

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# HIDDEN TREASURE

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *Parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52)*

In addition to the two extended parables of the sower and the weeds, which Jesus goes on to interpret, in chapter 13 Matthew collects a series of shorter sayings about the Kingdom of heaven. Each parable makes its own specific point. For example, the parable of the hidden treasure, which is told only in Matthew's gospel, points to the experience of the disciples. They, too, have found treasure in Jesus and left all that they had to follow him.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *hidden treasure*.

##### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 13: 44-46)*

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,  
which someone found and hid;  
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has  
and buys that field.  
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.'

#### *Gospel prayer*

Lord God,  
your kingdom is worth more  
than all human treasure.  
Teach us to value your kingdom  
above everything else,  
that we give ourselves  
to your service;  
now and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on the two parables in Matthew 13: 44-45:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- how helpful do you find the image of the Kingdom of Heaven as hidden treasure or a precious pearl?
- how do you rate the behaviour of the person who found the treasure?
- how do you rate the behaviour of the merchant who bought the pearl?
- what parable would you write to make this point today?
- what do these parables say for us today?

### ***Using your Bible***

The two parables about the hidden treasure and the precious pearl belong only to Matthew's Gospel. There are two other passages only in Matthew where there is reference to pearls and to making purchases:

- Matthew 7: 6
- Matthew 25: 9

Explore passages of the Wisdom literature in the Old Testament that resonate with Matthew's parable:

- Job 28: 12-19
- Proverbs 2: 1-5

### ***Exploring online***

- explore interpretations of the parable of the hidden treasure
- explore the Godly play video of the parable of the treasure
- explore images and pictures of the parable of the hidden treasure

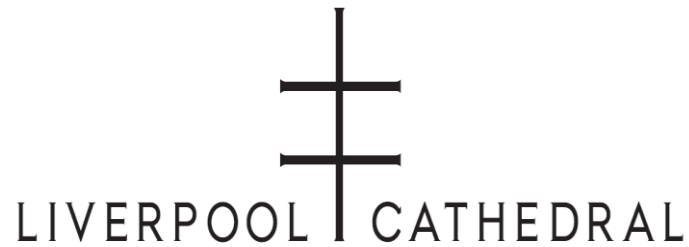
### ***Drawing on experience***

- reflect on something that you have found
- reflect on something that you regard as priceless
- reflect on how much you value your religious faith

## PROPER 12 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020

### *Creating and making*

- create a picture or make a model of Treasure Island
- make a collage of pictures of 'priceless' things
- re-tell the parables of hidden treasure and the priceless pearl in contemporary ways
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Kingdom of Heaven as hidden treasure



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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