

Sunday August 7th

Trinity 8

This week we explore where we are looking for treasure.



Readings

New Testament Hebrews 11 verses 1 – 3 and 8 - 16

Gospel Luke 12 verses 32 – 40

Father, we sometimes look at all the treasures that this world offers and we lose sight of what you want from us. Help us to serve you by helping others and, in so doing, build our treasure chest in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Luke 12:32-40 from International Children's Bible

Don't Trust in Money

³² "Don't fear, little flock. Your Father wants to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell the things you have and give to the poor. Get for yourselves purses that don't wear out. Get the treasure in heaven that never runs out. Thieves can't steal it in heaven, and moths can't destroy it. ³⁴ Your heart will be where your treasure is.

Always Be Ready

³⁵ "Be ready! Be dressed for service and have your lamps shining. ³⁶ Be like servants who are waiting for their master to come home from a wedding party. The master comes and knocks. The servants immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ Those servants will be blessed when their master comes home, because he sees that his servants are ready and waiting for him. I tell you the truth. The master will dress himself to serve and tell the servants to sit at the table. Then the master will serve them. ³⁸ Those servants might have to wait until midnight or later for their master. But they will be happy when he comes in and finds them still waiting.

³⁹ "Remember this: If the owner of the house knew what time a thief was coming, then the owner would not allow the thief to enter his house. ⁴⁰ So you also must be ready! The Son of Man will come at a time when you don't expect him!"

- Jesus says that God's love helps us to let go of our fears.
- When we learn that we have God's treasure right now, we can share our things, be generous with others and receive too.
- 'Son of Man' is found in the book of Daniel. Jesus uses it for himself.

Talk together and talk to God

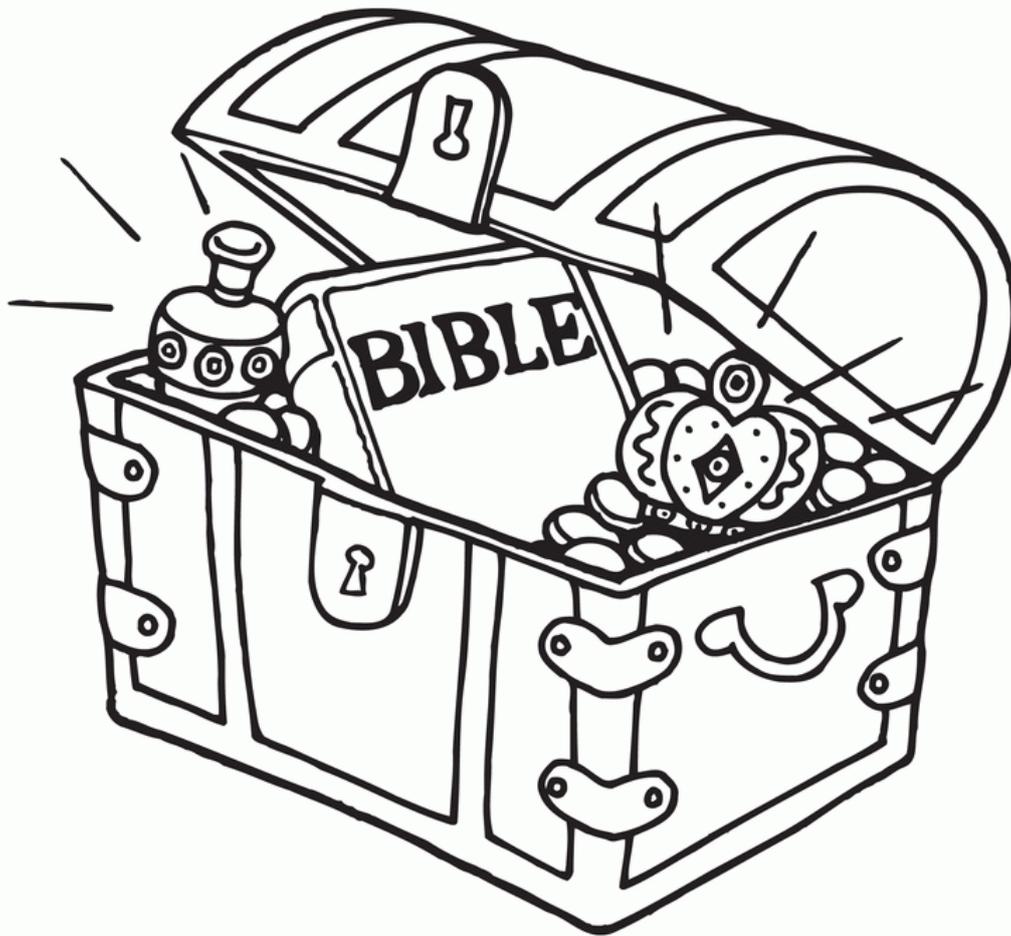
Use these questions to discuss the Bible passage and then bring your thoughts together by praying to God.

How does it feel when you receive something special?

Jesus says that God's kingdom is the best kind of treasure as it doesn't wear out. What might that kind of treasure look like?

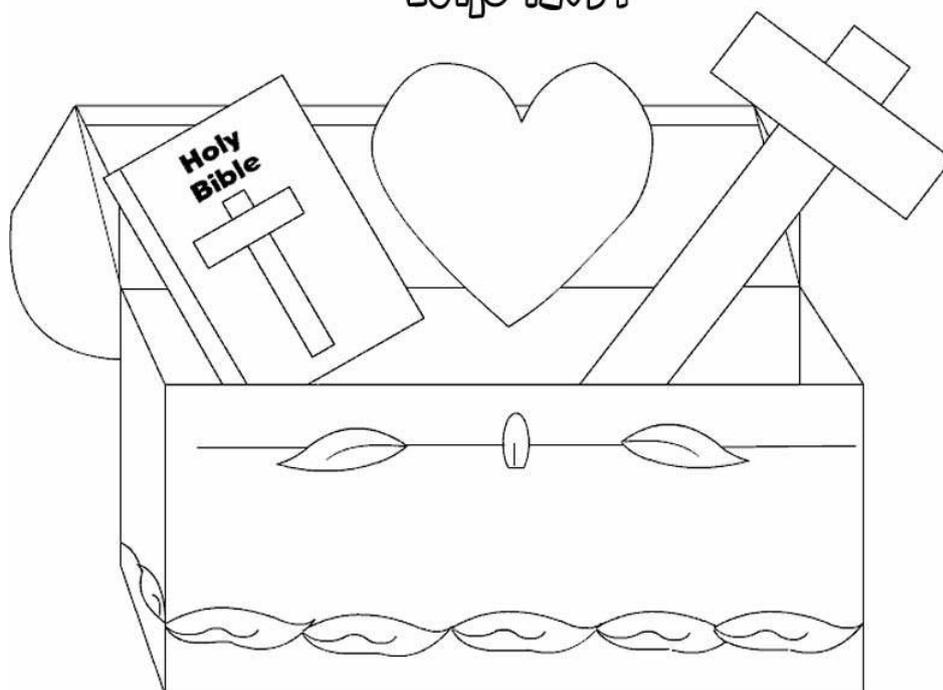
How can we share the treasures we have received from God with others?

So, how do we lay up treasures in heaven as Jesus said we should? We do it by taking our eyes off of our own selfish wants, and look at others and their needs. We give to the poor, we help those in need, we love others as we love ourselves. Those are things that will build treasures in heaven and there is nothing that can take them away.



FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,
THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO.

~ LUKE 12:34



Where can we find treasure now?

Find examples of God's treasure and create something unique

You will need: printed verses of Scripture; a variety of craft materials, e.g. paper, pens, stickers, heart shapes, beads; things gathered by the children, e.g. wool, feathers, leaves, other items from creation.

- Encourage the children to move around the room and outside, selecting things that show us God's treasure.

Give time to explore the resources alone and quietly, considering where they look for and find God's treasure. They might like to create something from the materials they've chosen

Talk to God: Hold the treasure

Thanking God for the treasure in our lives

- Ask the children to think of the good things we receive from God and from people who are generous to us, e.g. those who take time to help us.
- Invite them to name each good thing, holding out their hands as if they were receiving treasure, and say 'thank you' to God.

Questions

- If a rainbow is a sign, what is it a sign of for you?
- Where do you find treasure in your life right now?
- What might the treasure that comes from God look like in practice?

• **Go with God 24/7**

Encourage the children to put their faith into action

This week share something you consider to be treasure with someone else.

Race for riches

A game that explores storing up treasure

You will need: multiple copies of 'race for riches' pictures ([template found here](#)), printed on card and cut out; envelopes to hide the treasure (optional).

- Split your group into two teams and place the individual treasure pictures – either upside down or in sealed envelopes – in one area, ready for the team members to race to.
- Each team member takes a turn to run and grab an undisclosed item of treasure, until all the pictures have been taken. They shouldn't see the treasures they have taken until the end of the game.
- Once all the pictures have been taken by both teams, prompt them to look to see what treasures they have stored up. Work out a point system for the different pictures, e.g. 20 points for love hearts, family and the cross. Phones, money, social media could have five points each.
- Talk together about the treasure we store up, and consider what treasure is unending.

What do we treasure?

You will need: a bag or pillowcase with objects inside e.g. remote control, cash-filled purse, Bible, picture of NHS staff, family photo.

- Ask: What might we mean by treasure? A pirate treasure hunt? Gold coins? Which of the items in the bag are true treasure?

What will you hold on to?

You will need: sticky notes or small squares of paper – enough for eight per person.

- Ask the young people to think about the eight most important things in the world to them. They should then write each one onto a separate note.
- Explain that they must now give one up and put that item in the middle of the table. Repeat this until they are left with only three of their eight items.
- Discuss why those three things are the most valuable to them.

Treasures in Heaven (Luke 12:32-40)

Do you have a piggy bank? How often do you put money in it?

Some people, at the end of each day, put all of the change from their pockets into a piggy bank. It may not be a lot of money, but when you add to it every day, it is amazing how quickly it builds up. But we have to be careful that saving money doesn't become the most important thing in our life.

- Why do you think I say that?

In the Bible, Jesus warned His friends and the people who followed Him about making money the most important thing to them.

He said, "Don't worry too much about building up treasures on earth." He meant, don't worry too much about money and things but instead, spend your time building up treasures in heaven. So, instead of putting money in this piggy bank, let's store up treasures in heaven by putting in things we think would be treasures in heaven. (Luke 12:33)

What might be treasures in heaven? Give money to the poor

- Visiting the sick
- Helping to feed the hungry
- Being cheerful and thoughtful to someone who is sad
- Praying for one another
- Working in a shelter for the homeless
- Being a friend to someone who is lonely
- Forgiving someone who has hurt you
- Saying you're sorry when you hurt someone

All the things we talked about can be "treasures in heaven." They may not seem like much, but if we do something for someone each and every day, it is amazing how quickly they add up.

God, we may never have much money or very many things, but help us to be faithful each day in building up treasures in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Right here, right now

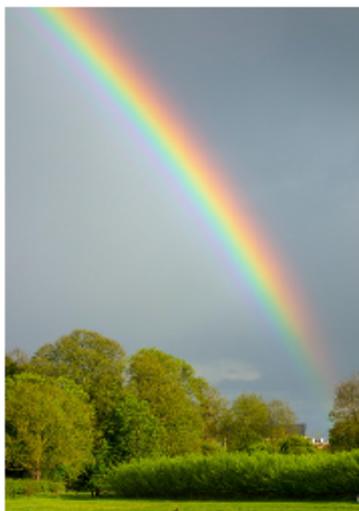
Luke 12.32-40

Jesus is telling his followers that God loves to give them the kingdom. We can experience that treasure both right now and in the future. He challenges people to think about where their treasure is, because their heart will be there also. Jesus wants us to set our hearts on God and his kingdom. Jesus also reminds us of the importance of serving and helping others.

Now read **Luke 12.32-40** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

There are so many things in life which compete for our focus, energy and our resources. Jesus wants us to question if there are things that we spend too much time or money on, and which are not important in the kingdom of God. Are we actively seeking the gift of Jesus in our lives?



Where do you find treasure in your life?



The love of God is treasure which changes everything. Are there situations where you need to search deep to find love? Make some cupcakes with pink sponge hearts hidden inside, and share them with someone who needs to know that they are cared for this week. Find a Victoria sponge recipe. Make one pink sponge in a 20cm round cake tin, using a 2-egg mix and pink food colouring drops. Cool and cut out 12 pink hearts. Separately make a 3-egg vanilla sponge mix and put 1/2 tsp of it into each of 12 cupcake cases. Push a pink sponge heart into each case and top with another 1/2 tsp sponge mix. Bake, cool and decorate with frosting.



Save the money that you would usually spend on treats, and at the end of the week pool your savings and donate to a charity such as RNLI, who rescue people at sea. When people go out on a sea rescue, what do you think is in their hearts?

Prayer Priorities

At the start of each day this week, take a few quiet minutes to ask Jesus to help you choose what is important, and to give you opportunities to love and help people. You could sketch or write down two or three things which you are planning for the day. And pray that Jesus shows you how to do them with love and gratitude. Perhaps add to your drawings, or list something which will remind you to love.



View the worship song 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God' (with Call To Worship) - YouTube. Meditate on the words and write your own verse to reply to God. You may want to sing each other's verses together as a household.



God's word is a treasure that we seek. Play this together and take turns finding the missing word – all complete the actions; some outdoors, some inside. Alternatively, you could compete!

- A. Go outside and hug a _____, Psalm 1.3
- B. Stand on a _____ and reach as high as you can. Psalm 18.2
- C. See if you can find an _____ (don't kill it). Proverbs 6.6
- D. Hold your _____ for 30 seconds. Acts 2.26
- E. Turn on a _____, do 5 jumping jacks or gentle stretches to your toes. John 8.12
- F. Look in a _____ for 30 seconds. 1 Corinthians 13.12