



MON 9/6

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Colossians 2:2-3
- ✓ **THOUGHT** What a gift! "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." [NIV] Knowing Christ is a gift to be valued. Today, take time to thank God for the presence of Christ in your life.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, I am so grateful for your love. Help me to continually seek to know the ways of Jesus better each day and to value that connection with him. Amen.

NOTES: _____

TUES 9/7

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 33:6
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Christ is our foundation. "He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure." [NIV] "Fear of the Lord" refers to a specific sense of respect, awe, and submission. To experience the full riches of our salvation, we must live like we are in awe of our Savior.
- ✓ **PRAYER** Almighty God, remind me what it means to be in awe of you. Help me to remember your greatness, and to respond by living my life the way that Christ did. Amen.

NOTES: _____

WED 9/8

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 55:12
- ✓ **THOUGHT** We can experience joy! "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." [NIV] When we really get to know the ways of Jesus, it leads to joy and peace in our lives. Take a "joy inventory." Is anything standing in the way of living a joyful life?
- ✓ **PRAYER** Loving God, remind me that joy comes from your love which never changes. Help me cling to that love even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Amen.

NOTES: _____



THURS 9/9

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Matthew 6:19-20
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Remember the true treasure. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." [NIV] Storing up treasures in heaven means valuing what God values...people! How can you invest in someone else today?
- ✓ **PRAYER** Loving God, help me be aware of the people in my path today and help me to be willing to go out of my way to show your love to someone. Amen.

NOTES: _____

FRI 9/10

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 61:10
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Delight in your salvation! "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." [NIV] What delights you? It is easy to become familiar with the things of God to the point that we forget how special they are. Ask God for a reminder!
- ✓ **PRAYER** Gracious God, renew in me a sense of joy and delight simply in who you are and the ways that you care for me. Amen.

NOTES: _____

SAT 9/11

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Romans 15:13
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Take a breath. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." [NIV] Say a breath prayer today. As you inhale say, "God of hope" and as you exhale say, "Be my joy." Repeat this often during your day.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God of hope, I thank you that you are my source of joy and peace. Help me to remember to treasure my connection with you. Amen.

NOTES: _____



GROUP GUIDE – TREASURE

- ✓ **PRAYER** **God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.**
- ✓ **BIG IDEA** **Experiencing the love of God in our lives is our source of joy. There is no greater treasure. How should we reorient our lives accordingly?**
- ✓ **READ** **Matthew 13:44-46**
- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - In these two short parables, we are reminded of the great value of finding the love of Christ in our lives. Discuss the similarities and differences between the stories of the field and the merchant. Think back to the way that you first encountered Jesus. Would you say that your discovery was more of an unexpected treasure that you happened upon, or was it something you were actively seeking?
 - "Deepest needs met, deepest longings satisfied, deepest hurts bandaged, and a future and a hope unlike any other--it all adds up to joy." -- Bryce Barton. Sometimes we can become so familiar with the things of God that we lose sight of the incredible worth of what we experience in Christ. Consider how you felt when you first started your faith journey as compared to how you feel today. Describe the differences that you notice in your level of joy.
 - In the two parables, both people give everything for the valuable treasure they have found. Would you consider this a sacrifice or an investment? Discuss the differences between the two. How does that shape your perspective regarding what you might be willing to change as you share the love of Christ? Share some practical ways you can invest in this endeavor.
 - Philippians 3:7-9 says "I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him." [NLT] When we truly encounter God's love and grace, our lives are changed as we experience joy. A joyful life is one that we want to share. Do you find it easy or difficult to share your joy with others? If you are not experiencing much joy, how can you reorient your life in light of the goodness that God has shown you?
- ✓ **Pray** **Loving God, we are grateful for the incredible treasure that you are in our lives. Help us to remember our excitement about the gift of this relationship that you offer us. Place in our hearts a desire to share your love with the people you have placed around us so we can be a part of growing your Kingdom. Amen.**