

Treasure Hunting

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2010
Home Group Discussion #4

...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:

Tonight we are going to consider hidden treasure. Share with one another:

- What do you have as a treasure that someone else might see as trash?
- What have you owned that you thought was trash only to later discover it was a treasure?

A TIME OF WORSHIP:

The unbelieving world looks at the cross as an ancient instrument of torture and inhumanity. The Christian sees the cross as an emblem of God's incredible love for sinners. Paul wrote, "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" (I Corinthians 1:18) Discuss how you treasure the cross.

Have someone offer up a prayer of thanks for the treasure of the cross.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP: *Hunting the Treasure of the Bible: Hidden Treasure In Plain Sight*

Have you ever (for men, how often have you) been searching and searching unsuccessfully for something, only to find it sitting right there in plain sight? Think back to when you were a child hunting for Easter eggs. Weren't the hardest ones to find the ones that were left out in plain sight?

Read Romans 11:33-36 and Psalm 19:1-4. God's glory and splendor are great and magnificent treasures, hidden before the eyes of all in plain sight! Discuss how this "hiddenness" of God has to do with *our eyes* and not *his nature*. Discuss aspects of God's treasures that we do not see or recognize often enough.

Treasured Unity

For decades Americans have chased an elusive unity between people of different skin colors. Some argue that things are better than they were. Others complain that they are not nearly good enough yet.

Read Ephesians 3:1-11. Paul speaks about the unity between Jews and Gentiles effected by Christ. It is a treasure that makes the angels themselves sit up and take notice. Discuss these two statements:

- The Church is our nation's hope for "racial" harmony only if it seeks to unite people in Christ and not as a political force. (Agree? Disagree?)
- Unity in the Church is a given but it is not always a reality. (What should be done? What can be done?)

Treasure Containers That Are Not Treasures

There are two ways to display a treasured painting. You can display it in a beautiful frame that is itself a work of art or you can display it in a frame that is not at all a work of art. Discuss what differences the two approaches might make.

Read II Corinthians 4:1-11. What does it mean that "we have this treasure in jars of clay?" What does this do to or for God's reputation? Reflect on "Bible heroes." Which of them were "cracked pots?" How does this passage give you comfort? How does it keep you humble?

Read II Corinthians 4:16-18. As a "cracked pot for Jesus," how does this passage comfort or instruct? Do these passages have anything to teach you about how to care for your body? (See I Timothy 4:8.)

Discuss what hidden treasures you have uncovered tonight.

A TIME OF MINISTRY

Jesus said about giving to the needy, "Do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing." (Matthew 6:3) Today we might call this performing a random act of kindness. Find a way this week to be a great blessing to another person without drawing attention to yourself.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM

Make sure that your group follows through on its plan to be a great treasure to the community for the glory of Jesus, our glorious treasure.

Before You Close

This is not then end of your home group, although it is the last of our winter sessions. Make plans for at least one activity for your group between now and Easter.

CLOSING

Thank you to all who have hosted our home groups! A great round of applause for them!

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

Have someone close with prayer.