

BIBLE TREASURE HUNT

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The first step to God's blessings is following his word.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of putting Jesus first.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:19-34, Seek First God's Kingdom

MEMORY VERSE:

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SUMMARY:

Many people waste their lives trying to build up treasures. Kids will learn that true treasure begins and ends with seeking God's way.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to follow you and put you first in all things.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BIBLE TREASURE HUNT

EASY AT HOME OBJECT

ITEMS NEEDED:

A basket of unfolded towels

Choose one kid and have them fold a towel. Ask if anyone has learned to fold towels differently. See if someone has a 3rd way and have that person demonstrate.

Isn't it strange that something so simple can be done so many different ways? You can fold towels in squares, rectangles, even triangles. Or you can fold them and roll them like a cylinder. There's really no wrong way - unless your Mom has a certain way she likes them. Then any other way is the wrong way.

Many people will tell you there are a number of ways to happiness and fulfillment in this life, but the Bible tells us there's only one way to true fulfillment. That way is through Jesus, who is the greatest treasure ever known to man. When we put Jesus first, when we do things his way, we will lead a life that is a blessing to others, and we will grow in faith with the Savior who died for us.

Fold your towels however you want. Or fold them your Mom's way. Just remember to seek treasure God's way. Seek Jesus first, and you will always be on the right path.

BIBLE TREASURE HUNT

FAMILY GAME TIME

BACK TO ZERO

ITEMS NEEDED:

Basketball hoop, basketball

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game. The player will start the game with ten points. He must reduce his score down to zero by throwing the ball through the under side of the basketball hoop five times, erasing two points at a time. The ball must go up and through the net without coming back down through the hoop or the points stay on the board. Any regular baskets also count as points added. Erase all ten points in sixty seconds or less and you win a prize.

VARIATION:

For younger kids, eliminate the rule about the ball coming back through the hoop adding points. Just erase points any time they get it up through the net from the underside.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

First things first: when we begin our journey with points stacked against us, it can be hard to catch up. Start your journey off on the right track, with Jesus as your guide.

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FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

The first step to God's blessings is following his word.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of putting Jesus first.

KEY PASSAGE:

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INTRO:

In 1922 explorers digging in the Egyptian desert found the fabled lost tomb of King Tut. Tut's tomb was filled with incredible treasures, including a coffin made out of solid gold. The discovery of King Tut was one of the greatest treasure finds of the 20th century, and millions of people have enjoyed viewing King Tut's treasures in museums around the world.

Do you know whom the first person was to marvel at all of Tut's wonders? It was the boy king, King Tut himself. Like so many kings of the ancient world, Tut collected as much gold and treasure as he could. When King Tut died, his people buried his treasure with him, thinking he could take it with him to the afterlife. But you and I know that Tut's treasures never went anywhere. They stayed in the ground, buried beneath the sand, for thousands of years. And now all that treasure that King Tut valued has been cataloged and displayed in museums for other people to enjoy.

It's easy to judge poor King Tut and say that he chased after the wrong thing, but how many people today are doing the same thing? Look at the beautiful houses, the expensive cars, and the sparkling jewelry that people covet. Athletes, entertainers, businessmen and women all pursue gold and treasures today just as much as Tut and his forefathers did. But at the end of their lives, all the houses, the cars, the boats, the private island resorts – all of that will stay here. It will be passed on to a relative, a friend, or put up for auction, but it will not go with you when you die.

There's nothing bad or evil in having nice things, but when we base all of our happiness on things and stuff, we're leading an empty life. That's why so many wealthy people who seem to have it all are really unhappy and miserable. They went after things they thought would make them happy.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

They don't realize that there's a treasure that is eternal, that will last beyond this life, a treasure more valuable than gold or money or any possession. Best of all, it's a treasure we can have right now, and we won't have to go digging in the desert to find it!

READ MATTHEW 6:19-34

MAIN POINT:

Jesus is the greatest treasure any of us can ever find. He is the Son of God who came to die for our sins. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have eternal life. But that's not all Jesus gives us. He gives us himself so that we can have a personal relationship with him.

God is our Creator. He loves us more than any person loved another, and he can provide everything we need. Why on Earth would you seek after treasures that aren't eternal and can never love you back when you could have Jesus living in your heart?

DRIVE IT HOME:

Jesus doesn't just tell us to seek God's kingdom. He compels us to chase after him. First, he says that where your treasure is, there your heart will be. If money and power are your treasure, they will become your god. That means those things will become more important to you than anything else. And if one day all that money and wealth is taken away from you, what then? What will you do when your god is taken away and cannot help you?

Nothing can separate us from the love of God, and no power on Earth can take away the salvation Jesus gives us. Jesus is a treasure that is eternal, and once we receive it, no one can ever take it from us!

Jesus also tells us not to worry about material things – what to eat, what to wear, where we shall sleep. Jesus says to put our trust in Him first, and all these things will be given to us. That doesn't mean that Jesus will make us rich or wealthy. God isn't Santa Claus, and he's not going to give us everything we think we want. That also doesn't let us off the hook from working hard and earning a living. Working hard is a part of living a life that honors God. When Jesus says to seek God first, he wants us to know that when we put Christ first, he will provide for us the things we need.

There's no harm in enjoying life and the good things this world has to offer, but God doesn't want a love of worldly things to come before our love for Jesus. Jesus is the greatest treasure we can never receive and the only treasure we can take with us from this life. If treasure is what you seek, then seek first after Jesus. Ask Jesus into your heart, and stake your claim on the one treasure that even death can't take away.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to follow you and put you first in all things.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

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FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTION

ICEBREAKER:

What is one of your favorite possessions?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 6:21

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:19-34

What treasure does Jesus want us to pursue?

Why can't we serve two masters, God and money?

What does Jesus say about the flowers and the birds?

What will Jesus do for us if we seek him first?

How does God give us the things we need when we seek him first?

What are some things we can do to seek God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to follow you and walk in your ways.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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FAMILY REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANKS.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on _____.
EARTH

For where your treasure is, there your _____ will be also.
HEART

You cannot serve both God and _____.
MONEY

Seek _____ his kingdom and his righteousness.
FIRST

Therefore do not _____ about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.
WORRY

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a treasure map illustrating how we can seek after Jesus.