



VALUABLES!

BB1

Intro Object

Treasure chest



Game

Appendix B

How much can you hold?

Story

Appendix A

The Rich Fool

REF: Luke 12:13-21; Matt 6:19-21

Reflection

Appendix B

Our beliefs and values guide our lives. You are God's treasure!
REF: 1 Peter 2:9

Song suggestion

'Measure of the Treasure'
Doug Horley

Follow-up activity

Appendix D

Children can write on heart shapes something that they treasure, and place it in a treasure box

Equipment

'Heart' object.
Various boxes.

Suggested Entry Music

'I Will Follow Him'

Petula Clark

(or use the 'Sister Act' version!)

Prayer

Ask the children to imagine something that they treasure and have them mime throwing it into the treasure box.

"God help us to place our hearts on things that last.
Help us to find, understand and treasure our values.
And let us ALWAYS know how very special we are."

Notes:



Story

Luke 12 v 13-21 / Matthew 6 v 19-21

The Bible is not just one book, but a whole library, 66 books with different types of writing and stories, songs and letters... let's explore it together. There are many stories in the Bible that Jesus told, stories called parables with a special meaning to help us grow. Once Jesus told a story that went a little bit like this...

Once upon a time there was a man, we don't know his name, but we do know he was rich. The man owned a big house, lots of land and fields and fields and fields! Each year the man would pay people to tend to the fields and plant crops, barley and rye, corn and wheat, fields and fields and fields of it!

One year the man's harvest was bigger than ever! The workers cut down the crops and collected them up - barley and rye, corn and wheat, piles and piles and piles of it! "Now put my crops into storage," the rich man said.

So the workers took the piles of barley and rye, corn and wheat and moved it into barns. They did this till crops were stacked all the way to the ceiling, barns and barns and barns of it!

"The barns are full," the workers said. "There's no more room."

"Then build me bigger barns!" the rich man said. "Those fields are mine, so those crops are mine. I want all that barley and rye, corn and wheat. I want it all!"

What do you think happened to that man? Did he live happily ever after?

No he did not!

In fact the very next day that rich man died, and all of his barns and fields and crops were left behind. Some of the crops were eaten by bugs, some people came and stole food to eat, but most of the crops went mouldy, the fields were left bare and empty, the barns eventually fell down and rotted - everything the rich man had stored up on the earth - wasn't worth anything any more.

Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus said, "Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have. So store your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. Your heart will be where your treasure is."



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Introduction / Object Lesson: I've got a treasure chest – can you guess what might be inside? (*money, gold, treasure, trap!, etc.*) *Open box and hold up a heart.* It's a heart. Did you expect that? Jesus said "Your heart will be where your treasure is". Let's think about what he meant by that.

Game: Two children see which can hold the most items. Give each child one item at a time until one of them drops everything. The items represent things that you love. It may be easier simply to give boxes and pretend they are filled with the items (eg money/teddies/rainbows etc). If they are finding just holding too easy, you could ask them to walk/hop/jump etc.

Reflection

When I was younger I used to joke with my grandparents about what I would get to inherit later in life. The thing I really wanted was a great big TV. It was huge! I loved it and I got to watch some of my favourite shows when I was round there. As my grandparents got older they decided to move from a big house to a small flat and they decided they did not need most of their things anymore. For a bit of fun they asked me to come round and get the post it notes and asked us to claim whatever we wanted. I raced my brother straight to the TV. I got there first and slammed my post it down and then I realised I'd made a terrible mistake. I wanted that TV for 10 years and by the time I could have it was actually really old, didn't work properly anymore, was really heavy and ugly and smaller than I remembered. I'd been treasuring something that wasn't going to last.

Perhaps you've had to move house and you couldn't take everything with you, or been on holiday and couldn't take it all. Or had something lost or stolen...

It can be really hard – I'm sure that you miss them.

It's good to love as much as we can, but it is wise to treasure the things that are forever.

Jesus said that your heart will be where your treasure is - and we don't want to tie our hearts to something that isn't going to last - what a waste of love that would be.

I wonder what is worth our love energy then? [*take ideas: friends, family, nature etc.*]

I think our lives and other peoples lives and experiences are worth our love and energy. I want to think about 'Values', because values are beliefs that motivate us to act, and values are the best way to give our love energy.

Does anyone know what your school values are? [*respect etc*]

The Beyond Belief series will help us recognise the worth of your school values - maybe even discover some more that are good for us. Some will be easy, some we have to learn to treasure. Jesus said that your heart follows your treasures; my hope is that you will understand how rich you can truly be if you treasure life-giving values.

An extra final thought: After Jesus had departed, Peter, one of his followers, wrote to his friends saying "You are God's chosen treasure" - I love this idea that of all the things in the universe to love, God chooses to put all his heart and all his energy and all his love into... you! You. You are a treasure!



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C





VALUABLES!

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