**TEACHING SET UP**

Jesus In His Own Words – Week C

MAIN POINT GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**Jesus is a treasure worth leaving**

**everything else behind for.**

To inspire students to experience the great treasure of Jesus for themselves

MAIN SCRIPTURES

***44****“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

***45****“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.****46****When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” (Matthew 13:44-46)*

HOPE: MULTIPLE CAMPUSES, 1 CHURCH.

At Hope we have multiple campuses so each week there are different speakers delivering the message to different sets of students. We want to balance giving each speaker and each campus freedom to tailor the message to fit them while uniting as one church in the same direction we teach our students.

**We ask that all speakers teach the provided main point and main Scripture**. We have provided a detailed message outline, but there is freedom in how much of that you use and how much you’d like to tailor to either fit you or your campus better. Talk to your campus staff about how to best go about this for your specific week.

**We also want to unite in pointing to Jesus’ saving grace each message** – a Cross Connection segment is written in the message outline.

\*Note to Speaker: Sometimes we can fall into the trap of trying to convince others of Jesus’ value instead of realizing the greatest value is in inviting them to “taste and see” it for themselves. Our goal should be not to simply state Jesus’ worth, but to talk about it in a way that students are inspired to know His amazing worth for themselves.

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

* What is your favorite treasure-hunting movie, show, or game?
  + National Treasure?
  + Pirates of the Caribbean?
  + Indiana Jones?
  + Uncharted?
* In all these movies, the main characters push through a lot of obstacles and make a lot of sacrifices – why?
* Because they believe the treasure will be worth it.
* Share a time in your life where you sacrificed something to “win the treasure / prize” *(Bonus points if it was while you were in middle or high school)*
* Optional Interactive: Before your students arrive hide a $20 bill (or prize of your choice) in your meeting area – make sure it’s hidden so well that it’s very hard to find.
  + Tell your students you’ve hidden a treasure in the room and in just a moment they’ll have a chance to find it, if they want to put in the effort.
    - Ask them to raise their hands if they’d be excited to find it if it was a penny…a quarter…a dollar…$5….a $20 bill. (Ask about these amounts one at a time, noting out loud how many hands are raised each time).
    - Set 3 minutes on the clock and let your students search for the treasure.
  + After the hunt, ask
    - In a treasure hunt, how important is the value of the treasure?
    - HSM+: If you wanted others to find buried treasure, what’s the best way to get them motivated to do it?
  + It makes sense the more valuable a treasure if, the more motivated we are to sacrifice to find it.

TENSION

* So many people have different opinions about God – how can we know what God is like?
* In this series we are looking at what Jesus said was true about Himself.
* **Jesus is a treasure worth leaving everything else behind for.**

TRUTH

* Our main verses today are from Matthew 13, which is a book full of parables.
* Parables are stories using something that is commonly known to the audience (ex: a treasure) to illustrate a lesson about something spiritual (ex: the kingdom of heaven).
* **Read Matthew 13:44-46**
  + Now first, you may be asking – didn’t I say these verses where about Jesus? But they are about the Kingdom of Heaven?
  + In short, my answer is YES to both. These verses are telling us about the kingdom of Heaven, but from other verses we know the only way to Heaven is through Jesus. (Jesus Himself says He is the only way, truth, and life – John 14:6).
  + **Cross Connection:** **Jesus made the only way for us to enter the kingdom of Heaven when He did for us on the cross.**
* **Priceless Treasure of Incredible Worth**
  + The heroes (and villains) in movies go through a lot to get to the treasure because they know it’s worth.
  + If you understand the value and worth of a pearl and buried treasure and you knew where some was, wouldn’t you go after it?
  + The only way to fully understand the incredible treasure Jesus can be in your life is to “taste and see that he is very good. – Psalm 34:8)
  + *Share a personal story, from your heart, about the treasure Jesus is to you.*

APPLICATION

* So when Jesus tells us these parables, saying He is a buried treasure, a pearl, He is INVITING us to appreciate His beauty and value.
* He is INVITING us to get to know Him and to find the most incredible treasure of all time.
* JESUS has given up EVERYTHING so that WE can find the treasure – how incredibly crazy and generous and amazing is that?
* **1) Consider the hidden treasure of Jesus**
  + **HSM+:** *For High school students, giving them space to critically think on how to live out their faith is an important, phase specific discipline to set them up for living their out faith .* **Have students get in groups and give them 3 minutes to discuss how they would describe to a find that Jesus is a hidden treasure.” Ask some groups to share with everyone after the time is up.**
* **2) Consider what you are willing to give up to grow in your relationship with Jesus?**
  + We all have sin and distractions in our lives that keep us from growing in our relationship with Jesus at times: This isn’t about being motivated by guilt – Jesus took our guilt on the cross.
  + This is about being motivated by our excitement when we realize what an incredible treasure Jesus is and wanting to be a part of His amazing Kingdom

LANDING

* **Jesus is a treasure worth leaving everything else behind for.**
  + Some of our friends may not understand Jesus’ great worth
  + Some of our family may not understand Jesus’ great worth
  + Life will want to keep you busy with other things
* But once you “taste and see” God’s goodness (or once you remember if you’ve forgotten) – you’ll know that **Jesus is a treasure worth leaving everything else behind for.**