



IMMAGINATION & JOY

The Parable of the Precious Pearl

Dear Parents:

Jesus, the story teller, tells many, many stories about the Kingdom of Heaven. One of the stories is about the Precious Pearl. When we first came across it in Godly Play, I honestly wasn't familiar with it and had to go look it up. It's a short parable tucked in with so many other parables like the Mustard Seed and the Sower. The greatness of the pearl is not about the size of the pearl. This story reminds us that even the smallest thing can be the most precious thing.

I hope this is an opportunity for more conversation about God's Kingdom and that everyone is precious as a the pearl in God's eye.

1. The Parable of the Precious Pearl - We will use an Ignatian exercise of using imagination with the story.
2. Prayer Beads - Create a prayer bead chain or bracelet. Invite your children to pray with you this week with the prayer beads.
3. Tell Your Own Parable about the Kingdom Heaven - Write a monologue about the Kingdom of Heaven. For younger children, ask the children to tell you a story about the Kingdom of Heaven. When you finish, perform it for your family or record it and share via email-formation@stthomasbcs.com.
4. Imagining God's Kingdom - Make a collage of the Kingdom of Heaven. What brings you joy?
5. Share God's Love - Donate items to either Peace Lutheran's Food Pantry (979-693-4403) or the Blessings Box (N. Bryan Ave. Behind Brazos County Health Department)



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

PARABLE OF THE PRECIOUS PEARL

Matthew 13:45 (Adapted from Weaving God's Promises)

Close your eyes. Imagine you are sitting outside. The sun is shining. You feel the warm sun on your skin. You look into the sky to see fluffy white clouds. You notice the birds flying. There is a tree near you with squirrels playing.

You notice there are people sitting in a circle under the tree. You walk over to sit under the tree next to them. You want to hear what they are saying. You recognize one of the people is Jesus. You hear one of the Jesus' friends ask him, "What is the kingdom of heaven like?"

You turn towards Jesus so you can hear him. Jesus says, "Do you know what a pearl is? Pearls are valuable. A pearl grows inside an oyster in the ocean. When an oyster has a bit of sand inside of it, the rough tiny grain of sand bothers it, so the pearl coats the grain of sand with something smooth. Over time, the tiny grain of sand becomes a smooth, shiny pearl. There once was someone looking for nice pearls. One day, this person finds one. It is not just a nice pearl. It is the finest, most beautiful pearl ever seen. It's not the biggest pearl he has ever seen. It's small and precious. It is worth more than everything this person has ever owned or wanted. This person wants that pearl so much that every possession is sold. EVERYTHING. With the money, the person goes and buys this pearl."

Jesus notices you sitting there next to them. He looks at you and says "The kingdom of heaven is that precious. It is worth more than anything anybody can imagine. Everything is precious to God from the smallest to the biggest. What is precious to you?"

You look at Jesus and tell him what is precious to you.



WHAT DO YOU TREASURE LIKE A PRECIOUS PEARL?

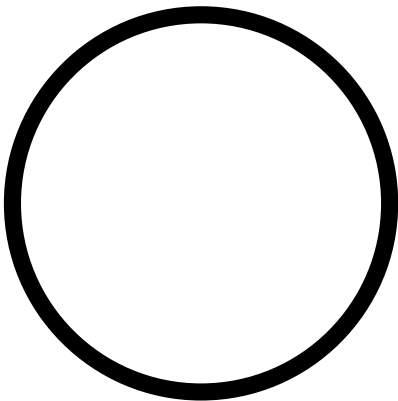
*Cut our pictures to make a collage about your treasures.
What brings you joy? Who or what do you treasure?*



PRAYER BEADS

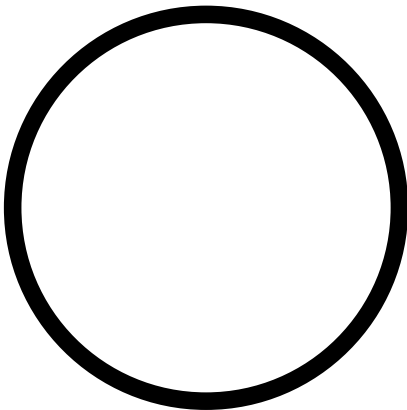
Sometimes holding something in your hands to pray, like beads, can be help you. Lace your beads together with the black cord. Tie a knot after each one so they don't fall off.

Begin by closing your eyes. Breath in through your nose and then blow out through your mouth. Do this three times.



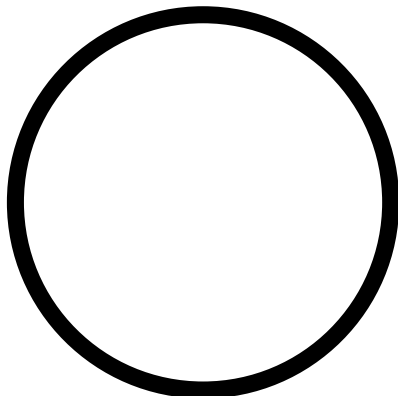
Touch the first bead.

What brought you joy today? Name all the things today that brought you joy. Who were you with? Where were you?



Touch the second bead.

Did you bring joy to others today? Name the ways you brought joy to others today. Who were you with? Where were you?



Touch the third bead.

Tell God thank you for the joy today. Ask God to help you find joy tomorrow.

