



Talk 9

Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)



Big Idea

Being part of Jesus' kingdom is better than anything else in this life.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who treasure Jesus as their king, more than anything else.

You will need: An item that is precious to you, roll of paper/wallpaper, thick marker pen, 2 treasure chests, jewellery, gold coins, large container of sand/soil, pieces of coloured card (that will fit inside one of the chests), backpack (filled with things a child might value, e.g. a shirt, PlayStation, art set, books, medal), teddy bear, 'For Sale' sign, wad of cash. Words written on card/objects to represent - 'loved', 'forgiven', 'belong to God's forever family', 'home'.

Prepare in advance: Write 'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.' on the roll of paper with a thick marker pen. Leave space to draw above the words. Fill one chest with jewellery and gold coins before burying it in the container of soil (not too deep). Place the words on card/objects inside the second chest.

Powerpoint slides: 2 talk points.

Space for notes

(Show the children your treasured item and explain why it is special to you.)

We all treasure different things. It may cost very little money but, if it's special to you it's like a treasure. It's the one thing you'd be really sad to lose. What is your treasure? **(Take answers.)**

Space for notes

We're hearing another parable today. Can anyone remember what a parable is? **(Take answers.)**

A parable is a story Jesus made up to teach us something important.

Today's parable is about treasure - it's the greatest treasure. More special than your treasure **(hold up your treasured item)**. And the best news is that it's a treasure we can all have!

1. Jesus' kingdom is like treasure

(Slide of talk point)

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field.' **(Stick up the roll of paper showing the verse.)**

The greatest treasure is the kingdom of heaven. Every kingdom has a king and people who follow the king.

The kingdom of heaven is Jesus' kingdom - he is king. **(Draw a crown with a 'J' above 'kingdom of heaven')**

The people are ordinary, like you and me, but they have Jesus as their king. They are Christians. **(Draw stick people below the 'J' crown.)**

People who trust and follow Jesus are part of the kingdom of heaven - a kingdom that Jesus said is like treasure.

Imagine how exciting it would be to find hidden treasure...



What to say

One day a man was walking through a field when he tripped over something.

He had a look. Couldn't work out what it was, so he dug it up.

He could not believe what he had found...treasure!

He went bonkers. He couldn't hold it in. He was so excited.

What to do

A leader walks onto the scene.

He unearths the treasure chest from the sand, opens it and pulls out jewellery/ gold coins.

He jumps up and down while 'whooping'. Then freezes with a big grin on his face.

Space for notes

If you found treasure of gold, jewels and precious gems, you'd be as excited as that man. Jesus says that his kingdom is so good, it's like treasure. **(Hold up the second treasure chest.)**

(Take the words/objects out of the chest as you explain what it means to be part of Jesus' kingdom.)

Treasure is valuable and special. Being in Jesus' kingdom is valuable and special because it means...

- you're **loved**.
- you're **forgiven** for everything - even the worst of things.
- you **belong** to the best forever family.
- you have a **home** waiting for you in heaven.

This is the treasure you get when you're part of Jesus' kingdom.

And when you see how good these things really are, you'd happily hand over everything to have them. That's what the man in the story did.

Space for notes

2. Jesus' kingdom is worth more than everything

(Slide of talk point)

Let's find out what happened after the man found the treasure...

What to say

The man was so excited to find the treasure. But there was a problem.

The field wasn't his so the treasure wasn't his either.

So, he came up with a plan - he was going to buy the field so he could have the treasure. He hid it and then went home happily to sell everything he had so he could buy the field.

The man didn't just use some of his savings from his piggy bank - he used all of his money.

He happily sold EVERYTHING he had to buy the field. His favourite shirt, his PlayStation, his art set, his books, his medal from his Year 2 sport's day.

He even sold the things that were most precious to him.

What to do

He jumps up then suddenly stops.

Looks around then pretends to look 'normal'.

He buries the chest again. Walks off the scene happily.

Leader walks back on wearing a backpack, holding a 'For Sale' sign and clutching a teddy bear. Hands over the sign and a wad of cash to the narrator.

Wide grin while he pulls things out of the backpack. He keeps looking at the teddy but doesn't hand it over until the backpack is empty.

Narrator gives a thumbs up when he finally hands over the teddy bear.



What to say

He happily sold everything until he had nothing left. Because the treasure was worth more than everything he had.

What to do

He unearths the treasure chest and looks delighted as he opens it.

Space for notes

The man knew how good the treasure was. Everything he had didn't compare to how good the treasure was. That's why he happily sold everything. Jesus says, when we find out what it's like to be in his kingdom, we would happily give everything else away.

Maybe you're thinking, 'If it's that good - how do I get in? What will I have to give up?' **(Hold up some of the items from the backpack.)**

The bad news is that there's nothing we could give up that could get us in. Even if we gave everything - it still wouldn't be enough. There's a big price to pay to be part of Jesus' kingdom.

But, the good news is that Jesus gave up everything for us instead. He gave up everything he had - even his life - to get us into his kingdom. What a king! He's the real treasure.

Some people think that being part of Jesus' kingdom - being a Christian - is about doing things that we don't really want to do. Like going to church a lot, keeping rules that you don't care about and being dull.

Jesus says it's the opposite. Being in his kingdom, being one of his people, is about being loved, known and ruled by the greatest king ever.

What other king would die so you could live forever?
What other king would give up everything he had so you could be in his family forever?

Space for notes

If you trust and follow Jesus, if he is your king - then you're in his kingdom. He gave everything he had to give you this treasure. **(Hold up the treasure chest/ take the words/objects out of the chest.)**

You're loved, you're forgiven, you're in the family and you have a forever home - all this treasure is yours. You're rich!

Think back to your most special treasure **(hold up your treasured item)**.

What Jesus offers us is better, more special, more valuable and will last forever **(hold up the treasure chest)**.

Don't miss out on being in Jesus' kingdom because you don't see how good it is. Treasure Jesus as your king and enjoy knowing, loving and being ruled by Jesus.

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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Did you spot it?

1. Who is the king of the kingdom of heaven?
2. Who are the people of the kingdom of heaven?



Work it out.

1. Why was the man in the story happy to sell everything he had to buy the field with the treasure?
2. Why is the kingdom of heaven like treasure?



Live it Out.

1. How do you feel about the kingdom of heaven? Why?
2. What is your most treasured item? How does it compare to the kingdom of heaven?



Pray.



Activity Pack 9

Pirates

Deathly Duel

You will need: modelling balloons (have extras in case they pop), balloon pumps, paper plates, plastic cups and protective/ swimming goggles.

Set up: Inflate the balloons.

- The aim is to win the duel by knocking your opponent's cup off the plate with your balloon sword.
- Give each child a balloon and help them to twist it to make a sword. Find helpful instructions [here](#).
- Once the swords are made, get the children into pairs to duel against each other.
- Give each child a plate, a cup and a pair of goggles. They must put on the goggles and then balance the cup on the plate on their non-dominant hand.

- Spread the pairs out so they have space to duel at the same time. The child to knock the cup and plate off the other child's hand is the winner of the pair. The children swap partners and duel again.
- Let the children take their swords home.

Scoring: Allocate points for the total number of wins as a team.

Safety: Wear the goggles to protect eyes but don't allow hits to the face.



Walk the Plank

You will need: Sturdy chairs that children can stand on (enough for 1 per child in the group).

Set up: Line up the chairs side by side in a row so there are no gaps between them.

- The aim is for the full team to remain standing on the chairs, as the number of chairs decreases.
- Start with 1 chair per child. Children stand on the row of chairs and complete the challenge. Once the challenge is completed, the children move closer together and you remove a chair from the row.
- Each challenge requires the children to rearrange themselves into a different order.
- Suggested challenges - first names in alphabetical order; height order; birthday months; surnames in alphabetical order; age from youngest to oldest; alphabetical order of favourite chocolate/sweet.

- As the number of chairs decreases, some team members will lose their balance/get pushed off the chairs - they have 'walked the plank'. Play until there is one chair remaining - count the number of children left in the game.

Scoring: Allocate scores according to the number of children left on the final chair.

Safety: Only use chairs that are solid and sturdy enough to have children standing on them without falling over. A leader should remain close to the chairs in case they show signs of toppling or if a child needs some support to step safely down from the chairs to avoid a fall.





Shark Attack

You will need: Large box/ container, plastic gold coins, shark fin hats (tape a cardboard fin shape to a cycle helmet/cap/ beanie).

Set up: Scatter the gold coins across the floor. Place the box/ container in the middle of the playing space.

- The aim is to collect the gold coins before being attacked by the 'sharks'.
- Choose 1 or 2 children to start the game as sharks - give them shark fin hats to wear.
- The rest of the children are the pirates who are collecting treasure (gold coins).
- When the game begins, the pirates run around the playing space collecting gold coins and placing them in the box/ container. While they do this, the sharks try to catch them.

- When a child is caught, they become a shark - give them a fin hat to wear. Either have enough hats for the full group to become sharks or play until all of the pirates have been caught.
- If there is still time then start over with 1-2 different children as sharks and the rest as pirates.

Scoring: Allocate points for the number of coins collected. Take off 10 points every time the full number of pirates are caught. Add 10 points if a team collects all the coins before all the pirates have been caught.

Safety: Play on a carpeted floor so children don't slip on coins on a smooth floor while running.



Pirate Stress Balls

You will need: Table, balloons (assorted colours and black), balloon pump, permanent markers (assorted colours, including white if you are using black balloons), empty plastic water bottles (e.g. 500ml bottle), funnels (can be made from paper rolled into a cone and taped), bowls, spoons and flour.

Set up: Place bowls of flour on the table.

- The aim is to make a stress ball by filling it with flour and decorating it in a pirate theme.
- Challenge the children to speak like 'pirates' for the activity.
- Spread the children around the table so they have a workspace.
- Give each child an empty plastic bottle and a funnel. They use the funnel to pour enough flour into the bottle to fill the deflated balloon (if using 500ml bottles, they should be about one third full of flour). Watch this [video](#) to see how it is done.
- Next they inflate their balloons. If children struggle to blow up the balloons, use the balloon pump.
- The end of the balloon must now be pulled over the top of the bottle. This is quite tricky as the balloon must

stay inflated. Once attached, shake the flour into the inflated balloon.

- Hold the end of the balloon closed before pulling it off the bottle so it doesn't deflate. Slowly release the air from the balloon. Tie the end of the balloon. Decorate the stress ball.

Decoration suggestions:

1. Use white marker on a black balloon or black marker on a white balloon to draw a skull and crossbones.
2. Turn the knot of the balloon into the knot of a bandana by colouring in a large circle around it. Then draw on a pirate face.
3. Write 'Aaargh' on the balloon.
4. Draw a face with a large eye patch.

Scoring: Give a team point out of 10 for how well they spoke like pirates.

Safety: Check first for allergies when using any food items. If the balloon isn't held closed when removing it from the bottle then a cloud of flour could be released which could irritate the eyes. Rinse eyes with water if necessary.





Pirate Ship Battle

You will need: 2 large cardboard boxes, masking tape, 2 buckets, lots of ball pit balls and a timer.

Set up: Use the masking tape to make a court with 2 halves. Place one box in the centre of each half. Divide the balls between the 2 buckets and place one bucket in each half of the court.

- The aim is to sink the opponents' ship by throwing balls into it.
- The teams each take one half of the court. The box is their team's ship. When the game begins, both teams throw balls from their side of the court into the other team's box. If a ball gets in it is a hit. If it misses but lands in the court then it can be used by the opposing team.

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

- Set a timer to stop play, or play until all of the balls have been used. If you want a half-time break, stop play and count the balls in each box. Return all the balls to the buckets and then play the second half.

Scoring: The team who got the most 'hits' (number of balls in the opposition's box) are the winners.

Safety: Only use lightweight balls so children aren't hurt if they are hit by a ball.



Feedback

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