

WE'RE SO GLAD

YOU'RE HERE TODAY!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The team at the Westwood Kids desk is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out westwoodcc.org.

COMMUNION

Today we will experience communion. We invite everyone who is a follower of Jesus to participate. You do not need to be a member of Westwood Community Church. The bread and cup will be passed to you as you are seated. Hold each element until everyone has been served. We will eat and drink together. Gluten-free bread is available at the usher station in the back.



We love our volunteers. If you are a volunteer or if you want to learn more about ways to get involved, join us for Team Night. It will be a night of celebration and encouragement! Register online.

Chanhassen: Monday, August 13, 6:30-8:00pm

Minnetonka: Wednesday, August 15, 6:30-8:00pm

Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)

“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. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

1. The Gospel softens the _____ heart.
2. The Gospel settles the _____ heart.
3. Joyfully _____ temporary things for eternal gains.

Three things I currently value:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

After hearing the parable and how it stirs my heart, I want to value:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Tell Me A Story ♦ August 5, 2018 ♦ Zac Bush

INVALUABLE

BIBLE READING PLAN

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. These verses are chosen by our staff and designed to complement the Sunday message.

You can find it on our app or at westwoodcc.org/readingplan

- Mark 1:14-20
- Luke 17:20-25
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-52
- Romans 14:13-18
- John 3:1-21

TELL ME A STORY

Tell Me a Story #7—Invaluable

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Great Pearl

August 5, 2018

1. We have covered a lot of ground over the last seven weeks with the “Tell Me a Story” Series. What have been a few big takeaways? What new ways have you engaged with parables?
2. The opening illustration addressed a hot water heater malfunctioning. This led to frustration—Zac thought it would last a little longer than three years. When have you had something in your life corrode, fall apart, or dissolve. How did you feel? How did you respond?
3. **Read Matthew 13:44.** The first parable deals with the worker in the field. He was a man who worked hard and found his fulfillment in his personal drive and ambition. At times, this may have led to a sense of indifference towards the Kingdom.
 - a. When or where in your life have you experienced indifference towards your faith?
 - b. How did you move beyond indifference to find more joy in your faith?
 - c. If you haven’t moved beyond indifference or apathy, what’s keeping you there?
4. **Read Matthew 13:45-46.** The second parable deals with the merchant in search of fine pearls. In the backdrop of the story, he most likely moved from one place to the next seeking and searching for the next best pearl. Today, this person may move from one thing to the next, be it a diet, fad, religion, philosophy or ideology. This person never seems to be settled.
 - a. When have you experienced a restlessness in your faith?
 - b. If you’re still in this restlessness, how can we pray for you?
 - c. If you were fortunate to move beyond the restlessness, what was it that settled your restless heart?
5. The main point of the parable is that whenever we see earthly things in comparison to the eternal Kingdom, they will all seem insignificant. When we come to this realization, it will prompt us to sacrifice certain temporary things for eternal gains as seen in the consistent response from these two characters. What things in your life do you need to sacrifice or surrender to God in order to draw closer to Him? If there are things you’re unable to sacrifice, how can you bring Kingdom intentionality to it?
6. At the very end of the message, we used a metaphor to describe our lives (the tennis balls, racquetballs and small pebbles). The idea is to place the things that are valuable (namely eternal gains like time with God, reading scripture, etc.) in first, and then allow the other pieces to fall into place. We had a chance to write down things we value now, and then reflect on things we want to value.
 - a. What are the things you presently value?
 - b. What are the things that you want to value moving forward?