

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide
Spring at Cypress
Teaching by Pastor Charlie

WARM-UP QUESTION

What is something you once thought was extremely valuable, but later realized was not as important as you originally believed? What changed your perspective?

DISCUSS

1. The Kingdom Must Be Discovered

Jesus tells two short parables that reveal the incomparable value of the Kingdom of Heaven: the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. In both stories, something is discovered that is so valuable it changes everything else.

Read Matthew 13:44–46.

Pastor Charlie explained that when someone truly sees the value of the Kingdom of God, everything else is reordered around it. The Kingdom is not simply added to life. It becomes the center of life.

- Why do you think Jesus used simple everyday illustrations like treasure and pearls to explain the Kingdom?
- What does it mean that the merchant “sold everything” for the pearl?
- Why do people often struggle to recognize the true value of God’s Kingdom?
- How does our culture try to define value differently from Jesus?

Pastor Charlie shared that pearls are formed through irritation, pressure, and time. Layer by layer, beauty emerges from pain.

- How have you seen God bring beauty or growth out of difficult seasons in your life?
- Why is it encouraging to know that wounds do not have to define the outcome of a person’s story?

2. What You Treasure Reorders Your Life

The merchant in the parable did not merely admire the pearl. He reordered his entire life around it.

Pastor Charlie taught that when someone truly encounters Jesus, priorities, appetites, identity, and purpose begin to change.

- What are some signs that a person's life is centered on the Kingdom instead of temporary things?
- Why is there a difference between religious activity and a real encounter with Jesus?
- What areas of life are often hardest to surrender to God fully?
- How can we tell what we truly treasure most?

Read Matthew 6:21.

- According to this verse, how are our hearts connected to what we value?
- What practical habits help keep Christ at the center of everyday life?

3. Jesus Is Both the Merchant and the Pearl

Pastor Charlie explained another layer of the parable: not only are we searching for the treasure, but Christ is also the Merchant who gave everything to redeem humanity.

Jesus entered brokenness, sin, shame, and death to restore us back to communion with God.

- What stands out to you most about Jesus willingly giving everything to redeem humanity?
- How does understanding your value to Christ affect the way you see yourself?
- Why is redemption more powerful than simply being excused or overlooked?

Pastor Charlie also taught about the meaning of the word *profane*, which originally referred to being outside the temple's sacred space.

- How does distance from God affect a person spiritually?
- What helps people stay close to the presence of God rather than drifting away?
- Why must the church stay centered on God's presence and His Word?

4. Forgiveness Versus Atonement

Pastor Charlie explained the important distinction between forgiveness and atonement.

Forgiveness releases the debt.
Atonement deals with the damage.

At the cross, Jesus did not simply announce forgiveness. He became the atoning sacrifice who absorbed judgment, covered shame, defeated death, and restored the way back to God.

Read Romans 3:23–25.

- Why is it important to understand that God does not simply ignore sin?
- How does the cross demonstrate both the mercy and justice of God?
- What is the difference between being forgiven and being fully redeemed?
- How does atonement reveal the depth of God's love for humanity?

5. Jesus Restores Our Purpose

Pastor Charlie concluded by reminding us that the Kingdom restores people to their God-given purpose.

Because of Jesus, we are called:

1. To know and experience God
2. To find friends and freedom
3. To make a difference in our lives

The Kingdom sends believers back into the world carrying hope, healing, truth, reconciliation, and light.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17–20.

- How has your relationship with Jesus changed your sense of purpose?
- Why does the Gospel naturally move people outward toward others?
- What does it look like to carry hope and reconciliation into everyday life?
- How can the church effectively reach the world while remaining grounded in God's presence and truth?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to rediscover the value of the Kingdom of God.
- I need to surrender areas of my life that are competing with Christ for first place.
- I need healing from wounds that still shape how I see myself.
- I need to understand the forgiveness and atonement of Jesus more fully.
- I need renewed purpose to live as a carrier of hope, truth, and reconciliation.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for the incomparable treasure of His Kingdom. Thank Him that Jesus gave everything to redeem and restore humanity through the cross. Ask God to help you treasure Christ above everything else, remain close to His presence, and live with renewed purpose as someone who carries His hope, healing, and truth into the world.