

Parable of the Great Pearl

Matthew 13:45

In the Godly Play presentation of this brief parable (found only in Matthew 13:45), the storyteller avoids the temptation to use the largest pearl for the great pearl. Greatness has to do with more than size. Children often regard big things as more important than small; for example, they might feel that adults are more important than children. Furthermore, our culture holds up big things for us to admire, too, from big houses to big cars to big bank accounts. Enjoy the "countercultural" undercurrent in today's story.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's Godly Play presentation. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had meaning, and yet another talk about his or her own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are

supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's lesson offered below. A smaller version of the materials used in today's Godly Play presentation is available for home use; to order, contact Godly Play Resources (1-800-445-4390 or www.godlyplay.com) and ask for the "Miniature Parable of the Great Pearl!"

Whether you read the presentation or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today's presentation, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what the parables can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Parables cannot ever be all used up. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation

There was once someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not like the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom they had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom that they had ever even heard of.