

Treasure Hunting

Treasure Hunting is a fun, exciting and accessible way of getting your small group out on the streets in order to see where God wants to lead them. The idea is to ask God for words of knowledge about people and places that will lead to 'treasure' – people who God wants you to talk to or pray for. Once you have a bunch of words you head out to find the treasure. It's great for helping your group to exercise faith and take risks as they try to find the 'treasure' that God has given them.

How does it work?

Organising a Treasure Hunt is really simple:

- Give everyone a 'treasure map' – a piece of paper with spaces to write down words of knowledge given by God about:
 - A location (these could be as generic as a field or a pub, or could be a specific road name, shop or other place).
 - A person's name.
 - Their Appearance.
 - What they might need prayer for.
 - Anything unusual that comes to mind, that perhaps doesn't fit in the other boxes.
- Spend about 3 or 4 minutes as a group silently praying and waiting for God to speak
- Once everyone has some words written down compare the treasure maps for anything in common.
- Split people down into into smaller groups of 3-5 (use any common words to put people together), making sure that everyone has someone with a in their group if you're going far.
- Make sure there is someone in each group will act as leader – having the final say on whether to approach people etc.
- Once you've agreed a time to meet back send everyone heads out to find the treasure! (Remember to leave time afterwards to feed back and share stories.)

Further Reading

If you want to read more about treasure hunting Kevin Dedmon's book, *The Ultimate Treasure Hunt* is a great read.

Top Tips

While the group is out treasure hunting they should keep the following things in mind:

- Be yourself – the idea is to be naturally supernatural. It's perhaps not a great idea to bound up to people screaming "You're God's Treasure!!!"
- When you find someone don't go up to them as a whole group. Five people approaching one or two can be quite intimidating so go in pairs or at most threes and mix gender wherever possible.
- Keep your treasure maps available and keep looking at them so that you can refocus if you hit a dead end.
- Don't get stuck behind the map. If you feel like God is approaching someone who doesn't quite fit the clues just go for it! If you see someone with crutches, why not offer to pray?
- Think creatively. For example you may meet someone on the way to your treasure hunt.
- Don't be discouraged if you don't find the people on the map. It might be that you meet them later, perhaps even days later.
- Mistakes don't really matter – as long as you're natural about it. It's fine to say 'You might think this is really strange but...' even if you're way wide of the mark. As long as you don't embarrass the person, it doesn't matter if you're embarrassed!