



Sunday, 14th June
The Pearl

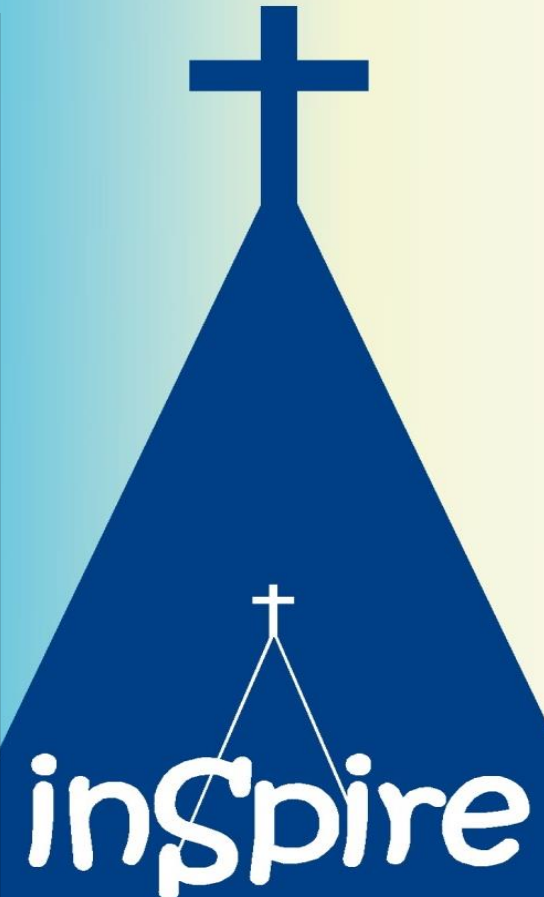
Hello everyone, it's lovely to catch up in this way! I do hope you are all well and that for those of you who have started back at school all has gone well. I am sure it is strange because it is different, but at the same time, I bet it is lovely to see all your friends and teachers again! 😊 😊

Our story today is one of the best in the Bible..... I think! It really is one of my favourites. The message is FANTASTIC!!

Before we read the story, I'd like you to think about what you treasure the most. What is your most special thing in all the world? You might even have a special treasure box where you keep your special treasures.

Think about it for a minute (although you probably know immediately) and then share your thoughts with your each other. If you have a treasure box, tell your family what you keep in it.

Jesus told us a wonderful story about a very, very rich man. We don't know his name but let's call him Claudius. He has LOTS of things that he loves.....things that are really important to him. Let's imagine Claudius is living today. He has the most enormous house with a games room and cinema. He has lakes and fountains in his garden and of course, the fanciest of swimming pools. He wears the most



expensive clothes; he has race horses and racing cars and of course, he owns a football club! He has everything he could possibly want.

But one day he sees something that makes him stop and look again. It is something that makes his heart beat faster; it is something very special. In a shop window he sees the most beautiful white pearl. As soon as he sees it, Claudius knows he has to have it. He wants it more than anything else in the world.

“£10 million pounds “, says the jeweller. (It really is a very fancy pearl!)

“£10 million pounds?” says Claudius. “But that is more money than I have in the bank! That is more money than I have hidden under my mattress!”

But Claudius wants this pearl more than anything!

So, what do you think he does?

He rushes home because he has a plan! He sells his fast racing cars; he sells his horses and his expensive clothes; he sells his house with its cinema and fancy swimming pool; he even sells his football club! He sells everything he has because he wants that pearl SO much. The pearl is his best ever treasure and makes him the happiest man in the world.

Why did Jesus tell this story? Jesus said that God’s love is like that pearl. When we see it, when we feel it, we know it’s the best treasure ever and we want it more than anything else in the world and we want to share it with other people too.

Knowing God’s love is the best treasure of all!

Wow! What an amazing story is that!

Let's play some games to remind us of this very special treasure!

Young children:

Hide "treasure" in a sand pit for young children to find. Talk about the excitement they feel as they dig and then discover something. You can use anything as your treasure as it's the fun of discovering that makes it special shells, special figures eg Play mobile, sweets or fruit wrapped in foil; coins. Also place a big heart with God's love written on it, wrapped in foil. When this is discovered, talk about this being the best treasure of all.

All ages love a treasure hunt:

Or you could do a treasure hunt around the house or garden (this might work better for fruit or sweets wrapped in foil!) Or you could hide lots of hearts with God's love written on them.

Children could make the hearts, each child having a different colour. They write "God's love" on each heart and then go and hide their hearts for their brother or sister to find. (You just need to check who is finding which set of coloured hearts!)

Simple treasure hunts could involve finding pieces of cut wool, stone or pasta shells.

Make sure everyone brings their treasure back and places it on a big heart saying God's love!

Talk about this being the best love of all.



Want to get crafty? Then.....

Make a special treasure box to keep your treasures in. Small tea boxes are great for little treasures (and some are like a little chest with a lid!) or you can use an empty cereal box. You can always cut it so it opens like a treasure chest.

Paint your box or make it special by decorating it with cut out pictures, silver foil, painted pasta.....anything!

Let's have some chat time with God

Get yourself comfortable so you and God can have a little chat together. Remember to chat in your head!

Maybe Mum or dad will help lead your chat time.....

- **Thank God for the special people in your life (this may be people in your family, friends at school, people who help you like your teacher, a coach at a sports club)**
- **Thank God that He is the best treasure ever. Tell him how important he is to you.**
- **Tell God about one person you would like to share His love with, maybe somebody who doesn't know God yet.**
- **Then tell God about what you're looking forward to doing this week.**

Let God speak to you. He might put a picture in your mind or he might speak to you later in the week in something someone says to you or in something you read.

Then let's say,

Thank you, God for your amazing world. Help us to treasure it and look after it.

We thank you for your love for each one of us.

We thank you that you are the best treasure of all. Amen.

You might like to say the Lord's prayer together as a family. It's a very lovely thing to do.

And then how about a song? Here are some you might like to sing. Sing along to the Youtube music

Of course, there is, God's love is oh so wonderful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83ROJiwcTTI> (not the best version but it does give the backing and the words!)

And "Your love lasts forever". This is a great one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rpofE9AHqU>

The muppet version of, "This little light of mine" is quite fun...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGWC6_SjHKQ

Have a great week everyone and maybe we'll have a Zoom Sunday's Cool soon where we can all see each other!

With love and blessings,

Hilary and the Sunday's Cool team.

