



Treasure Hunt  
BIBLE  
Adventure  
Guide

Leader's  
Handbook



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## Welcome to the TreasureHunt Bible Adventure Guide Leader's Handbook.

We have put together some tips and ideas to help you get the most from this children's discipleship programme.

If you have a TreasureHunt Bible read the front section carefully – this will help you to understand why the TreasureHunt Bible was developed. Then read the Leader's Guide and Teaching Notes well in advance of starting your class. Depending on the amount of time that you have you may find that there is too much information to get through in one lesson. So we have added a Lesson Planner section in this Leader's Handbook. Each lesson is divided in two to help you get the most from the content. You can adapt this according to the time you have to teach, and the needs of your class. All of these aides will help you to be well prepared as you lead your TreasureHunt Adventure Classes.

# Leader's Guide

## General Notes – Adventure Guides – New Testament – Units 1 to 3

There have been many requests for a TreasureHuntBible(THB)guide that can be used in a group or individual setting. The aim is to take the children on a journey through the Bible. Therefore, we have created the TreasureHunt BibleAdventure Guide.

The TreasureHunt Bible Adventure Guide is an extension of the TreasureHunt Bible. It takes everything we did in the THB one step further and offers six units constructed around a specific theme. Each unit has eight Adventures. The New Testament Adventure Guides are comprised of 3 units.

The TreasureHunt Adventure Guide can be used in a classroom setting, at home with the family during family devotions or informally as a devotional guide for slightly older children. The aim is for the content to be interactive and adaptable to a variety of situations. It is written with the child reader in mind but is also a manual for group leaders, teachers, parents and even older brothers and sisters.

The same principles used in the THB are used here. Each Adventure is built on the principles of experiential learning. This means that the material is presented in such a way that children learn by doing. Through activities, the children are led to think about the themes of the specific Adventure, and then to practise the truths that they learnt in the lesson.

We also continue to focus on the different ways in which children learn new things and incorporate them into their lives. This is done through:

- group work
- discussions
- simple explanations about Bible passages and truths
- problem solving
- opportunities for research
- opportunities to use various sources to gather information
- opportunities for hands-on, practical activities

We haven't forgotten that children have preferred ways of learning. These are taken into account. We often use a picture or pictures of the Wayees or list the name of the Wayee at the top of the section heading. These are your clues as to the kind of learning that will take place.

## About the Wayees:

- Greeny, the antelope, who loves nature hunts.
- Talky, the monkey, who learns by talking, discussing, asking questions, telling stories and reading with others.
- Thinky, the elephant, who loves problems, thinking through problems and solving them.
- Arty, the meerkat, who always sees pictures in her head and learns best by drawing, painting and making sketches and mind maps.
- Joinme, the hippopotamus, who is always bringing people together. She learns by doing things with other people, by sharing and by working in a group.
- Inny, the tiger, who always has a book with him. He learns by reading and writing down what he learns. He likes to learn on his own, and he likes to set goals for himself.
- Crafty, the jaguar, who is always on the go. He learns by doing, building and inventing. Sitting down to read a book seems like a waste of time to this one!
- Hearty, the bear, who shows his emotions openly. You never have to wonder what his mood is. He always focuses on feelings, both his own and other people's. He will always look for the feeling behind words or deeds.
- Hummy, the zebra, who loves music. She loves making music, and she learns best through music, movement, singing and writing songs.

The units in this book follow the sequence of the camp sites in the TreasureHunt Bible (pages 10 & 11). The camps on the map are marked 1 to 6 (Genesis to Revelation).

For the TreasureHunt Adventure Guides we are naming the units Old Testament Adventure Guides 1 to 3 and New Testament Adventure Guides 1 to 3. You will be working with the New Testament Units. A copy of the Campsite appears at the back of the Adventure Guide for your convenience. The marker shows where you are.

## New Testament – Unit 1 – God sends his Son

In Unit 1 the children learn that Jesus came to earth as a human baby to show his followers how to live and why he chose to die on the cross.

## New Testament – Unit 2 – God's new people

Unit 2 shows the difference Jesus' death and resurrection made to his followers. The Holy Spirit came to live in them and gave them the power to follow and obey Jesus. He also showed them how to share the good news about Jesus with the rest of the world.

## New Testament – Unit 3 – God's church today

Unit 3 explains that Jesus' followers are waiting for Jesus to come back to earth to take them to heaven. In the meantime they are still following in his footsteps, showing his love to the world and using the gifts his Holy Spirit gives them.

Each unit has eight Adventures that develop the theme of the unit.

Each Adventure has the same structure and provides ways for the children to participate in various activities so that they can learn by doing, as well as finding out more about the topic by reading about it, discussing various issues surrounding the topic and thinking about the topic. Then they are led to make certain decisions regarding their life as a follower of Jesus – again with opportunities for hands-on practising and doing.

## Each Adventure has the following format:

### Let's begin

The Adventure begins with a fun activity to introduce the topic and also to get the children thinking about some of the issues that will be raised.

### Ready, steady, go

This is a discussion or explanation based on the activity the children have just done. They are led to reflect on what they learnt and think about what they experienced doing the activity.

### Let's talk

This is the link between the activity and the Scripture reading. Questions are asked and information shared so that the children begin to think about the things that this Adventure will bring to their attention.

### Let's read the Bible

The aim is to help children to personally engage with God's Word from a young age. Reading the Bible is the heart of each Adventure. God speaks to each child through his Word. There are questions and explanations that lead the child to discover related truths and facts in God's Word.

### Let's understand

This section is usually a discussion to make sure that the children understand what the Scripture portion is all about. It helps to bring the truths of the Adventure to their attention.

### Let's do it

These are fun activities with a purpose. The activities ensure that the truths taught in the Adventure are understood and accepted. The children practise or apply what they learnt, or do an activity that demonstrates what they learnt.

There are three types of activities.

Each type has an icon for easy identification.

Group activity – for use in a classroom or Sunday school setting. Most of them will also work in a family setting.

Family activity – for use in a family setting. Some will work in a group setting too.

Individual activity – for the child to do as a follow-up at home.

Note that the activities are interchangeable. A teacher/group leader can use them as needed.

### Story time

Who doesn't love a story? Each Adventure has a story that can be linked to its theme. It can be read to the group or individually. It can also be retold by the teacher/group leader.

We have chosen stories from all over the world. This will expose children to different cultures and add to the sense of adventure.

Discussion of the story and its link to the theme is encouraged.

Give each child an opportunity to say what they like or do not like, what inspires them, and how the story moves them.

Map of the world. A fun map is included so that the children can plot their journey around the world as they read the stories each week. See the map at the back of each unit.

### Let's pray

In this section the children are progressively taught about prayer. Various ideas and approaches to prayer are shared. The children learn that prayer is talking to God as one talks to a friend. They learn that prayer is also about listening to what God wants to say to them. The prayer is often linked to Scripture so that the underlying goal of Scripture engagement is always strengthened.

### Let's live it

Everything that the children heard, read and learnt has to become a part of their lives. In this section they reflect on what they learnt. They are then encouraged to make some decisions on how they will live out what they learnt in their everyday lives.

## Teaching Notes

The Teaching Notes help you to prepare for the class. Under each Adventure, you will find a list of items that you need to bring to class for the activities.

## Activity Sheets

At the back of each unit you will find pictures, patterns and other information the children will need so that they can do the activities.

## Unit 1 God sends his Son

### Teaching goals

1. God comes to us
2. Jesus brings joy
3. Jesus tells us about God's kingdom
4. Jesus is always ready to help
5. Jesus is all-powerful
6. Jesus keeps his children safe
7. Jesus is our Saviour
8. Jesus is our King

This unit is about God's plan of salvation for everyone who believes in him. God came to us in the form of his Son Jesus to teach us about his kingdom and to demonstrate his great love for us by giving up his life. Every Adventure in this unit will highlight a different aspect of Jesus' life and ministry.

**Adventure 1** sets the scene by discussing the day God became a human baby.

The children discover that Jesus was a human being just like them and knows exactly what it is like to be human. He understands them. They also discover something about his childhood and how he obeyed his parents.

**Adventure 2** is about the joy and happiness and peace of God's kingdom. (This is a recurring theme in this unit.) In this Adventure they find out about the wedding in Cana, where Jesus added to the people's happiness by turning water into wine and celebrating with them.

**Adventure 3** is about God's kingdom. The children find out that it is important to obey the laws of God's kingdom. They learn that the laws of God's kingdom are different from any other laws. They are all about loving God and loving others.

**Adventure 4** shows Jesus caring deeply about people. The children find out how he helped people by giving them food and using a small child to help him. This child reminds children to have faith, to offer themselves to God, to share, to give whatever they have and to receive many blessings in the process.

**Adventure 5** is about Jesus' power as it is demonstrated by his miracles. The children discover that Jesus only did miracles to help people, never for any other reason. His miracles showed his power, but especially also his love. They learn that he is the Lord of the universe and that he holds them in his hand.

**Adventure 6** is about learning that Jesus is the good shepherd. They learn about the work of shepherds. The children are led to experience the feelings of safety and comfort that comes from knowing that they are children of God.

**Adventure 7** is about thinking of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The focus is on his love for us and his willingness to pay for our sins by giving up his life for us.

**Adventure 8** is about sharing the joy of Jesus' resurrection. They also discuss his last instruction to his followers as well as his promise that he would always be with his followers.

## Unit 2 God's new people

### Teaching goals

1. An exciting beginning
2. Loving and obeying
3. Enemies wake up
4. Everyone is welcome
5. An enemy's life is changed
6. Everyone is important
7. The church grows
8. Paul shows and tells

After Jesus' resurrection he went back to his Father, but sent his Spirit to live in his followers. Jesus' followers became his church. This unit describes the beginning of the church, and the way the Spirit helped them and gave them power to spread the good news about Jesus far and wide.

**Adventure 1** is about the coming of the Holy Spirit and how he gave his followers power. As a result of their words and joy many people became believers. Children learn that the Spirit also lives in them and gives them courage to follow Jesus and love for his people.

**Adventure 2** is about the first Christians, and that Jesus' followers are always recognised by their love for God and their love for one another. They discuss ways to show their love for God and for one another.

**Adventure 3** shows that as the number of Jesus' followers increased so did the number of their enemies. They discover that the believers chose to obey God, not the people who wanted them to keep quiet about Jesus, and that the Spirit gave them courage and took away their fear. Children think about ways in which believers are persecuted today.

**Adventure 4** is about discovering that God didn't intend there to be any discrimination at all in the church. Everyone who believes in Jesus is part of the church. They look at the story of Peter and Cornelius, and how God told Peter that he treats everyone the same.

**Adventure 5** helps the children think more about how everyone who believes in Jesus is part of the church, this time focussing on the fact that it does not matter what they did before they became believers. They find out how God changes people by looking at Paul's conversion.

**Adventure 6** looks at the role of anonymous believers who are willing to obey the Lord and do what he tells them to do without worrying about their own safety or happiness. Because of them, the church grew rapidly, and because of them the church still grows. Children examine the role of anonymous believers in Paul's life, and think about their own role as part of Jesus' church.

**Adventure 7** shows how the church continued to grow beyond the borders of Judea because many apostles were willing to go wherever the Lord sent them. The children also find out that suffering is part of every believer's life.

**Adventure 8** is about Paul's example. The children find out more by looking at Paul's adventures in a prison in the town Philippi. Paul's life and deeds were his greatest testimony, and children think about living in such a way that their actions, words and attitude point to Jesus.

## Unit 3 The church today

### Teaching goals

1. Jesus is coming back
2. Jesus sent his Spirit
3. Jesus gave his followers a job
4. Jesus' followers love one another
5. Jesus' followers wear armour
6. Jesus' followers receive gifts
7. Jesus' followers are like a body
8. Looking forward to going home

The last unit is about the church of today. Jesus' followers are still relying on the power of the Holy Spirit in them, still working to obey Jesus' instruction to spread the good news about his salvation all over the world, and still waiting for him to come back. In this unit the children will discover how they should live as part of the church while waiting for Jesus' return.

**Adventure 1** is about discovering more about Jesus' promise to come back. They discuss what we know about that day, and focus on one of the ways they can spend time as they wait – by getting to know God through his Word.

**Adventure 2** is about discovering more about the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They also get some practise in learning to listen to his voice.

**Adventure 3** is about discovering more about Jesus' command to spread the good news of his salvation all over the world. They learn what they can do in their situation, and how one part of spreading the good news is living a life of obedience to the Lord. They get some practise in becoming more like Jesus.

**Adventure 4** is about discovering more about Jesus' command to love one another, and that they can only do that by allowing the Spirit to grow his fruit in their lives. They discuss the meaning of the different kinds of spiritual fruit they are to bear.

**Adventure 5** is about discovering that Jesus' followers have special armour to protect them against their enemies and they learn how they can put on their armour.

**Adventure 6** is about discovering the various gifts of the Spirit, with the focus on those gifts that are relevant to the children. They also learn more about the greatest gift of all – love.

**Adventure 7** is about discovering what it means to say that the church is Christ's body. They learn that they have a specific job in the church, a job that only they can do.

**Adventure 8** is about the believers' forever home, and the children discover a few good things about that home.

# Teaching Notes

# Unit 1 New Testament: God sends his Son

## List of Adventures

1. God comes to us
2. Jesus brings joy
3. Jesus tells us about God's kingdom
4. Jesus is always ready to help
5. Jesus is all-powerful
6. Jesus keeps his children safe
7. Jesus is our Saviour
8. Jesus is our King

God comes to us. This unit is about God's plan of salvation for everyone who believes in him. God came to us in the form of his Son Jesus to teach us about his kingdom and to demonstrate his great love for us by giving his life. Every Adventure in this unit will highlight a different aspect of Jesus' life and ministry.

## Adventure 1 God comes to us

Adventure 1 sets the scene by discussing the day God became a human baby. Children discover that Jesus was a human being just like them. He knows exactly what it is like to be human. He understands them. They also discover something about his childhood and his obedience to his parents.

### Preparation for Adventure 1 class

Each child will need:

- their copy of the Treasure Hunt Bible
- a copy of Unit 1 of the THB Adventure Guide: God sends his Son
- a pencil, eraser, crayons and felt-tip pens

### Let's begin

Party Planner – you will find an example in the Activities section on page 54.

You will need:

- ↳ a sheet of paper for each child in the group
- ↳ extra crayons or felt-tip pens for decorating

### Let's do it

#### Group activity

You will need:

- ↳ a box in which to put the objects/drawings listed below
- ↳ baby clothing, straw, a model of a manger, a star, a shepherd's crook, a donkey, a sheep or some wool, a purple cloth, a small gift-wrapped box, something gold like a ring, incense, a camel, an angel, a crown

If these aren't easy for you to find, let each child draw one item in the list above.

#### Family activity

Group and Family Activities are usually interchangeable. If you decide to do this as a Group activity, you will need to do the following preparation.

The week before the activity ask the children to bring photos of when they were babies. Tell them to ask their parents/care givers about their birth and baby years so that they can share the stories in the group.

### Individual activity

Each week encourage the children to do the Individual activity at home as a follow-up and to remind them of everything they learnt in class.

### Advance planning for Adventure 2

### Let's do it (Group or Family Activity)

Both activities will require the children to bring a small snack to class.

## Adventure 2 Jesus brings joy

Adventure 2 is about the joy, happiness and peace of God's kingdom.

(This is a recurring theme in this unit.) In this Adventure the children find out about the wedding in Cana, where Jesus added to the people's happiness by turning water into wine and celebrating with them.

### Preparation for Adventure 2 class

Each child will need:

- their copy of the Treasure Hunt Bible
- a copy of Unit 1 Adventure Guide: God sends his Son
- a pencil, eraser, crayons and felt-tip pens

### Let's begin

You will need:

- ↳ drinking straws, cotton balls or ping pong balls, paper plates, bag of raisins, refuse bags, balloons
- ↳ ice cream and cones

Present each child with an 'Ice Cream Torch' for participating in the Fun Olympics.

If this is difficult to arrange, you can give the children another small treat as a prize.

Make sure every child receives a prize.

### Let's do it

#### Group activity

The week before this activity, ask the children to bring snacks along to give away to other people.

#### Family activity

If you choose to do this as a Group activity, you will also need

- ↳ a small snack for each child

Pool the snacks that you've asked them to bring so that everyone shares.

## Adventure 3 Jesus tells us about God's kingdom

Adventure 3 is about God's kingdom. The children find out that the laws of God's kingdom are different from any other laws. They learn that it is important to obey the kingdom's laws. The laws of God's kingdom are all about loving God and loving others.

### Preparation for Adventure 3 class

Each child will need:

- their copy of the Treasure Hunt Bible
- a copy of Unit 1 Adventure Guide: God sends his Son
- a pencil, eraser, crayons and felt-tip pens