

YOUNG CHILDREN

Truth Treasure Map



BEST USE

As a family night activity, recommended for children ages three through ten

VALUE

Shows that the difficult path may be the best path.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

Have the following supplies ready for family night:

- A Bible
- Create a "Truth Treasure Box" and a "False Treasure Box."
 - **Truth Treasure:** A box containing exciting things, such as candy, money, a coupon to go get ice cream as a family, etc. Label the box "Truth Treasure."
 - **False Treasure:** A box containing useless and less-than-exciting things, such as dirty socks, crumpled paper, etc. Label the box "False Treasure."
- Draw two "treasure maps" to lead your kids to the 2 treasure boxes. Create the maps as follows:
 - **Map #1:** This map should lead to the False Treasure hidden somewhere in your home. Make it exciting in appearance with a few simple steps before reaching the treasure.
 - **Map #2:** This map should lead to the Truth Treasure hidden somewhere in your home. Make it boring in appearance with lots of difficult steps before reaching the treasure.
 - Some sample instructions could be crawl backwards, climb the stairs on their tiptoes, or other fun yet challenging steps.

DURING THE EVENING

Follow the simple steps and enjoy your your Family Night.

1. Show the kids both maps and tell them you want them to follow the directions to find two different treasures. Be sure to let the children take turns reading the clues or going to the next location so the younger or slower children can enjoy the experience.
2. Make sure they follow the exciting, simple map first. It should lead to the box labeled “False Treasure” containing dirty socks, crumpled paper or some other useless items.
3. Let the children complain about the contents of the “False Treasure” and then explain that “You’ve been following a map that seemed exciting and easy, but it was actually a lie!”
4. Now pull out Map #2 – the one that looks boring and difficult. Make sure they follow the more challenging steps. This map should lead them to the box labeled “Truth Treasure” containing candy, money, a coupon to get ice cream or something else that will excite your children.
5. After the kids celebrate finding the “Truth Treasure” ask them which map was easier to follow? (The “False Treasure” map had easy steps.) Which was better? (The “Truth Treasure” map had a worthwhile reward.)
6. Read Proverbs 2:1-5 aloud together and emphasize that God promises great rewards for those who take the difficult path of truth rather than the easy path of lies.
7. Memorize this jingle together:

**It's best for you
to seek what is true.**

*To learn more about Family Time and for more ideas,
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