

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

## Keep Jesus in the Center

### Leader Check-in

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What are you hoping to get out of this study?

### Discover

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What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word *treasure*?

Divide into 3 groups to read the following passages about the kingdom of God:

Group 1: Matthew 13:31-34

Group 2: Matthew 13:44-46

Group 3: John 18:36, Luke 17:20-21

Based on your group's passages, how would you describe the kingdom of God?

Once every group has shared, create a group definition for "the kingdom of God" that is two sentences or shorter. Why do you think Jesus called the Kingdom of God a treasure?

Reflect for a moment. Where have you lost sight of the value of Jesus in your life? What earthly treasures have been crowding out your capacity for joy?

### Fully Own

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Consider the quote: *Joy doesn't come when you consider what you've given up, but when you consider what you have gained.* Do you spend more time thinking about what you've given up to be a Christ follower, or what you've gained?

**Read Luke 9:57-62.** Are you willing to give up your life plans or treasures for the kingdom of God? What do you think that would look like for you?

Does the value you have placed on your relationship with Jesus need to be re-appraised? Why or why not?

### Challenge

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Take 5 minutes to identify some areas that you treasure above your relationship with Christ. Talk to God this week about those areas. What changes is he asking you to make?

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

Breathe: Live in the Spirit

## Leader Check-in

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Recall last week's challenge. What did God reveal to you? Are there changes you are going to make as a result?

## Discover

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What is the biggest decision you've ever made?

Read Mark 8:34-35. What do you think Jesus meant when He commanded us to take up our cross?

Imagine you're in a conversation and someone asks, "What's easy about the Christian life? What's hard about it?" How would you answer?

Read Romans 7:21-8:2. As you read about the Apostle Paul's struggles, what words or phrases stood out to you? Explain.

Read John 14:16-17; John 14:26; Romans 8:26. How would you define the role of the Spirit in our life in light of these passages?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit? How do you want to experience Him more?

## Fully Own

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Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which Fruit of the Spirit do you struggle to live out the most? Which comes most naturally to you?

Do you depend on God like you depend on oxygen? What would it look like to do so?

Spend a few moments practicing "breath prayer" using the following prompts:

*Exhale: Admit your sin to God—no excuses—take full responsibility for your mistake and resolve not to repeat it. Let go of worry, fear or self-reliance.*

*Inhale: Rely on God to fill you by His Spirit. Receive His hope, confidence, forgiveness and power to make better choices.*

Wrap up your time together discussing this practice. Did you enjoy it? Did it make you uncomfortable? What do you sense God is saying to you?

## Challenge

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Read Galatians 5:22-23 every day this week and ask the Holy Spirit to help you practice the Fruit of the Spirit that you struggle with the most.

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

## Love: Step into Community

### Leader Check-in

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Were you able to read Galatians 5:22-23 last week? Did you feel that you were better able to practice the Fruit of the Spirit that you most struggle with? Why or why not?

### Discover

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Take a moment and think about the top three things you are most thankful for. What are they?

Has your experience of Christianity been a list of don'ts? If so what is on that list?

Reflect on the words of Tim Keller, "Everyone says they want community and friendship. But mention accountability and commitment to people and they run the other way." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

What makes it difficult to experience authentic Christian community?

How would you define love? How do you think Jesus defines love? What Bible verses have shaped your understanding of love?

Read 1 John 4:13-21. How does experiencing Jesus' love for you affect the way you love others?

### Fully Own

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Read Luke 7:36-50. How does this display of love impact you? Describe a moving expression of love that you've witnessed.

Respond to this quote: "Sometimes we love the idea of love more than we love actually exercising it." Do you find this to be true in your life? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 22:35-40. How does this shape your priorities as a follower of Jesus? Based on this passage, would you say that your priorities are rightly aligned?

What are some practical ways we can show God's love to people?

### Challenge

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At Central we believe that "Life is Better Together." Do you know fellow Christians who may be isolated from community and need to experience the reality that life is better together? Invite them to step into community with you.

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

See: Choose Redemptive Vision

## Leader Check-in

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Who did you invite to step into Christian community with you? How did it go?

## Discover

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Describe a time when you were wrong about your first impression of someone. What did you learn from that experience?

Do you find it easy or difficult to be friends with people who don't know God? What are the challenges? What are the benefits?

**Read Luke 15:1-7.** Do you think you look at people like Jesus does? What does it mean to have a redemptive vision of people?

When was the last time you spent time with someone who doesn't follow Jesus? When was the last time you shared your faith?

Why do you think **Found People Find People** is one of the Marks of Ownership at Central? What would happen if **everyone** who attended Central took seriously the call to help others discover faith in Jesus?

## Fully Own

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**Read Luke 19:1-10.** As a tax collector, Zacchaeus was hated by many in his culture. Who are the Zacchaeus' in our culture? What would it look like to treat them as Jesus would?

What do you think your role is in God's plan to save the world?

Think about someone in your life who is not a Christian. How could they change if they accepted Christ? How would it feel to be part of that transformation?

Reflect on this statement: "A while back Jesus sent someone into your life that saw you with the eyes of Jesus and they pointed you in the direction of home." Who in your life can you point in the direction of home?

## Challenge

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Take a few minutes each day this week to ask God who you can point in the direction of home. Ask God to show you ways and give you opportunities to do so.

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

Journey: Help People Find Jesus

LIFE   
GROUPS

## Leader Check-in

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Did God give you a name this week of someone you can point in the direction of home? Who was it? Take time as a group to pray for each person by name.

## Discover

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Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone? What did you say? What did you find challenging?

What are some excuses we give for not sharing our faith?

Read Acts 8:26-29. What were some of the things that had to happen for the Ethiopian man to become a believer?

## Fully Own

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Read Matthew 18:10-14 and reflect on the phrase, "Found People Find People." What are ways that you are helping people find faith in Jesus? Are you willing to leave the ninety-nine to bring new sheep into the fold?

Reflect on the Five Spiritual Thresholds:

- 1) *Trusts a Christian*. This is where your friend gets to know you, finds out you're a believer and learns to trust you.
- 2) *Becomes curious*. As your friendship deepens, your friend may become curious about Jesus and interested – at least on an intellectual level – in your faith.
- 3) *Opens up to change*. At some point, your friend will realize that something's missing from his or her life and start to wonder whether that something might be Jesus.
- 4) *Seeks after God*. This threshold is about coming to a conclusion. There may not be a lot of behavioral change here because they are just about to make a decision about Jesus.
- 5) *Steps into the Kingdom*. This is it! This is where your friend decides to give his or her life to Christ.

How could these thresholds change the way you reach out to others with the gospel?

*All meaningful relationships take time to develop and the same is true with our relationship with Jesus. Establish which of the five thresholds you think the person you want to point in the direction of home is in. Ask God to start moving them to the next threshold and ask Him to show you how to support them in that.*

## Challenge

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Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses in walking with people through the Five Spiritual Thresholds. What are ways that you can grow in those that you find challenging?

# Treasure: Jesus is Worth Everything

Inspire: Make Your Life Count

## Leader Check-in

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What was the threshold that you excel in? What are ways that you can better use that threshold?

## Discover

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What would you say is a life well lived?

**Read Matthew 25:14-27.** Why do you think Jesus tells His disciples this parable?

At the end of our lives we all want to hear the phrase “Well done, good and faithful servant.” What did the servants do in the parable to hear those words?

If Jesus is the treasure that is worth everything, what are you doing to share that with others?

Reflect on the quote: “It’s not about how you invest but where you invest.” Where are you investing right now?

**Read 1 Peter 4:10.** How does this passage echo Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25: 14-27? Is anyone excluded from the call to use their gifts for the kingdom?

What is one key discovery that you have made over the last six sessions?

## Fully Own

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Spend a few moments thinking about what gifts and abilities God has given you. How could you use that to introduce someone to Jesus?

Imagine you are using that gift to reach others. What could be scary about that? What could be amazing?

**Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8.** What do you want your life to look like so that you can say what Paul said?

Close your eyes. Imagine getting to the end of your life and hearing Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matt 25:23a). Who have you invested in? What have you done with the treasure Jesus gave you?

## Challenge

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Take time to pray as a group. Ask God to give each of you the courage to use your gifts and abilities to introduce someone to Jesus.