

### SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13:45-46

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

### REFLECTION

When we get really, really excited about something, we will often drop what we are doing in order to focus on it. We will even make sacrifices just so we can be a part of wonderful, good things. Remember how Jesus called his disciples? Many of the disciples were fishermen, but when Jesus called them, they dropped their nets and began a new life.

This still happens today! During the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, a group of people became passionate and angry about the racism in southern states. They dropped what they were doing, left all their plans behind, and rode in buses together to fight for justice. They were called the Freedom Riders. And they weren't the only ones. There have been movements like this all over the world! In South Africa, people struggled for nearly 50 years against a racist system called apartheid. Today in Hong Kong, people organize to fight for their human rights. In Russia, people work against the oppression of the LGBTQ community. Passionate people let go of their plans and head out to be a part of something bigger.

In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a merchant who was looking for fine pearls, ends up finding one beautiful, valuable pearl, and sells everything he has to buy it. Now he has nothing except for one big, beautiful pearl. He isn't even a merchant anymore! He has become the guy with the big pearl. Ha! Now what?

Sometimes, the kingdom of God feels like this kind of adventure. We don't know exactly what we are getting ourselves into, but we know the mysterious adventure is worth trading in our treasures. The disciples and the Freedom Riders did not know how their stories would end. They may have been afraid to try something new, but they took the risk.

It may feel silly or even irresponsible to sell or give up all you have to go on an adventure like this, but it can be exciting and freeing! When we decide to build a life on invisible treasures, we do not have to stress about our old treasures. We may still have precious possessions, but they do not compare with the new way to live that comes with this adventure.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Has your family ever gathered to pay attention to one, very important thing?
- Have you ever given up something in order to try something new or different?
- Who else left behind a life or treasures in order to live a different kind of life? Can you think of anyone else who made a difference by giving up their treasures?
- How do you decide what risks are worth taking?

## ACTIVITY

What does this parable look like for your family? Do you ever change your plans? When families want to build up their invisible family treasure, they can go on adventures together. Time together helps us create memories, build trust, and share love with one another. It is not always easy and can require sacrifice. We may have to stop doing something else in order to create family treasure.

Choose a "pearl" from this list or come up with one on your own which you can do together. Support one another as you may have to change some plans to make it happen!

Go to the farmer's market.

Take silly photos together.

Bake a treat and share it.

Eat a meal at a table.

Play a board game.

Watch a sunset.

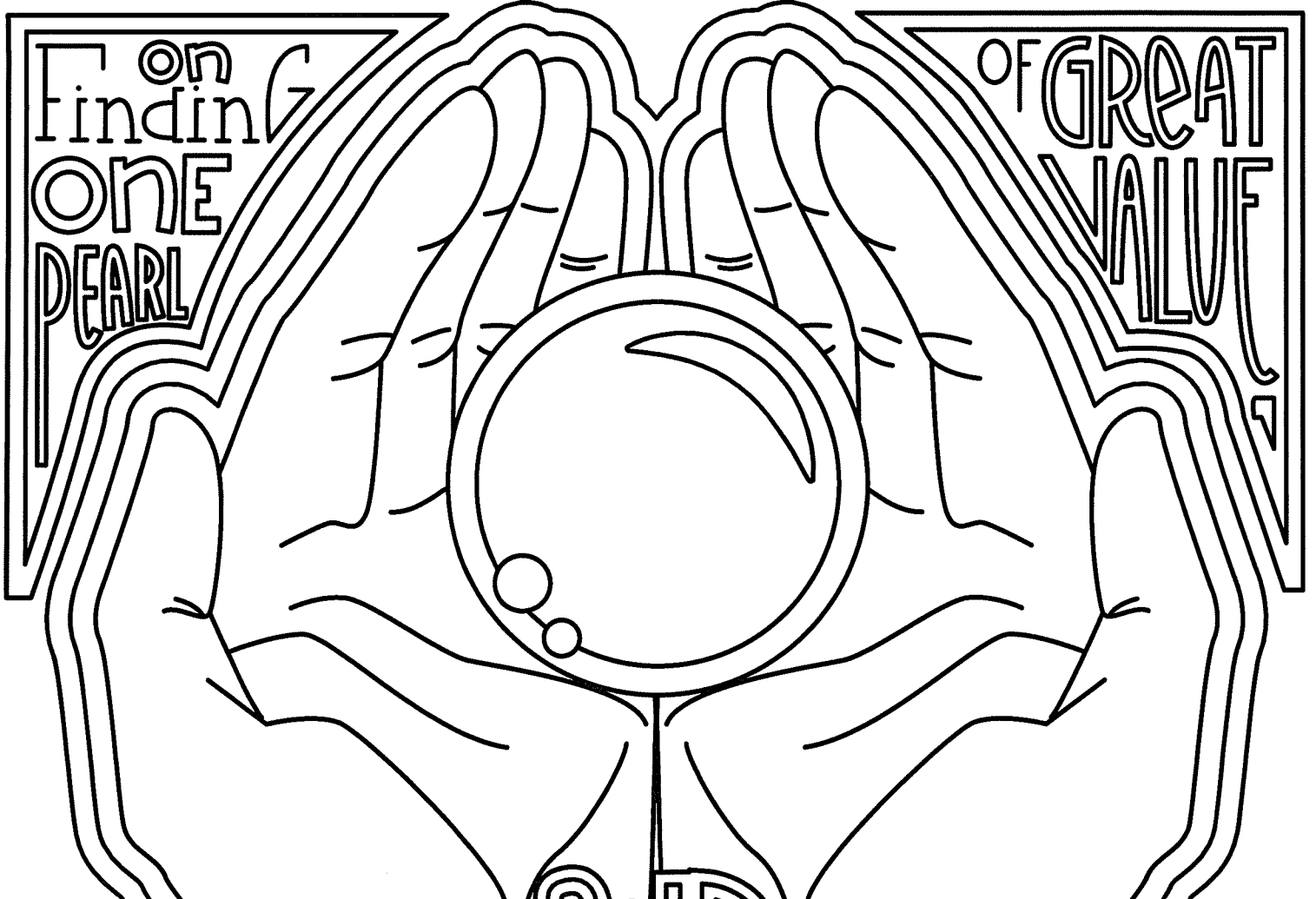
Watch a movie.

Go on a walk.

## PRAVER

Dear God,  
You call us to follow you,  
giving up things that distract us.  
Help us find you in the simplest of ways.  
God, we are ready to find you and willing to follow you.  
**Amen.**

the  
KINGDOM of HEAVEN  
is like a  
MERCHANT in SEARCH of FINE PEARLS



on  
Finding  
ONE  
PEARL

OF GREAT  
VALUE

he went and SOLD all that he had

AND BOUGHT IT.