

Lesson 7.5 The Pearl of Great Price: The Call

Topic: Model for Peacemaking  
Subtopic: The Call  
2C. Sin and Salvation  
3A. Made New in Christ Jesus

Class: Standard VII (Grade 7)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will understand that being a peacemaker is worth whatever it costs. **Attitude:** Students will want to be peacemakers and want to be followers of Jesus.

Materials Needed:  
Blackboard and Chalk  
Exercise book (Journal)

References: Matthew 13:44-50

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:9

Teacher Activities

**NOTE:** Before class, hide 7-8 clues for a Treasure Hunt. (See Teacher's Notes)

**Introduction:** *Optional* Worship time  
*Think. Pair. Share.* What is something that you would give a lot of money for? Why? Our story today is about something the Bible says is more valuable than your greatest treasure.

**Bible Story:** Have the parables read and discuss them.

**Application:** Discuss the memory verse: Matthew 5:9  
Treasure Hunt (see Teacher's Notes)  
*Choose one of the optional activities.*

**Evaluation:** Do students work together in groups with everyone taking turns and following the rules? Do students show a desire to be a part of the Kingdom of God and to be Peacemakers?

Student Activities

**Introduction:** *Think-Pair-Share.* Students *think* about the question alone. Then discuss with a partner (*pair*) and finally volunteers *share* with the class.

**Bible Story:** Student Readers read the verses and the class discusses them.

Matthew 13: 44  
Matthew 13:45-46  
Matthew 13:47-50

**Application:** Students follow clues to find a treasure. Discuss how our life journey (walking with Jesus) is like a treasure hunt. In Small groups, write a modern parable.

**Evaluation:** Do students understand why the Kingdom of God is a great treasure? Do they understand why it is costly?

**Extension Activities:** *How to enter the Kingdom of God.* Use the guide at the end of this lesson to discuss the four "Romans Road" verses. *Memory Verse.* Review all the memory verses we have learned so far. Can anyone say all five of them?

## Notes for Teacher

We have been learning about Jesus' example as a peacemaker and about the peaceful kingdom He came to establish. In today's lesson students learn that they are invited to be a part of this Kingdom of God and walk as peacemakers. They also learn that the Kingdom of God is costly but worth whatever it costs.

Key Points: We are called to be peacemakers and part of the Kingdom of God. Although this is costly, it is well worth the price.

Introduction: *Think-Pair-Share.* Explain how to do a Think- Pair – Share

- Think – Students think alone about a question for 30-60 seconds.
- Pair – Each student partners with someone seated near him or her and they discuss the question. When they have an answer they raise their hands.
- Share – When most students have an answer, call on a few students to share what the two partners discussed.

*Question for Think-Pair-Share.*

**What is something that you would give a lot of money for? Why?**

*After the discussion.* **If something is valuable we are willing to make sacrifices, give up other things and work hard to get it. Today's lesson is about something that is more valuable than any other earthly treasure.**

Bible Story: Parables are stories Jesus used to teach. These two parables teach us about the value of the Peaceable Kingdom. Have two student Readers read the three parables. After each one discuss it before going on to the next parable.

Matthew 13:44

- What did the man find in his field?
- Why does the man cover it up?
- What does Jesus say is as valuable as that treasure?

Matthew 13:45-46

- How valuable did the farmer think the pearl was?
- What does Jesus compare the valuable pearl to?

Matthew 13:47-50

- Why is this Kingdom of God so valuable? (Jesus ends his parables with this story that shows that there is an eternal reward for choosing the Kingdom of God however there are also rewards in this life—God is with us and helps us each day; We have the joy of knowing we are helping others; We have purpose and direction in life and We help to make the world a better place.)
- Why is the kingdom of God costly? (We have to say no to selfishness and greed and walk in love. This is not always easy and others may not understand our choice.)

Application: Being a part of the Kingdom of God is a choice. Some religions try to coerce people to follow certain religious practices but the Kingdom of God is all about love. God gives every person the choice to be a part of this kingdom of love, joy and peace but He does not force anyone. Jesus drew people to Himself by His love and kindness. He was modeling how God loves each one of us. Each student will have to choose for themselves if they are willing to follow this

path of peace and love or if they will not. Because it is a costly choice, it is not always an easy decision but the friendship of God and the eternal reward of heaven make it worth it.

*Read and Discuss Matthew 5:9.* **Each of us is called to be a peacemaker and to be a part of the Kingdom of God. Sometimes, as we learned last week, we have to say NO to other things and sometimes peacemaking is difficult work but following Jesus is worth any cost.** Have students practice saying this memory verse to a partner and then call on several students to see if they can recite it. Have students copy the memory verses into their journal.

*Treasure Hunt.* You need to hide 7-8 clues around the room before class. You will hand one volunteer the first clue (Clue A). All the other clues are hidden. Call on individual students to take turns reading the clues and then doing what it says. At the end of the clues is a Bible. Ask students why the Bible is a great treasure. (It tells us how to have a relationship with God, how have happy families, peaceful communities and blessed nations and eternal life. People have died to make the Bible available to us. It is a great treasure.)

Examples of clues. Remember to *give* Clue A to the first student.

Clue A – look under the teacher’s chair. (Clue B is taped under the teacher’s chair)

Clue B- look at the window (Clue C is on the window sill)

Clue C – look inside \_\_\_\_\_’s history book. (Clue D is in the book and so on)

Discuss how following Jesus is like a treasure hunt. We do not know where exactly it will lead us but if we follow Him step by step we will find the treasure of eternal life. What is more, we can have peace, joy and love as we go on the journey because Jesus is with us to help us every step of the way.

*Small Group Activity.* Remind students of the rules for group discussions and assign a leader for each group of 3-5 students. Tell the groups to discuss the questions below and then write a short parable in a modern setting. Invite students to read their story to the class.

- What will be the setting? (your village, a small town, a city like Nairobi or Mombasa)
- What could be the treasure instead of the pearl? What do you think is very valuable?
- What would a student be willing to give up for the treasure?

*Journal.* Have students write a summary of this lesson and one question they still have about the Kingdom of God or about being peacemakers. Read the questions and answer personal questions in private or write answers in their journals. If several students have the same question, answer it for the whole group but do not say who wrote the question. Journal entries should be treated as confidential.

*Optional Review. Romans Road to Salvation.* Each person must choose for themselves if they want to be part of the Kingdom of God and followers of Jesus or not. This lesson provides an excellent opportunity to review how a person makes the commitment to be a follower of Jesus. You can write these four verses on the board and invite students to help you explain what they mean. (This was introduced in Standard IV.)

**Romans 3:23** – Everyone has sinned and sin separates us from.

**Romans 6:23** – Life is eternal and we either face eternal life with Jesus (the gift of God) or eternal death (the wages of sin).

**Romans 5:8** – God wants us to be His followers but someone had to pay the “wages of sin.” Jesus did it for us but each person must decide if they want to accept this gift or not. There is no other way to God except through Jesus Christ His son.

**Romans 10:9** – To confess that Jesus is Lord means you will accept Him as your Lord and obey Him. If you believe Jesus died for your sin and choose to be a follower of Jesus, you just need to say it and believe it. If Jesus is really your Lord, you will seek to know Him well and obey Him.