

Seek and Ye Shall Find

(Part 2 of a 3-part series)

By Jennifer Yates

*Lesson for 3-5 year olds
(easily adaptable to older children and youth groups)*

Scripture Reference:

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” Matthew 7:7

***This lesson’s focus:
“...seek, and ye shall find...”***

Prepare Ahead:

- ◆ Several close-up photos of items and places in your classroom and outside your church, perhaps a photo of an adult in another classroom that would be willing to be a “clue” for this lesson. (Check with the teacher of that class to make sure the distraction of your class coming in is acceptable.) ***See the end of this lesson for photo examples.***
- ◆ Put the photos in the order in which you would like them to be found, then put each of them in consecutively numbered envelopes.
- ◆ Purchase some treasure for the students to find at the end. I used fun worksheets from websites for a “Seek and Find” packet and a coloring picture of Jesus. I put them in a folder and printed the memory verse in puffy letters as a cover sheet. ***See the end of this lesson for a list of websites and the memory verse.*** I also put in some bubbles for them in case we had extra time (we never do!). (Other Suggestions: Pocket New Testaments, Picture of Jesus, etc.)
- ◆ Purchase little magnifying glasses (inexpensive from Oriental Trading Company-- <http://www.orientaltrading.com/>) to help “seek”. Not necessary, but fun.
- ◆ Gift-wrap a box big enough to hold the treasure and save a piece of the wrapping paper for the final clue. Put the saved piece of wrapping paper in the last envelope to be opened. All of the photos should already have their own envelopes.
- ◆ Bring nametags for the students, numbered 1 through the number of students you have. The students will get to open the clues by their number...taking turns and no arguments. If there are more clues than students, just go make the circuit once more.

- ◆ *Early Sunday morning, arrive at church to place your clues...*do not do it any earlier or they might disappear or be ruined through the weather or sprinklers. Murphy works, even on Sunday School projects. ☺
 - **You** should give the **FIRST** clue to the students. (I opened my Bible to the Memory Verse and let the kids “find” it there.) That clue will lead to the next photo and so on. For example, the first clue I hand out is a photo of the BULLETIN BOARD. Pinned to the board is another envelope (#2) with another picture inside...this one is a photo of a MAP. It will lead to an envelope (#3) behind the map...and so on.
 - Each clue should be placed as close to the previous photo’s location as possible. For example, if the photo shows a bookshelf, the next clue (photo) should be between two of the books actually pictured. If you photograph a swing, tape it to the bottom of the same swing. (*Double-sided tape is a MUST for this activity!*)
 - Place the treasure in the gift-wrapped box and put it on a shelf or in an area that the children will notice, but is not so prominent that it consumes their curiosity. Perhaps, have it on the teaching table when they come in, then move it while they are getting situated, saying, “Oh, what’s this big thing doing here? I will have to move it so we can get started on our class!”
- ◆ Purposefully misplace something in your classroom—maybe your Scriptures or your pen. Do not make it too difficult...it is just a reinforcement exercise that should only take a minute or two.
- ◆ *****NOTE** This is going to be a time-consuming class, so don’t let the time get away from you! Get things rolling quickly and keep focused or you will be bringing the kids back to their parents sometime during the next service!*** ☺

Class Start-up:

Each Sunday we have a routine in which we begin the class. The students know what to expect during that time, it provides some “wind-down” time to get ready for listening, and it gives some time for the late students to come in without missing any of the lesson for the week.

1. We have sheets of stickers on the table when the students come in. They can choose one sticker to wear. During this *short* time, we visit a bit...they usually like to “show shoes” or talk about their week.
2. We collect the Sunday School money in our offering cup and set it aside for the end of class.
3. During this time, while they are visiting, we take out our “Service Sheet” which lists the various jobs for the children. We fill in their names in the various squares, being careful to change the jobs up from the previous weeks.
 - a. Our Service Sheet lasts 6 weeks.
 - b. We have a large class right now, so we have added some unusual jobs...if there are fewer children than jobs, we just leave some of the squares empty.
 - c. Jobs include:
 - i. Opening prayer, Closing prayer, Money (taking it to the Treasurer of Sunday School at dismissal), Class Helper, Craft Helper, Line Leader

(for dismissal), Caboose (holds the door at dismissal and brings up the rear—amazingly, the kids LOVE this job!)

4. We announce the names and jobs for the day, and then we say our prayers. ***ALL OF THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND HELPERS PRAY.*** This is very important. The kids learn to pray in front of others with no shame or embarrassment. If there is a shy student, the teacher “helps” him by saying a prayer for him to repeat and pausing at intervals to give him the chance to repeat it. Many times, there is silence, but after doing this for a few weeks or months, you will get some feedback and eventually the student will pray on his own! Sometimes we ask if there are any prayer requests, but usually it takes too much time. The kids listen to their peers’ prayers and remember the needs. We also remind them how to pray—To God in Jesus’ name; not to talk, poke, tap, etc.; to fold hands, close eyes, and listen. Occasionally, if the lesson is expected to be long or involved, or if we are short on time for some reason, we will have only the student who is slated to say the opening prayer pray. We do not do that very often.

Lesson Time!

Discussion:

- ◆ “Does anyone remember our lesson from last week? We talked about the verse, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”...what part of the verse did we learn about?” (knocking)
- ◆ “This week we are going to talk about “seek, and ye shall find”. What does **SEEK** mean?” (Hide and seek, looking carefully for something, searching, etc.)
- ◆ EXAMPLE: “Has anyone ever lost their shoes and wanted to go outside to play, but couldn’t go until you found your shoes? What did you do?” (Various answers.)
- ◆ During the above time, act somewhat distracted...start shuffling your papers, looking under things, etc. Tell the children you cannot seem to find your (Scriptures, pen, notebook...whatever you “misplaced” earlier). Search a little more and ask if they see anything. “Find” your misplaced article. Ask the kids, “What did we just do? We were **SEEKING** for my _____.” We had to look pretty hard—it isn’t always easy to find something we need. We didn’t give up, though, did we? If we had given up, I wouldn’t have my _____ now and that would be terrible! It’s good we worked hard.”
- ◆ “Did you know, I can also seek God? Do you know how? (various answers) Hmm...is He under the table? (look) Can I seek Him by searching my house? No, I can’t, can I? He is with us, but we cannot see him like we see our mom and dad, can we?”
- ◆ “We seek God by **PRAYING** to Him and reading His Word! How can we read His Word? Where do we find it?” (The Bible and The Book of Mormon)
- ◆ “We can seek Him by coming to church and listening to the sermons! We can seek Him by coming to Sunday School!”
- ◆ “Wow! There are **LOTS** of ways to seek God, aren’t there? We are going to do something right now to help us remember to seek God everyday!”

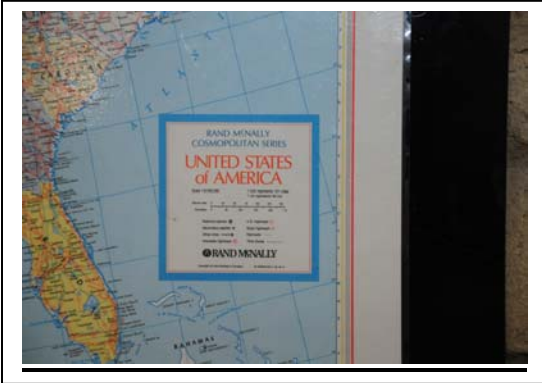
Activity:

- ◆ Pass out the nametags with numbers...you can put them facedown and have the kids choose...just make sure you take out the extra numbers, if you have any!
- ◆ “We are going on a **TREASURE HUNT!** There are clues to every treasure hunt and your clues will be in envelopes with numbers on them. Each clue will lead you to the next clue. We will be **SEEKING** for clues! The person who has #1 on his nametag gets to open the first clue! Then, it will be #2’s turn to open the next clue and on down the number line. Remember, we want to have fun, so let’s help each other and wait for our friends. It is not a race. At the end, there will be treasure for everyone! **C’mon! Let’s go SEEK so we can FIND!**”
- ◆ Open your Bible to where the first clue is located, or just give the first envelope to the student with the #1 nametag.
- ◆ Follow the students as they interpret and retrieve clues in order. Redirect, if needed, and give some help if a clue proves too difficult. Do not spend too much time on one clue, especially for the younger ones. Their attention will wane and they will become bored/tired/thirsty/antsy...the list goes on. ☺
- ◆ When the treasure is found and unwrapped, pass out the packets first—or the Scriptural treasure you have placed in the box—and remind the students who our Treasure should be (God) and how we should seek Him. (prayer, scriptures, church attendance, serving Him in various ways) Then pass out the rest of the treasure.
- ◆ If there is time at the end, go over the worksheets so the students know what is expected. The worksheets are great fun and the kids really enjoyed them, but they need enthusiastic explanation so they can get the full enjoyment out of them.
- ◆ ****NOTE: Our class did this lesson with seven students from 3-5 years old. I had THIRTY clues/photos (yeah, I go overboard a lot) hidden throughout the churchyard, kitchen/dining area, etc. I was not sure we would finish in time. It only took these kids 30 minutes to complete the entire Treasure Hunt (not counting my teaching time)! It gave us ample time to discuss “SEEKING and FINDING” and we even had time to work on some of the packets. This lesson really impacted the kids—they remembered what we learned and applied it in different ways, showing their understanding. Do not underestimate the younger classes—they have wonderfully sharp minds!****

Closing:

- ◆ Collect the bubbles and tell them they can have them after church is over. (Which is worse, spilled suds in the sanctuary or bubbles floating o’er the congregation during the sermon? It is best not to find out!)
- ◆ Line the students up for dismissal, keeping to the correct Line Leader and Caboose!
- ◆ Give the “Money” student the Offering Cup to take to the Treasurer.
- ◆ Closing prayer (one student only, recorded on the Service Sheet).
- ◆ Off they go to their parents!

Photo Examples:





seek and ye

shall find!

matthew 7:7

seek and ye

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Sources for packets:

- ◆ Color by number hidden pictures:
 - <http://www.printactivities.com/HiddenPictures.html>
 - http://www.printactivities.com/HiddenPictures/004_SunAndTree.html
(specific example)
- ◆ Dot-to-dots:
 - <http://www.printactivities.com/ConnectTheDots.html>
- ◆ Mazes (from easy to super-difficult!):
 - <http://www.krazydad.com/mazes/>
- ◆ Hidden Pictures:
 - <http://www.highlightskids.com/GamesandGiggles/gamesArchive/hpTopArchive.asp>
- ◆ Jesus Coloring Sheet:
 - http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/jesus_loves_children.pdf