

# Day 1

## Know Your Penny

**Bible Point:** God knows you. (*You are treasured!*)

**Bible Story:** God identifies David as the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

**Bible Verse:** “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.” (Psalm 139:1)

Ahead of time, place 10 pennies in each cup.

**Say:** **Welcome to Treasured! Each day before we dig into fun with the kids, we’ll take a few minutes to prepare our hearts and focus on what kids will be exploring. This time will help us get in the right frame of mind to make every minute count as we help kids grow in their friendship with Jesus.**

**Today we’re going to see how well you can get to know a penny in just 30 seconds.**

Hand each person a cup of 10 pennies.

**Say:** **At random, pull a penny out of your cup. Pause.**

**Say:** **Now, you have 30 seconds to study your penny. Get to know everything about it.** Your timing can be approximate; simply count to 30 in your head. When 30 seconds is up, have everyone place their pennies back in their cups.

**Say:** **Now, swirl your cup around to really mix up the pennies. Pause. Your challenge is to find your original penny—that’s your treasure. Ready? Go!**

Play “Priceless Treasure” on the Sing & Play Rock Music CD for one or two minutes while people sort through their pennies, trying to find their original. After a minute, turn off the music. Ask:

- ❓ **How confident are you that you found the right penny?**
- ❓ **What sorts of details did you memorize that helped you find your penny?**

**Say:** **Maybe you noticed the date on your penny—but there were other pennies in your cup with the same year. Maybe you noticed certain smudges or stains that helped you identify your treasure. Maybe you’re really not sure which penny was your original. Ask:**

- ❓ **Let’s think about the kids coming to our VBS. What are some things you hope to get to know about them?**
- ❓ **Why is it important to help kids feel known this week?**

### Supplies

- ◆ pennies (10 per person)
- ◆ cup (1 per person)
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Sing & Play Rock Music CD\*
- ◆ CD player

\*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

Read aloud Psalm 139:1. Ask:

**?** Why would this passage be meaningful to a kid?

Say: **God knows you.** He's observed every detail about you. That's so important because one of the greatest longings everyone has is to be known. This week, pay attention to the details of your kid and who God made them to be. Get to know them even better than you got to know your penny!

Lead staff in praying for kids. Ask God to help your VBS team truly see and know kids—and love them for who they are.

# Day 2

## The Sound of Value

**Bible Point:** God hears you. (*You are treasured!*)

**Bible Story:** David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God.  
(1 Samuel 23:1-14; Psalm 86)

**Bible Verse:** “I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.” (Psalm 116:1)

Ahead of time, place coins in cups, such that each cup contains a different amount. Label each cup with a number, 1-4. Set the cups up front.

**Say:** Welcome back to another exciting expedition at Treasured VBS! Today we’re going to learn that **God hears you**. So let’s practice listening! Motion to the cups. **Each cup has coins in it. It’s up to you to guess which cup contains the most value—just by listening.**

Shake each cup. Then have everyone tell which cup they think is the most valuable. Ask:

- ❓ How did you determine which cup held the most value?
- ❓ How confident are you that your ears guessed correctly?

**Say:** It’s hard to tell just by listening which cup contains the most value. One might sound like it has the most coins, but you can’t tell whether those coins are pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters. A cup with just one quarter is more valuable than a cup with 15 pennies—even if it sounds less impressive! Ask:

- ❓ When God hears us, what do you think signifies value to him?
- ❓ Now, let’s think about the kids in our VBS. How does listening well to a child show value?

**Say:** As you listen to this psalm, think about what you hear about God. Read aloud Psalm 116:1. Ask:

- ❓ What did you hear that told you something about God?

**Say:** Think about the kids at VBS today. Not everyone feels heard or valued. Some may feel overlooked at home, or shy to speak up at school. Or maybe they don’t feel heard by God. Maybe they’ve been praying for something for a long time, and God hasn’t said yes. Maybe they see other people’s prayers being answered and wonder, *Is that person more valuable to God than I am?*

### Supplies

- ◆ variety of coins
- ◆ 4 small, opaque cups
- ◆ permanent marker
- ◆ Bible

Knowing that **God hears us**—and that *you* hear them—will help them feel treasured. Let's pray for them.

**Pray:** God, you place immense value on each child in our VBS. When they pray, you hear them, and you hear how valuable they are to you. Help us listen well and show kids they are treasured. In Jesus' name, amen.

If volunteers are curious about whether they guessed correctly, dump out each cup and let volunteers count the change.

# Day 3

## Get Uncomfortable

**Bible Point:** God comforts you. (*You are treasured!*)

**Bible Story:** God reassures King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:5–19:34)

**Key Verse:** “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.” (2 Corinthians 1:4)

Gather everyone in the center of the room.

**Say:** Today we'll be exploring how **God comforts us**. (*You are treasured!*) **Let's get a little uncomfortable.**

Have everyone get in a squat position. If some volunteers are unable to do this, they can get in any kind of position that will be uncomfortable to hold for very long, such as holding up their arms.

**Say:** **As you hold that position, talk silently to God about times when your life was hard and you needed comfort. Maybe it's something you're facing right now.** Allow a minute or two for prayer.

**Say:** **Now, get into any position that feels really comfortable to you. As you pose comfortably, talk with God and thank him for ways he's brought you comfort.** Allow time for prayer. Then ask:

- ❓ **If you're willing to share, what were some hard times you talked with God about?**
- ❓ **How has God brought you comfort?**

**Say:** **There's a reason God has brought us comfort in those tough situations.**

Read 2 Corinthians 1:4. Have partners talk about these questions:

- ❓ **What are some tough things you've heard kids talking about this week?**
- ❓ **How have you been able to comfort kids?**

**Say:** **God comforts you. He's also put you in a role where you can comfort kids. There are kids going through some tough stuff, but we can ask for God's comfort in their lives. Let's do that now.**

Quietly play “You Say” from the Sing & Play Rock Music CD, and allow staff members to pose comfortably—or uncomfortably—as they pray for some of the needs people shared regarding the kids at your VBS.

### Supplies

- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Sing & Play Rock Music CD\*
- ◆ CD player

\*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

# Day 4

## Shining Treasure

**Bible Point:** God forgives you. (*You are treasured!*)

**Bible Story:** Jesus reinstates Peter. (John 18:1–21:19)

**Bible Verse:** “But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love.”  
(Nehemiah 9:17)

For today’s devotion, you need to have tables or another hard surface for people to use to write on.

**Say:** Today we’re digging into some news that’s sure to make you feel treasured: **God forgives you!** That’s great news because we’ve **all done wrong things.**

Give each person a square of aluminum foil and a pencil. Have everyone confess a few sins by etching them into the foil with the pencil. No one will see what they wrote.

**Say:** Normally etching something into metal is permanent. And without Jesus, those sins etched onto our hearts are permanent. But because of Jesus, **God forgives you!**

**Jesus’ body was broken for you so that you could be forgiven. So crumple up your foil into a nice, tight ball.** Pause. Then ask:

**?** How do you feel about your foil now—does it feel like your sins are gone? Explain.

Read Nehemiah 9:17.

**Say:** **God forgives us.** Let’s open up our foil and see if our sins are gone!

Have everyone slowly, carefully open their foil. Play “Take My Life and Let It Be” from the Sing & Play Rock CD while everyone works. The uncrumpled foil will look almost like a diamond, with the different facets where it was crumpled shining in the light. Ask:

**?** How does your foil remind you of what Jesus does with our lives?

**Say:** Jesus didn’t just take the punishment for our sin; he transforms us! Not only are your sins gone, but your foil now looks like a shiny treasure. God treasured us so much that he sent his Son to die on the cross so he could forgive us. This is the core message of Christianity—because of Jesus, we’re forgiven and made new! Today you’ll get the chance to share this important message with kids. They’re forgiven! Let’s pray for God’s help sharing this message.

**Pray:** God, thank you for your forgiveness. Help us show kids how you’ve washed their sins away and made them bright, shining treasures. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Supplies

- ◆ tables
- ◆ aluminum foil
- ◆ pencils
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Sing & Play Rock Music CD\*
- ◆ CD player

\*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

# Day 5

## The Chosen Jewel

**Bible Point:** God chooses you. (*You are treasured!*)

**Bible Story:** God chooses Esther to save her people. (Esther 2–8)

**Bible Verse:** “I have called you by name; you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

Pour some Skittles in a bowl.

**Say:** All week we’ve been learning about how much God treasures us. He knows us, hears us, comforts us, and forgives us. Today we’ll wrap things up with some amazing news: **God chooses us.**

**Let’s start by making a choice.**

Walk around with the bowl of Skittles. Let each person choose one piece of candy, and hold it for now. Ask:

**?** What did you base your choice on?

**Say:** Most people have a favorite flavor. If your favorite is grape, you chose a purple Skittle.

**But God doesn’t have favorites—does he? How does he choose us? Ask:**

**?** What criteria do you think God uses to choose people?

Read Isaiah 43:1.

**Say:** Some of you would have chosen *all* the Skittles if I didn’t limit you to one. You just like candy! So if you bought a pack of Skittles, it would be yours—and you’d eat every last one.

**God’s criteria for choosing us is simple: We are his. And so he calls us and chooses us to do important things for him. Ask:**

**?** What important things has God chosen you to do?

**?** What evidence have you seen that God chose you for the role you had here at VBS this week?

**Say:** **God chooses us.** He chose you to be here this week, helping kids know they’re treasured. And he chooses each of the precious children we’ve spent time with this week. Let’s pray for them. As I pray, you can savor your choice of candy.

**Pray:** God, we’re so grateful you chose us for this important job of leading VBS. We thank you for the work you’ve done through us this week, and we pray that today you’ll use us to help kids know how precious they are. Help us show kids that you know them by name and have chosen them. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Supplies

- ◆ Skittles candy
- ◆ bowl
- ◆ Bible

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