

Adventures with GOD!

PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM KNOW WHERE TO SAVE THEIR TREASURES (B.2.WINTER.8)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 6:19-24
Key Verse	Matthew 6:21
Key Concept	My treasures are stored in heaven because I am a part of God's kingdom.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what real treasures are for people who are a part of God's kingdom 2. Make a chart to compare the treasures of earth with the treasures of God's kingdom 3. Say the Bible verse by memory

Life Application

The Sermon on the Mount teaches us some very important truths in life. The children who have been a part of the previous classes have learned truths that are like treasures for their lives. Jesus said that this type of treasure is worth more than anything we can find on the earth. It's good to do a review of what a treasure is. Once they understand what a true treasure is, they can think about where we store it and what we do with it.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible reading	Bible	5 minutes
Illustration	Wrapped present, cookies or crackers	10 minutes
Craft	Plastic container with lid, markers, paints, beads or candies, glue, scissors	15 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, Illustrations	10 minutes
Bible verse	A treasure chest	5 minutes
Game		10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Decoration: It's probable that many of the children would have never seen the inside of a bank, where people keep their most valuable possessions, like money or jewels. If it's possible create an environment that looks like and feels like a bank. Get creative. Decorate the walls, line up the chairs, etc.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Matthew 6:19-24) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Illustration: On two different sides of the room, put a "treasure." One of the treasures should be very flashy, big, pretty wrapping paper, bows, etc. Don't put anything inside of the box. The other treasure could be a box of cookies or crackers. Don't wrap it, just keep it as it is with the cookies or crackers inside. Put arrows or some sort of marker on the floor that leads to each of the treasures. There should be two separate paths, but make them creative and have them circle and cross, etc. When each child has arrived at the treasure they can open them as a

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group. The group that picks the big, wrapped gift will open it and find nothing inside. The group that chose the other gift can open up the box and eat what is inside. Invite the group who received the cookies or crackers to share with the others. Remind them of what they talked about last week, in that people who are part of God's kingdom share with others. Talk about how they felt as they found their way to the treasure, what they imagined was inside, etc.

Craft: In the following pages you will find instructions for the children to make their own treasure chests.

Bible exploration: Open your Bible. Jesus talked to us about the kingdom of God and how to be people of God's kingdom. In the story today in Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus talks to us about something very interesting. (Show them a picture of a bank or a big safe.) "What do we use a bank or a safe for?" Listen to their answers and talk about how we store things that are precious and very valuable in these places. "People who store their wealth in banks think it will be safe, but Jesus said that banks and safes aren't places where we store true treasures. Jesus said that everything that we store here on earth will eventually become damaged or lost. Imagine people who have lost all of their possessions in floods, earthquakes, and fires. How terrible to lose everything you have. And yet Jesus says, one day we won't have our earthly treasures anymore."

"If our treasure is food, one day we'll run out of food. If we treasure money, one day it could be stolen or we could lose it. If our treasure is our friends and other people, even they might disappoint us, or move away, and we wouldn't see them anymore. Just like the treasure chest we made this morning, if we put our treasure in the hands of someone else, they might not take as good of care of it as we would want."

Read Matthew 6:19-24.

"But Jesus said that there are other types of treasures and riches and that they are more precious than any others and we need to keep them in a safe place. These treasures we keep in God's kingdom. What type of treasure can we store in God's kingdom? Well, it's the things that Jesus told us about in the Sermon on the Mount (point to the mural that you made at the beginning of the trimester). For example, being salt and light in the world is showing that we are a part of God's kingdom and that our treasure is in that kingdom. Being obedient to our parents is storing our treasure in God's kingdom, so is praying and talking with God. These are ways we store our treasures in God's kingdom. What type of treasure do you want to have? Where will you keep it safe? "

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Bible verse: Bring a bunch of different objects like money, food, illustrations of friends, illustrations of a tv, etc. Take one of the treasure chests that the children have made and put it on top of one of these items and ask the child, “Where is your treasure?” The child will respond something like, “on the money.” Your response will be, “then that is where your heart is.” Do this a couple different times with different children and their treasure chests. Then ask, “Where should our treasure be?”

This is a brief way to introduce the verse, Matthew 6:21. Repeat the verse with the children using actions, or the treasure chests they’ve made to represent the words of the verse. Each time a child says the verse correctly you can give them a paper heart to go into the treasure chest.

Game: In this game you will take the role of King or Queen. You can use something to set you apart like a crown for example. Divide the group into two teams. Give each team enough paper for each of the members and crayons or markers. Explain that when you say “the King declares,” They should draw what the king asks for. You can ask for a joyful heart, a candle, a salt shaker, a treasure, a band-aid, etc - symbols from the previous lessons. As soon as everyone in the team has finished their pictures they should bring them to you. The first team to bring them to you gets a point. Do this several times, giving them more paper to draw on each time. When the game is done, ask them what the different things they drew are important for and how they are part of God’s kingdom.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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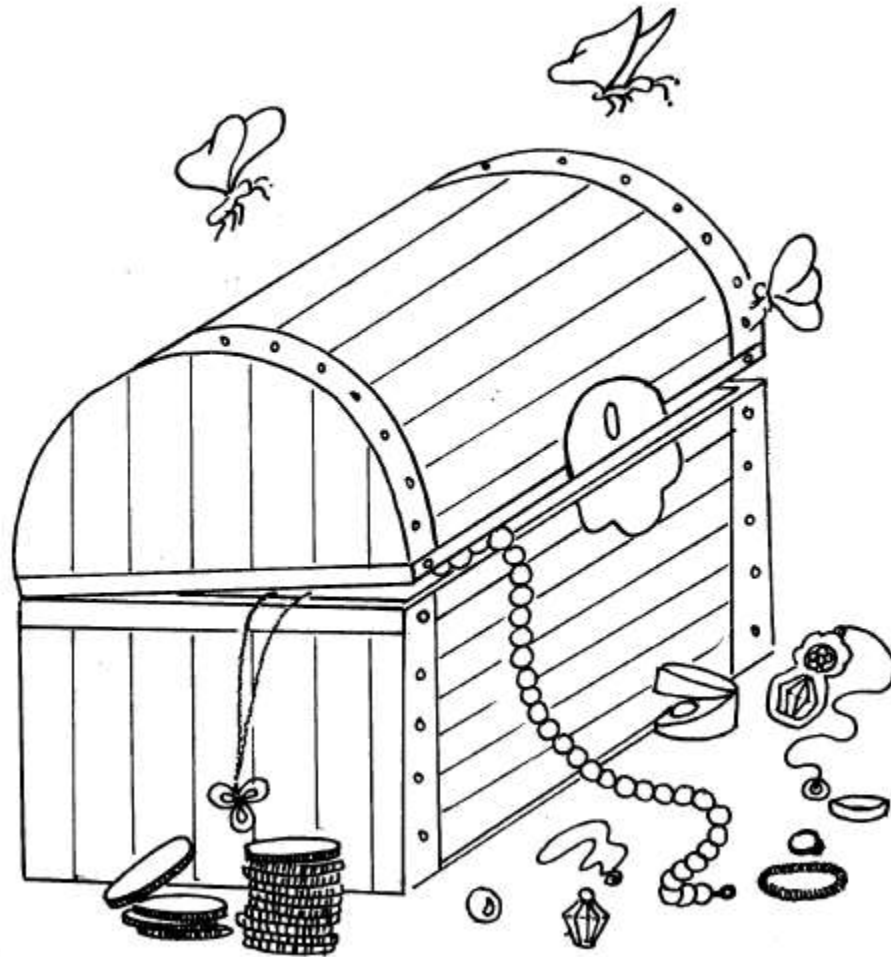
W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

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ILLUSTRATION



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CRAFT

Treasure chest

Give out different containers that have a lid. For example, use a butter container or disposable Tupperware, or an oatmeal container. Each child will receive one to decorate with paper, markers, paints, etc. Then on the lid they should write "The best treasure." Once they are decorated give them a few candies or beads that they can glue onto the outside to look like jewels. They will receive a paper heart each time they say the memory verse correctly and they can put it in their treasure chest.



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CRAFT OPTION TWO

Treasure chest

This is another option for making a treasure chest. Give one copy of this sheet to each child. Once it is decorated than it can be cut out. Cut out on the dotted lines, and around the outside of the entire figure.

