A Diamond in the Rough, is a Diamond Sure Enough......

► Matter ----------- Element ------- Mineral

  Spiritual           Temporal

► Pure Matter ----- Element ----- Man

Both processes begin with matter. Matter can neither be created nor destroyed. Instead, it is organized into elements. Our spirits are made of pure and refined elements (D&C 131:7-8), while our bodies are made from earthly elements. These mortal elements are destined to become immortal and receive a fullness of Joy.

Elements combine to form minerals. This sets the path to what the mineral can become. Like a mineral, we all have features that never change; we are Children of God. “Men and Women who turn their lives over to God will find that he can make a lot more out of their lives than they can.” (Ezra Taft Benson)

► Heat ------- Pressure -----------Time

► Trials ------Temptations -----Endurance

The process which turns a mineral into a gem is not an easy one. It requires immense heat and pressure, applied at the right time and in the right place. Man must also go through a difficult process to become covenant-ready and remain that way. He must endure trials and temptations within the Lord’s time frame, submitting to His will while strengthening ourselves.

“When in situations of stress, we wonder if there is any more in us to give. We can be comforted to know that God, who knows our capacity perfectly, placed us here to succeed. No one was foreordained to fail or to be wicked. When we have been weighed and found wanting, let us remember that we were measured before and we were equal to the task. Therefore, let us continue, but with a more determined discipleship. When we feel overwhelmed, let us recall the assurance that God will not over-program us.

“He will not press upon us more than we can bear. “ (Neal A. Maxwell)
Just as a rough gem must be mined in order for future work to be done, we must be truly converted in order for our master to bring us to our full potential.

Cleaving is a process where a mined stone is studied, marked and given a sharp blow with a special hammer to separate the good from the bad. Most breaks occur along a fault line, or wherever the stone is the weakest. The man who is converted must study himself, mark his faults, and then rid himself of them through the process of repentance.

“Upon learning the Father’s desire, we yield to his eternal perspective. It is the only surrender that is also a victory.” (Neal A. Maxwell)

Creating the 58 facets on a diamond is a long and precise process. It must be performed by a Master who grinds the facet with diamond dust.

The experiences we have here on earth are like facets. They help to make us who we are. “Every trial and experience you have passed through is necessary for your salvation.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, 346)

By submitting to the Lord in meekness, humility, prayer, patience, and love, we become very precious. Like a precious stone, each precise cut from the Master’s hand helps to create in us a reflection of the Light of Christ. Our beauty can only be fully seen when we reflect His light.

The diamond dust that falls after a facet is made is carefully gathered and used to polish the diamond. This dust is like all the things we have learned from the Master Teacher. As beautiful as a raw stone is, its beauty is fully realized only when it is faceted and polished. It is the facets of your life that reflect the Light of Christ.

When a Diamond process is complete, it is placed in a proper setting. Through our obedience and submission, the Lord will make us His jewels (Malachi 3:17). And we will be set as the stones of a crown (Zechariah 9:16).

“Christ said, ‘In the world ye shall have tribulation. Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world’ (John 16:33).”
Poem: A Diamond in the Rough

A diamond in the rough  
Is a diamond sure enough.  
And before it ever sparkled  
It was made of diamond stuff.

But someone had to find it,  
or it never would be found.  
And someone had to grind it  
Or it never would be ground.

But it’s found and when it’s ground,  
And when it’s burnished bright,  
That diamond’s everlasting  
Giving out it’s light.

Oh, teachers of our young folk  
Don’t say you’ve done enough.  
It may be that your rudest  
Is a diamond in the rough.
Object Lesson: Diamond in the Rough

Items Needed:
- small rock
- piece of coal
- picture of Christ
- white cloth
- cookie sheet
- hammer with Satan written on it
- big crystal or CZ

* On the table display the picture of Christ, in front of the picture put the cookie sheet, on the cookie sheet put the small rock and a small piece of coal.
* Ask the Question: Are these rocks valuable?
* Take the hammer and smash the coal. (Be careful to not hit it too hard, it will fly everywhere.)
* Have someone read Moses 1:10. and ask: Is Man nothing? Why? If so, why would Christ die for you and me?
* Put white cloth over smashed rock. And place the crystal on it.
* Ask: Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, and Sapphires are referred to as what? (Precious stones)
* Ask: What makes certain gems Precious? (Rare, beautiful, durable)
* Have someone read, D&C 109:43. Ask: In this scripture what is precious before the Lord? (souls of men) How are we then nothing, and yet precious?
* Ask: What does it take for Graphite or Carbon to become a precious stone? (Heat and Pressure and time)
* Ask: What does it take for you and I to become like a Diamond?
* Read Mosiah 3:19.
* When the Lord places certain minerals in tough, uncomfortable situations, it is unmoving, it remains and endures the pressures inflicted upon it. And becomes the Jewel the Lord knows it is. Unlike minerals, we have been given agency (legs). We can walk away. But, if we trust the Lord in meekness, being humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord sees fit, we will become what He knows we can be and truly are: VERY PRECIOUS.
* Hold up hammer over the precious stone. Ask: can this hammer shatter a diamond? (Yes) What can Satan do to us if we let him into our lives? (Destroy us). Read James 4:7 Submission to God will cause Satan to flee.
* Swing the hammer toward the precious stone and stop it with the other hand. Read Alma 13:28. Ask: How can you stay close to the Savior? (being humble, meek submissive, patient, full of love long-suffering and prayer).
* He will stop satan from crushing us.
* Read Malachi 3:17, and D&C 101:3. What kind of rock will you be when He comes? Trust Him, Submit and he will make us His jewels.