

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 9th February 2024

TITLE:	The parable of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price. Matthew 13:44-46
THEME:	Discovering God is like finding treasure. It is worth the sacrifice of a lot to find it.
AIM:	To understand that having faith in Jesus means giving up other things, but it is worth it as the reward outweighs what we give up.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

These two parables have the same theme. The cost of being a disciple. Faith in Jesus comes with a cost. Yes, we receive GRACE for free, but there is great cost to following Christ and being obedient to His teaching. However, the ultimate reward is to be with Christ in eternity. This sure and certain hope is worth much more than we can ever hope to have on Earth. Therefore the sacrifice of our earthly desires and wants in order to be a disciple of Christ is worth it. It is a difficult choice for some, and some can't choose it, but for those who do, our "riches in heaven" will be abundant! We will see Christ.

WARM UP

Play the price is right. Issue a handful of sweets to each person (provided). (Martha will have dairy free). Now they bid sweets to gain a bigger, better prize. Eg: Packet of Oreos or Cake or other prize.

How much will they give to receive the better prize? If they offer everything they have, they get it (don't tell them this).

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Watch cheesy video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hau_EBZWks8

Read **Matthew 13:44-46**.

1. Apart from your life, what is the most valuable thing you have/ own? Get responses.
2. Would you trade it for : A. a better mobile, B. Good exam results, C. £10,000 D. A forever friend
Get a discussion going about value and worth. Worth is not always monetary.
3. Read Matthew 19:16-22. What was the man's problem? Are we like this?
See if you can get them to explain the story.

Key teaching point:

Beyond our actual life, we all have different things we consider valuable and precious. Are we prepared to give something up that is precious in order to receive something better and more valuable? We can be connected strongly to "stuff" and find it hard to give things up even if we would benefit from the trade!

Jesus wants more than just simple adherence to His teaching. He wants us ALL IN , everything, to commit every part of our life to Him. If we do He promises so much more than we give up!

Activity 2. What does it cost to follow Jesus?

Look up the following verses... what do you think they mean?

Matthew 8:18-22 Matthew 16:24-26 Luke 14:28-33 Matthew 18:8-9

Get them to look up in pairs and discuss. Get feedback . Create discussion about what it means to follow Jesus.

Key teaching point. Whilst receiving Jesus into our heart is free, it cost Him everything on the cross, and there is a decision to be made about following Him. Jesus clearly understands that living for Him will mean a sacrifice on our part. This means putting Him first before family, friends, career, money etc. and having faith that He will provide what you need. This does not mean we are complacent or lazy but it is about attitude—where do our priorities lie? Are we prepared for hardship or even suffering to follow Jesus?

Activity 3 The cost of discipleship

Give out stories of persecution and get YPs to read in small groups. Get feedback from groups and create a discussion about how hard it must be to be a Christian in these places. What does it cost them?

What makes it difficult to be a Christian in the UK? What does it cost?

What differences are there between the UK and places like Iran/ Sudan/ China etc? How does that make you feel about your faith?

Key Teaching point. Sometimes being a Christian will be comfortable, sometimes it will be a challenge. Our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world need our prayers and support if they are having a challenging time. Their commitment to Jesus is being tested, it is costing them everything to follow Him. That should make us more determined to follow Jesus here in the UK as it is currently easier! When the church is persecuted.... it grows! Why? Because we have to rely on Jesus!

Activity 4 Reflection

Make space for a time of quiet reflection. What have they learned? What has been the impact? How far will they commit to Jesus? What will it cost them?

Colouring sheet available for those who want to journal.

TAKEAWAY

Following Jesus can be the hardest and most rewarding thing a person can do.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Colouring sheet.

Stories of persecuted Christians sheets

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hau_EBZWks8