

Treasure Hunt

God's Grace to Us

Today's Reading: Isaiah 33:5-6

He will be the sure foundation of your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure. Isaiah 33:6

Faith Walk

Go on a treasure hunt. As you walk, look for "treasures"—beautiful leaves, interesting rocks, nutshells, or knobby sticks, anything you find that seems like a treasure from nature.

Faith Talk

- ✧ What is a treasure?
- ✧ What does the phrase "spiritual treasures" mean?
- ✧ What spiritual treasures does the Bible verse talk about?
- ✧ What do "salvation," "wisdom," and "knowledge" mean? Why are they treasures?
- ✧ How do we receive these treasures?

Follow-up Activities

- ✧ Set up a display of your treasures, for example trophies, jewelry, or photographs. Write a caption for each treasure, explaining why it is a treasure.
- ✧ Set up a display of the spiritual treasures God has given you, such as forgiveness, joy, and faith. Purchase some rhinestones and glue them to a piece of cardboard. Under each rhinestone write the name of a spiritual gift God has given you. For the rest of November use this display to help you pray prayers of thanksgiving.

- ✦ Have a "Secret Treasures" evening. Have each family member wrap up something that is a treasure to him or her. Take turns giving clues and trying to guess one another's treasures. Unwrap the treasures to see which guesses were correct. How can we "unwrap" the spiritual treasures God gives us?
- ✦ Be a secret treasure to someone outside your family. Some time during the next week, secretly do something kind for another person. For example, you might pick up trash in a neighbor's yard, return a runaway dog to its owner, or take someone's garbage can up to their house after the trash has been collected.
- ✦ Look up the words "treasure" and "treasures" in a Bible concordance. Read the passages you find. What do they teach us about spiritual treasures?

Our Response to God's Grace

Dear Triune God, Source of all Treasures,

Thank You for the treasures You have given us, especially the treasure of Your love. Please fill our lives with all spiritual treasures until they overflow into the lives of other people. In the name of our treasured Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Ponderings

- ☞ How has your faith been a treasure in your life? Write about it.
- ☞ The Bible verse says, "... the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure." But how do we receive "the fear of the Lord?" In his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard J. Foster talks about placing "ourselves before God so that He can transform us" and we can receive "the abundance of God." If we never attend church, surround ourselves with non-Christian friends, fail to pray or study God's Word, and fill our lives with nonspiritual media influences, we effectively shut our eyes to God's abundance in our lives. Instead, if, motivated by Christ's love, we seek to place ourselves in the church, in God's Word, and in prayer; our eyes will be opened to a greater abundance of God's grace.

- ☞ How is your life currently open to God's grace? Make a list of three ways you can seek God's guidance to improve on placing yourself where God is at work. Post the list in a prominent location and refer to it frequently.
- ☞ Keep a journal of how God blesses you with His treasures, His abundance. Use the journal also as a prayer journal. How has God blessed you with spiritual treasures? What is your thanksgiving response?
- ☞ The spiritual disciplines are not the balls and chains of law but a joyous journey to the treasures of God's abundance. Read more about this topic in Foster's book.

Journal Jottings