

Treasure Hunt

Description:

follow clues that lead to 'treasure letters' hidden around the room, plus a craft to do

Aim: learn that God treasures people around the world

Audience: 3-5 years, any size class with adequate help

Time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment: large cut out letters from A-Z, the book *From Akebu to Zapotec*, copies and listed supplies for craft

Scripture to Study:

Revelation 5:9
Matthew 28:19, 20

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Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Cut large letters, from A-Z, out of stiff cardboard. These "treasure letters" represent "treasured people" who still wait for God's Word. Decorate the letters with paint, fabric, glitter, plastic jewels or other precious looking coverings. Make them attractive enough that preschoolers really *want* to find them! (Attach small items securely enough that children cannot pull them off and choke on them.)
2. Store the book *From Akebu to Zapotec* and "treasure letters" in your classroom so you'll be ready to hide two or three more letters each week. *Treasure Hunt* time will become a weekly favorite! You are building the concept that God sees all people around the world as precious and He wants them all to have His Word. You also teach children that they can "do missions" right now, even at a young age, by praying. (Alternatively, print off the Children's Prayer Journal from <http://www.wycliffe.org/Resources/Kids/FreeCurriculum/PrayerLessons.aspx/>.)
3. Make up your clues and hide three letters (more or less as you like) in various places around your classroom before children arrive each week.
4. Create rhyming clues, like this: "God loves the Zapotec and God loves you. Find the big Z near crafts that you do." You can also make them simple like this: "Find the big A near books that we read." Even if preschoolers do not know an "A" from a "Z," you will only hide one letter near the designated area of you room. This activity also reinforces emerging reading skills.

Class Time:

1. Show the children some of the letters you've decorated so they know for what type of thing they are searching. (Of course they won't be the ones you've already hidden around the room.)
2. Divide a large class into three groups, or more if you like. Give each group a clue of where to find their "treasure letter" and send them off on the hunt.
3. Instruct each group to bring you the letter as soon as they find it and have them sit down for "treasured people" story

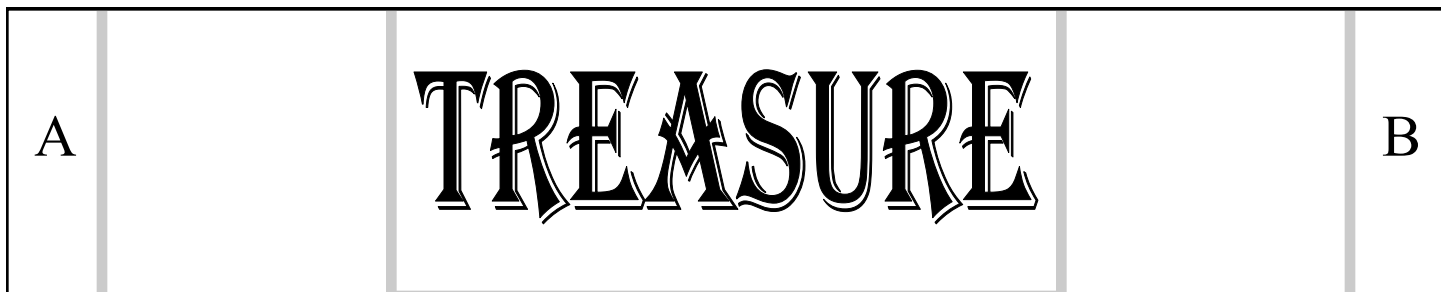
time. While the first group is sitting and waiting for the other groups, let each child take a turn holding the letter and enjoying its beauty.

4. Hold up the “treasure letter” A, or have one of the students hold it while you read about the Akebu people.
5. Each lesson ends with the phrase, “The _____ people do not have the Bible in their own language.” Stop and lead the children in a short repeat-after-me style prayer like this: “God, please send the Bible to the Akebu people. In Jesus’ name, Amen.” You may want to alternate this with other mission prayers like this: “Heavenly Father, please choose someone to give the Bible to the Zapotec people.” Keep prayers simple. You are teaching them to pray.
6. Move to the next “treasure letter” they found. Remember that a preschooler’s attention span for sitting is about one minute per year according to age. So, for three-year-olds, don’t read longer than three minutes and so forth.
7. If you like, mount the letters on the wall each week after you finish. It will beautify your classroom and you can use them for review if you like.

Treasure Chest Craft

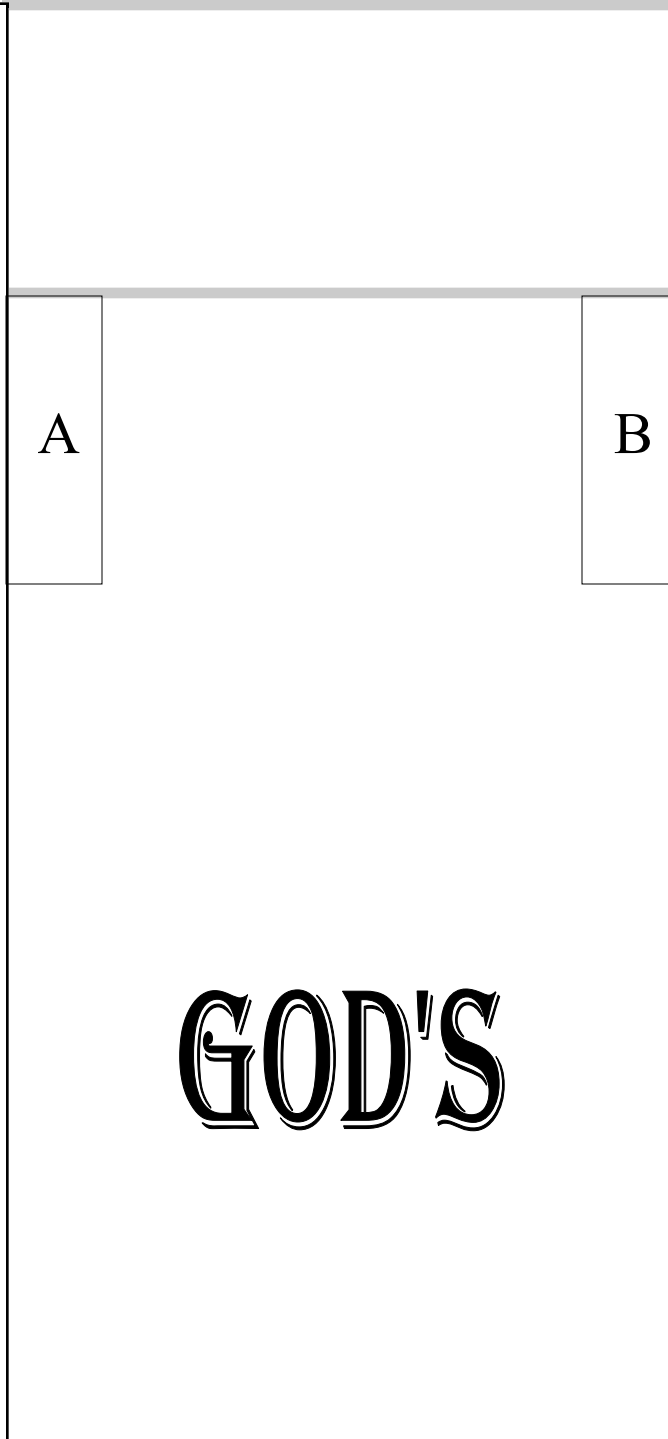
1. Make one copy per child of whichever treasure chest fits your age group. The simpler page four version is better for three-year-olds. Many four- and five-year-olds can cut, fold and tape together the harder version on page three.
2. Photocopy enough copies of page five so that each child has one set of multicultural faces to attach inside his/her treasure chest. Try brown or manila colored paper.
3. Collect crayons, glue, tape, scissors and precious or gemlike decorations for the outside of the treasure chests.
4. Remember, do not use small beads or other small decorations if you know your children may put them in their mouths. They are a choking hazard and can be aspirated into the lungs, causing severe injury. Depending on your children, you might prefer glittery stickers instead!

Notes:



Instructions:

1. Photocopy this page onto heavy paper.
2. Let children color or decorate with glittering gems or stickers.
3. Cut out along outer solid lines.
4. Fold on light gray lines to form a box base with the word 'treasure' on the front.
5. Tape or glue flaps labeled 'A' and 'B' to outside backs with same letters.
6. Insert or attach one set of multicultural faces inside the base of the box.
7. Tuck the flap that says, "God's" inside of the box to form the curved lid, completing the phrase "God's Treasure."
8. Teach that God treasures children all over the world.

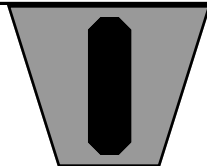


Teacher's Instructions:

1. Photocopy treasure chest and multicultural faces onto heavy paper.
2. Let children color and decorate their treasure chests.
3. Cut out along outer solid lines.
4. Fold on gray line.
5. Glue or tape one set of multicultural faces inside treasure chest.
6. Tape the sides.
7. Teach that children all over the world are a treasure to God!

Fold Here

**GOD'S
TREASURE**



Insert, or attach, one set of faces in each treasure chest.

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