

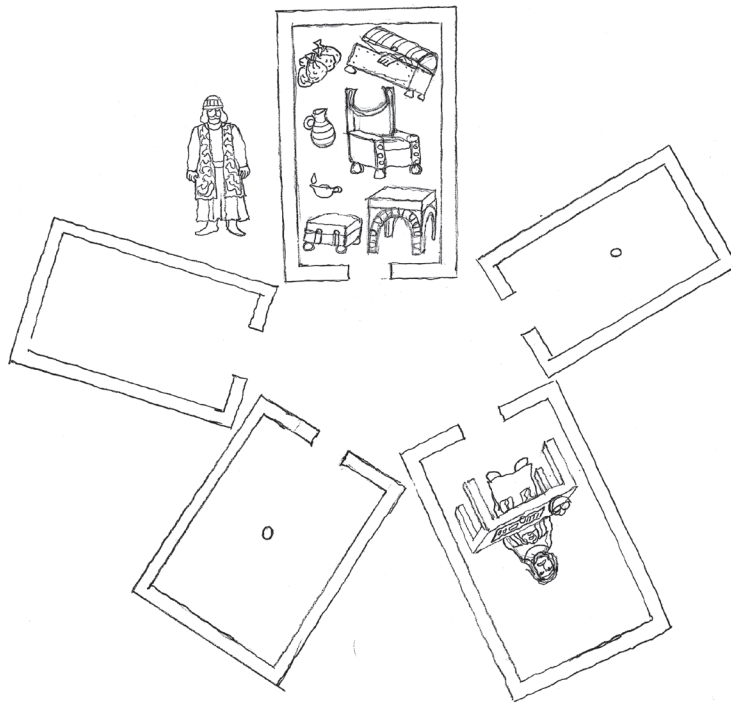
## Movements

*Take out the little gold box with the pearls inside. Let it sit for a moment and then open it with mystery. Silently place a pearl on the table in front of the seller. Put one pearl in two of the three empty rectangular figures.*

*Look inside the box to see if there is anything else.*

## Words

No, there is nothing else. All we can do now is begin.



### ***The Parable of the Great Pearl (Storyteller's Perspective)***

*Sit back for a moment. Reflect silently on all that is laid out before you on the underlay. Wait until you are ready. If they need it, help the children get ready.*

There was once someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom they had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom that they had ever even heard of.

## Movements

*Move the merchant out of his home's doorway and let him stop briefly at each of the other places (the brown outline shapes). Pick up the pearl when there is one there and hold it up close to your own eyes (for the merchant) and inspect it. Put it back and shake your head. It is not the great one. Finally, the merchant comes to the place where the seller is sitting behind a table. On the table is the Great Pearl. Pick it up and nod your head yes.*

*The merchant leaves the pearl on the table of the seller. He goes to his home and brings the bags of money.*

*He goes back and returns with the chest. He brings the chair, the vase, the candle ... everything but his bed. Finally, he goes to get the last piece inside the house, which is his bed. He then returns to his house, folds it up and places it inside of the seller's house.*

*The merchant then goes back to where his house once was. Leave him there with the pearl, sitting right in the middle of his former home. Place the pearl at the center of the merchant.*

*There is, of course, silence during the movements of the merchant. Don't hurry. Acknowledge the questions of the children as well as their exclamations. Don't stop until you finish the sentence with the phrase "everything for the Great Pearl."*

## Words

They couldn't help it. They had to ask him what the Kingdom of Heaven was like. One time when they asked him, he said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like when a person who buys and sells fine pearls, a merchant, goes to search for the Great Pearl."

"When he found the Great Pearl, he went . . ."

". . . and exchanged . . ."

". . . everything for the Great Pearl."

## Movements

*Sit back and rest for a moment before you begin the wondering. Prepare for your own wonder. It has to come from within you to be real.*

*When the wondering concludes, put the pieces of the parable back carefully into the box. Don't hurry. Name each one as you put it away.*

*Return the parable box to the shelves and go back carefully to the circle. Sit down to help the children decide what work they are going to get out.*

## Words

I wonder if the person was happy with the Great Pearl?

I wonder what the merchant is going to do now?

I wonder why the seller was willing to give up something so precious?

I wonder if the seller was happy with all of his things?

I wonder if the seller has a name?

I wonder if the merchant has a name?

Now, I wonder what the Great Pearl could *really* be?

I wonder what could be so precious that a person would exchange everything for it?

I wonder if you have ever come close to the Great Pearl?

I wonder where this whole place could really be?

Here is the Great Pearl.

Here are two other pearls.

Here are all the merchant's new things.

Here are the places.

Here is the seller, and here is the merchant.

I wonder what your work will be today? You might make something about this story, or another story that you know. Maybe you want to work with something else. There are so many things you can choose from. Only you know what is right for you.