

Send North America: Los Angeles

Children's Games and Activities

Buried Treasure Bottles

Items Needed:

- Small wading pool
- Lots of sand or packing peanuts
- Empty water bottles with caps, 22*
- Permanent markers in 3 colors

**Note: If you don't have empties on hand, empty 22 full bottles and use the water to make a lemonade treat.*

Summary: Los Angeles is known for its many beautiful beaches. In keeping with the beach theme and to help children learn 1 Timothy 5:4, play Buried Treasure Bottles. Children will work as teams to locate their team's color bottle caps in the sand (or packing peanuts) and to stand the bottles in correct order to read the last portion of 1 Timothy 5:4.

Prepare: Before class, prepare 22 empty water bottles as follows: Provide 11 bottles per team. Each team's set of 11 bottles will have the lid colored with permanent marker in a color specific to that team. Ten of each team's bottles will have two words from 1 Timothy 5:4 written in black permanent marker so the words can be read with the bottle standing up. The eleventh bottle will have the reference, 1 Timothy 5:4, written on it.

"They must learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God" (1 Timothy 5:4).

Play: Form two equally matched teams. Place the teams on opposite sides of the room, and place the pool filled with sand and bottles in the middle. At your signal, children will run to the pool to locate bottles that have caps in their team's color. Each child can carry only one bottle at a time back to his or her area, standing them up so the verse can eventually be read. They can then return to the pool to locate another bottle.

The first team to complete and read the verse together wins.

Option: If your teams are large, you may opt to divide each team again, assigning one group the job of fetching bottles and the other the job of setting the bottles in the correct order.

Forever or Fleeting

Items Needed:

- Table
- Index cards, 12
- Small cardboard boxes, 2
- Permanent markers, black
- Bible

Summary: Many people living in Los Angeles appear to have everything they want. NAMB asked random people on the streets of L.A., "What do you want more than anything in life?" People were also asked where God fit into their lives. Some answers were: never think about

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Him, don't believe in Him, it's all fake, and either low or not on the list at all of things they want in their lives.

See the video* at namb.net/video/What_do_you_want/.

**Warning: This video may not be suitable for children as a profane word has been muted and blurred. You may want to view it simply to become familiar with the people of L.A.*

Help the children learn the difference between things that are forever (of eternal value) and those things that are fleeting (not lasting) through the game Forever or Fleeting. Children will work with a partner to decide if the concept or item written on the card they choose is forever or fleeting.

Prepare: Write the following words or phrases on the index cards:

Win lottery	Awards and trophies
Fame	Equality
Nice house	Inner peace
New car	Continuous love
Popular friends	Everything to be OK
Millions of dollars	Happiness

Write *Forever* on the outside of one box and *Fleeting* on the outside of the other. Be ready to explain any complex terms to the children, such as the words equality, forever and fleeting. Shuffle the index cards and spread them facedown on the table. Place the boxes on the table facing out so the children will be able to read the words, Forever and Fleeting. Pair each child up with a partner. Adjust as needed according to the size of your group.

Play: Seat the children and stand behind the table. Share with the children the information about the people in Los Angeles from the summary above.

Explain to them that when you call on them, they are to come to the table with their partner, choose a card, read it out loud and decide with their partner if it is something forever or fleeting. They will then drop the card into the appropriate box. At this time, do not allow the other children to offer their opinions. There will be time for that after all the cards have been placed.

After all the cards have been placed, take the cards out of the box marked Fleeting first. The following cards should be in the Fleeting box: win lottery, fame, nice house, new car, popular friends, millions of dollars and awards and trophies. (All others will be in the Forever box.) Discuss as a group why each item is fleeting and may not last. These things are really of no value in the realm of eternity. They can be wiped out in an instant.

Do the same for the cards in the box marked Forever. Discuss the eternal significance of each concept. We can have all these things when Jesus is our friend, and we are following

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Him. For cards that may have been placed in an incorrect box, explain why they belong in the other.

Close: Tell the children that many people in Los Angeles want those things that will last forever, but they don't realize the only way to have them is to have Jesus as their friend—to love and trust Him—so they can live with Him forever in heaven. Only with Jesus can we have equality, inner peace, continuous love, happiness and know everything is OK.

Read and explain Matthew 6:19-21. Tell the children that these are the words people in Los Angeles and everywhere need to store in their hearts.