

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 13:44-52

‘He sells all that he has and buys that field.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

Reflection

Jesus gives us two pictures of something that is worth everything: hidden treasure and a pearl of great value. When the people discover them, they recognise just how precious they are and are willing to give up everything else to have them.

It makes us think about what we consider truly valuable. We can spend a lot of time chasing things that we think will make us happy – money, possessions, popularity, success or being noticed. But Jesus reminds us that the greatest treasure is something we cannot buy. Through our Baptism, God is not distant from us. The Holy Spirit lives within us, and we are called to be part of God's Kingdom here and now. That is an incredible gift, but like any treasure, it needs to be valued and nurtured.

For us this also changes the way we see other people. If God lives within us, then God is also present in the people we meet – especially those who are struggling, lonely or overlooked. When we serve others, we are not simply doing something kind; we are recognising the dignity and worth of a person made in God's image. So perhaps the question isn't just, ‘What is most valuable to me?’ but ‘Does the way I live show that God is my greatest treasure?’

Materials needed

- Pens
- Printed treasure chest (one per person)

Activity

Each person receives a printed treasure chest. Following the questions for each section, each person spends some time filling out their treasure chest with all of the things they hold dear. Once they have filled out their sheets, they could spend some time sharing with one another.

Ask them to consider:

What do my treasures say about what matters most to me?

Are the things I treasure reflected in the way I spend my time, attention and energy?

For example:

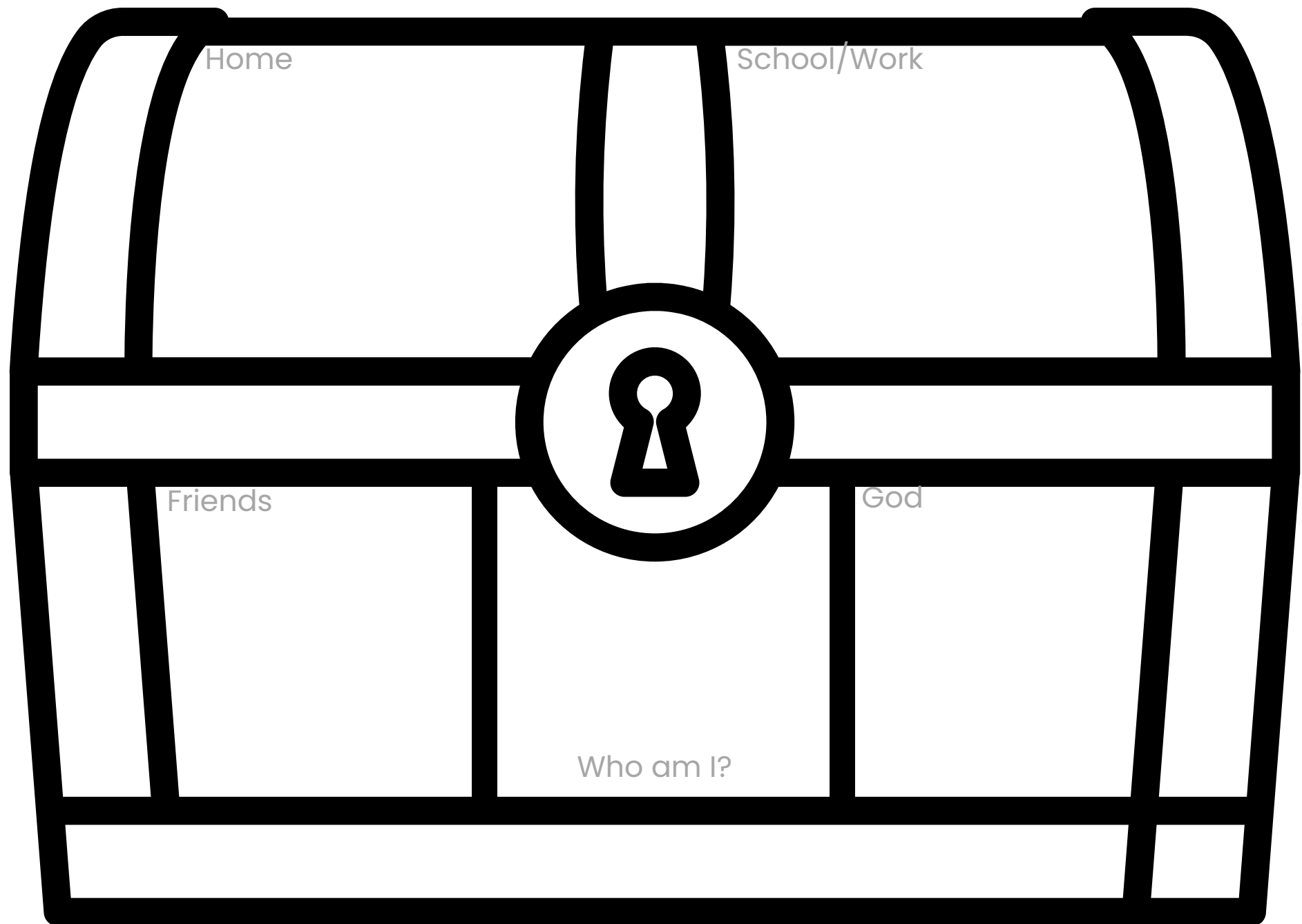
- If I treasure my friends, do I make time for them and look out for them?
- If I treasure my family, do I show them that they matter to me?
- If I treasure my faith, do I make space for God in my life?

Finally, ask everyone to choose one treasure from their sheet and one way they can show its value through their actions this week.

Call to Action

Look at what you treasure, and this week let your actions show what – and who – truly matters to you.





Home

School/Work

Friends

God

Who am I?

Home/Family

Where do you live?
Who do you live with?
Who is in your family?
Who do you get on with?
What do you like about where you live and who you live with?
What is your earliest memory?

School/Work

Where do you go to school/work?
Where did you go before?
What are your favourite subjects?
What are some of your favourite memories?
What would you like to do in the future?



Friends

Who are your friends?
Where did you meet them?
How would you describe them?
Why are you friends?
What do you like to do together?

Who am I?

What's your name?
What does it mean?
When were you born?
Where were you born?
What's your favourite colour, foods, music, hobbies?
How would people describe you in 3 words?

God

Where are you at in your faith?
What has been your journey of faith?
Where do you most see God?
How do you share God's love with others?