

Activity Sheet

Guides/Scouts Own

Theme: Treasure

*Camps often have activities related to treasure e.g. Treasure Hunts. So a Scouts/Guides Own on **Treasure** can be relevant.*

Opening

Give a list of about four items and ask the young people which of the items is most precious. Emphasise the question is most precious not most valuable.

Possible items on the list might be:

Radio Controlled Car	My favourite jeans
Football	My favourite DVD/CD
Cricket bat	My favourite jewellery
My favourite soft toy	My favourite poster/photo
My favourite book	My favourite video game

Take a straw poll to determine which item would be most precious to each individual.

Then continue: "We all have different ideas about what is precious. Some people say gold and diamonds are very precious and will spend vast sums of money to obtain them. Others may say that the most precious things are health, strength and friends. These are given to us and in monetary terms do not cost anything. We are discovering that treasure means different things to different people.

One of the greatest treasures in life for me is being happy and joyful. So let's sing a song about being joyful and happy.

Suggested Songs

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
This little light of mine
If you are happy and you know it

Now a prayer to say thank you for all the happy times we enjoy:

Prayer

O God, we thank you for the pleasures of our daily life.
For our homes, for food and warmth and all the fun and laughter we share.
For the health of our bodies and the exercise we get from the games we play.
For the excitement of new experiences and adventures.
For friends who we can trust, who make us happy and help us.
For all the good things we receive we give thanks. Amen

Story

John and Julie were treasure hunters. They did not go off to Treasure Islands looking for pirates' treasure, but they did go looking in junk shops and car boot sales. John and Julie did not know much about antiques but they lived in hope that they might pick up a real treasure for a few pounds that would turn out to be priceless.

One day they heard that a firm of auctioneers was holding a valuation day in a local hall. People could take along their treasures and the experts would value them free of charge. A bit like the Antiques Road Show on TV. Julie and John decided to go, taking a few of the treasures they had collected over the years.

'Let's take that old pot your grandmother gave us,' said Julie. 'What, that old vase we use as an umbrella stand?' said John. 'It's got crack right down one side. I've been thinking of throwing it out.' 'It'll be a bit of fun' said Julie. 'Let's clean it up a bit?'

When they reached the hall it was crowded. A young man was dealing with the pottery items. At other tables people were showing paintings, jewelry, guns, furniture. The young man did not seem to be impressed with what he had seen so far, but he did his best to smother a yawn. Then it was John and Julie's turn. They wanted him to look at their real treasures first but clearly that was not what he wanted. Suddenly he became very alert. He stared at the blue and white vase. Trying to suppress the urgent note in his voice he said, 'Would you mind if I had a look at this first?' He examined it with great care, saying nothing. He turned it round, He tut-tutted at the large crack. Then he called a friend over to look. They talked quietly together for a time. Then the young man turned to John and Julie, 'This could be valuable' he said. 'May I take it away to do some research on it?' 'Yes,' said Julie, 'but what do you think it is?' 'I'd rather not say now' he replied. 'Give me a week or so'.

About ten days later John and Julie heard that other experts had examined the vase. It was Chinese, early Ming, and worth at least £12,000, even in its chipped and cracked condition. The vase was auctioned some months later at an auction room for £13,500. 'Just think,' said Julie, 'we're always looking for treasure and we've been living with one right under our noses and did not recognise it.' 'Yes, and keeping umbrellas in it!' said John.

We are often like John and Julie: we ignore the treasure that is around us. During the Coronation Service at which our Queen was crowned, she was given a Bible that was described as "the greatest treasure".

How often do we use this treasure? Reading the Bible has helped many people, but often it is a treasure we do not recognise.

Readings

Let's listen to two stories from the Bible.

St Matthew Chapter 6 verses 19 to 21

St Matthew Chapter 25 verses 31 to 40.

In the first story Jesus warns us not to be too concerned about gathering together a vast quantity of wealth, because we can easily lose it.

In the second story he is telling us that helping others is the important thing in life, and this will bring happiness; we cannot lose happiness in the way we can lose wealth, so it is a real treasure. If we want to be happy we will find happiness by helping others, and this is a lasting treasure.

Now we have two prayers, one asking for forgiveness and the other about serving other people.

Prayers

Lord, who made us all, forgive us for the things we do to one another.

There are people who are neglected because they are old.

Lord, forgive us.

There are children who are ill-treated because they are young and helpless:

Lord, forgive us.

There are people who are abused because of the colour of their skin:

Lord, forgive us.

There are people who are teased, and laughed at, because they are disabled:

Lord, forgive us.

Lord, who made us all, help us to live as your children. Amen.

Jesus said that in serving others, we serve him.

We want to serve you, Lord.

Jesus said that even a drink of water given to someone who needed it, was really given to him.

We want to serve you, Lord.

Every day we meet someone whom we can help one way or another.

We want to serve you, Lord.

Keep us from being so selfish that we do not notice other people's needs.

We want to serve you, Lord.

(Silence)

Loving God, in Jesus we see your Son giving himself completely to the people around him. Make us strong to serve as he did. Amen

Conclusion

We are now going to sing another song that reminds us of the things we have been talking about.

Suggested Songs

Make me a channel of your peace

Kum Bay Yah

The Family of Man

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we are so busy looking for happiness through things that we have not got that we fail to find happiness in things close to us. We often think of Jesus as living so long ago that we fail to see him in the people we meet every day and especially those who need our help. Father, forgive our foolishness and help us to recognise real treasure when it is close to us. Amen.