

# Upper Elementary

## WEEK 4 - STARTER



### Activity Name: Hard Choices

**What You Need:**  None needed

### What You Do:

- Lead the group in a “Hard Choices” game.
- Create a line in the middle of your activity area or just designate two sides of the area.
- Present the group with a series of “Would You Rather?” questions where both options are good.
  - “Would you rather have ice cream or cake for dessert for the rest of your life?”
  - “Would you rather get a brand-new bike or a brand-new video game console?”
  - “Would you rather be famous for being an amazing athlete or a famous musician?”
- With each question, signify which side represents which answer.
- The kids should move to the side that represents their answer.
- After discussing a few fun choices, transition to the Bible Story.

### What You Say:

Those were some tough choices! It’s hard to pick between two good things. Every single one of those things is good. God made you to love them. But none of them is the most important thing. Today’s parable is all about finding a treasure so valuable, so important, it changes everything. Let’s go find out what it is.

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**



**Bible Story:** The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl • *Matthew 13:44-46*

**Bottom Line:** Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

**Conversation Starter:** What is most important?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** “May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.” • *Matthew 6:10 NIV*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did the men in the parables that Jesus told sell everything?
- Why did the disciples follow Jesus right away?
- What are some things we love?
- What is most important?
- How can we show God is most important?

## Activity Name: Find the Hidden Treasure

**What You Need:**  Find Hidden Treasure Activity Page  Answer Key  Writing Supplies

### What You Do:

- Give each kid an activity page and writing supplies.
- Challenge kids to make as many words as possible from the letters given. What two words are the most important?

### What You Say:

Our world sends us a lot of scrambled messages about what should be important: money, popularity, being the best at everything. But Jesus gives us a clear message: [Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

So make getting to know God and His kingdom the most important thing in your life. You can do this by making spending time with God the most important thing you do. You can make it a priority to spend time with God every day—and you can get to know who He is by reading the Bible.

And you can go through every day with Him as your closest friend too. Since God is the most important, talk to Him about absolutely everything. As you go through life, you can say, ‘God, I loved that breakfast so much,’ Or, ‘God, I’m really nervous about swim practice.’ Or, ‘God, is there anything You would like me to do here?’

You can also show that God is most important by living like Jesus. Since Jesus is loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind, then God’s kingdom is like that too. We can be loving, joyful, just, compassionate, trustworthy, and kind everywhere we go to show that God’s kingdom is the most important. Invite God to be part of everything in your life—at home, at school, or wherever you are. **[Bottom Line] Loving God and His kingdom is most important.**