

PRAYER

- Thank God for His great love for you. Thank Him for giving His life to rescue you and make you His.
- Ask God to remind you daily of your value and identity in Him. Pray for His strength to communicate to others their value in Him as well.
- Pray to understand the value of the kingdom of heaven more each day. Pray for your friends and family to also realize the value of the kingdom.

NOTES



The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Value

WEEK 3

WARM-UP

- What is one thing that you would spend a lot of time, money, or effort to find?
- Have you ever felt like you made an unfair exchange? Tell us about it.
- What is one sentimental object that you hold on to although others would consider it of little value?

WORD *⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." MATTHEW 13:44-46*

The *kingdom of heaven* is a kingdom ruled by Christ, which will come to earth from heaven with the power and authority of God. The Church is only a small part of this kingdom. While it is a kingdom that we as God's children look forward to, it is also taking place here and now. When Jesus was on earth, He told many parables about the kingdom of heaven. We can understand more about the value of this kingdom from the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value.

1 | The kingdom of heaven has great value.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." **MATTHEW 13:44**

Jesus told the parable of the hidden treasure to illustrate the value of the kingdom of heaven. It is priceless. It is something that a man would sell all he had to get. This kingdom is worth all we have. How have you encountered God that showed you the value of a relationship with Him? How does Psalm 84:10 describe the feeling that one has discovered such a treasure?

2 | The King considers us of great value.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." **MATTHEW 13:45,46**

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a merchant. We, God's children, are the *pearl of great value*. Our great God, the King, values us so highly that He gave His life so that we could be with Him. How can we respond knowing that God sees us with such great value?

APPLICATION

- God is above all, and yet He considers you of the greatest value. How can you respond to this great love? Have you made the decision to follow Him?
- What steps can you take to show others the value of God's kingdom? Pray for open doors and divine wisdom to take these steps.
- How can you, as a recipient of this great love from God, show His love to those around you? What are some ways that you can let people know how valued they are?