

9

Priceless!

Grace
We allow God to transform us.

POWER TEXT

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 13:44-46
- *Christ's Object Lessons*, chap. 8, pp. 103-114; chap. 9, pp. 115-121
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 70-72
- Student story on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus has given everything to purchase them.
- **Feel** grateful to be a treasure to Jesus.
- **Respond** by praising God for searching for and finding them.

POWERPOINT

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus tells two parables—the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price—that tell not only how important Jesus should be to us, but also how important people are to God. Both the treasure hidden in a field and the pearl of great price are purchased by one who has to sell everything he has in order to buy them. In our lesson this week, this illustrates Jesus, the "Merchant," who considered us so valuable He gave all He had—His life on Calvary to redeem us—to buy us back.

This is a lesson about grace.

God treasures each individual as if they were the only person on this earth. He places such value on us that Jesus would have given His life to save just one person.

Teacher Enrichment

"The parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls has a double significance: it applies not only to men as seeking the kingdom of heaven, but to Christ as seeking His lost inheritance. Christ, the heavenly merchantman seeking goodly pearls, saw in lost humanity the pearl of price. In man, defiled and ruined by sin, He saw the possibilities of redemption. Hearts that have been the battleground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than are those who have never fallen. God looked upon humanity, not as vile and worthless; He looked upon it in Christ, saw it as it might become through redeeming love. He collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to buy the pearl. And Jesus, having found it, resets it in His own diadem. 'For they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land.' Zechariah 9:16. 'They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels.' Malachi 3:17" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 118).

How does God reveal to me how very much He treasures me?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Definition Search*	index cards, pencils, two envelopes
		B. This Is Me	props (suggestions listed in activity), box
		C. Quick Poems	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, paper, pens/pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, "treasure chest"
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	paper, pens/pencils
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, pencils, photocopies of responsive reading sheet (p. 156)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, photocopies (p. 157), pens/pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Priceless Advice*	
		Treasure Boxes	small boxes, glue, decorations or markers, slips of paper, pens/pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	*10-15*	*Booster Shot*	(Optional: bulletin board supplies, picture of Jesus, pictures of students, paper, pens/pencils)
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments	
		Reminder to Parents	
		Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ index cards
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ two envelopes

Definition Search

Write each of the following definitions on separate index cards and set them aside:

Treasure: (1) wealth (as money, jewels, or precious metals) stored up or hoarded (buried); (2) wealth of any kind or in any form; riches; (3) to hold or keep as precious. (*Merriam-Webster*)

Redeem: (1) to buy back, to get or win back, to win from what distresses or harms; (2) to free from captivity by paying a ransom. (*Merriam-Webster*)

As students arrive, direct them to a corner where you have set out index cards and pencils. Write the following directions where all can see.

On an index card, write a dictionary-style definition of the word "treasure" and sign your name to it. Place your definition in the appropriate envelope. Do the same for the word "redeem."

Go ahead with another readiness activity before debriefing this one so that late arrivals can participate. When you are ready to complete this activity, slip the official definition cards you made earlier into the envelope with the students' definitions.Tell the students that you will read all the definitions for one word (including the official definition) through once, then you will read them again and the students must vote for only one definition. Write on each card how many students voted for the definition. Repeat for the second set of word definitions. Read the official definitions aloud.

Debriefing

Let's say together our power text, 1 Peter 1:18, 19:

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Ask: **With what treasure are we redeemed?** (Jesus' blood) **Can the treasure that ransoms us get old, spoiled, or outdated?** (Not in this case, because Jesus died once for all.) **Our power point this week is:**

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ props
- ☐ box

This Is Me

Furnish a box with props such as cloth, needle, wire, hammer, nails, wood, radio, calculator, notebook, pen, computer mouse, book, camera, etc. Set it where students can gather around it quietly making their selections.

Say: **You are going to use one of the props from this box to tell the rest of the group something unique or special about yourself. You will have one minute to chose your prop. You may select it, but you must leave it in the box until it is your turn to speak. You will have 30 seconds to demonstrate your talent, skill, interest, or to talk about your talent, skill, or interest.** Answer any questions your students have.

Say: **You have one minute to select your prop. Begin.** Call time in one minute. Go around the circle and have each student share. Time each one for 30 seconds or select a helper to do the timing.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does it feel to express something about yourself in such a short amount of time? What did you learn about yourself in this activity? What did you learn about others? Does God rush us when He asks us to tell about ourselves? If God places such a high value on me, how does this affect how I treat others?**

Let's say together our power text, 1 Peter 1:18, 19:

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Say: **This week's power point is:**

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Prayer and Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Quick Poems

Write the following lines where all can see. Supply paper and pens/pencils to your students. Have them use one or more of the lines as the first line of a couplet (two rhyming lines).

Example 1: We are worth more than silver or gold.
Example 2: Jesus gave us Himself as a priceless gift.
Example 3: I am a treasure in my Savior's eyes.

You may add a second verse to one of the above and read your couplet to the students to demonstrate to them how a couplet sounds like.

Have volunteers share their poems.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you know God values you? Jesus told two stories to illustrate how much He was willing to give for each one of us. Let's say together our power text,**

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Our power point reminds us that

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to receive help from peers.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"It's About Grace" (see music on page 152)
"For God So Loved the World" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 43)
"Calvary's Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 60)
"When He Cometh" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 218)
"My God Loves Me" (*Praise Time*, no. 78)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ "treasure chest"

Use a box or container that looks like a treasure chest or a padded box that could be used for storing valuables.

Say: **Giving our offerings can help others learn that Jesus is the greatest treasure and that He values each person immensely.**

Prayer

Today, pray a "finish the sentence" prayer. During prayer have the students silently finish each sentence you begin.

Heavenly Father, I know I am a treasure to You because . . .

Thank Jesus for bringing each student into your Sabbath School and name a way in which each is important to the group. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Introducing the Bible Story

Give each student a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to estimate how much they are worth. How much did their shoes, clothes, etc., cost? If they have a watch, glasses, or braces, these should be included in the value. Ask each student to share what they decide they are worth.

Ask: **What do you think you are worth to God? In our lesson today Jesus tells us two stories to illustrate how He values you.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ copies of page 156

Experiencing the Story

Photocopy and distribute the responsive reading sheets, found on page 156, and read the reading responsively with your students.

After the reading, ask a student volunteer to read Matthew 13:45, 46. Divide the students into groups, assigning the following roles within each group: businessman, traders, family, and friends. Have them mime the story.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ copies of page 157
- ☐ pens/pencils

Distribute the "Talking to the Merchant" study sheet found on page 157, and pens or pencils. Allow time for your students, alone or in pairs, to fill in the sheets. Fill in a sheet of your own while your students are doing theirs.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does this study make you feel about yourself? How does it make you feel about God?** Ask if there are any volunteers to read a portion of their dialogue. **Let's repeat the power text, 1 Peter 1:18, 19:**

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Say: **Remember, our power point this week is:**

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Reminder to Teacher: Global Youth Day is the third Sabbath in March. Have you started planning your Global Youth Day service activity with your students?

Priceless Advice

Read the following aloud to your students:

Dwaine is very talkative at church. He is always trying to get a laugh, and he knows how to disrupt the whole class. The other week Dwaine was in a group that was supposed to make a poster. Dwaine didn't write anything; he just made jokes about everything the rest of his group did. I wonder if Dwaine can't write; maybe his jokes are a cover-up. Come to think of it, Dwaine does the same thing every time the group is asked to open our Bibles. Maybe he can't read. He probably doesn't feel very good about himself; he just fools around so people won't start asking questions.

Debriefing

Ask: **How easy would it be to help Dwaine believe that he is priceless? What would you do or say to convince him? If Dwaine believes that he is priceless, what difference might it make in his life? at Sabbath School? What difference does it make to you that *you* are priceless to God?**

Say: **Repeat the power point with me:**

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Treasure Boxes

YOU NEED:
- ☐ small boxes
- ☐ glue
- ☐ decorations
- ☐ OR markers
- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Have students create treasure boxes. If possible, provide decorations such as imitation jewels from a craft store. On slips of paper, have them write the following: **I believe I am a precious treasure to God.**

Encourage the students to read the statement out loud to each other in class and to themselves each morning when they wake up.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ bulletin board supplies
- ☐ picture of Jesus
- ☐ pictures of students
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Booster Shot

Invite students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to tell someone special to them how much they appreciate them. Ask: **Who are some people in your life whom you treasure? How did you let them know how much you appreciate them? How did you tell the special people in your life about how much God treasures each one of them?**

Knowing that God values them should give students a boost. Help them consider the following facts as you read them aloud.

1. **The King of the universe would love to spend time especially with you this morning.**
2. **Your heavenly Father enjoys the time you share with Him as you worship on Sabbath.**
3. **Jesus died so that you may live forever with Him.**
4. **Jesus thinks you are worth giving up everything for.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Knowing all this, who or what do you think was the treasure hidden in the field?** (Accept their responses, which might include: the Bible, the kingdom of God, Jesus, grace. Make sure they also know that they are the treasure; God gave up everything to save them.)

Ask: **How does knowing that make you feel? What do you want to do about it?** (Accept their responses. Encourage them to do one or more of the following:

1. Compose and/or sing a praise song.
2. Dedicate themselves to God.
3. Work on a class bulletin board that celebrates one of the above truths. (Have a large picture of Jesus, photos of your students, and bulletin board lettering available, if possible.)
4. Write "You Are Precious" notes for members of your congregation (may be delivered anonymously).

Say: **Remember, our power point this week is:**

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to receive assistance from one of their peers.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Thank God for treasuring each of your Sabbath School members. Repeat the power point together.

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **A runaway son returns home and promises to serve his father. When we experience God's grace we will want to serve others out of love for Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

Priceless!

Imagine that while scuba diving you spotted an old sunken ship with a lot of treasure still on board, and no one knew where it was but you. What would you do? What would you be willing to give to get the priceless treasure? In our lesson today Jesus talks about such a hidden treasure.

Jesus is coming to town." The news spread from house to house. Everyone was excited; the air seemed to crackle with anticipation. People rushed around, finishing their work. Mom didn't have to insist today. No one wanted to miss a single word Jesus said.

Jesus was different, not like other ministers or the Pharisees. You could understand everything Jesus said. He told wonderful stories. There was something special about Jesus' stories; you enjoyed them when you heard them, but the more you thought about them afterward, the more spiritual meaning you discovered.

When Jesus started talking about the kingdom of heaven, He grabbed everyone's attention. Many wondered if this was the time they had been waiting for, when He would proclaim Himself the Messiah and chase the Romans out of their land. Would there be riches for everyone in the new kingdom? Everyone listened, confidently expecting that soon they would be rid of their Roman masters.

But the kingdom Jesus talked about didn't feature Roman soldiers, revolution, and rebellion. As the people made their way home they quietly discussed and wondered about the kingdom Jesus had described. It didn't make sense. It didn't fit with their picture of a kingdom. When were they going to get rid of the cruel, oppressive Romans?

Seeing confusion on their faces, Jesus told more stories. First He compared the kingdom of heaven to a farmer who rents a field.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field," Jesus began. "When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field" (Matthew 13:44).

It was not unusual that when a farmer was plowing a field he would find a box full of priceless treasure. The farmer would then try to negotiate with the owner of the property the purchase of the field he had been renting. The price of a field was usually far beyond anything the farmer could easily afford. So the farmer would go away with a heavy heart because he didn't own that much money.

But the farmer in Jesus' story quickly raced home wondering how he could raise the money. Arriving home, he explained to his family that he needed to sell everything they owned to buy a field. The farmer's wife and friends could not understand what had happened to him. But the farmer knew that if he could buy the field, the treasure would be his.

To help the truth of the story sink deep into the minds of His listeners, Jesus told another story. "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" (Matthew 13:45, 46).

It was common for merchants to journey long distances, asking and searching for the perfect pearl. They traveled the world, buying and selling pearls. This was the trade of the merchant in the story. He found many beautiful pearls, but none that was perfect.

Then one day quite unexpectedly he found it. Polished, sparkling, glimmering—it was breathtaking. Immediately he knew that this was the pearl he had always dreamed of. However, it was expensive. The merchant knew that it would cost him a fortune. In fact, he would have to sell everything he owned. But it was worth it. His friends and his family wondered about his sanity, but he sold everything he owned to buy the perfect pearl.

Jesus knew what it was to give up everything. He had given up His place in heaven with His Father. He had given up all of His power, His crown, and all the honor and respect as King and Lord of all creation. But He didn't regret it. Each one of His disciples was worth it. Even if there had been just one of them, He would have been willing to give up everything and come and live on earth. He valued each of them more than the greatest treasure and richest pearl. To Him they were each priceless.

Jesus knew that in time all except Judas would follow Him. Once they gave up everything to follow Jesus, the disciples would discover a treasure far greater than everything they had left behind. They would understand that everything fades in insignificance compared to the priceless treasure of the kingdom of God.

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 13:44-46
- *Christ's Object Lessons*, chap. 8, pp. 103-114; chap. 9, pp. 115-121
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 70-72
- Our Beliefs nos. 9, 10, 11

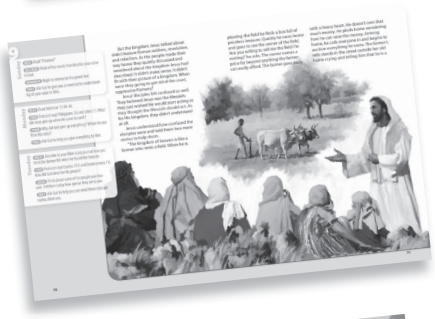
POWER TEXT

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

POWER POINT

God treasures me and gave everything to save me.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Matthew 13:44 and this week's lesson, "Priceless!"

THINK Think of words that describe your value to God. Try to view everyone as very valuable in God's eyes.

MEMORIZE Begin to memorize the power text, 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

PRAY Ask for a real understanding of your value to God.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 13:45, 46; Philippians 2:6; and John 1:1.

FIND What did Jesus give up when He came to earth?

THINK Where do you fit in this story?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you give everything to Him.

Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 19:3-6.

THINK How did God describe His people?

SHARE Think about some of the people you treasure. Tell them today how special they are to you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you see what these texts are saying about you.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 6:19-21.

DRAW Draw or create a representation of something you consider very precious. Is it something you could give up for someone you love?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you find the treasures in His Word.

Thursday

READ Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

THINK God has chosen each of us to be His "treasured possession." How does the realization that God treasures you change the way you look at life?

DISCOVER God's promises tell how much He treasures us. Ask some people what their favorite promises are.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Claim one of the promises and thank God for it.

Friday

READ Read Deuteronomy 14:2.

PREPARE God treasures His friendship with you so much that He put one day in the week aside for you to spend together. Take time to prepare for that day.

VALUE With your family, talk about everything Jesus gave up to come to this earth.

WRITE Before worship, write a note for each member of your family: Dear _____, you are a treasure to God. Give out the notes at worship.

REPEAT Repeat this week's power text from memory.

PRAY Say a prayer of thanks and sing a song of praise to God for counting you as His priceless treasure.