

# My Treasure

Participate in an activity that encourages thankfulness instead of materialism.

*Tami Rudkin* | posted 2/03/2006

Things you will need:

5-7 pieces of play money for each person (paper money or coins)

Fine-tipped markers

Small chest or basket

As people are getting seated, hand out 5-7 pieces of play money to each person. Explain to them that we are going to be thinking of our treasures, and the play money is symbolic of those riches. Ask them to take a few minutes to ponder their riches and to write a different treasure on each piece of money that they have.

Say something like:

God has given us so much. When we think of all we have, we realize that it will take a whole lot more play money to cover it all. God is the giver of all good gifts and those gifts are what make us rich - no matter our earthly wealth of stocks, bonds, houses, and cars. We are rich.

Sometimes "wealth" can lead us to a place of complacency and self importance. It can corrupt and destroy.

Instead, as believers, our wealth humbles us and our attitude naturally becomes one of thankfulness. After all, God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He is just spreading the love. We do not deserve it now, nor could we ever. He simply gives it, and we accept it.

With great joy we accept the riches of our children, our faith, our hope, our homes, our church, our passion, our jobs. We accept it Lord. Because it comes from your hand, we accept these good gifts.

Now, let us take a few minutes to give thanks for our treasures. What I would like for you to do is to pray a short prayer of thanks for each of the things you wrote on your play money. Then place your play money in the treasure chest (on a cross or in a basket) as a symbol of your offering of thanks.

**After you have allowed each person to pray a prayer of thanks, close by praying:**

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to Our God forever and forever. Amen!" Revelation 7:12

**Leader:** Allow the money and chest (basket) to stay at the center of your table or circle for the rest of your meeting. It will serve as a reminder of our riches in Christ. If you would like to continue this for a few weeks, simply provide more play money or even

slips of paper so that your group members can write a new "treasure" for which they are thankful. Every week have them pray a thank-you prayer and place their money or paper in the chest (basket).

## Study Slogans

Take a cue from advertisers during your next group discussion.

*Sue Skalicky* | posted 12/02/2005

I recently attended a national convention of high school journalists where I picked up a rubber bracelet imprinted with "LIVE FREE". These words are meant to remind us that Americans have the right to freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly.

For me, they have more intense meaning as I strive to live a life of gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross—a sacrifice that gives me a life free of fear and condemnation. I often look at signs or advertisements and relate them to my journey of honoring Christ's sacrifice. For example: Nike's "Just Do It" reminds me to not let fear stop me from living a life of faith, and Lance Armstrong's "Live Strong" challenges me to live out 2 Cor. 4:8-9, *"We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

Slogans can be used for far more than advertising. They can remind us of the power of God's Word and encourage us to choose sacrifice over self and generosity over greed.

During the Bible study portion of your small group meeting, ask each person to write down a saying or slogan that helps him or her remember the command, truth, or promise of the lesson. Some examples are:

Taco Bell - "Think outside the bun"

T - Mobile - "Get more from life"

Allstate - "Are you in good hands?"

U.S. Army - "Be all you can be"

Campbell's soup - "Possibilities"

Citibank - "Live richly"

At the end of the meeting, ask each person to share his or her slogan and why he or she chose it. Close your time together in prayer asking God to bring the slogan to mind throughout the coming week.

At the beginning of the next meeting, ask the group to share how the slogan helped them. Consider using this memory tool each week for the length of your current study.