



Catechist Background

In the days before using banks was easy or normal, valuables were sometimes hidden by digging a hole in the ground and burying them. If someone forgot where they put them or died before they could retrieve the goods, they could lie undetected for years. Legally they belonged to the person who owned the land, but they might be found by someone else. While the actions of the 'finder' in this Gospel reading may seem underhand to us, the reading is meant to remind us that the kingdom of heaven should be our top priority in life, and the dedication with which we should pursue it.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need gold-coloured wrapped sweets or chocolate coins, labels to stick or tie to them, and a pen to write on the labels. You could also use pieces of paper cut out to look like 'treasure.'

We Say Sorry

Leader: You love us more than we can imagine, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You forgive us when we turn away from you, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You want us to be with you always, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, you have created all the things we love. Help us to be true to your kingdom. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46

Reflecting on the Gospel Reading with Children

In today's Gospel reading we heard two little stories about people finding treasure.

- In each story, did the person who found the treasure want the treasure a LOT or just a little bit?
- How can you tell?
- If you wanted to win a gold medal in the Olympics how often do you think you would have to train? Could you just train when you felt like it or on just a couple of days a week? Could you just train in the morning and then eat chocolate and crisps all afternoon long?
- If your goal is to be a Christian and to follow God, when do you need to try to be a Christian and follow God? When you feel like it? A couple of days a week? Just on Sunday mornings?

Response

Jesus said this parable is about how important the kingdom of heaven is, so ask the children:

- How should we act if we want to go to heaven?
- Should we be loving and joyful or mean and miserable?
- Can you tell me an example of how we should act? (i.e., 'Be kind to everyone;' 'Forgiving;' 'Don't be cross when you have to stop watching TV'; 'Help someone carry heavy things').

- Write the children's suggestions on the labelled sweets to illustrate the treasure that accompanies acting out God's love.
- At the end of the liturgy, allow the children to each take one sweet and accept the challenge to make a special effort to do the thing written on the label this week.

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply: 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who created the world and loves it?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son who taught us about the kingdom of heaven?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us show the love of God and heaven to others?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'Lord, you are the treasure in our lives and so we bring our prayers to you...'

Leader: Let us pray for bishops, priests and deacons and all who tell others about the kingdom of heaven, that they may show the love of God too. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us pray for all people, that they will know what is really important. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us pray for people who do not have enough to eat or a safe home. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us pray for people in our parish who are missing someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to remember that you are our most valuable treasure, and to use wisely the gifts you have given us. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

