

3-6 | June 28

Bible Story: The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl • *Matthew 13:44-46*
(Supporting: *Matthew 4:18-22*)

Bottom Line: Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

Monthly Memory Verse: *“May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.”* Matthew 6:10 NIRV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Deck of playing cards

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each pair of kids a deck of cards. Help them divide the deck evenly between the two players, keeping the cards face down.
- Explain how to play “Slap the Heart.”
- On the count of three, both players flip over their top card.
- If either card is a heart, the first person to slap the heart card wins that pile of cards.
- If neither card is a heart, they leave the cards and flip the next top card from their deck. The winner of the next “slap” gets the cards in the played pile.
- The person with the most cards at the end wins.
- Shuffle, reset, and repeat.

What You Say:

“Great job! You had to be fast to slap that heart! We use hearts to talk about things we love. A favorite pet, good snacks, a great book, soccer, dance, or a stuffed animal. Every single one of those things is good. God made you to love them. But none of them is the most important thing. In our Bible Story today, Jesus tells a story about finding something so important, so valuable, that it is the most important thing in the whole world. Let’s go find out what it is!”

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today’s video lesson.

3. Prayer

“Let’s open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You for being the greatest treasure. Nothing is more important than You. Help us to live like You are the most important. And help us to show You that we love You this week with our words and our actions. May Your kingdom come. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

4. Memory Verse Treasure Chest

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Matthew 6:10
- “Memory Verse Treasure Chest” Activity Page
- “Memory Verse Label” Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- Scissors
- Coloring supplies
- Clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Memory Verse Treasure Chest” on cardstock and cut, one per kid.
- Print “Memory Verse Label” on label paper, one label per kid.
- Fold each kid’s paper along the lines, then smooth out.

During the Activity:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Open your Bible marked at Matthew 6:10.
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Give each kid a “Memory Verse Treasure Chest” Activity Page, and ask them to decorate the outside of their treasure chest.
- Ask kids to flip over their paper and place their label from the “Memory Verse Label” Activity. Page in the middle of the section with the side flaps.
- Show kids how to fold along the lines and tape their Memory Verse together to create their own 3D treasure chest.
- When they’re done, have them open the lid and read the “treasure” inside out loud to them: *“May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10 NlrV).

What You Say:

“Your treasure chests look amazing! And the treasure inside is the best of all. It’s our Memory Verse that reminds us what is most valuable.

“Let’s open the Bible to Matthew 6:10—that’s where we can find our Memory Verse! (*Open Bible.*) Listen as I read. ‘*May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven*’ (Matthew 6:10 NIV).

“Now let’s say it with our motions. ‘*May your kingdom come.*’ (*Make a crown shape with your hands, and bring it down onto your head.*) ‘*May what you want to happen*’ (*point up to the sky*) ‘*be done on earth*’ (*point down to the ground*) as it is done in heaven. (*Sweep both hands up towards the sky.*) Matthew 6:10 (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job saying the verse with the motions!

“God’s kingdom is the most incredible, valuable treasure there is because the kingdom comes wherever God is. The kingdom is good like the King! There is nothing in the whole world more important than learning to know and love God and to live in God’s kingdom. Take this treasure chest home, and keep it somewhere special to remember our Memory Verse and that **[Bottom Line] loving God and His kingdom is most important.**”

5. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- “Find the Hidden Treasure” Activity Page
- “Find the Hidden Treasure Key” Activity Page
- Paper
- Writing supplies

What You Do:*Before the Activity:*

- Print “Find the Hidden Treasure” on paper, one per kid.
- Print “Find the Hidden Treasure Key” on paper, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Challenge kids to make as many words as possible from the letters given. What two words are the most important?

What You Say:

“Great job! You made lots of words from those letters. There were two important words you could spell with those letters. Raise your hand if you made the word ‘kingdom.’ (*Pause.*) Awesome! The other really important word is a name. It’s whose kingdom we’re learning about. (*Pause.*) That’s right! God! Raise your hand if you made the word ‘God.’ Fantastic, everybody!

“Our world sends us a lot of scrambled messages about what should be important: money, popularity, being the best at everything. But Jesus gives us a clear message: **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important.**

“So make getting to know God and His kingdom the most important thing in your life. You can do this by making spending time with God the most important thing you do. You can make it a priority to spend time with God every day—and you can get to know who He is by reading the Bible.

“And you can go through every day with Him as your closest friend too. Since God is the most important, talk to Him about absolutely everything. As you go through life, you can say, ‘God, I loved that breakfast so much,’ Or, ‘God, I’m really nervous about swim practice.’ Or, ‘God, is there anything You would like me to do here?’

“You can also show that God is most important by living like Jesus. Since Jesus is loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind, then God’s kingdom is like that too. We can be loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind everywhere we go to show that God’s kingdom is the most important.

“Invite God to be part of everything in your life—at home, at school, or wherever you are. **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important** and the most incredible adventure of your life.”

[Make It Personal] *(Share how you have to make a choice in your life to show that God is most important. You can say something like: “For me, sometimes my phone can be a distraction. It’s easy to spend a lot of time scrolling. I have to make a choice to put it down and spend time reading my Bible or praying to remind myself of what the real treasure is. It’s a choice I have to make every day.”)*

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *Encourage kids to work in pairs and support one another.*