

	Lesson: 1
	Title: What is the Kingdom Like?
	Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33 (NIV)
Resources:	Matthew 13:44, Matthew 13:45-46, Matthew 19:29, Matthew 6:33, Luke 17: 20-21, <u>Rediscovering the Kingdom</u> by Dr Myles Munroe
Materials:	sand (3 or 4tbs per child), snack size zip-lock baggie (1 per child), one small pearl per child, Story pictures (treasure in a field, merchant finding the pearl), gold coin cut outs (construction paper), markers or chalk, chart paper or chalkboard
Intro:	What is a Kingdom? What is it like? What do you know about kingdoms?
Activity:	Make a list - Have kids brainstorm the intro questions. (Age appropriate – work in groups or list on board or chart paper)
Activity:	Art – Bring out a bowl of pearls. - Today I have a story, told by Jesus. He uses a pearl to help describe a specific kingdom, God’s Kingdom. First I’m going to give you each a pearl. Give each child a zip lock baggie with 3 – 4 tbs of sand and then add the pearl. Is the pearl easy to see in the sand?
Lesson:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Story Pictures to tell each of the two verses below. • Matt 13:44 "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." • Matt 13:45-46 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do you have a favorite toy? Game? TV show? Would you give it up for the Kingdom of Heaven? In these verses Jesus says that these men were so overjoyed in finding the treasure or the pearl <u>they sold everything</u> to have it. They sold their houses, cars, clothing ...everything. – Jesus is comparing the Kingdom of Heaven and these treasures. He is saying that when you seek and find the Kingdom of Heaven you will be willing to give him everything to have the Kingdom of Heaven. Could you give your favorites to God for the Kingdom of Heaven? • Later in Matthew 19:29 he says, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is nothing that we need that God cannot provide for us. He compares us to the birds and the flowers. If he takes care of them, we know he will take care of us, too. • Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – So when we seek the Kingdom of Heaven we know that God will take care of us and we don't have to worry about things. • Who wants to seek the Kingdom of Heaven? • Where can we learn about the Kingdom of Heaven? • Who told us about the Kingdom of Heaven? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Now, seeking or finding the Kingdom of Heaven is not just stumbling on a treasure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 17: 20-21 "Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can you think of anyone that searches for treasures? – Pirates ... Pirates hide their treasure somewhere, then they draw a treasure map and then they go look for treasure. – Have you heard of any pirates? Pirate stories? – So Pirates are always looking at a treasure map and traveling to find their treasures. – Where did Jesus say the Kingdom was? Yes, God hid the Kingdom inside us and we read the Bible and we look for the Kingdom of God within us not somewhere else.
Prayer:	Thank God for putting His kingdom inside of us, that we don't have to search to the ends of the earth, that we just have to know Him and His word and live in His kingdom.
Activity, Snack and/or Games:	<p>Memory Verse – Matt 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."</p> <p>Ideas for practice: Use gold coin cut-outs for children to write each word or phrase on and have them place them in order.</p> <p>Act It Out – Let's pretend we are in the field, we are walking along and right at our feet what do we see? A treasure. What do we do? Yes hide it and go home and sell everything and come back and buy the land.</p> <p>Writing – Review Matthew 13:44-46 Have the children write about the following. Do you have a favorite Toy? Book? Game? TV Show? Draw or write our own parable using your treasure as a comparison to the Kingdom of God.</p>
Review Game Questions: (may be used in a card game, board game, or bowling game application)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact – Matt 13:44. What did the man do when he found the treasure in the field? • Review – Name some things God has provided for you. • Emotion – Describe a time when you received a great present. • Application – Matt 13:45-46. The merchant was searching for fine pearls. What should we search for? • Linguistic – recite Matt 6:33 • Activity – Play follow the leader. Who is our leader? • Fact – Matt 13: 44. Why did the man buy the land? • Emotion – Describe what it is like when you lose something. Now describe what it is like when you find it. • Application – How do we seek or search for the Kingdom of Heaven? • Activity – Matt 13:45-46. Tell the story of the pearl merchant. What was Jesus saying that the pearl was like?







