



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Parable of the Hidden Treasure and Pearl

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Daniel delivered a powerful message about the kingdom of heaven using Jesus's parables from Matthew 13:44-46. He emphasized that the kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field and a merchant seeking fine pearls. The sermon highlighted God's subtlety in revealing Himself, often through unexpected people and circumstances rather than dramatic displays. Pastor Daniel shared personal stories about neighbors with disabilities who demonstrated the kingdom through their lives. The message concluded with a surprising twist - that God is actually the merchant seeking us as His treasured pearls, not the other way around. The sermon called for believers to go 'all in' for the kingdom while recognizing that God is actively pursuing and finding us.

Key Passages

- Matthew 13:44-46
- Psalm 34:1-3
- 1 Kings 19:11-12
- Jeremiah 29:11-13
- Genesis 3:8-9

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to receive what You have for us. We ask that You quiet the distractions of our minds and help us to be fully present with You. Lord, we pray that You would open our eyes to see the treasure of Your kingdom that surrounds us. Help us to be receptive to Your voice and willing to respond to Your call. We invite Your Holy Spirit to move among us and speak to each heart according to Your perfect will. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What's the most valuable thing you've ever found or discovered unexpectedly?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. How does the idea that God is subtle rather than always dramatic change your perspective on looking for Him in daily life?
2. Pastor Daniel shared stories about Nathan and Brian, neighbors with disabilities who demonstrated the kingdom. Who in your life has shown you Jesus in an unexpected way?
3. What does it mean that the kingdom of heaven is like a 'treasure hidden in a field'? How might we miss kingdom treasures right in front of us?
4. The sermon mentioned that we can't 'scare people into love' or 'pistol whip people with the Bible.' How can we better share the good news as an invitation rather than a threat?
5. What are some defense mechanisms you've noticed in yourself that might prevent you from fully receiving God's love and truth?
6. The twist in the parable suggests that God is the merchant seeking us as His treasured pearls. How does this change your understanding of salvation and God's pursuit of you?
7. Pastor Daniel mentioned the five active verbs (found, hid, went, sold, bought) that Jesus embodied for us. How does this impact your understanding of what Christ did on your behalf?

8. What would it look like practically for you to 'go all in' for the kingdom this week?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, practice looking for the 'hidden treasures' of God's kingdom in unexpected places and people around you. Each morning, ask God to give you redeemed eyesight to see His presence and work in ordinary circumstances. Additionally, spend time in prayer thanking God that He is actively seeking you as His treasure, and ask Him to show you one specific way you can 'go all in' for His kingdom.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that requires us to go 'all in' when we discover it
- God often works through subtlety rather than dramatic displays, and we need redeemed eyesight to see His kingdom
- God is not hiding from us but is actively seeking us - we are His treasured pearls

- The gospel is good news that should be shared as an invitation, not a threat
- When we truly discover the value of God's kingdom, joy motivates us to sacrifice everything for it

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for this reminder that we are Your treasured pearls, sought after and loved beyond measure. Help us to live this week with the joy and excitement of those who have discovered the greatest treasure. Give us eyes to see Your kingdom in the ordinary moments and unexpected people around us. May we go from this place not as people trying to earn Your love, but as those who are already found, already treasured, and called to share this good news with others. Seal these truths in our hearts and help us to go 'all in' for Your kingdom. In Your precious name, **Amen**.