

How Christians think about the Bible

Introduction

Talk about similes and how they liken one thing to another. What someone is likened to tells us something about them. For example 'Holly swims like a fish'. We know from this that Holly is a good swimmer. Ask pupils to create their own similes. Similes are one form of word-image. Word-images build pictures in our minds that help our understanding. Metaphors are like similes but describe one thing as another to make a point, i.e., 'you're a treasure'.

Bring in some jewels (cheap fake ones). Talk about how precious jewels are and where they would be placed to keep them safe. Talk about treasure chests and show the picture using the **Treasure Chest** PowerPoint. Explain that the writers of the King James Bible, and Christians in general, think of the Bible as being like a treasure chest full of jewels. In the preface to the King James Bible the writers called the Bible 'A treasury of most costly jewels'.

Select from the following activities:

1. The treasure chest

By calling the Bible 'a treasury of most costly jewels' the writers communicate how precious the Bible is for Christians. The Bible itself likens God, God's Word and God's wisdom (as expressed in the Bible) to riches and treasure. Use some of these to explain this idea to pupils.

'God's laws are better than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.' Psalm 119:72

'God's laws are more precious than gold.' Psalm 19:10

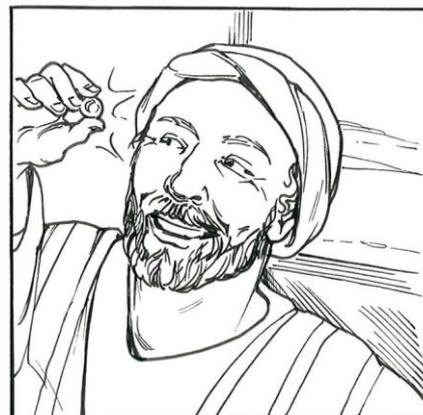
'God's riches of wisdom are so deep it is impossible to explain them all.' Romans 11:33

'Wisdom is better than gold and understanding is better than silver.' Proverbs 16:16

'Look for wisdom in the same way that you would look for hidden treasure. Proverbs 2:4 (paraphrased)

Jesus told two parables that likened the Kingdom of God to treasure in a field and a pearl of great price. In the Kingdom of God a person accepts God as their king and lives by his rules. Being able to come into this relationship is a great treasure, said Jesus.

Christians view the Bible as a treasure chest of jewels because in it they find wisdom for life, values for living and help in their relationship with God.



2. Discussion — treasure/jewel quotations

Look at the words on the **PowerPoint** Discuss why these words from the Bible are valued as jewels or treasure by Christians. Individually or in groups pupils select a quotation from the download **Treasure quotations** (Teachers can mount these on holographic card or paper to make them look like jewels.) Discuss why this teaching would be precious to Christians, what would make this a 'jewel' of a quotation for Christians? Pupils can write the teaching in their own words and decorate it and mount it on holographic card or gold and silver paper and place in a treasure chest as part of a display.

3. Create a display

Create a treasure chest by covering a cardboard box and lining it with tissue paper. Fill it with treasure words and quotations from the Bible mounted on gold and silver card/paper and holographic card. For example, treasured words from the PowerPoint can be mounted on circles of holographic card and strung together to make a 'necklace'.

4. Treasure for life

Pupils select some 'treasure quotations' and write what they might have to say to people today. Out of all the quotations ask pupils to vote for a 'most precious' quotation.

5. Create a treasure map

Pupils create a large treasure map and mark X for the hidden treasure. Around the X cut a flap on three sides so that it can be lifted. Fold the flap upwards. Mount the map and ask pupils to add a quote that they think is treasure under the flap. Close the flap. Write why it is a treasure.

Reflection

Ask pupils for other words that they think are 'Jewels', words that help them to live well in the world so that they and others can flourish.

