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Here's a few tips and things you should know:

1. I wrote this for my kids. I didn't have it edited, fact-checked or double-checked by my pastor or local Theology professor. Just so you know.
2. This prints best via the latest version of Adobe Reader. If you want to view it again, save it to your computer now.
3. Affiliate links are included. When you purchase anything via these links, I make a small commission. Very small. But very appreciated.
4. If you'd like to print this guide for 100 people at your church, that's fine--just keep the ohAmanda.com footer on the pages.
5. If you'd like to forward this electronically to a friend, or link to it online (on Facebook or Pinterest, etc.), please use the following link instead of the direct link to this PDF: <http://ohAmanda.com/TreasureHunter>
6. If you'd like to post this devotion in its entirety on a website or blog, please don't.
7. If you have any questions, email me at amanda@ohamanda.com.
8. For more fun family devotions visit ohAmanda.com. :)

Day 1: God is THE treasure.

Supplies:

- Treasure Box (could be a shoebox, but [this box would be fun!](#))
- Wooden Coins (like [these](#))
- Markers or paint pens (you might want some [metallic Sharpies!](#))

Books:

- [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#) (the *Treasure Hunt* story, also available as a video on [Minno](#) if you don't have the book)

READ

Read the above story. Discuss what would be so valuable you would be willing to sell *everything* to get it. (You may not be able to come up with anything! That's ok!)

Read [Matthew 13:44](#) and talk about how the kingdom of God is worth more than any and everything we own.

Encourage your child to see that everything around them is nothing compared to the worth, majesty, power and awesomeness of God. This week will be a time to discover how great He is! He is our treasure!

MAKE



Explain that throughout the week, you will be making/collecting gold coins to keep in your treasure chest. These gold coins will be reminders of stories, activities, Bible verses, etc.

Note: I will give some suggestions on these each day, but you can also just be creative and do whatever your child wants. Let these be a journal of sorts to remind you of what you've done and learned.

Grab your markers or paint pens and begin to craft a few coins (you'll be making these every day!). Guide your child in thinking of words, phrases or ideas about what you've read so far and what you're looking forward to learning.

Today's coin suggestions:

- Matthew 13:44 (the reference or pieces of the verse)
- "God is THE treasure"
- "Treasure Hunter"
- Picture of a treasure chest, money, jewels, pearl, etc

Day 2: God is worth more than ANYTHING.

Supplies:

- Smart Phone with [Geocaching app](#)
- Pen/pencil
- Optional: very small prizes (stickers, erasers, coin, etc)

READ

Read [Matthew 13:45-46](#). This tells another 2-verse story about someone selling everything for a very valuable pearl. Ask your child what the pearl represents in this story. (Answer: kingdom of God, God, Jesus, etc!)

GO

Go on a Geocaching adventure. If you aren't familiar with geocaching, watch their super short, super fun video on [Geocaching.com](#). It's basically a scavenger hunt all over the world--and in your hometown.

Some of these are very fun and easy. Some are hard. This could take you a few minutes or a few hours! Make a day of it and hop in your car to find as many as you can! You will get to have lots of good conversation about looking and searching and the worthiness of the prize!

MAKE

Make your gold coins to commemorate your day!

Suggestions:

- A pearl
- Geocache item or memory
- Matthew 13:45-46 (reference)

Day 3: I treasure God in my heart.

Supplies:

- 1 cup coffee grounds (coffee shops will give these to you!)
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/4 cup sand
- Small prizes: toy gold coins, candy, toy jewels or whatever you have at home!

READ

Read Matthew 6:21. In the NIV, it says, *“Your heart will be where your riches are.”* A more familiar translation might be, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (KJV).* Write this Scripture on several pieces of paper (a word or phrase on each). You could even cut the paper out in the shape of a gem or diamond. Then, hide (or simply hang) them around the house. Have your kids go on a hunt for them. When you’ve collected them all, try to put them together to read the verse. Read together several times.

Talk about what treasures/riches you have. (car? House? Toys? Video games?) It’s easy for our hearts to stay with those *things*. Instead, discuss where we want our hearts to be. (With God first of all! Also, things like family, friends, servanthood, gentleness, etc.) Ask God to help you treasure Him most of all, and then all the great relationships and attitudes above any *thing* in your life.

MAKE

Make treasure stones! Combine coffee grounds, water, flour, salt and sand. Mix well. Insert small prizes inside of balls of the mixture and then bake. Use these treasure stones for a scavenger hunt or to surprise friends and family. See [detailed instructions and pictures here](#).

GOLD COINS

Don’t forget to make some gold coins to add to your chest! Suggestions: Matthew 6:21 (reference or part of the verse), treasure stones, treasure you used in stones.

DAY 4: God is more valuable than gold.

Supplies:

- *Treasure Island* movie (see suggestions below)

READ

Read [Job 22:24-25](#). Job is an interesting book of the Bible, but this verse is perfect for our theme. Talk about how gold nuggets aren't even valuable--God is the one who is more valuable than riches!



MAKE & LEARN

Write Job 22:24-25 on several of your wooden coins. We abridged it from the New International Reader's Version, "*Throw your gold nuggets away. Toss your gold into a valley. Then the Mighty One himself will be your gold. He'll be like the finest silver to you.*" Have your older kids write it themselves. Younger kids can decorate after you've written it.

Then, lay them all out and read the verse several times, pointing to each coin as you read. Try reading it in a pirate voice once or twice!

After several run throughs, take away one coin and read it again, pointing to the blank space where the coin was. See if your child can say that part without the coin there.

Continue removing coins one or two at a time, reading the verse while pointing to the blank spaces until all the coins are gone and you can say the whole thing from memory!

Put these coins in your treasure box.

WATCH

Watch a *Treasure Island* movie. We like [Treasure Planet](#) and [Muppets Treasure Island](#) but there are many more! (Both of those movies are on Disney+ right now!)

Ideas for additional movie-watching fun:

- make a fun pirate snack (popcorn + Goldfish + Pirate's Booty?)
- dress up in your favorite pirate costume
- have a [drive-in movie](#) (or make a [mini version of this](#) to sit in!)

After the movie, talk about what stuck out to your kids in the movie. Some conversation starters: Who was the bad guy? Was Long John Silver bad? Or good? How much treasure was there? Was it worth everything that happened in the movie? How would you respond if you were Jim Hawkins? What was the coolest treasure you saw? Think about all the treasure you saw and remember God is more valuable than all of it! **Don't forget to make some gold coins to remind you of the movie!**

DAY 5: God's Word is a treasure.

Supplies:

-small item to represent each item below:

- Light (ex: flashlight, sticker of light bulb, small Christmas light, etc.)
- Honey (ex: honey, bumblebee sticker, Honey Nut Cheerio, etc.)
- Gold (ex: plastic gold doubloon, sparkly gold sticky foam or sticker, etc.)
- Seed (ex: sunflower seed, popcorn, peppercorn, etc.)
- Sword (ex: plastic sword food pick, sticker of a sword, etc.)

-homemade treasure map, journal/piece of paper OR bag

GO

Go on a scavenger hunt! Using the following Scriptures, lead your kids to five different locations in your house.

You could make up a little riddle to help them find their way, draw a map of the rooms in your space or just have them run around the house!

At each location, leave the Bible verse and the small item. When they get to each one, read the verse, put the item on the treasure map (or in the bag).

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a **light** on my path."

Psalm 119:103 "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than **honey** to my mouth!"

Psalm 119:72 "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and **gold**."

Luke 8:11, 15 "The **seed** is the word of God . . . the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged **sword**, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Once you've finished the hunt, look at the items collected and discuss how each one shows something great and wonderful about God's Word (you might want to read the verses again). Pray together and let everyone thank God for one description of God's Word that they like most.

MAKE

Don't forget gold coins for today! Try making one for each of the Scriptures in your treasure hunt.

WRAP UP

Go through your treasure chest and look through all your gold coins. Talk about your memories of the week, what each coin represents and what verses you read and memorized.

Pray together, asking God to protect this treasure in your heart. Praise Him for being worth more than anything!

Additional Thematic Resources

Movies:

- *Tinkerbell's The Pirate Fairy*. A fun pirate-themed movie with lots of great lessons. See my [review & family discussion guide!](#)

Bible-based Books:

- [Princess Hope and the Hidden Treasure](#) by (a princess book based on Matthew 13:44!)
- [His Mighty Warrior: a Treasure Map from Your King](#) (This is a simple devotional book for young boys. I read this with my son and we both enjoyed it.)

Pirate Themed Picture Books:

- [How I Became a Pirate](#) by Melinda Long (make sure to read it in your best pirate voice!)
- [Pirates Don't Change Diapers](#) by Melinda Long (the sequel! Perfect for siblings!)
- [The Night Pirates](#) (the Kindle version has audio & video, too!)
- [Shiver Me Letters: Pirate ABCs](#) (fun for littles learning the alphabet!)
- *Mrs. Rosey Posey and the Hidden Treasure* by Robin Jones Gunn (my very favorite book and a perfect fit for this week--but it's out of print, so [see if you can find it used!](#))

Chapter Books:

- [Mandie and the Hidden Treasure](#) by Lois Gladys Lepperd (A Christian series about a young girl in the late 1800's who solves mysteries with her friends.) *Early elementary*
- [Young Whit and the Traitor's Treasure](#) by Phil Lollar and Dave Arnold (Based on the popular *Adventures in Odyssey*, this tells the story of young John Avery Whittaker on the search for gold! First in a really great Christian series.) *Older elementary*

Music:

- [Treasure](#) by Seeds Family Worship

Misc:

- My son's [Pirate Party](#): If you need some fun pirate games, costumes or other food ideas, check out the fun we had!
- [Pirate Etiquette by Pirate Pete](#) (a short, funny show at [Minno](#))
- Our [original Treasure Hunter week](#) when my son was 6 years old.