



# TREASURE CHEST

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e-NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.

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## THE DOG AND HIS SHADOW

It happened that a Dog had got a piece of meat and was carrying it home in his mouth to eat it in peace. Now on his way home he had to cross a plank lying across a running brook. As he crossed, he looked down and saw his own shadow reflected in the water beneath. Thinking it was another dog with another piece of meat, he made up his mind to have that also. So he made a snap at the shadow in the water, but as he opened his mouth the piece of meat fell out, dropped into the water and was never seen again. Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow.



*Aesop's Fables*

Kids all over the world are constantly pulled between traditional childhood culture and up-to-the-minute trends and fads. Fairy tales, popular movies, and fictional stories have powerful ways of illustrating specific ideologies. Kids' culture contains everything from Aesop's fables and classical mythology to Pokémon characters and Harry Potter hype. So can we use them to help teach the truths of the kingdom?

Christians often shy away from connecting Bible lessons to fairy tales or popular culture for the simple reason that we believe that the Bible is truth, while stories are only fiction. Yet, throughout his ministry, Jesus used parables -- fictitious stories -- to explain in ways humans could understand the incomprehensible logic of heaven and the kingdom of God.

*After reading the above story about the dog, what biblical truth or application to life could you use this story to teach or re-enforce? Why not write down a transitional statement (from story to application) and then an application or teaching point. It a great exercise to think about it and to write it down. You may be able to use it one day in your ministry.*

## Need a quick game to help get rid of the wriggles?

Maybe your theme for the day is Moses leading the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. Designate one end of the room as Egypt and the opposite end as the Promised Land. Also have various other locations on the 'floor map' (e.g Red Sea, Mt Sinai, Jordan River, desert. Have no more than 6)

**Say:** When I call out "Egypt," run toward Egypt. When I call out "Promised Land," run toward the Promised Land. When I call out "Gather manna," run to the desert, drop to the floor and pretend you're



gathering food into a basket. When I say "10 Commandments", run to Mount Sinai and pretend to climb up to get the 10 Commandments ... etc, etc. When the children have run there or when you are giving the initial instructions, you may wish to give a quick 10 second explanation of what happened during the Exodus at that location.

**Play** the game for two or three minutes, calling out the commands in any order. Make the last one the Promised Land.

**Link Statement at the end:** It's hard work walking for 40 years through a desert but we finally made it. I think we deserve a drink (*or a rest, so let's sit down on our chairs... or whatever your next activity is*).

### Copy Claps...

Without saying a word, initiate a series of claps - each one slightly more complex than the one before - inviting your group to mimic your moves and gain their attention.



[www.playmeo.com/](http://www.playmeo.com/)

*- a great resource of games for all ages -*

## A FUN WAY TO REVISE A BIBLE STORY

After telling a Bible story, play a game that helps the children recall the story. The following example (Good Samaritan) can be adapted for many other stories.

◆ On slips of paper, have events from the parable of the Good Samaritan written (Luke 10:30-37).

For example:

- \* A man walks from Jerusalem to Jericho.
- \* Robbers attack and beat up the man.
- \* A priest walks past the wounded man.
- \* A Levite walks past the wounded man.
- \* A Samaritan stops to bandage the man's wounds.
- \* A Samaritan puts the wounded man onto a donkey.
- \* A Samaritan takes the wounded man to an inn.
- \* A Samaritan pays the inn keeper to take care of the hurt man.



- ◆ Fold/roll tightly each slip of paper and put into a different balloon. Inflate and tie off the balloons.
- ◆ Now, in your kids program, choose 8 children (who are not afraid of bursting balloons) to play the game.
- ◆ Have those children form a group or circle and tap the balloons in the air for 20 seconds. When you yell, "Stop and pop," have those children grab any one of the 8 balloons, pop it and retrieve the slip of paper.
- ◆ Have the children figure out the correct sequence of the parable without looking at the Bible. They should then stand in a line, facing the rest of the children, holding the sheet in front of them in correct order.

*You can modify this game to suit your audience.*



*Have you been passing on the baton to the next generation?*

## You Are NOT the Last Link in the Chain!

The Apostle Paul modeled a powerful example for us as a leader in ministry. One of the most outstanding aspects of his ministry was that he duplicated himself and the work of the Kingdom of God in others.

This can be easily seen in 2 Timothy 2:2. "You have often heard me teach. *Now I want you to tell these same things to followers who can be trusted to tell others.*" (CEV)

.... Paul taught Timothy both with words and by example. Paul mentored Timothy and, in many ways, became a spiritual father to him. Moreover, in the verse above, Paul exhorts Timothy to do the same with others. Paul guides Timothy to teach others, mentor others, and pass along the great calling of ministry.

Using the example of a chain, compare each of us to a link in that chain. Somewhere along the line there was someone who mentored you. They were the preceding link in the chain. So, where does that place you? Are you the last link in the chain? Well, you could be unless you personalize God's call from 2 Timothy. So teach others! Pass along the vision!



It is just as important for you to win souls as it is to train others to win souls. It is just as vital for you to minister as it is to raise up others to minister. That is indeed the key in Christ's words, "make disciples."

You are NOT the last link in the chain! Pray for God to send you a 'Timothy.' Let the Holy Spirit guide you in finding others "who can be trusted" to keep the message going!

## THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Today's Mother Day Scheduling requires coordination of PDAs, home computers, and dayplanners before a time can be agreed upon.

http://thebackpew.com Used with permission

## A KINGDOM PRAYER

*Father*

*Help me to shamelessly love and adore You in every area of my life.*

*Wherever You want me to go,*

*Whatever You want me to do,*

*Whatever You want me to be*

*I am willing to do Your will.*

*Amen*