

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 July 2023 - Year A

“He sold all that he had and bought the field.”

Something to Think About

What do you treasure in your life? What is of great value to you?

The Story

This week we hear Jesus tell the disciples that the Kingdom is like finding a treasure in a field. Whoever finds it will go to extraordinary lengths to buy the field so that the treasure is theirs forever. Then he gives the people another example: the kingdom is like finding some lovely pearls and selling everything to buy those pearls of great value.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

13:44-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds treasure hidden in a field and buries it again.

A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls.

After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video:

[The Parable of the Hidden Treasure](#)



Group Discussion

Tell the children that you (leader) have a treasure and it is hidden in this small treasure chest. Invite the children to guess its contents. Open the small treasure chest to reveal the treasure. Tell the children why you treasure this object so much and what lengths you would go to in order to protect it and keep it safe.

Invite the children to talk about what they treasure in life.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for wise leaders who treasure our country, Australia. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for people who don't have enough money to buy food. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who are hungry or homeless. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for those who are striving to grow closer to Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we may treasure all of God's gifts to us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Thank you for teaching us what is most important.
Help us to build up God's kingdom with our loving words and actions.
Amen.

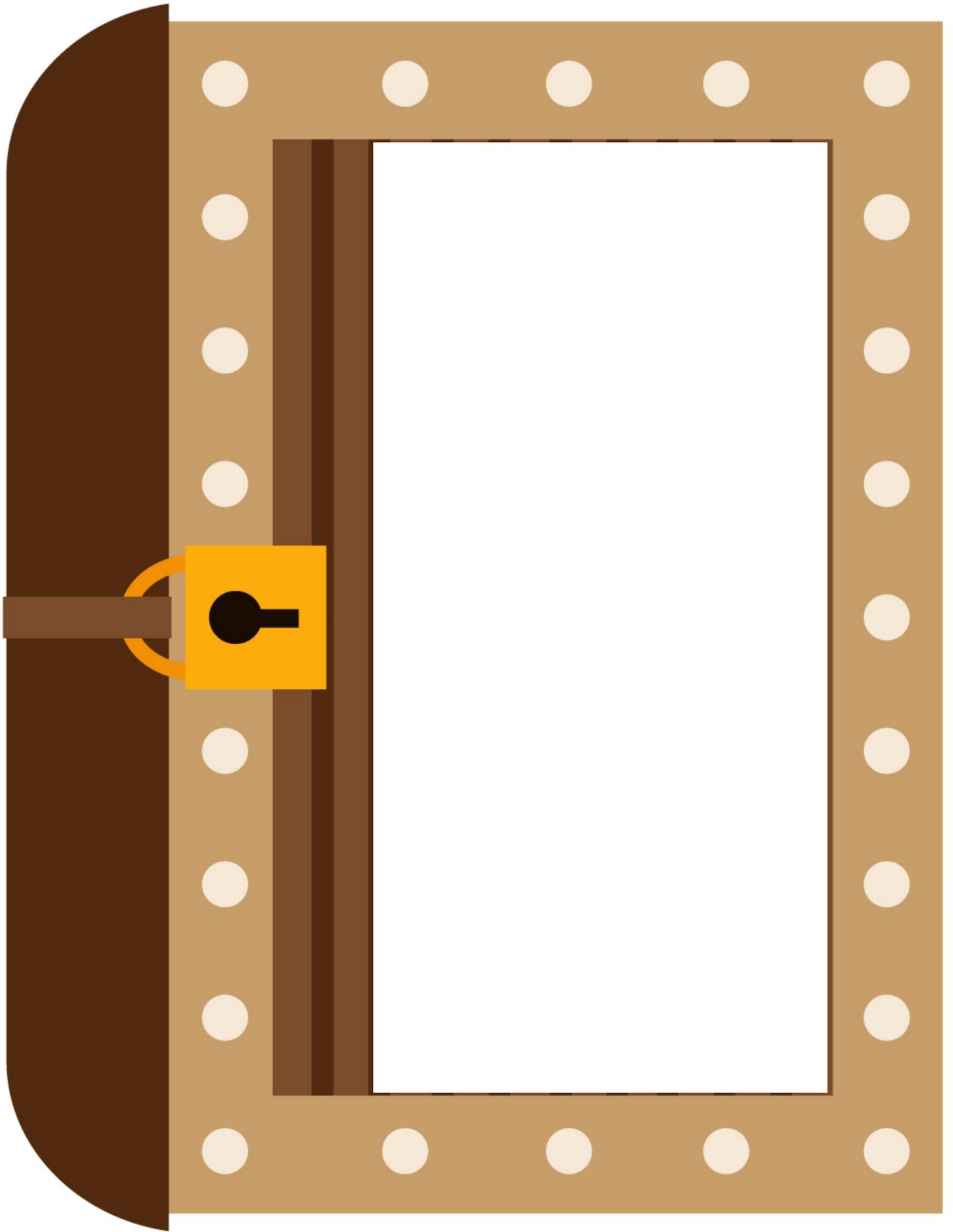
Group Activity

What Do You Treasure?

You will need: a template for each child on cardstock paper, scissors, clear contact paper, glitter/sequins/feathers/confetti.

- 1) Cut out the treasure chest as well as its rectangular centre.
- 2) Cut two pieces of contact paper that are bigger than the treasure chest.
- 3) Remove backing of one piece of contact paper and place treasure chest face down on the contact paper.
- 4) Children decorate the inside of their treasure chest with sequins etc
- 5) Peel off the backing of the second piece of contact paper and place it on top of the other piece.
- 6) Use scissors to trim the excess contact paper. Display on a window with tape.





GOD'S LOVE: MORE PRECIOUS THAN A BURIED TREASURE



HAPPY IS THE ONE WHO FINDS A TREASURE!

**HAVE A TREASURE HUNT
AT HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY.
FIND A SMALL BOX AND PUT A SECRET
'TREASURE' INSIDE.**



**BURY OR HIDE IT IN A SECRET PLACE
IN THE GARDEN.
THEN LET EVERYONE SEARCH FOR IT.
IF THEY GET CLOSE, YOU CAN TELL THEM
THEY ARE 'WARM'.
IF THEY GET CLOSER, YOU CAN SAY:
'WARMER'.**