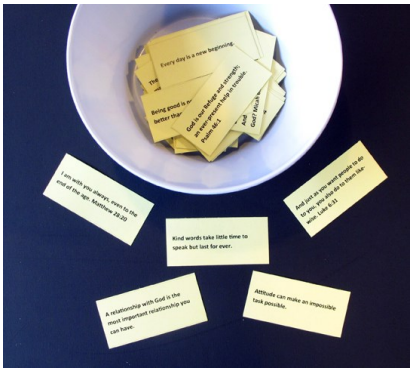
Learn by Doing

Choice Pearls of Wisdom

People sometimes refer to wise sayings as "pearls of wisdom". Many sayings like this come from popular books or famous people, but some come from the Word. This activity invites group discussion and reflection on sayings from a variety of sources. The purpose is to help students learn to identify sayings that are truly valuable—like the "pearl of great price" in the gospel of Matthew.



1. Does your family have wise sayings you like to use? E.g. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
2. What characteristics of wise sayings make them "wise"?
3. How do wise sayings come into being?
4. The Word is full of "wise sayings". In fact it is a book of wisdom unlike any other in the world. This is because it contains the "pearl of great price"—true knowledge of the Lord.
5. This bowl is filled with wise sayings. We're going to pass it around the room. When it comes to you, take a saying out of the bowl and read it aloud.
6. As you read or hear each saying, ask yourself, "Why is this wise?" "What effect would living by this saying have on my life?" and, "Does this saying help me find the 'pearl of great price'?"
7. Pass the bowl around. Encourage students to think about each saying in relation to their own lives.
8. Finish the activity by asking students to share an insight about one of the pearls of wisdom with the group. (Students can also choose to pass.)

New Church Concept: Buying and Selling

'Buying and selling' means acquiring for oneself the knowledges of truth and good from the Word and communicating them, or what is the same, learning and teaching them. This is because 'wealth and riches' in the Word stand for knowledges of truth and good; and 'silver and gold,' by means of which buying and selling are transacted, mean the truths and goods of heaven and the church. This is why 'buying and selling', and also 'doing business and trading' are spoken of in the Word here and there, and why they mean spiritual buying and selling and doing business and trading. *Apocalypse Explained* 840

Materials Needed

Pearls of Wisdom pp. 2-3 printed on stiff paper, paper cutter or scissors, bowl for sayings

Prepare in Advance

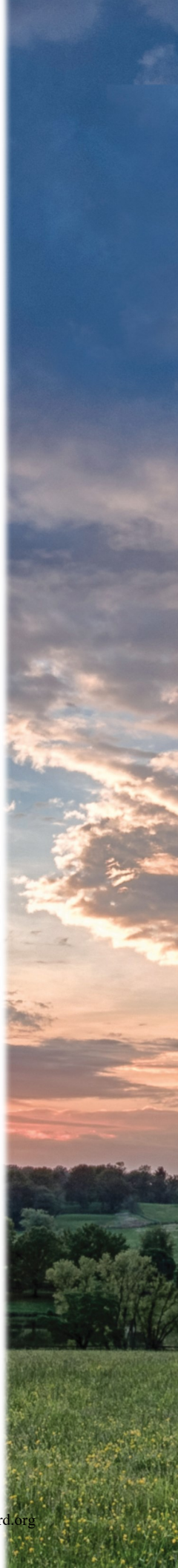
Print *Pearls of Wisdom* pp. 2-3 on stiff paper and cut them apart with a paper cutter or scissors. Put the cards in a bowl to pass.

New Church Concept

Pearl of Great Price

"Pearls" stand for the knowledges of good and truth, for these are the truths of a natural person. "The one precious pearl" means the knowledge about the Lord and His Divine [nature]. "Going away he sold all that he had and bought it" means to reject what is one's own (proprium) in order to receive life from the Lord. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1044





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Pearls of Wisdom Cards

Print on thick paper and cut out. Select sayings to include in the activity from the ones provided.

Doing the right thing is more important than having the right things.	**We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are.**	**The difference between a flower and a weed is a judgement.**
It's not them, it's you. It's not there, it's here. It's not then, it's now.	**I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20**	**Kind words take little time to speak but last for ever.**
I am the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6	**Life is the movie you see through your own eyes. It's how you take it that counts.**	**Our minds need to be fed just like our stomachs.**
Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24	**Beginning a task is the fastest way to get it done.**	**I can learn what I do not know.**
People might doubt what we say, but they usually believe what we do.	**Admitting we need to learn more is the beginning of wisdom.**	**Kind actions begin with kind thoughts.**
Progress has more to do with the path I take than with the speed I go.	**Just as you want people to do to you, do likewise to them. Luke 6:31**	**The essence of love is to love others and through love to be joined with them. See *Divine Love and Wisdom* 47**
At any moment I could start being a better person. But, which moment should I choose?	**What we think, or what we know, or what we believe, is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do.**	**Telling the truth is easier than hiding a lie.**
Whispering in kindness means more than shouting in anger.	**The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes.**	**Being positive can make the worst situation seem better.**

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Pearls of Wisdom Cards

Print on thick paper and cut out. Select sayings to include in the activity from the ones provided.

Sometimes, silence is golden.	**Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Psalm 34:8**	**Improving myself is one way to make the world better.**
Counting time is not as important as making time count.	**Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31**	**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1**
God is our Refuge and strength; an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1	**Attitude can make an impossible task possible.**	**What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8**
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth. Psalm 25:10	**The choices I make in this world make a difference to eternity.**	**You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.**
I am thankful for all of those who said NO to me. Its because of them that I'm doing it myself.	**No matter how hard the past has been, you can always begin again.**	**Humility is royalty without a crown.**
The love we have is God's gift to us, what we do with it is our gift to God.	**The only time you should look down on people is when you are helping them up!**	**You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32**
The best apology is changing your behavior.	**Love and kindness move mountains.**	**Don't trust what you see. Even salt looks like sugar.**
A relationship with God is the most important relationship you can have.	**Being good is not good enough. Be better than you were yesterday.**	**Every day is a new beginning.**

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