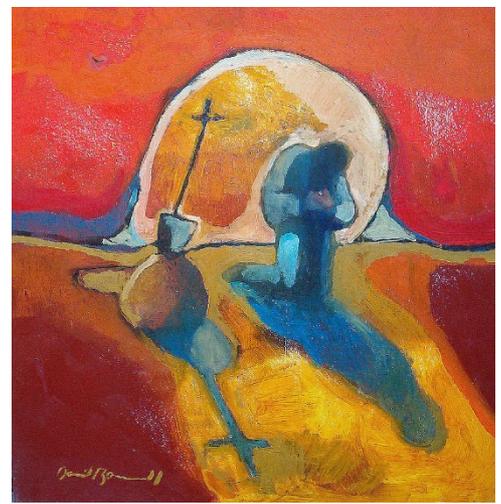


Church at Home for Abridge

26th July 2020

Activities for the whole family

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52



1. Read through today's story in your Bible at home or find it [here](#)
2. [Here is the story of the Pearl of Great Price](#) told as a reflective story for the whole family
3. [Here is a simple retelling with music and pictures](#) of the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price
4. **Sing together:** Have a go at putting the following words to the nursery rhyme 'The farmer's in his den' to retell the parable of the mustard seed:
The farmer plants the seed; the seed is very small; the seed begins to grow; the seed becomes a tree; the tree is full of birds; the tree is like God's home
5. **Big thinking together:**

Jesus loved telling stories. In this chapter of Matthew there are plenty and today's Gospel has no fewer than five!

Which parable do you like the best?

Which parable do you think is the most important?

Where are you in these parables?

Which parable would you choose to leave out and still have all the parables you need to describe God's kingdom?

6. Here's an activity you could do together as you think more about the parable of the precious pearl. Hopefully you will have all the ingredients at home!

Precious pearl biscuits

You will need: Plain biscuits, icing sugar (made into spreadable icing), sprinkles, cupcake cases, white fondant icing rolled into 'pearls'.

Spread some icing on top of the biscuit and then add sprinkles to decorate your 'treasure'. Add a fondant pearl to the top of your treasure biscuit to remember that the pearl was the most special treasure of all. Finish by covering the biscuit with a cupcake case so that the treasure is hidden. Take the cupcake case off to show the treasure that you can't see at first but have to look for like the merchant in the story!



Spend some time talking about treasure and special things and thinking about heaven and what it might be like.

7. Here some pictures of the parables for you to colour and decorate:



8. Jesus delighted to use the ordinary stuff of earth to open up windows into the truths of heaven; and it was often the small things that best served his purpose: a speck in an eye, the eye of a needle, a pinch of salt, a small picnic lunch, a game in the marketplace, a cup of water or a little child.

I wonder what other parables like these are around us every day but which we fail to notice.

I wonder what parables of the kingdom we can find in small everyday items and objects such as:

the nib of a fountain pen, the bell on a bike, the barcode on a supermarket item, a stitch in a jumper, a drop in an ocean, birdsong amid the trees, dirt on a lens, microplastic in the ocean, a second on a clock, a smile from a stranger or a word to the weary.

Why not ask God's Holy Spirit to help you create some modern parables, maybe using these ideas?

There are parables, parables everywhere!

