

Treasure Hunting

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2010
Home Group Discussion #2

...where your treasures are there your heart will be also...

Participants in our winter home group sessions will hunt through the Bible to search out themes associated with treasures. The goal of our sessions is to see that, in addition to all the other treasures that God showers on us, our relationship with Christ is the greatest of all treasures.

A second feature of our winter home group sessions is the reinforcement of our purposes as a congregation:

Worship: live to please God
Fellowship: be connected into God's family
Discipleship: become like Jesus
Ministry: serve others
Evangelism: share Jesus

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP:

\$100,000 Candy Bar? Share what kind of candy bar you like best.

Golden Fried Potatoes? Which way do you like your potatoes cooked?

Silver Hair? Name a movie star who looks good with silver hair.

\$1,000,000,000 Smile? Share something that made you smile this week.

A TIME OF WORSHIP:

Have someone lead the group in a prayer asking God to enrich each member with a greater wealth of understanding.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP: *Hunting the Treasure of the Bible: Silver and Gold*

People treasure gold and silver. Always have, always will. Both are rare, durable, and malleable. Both are synonymous with the idea of treasure. Have you ever heard of a pirate's treasure that DID NOT have gold and silver? Discuss how many times and in what places you see gold and silver connected.

GOLD AND SILVER AS REPLACEMENT FOR GOD

Read Exodus 32:1-3 and Matthew 6:19-21: Why have civilizations tended toward gold and silver idols? Why do people let silver and gold become replacements for God? What is it about treasure (gold, silver, other forms of money) that makes it a competitor with God?

GOLD AND SILVER AS INFERIOR TO GOD

Read Psalm 12:6; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:127; Acts 3:1-10; I Peter 1:18-19: How do you understand that God, his word and his promises are more precious than gold or silver? In what ways is that true? Are there ways in which it is not true? What does God offer that gold and silver cannot buy? What can you do to keep this in mind?

GOLD AND SILVER AS BELONGING TO GOD

Read Haggai 2:6-9 and II Corinthians 9:8-11: In the end everything really belongs to God. What does it mean that all of our possessions, including our treasured items made of gold or silver, are God's and not ours? What difference does that make in our lives?

GOLD AND SILVER AND DISCIPLINE OF GOD

Read Isaiah 48:10; Daniel 3:13-30; I Peter 4:12-16 (someone check out a KJV); Romans 5:1-5; II Corinthians 3:18: Gold and silver are purified with fire; fire burns off impurities. Discuss the effect that suffering fiery trials has on a Christian. Have you had painful experiences that have left you with a purified faith?

How does a silversmith know when a piece of silver has been heated enough to mold it into shape? It is said that when the silversmith can see his face in the metal, then he knows it is ready. Consider this statement, "God allows suffering to come into our lives so that our faith is purified and so that we can reflect his face."

Spend some time reflecting on what "golden nuggets of wisdom" you'll take home with you tonight.

A TIME OF MINISTRY

Proverbs 25:11 says, "*A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.*"

See how many apples of gold in settings of silver you can give away this next Sunday.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM

The Gospel of Jesus is a great and free treasure! Continue to discuss plans to tie in the theme of treasures with an event or activity that connects with the community.

Develop an informal "road rally treasure hunt" that includes neighbors and friends.

Help someone spruce up a room or a house so it shines.

Have an event that affirms for police or fire fighters or health care workers that they are community treasures.

Send "unChristmas letters" to family and friends to let them know you treasure them and to share the treasure of Christ.

Volunteer in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen or second hand thrift shop to let people know that all are treasured by Christ.

Volunteer at the International Student Friendship House as we treasure people from around the world.

CLOSING

Make sure you have your next date set. Make sure that you share the responsibility of bringing treats.

Share any needs or concerns for which you need prayer in the coming week

Have someone close with prayer.