

TREASURE HUNT

PROJECT MANUAL

Mobilizing Kids and Youth

Reaching Upcoming Generations



Think Possible.

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WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE TREASURE HUNT PROJECT!

Most people may not realize it, but kids are the greatest un-tapped resource for the Kingdom today! Their potential is staggering. Why? There are two big reasons:

First, kids are far more responsive to the Gospel than adults. Just consider the 4-14 Window—more than 70% of Christians today came to Christ between the ages of four and fourteen—that's right-- basically 2/3 of believers responded in that one decade of their lives! In our experience we have found kids to be around four times more responsive to the Gospel than adults. That's right, in many developed countries if you share the Gospel with 10 adults, 1 will respond. But share with 10 kids, and more than 4 will respond!

Second, kids are far more mobilizable for the Gospel than adults. Adults typically have many barriers that constrain them from sharing freely. For example, busy-ness, political-correctness, complicated communication, or fear of rejection. Kids on the other hand have

very few barriers and younger kids may have no walls at all. This means they are far more eager to share their heart freely. In our experience we have found kids to be at least four times more easy to mobilize for the Gospel than adults.

So when it comes to the potential of kids and the Gospel: Kids may do four times more than adults, plus the peers they are reaching out to are four times more likely to respond! That's like saying kids might have 16 times more happen than adults! Want to see exponential change? Want to impact the future massively? It's children. Kids for the Kingdom is the quantum leap!

Now add one more thing—time. Kids have more potential because kids have more time. Not just more time in their day, they also have many more days and years ahead of them than adults, in some cases more than 50 years more time to spread the Gospel!

So how to make it easy for kids to be mobilized? And for kids to be adequately followed up? How about comics and a party and a fascinating series of quests? It can't get much better than that—welcome to the Treasure Hunt Project!

The THP is a perfect way to both reach kids as well as mobilize kids (and youth) for evangelism and discipleship.

OVERVIEW

The TH Project is a simple three stages:

PROJECT STAGES:

STAGE 1:	TH CHALLENGE	(EVANGELISM)
STAGE 2:	TH PARTY	(CONNECTING)
STAGE 3:	TH VENTURE	(DISCIPLESHIP)

There are numerous steps to follow to be prepped for each stage of the project.

PROJECT PREP CHECKLIST:

Note: it is ideal to empower youth to do all three; kids training, party prep and host, and leading TH Venture discipleship groups. This takes about 3-4 hours. Plan to empower the youth once a week for three or four weeks. Yes, it takes longer by involving the youth, but it is well worth the investment. However, if need be, adults may fill in all, or part of, the roles.

1. Get familiar with the Treasure Hunt Project tools:



Treasure Hunt Challenge



Go Card



Treasure Hunt Venture

2. Read through this manual.
3. Motivate youth for discipleship (Light One Match) (30 min)
4. Familiarize youth with the project tools (45 min)
5. Take youth through the TH Party Plan (Party Plan below) (60 min)
6. With youth, set the date, time, place of the TH Party (15 min)
7. Train youth to do Kids Training (below) (60 min)
8. Have youth make the TH Party Invite Fliers:



(download graphic from website)

ALL PREPPED? NOW BEGIN:

STAGE 1: TH CHALLENGE (EVANGELISM)

Train kids to share the TH Challenge (See "Kids Training": 1 hour)
Mobilize kids to share the TH Challenge utilizing the "Go Cards" and "TH Party Fliers"

STAGE 2: TH PARTY (CONNECTING)

Set up and host the TH Party and connect with new kids.

STAGE 3: TH VENTURE (FOLLOW-UP)

Invite new kids to TH Venture groups and begin their discipleship.

So let's start! First priority is to motivate youth for discipleship. This involves sharing the message "Light One Match", familiarizing youth with the three stages of the project, plus the TH Challenge and TH Venture.

YOUTH TRAINING:

Motivational Message: “Light One Match”

HOOK

Pull out your smart phone. Take a look at it in your hand. Now admit it; don't you have an urge to check for texts, mails, or postings. Whether you like that or not--even if you were against it--you got hooked, and so did the world. The smart phone has redefined the way we live, communicate, spend our time, and see ourselves. It's almost hard to believe, and hard to imagine life without it! And you probably know where it all got started right?

Bingo! In a humble garage in northern California. That average garage is now a top tech-tour stop, a great geek-destination, and an official historic landmark--the birthplace of Apple Computers.

Yep, smart phones as we know them, really got going with the iPhone, and the iPhone was developed by Apple. And Apple all started with two very young men both named “Steve”; Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

When Apple was launched, Steve Jobs was 21. But when Jobs was only 17 the two had already started inventing and selling electronic devices. And at an unbelievably younger, 13, Jobs called Bill Hewlett of HP computers and got a summer job. The founder of Apple started out at 13! And today is influencing your life big time by what you hold in your hand!

THE BIG POTENTIAL OF SMALL.

(Hand everyone a match stick)



Now, take a look at the match stick in your hand. Think of that as your potential. Right now it is small and cold. But strike it and it becomes orange and hot. That small flame can then grow, it can spread, it can cover an entire landscape. This is your potential. God is seeking to spread His Kingdom across the earth and each one of us holds a tiny cold match—it's

something that will change the world. What are we going to do with it?

But most people are missing it. They are missing what they are truly called to do. Instead of God's dream they are distracted with daily stuff. Now more than ever there is a lot of distraction. Hey, remember that iPhone? Yep, distractions.

(Hold up a newspaper)

Do you see this newspaper?

400 years ago this was more information than the average person was exposed to in their entire life! That's right, their whole lifetime. But now we get this much, and more, every day! Distractions. It's easy to get distracted from the Master's call. But true disciples don't allow themselves to get distracted...

After all, we are called for something big. Something life changing. Something world changing. God is calling each one of us to the next level. What is that next level? The level of becoming a disciple of Christ.

"But I already am!" You may be thinking. Are you sure? So what is a disciple?

CONVERTS VS. DISCIPLES

First let's make one big distinction. There are two kinds of Christians. There are converts and there are disciples, and they are very different.

There are lots of converts, over 2 billion, nearly a third of the world. They go to church, try to avoid sin, and be a "nice person". They are just converts. Converts are common.

Disciples are much more rare. And disciples are a totally different breed. They have counted the cost. They have taken up a cross. And where they walk, lives are changed, and demons split.

Now the big problem is that we see a lot of converts, but not so many disciples. We are surrounded by content converts and start to think that being a convert is the normal Christian life. We snuggle down in the comfort of the status quo.

SO WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

But that's not where we belong. We belong to something much bigger.

So let's take a look at an example of discipleship from the world. In Chinese martial arts discipleship is vital. This is not a teacher-student relationship, the master-disciple relationship is much more, something almost sacred.

One of the greatest masters of kung fu was Ip Man of China and Hong Kong. Master Ip focused on disciplining a group of teenage boys who took his advice and practiced their skills in the real world. Heading out to matches on roof tops in Hong Kong and “kicking the door” of kung fu schools. “Kicking the door” referred to challenging the head of a school to a match. If the head of the school lost, the champion had the right to order him to stop teaching.

It is said many kung fu schools of Hong Kong were shut down by Ip Man’s teenage boys. And those boys became great masters as well. One of them you may know, he is the world renown; Bruce Lee.



Those boys impacted their world.

Discipleship results in impacting the world.

Is Jesus your Savior? Then Jesus is your rightful Master and you are to be His disciple. And as His disciple you will impact the world big time.

SO WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Okay, so we are finally going to answer the question. What in the world is a disciple? But let’s clear the screen. Let’s look at what a disciple isn’t. A disciple is not: a church goer, not a Bible believer, not a Sunday School teacher, or a graduate of a theological seminary, or even a pastor, or a missionary, or a writer of great Christian books, or a scholar of Scripture, or even a really nice person.

You can be any, or all, of those things and not be a disciple. What!? That’s right. Those things do not make you a disciple. A disciple is defined by one issue. A disciple, very simply, is a “Follower of the Master”. That’s right, you can be doing tons of good things, you can have impressive positions, but you can forget it’s mainly about one thing—following the Master.

WHAT DID HE DO? MADE DISCIPLES

And following the Master means quite simply; doing what the Master does. So; “What does the Master do?” Sure, the Bible says that He came to seek and save the lost. But there’s something obvious we often miss.

We often think Jesus life was all about the crucifixion and resurrection. That is definitely the climax. But that took only three days. What was He doing every day for three years before that? Making disciples! Making disciples was His top priority. He turned average men into world-shakers! And they transformed history.

So, if the Master makes disciples, and we do what the Master does, then we make disciples too. It's sort of a no-brainer.

What is the bottom line? Get ready, here it is;

TRUE DISCIPLES MAKE DISCIPLES!

Is Jesus your Master? Are you His disciple? Then you will make disciples.

ARE YOU GOING TO OBEY?

Well, you may not know how to make disciples, that's okay. That's the way it always begins. We are not sure what to do, but we follow, we step out, we enter into the adventure.

Do you know almost all movies have a magic formula? The movie starts with an ordinary world, then the main character gets a challenge to do something that will change their world. It's a tough choice and usually they refuse, at first...

Think of Frodo Baggins choosing to take the ring to Mordor. Think of Katniss Everdeen choosing to be a tribute in the Hunger Games. Think of Po the Kung Fu Panda choosing to become the Dragon Warrior. None of them wanted it. But in making the hard choice they became the hero.

You are called to be a hero. Until now you have only held a single cold match. Now you can light it. Now you can follow the Master. Now you can obey Him to learn how to make disciples. And in doing so you will change the world. It is not easy, but it is simple.

And a perfect way to start is with the Treasure Hunt Project...

(Introduce the Project flow: THChallenge, THParty, THVenture; what they are and what can result)

Now that you have motivated the group, introduced the THProject, and explained the tools, you can look in detail at the THParty Plan and together edit it for your situation...

TH PARTY PLAN

(Total time 60 min)

Party Agenda:

Welcome

Game 1 (prize?)

Songs

Game 2

Sharing

Salt Talk

Discuss and Commit

Snacks, Pizza, Okonomiyaki, Cake, Crepes, ?

Game 3

Song

Official Ending

WELCOME:

Welcome to the Treasure Hunt Party!!!

What is the treasure? Well, the Treasure Hunt Challenge pocket manga talks about that-- the greatest Treasure is knowing God, the Almighty, Creator and Master of everything. He owns everything, all the gold, jewels, money of this world and even the stars of the universe, but you know what He considers to be His treasure? You!

The Bible says:

The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. (Deut 7:6)

I don't know about you, but I don't think I'm worthy of being considered a "treasure" by God, but thinks of me that way anyhow. Wow!

So that is reason to party and we plan to do just that; have fun, play games, eat good stuff and get to know each other and God better!

So let's start with a game!

GAME 1 TRIVIA GAME:

Sample Questions:

1. Chocolate originated in Switzerland. (No. In South America.)
2. The iPhone was released in 2002. (No. In 2007.)
3. Mini Mouse is in her 80's. (Yes.)
4. Pikachu was the first Pokemon created. (No. Rhydon.)
5. Hello Kitty's home is in London. (Yes.)
6. ???

SONGS:

GAME 2 (CHOOSE ONE)

FACT OR FICTION?

Break into groups of around five with a youth/adult leader per group.

Ask everyone to write on a piece of paper THREE things about themselves which may not be known to the others in the group. Two are true and one is not. Taking turns they read out the three 'facts' about themselves and the rest of the group votes which are true and false. There are always surprises. This simple activity is always fun, and helps the group and leaders get to know more about each other.

SELF-PORTRAIT

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. Allow 3 minutes to draw a picture that conveys who they are without writing any words or numbers. At the end of 3 minutes the leader collects the pictures. Show the pictures to the group, one at a time, and

have them try to guess who drew it. Each artist can then explain how their work expresses who they are.

SHARING

Each small group share with the whole group one interesting fact or fiction you learned. Or share one of the pictures for each group if you did the portrait game.

SALT TALK:

All of you have read the Treasure Hunt pocket manga.

So tell me what is one thing you remember about it?

The two main characters were Hikari and Mana. Both Hikari and Mana's lives were greatly impacted by Jesus. Hikari found what real power is. Mana found that she didn't have to be afraid of dying.

Just like them, the more you get to know Jesus, the more your life will change and become better! So let me tell you another story. It's a story where Jesus does an amazing miracle...

JOHN 6

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee,² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples...

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

(Have kids break into groups of 3-5 with a youth/adult in each group to guide answering questions.)

What was the miracle?

There was only one bento, but how many people got fed?

Was there Was anything left over? How can that happen?

The math doesn't work right? But God is not limited by the rules of this world.

Now where did that bento come from? That's right, a boy. Do you think that boy was hungry? He could have snuck off alone, away from all the hungry people and eaten his whole bento (sack lunch) secretly, right? The next day he would go to the benjo (toilet), and the story would end.

But that didn't happen. Instead of eating it himself, he gave it all to Jesus. And then what did Jesus do with it? Jesus made history. He showed that with God, no matter how little you have, it doesn't matter, great things will happen! Not only did that boy tell the amazing story the rest of his life, even to his grandkids, but it's been told for thousands of years, and here we are telling it now.

Jesus is amazing! That's why more people follow Him than anyone in the world. So I want to challenge you to get to know Him better. How? Well, we are going to get together to do just that. The Treasure Hunt Venture is just five studies. Just five times and you will get to know Jesus so much better. He will be your friend forever! Plus you will also learn some other cool things like the answer to three secrets:

Why is the Bible forever the world's best-seller?

What is the most famous symbol in the world and why?

What is the secret to being happy no matter what happens?

So join us for the Treasure Hunt Venture. Five times that will help you know Jesus and experience God for real! Someone in your group is going to share now how to join a Treasure Hunt Group that's starting and then we will have snack time!

DISCUSS AND COMMIT

Show the group the THVenture booklet and the times for the groups. Encourage each child put their name on the sign-up sheet for one of the groups.

SNACKS:

SONG:

OFFICIAL ENDING

Thank you all for coming. We hope you had a good time! We look forward to more good times when we get together next time for the THVenture! Close in prayer.

KIDS TRAINING

Time required: 1 hour

GOALS OF TRAINING:

Motivate for evangelism “I want to share Jesus.”

Convince the simplicity “I can do this.”

Mobilize for action “I will do what it takes.”

TRAINING FLOW:

Pep Talk¹ to build the foundation of conviction

Familiarize with the manga

Understand the plan (Go Card flow)

Practice in pairs: each child will need the: THChallenge, Go Card, Party Flier

Pray and Re-Motivate

¹ Pep: Excitement, Enthusiasm, Liveliness

PEP TALK:

Let me ask you a question...

What is the most beautiful place you have ever been? Close your eyes and imagine it right now. Now tell me what it's like...

Take a look at these pictures...

(SHOW POWER POINT, FIRST THREE PICS)

Would you like to go there?

Do you know there is somewhere more beautiful, fascinating, and amazing than any of these places? In fact it's so amazing you can't begin to imagine it. Where do you think it is? That's right, Heaven.

Now how long did it take for God to make this world? Right, six days. But Jesus told us He was going to make us a special place for us, and how long has He been working on that? 2,000 years? Just think how incredible Heaven will be! $(2,000 \text{ years} \times 356 \text{ days} \div 6 = \text{over } 120,000 \text{ times better than earth! Or something like that...})$

And the most wonderful thing about Heaven is that Jesus is there! And Jesus is amazing!

(SHOW POWER POINT, FUNNY PIC)

Oops, not that picture! Well, yeah, He is amazing you know...

(SHOW POWER POINT, JESUS AND KIDS, TWO PICS)

Jesus is so wonderful!

And there is no one who loves you more...

But most people around, maybe most people in your family, or your neighborhood, or at your school, aren't going to Heaven, the Bible clearly says they are going someplace terrible. Where is that?

Jesus talked about Hell a lot in the Bible..

He said it's a place of burning and weeping and never ending pain.

Take a look at a few pictures of what people imagine it to be like.

(SHOW POWER POINT, NEXT THREE PICS)

What would it feel like to be there forever? Where everybody hates each other? And these are only pictures from games. It's actually infinitely worse than even these pictures.

Now Jesus saved you from going there!

(SHOW POWER POINT, CRUCIFIXION PIC)

And He saved you partly so you could help other people escape going there too.

(SHOW POWER POINT, TOUCHING SCAR PIC)

He wants each one of us to help others. To save them from eternal suffering in Hell and help them have eternal joy in Heaven.

Jesus is asking you to join Him in spreading His love and salvation in this world. It's the greatest privilege--the most important thing you can do. More important than going to school and doing your homework, more important than getting good at sports, more important than being popular. Helping others meet Jesus and go to Heaven is the most important thing you can do.

Maybe you think, "But I don't know how!"

But here is the good part, it's actually really easy. You can do it!

All you have to do is share this pocket manga...

TRAINING:

1. Have all kids read the Treasure Hunt individually.
2. Bring everyone back and ask what they liked most about the Treasure Hunt.
3. Now introduce the "Go Card". Explain the three steps: Introduce. Involve. Invite.
4. Show them the Invite flier and explain that the Treasure Hunt Party will be super fun; there will be games and snacks and it will also help their friend understand better who Jesus is. All they have to do is bring their friends and have a good time.
5. Have kids pair up and practice the three steps with each other. Take turns playing both parts. Then switch partners and do it again.

RE-MOTIVATE

Now say:

Give me some reasons why we want to share Jesus? (Heaven, Hell, Jesus asks us to, Jesus gave everything for us...)

Tell a local story of how a child shared the Gospel and touched many lives. It's best if you have a picture of the child to add to the Power Point.

Japan example: A story of two Tokyo brothers:

Takashi lived in Tokyo when he was a boy and one day he was given a tract that talked about Jesus. What do you think he did with it? He took it and showed it to his big brother, Yoji. Both he and his big brother accepted Jesus as their Savior. Then they share with their mother and she trusted Jesus too. Their mother then started sharing Jesus with everybody she knew. Three years later fifty people around her had been baptized! Takashi and Yoji's father also trusted Christ. All these people came to Christ and will be in Heaven because one boy took the initiative and shared a small tract with someone else. That is all you have to do!

Let's pray now and ask God to make us brave and to open people's hearts around us...

Get each kid connected with a big brother/sister to pray for them and help them with any questions or things they want to share.

CONTINUED INVESTMENT

So you train the youth, plan the party, train the kids, hosted the party, and began the THVenture. Don't stop there! Plan to do the Project again soon and train the new kids to share with their friends as well. As kids become youth then train them to begin discipling the next generation. Keep investing in kids and youth and you will have made the investment of a lifetime!

You may notice that the THVenture follows the flow of Hook, Book, Look, Took. This is a time tested terrific way to organize any lesson or message and was designed by Lawrence Richards (Creative Bible Teaching). As a bonus below is included our rendering of Richard's idea; a perfect recipe for life-changing impact and works great with kids.

A SECRET RECIPE FOR LIFE-CHANGING TEACHING

HOOK THE “HOOK” PREPARES. IT GETS ATTENTION, INTEREST, INTRIGUE.

Always remember that God’s Word is a priceless gift and gifts deserve careful wrapping. Wrapping communicates consideration, creates anticipation, and ensures maximum impact. Even Jesus used the Hook! Hooks can be humor, stories, experiences, shocking statistics, quotes, questions, drama, pictures, videos, and even using objects that involve the senses. How do you pick the right Hook? By knowing those you seek to teach. Never forget; knowing who you teach is as important as knowing what you teach. How do they think? How do they learn? What grabs them?

BOOK THE “BOOK” FOCUSES. IT GETS US INTO GOD’S TRUTH.

Now that people are adequately Hooked, we need to effectively transition into the Book explaining how what we are going to read has to do with the Hook. Critical to remember with the Book is how much material to include. How many references should you include? More is not particularly better, too much is always bad, often half the quantity means twice as good! Trim out any verses that are not absolutely necessary. Generally, one clear, vivid idea should be the emphasis. There is far too much information out there, so keep it simple and unforgettable.

LOOK THE “LOOK” DEEPENS. IT EXAMINES THE BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LIVING THE TRUTH.

The Look can give attention to the Biblical context, or our cultural context, but it must always include the personal context. Everyone should individually wrestle with “what does this mean for me?” How will this truth effect my thoughts, attitudes, values, routine, direction?

TOOK THE “TOOK” CHANGES. IT FOCUSES ON INFUSING THE TRUTH INTO ONE’S LIFE.

The Took is the movement from head knowledge to life change. Without a concrete change in thinking and behavior, learning is only increased information, not growth. The goal of the Word is growth; this means personal transformation, the multiplying of God’s glory, and the expansion of the Kingdom. The Took should help people practically detail what and how they will change.

All too often the teaching (and preaching) of the Word is carried out without a Hook or a Took. This is terribly unfortunate. Without a Hook it's likely that people were not engaged in the learning. Without a Hook people are bored. Without a Took it's likely that nothing really changed in lives. Without a Took we waste people's time, including our own. This is careless teaching, but it is quite common. So let's level up the learning process and take special care to both intrigue people and enchant people. We must ensure that people are intrigued to focus and enchanted to change.