

Study Guide



Matthew 13: 44-46 - The Parables of the Treasure & Pearl March 25, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Discuss with your group how sharing the gospel went this last week. Please share your stories of success or struggle with your group. Continue to pray for those who heard the gospel and pray for boldness as you continue to have gospel conversations.

Calendar

March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 4th- April 15th— Kids Shine
March 30th- March 31st— Father-Son/Men's Canoe Trip
April 1st— Easter Sunday
June 11th-16th— Youth Camp

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[O Come to the Altar](#)":

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Commentary: Read Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus shifts from talking about the eventual worldwide impact of the kingdom to talking about the parables of the Treasure and the Pearl. The story of the man who finds a treasure in a field may sound strange to us, but we must remember that Jesus is telling this parable in a day when treasure could not be stored in a bank or safety deposit box. Instead, people would bury their greatest possessions in a remote place. This treasure in verse 44 had apparently been completely forgotten, even by the owner of the field. The man who found the treasure went and sold everything he had to buy the field, knowing that it was worth more than everything else he owned. Some may have thought he was crazy for doing such a thing, but he wasn't. He was wise and happy, he knew he had found something worth losing everything for.

In verse 45-46, we come to the next parable, the parable of the Pearl. This parable communicates a similar truth to the parable of the Treasure, though the man who found the pearl was actually "searching" for these fine jewels. Still, the pearl that he finds exceeds his expectations. Both for those who are searching and those who are surprised, **the kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for.** There is great reward in submitting to the redemptive rule and reign of God in Christ, and this reward is greater than everything this world offers. Philippians 3:8 says, ***"I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ."*** Jesus and the kingdom He calls us to are better than anything we can have. Christ is supremely satisfying, even if you lose everything on this earth, you get the kingdom of heaven. And nothing in eternity can ever take away this great treasure.

The kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for. Because it is something worth losing everything for, we joyfully let go of all things in order to passionately take hold of one thing. The disciples would lose much for following Jesus, most of them would lose their lives. They responded to Jesus with total-surrender. A recent convert to Christianity responds the same way, "I found Christ," and filled with joy, returns to his own environment, gives up his lifestyle, and devotes himself completely to his Lord. We follow a King who promised, ***"And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life"*** (Matt. 19:29). It is Christ who offers the treasure and the pearl to people traveling along life's highway. Some are searching and some are wandering but suddenly they meet Jesus and find in him a priceless treasure. We come to Christ because He offers great reward and we joyfully abandon all that we have for Christ.

Discussion - Read Matthew 13:44-46

1. Discuss with your group how sharing the gospel went this last week. Please share your stories of success or struggle with your group. Continue to pray for those who heard the gospel and pray for boldness as you continue to have gospel conversations.
2. What takeaways impressed you, convicted you, or encouraged you from Tracy's sermon this past Sunday?
3. The parables that we have been studying give insight into the nature of the kingdom of heaven—Jesus' new kingdom that he was inaugurating on earth. What things about the kingdom of heaven do we learn from these two parables?
4. What are some differences in the way that the two men found the treasures in these stories? Was the first man looking for a treasure? Was the second man looking for a treasure?
5. How do we know that both of these men recognized the value of the treasure they found?
6. Was it very difficult for these men to sell all they had in order to secure their treasures? Did they sell all they had out of duty or out of joy? Did they make their decisions out of obligation or out of self-interest?
7. How is the statement of the apostle Paul in Philippians 3:7-11 an example of what Jesus is talking about in these parables?
8. Is the focus in these parables on how much we have to give up to enter the kingdom of heaven or how much we gain by entering the kingdom? Are you personally realizing what a treasure we have in Jesus' kingdom now and when he returns?

Gospel Resources

1. **[Sharing your faith \(Article\)](https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/)**: (<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>)
2. **[Life Conversation Guide \(Video\)](https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide)**: (<https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide>)
3. **[Questions about Sharing your Faith \(Article\)](https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/)**: (<https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/>)
4. **[Everyone You Meet Will Live Forever \(Article\)](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/everyone-you-meet-will-live-forever)**:(<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/everyone-you-meet-will-live-forever>)
5. Download the “Life On Mission” App for all iOS and Android devices. This app helps teach and walk you through the 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach