

## God treasures us

## Week 1

**Theme:** Spiritual treasure: God knows us and loves us.

**Games – People to People:** Get children into pairs. A leader calls out parts of the body, i.e. hand to head. Pairs have to put their hand on each others head. Knee to knee, back to back, right hand to left foot and so on. If leader shouts people to people the children change partner.

**Kim's Game:** Prepare a tray with at least 10 objects on it. Let the children look at it for 1 to 2 minutes, cover it and see how many they can remember. This could be played in teams.

**Make a shape:** Children need to be in groups of 4 or 5. The leader calls out names of objects from nature i.e. tree, rock, snake, crocodile etc. The groups have to make themselves into these objects.

**Introduction:** Ask the children to draw a picture of their favourite thing or a pet they might love. Ask a few to share. (This could be done as the children are coming in.)

**Story:** Psalm 139 verses 1 to 6 then 13 to 16. This could be done using two simple actions: the children point up for "you" or "your" and point to themselves for "I" or "me".

**Memory Verse:** *"And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him."* 1 John 4 verse 9. Cut the memory verse up and hide the pieces around the room for the children to find. For smaller groups you might like to make up some clues to follow like a treasure map.

**Application:** Ask if any one knows what it means to treasure something. Refer back to the thing they treasured in the introduction. The things we treasure most are the things that are ours and we know most about. Psalm 139 tells us that God knows everything about us. This is because He created us and we are His. The Bible also tells us that everything He created He was pleased with. So God was pleased with you when He created you and He treasures you today and will forever. How did God show us that he loves us? (Recap memory verse)

**Prayer:** Encourage the children to thank God for treasuring us and ask Him to help us to treasure others. Cut out the star from the centre of the resource sheet and discard. Place the card outline over a mirror so the children see themselves within the star shape. Pass the mirror with the outline around the circle. The outline has the words, "This is God's treasure." on it. See resources.

**Song:** "Oi Oi we are gonna praise the Lord" track 3 "King of Heaven" CD

**Resources:** Mirror template and fun sheet.

## The Calling of Matthew

## Week 2

**Theme:** There's more to life than earthly treasure

**Games:**

**Race for the money:** Children sit in a circle and are numbered 1, 2, 3 or 4. A money bag is placed in the centre of the circle. When their number is called, they run clockwise round the outside of the circle, through the space where they were sitting and try to grab the money bag before anyone else does so. (Advise the children not to dive for the bag or they might bang heads!)

**"I went to market":** The first person says "I went to market and I bought a fish". The second person repeats that item and adds one of their own and so on round the circle until there is a huge list of items to remember.

**Introduction:** Have a short, vigorous game of "Follow my Leader" then explain that our story today is about someone who was invited to follow Jesus.

**Story:** Matthew 9 verses 9-12 See story in resources section.

**Application:** Matthew, as a tax collector, was collecting money from the Jewish people (taxes) and handing it over to the Romans. It was a secure job and we know that tax collectors used to take more money than they should and keep it for themselves. BUT when Jesus said, "Follow me", Matthew could see that there was more to life than collecting money! Jesus wants us to get the balance right. Do we spend as much time talking to God as we do with all our possessions? Jesus supplies all our needs – just ask Him! He can give us something greater than money – Eternal Life!

**Memory verse:** *"Do not store up riches for yourself here on earth." Matthew 6 v. 19*

Using the six quiz questions in resources, each time a child gets an answer correct, give them a piece of the memory verse. When all have been answered correctly, give them 10 seconds to get the pieces in the right order then learn the verse together.

**Craft:** Make a collage, using pictures from catalogues and carefully selected newspapers. Ask the children to cut out pictures of "earthly treasure" which they find desirable, such as i-pods and lap-tops, then ask them to find pictures of people helping others and choosing to follow God's way. Ask which pictures they think would be most pleasing to God.

**Prayer:** Have a treasure chest. On the back of circles (to represent coins) ask the children to write down a/ something they would like to do for God or b/ a prayer for help in spending less time with their possessions and more time praying. Let them put their prayers in the chest and ask God to answer them.

**Song:** "You make me happy" track 12, "It's for You" CD by Freesongs

**Final game:** Have a relay race to collect seemingly valuable items from the other end of the room. The children take it in turns to collect one item, bring it back to their team and put it in a sack. When all items have been collected, they exchange their sack for a Bible which the leader tells them, contains the real treasure!

**Resources:** Story; memory verse quiz and fun sheet

The Rich Young RulerTheme : Lasting Treasure

**Games: Camel through the eye of a needle.** You need hoops placed at intervals in front of the teams and a finish line. On "Go" the first child runs up to the first hoop, passes hoop over their body and repeats at the next hoop etc. When he reaches the finishing line, the first child sits down as the cue for the next team member to begin. When the whole team has reached the finish line, they all stand up, link arms around each others waist like a caterpillar and carefully return to the start point by passing the hoops over the whole team. Leaders will need to help.

**Pasta thread:** You need penne pasta (tubes) and green garden cane. Fix two or three garden canes onto a piece of blu-tak or plasticine so that the canes are able to stand upright. Penne is placed in a bowl some way in front of the players – one bowl per team. Position the canes to the side of bowl with enough distance that that the children won't accidentally run into the canes. On "Go", the first child runs to bowl, collects a piece of pasta and threads the pasta onto the cane. Once threaded, the child goes to the back of the line and the next child runs to get pasta. Continue play for 2 minutes. The team which has threaded the most pasta is the winner.

**Jump!** Fill a sock with newspaper and tie off the end. Attach a piece of rope securely to the end. Children stand in a circle with a leader in the middle. The leader swings the sock at ankle level, fairly evenly, around the circle. As the sock approaches the children, they jump to avoid it touching them. Anyone who is touched by the ball is out. As the children get more used to the game vary it by changing direction, speed and height of swing.

**Introduction:** See resources. Consider the following amounts of money from different countries. Which do the children think is worth more? It is not easy for young people to recognize the real value of things. Sometimes bigger may seem most valuable. 1 Gold ounce is worth approx £686, 2000 Indian Rupees is worth approx £27.50, 5000 Western African francs is worth approx £6.70, 2 British pounds is worth 200 new pence, 1500 Chilean Pesos is worth approx £1.65. Use other currencies

**Memory Verse:** *Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." Luke 18:27*  
Memory verse craft: Children cut along the lines to make a spiral mobile. Thread wool through hole to hang.

**Story:** The Rich Young Ruler. Luke 18: 18-30. See resources

**Application** – Like Matthew, the rich young ruler had lots of money - earthly treasure. When he asks Jesus how to receive eternal life, what does Jesus tell him? (*Sell all he has and give the money to the poor.*) Why is the man sad to hear this? (*He is very rich!*) The young man had a choice; to follow Jesus but lose all his money, or to keep his money and miss out on all the blessings that come with following Jesus. Unfortunately he was too fond of his money and he made the wrong choice. His money would only last a short time but eternal life with God is for ever. We don't have to give up all our money to follow God but He does want us to love Him more than we love our possessions. What would the children do? It isn't easy choosing to follow Jesus but the rewards are worth it.

**Prayer:** For a change, break into small prayer clusters - perhaps 3 children and a leader. Pray quietly together that God will help us to follow Him.

**Song:** "Measure of the Treasure" Doug Horley, Whoopah Wahey, Track 16

**Resources :** There is a fun sheet, currency resource sheet, story and memory verse craft

The Parable of the Great FeastWeek 4

**Theme:** The Choice

**Games: Laying the Table.** *You need a large sheet of paper, pens and a dice per team.* Children take turns to throw dice. When 1 is thrown, draw a plate. When 2 is thrown, draw a knife, spoon or fork – whichever is needed. When a 3 is thrown, draw a cup. When a 4 is thrown, draw a vegetable on the plate. When a 5 is thrown, draw another food item on the plate. First team to complete everything are the winners or with most items when you call time.

**Party Food:** When the music plays, children move around the room. When the music stops, call out a party food. Children have an action for each food. **Popcorn** - big star jump; **Jelly** – stand on spot and wobble; **Sandwiches** – children get into threes as bread and a filling; **Sausage roll** – roll on floor. Can you think of some other foods and actions ?

**The Party Table:** Have a collection of play food at one end of the room and a plate for each team. (*Foundation stage teachers at the school may be able to lend you some*) In teams, the first child runs to end of the room. The child picks up one piece of food, puts it on the plate and carries it carefully back, waiter style – holding the plate on open palm. Second child takes the plate with one food item, carries it to the end, loads a second piece of food and goes back. Each child adds another piece of food and the children must try and carry the plate using one hand without dropping the contents. If you can't find play food, use other items from a party.

**Memory Verse:** *How happy are those who will sit down at the feast in the Kingdom of God."* Luke 14: 15. Hang a length of string across the room (or have 2 leaders hold it.) Write each word of the memory verse onto coloured paper – a different colour for each team and cut out each word as a triangular shaped piece of bunting. On "go", children take it in turns to race to the centre to find a piece of their bunting and then hang it on the line. Repeat until all the bunting is hung up and the completed verses are in the correct order.

**Introduction:** Show pictures of famous musicians, popstars, actors, actresses, sports people etc. Ask the children which celebrities they would invite if they were having a party?

**Story:** *The Parable of the Great Feast* – Luke 14: 15 – 24

Read the story to the children then repeat the story with obvious mistakes. Every time the children hear a mistake they stand up, spin round and sit down again. *See resources.*

**Application** – Ask the children if they remember the excuses given for not attending the feast. Who did the king invite instead? Jesus was explaining that God has invited us to the biggest party ever – heaven. He has asked everyone, not just the rich and famous. He loves us and wants us all to be there. He wants us to follow him but he does not force us to do so. No one is excluded. We might choose not to follow him but the invitation still stands!

**Prayer:** Give the children an invitation. They add the names of children they would like to invite to Kingsquad. Decorate the invitation. Pray for all of the children named.

**Song:** "Hands, hands, fingers, thumbs" We want to see Jesus lifted high CD

**Resources:** There is a fun sheet, story and invitation in the resources.

## The treasure within you

**Theme:** We should use the talents that God has given us.

### **Games:**

**Talent show:** If you have time you could get the children to show off their talents. Jokes, impressions etc. - nothing too big.

**Stuck in the mud:** Choose a couple of children to be chasers whilst the other children run round the room. When one of the chasers touches another child, that child has to stand still with their arms stretched out. Another child has to run under that child's arm to set them free to run around again.

**Moods and actions:** Have prepared two sets of cards one with actions for the children to mime i.e. reading a book, digging a hole or brushing teeth, and another set telling them in what mood to act out the action i.e. happy, angry or shy. See *resources*.

**Introduction:** Ask children to write the things they think they are good at on a picture of a candle. These can be talents like singing and dancing but encourage the children to also think about other talents such as being friendly and being good listeners. Ask a few children to share their ideas. (This could be done as the children are coming in.) See *resources*.

**Story:** Matthew 25 verses 14 to 29: The Parable of the Talents. While you read out the story, children can act it out.

**Memory Verse:** *"In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5 verse 16. This could be done as a dressing up relay. On Go, put on an item of dressing up then run and collect a piece of memory verse, return and tag the next person.

**Application:** Ask the children to name some talents that could help others. The men in the story were all given money. The men who used their money wisely saw great results and even though they didn't get to keep the money they would have felt good about helping and pleasing their master. God doesn't always give us money but he does give us talents. If we use these talents to help others we will see the results and feel appreciated and loved by others. However if like the other man we choose to hide our talents and not use them we won't be able to help others and God will not be able to use us.

**Prayer:** If the children can sit still, you might want to use a real candle in the middle of your circle. Encourage the children to thank God for the talents He has given us. Ask Him to help us to use these talents for the benefit of others and not to hide them away. The children could use their card candles from earlier.

**Song:** This little light of mine.

**Resources:** Mood and actions words, candle picture and fun sheet.

Jesus' Resurrection and the Party in Heaven

**Theme :** Treasure awaits us in heaven.

**Games:**

**Gotcha:** The children sit in a circle with one player in the centre. On your command, one person will call the name of another player. That person in turn names someone else. The player in the middle tries to tap the named person on the shoulder before they have a chance to name someone else. If they succeed, those two players swap places.

**Wink, Wink, Resurrection:** One child sent out. Choose someone to be "it". First player returns. Object is for "it" to wink at group members. If winked at, they jump up and cheer enthusiastically! The player who has returned is trying to work out who is leading the winking. They may make three guesses.

**Pass the parcel:** As you wrap the parcel up, place one of the following words in each layer: party, a, to, you, invites, Jesus. Thus, the first word *wrapped* will be "party" and the first word *unwrapped* will be "Jesus." In larger groups, space out the words between layers.

**Memory Verse:** "*There are many rooms in my Father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you*" John 14 v 2a. Enlarge the mansion drawing in the resources. Cut out window shaped pieces of paper and write sections of the memory verse on the reverse. Place over the windows on the original drawing. Children takes turns to remove a window to reveal part of the verse.

**Introduction:** Prepare two paper bags. Place one on your hand as a puppet. Draw on a sad face. Ask the children why the puppet is sad. Pop a larger bag over the top with a smiley face on it. What might have happened to make the puppet happy? Explain that today's story is about a change from sadness to happiness.

**Story:** *Jesus' Resurrection & Party in heaven* (Based on events seen in 'Miracle Maker'; Luke 24 v 13-40; John 20 v 1-19 & 24-29) Watch from Mary's visit to the tomb until the end of the film. Follow the story with a quiz (see *resources*). If you don't have "Miracle Maker", find a children's bible version.

**Application:** Three days after his death on the Cross, Jesus came alive again. He appeared to at least 500 people and even ate some fish to prove that he was not a ghost! He is still alive today and with us all the time. Even better news for those that follow him is that Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for us so that we will be with him for ever! How does that make you feel? What can we do to ensure a life with God in heaven? What kind of riches can we store up in heaven while we are still on earth?

**Prayer:** Using the mansion picture from earlier. Invite the children, in turn, to write their names on the building. Give thanks that Jesus is saving a place for each of us in heaven.

**Song:** "*We want to see Jesus lifted high*" from CD of the same name, *Doug Horley*

**Resources:** There is a story quiz, memory verse mansion and fun sheet in the resources.