**Hidden Treasure – Leader Notes**

**Matthew 13:44-46**

**HOOK**

**1. Have you ever won a lottery or draw of some kind? What did you win?**

**2. What would you do if you won a million dollars?**

**BOOK/LOOOK**

Read Matthew 13:44-46

**44“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.**

**45“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

**3. How does the phrase “already but not yet” describe the Kingdom of God?** (The kingdom of God exists where God rules and His rulership is acknowledged. The kingdom of God was inaugurated in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. But the kingdom of God hasn’t yet come in its fullness. One day, God’s kingdom will be consummated in the personal, victorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though in principle Jesus is the exalted Lord of heaven and earth, in fact only those people who’ve submitted their will to Jesus have entered the Kingdom of God.)

**4. How do we enter the kingdom of God?** (The kingdom of God is entered through repentance and faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus). Read John 3:3.

**5. What is the key summary teaching of these twin parables?** (Whether you’re a surprised finder, or a serious seeker, when the moment comes, you must be willing to risk everything for the rule and reign of God in your life.

**6. What’s the past picture of the Hidden Treasure parable?** (A common labourer, working for his day’s pay, finds a buried treasure and the ploughboy was willing to give up everything to make the field and hidden treasure his own).

**7. What’s the timeless truth about the parable of the hidden treasure?** (Some people are suddenly surprised when they discover the Kingdom of God). Read Is.65:1.

**8. What people in the Bible, or contemporary people you know of, who were surprised by discovering the joy of the kingdom of God?** (Shepherds – Luke 2; Samaritan woman – John 4; Philippian jailer – Acts 16; C.S. Lewis)

**9. What’s the past picture of the pearl of Great Price parable?**  (A traveling businessman finds a large priceless pearl of perfect proportion. Suddenly, he liquidates his entire inventory to buy the pearl. The gem trader was willing to give up everything to own something even more valuable).

**10.** **What’s the timeless truth of the parable of the Pearl? (**Some people discover the kingdom of God after a long search. The pearl was the most valuable gem, and a relationship with the King of Kings is the most valuable treasure we can seek).

**11. What are examples in the Bible or in contemporary life of people who came to Jesus after a long search?** (Simeon – Luke 2:25-32; the 3 wise men – Matt. 2:1-11; Nicky Gumble)

**12. What is God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:13?**

**13. If the gospel of a relationship with God is good news, hidden treasure, and a Pearl of Great Price, why do so few people find it or search for it?**

**TOOK**

**14. What have you given up because of the greater value of the kingdom of God?**

**15. What’s the biggest barrier for you in your search of God?**

**16. Once you’ve found Christ, is there any purpose to continue to seek Him? (**To have found Christ, and still seek Him, is the soul’s paradox of love).