Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment we all deserved. Have you asked Jesus into your heart? You can ask Him to come in today!

- Does Psalm 139 help you know God is interested in you? How?
- How many thoughts does God think towards us?
- What does Jeremiah 29:11 tell us about the nature of God's thoughts?

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

"Great timing," thought Joel, who had just recently arrived from California to visit his cousin who lived on a Midwest farm. The wind was blowing hard, dark clouds were gathering, and off in the distance, Joel could see a large funnel cloud. According to Joel's aunt, the radio weather casters were announcing a tornado watch, and there was no time to waste. As the family made their way to the storm cellar, Joel could see his uncle gathering all the animals to safety in the barn. Joel's interest caught on a mother hen whose baby chicks scampered to take shelter underneath her spread wings. His uncle scooped up the mother and chicks carrying them to safety in the barn.

Once safe in the storm cellar, Joel reflected on the barnyard scene. "That mother hen knew danger was coming, didn't she?" "Yeah," answered his uncle, "That's why her wings were spread to gather her chicks. And the chicks were pretty smart, too. They know when to run and where to run for shelter, warmth, and comfort."

Jesus, once, used a mother hen and her chicks as a picture 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 to the children of Israel if they continued to refuse Him as their Messiah. He desired to be their shelter and protection, but they insisted on going their own way. They were not as smart as the baby chicks—they were not willing to let Him protect them. What about you? David, in Psalm 143:9 exclaims, "In You I take shelter." In Psalm 91:4, we read, "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge...." God promises to keep us safe from all harm. Have you run to Him?

- 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.

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

We are God's special treasure. The Bible also teaches that we are His work of art. As we give our lives to Jesus, He will begin to work in our lives to make us His work of art. When we look at a great painting, we give credit to the painter for the beautiful creation. When the Lord gets a hold of a life, He does such a beautiful job of making changes that those who observe His work, give glory to Him.

Have you ever watched a painter work? He gets out his canvass, all of his paints, and his 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 painter's 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 complete a painting.

In the same way, we can't always see what our lives will look like while God is doing His work in us. We go through hard times, and perhaps, we cannot make sense of the picture we see; but we can see Him working in us, one brushstroke at a time. Each day, as we allow Him to continue His work in us, He adds to His artwork. The picture gets closer and closer to what He desires it to be. One day, the picture will finally be done. As we look back over our lives, perhaps we will see that as God helped us through difficulties and painful times, we were being shaped in our character, being formed into a beautiful work of art that will give Him glory! Trust the Lord to be faithful in your life to complete His work of art. The Bible says, "...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

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

Kid's Prayer Time



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. Commit your life to Him—to be His work of art for which He will receive 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