Parables of a Hidden Treasure and a Valuable Pearl
Jesus told his followers many parables about the Kingdom of God. Do you know what a kingdom is? A kingdom is a place where everyone does what the king says. If you live in the Kingdom of God then that means you do what God says because God is the King.

Parables of Treasure and Pearl
3. The Kingdom of God is not a place. It is a way of thinking and acting. Jesus taught people about the real king of the universe who loves everyone. He wants everyone, no matter where they live, to follow him and live in his kingdom.

If you live in New Zealand and do what God says then you live in the Kingdom of God.

If you live in Australia and do what God says then you live in the Kingdom of God.

If you live in Japan and do what God says then you live in the Kingdom of God.

Where do you live? (Let children answer.) Do you obey God? (Let the children answer.) If you obey God then you live in the Kingdom of God!
4. Sometimes kingdoms can be rich and beautiful. The king might own all kinds of treasures and have lots of money. Jesus told his followers that the Kingdom of God is richer and more valuable than any treasure in the whole world.

Parables of Treasure and Pearl 4
Jesus thought that this might be difficult for the people to understand so he decided to tell them a parable. A parable is a simple story to help people understand a very important thing. Here is the parable:

Once a man was working in a field. As he was digging in the dirt he uncovered a treasure that someone had left there. The man was so excited that he buried the treasure back up and went back home to get some money to buy the field. He did not have enough money so he sold everything that he owned. He was happy to do this. Now, he had enough money so he went and bought the field. Then the treasure was his.
6. What do you think Jesus' parable meant? The Kingdom of God is like the treasure. When we find the Kingdom of God we are so happy that we will give up everything so that we can obey God. We are happy to do this because God is the king of the kingdom.

If we used to swear/curse then we will give that up so we can obey God - the king. If we used to steal things then we will give that up so that we can obey God - the king. If our best friend tries to stop us from obeying God then we will even give up our best friend to obey the king and be in the Kingdom of God. Nothing is more valuable than the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is a treasure!
Jesus told another parable to help the people understand the Kingdom of God:

Once there was a pearl merchant who looked for valuable pearls. When he found good pearls he would buy the pearls at a low price and then sell them at a higher price to make money. The pearl merchant was always looking for the finest pearls.
One day the pearl merchant found one pearl that was very valuable. It was the most beautiful pearl he had ever seen. He knew that he had to have that pearl! The merchant sold everything he had so he could have enough money to buy the pearl.

What do you think that parable meant? What do you think the pearl is like? (Let the children answer). The precious pearl is like the Kingdom of God. The pearl merchant gave up everything he had to own the precious pearl. The Kingdom of God is so valuable that we will want to give up everything to be in it.

What would you give up to be in the Kingdom of God?
2. Jesus told his followers many parables about the Kingdom of God. Do you know what a kingdom is? A kingdom is a place where everyone does what the king says. If you live in the Kingdom of God then that means you do what God says because God is the King.

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What would you give up to be in the Kingdom of God?
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