Where's My Treasure?

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6: 21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

TOPIC: Treasure

PROPS: Box made up to look like a safe, or treasure chest, or wooden box or an old sock with enough room for something of worth hidden in it. (In the old days people hid money in sock, under mattress, sugar bowl.) Place in the treasure chest things that are a treasure to you.

eg Picture of family or spouse, your old teddy, picture of your car, favourite golf club, cricket bat, football, swap cards, Playstation games or Nintendo game, TV remote, holiday souvenirs, photo album, coin or stamp collection, books etc.

Remember, you do not have enough time to talk about all your bits of treasures, but have enough to make it interesting and fun. You may want to give the children time to speak about some of their treasures.

Don't forget to place inside the treasure chest a Cross or bible that represents Jesus.

*Pen and paper if you choose to use the prayer option.

FORMAT OBJECT LESSON.

You can use your imagination as to how best to introduce this topic, as these ideas are only suggestions. You can have a “treasure chest” hidden before the worship time and let the children dig for treasure by letting them search the worship area for the chest. Or you can have the “treasure chest” sitting on a chair in the middle of the platform at the commencement of the worship time and simply let it sit there until the children’s story.

Story goes along these lines.

“Have you ever thought about finding buried treasure? I have (or I know of many people who have). There is the excitement of searching for the treasure, then the excitement of finding it and then the biggest excitement of finding out what is inside.

Today I would like to share with you some of my treasures, and I have them in this treasure chest”.

Take the things out of the “treasure chest” one at a time, speaking about them quickly and lovingly. Do not prolong this time, but use it to help the children understand how these things are important to you, and why they are your treasures.

Ask children what some of their treasures are. You may choose to write their responses on a white board, or simply let them say it.

Ask a child to read the verses above or read it yourself. (Matthew 6: 21)

PUNCHLINE: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

“If our treasure was footy, we would spend all our time watching it, buying magazines, and talking about it. If we really want to know what our treasure is, all we have to do is to think about how much time we spend thinking about it, how much time we spend involved with it and how much money we spend on it.

In the Bible, Jesus spoke these words from Matthew 6 to people to help them work out what was treasured / important to them in life.
He wanted them to understand that a relationship with God was to be an important part of life. It was to be as a treasure for them. If loving God is the biggest treasure in our life then we will spend time with Him in worship and prayer, and we would tell people about Him. We would support His work through giving of our time, talents and treasure and we would want to keep learning more about Him through Bible study, Sunday school, Junior soldiers.”

“I trust that God is an important treasure in your life. If He is not, then all you have to do is ask Jesus to help you know God and He will help to make God a treasure in your life, and that is the most important and exciting treasure you will find”.

PRAYER OPTION FOR ABOVE:
You can use this whole story as an introduction to a prayer time, where the above activity is modified slightly by asking the children and congregation to draw a picture of their treasure, and keep it until you ask them to participate later in the worship time.

PRAYER TIME:
Congregation to have the picture of their treasure in hand.

You can ask the people to look at their treasure and sing a simple prayer chorus like “Thank you Jesus”, or “Give thanks with a grateful heart”. After the chorus has been sung you can ask everyone to bring their picture to the front and blue tack them around the rostrum/ holiness table or wall.

Or, you can ask them to place them on the Holiness table as a thanksgiving offering and a recognition that they are stewards of all God has given them. Or you can place them in the treasure chest and then you or one of the corps folk pray a prayer of thanks.