



The Pearl of Great Price

Level B

Ages 7-10

Matthew 13:45-46; Revelation 21:21

Lesson Focus: Looking for truth

Reading Summary: “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:45-46

“The twelve gates [of the holy city] were twelve pearls; each individual gate was of one pearl.” Revelation 21:21

Lesson 2		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Watch a Video	Peer into a Pearl Oyster directions p. 2	computer, tablet or cell phone to show part of a video at bitly.com/ExtractingPearl
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 2 teaching pictures pp. 5-6	Bible or copy of Matthew 13:45-46 and Revelation 21:21
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make children make a book that looks like a pearl in an oyster to illustrate what the pearl of great price means	Pearl of Great Price Book directions p. 3 <i>Pearl of Great Price Book</i> Cover p. 7 <i>Pearl of Great Price Book</i> Pages p. 8	crayons, colored pencils or markers; scissors; stapler
	Active Game take turns throwing dice to win a turn to “dive” for pearls in a tank; collect 10 “pearls” and trade them in for one “pearl of great price”	Dive for Pearls directions pp. 3-4	marbles or glass beads that sink in water (10 for each team), plastic tub filled up to the level of a child’s elbow, one “pearl of great price” (e.g. larger white ball to play with, white bag filled with a sweet treat like marshmallows)
	Coloring Picture	Pearl of Great Price p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Peer into a Pearl Oyster

Supplies: computer, tablet or cell phone to show part of a video at bitly.com/ExtractingPearl

1. Have you ever seen an oyster? What was it like? Did you find it in the ocean? Or see it in a store?
2. Today we're going to watch a video of someone opening up an oyster. Let's see what is inside.
3. Show the first 1+ minute(s) of *Extracting a Pearl from an Oyster*, at bitly.com/ExtractingPearl. (The video goes on to show how pearls are used for jewelry, which is not relevant to this lesson.)
4. Were you surprised that a beautiful pearl came out of the oyster?
5. Today we will hear about a merchant who went looking for a special pearl.



2. Focus on the Word

Read: Matthew 13:45-46; Revelation 21:21. Teaching pictures are available on pp. 5-6.

Have you ever looked for something special that you wanted? What was it? Did you find it?

The person in our story today was a merchant—someone who buys and sells things. Today, merchants run stores where we buy food, clothes and other things we need and want.

The merchant was looking for something very special. What was it? A pearl of great price.

Pearls are made by oysters living in the salty ocean or in freshwater ponds and streams. They are formed when a grain of sand or something similar gets into the oyster and irritates it. The oyster covers the sand with a shiny substance called nacre. Over time, the layers of nacre build up to make a pearl.

Pearls grow in many shapes and sizes. Some pearls are small and shaped unevenly. In rare cases an oyster forms a large, round pearl. Most pearls are white, but they also come in other colors like black, grey or pink. The merchant would have looked at many pearls before finding the one pearl he was looking for—the pearl of great price.

What did the merchant do when he found the “pearl of great price”? He sold everything he had so he would have enough money to buy it.

Can you imagine selling everything you have for one beautiful pearl?

The book of Revelation tells us that, “The twelve gates [of the holy city] were twelve pearls; each individual gate was of one pearl” (Revelation 21:21). Imagine a pearl as large as a door!

True ideas we find in the Word are like pearls. They are the “doors” to heaven, and they lead us to heaven when we do what they teach.

The Lord invites us to search the Word for true and good ideas—just like the merchant searched for the pearl of great price. He asks us to “sell” or give up our own ideas about what is right and wrong and instead value what comes from the Word. When we do this, the Lord can bring us into heaven.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Pearl of Great Price Book

Make a book with a cover shaped like an oyster and pages in the shape of a pearl of great price. The pages show the Lord and His Word. The final page in the book is blank for children to draw themselves doing something useful in service to the Lord.



1. Today we will be making a book in the shape of a pearl oyster. We will start by cutting out all the pages we need. Hand out scissors and show the children how to cut pages apart. Cutting around the shapes does not need to be exact. Some white edges are fine. Older children might like to stack their pages (being sure to line them up carefully) and cut around them once.
2. Now we will assemble our books. Which pages should go on the outside? (The shells.) First fold the shell in half. Then re-open it and place it on the table with the pictures face down.
3. Invite children to stack the pages in the following order: pearl, Lord, Word, blank page and pearl. Arrange the pages so that the first and last pages show the pearl picture on the outside.
4. Put the pages in the shell, so the edges are along the fold. Re-fold the shell and staple the book together at the side of the shell, as shown in the picture above. Making sure all the pages are caught by the staple.
5. Hand out crayons and markers. Invite children to color the pictures of the Lord and the Word, and to draw a picture of themselves doing something helpful on the last page.

Choice Dive for Pearls

A simple team game invites children to “dive for pearls” in a tub of water. When a team has “won” 10 pearls, the team exchanges all of their pearls for one “pearl of great price”.



1. Have you ever looked for animals or shells in rock pools by the ocean or a lake? What kinds of things have you found?
2. Today we’re going to play a team game in which we go “diving” for pearls. The “pearls” are in this large tub of water. To go diving you

Materials Needed for Each Child

Copies of *Pearl of Great Price Book Cover* p. 7 and *Pearl of Great Price Book Pages* p. 8 printed on white paper; cray-ons, colored pencils or mark-ers; scissors; stapler

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

Materials Needed

Dice (one die per team of 2-5 children); 10 marbles or glass beads per team, one “pearl of great price” (a larger ball to play with *or* a white bag with snack treats inside), plastic tub, water

Prepare in Advance

Identify a space where children can toss dice and then run 10-20 feet to a plastic tub. Set up plastic tub with elbow-deep water in it. Sprinkle 10 marbles or glass beads in the bottom for each team playing.

Dive for Pearls *continued*

- must throw a die and get a six. Divide the students into teams of 2-5 players.
3. Team members will each take a turn to throw the die, with all teams playing at the same time. When a player throws a six he or she runs to the tank and fishes for one pearl. (Your hands may *feel* more than one pearl, but you may take only one!)
 4. If a member of another team throws a six right after you, he or she also runs to the tank. If they catch up and touch you before you have put your hands in the water you must return to your seat and continue to throw the die.
 5. Once you have a pearl, run back and place the pearl in the center of your team. Continue to take turns throwing the die.
 6. Once a team has 10 pearls, stop throwing the die and take all the pearls to the teacher to trade in for a “pearl of great price.”
 7. *For a longer game* use 2 dice. Children must throw a combination of six points (1+5, 2+4, 3+3), or a rarer combination (such as 6+6 or 1+1). *Or* increase the distance children must run. *Or* increase the number of pearls children must gather before trading them in for the “pearl of great price”.



Choice Coloring Picture: Pearl of Great Price

Hand out copies of *Pearl of Great Price* (p. 9) for children to color.

New Church Concept Gates of Pearl

The reason why “each of the gates was of one pearl” is that all the knowledges of truth have relation to one knowledge, which is their containant. This one knowledge is the knowledge of the Lord. Acknowledgement and knowledge of the Lord conjoin into one all the knowledges of truth and good from the Word because there is a connection in all spiritual truths. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 916

Materials Needed

copies of *Pearl of Great Price* p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Help children learn the memory verse by saying the first phrase and inviting the children to repeat it after you. Continue until you have said the entire verse. Repeat the verse a few times with the children until they can say it with confidence.

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who found one pearl of great price, sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46 (excerpts)

Closing

The beautiful true ideas in the Word shine like pearls in the light of heaven. When we search for these beautiful ideas and make them part of our lives, they become doors to heaven for us.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.











Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we learned a parable about a pearl of great price. A merchant looked for it for a long time. Ask your child what happened when he found it!

The pearl of great price is the truth in the Lord's Word. We can look for it, too, value it, and make it part of our lives by doing what it tells us.

We encourage you to help your child remember this week's memory verse by saying it once or twice a day—in the morning, at mealtime, or before bed.

Memory Verse

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who found one pearl of great price, sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:45-46 (excerpts)



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