

## Bible background

Matthew 13:44

## Aim of lesson

To encourage the children to want to be in God's kingdom.

## Preparation required

Hide milk bottle tops or pieces of shiny foil or other suitable material for treasure, around the room. If there are no hiding places, hide them in cardboard boxes. You will need glue, scissors and tape for the activity sheet.

Also one cardboard box in which to collect the treasure.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell the children of the story Jesus told that the kingdom of God is like treasure that a man finds when digging in a field and is delighted.
2. Send them to hunt for the treasure and to put each piece in the 'treasure chest'.
3. Ask who likes finding treasure. Stress that being in God's kingdom is better than finding treasure because we will live with God and his son Jesus. Ask them for other reasons why it will be better than treasure.
4. Teach the song 'Lord You Are More Precious' and discuss the words.
5. Discuss what the children consider very precious - holidays, sweets, toys etc, and why the kingdom is better than anything.
6. Ask the children to colour the treasure chest on the activity sheet, then stick the shiny papers so that they are seen when the chest is opened.

## Alternative activities

1. Give each child a small cardboard box to decorate with shiny paper and then get them to draw pictures of their own precious things to go inside. If you wish everyone can help to decorate one large box for the whole group.
2. Do some coin rubbing or make some coin prints in Plasticine.
3. Make some treasure by threading large beads or the larger sized dried pasta tubes to make necklaces and bracelets.

## Relevance to the children's lives

To encourage the children to value God's kingdom above everything. Discuss what it will be like to be in God's kingdom.

## Prayer

Ask the children to finish a prayer saying 'Lord God, I am glad your kingdom is coming because it is better than ..'

## Verse

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure.' Matthew 13:44.

# Song

## Lord, You Are More Precious

Musical notation for the song "Lord, You Are More Precious". The notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the remaining four measures. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, D7, G, G, D, C, D7 in the first staff; G, D, C, G, C, D7, G in the second staff.

- v.1 Lord, you are more precious than silver  
Lord, you are more costly than gold  
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds  
And nothing I desire compares with you.
- v.2 Lord, your kingdom's more precious than silver  
Lord, your kingdom's more costly than gold  
Lord, your kingdom's more beautiful than diamonds  
Your kingdom is the place I want to be.

*Music and music: cop con.*