

THE PRICELESS PEARL

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from many CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

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Introduction

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Lesson

Tips for using the flashcards:

To make the flashcards easier to turn, before using the lesson open the book in the middle and carefully fold the pages in the opposite direction. Then do the same with the other pictures. You will find that the pages are now much easier to turn.

The pictures are printed in such a way that they will be easy to turn in front of the children. After showing the first picture, turn the flashcard book upside down towards the children and then turn the page. In that way, the children will only see picture two and not picture three. The next picture is automatically in the correct order.

Flashcard 1

A heavy splash was followed by widening ripples and then the water below the boat was still. The missionary David Morse had his eyes riveted on the place where a stream of little bubbles rose to the surface from deep under the water. A moment later, a black head appeared and two bright eyes looked up. Then the old Indian pearl diver was clambering into the boat, grinning and shaking the water from his shining oiled body.

Flashcard 2

“As nice a dive as I have ever seen, Rambhau,” cried David Morse in amazement.

“Look at this one, Sahib,” said Rambhau, taking a big oyster from between his teeth. “I think it will be good.”

Morse took it and while he was prying it open with his pocket knife, Rambhau was pulling other smaller oysters from his loincloth.

Flashcard 3

“Rambhau, look,” exclaimed Morse, “it’s a piece of treasure.”

“Yes, it’s a good one,” shrugged the diver as his experienced eyes glanced over it.

“Good? Have you ever seen a better pearl? It’s perfect, isn’t it?” Morse had been turning the large pearl over and over and then handed it to the Indian.

“Oh, yes, there are better pearls, much better. I have one myself ...” His voice trailed off and he seemed to be thinking about something.

“Look at this one, the imperfections, the black speck here, this tiny dent. Even in shape it’s a bit oblong, but good enough as pearls go.”

“Your eye is too sharp for your own good, friend,” lamented Morse. “I would never ask for a more perfect pearl.”

“It is just as you say of your God. To themselves people look perfect, but God sees them as they really are.”

Flashcard 4

By now the two men had reached the bank and started down the dusty road to town.

“You’re right Rambhau, and God offers Christ’s righteousness to all who will simply believe and accept His free offer of salvation. Can’t you see that, my friend?”

“No, Sahib, as I have told you so many times before, that is too easy. That is where your religion breaks down. I cannot accept that. Perhaps I am too proud. I must work for my place in Heaven, or I would always be uncomfortable.”

“Oh, Rambhau.” Behind the missionary’s words were years of prayer for this man. “Don’t you see, you’ll never get to Heaven that way. There is only one way to Heaven and, Rambhau, you are getting older now. Perhaps this is your last season of diving for pearls. If you ever want to see Heaven’s gates of pearl, you must accept the gift God offers you in His Son.”

“My last season. Yes, you are right. Today was my last day of diving. This is the last month of the year, and I have preparations to make.”

Flashcard 5

“Do you see that man over there? He is a pilgrim, perhaps going to Bombay or Calcutta. He walks barefoot and picks the sharpest stones to walk over, and see, every few metres he kneels down and kisses the road. That is good. On the first day of the New Year I also begin my pilgrimage. I have been planning it all my life. I shall make sure of earning my entrance to Heaven this time. I am going to Delhi on my knees.”

“Man, you’re crazy! It’s fourteen hundred kilometres to Delhi. The skin on your knees will break and you will have blood poisoning or leprosy before you get to Bombay.”

“No, I must get to Delhi, and then the immortals will reward me. The suffering will be sweet, for it will purchase Heaven for me.”

“Rambhau, my friend, you can’t. How can I let you do this, when Jesus Christ has died to purchase Heaven for you.”

But the man would not be moved. “You are my dearest friend on Earth, Sahib Morse. Through all these years you have stood beside me. In sickness and want you have been my only friend. But even you cannot turn me from this great desire to purchase eternal happiness. I must go to Delhi.”

It was useless. The old pearl diver could not understand, he could not accept the free salvation of Christ.

One afternoon Morse answered a knock at the door to find Rambhau standing there.

“My good friend,” cried Morse, “come in.”

“No,” said the pearl diver, “I want you to come to my house for a short time. I have something to show you. Please don’t say no.”

The missionary's heart leapt. Perhaps God was answering his prayers for this man at last. "Of course I'll come," he said, and went with Rambhau to his home.

"I leave for Delhi just one week from tomorrow," said Rambhau.

How the missionary's heart sank. This would perhaps be his last chance to explain God's way to Heaven to the diver. Rambhau left the room and returned with a strong, heavy box.

Flashcard 6

"I have had this box for years," he said. "I keep only one thing in it. Now I will tell you about it, Sahib Morse. I once had a son."

"A son! Why, Rambhau, you never said a word about him."

"No, Sahib, I couldn't." Even as he spoke, the diver's eyes became wet with tears. "Now I must tell you, for soon I will leave and who knows whether I shall ever return. My son was a diver, too. He was the best pearl diver on the coast of India. He had the swiftest dive, the keenest eye, the strongest arm, and he could hold his breath for longer than any other pearl diver. What joy he brought me. He always dreamed of finding the perfect pearl. One day he found it, but in bringing it to the surface he caught his foot in the coral reef and was forced to stay under the water too long. Soon after that he died." The old pearl diver bowed his head for a moment. His whole body shook, but there was no sound.

"All these years I have kept the pearl," he continued, "but now I am leaving, never to return, and I want to give my pearl to you, my best friend."

He took a giant-sized pearl from the box and placed it in the missionary's hand. It was one of the largest pearls ever found off the coast of India, and it glowed with a lustre and brilliance never seen in cultured pearls. It would have sold for a fabulous sum in any market. For a moment the missionary was speechless and gazed on the pearl with awe.

"Rambhau, what a pearl!"

"That pearl, Sahib," said Rambhau, "is perfect."

The missionary looked up quickly, as a new thought went through his mind.

Flashcard 7

"Rambhau, this is a wonderful pearl. An amazing pearl. Let me buy it. I would give you fifteen thousand rupees for it, or if it takes more, I will work for it." "No, Sahib," said Rambhau, his whole body stiffening, "this pearl is beyond all price. No man in all the world has enough money to pay what this pearl is worth to me. On the market

a million dollars could not buy it. I will not sell it to you. You may only have it as a gift.”

“No, Rambhau,” said David Morse, “I cannot accept that. As much as I want the pearl, I cannot accept it that way. Perhaps I am too proud, but that is just too easy. I must pay for it or work for it.”

The old pearl diver was stunned. “You don’t understand at all, Sahib. Don’t you see - my only son gave his life to get this pearl and I wouldn’t sell it for any money, but I can give it to you. Just accept it as a token of my love for you.”

The missionary was deeply moved and for a moment he couldn’t speak. Then he gripped the old man’s hand.

“Rambhau, don’t you see? That is just what you have been saying to God. God is offering salvation to you as a free gift. It is so great and priceless that no man on Earth could buy it. No man on Earth could earn it. No man is good enough to deserve it. It cost God the life-blood of His only Son to make entrance into Heaven possible for you.”

Flashcard 8

“A hundred pilgrimages could not make your entrance into Heaven possible. All you can do is accept it as a token of God’s love for you, a sinner. Rambhau, I will accept the pearl with a grateful heart. Won’t you also accept God’s gift of Heaven, knowing that it cost Him the death of His Son to offer it to you.”

Flashcard 9

Rambhau finally understood.

“I have heard so much about the teachings of Jesus, but I just could not believe that His salvation is free. Some things are simply too precious to buy them or earn them. Now I accept God’s gift of salvation for myself.”

Have you already accepted God’s gift? If not, would you like to do that now? You can never be a good enough person or have enough money, in order to earn salvation. Would you like to receive God’s gift of salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus?

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).