

## **Bible Summary**

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl, both stories in which a person finds something very valuable and sells all he has to buy it. This week's teaching challenged us to look beyond the conventional interpretation of this passage and consider the possibility that the seeker in these stories is God, who sought and found us. Not only did He draw out our "treasures"--the secrets/sins/shame that we strive to hide--He also took ownership of them. As recipients of grace who have been made the inheritance of God, we in turn are challenged to foster a culture of grace for one another.

Scriptures: Matthew 13:44-45, 2 Corinthians 12:9,10, Rev. 3:20, Eph. 1:18

## **Bible Questions & Application**

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Discuss why pastors are often told not to be vulnerable with their own congregations.
3. Why do you think we work so hard to hide our secrets?
4. Are you a satisfied customer of grace? If so, in what ways can you demonstrate your satisfaction as a recipient of grace?
5. Although all the good and the bad has been redeemed in our lives, God allows us to keep the memories of our struggles so they can be shared.
  - a. Share an example of a time you were able to share your own redeemed memories to help someone else.
  - b. Has somebody else's redeemed memory helped you through a difficult time?
6. Matthew tells us that the man in the parable sells all he has **in joy** to own the treasure. God has no "buyer's remorse"; He knows exactly what He's getting and still delights in us.
  - a. How does it make you feel to realize that there is nothing you can do to make God love you any more or less?
  - b. How can we, in turn, apply this to the way we treat others?
7. What are the steps we should take to establish a culture of grace and trust in our own home groups/church?