

# Treasure Hunting

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Winter, 2010  
Home Group Discussion #3

**...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 precious stones, jewels. Share with one another:

- Your birthstone
- Your favorite kind of jewel

## **A TIME OF WORSHIP:**

A standard round brilliant diamond has 58 facets. Each facet or cut opens a window to the splendor of the jewel.

Share with one another different facets of God's love through which you have seen the splendor of God. (Do you think you can come up with 58 different things?)

Have someone offer up a prayer of thanks for the splendor of God's love.

## **A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP: *Hunting the Treasure of the Bible: Gemstones***

Depending on the translation, the following gemstones are mentioned in the Bible: agate, amethyst, beryl, carbuncle, chalcedony, chrysolite, chrysoprase, coral, crystal, diamonds, emeralds, jacinth, jasper, onyx, rubies, sapphire, sardius, and topaz.

Have you heard of all of them? Feel free to do a quick check of a Bible index to find out more about them.

### **Nice, But Distracting**

Things do not have to be *bad* to be *troublesome*. Read Exodus 28:1-30. Discuss the use of fine and precious items in the service of the Lord. In what sense should or should not worship be done in a beautiful setting with beautiful things?

Read Judges 8:22-27. Gideon had an ephod too. His became a distraction, and it led to disaster. In what ways can beautiful items for worship become a distraction? In what ways can our own personal precious items become distracting? How can we have nice things but keep them from becoming a distraction?

### **A Refreshing Picture**

Marriage continues to be attacked across the landscape. The attacks from outside the Church are familiar and frequent. What about within the Church? Do we treasure marriage as the gift it is? Do we disparage marriage?

Read Proverbs 31:10-12. What would happen if men in the Church viewed their wives as precious rubies? Is there any reason for wives not to do the same? Spend some time talking about how people talk about spouses. Are there other metaphors and similes we should use? How might this enhance our view of marriage?

Not everyone has a husband or wife. Discuss how healthy marriages impact the entire Christian community, and beyond. Married or not, we all have a stake in the institution of marriage. What can or should the Church do to support a higher view of marriage? How can the Church work to affirm the great treasure of marriage without excluding single people?

### **A Picture of Christ**

Read I Peter 2:4-12. Jesus is identified as a chosen and precious cornerstone. With apologies to Barbara Walters, and maybe more so to Jesus, if Jesus were a jewel, what kind of a jewel would you picture him as?

### **A Picture of the Christian Church**

Think about crafting a beautiful ring. Start with a great big beautiful diamond. What other gemstones would you or would you not add to it? Now read again verses 5 and 11-12. What is gained if we view this passage in terms of brilliant gemstones and not pale limestone?

Read again Revelation 21:15-21. Remember this from the study on pearls? How should this picture change or impact the Church's view of itself? How should this picture change or impact the behavior of the Church?

Discuss what gems you will take home tonight.

### **A TIME OF MINISTRY**

Proverbs 20:15 says, "*Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.*"

Find someone this week who is involved in the teaching ministry of the Church, either inside or outside the congregation, express your thanks and extend some encouragement.

### **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.

### **CLOSING**

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

Along with working on your evangelism event, begin to discuss having a get together sometime during the Lenten Season.

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

Have someone close with prayer.