



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 10

God Rescues a Starving City

Take Home Point: *Don't keep good news to yourself.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Kings 6:24—7:20

Key Verse: Ephesians 1:18, "...You will know the confidence that he calls you to have and the glorious wealth that God's people will inherit."

We will help kids know:

- They are spiritually rich because Jesus gave his life for them and they must share those riches with others.
- It is important to pray for others who don't know Jesus and to be friends with them so you can share the treasure of Jesus with them.

We will help kids feel:

- Compassion towards those people who are lost and spiritually starving.
- Uncomfortable if they have something that is wonderful and they are not sharing it with others.

We will help kids do:

- Experience discomfort because someone in the group is keeping their treasures to themselves.
- Make a treasure snack.
- Pray for people they know who may not have the riches of Jesus and think of ways to share that message with them.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Small Group Warm-Up</p>  | 3 | <p>The children will experience discomfort as one of their peers proceeds to enjoy a special snack that they are not allowed to have.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box • large marshmallows (three for each child) • bowl with chocolate syrup • bowl with crunched up cereal like Golden Grahams • directions for the snack kit (<i>p. 12</i>) • napkins |
| <p>Large Group</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>7</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> | <p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude has a Treasure”—Jerry Dude tells how he treasures his surfboard and learns that some men found some treasure that they shared with others.</p> <p>Dramatic Presentation: “Not Meant to be Hidden”—A leper tells his story of how he found treasure and just couldn’t keep it to himself.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Jerry Dude has a Treasure”—Jerry Dude learns that he just can’t keep the treasure of Jesus to himself.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry puppet • tub of sand labeled “Sands of Time” • key with discovery point: “Don’t keep good news to yourself.” • old banana peel • wooden cross • costume for a leper such as body goop (to look like sores) and rags |
| <p>Small Group Application</p>  | 4 | <p>Kids eat their snack treasures and discuss the treasure we have in Jesus. Children make prayer reminder cards and pray for people that need the treasure of Jesus.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box • large marshmallows (three for each child) • bowl with chocolate syrup • bowl with crunched up cereal like Golden Grahams • napkins • prayer bookmarks (<i>p. 13</i>) • pens |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

You will need a “snack treasure” kit consisting of:

- large marshmallows (enough for every child to have three)
- a bowl filled with chocolate syrup to dip marshmallows
- a bowl of crunched up cereal like Golden Grahams
- napkins
- a box
- directions for the snack kit

Keep all items in a box that is out of sight and include a direction sheet which prohibits the box recipient from sharing the snack with anyone else. This should create some tension that one person was given so much and refused to share though they cannot explain why.

Show the group the snack kit and say:

Here is a special “snack treasure” kit. Who is really hungry?

Hand the kit to one person who is really hungry, though many will be clamoring for it.

If I give this to you, you must follow the directions in the box. Now, for the next few minutes we can all talk about our favorite snacks or favorite food. This is a fun way to learn about each other but the person with the snack treasure has his/her own directions.

Help the volunteer if they cannot read the direction card (*maybe a younger child*). At the end of the discussion, ask the children:

How did you feel when someone else had a snack and you didn't?
(Allow several answers.)

Ask the person eating the snack:

How did you feel eating the snack treasure when no one else was allowed?

People are hungry for something even more important than food. Some people have a whole lot of it but they refuse to share. What do you think so many people need that others will not share?

Assure kids they will get to experience some of the snack treasure later.

Today we will learn **don't keep good news to yourself.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude has a Treasure”—Jerry Dude tells how he treasures his surfboard and learns that some men found some treasure that they shared with others.

Dramatic Presentation: “Not Meant to be Hidden”—A leper tells his story of how he found treasure and just couldn’t keep it to himself.

Puppet Conclusion: “Jerry Dude has a Treasure”—Jerry Dude learns that he just can’t keep the treasure of Jesus to himself.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have children refer to 2 Kings 6:24-7:20 in their Bibles.

Why were the people of Samaria so hungry? (2 Kings 6:24. *The Aramean army had blockaded their city.*)

Who did the king blame for this? (2 Kings 6:31 & 33. *Elisha and the Lord God.*)

What did Elisha tell the king’s messenger would happen? (2 Kings 7:1 *“This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, 24 cups of the best flour will sell for half an ounce of silver in the gateway to Samaria. And 48 cups of barley will sell for half an ounce of silver.” In other words, food would be found and would be affordable again.*)

Why did the men with skin diseases (leprosy) decide to go to the Aramean camp? (2 Kings 6:3-4. *They knew they would die if they stayed*

at the city entrance so they decided to take their chances and ask the Arameans for some food.)

Why did they find no one at the Aramean camp? (2 Kings 7:5-7. God made the Aramean army hear sounds like chariots, horses and a large army. They thought they were being attacked by another army, and so ran for their lives.)

What did they find in the camp? (2 Kings 7:8. They found food and drink, silver, gold, and clothes.)

At first the lepers hid the treasures. Then they decided to tell the people in the city. Why? (2 Kings 7:9. They decided what they were doing wasn't right and that they should share the good news. They also wanted to avoid punishment if anyone found out. Maybe they realized they had more than they needed.)

How was Elisha's prophecy that God would provide food the next day accomplished? (2 Kings 7:16. The people of the city went out and looted the Aramean camp.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you suppose the lepers hid their treasures? (Maybe they thought they would get even with the people who made them stay outside of the city. Maybe they thought the people in the city would still keep them in seclusion.)

How do you think the lepers felt after they went and shared their treasures with the people in the starving city? (Good. Glad that they did the right thing and that they could help other people.)

How do you think the people felt? (Relieved, excited.) **Do you think the people of the city treated the lepers differently after that?**

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: box, large marshmallows (three per child), bowl with chocolate syrup, bowl with crunched up cereal like Golden Grahams, napkins, prayer bookmarks (see appendix), and pens

Share the snacks (Note: Remind kids not to "double dip" the marshmallows!) and discuss the following:

What *spiritual* treasure do we have? (*If we trust in Jesus, we have him in our life.*)

Our key verse from Ephesians 1:18 tells us, “You will know the confidence that he calls you to have and the glorious wealth that God’s people will inherit.”

What wonderful thing will God’s people inherit? (*Glorious wealth.*)

Who are God’s people? (*Those who believe in Jesus and make him Lord in their lives.*)

The lepers found such a treasure, even more than they would ever need, so they knew they had to share it with others. What should we do with the wonderful treasure of Jesus and his glorious wealth? (*Share it.*)

Pass out a bookmark and pen to each child. Have them write in the blanks the name(s) of those they know who have not made Jesus Lord of their life. Explain that they can use these bookmarks to remind them to pray for these friends and tell them the good news of Jesus and how he wants us to have his glorious inheritance.

What are some ways we can share Jesus with these people? (*Accept several answers. Examples: Pray for them, invite them to church, ask them a question about Jesus.*)

Today we are reminded: **Don’t keep good news to yourself!*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the glorious wealth he gives in Jesus. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to share this good news with others. Have kids pray for the individuals whose names they wrote on their bookmarks.

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Large Group Presentation

Sharing the Treasure

Discovery Digs – Dramatic Characterization

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *a tub of sand, at least 6 inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *old banana peel*
- *wooden cross*
- *key with discovery point: "Don't keep good news to yourself."*

Jerry Dude has a Treasure

Puppet Presentation

Jerry: Yo, dudes and dudettes! How's it going? I'm cruisin' my way through Kingdom Quest, searchin' for my friends! Dr. T? Dr. G? You out here today?

Dr.____: Hey, Jerry! How are you? Did you have a good week?

Jerry: It was totally awesome! Like, I spent it with my most favorite thing, man.

Dr.____: Really? And what is that?

Jerry: My super spectacular surfboard, man!

Dr.____: What did you do with your surfboard? You aren't even near an ocean!

Jerry: Well, like Gordy and I took it down to Lake Zorinsky (*name a local lake*) and had a way cool time. I taught Gordy how to surf.

Dr.____: There probably weren't too many waves or as much sun as in California (or Hawaii)!

Jerry: Yeah, the waves weren't that good. It was kind of rainy and the sand was more like mud...

Dr.____: So, how was it?

Jerry: It was totally awesome, man! I love my surfboard!

Dr.____: Wow, it sounds like you really treasure your surfboard.

Jerry: Yeah, and Gordy thought it was totally bodacious, too!

Dr.____: It was nice of you to share your surfboard with Gordy. Today, we are talking about some men that discovered some treasure and became very, very rich. They decided to share their treasure, too.

Jerry: Like, did they have surfboards, too?

Dr.____: No, Jerry. They found a treasure of food when they were starving to death. In fact, the whole city where they lived was starving to death.

Jerry: Whoa! What happened?

Dr.____: We'll find out in our Bible event what they did with this treasure. We'll also find out what we can do with a special treasure that we

have. Let's take a look at our dig and see what might be there for a treasure.

Pulls an old banana peel out of the Sands of Time.

Jerry: Total gross out, man! How is that a treasure?

Dr.____: **Well, in today's Bible event we will find out that people were so hungry, they ate their garbage. They were also reminded of the treasure of the good food that was found when they were so hungry. I mean there was so much food they couldn't even finish it! Enough for a banquet!**

Jerry: Dr.____, man! How did that happen?

Dr.____: **You'll have to wait and see. In fact, I think I see someone coming over here right now to tell us what happened.**

Jerry: I'm on the edge of my seat man! I'm gonna get a snack. All this food talk is makin' me totally hungry.

Not Meant to be Hidden

Dramatic Presentation

This presentation will be told by one individual posing as a leper. He will need to be dressed with body goop (to look like sores) and rags before coming on stage.

Leper: You will never believe what happened to me yesterday. This story is so amazing that I can't help but tell you! Well, a few days ago, I thought I was going to die. Let me start from the beginning.

See, the Arameans, I know, it's a big name... well, their army surrounded Samaria, the city where I lived with my friends. They were there so long that no one could get out of the city walls to find food once it had all been eaten in the city. People were so hungry they ate out of their trashcans. Yuck! *(Pause for audience to reply with expressions of disgust.)* I know. It was pretty gross but what can you do when you're so hungry?

Well, I heard something about how the king blamed Elisha, the prophet of God, for all of this. They tried to kill him or something because they thought this starving thing was from God. Elisha told them there would be plenty of food the next day. What?!? Who could believe that? I mean, there were lots of Arameans and let's just say, not so many of us. They thought he was crazy! To tell you the truth, so did I.

So my friends and I had a choice. We were out by the gate. Oh, you're probably wondering why I look like this, too. Well, my friends and I have this disease called leprosy. It's not so good for the skin. We kind of have to stay away from people because they don't want to get it. So, we were outside the gate trying to decide what to do. We had a choice: we could stay there and starve to death or we could give ourselves up to the Arameans. We might get some food that way, but they would probably kill us later. Those really were not very good choices, but we decided to spend one last night in peace and give ourselves over to the Arameans in the morning.

You won't believe this but when we got up to find those Arameans, they were gone! All of them! I don't know how it happened but they left all their stuff behind. We went into the first tent in their camp and stuffed ourselves silly with food. Have you ever done that? You know, eaten so much food you just can't eat anymore? *(Let audience reply.)* Food wasn't the only thing they left, either. There was silver, gold and clothing. So, we took some stuff and hid it behind some trees. I mean, it seemed like the right thing to do. We kept doing this, too, until one of my friends suggested maybe we shouldn't keep all this good stuff to ourselves. I mean there were starving people in Samaria still. He was right. So we went back to the city and told the gatekeeper. The king sent some men out to see for themselves.

I mean, who would have ever thought Elisha would have been right? All I know is I'm still alive and so are lots of others now. When you find good treasure like that, it's not meant to be hidden! We had to share!

I'll see you guys later. I think it's time for dinner.

Exit through the side door.

Jerry Dude has a Treasure

Puppet Conclusion

Dr._____: What did you think of that, Jerry?

Jerry: Man, that guy looked like some of those surf bums on the beach. Way too much sun, man.

Dr._____: I meant the story, Jerry. Did you get what we can learn from the leper's story?

Jerry: Yeah, don't eat old banana peels, even if you're totally hungry.

Dr.____: **No, it's more than that. Tell you what. Let's have a kid from the audience pull out our secret key to see if we can learn what the point of our Bible event was.**

Picks a volunteer who pulls out the key that reads, "Don't keep good news to yourself."

****Don't keep good news to yourself.***

Jerry: Oh, yeah, like those guys were going to hide their treasure but then they decided to share what they had found. Totally good news for the people of Samaria.

Dr.____: **That's right and *(asking the kid)* what is the greatest news you could ever, ever have? More than just good food?**

If the volunteer answers "Jesus," then have them pull out the cross. If they can't answer, then tell them there is a clue in the Sands of Time and have them pull out the cross.

That's right. The good news of Jesus Christ.

Let the child be seated.

Jerry: Wow, that is good news, man!

Dr.____: **You're right, and it gets better. Ephesians 1:18 tells us, *"You will know the confidence that he calls you to have and the glorious wealth that God's people will inherit."***

Jerry: Oh man! Knowing Jesus gets awesomer and like, way awesomer! You get ... what was that? Glo-o-o...rious (draw out word) wealth?!

Dr.____: **That's right, Jerry, but we can't stop at just knowing Jesus. Just like the lepers, we have to share our good news about Jesus. When people see that we are happy because we have the treasure of Jesus in our life, they will start to wonder how they can have the treasure too. I Peter 3:15 says, *"Always be prepared to defend the confidence you have in God when anyone asks you to explain it."***

Jerry: That's a totally important job but I think I can do it with God's help.

Dr.____: **Why don't you pray right now and ask God for that help?**

Jerry: Okay. Dear God, thanks so much for the awesome treasure of Jesus. Please help me to, like, share him with others so they can know the way to heaven and have cool riches, too. Like, then they can share the good news with everyone, and they will know about Jesus, too. In his name, Amen.

Appendix card for Small Group Warm-Up

Copy on a half sheet of paper

1. Set the bowl of chocolate in front of you.
2. Set the bowl of cereal in front of you.
3. Dip marshmallows one at a time into the chocolate and then into the cereal.
4. **Do NOT share this snack with anyone. If anyone tries to take it from you, you must NOT let him or her have it. You may NOT tell them they can have it later, either.**
5. Make two marshmallow snacks and eat them while the others are discussing.



I treasure friends by sharing the Treasure of Jesus

I'm praying for:



I treasure friends by sharing the Treasure of Jesus

I'm praying for:



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