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## Bible Basis:

Jeremiah 29:13

## Bible Truth:

When we search for God, we will find him.



# Searching for God

**Memory Verse:** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

## You Will Need:

- treasure map mounted on a wall
- Use the Clues!* poster holding all 12 treasure map clues
- 1 colored poster board (22" x 14")
- 2 colored poster boards (28" x 22" each)
- old magazines
- scissors
- glue sticks
- bed sheet
- 10–15 accessories for the teacher to wear (e.g., belt, pin, ring, hat, glasses, etc.)
- whiteboard
- double-sided tape
- ZipLine #1* home-connection page
- Lookout Card #1*
- (optional) treasure box
- (optional) snack: pudding cups, jelly beans, spoons
- (optional) Activity #1: butcher paper, markers, rubber bands
- (optional) Activity #2: objects to hide such as small blocks, small treats, etc.





When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.



## GET SET!

### (Lesson Preparation)

- Create the treasure map and tape it to the wall where it will remain for the next 15 weeks (see page 9).
-  Print Jeremiah 29:13 on the small, colored poster board so the words use the entire board: **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13)**. Make a frame from the larger poster board by centering the small board on it and tracing the outer edge. Cut the printed board into four jigsaw puzzle pieces. Assemble the jigsaw pieces again within the frame and trace each puzzle piece. Then, hide the jigsaw pieces around the room. Hang the frame in the classroom.
- Cut butcher paper into about 4 ½' lengths for each child.
-  Print out discussion questions from *Climb In!* on separate pieces of paper.
- Make a copy of *ZipLine #1* for each child.
- Make a copy of *Lookout Card #1* for each helper.
- Set out the treasure box (optional).
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your Children's Ministry.



## PASSWORD, PLEASE!

### (Welcome and Bible Connection)

- **Objective:** To excite children's interest and connect their life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will search magazines for treasure map features and discuss the meaning of the word "search."

## Welcome Time Activity: Geo Search

- **Materials:** old travel or geography magazines, scissors, glue sticks, poster board

As children arrive, let them examine the treasure map. Have helpers invite children to search through magazines to find and cut out examples of geographic features on the map: mountains, swamps, geysers, bogs, etc. As they search, helpers can engage children in conversation. **What does it mean to search? What have you had to search for before? Have you seen the places shown on the treasure map?** Let them glue the pictures in a collage on a piece of poster board.



## Sharing Time and Bible Connection

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them. As you move into the activity and discussion to prepare for the Bible story, give every child the opportunity to say something.

Introduce today's lesson by putting on 10–15 accessories as you talk. Then drape a sheet over yourself to hide the accessories. Have a helper hand out papers and pencils. Ask students to list as many accessories as they remember. Helpers can help younger children with writing. After a minute or two, take off the sheet and see who remembered the most items.

After the object lesson, help your students connect their ideas to the Bible story they're about to hear from Jeremiah 29:13:

**You saw me put on each accessory, but no one remembered every item I had on. Sometimes we see things, but forget about them until we take another look. That's true about God too! We can forget that God is there until we take a closer look. But when we search for God, we will find him.**



## CLIMB IN! (Bible Discover and Learn Time)

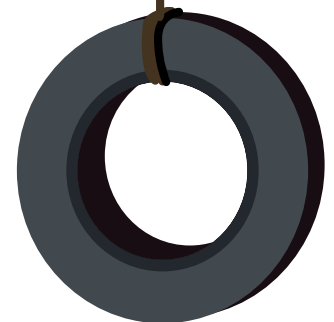
**Jeremiah 29:13**

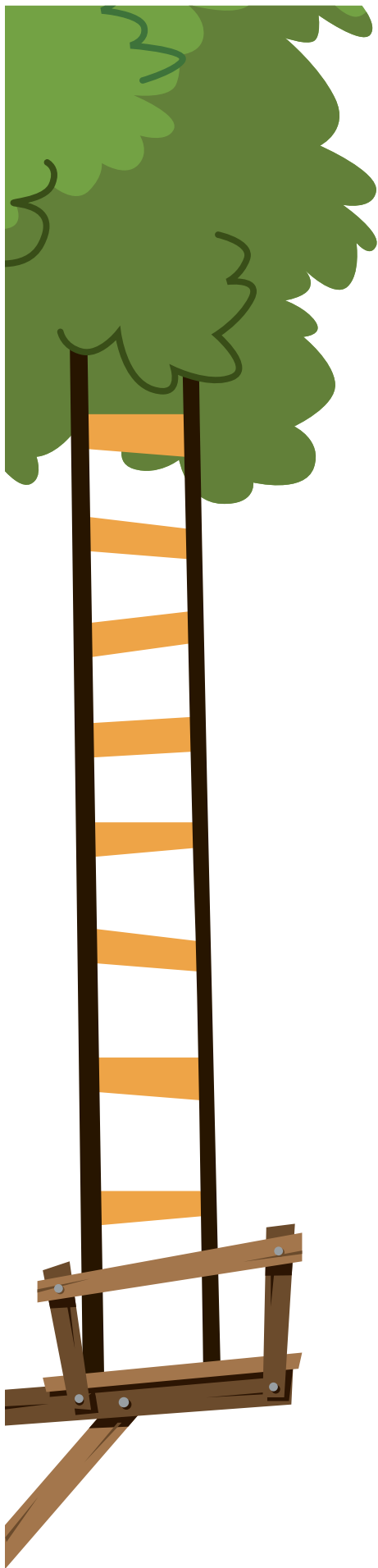
- **Objective:** Children will study Jeremiah 29:13 to learn that if they search for God, they will find him.
- **Materials:** discussion questions written on separate pieces of paper, whiteboard, Use the Clues! poster with map clues

**How many of you have been on a treasure hunt? What treasures did you find?** Allow several children to share what they found. **Is the treasure you found in that hunt as special to you today as it was when you found it? Just what is a treasure anyway?** Let children suggest definitions and examples.

**Think of the things that are really important to you. Which thing is most important to you?** Let volunteers share their ideas. Share one of your own if you choose.

**People have different ideas about what a treasure is. Some people spend a lot of time searching for a treasure they think is valuable. We're going to make small groups and talk about different kinds of things people search for, then each group will share what they talked about.**





Divide kids into four to six multiage groups and assign a helper to each. Give each group a discussion question and instruct them to choose a “speaker” who will explain their answer to the class. (More than one group may discuss each question, depending on how many small groups you create.)

Discussion questions:

1. How long would you search for a comb or brush? Do you have more than one at home? If you had other ones, how hard would you hunt for a lost one?
2. How long would you look for a book or toy you really wanted? How long would that toy or book be very, very special to you?
3. How long and hard would you search to find the perfect friend or pet? How would you know when you found the best one?
4. How long would you search for a box full of money? What would you feel like if you searched for a long, long time and didn't find it?

Give groups three to five minutes for discussion, and then call everyone back together. Group speakers will take turns sharing their group question and answer. Then, summarize: **There are so many things we search for. Some are things we think are really important today, but next week we don't feel the same way about them. Toys can break. Money gets lost. Friends might not want to be together anymore. Sometimes, we hunt for some treasures and never find them, no matter how hard and how long we look.**

**But there is one treasure that I know for sure you and I can find if we search for it. In fact, the Bible promises we'll find it. The promise is in Jeremiah 29:13.** Ask a good reader to read this verse from his or her Bible. Then, write the verse on the board, but leave blank spaces for “you” and “your.”

**This is a totally true promise, and it means the most valuable treasure in the world is one we can find for sure.**

Write a child's name in the two blanks of the verse, and then read it, prefacing it with “God says.” Read it again with another child's name. Ask children to turn to someone near them and say the verse to that person, using the person's name. Helpers should join up with anyone who doesn't have a partner.

**There's one problem with searching for God. What do you think it might be?** Let kids respond. **Yes, it's forgetting to search! We remember to search for the ball we left on the sidewalk, or for a school backpack. But since we can't see God the same way we see our toys or pets or homework, we forget to search for him. If we forget to search for God, will we find him?** Let kids respond.

**For these next few weeks, we're going to be searching for God. A cool treasure map is our way of remembering about this search.**



## **USE THE CLUES!** **(Bible Review)**

Okay, let's see what you remember.

- **What do we sometimes forget to search for?** (God)
- **What did God promise to those who seek him?** (he promised he would be found)
- **How does God say we have to search?** (with all our hearts)
- **What should we do when we forget about God?** (search for him again)

Explain how the treasure map will work this quarter: **We're going to use this map to help us search for treasure. Every week, we'll add a new clue to this map. Hey! How would you like to have your own map like this one?** Let kids respond. **Today we'll make a map you can take home to hang in your bedroom or somewhere else in your house. Each week on your ZipLine pages, there will be a clue for your map just like the one we use in class. You can color your clue and attach it to your treasure map at home. On the last week of class, everyone who**

brings their treasure maps back to show the rest of the class will get a great reward. If you miss a week or two, don't worry. You can mark your treasure map with as many clues as you have collected.

Go to the treasure map. **We start here.** Point to the start. **This week, we have to climb over the Mountains of Forgetfulness. How do we do that?** Hold up the clue and read it. **"When we search for God, we will find him."** That's an important clue in our search for treasure.



## HIDE 'N' SEEK (Scripture Memory)

Jeremiah 29:13

- **Objective:** Children will hide God's Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.
- **Materials:** Hidden puzzle pieces, puzzle frame, double-sided tape

To search for God, we have to search God's holy Word, the Bible. This week the Bible verse is hidden in our classroom so you'll have to search for it.

Divide the class into four groups. Each group will search for one puzzle piece. **Let's see which group can find a piece and be the first to sit down and be silent.** As the pieces are found, use double-sided tape to attach them to the frame. When all the groups have finished, say the verse and reference together two to three times: **You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).**

Then have each group say only those words that were on their puzzle piece. You can have them stand when they talk and sit down when done, making it a more active and fun rehearsal. Repeat the activity a couple of times before you have the whole class say the Bible verse together again.



## PRAYER HIDEAWAY

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.
- **Materials:** copies of Lookout Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of *Lookout Card #1* (page 17) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

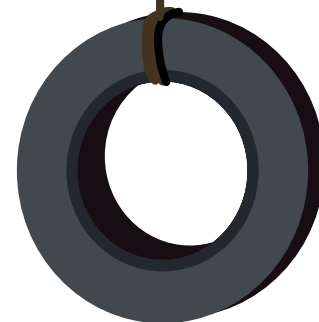
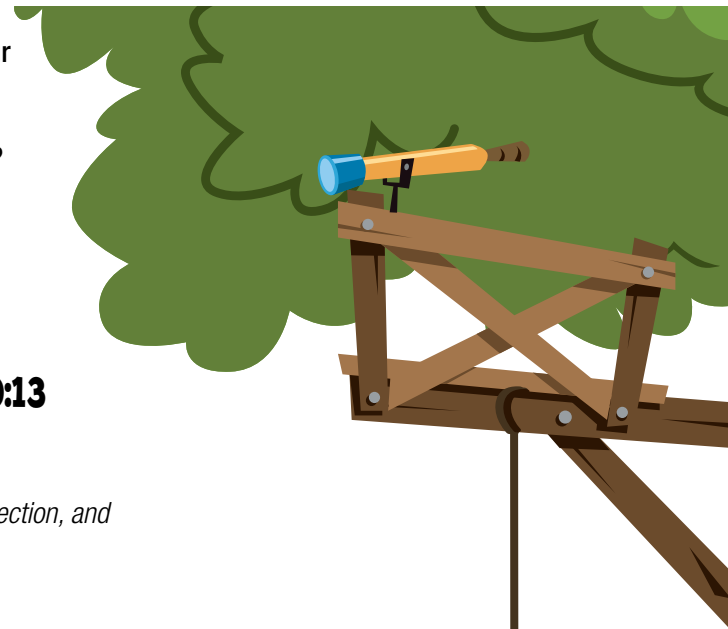


## TREETOP TREATS: Hidden Treasure (Optional Snack)

- **Materials:** pudding cups, jelly beans, spoons

Before snack time, open each pudding cup and use a spoon to poke a jelly bean down inside. Then smooth the surface of the pudding. Encourage children to search for the hidden "treasure" inside their snack before eating the pudding.

**Note:** Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.





## APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their lives through activities and home-connection pages.

Some children's ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.



### Take-Home Treasure Maps

- **Materials:** butcher-paper sections, markers, rubber bands

Give children as much time as possible to make a version of the treasure map to use at home. Provide art supplies and a section of butcher paper for each child. Let them spread out on the tables and floor to work. They'll use your class map as the example. Ask older children and helpers to assist younger children. Have kids roll up and rubber band their map to take home with instructions to parents about mounting the map and its home use.



### Hide and Seek

- **Materials:** small objects to hide

Build up the excitement for this quarter's theme of searching for God by having a treasure hunt. Hide your chosen objects—some hard places, some easy—around the room. Divide into two or more teams. Let children search for the objects. When they've all been found, have them tell you how they felt searching and finding the objects. Connect those feelings of excitement, satisfaction, and thrill to searching for and finding God.

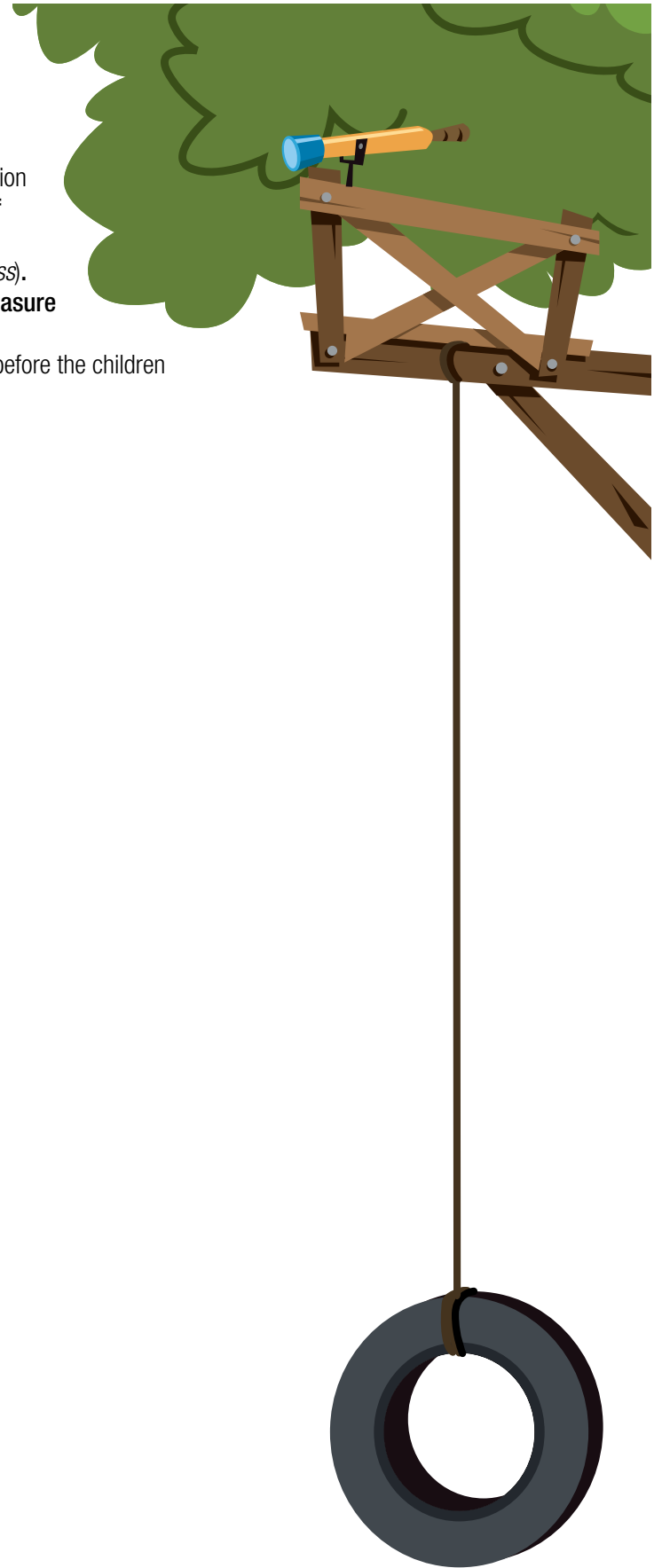


# ZIPLINE

(Home-Connection Page)

Let children who brought back a signed pass from last week's home-connection page choose a prize from the treasure box. **Today I'm going to give each of you a *ZipLine* page to take home. When you've done the activities and memorized the Bible verse, ask a parent to sign the pass (show *Club Pass*). When you bring that back next week, you'll get to have a turn at the treasure box.**

Distribute the home-connection pages and each child's treasure map just before the children leave.





# ZIPLINE – HOME CONNECTION #1

## Searching for God



### Prayer Challenge

Dear Parents:

For the next few weeks, our children's ministry will search for God together. Today children learned from Jeremiah 29:13 that when we search for God, we will find him.

This week you can reinforce the lesson by talking together about how God might show his presence when your child is alone. End your time together praying the way your child prayed in class, encouraging your child to add his or her own prayers to each section.

- **Praise** God because he wants us to find him.
- **Ask** God for reminders to seek him this week.
- **Confess** and ask God's forgiveness for times you forgot God was with you.
- **Thank** God that even when we might forget him, he never forgets us.

Your child may be shy at first and not want to add to the prayers out loud, but as you pray regularly, he or she will become more comfortable. If you have questions, feel free to discuss them with someone in the children's ministry program. We're excited about what God is doing and appreciate your prayers for the teachers and children in the weeks to come.

**Congratulations!** You're starting an incredible journey to find God. Your home treasure map will help you remember what you learn each week. This week, finish the map that you started in class. Make it look like the map in the picture.

Ask your parents where you can hang your map at home. Each week you will make a clue to add to your map. Bring your map back on the last day of class for a prize!

Remember to climb over the Mountains of Forgetfulness as you search for God every day. To help you remember, color and cut out the clue (the below). Make your clue cool by gluing some macaroni on the mountains. Then glue the clue over the Lesson 1 circle on your treasure map.



### Memory Verse

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**  
Please check off the items your child completed this week.

- Prayer Challenge
- Bible verse memorized and recited to an adult
- Map clue

**Adult Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB PASS**



# LOOKOUT CARD #1

This week children have discovered that when we search for God, we will find him. The Bible passage is Jeremiah 29:13. Today, you'll lead your group in prayer according to the imPACT model (praise, ask, confess, and thank). As your children engage in these four activities of prayer, focus their thoughts on today's lesson:

- **Praise.** In our Bible passage today, we learned that we'll always find God when we search for him. Have students praise God because he wants us to find him.
- **Ask.** Students can ask God to remind them to seek him this week.

- **Confess.** Sometimes we forget God is with us. Let's ask him to forgive us for those times. Allow students to ask for forgiveness from God for times they forget God is there.
- **Thank.** Never forget that God has promised that if you search for him, you'll find him. Have students thank God for his patience. Remind them that they might forget God, but he will never forget them. End your time of prayer by thanking him for each child in your group.

Remember that no child should be forced to pray, but do encourage and invite each one. After you have said "Amen," talk quietly with your group until the next activity.

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**Map Clue 1**