

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: pre-school, 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. You want them to be so attractive 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 build the concept that all people around the world are precious in God's sight and He wants them all to have His Word. You are also teaching children that they can 'do missions' right now by praying.)
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." Or, 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," there will only be one letter hidden near the designated area of you room. This activity also reinforces emerging reading skills.)

Class Time:

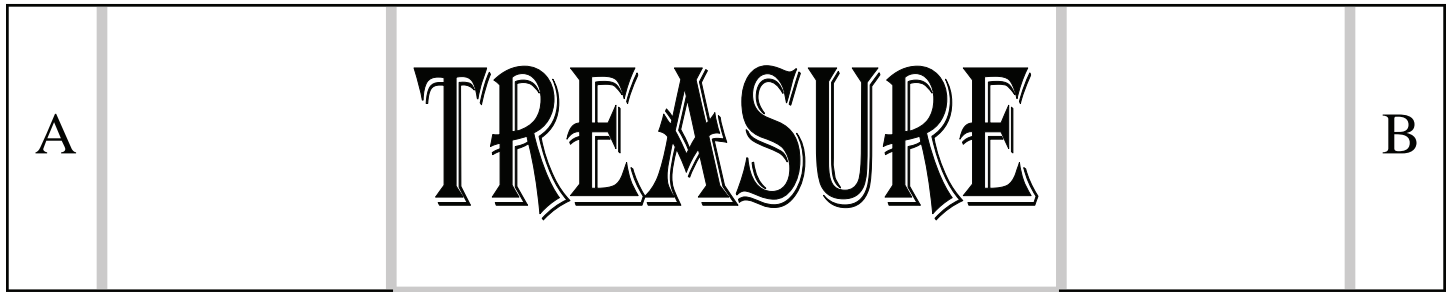
1. Show the children some of the letters you've decorated so they know what they are looking for. (Of course they won't be the ones you've already hidden around the room.)
2. Divide a large class into 3 groups, or more if you like. Give each group a clue of where to find their 'treasure letter' and send 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 lessons 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." Simple is best. You are teaching them to pray.
6. Move to the next 'treasure letter' that was found. Remember that preschoolers' attention span for sitting is about 1 minute per year according to their age. So, for 3 year olds, don't read longer than 3 minutes and so forth.
7. If you like, mount the letters on the wall each week after you are done. It will beautify your classroom and you can use them for review if you like.

Treasure Chest Craft

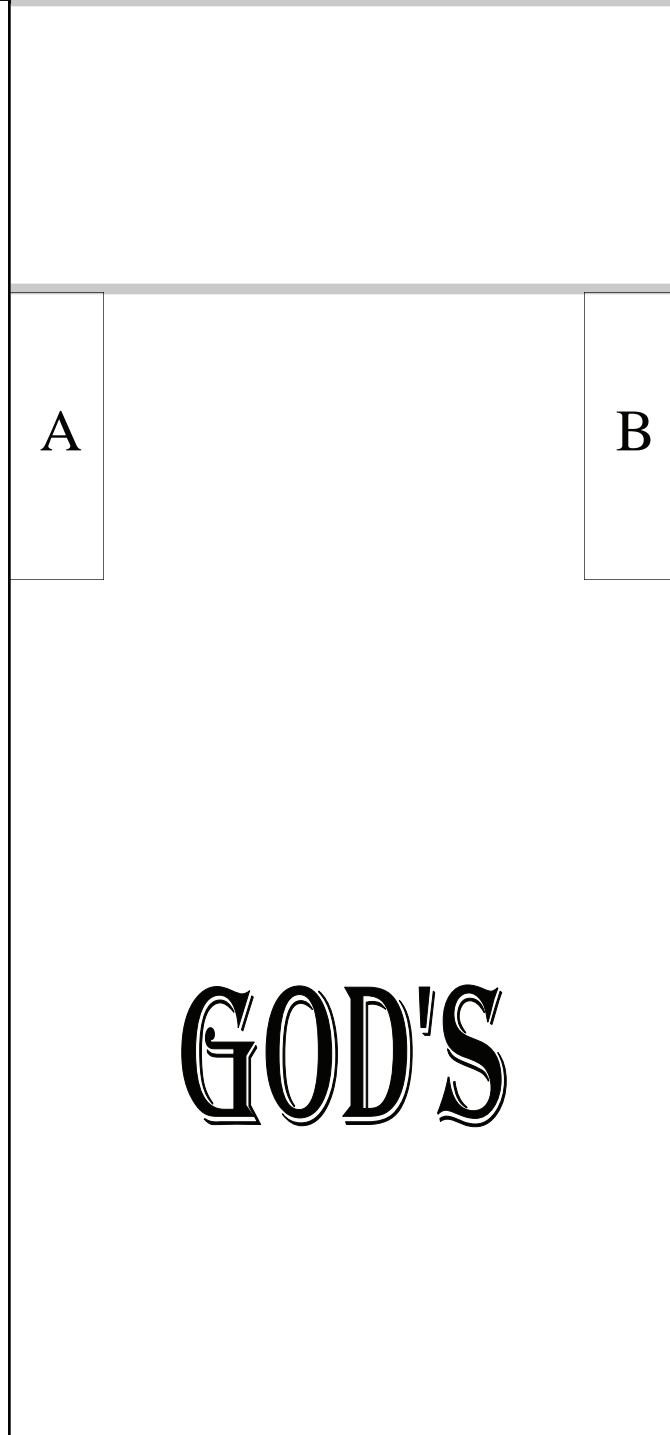
1. Make one copy per child of whichever treasure chest fits your age group. The simpler version on page 4 is better for two and three year olds. Many four and five year olds can cut, fold and tape together the harder version on page 3.
2. Photocopy enough copies of page 5 so that each child has one set of multicultural faces to attach inside his or 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 for two and three-year-olds. They are a choking hazard and can be aspirated into the lungs, causing severe injury. Try 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 the box to form the curved lid, completing the phrase 'God's Treasure.'
8. Teach that children all over the world are a treasure to God!

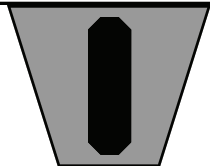


Teacher's Instructions:

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.

