

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Theme: The Greatest Treasure

Gospel: Matthew 13:44 – 52

Main Message:

Jesus is the greatest treasure we could ever find. Nothing is more valuable than knowing, loving, and following Him.

1. Welcome & Gathering

(Gather the children calmly.)

Leader:

Good morning everyone.

Today Jesus tells us about treasure.

Who likes treasure?

Pirates search for treasure.

Explorers search for treasure.

People dream about finding buried treasure.

But today Jesus tells us about a treasure that is far more valuable than gold or jewels.

He tells us about the greatest treasure anyone could ever discover.

That treasure is knowing Him.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for loving us.

Help us to discover that You are the greatest treasure in our lives.

Help us to listen to Your word.

Help us to love You more every day.

Amen.

2. Opening Conversation

Ask:

- What is the most valuable thing you own?
- If your house was on fire, what would you want to save?
- Have you ever found something you thought you had lost?
- How did you feel?

Allow answers.

Then say:

Today Jesus tells us about someone who finds a treasure so wonderful that nothing else matters as much.

3. Gospel (Simplified)

Jesus said:

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

A man found it.

He was so happy that he sold everything he had so that he could buy that field.

The Kingdom of Heaven is also like a merchant looking for beautiful pearls.

When he found one pearl of great value, he sold everything he had to buy it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

Jesus tells two very short stories.

A man finds hidden treasure.

Another man finds the most beautiful pearl he has ever seen.

What do they both do?

They sell everything.

Why?

Because they know they are getting something even better.

Jesus is teaching us something very important.

Knowing Him is worth more than anything else in the world.

Built-in Activity 1 – Treasure Hunt

Ask:

If someone told you there was buried treasure somewhere in this church, what would you do?

(Look for it!)

Would you stop looking after one minute?

(No!)

Why not?

Because treasure is worth searching for.

Then explain:

Jesus wants us to search for Him with the same excitement.

What Is Treasure?

Treasure is something very precious.

Some people think money is treasure.

Some think toys are treasure.

Some think football trophies are treasure.

Some think holidays are treasure.

But Jesus says there is something even better.

Friendship with Him.

Because money cannot last forever.

Toys break.

Games finish.

Holidays end.

But Jesus never leaves us.

Built-in Activity 2 – Which Lasts?

Ask:

Which lasts longer?

Ice cream?

Or Jesus' love?

A toy?

Or Jesus' friendship?

Money?

Or eternal life?

Then explain:

The greatest treasures are the ones that never end.

Choosing What Matters Most

The man in the story was happy to give things up.

Why?

Because he was getting something much better.

Think about it.

If someone offered you one chocolate...

Or a whole chocolate factory...

Which would you choose?

The factory!

Because it is much better.

Jesus says Heaven is like that.

When we discover Him, we discover something far greater than anything else.

Built-in Activity 3 – The Best Choice

Ask:

Which would you rather have?

A broken toy?

Or a loving family?

A bag of sweets?

Or a best friend?

Lots of money?

Or knowing Jesus forever?

Allow discussion.

King Solomon

In our first reading, God tells King Solomon he may ask for anything.

Anything!

What would you ask for?

Money?

A palace?

A fast car?

Solomon asks for wisdom.

He wants to know how to make good choices.

God is pleased because Solomon chooses something much more important than riches.

Built-in Activity 4 – Wise Choices

Ask:

What are some wise choices children can make?

Examples:

- Tell the truth.
- Share.
- Pray.
- Come to Mass.
- Forgive.
- Help others.

Jesus Is Our Treasure

Sometimes we forget what is most important.

We become busy.

We think about games.

Homework.

Television.

Phones.

Sports.

These things can all be good.

But nothing should become more important than Jesus.

Every Sunday He invites us to come to Him.

Every time we pray, we spend time with the greatest treasure we could ever have.

Built-in Activity 5 – Treasure Chest

Leader:

Imagine you have a treasure chest.

What would you put inside?

Allow answers.

Then explain:

The most precious thing we can have is Jesus living in our hearts.

Quiet Prayer

Close your eyes.

Jesus,

Thank You for loving me.

Help me to choose You every day.

Help me to remember that You are my greatest treasure.

Amen.

Living the Gospel This Week

This week I will:

- Say my prayers every day.
 - Come to Mass with joy.
 - Thank Jesus after Holy Communion.
 - Help someone at home.
 - Remember that Jesus is my greatest treasure.
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Built-in Activity 6 – My Treasure

Ask:

How can you show Jesus that He is important to you this week?

Allow answers.

Children's Intercessions

Leader:

Let us bring our prayers before our loving Father.

For the Church, that she may help people discover the treasure of knowing Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

For Pope Leo, Bishop Patrick, priests and deacons, that they may joyfully lead people to Christ.

Lord, hear us.

For children preparing for or who have recently received Holy Communion, that they may always treasure Jesus in the Eucharist.

Lord, hear us.

For families, that their homes may be filled with faith, prayer, and love.

Lord, hear us.

For those who are poor, lonely, or suffering, that they may know God's love and care.

Lord, hear us.

For those who have died, that they may share forever in the treasure of Heaven.

Lord, hear us.

(Optional Hail Mary.)

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for being the greatest treasure in our lives.

Help us to love You.

Help us to follow You.

Help us to choose You every day.

Amen.

Sending Back

Today Jesus taught us that He is the greatest treasure we could ever find.

May we always choose Him first.

Let us return quietly to Mass.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Additional Optional Activities

7. Treasure Box

Bring a small decorated box.

Ask:

"What do you think is inside?"

After guesses, open it to reveal a small crucifix, a picture of Jesus, or simply the word "**Jesus.**"

Explain:

The greatest treasure is not something.

It is Someone.

8. What Would You Keep?

Ask:

If you had to leave your house quickly, what would you take?

Why?

Explain that some things are precious because they remind us of people we love.

Jesus is even more precious because He gives us eternal life.

9. Wise or Foolish?

Read simple situations:

- Sharing your toys.
- Telling lies.
- Helping Mum or Dad.
- Ignoring someone who is lonely.
- Saying your prayers.

Children call out:

"Wise!" or **"Foolish!"**

10. Treasure Map

Pretend to follow a treasure map.

Take a few steps.

Turn left.

Turn right.

Stop.

Explain:

Maps help us find treasure.

The Gospel helps us find Heaven.

11. Pearl Search

Show a marble, bead, or pearl (or pretend).

Explain that people once searched everywhere for beautiful pearls because they were so valuable.

Jesus says knowing Him is worth even more.

12. Echo Prayer

Leader:

Jesus is my—

Children: Greatest treasure!

Leader:

Jesus is my—

Children: Best friend!

Leader:

Jesus is my—

Children: Saviour!

Leader:

I will—

Children: Follow Him!

13. Saints Found the Treasure

Tell the children:

St Francis gave up riches.

St Thérèse gave her whole life to Jesus.

St Carlo Acutis loved the Eucharist.

Why?

Because they had found the greatest treasure.

14. Treasure Challenge

This week I will:

- ☐ Pray every day.
 - ☐ Put Jesus first.
 - ☐ Help someone at home.
 - ☐ Thank Jesus after Communion.
 - ☐ Read a Gospel story.
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15. Final Memory Line

Repeat together three times:

"Jesus is my greatest treasure, and I will follow Him."