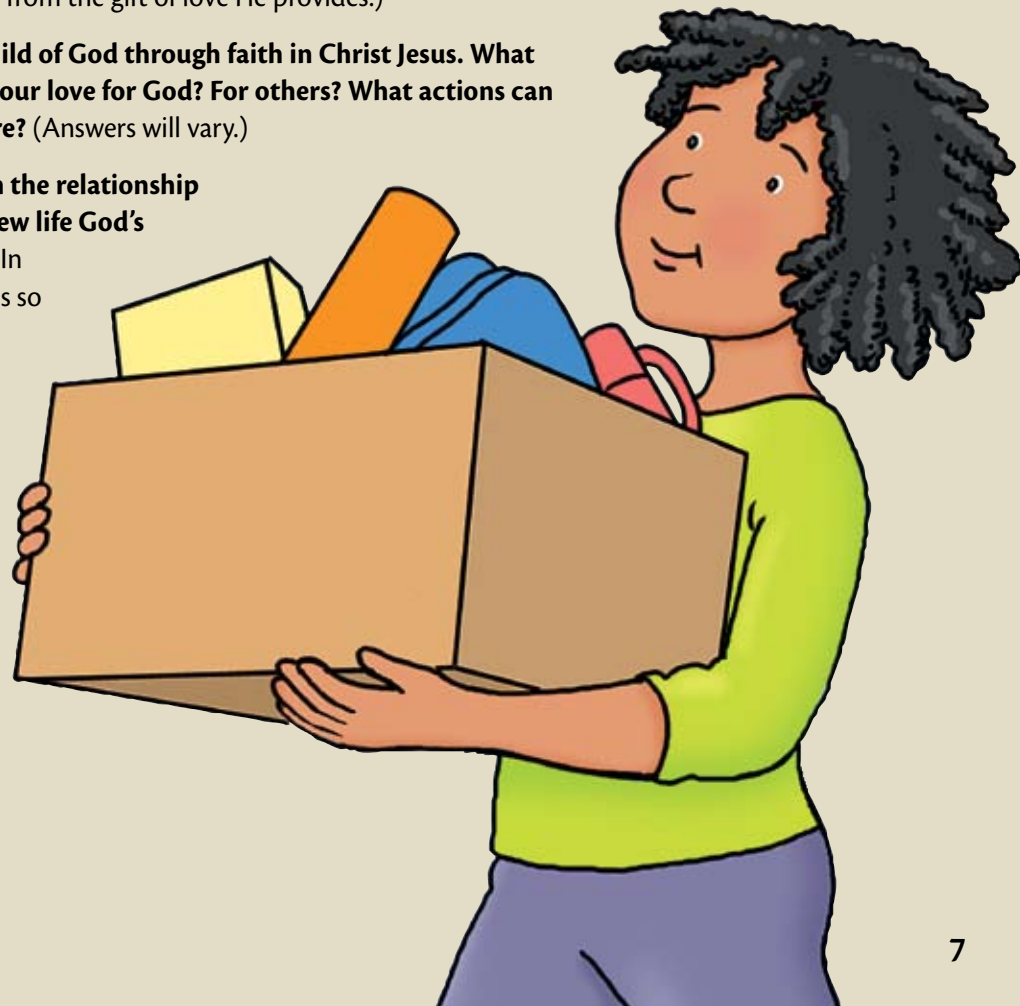


# Serving Together

Distribute copies of Reproducible 1, a skit titled “Finding Treasure.” Assign students parts and then read the skit. Follow up with these questions for discussion.

## Explain/Discuss

1. **Why do you suppose the gang found the offering plate and nothing else? What probably happened to the money?** (Probably the money was all in bills and deteriorated over time.)
2. **According to 1 Peter 1:18–19, what is the greatest treasure—not perishable like gold or silver—the one Jesus paid to ransom us?** (The precious blood of Jesus shed to give us forgiveness, new and eternal life, and salvation.)
3. **Read Matthew 6:19–21. In light of these verses, what is the best answer to the question the skit ends with?** (The truest treasure is the treasure our Savior tells us to lay up in heaven.)
4. **In what way do those who love and trust in Jesus store up treasures in heaven?** (They value and aspire to attain the things of God, which 1 Corinthians 13 identifies as faith, hope, and love.)
5. **Review 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. According to these words, what seems to come first in the life of the believer: Christian service or Christian love?** (Verse 3 says, “If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.” Actions that serve and honor God can only flow from the gift of love He provides.)
6. **Think about yourself as a child of God through faith in Christ Jesus. What actions do you do to show your love for God? For others? What actions can you do now and in the future?** (Answers will vary.)
7. **Read Romans 6:3–4. Explain the relationship between Baptism and the new life God’s Spirit empowers us to live.** (In Baptism, Jesus drowns our sins so that through daily contrition and repentance we can serve God, forgiven and energized with God’s power for each new day.)



## Reproducible 1

# Finding Treasure

Props: metal detector (You can make this prop by taping a roll of masking tape to the end of a yard stick or small branch.)

Characters: Christian (a seminarian), Rich, Goldie, Billy, Millicent, Penny, Bucky

**Christian:** Hello everyone! My name is Christian, and I came over tonight because I wanted to meet some of the young people at this church. I am a student at Concordia Seminary.

**Goldie:** If you are going to the seminary, that means you are studying to be a pastor, right?

**Christian:** *(With enthusiasm)* Yup! That's right. I know that I want to serve God full time as my life's work. I believe that God put on my heart the desire to be a pastor when I was in eighth grade.

**Billy:** Like, wow! That's the grade I'm in now! How long do you have to go to school to become a pastor?

**Christian:** Well, I've finished college, and after four years of seminary training, I will be ordained and begin serving in a congregation.

**Rich:** And you're going to be helping to lead our youth group?

**Christian:** Right. As part of my training, I have been assigned to your congregation to do what is called "fieldwork." As a field-worker, I will be doing many of the same things I will do when I finally become a pastor.

**Goldie:** Groovy!

**Christian:** I'd like to tell you about a hobby of mine. Who knows what this is? *(Holds a metal detector)*

**Penny:** I know what that is .... That's a metal detector. I see people walking around with those looking for coins and other metal objects on beaches and in vacant lots.

**Christian:** Right. I thought it might be fun to go outside and see what we can find on the church property.

**Goldie:** Maybe we'll find the buried treasure of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

**Billy:** What's that?

**Goldie:** You've never heard about the buried treasure of Holy Cross?

**All:** *(In unison)* No!

**Goldie:** My grandmother told me about it. It seems that one night, over a hundred years ago, robbers entered the church to steal the offering money, but the quick-thinking pastor took the money outside and buried it under the cover of night.

**Christian:** Wow! Didn't the pastor go back and get the treasure after the robbers left?

**Goldie:** According to the story, he wasn't able to. He buried the treasure and then ran to his house, where he died of a heart attack before he could tell anyone exactly where he buried the money. People looked for the treasure for a long time afterward, but eventually they gave up.

**Rich:** I've got a plan. Let's see if we can figure out where on the church grounds the pastor would most likely have hidden the treasure. Then let's use the metal detector to see if we can find it.

**Penny:** I remember studying a map of the early days of our congregation. The pastor lived in the parsonage at the southwest corner of the property. Most likely the pastor hid the treasure somewhere between the church and the house where he lived.

**Millicent:** Yes, but isn't that the first place anybody would look? Imagine you are a pastor, it's nighttime, and you are in a hurry. Wouldn't you bury something where it's most easy to dig a hole and cover it up? Let's check around the church where there has always been a flower bed.

**Billy:** Let go with Millicent's idea. It's dark out here, and I'm getting hungry. The sooner we get this treasure-hunting activity over with, the better!

**Bucky:** Ruh-right!

**Christian:** Okay. We'll go to the flower beds. *(Walks to another part of the room.)* Okay. Here we go. *(Moves metal detector back and forth.)*

**Billy:** I don't think you're going to find anything. This dirt has been, like, dug up and planted in so many times that if something was buried here, someone totally would have found it by now.

**Millicent:** Maybe Billy has a point. Why not try right by the foundation of the church, where nothing is ever planted?

**Christian:** Okay. Here goes. *(Continues the back and forth movement of the metal detector. Then, suddenly, all hear a rapid clicking sound.)* Hear that? There's something metal right here. It's probably a foot or so beneath the surface.

**Rich:** Let me dig it out. Wow! Look at that!

**Penny:** It's an old offering plate!

**All:** *(In unison)* Where's the treasure?

