



## Fit 4 Gold: 5. Being Rewarded Full Plan



### **Theme: The prize is worth way more than gold**

It is the best possible relationship ever

**Aim:** select from

- Relationships and especially a relationship with God are worth than anything else.
- You can always go deeper in your relationship with God.
- To think about how to go deeper in our relationship with God

**Theme verse:** Acts 2:28 / Psalm 16:11

You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you.'

NIRV

**Bible references** – detail in Bible verses document

Moses - Exodus 33:7-23; 34:29-35

Especially 33:11 The LORD spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks with his friend. NCV

34:29 His face was shining because he had spoken with the Lord. But he didn't realize it. NIRV

James 4:8 Come near to God, and God will come near to you. NCV

**Food link:** 'Gold' bitesize chocolate biscuit bars

**Games theme: Treasure hunts** - select from

**The chocolate game:** Need large bar of chocolate; hat, scarf, gloves, knife & fork, plate, dice

**Sweets in flour game:** need flour, small plastic bowl for moulds, small sweets to hide inside or on top of flour

**The Amazing Scavenger Hunt:** need list for each team, bag to collect items; mobile phone camera in each team if using that part of the hunt.

**Basic Location Treasure Hunt:** need to place clues around the venue to follow a specific route. Perhaps supply words to collect to rearrange into a Bible verse.

**More than Gold Treasure Hunt:** need a clue list for each team; verses around the venue either to collect as tokens or to write down; some kind of prize for everyone who finishes

### **Rewards/ Prizes/Promises**

**Talk about:** different types of rewards suggested questions, be flexible

- What different types of rewards can you think of?
  - Suppose there was a competition with a prize. What sort of prize would tempt you to enter the competition?
  - What other sort of rewards do you like?
- What rewards do athletes get?
- What would be your favourite?

- How long do some of these rewards last?
- What sort of rewards are worth the most?
- What would you **really**, like above everything else?

Some examples

- ◆ Chocolate; extra pocket money; trip to the beach; sleepover; meal at Pizza Hut etc,
- ◆ Passing a test; being a winner; getting a paper round etc
- ◆ Adults: a job; pay rise; promotion at work; OBE, MBE, knighthood...; good harvest etc
- ◆ The view from the top of a mountain
- ◆ Seeing the smile on someone's face when...
  - ☺ They are pleased to see you
  - ☺ You have been kind to them
  - ☺ You have made them laugh
  - ☺ You give them some good news
  - ☺ You make them feel that they are special
  - ☺ Because you are special to them

**DVD clips options:**

- Labyrinth where Sarah is in a dream sequence and is being offered her childhood 'treasures' in order to distract her from finding her brother. When she remembers that she is looking for her brother, she describes the other things as 'junk'.
  - Treasure Planet where Silver has to choose between saving the treasure and saving Jim
- What do we treasure more, our relationships or our possessions?

**Silas Marner story** – see back-up notes

**Sports links:** more detail on athletes available in Sports Links Profiles

Top Olympic champions such as Steve Redgrave; Kelly Holmes; Chris Hoy; Michael Phelps; Tanni Grey-Thompson; Seb Coe; Jesse Owens & Lutz Long; Kriss Akabusi

What are their rewards?

Olympic champions such as Kriss Akabusi, Debbie Flood; Christine Ohuruogu; Nick Willis; Steph Cook and Allyson Felix are also Christians. They value their medals but their relationship with God is worth more to them.

**Bible links:**

The Bible mentions rewards on earth as well as rewards in heaven. What is the top prize?

Select from: Moses; David; Paul; Mary; Peter;

Could also mention Joab; Jacob; Abraham

**Joab's prize** was becoming commander of David's army for being 1<sup>st</sup> to get to the top of the water shaft so they could capture Jerusalem and make it their capital city. That was their equivalent of an Olympic medal.

**Moses' prizes** What was his top one?

- ◆ Moses was used to rescue his people from slavery which could have been one of his boyhood dreams.
- ◆ He also became the all time hero of the Israelites. However this did not go to his head and Numbers 12:3 describes him as a very humble man.
- ◆ He had the closest relationship with God of anyone in the Old Testament. His face apparently 'shone' when he had met with God. This is surely what he saw as his greatest reward, especially as the Israelites were always complaining to him!

**Small group Bible link**

Read some verses to them and chat as you go along. Feel free to do bits of paraphrasing as you go along to keep it age appropriate. You can always encourage them to read the 'proper' version at home.

Exodus 33:7-11: Moses prayer time – already close to God  
33:18-23: asks to meet God, wants to know him even better  
34:5-8: has a special experience of God  
34:29-35: his face would shine after he had met with God  
We can always go deeper in our relationship with God

Discuss 'special experiences with God'. Everyone is different. Some people have an amazing experience in a meeting, others when alone or outdoors.

**David's prizes**

What was his top one?

That he became king over all Israel age 30  
The promise that there would be a king in his family line forever  
The honour of the title 'a man after God's own heart'  
The joy of being in the presence of God

For **Paul**, seeing people get to know God and grow in their faith was a reward in itself but he also had an amazing insight into what the next life was going to be like.

**Application:** What is our prize? An amazing relationship with God & a privileged position in his family

Invite along someone who can enthuse about what their relationship with God means to them or share your own experience.

- Can you think of anyone you know who seems to have a close relationship with God?
- So how are we getting on with our relationship with God?
- Is it exciting or has it got boring? Does he seem near or distant?
- If you are 'in a relationship' with someone, what do you do to keep it going?
- How can we develop our relationship with God and make it mean more to us?



**Prayer space / small group themes:**

**+ Rewards: Better than gold**

The aim here is to encourage them away from thinking about the superficial things that immediately come to mind, towards thinking about friends and family and perhaps their relationship with God if appropriate for your group.

Display in pictures or words, different types of rewards or prizes such as chocolate; medals; trophies; money; merits/exam certificates; the latest mobile phone; a computer game; something to represent beauty; something to represent fame; a friendship card or token; a wedding ring etc

- ◆ What sort of rewards do you like?
- ◆ How long do some of these rewards last?
- ◆ What do you treasure most in life?
- ◆ What is the main prize that you would like to win?
- ◆ What would you **really**, like above everything else?
- ◆ Choose no more than 2 things to pray for and write on your paper chain

Have some blank gold medals / paper chains for them to write on and link together to make a necklace or chain. (It is possible to buy all gold paper chains in UK.)

**Song ideas**

I can only imagine: MercyMe: Bart Millard

Love Came Down: Ben Cantelon

The stand: Hillsong

## Appendix

### Chocolate love: Have A Lovely Day!

Most of us are fond of chocolate

With a name like chocolate it has to be good, right? The advertising world encourages us to 'spoil, treat, relax, indulge' with... chocolate! To attract that special someone's attention you need to, 'make the face you love light up' with... chocolate! In the advertising world chocolate symbolises love. To love yourself and to love others you need... chocolate!

Truth is, chocolate, once it's out of that wrapper, doesn't last long. It satisfies only a moment. Not even a whole box of the stuff can make the object of your desire fall head over heels in love with you. If you want to know what real love is, you have to go to the main source. 1 John 4:8 tells us, 'God is love' and this is what God says real love is like ... God's love always satisfies and never disappoints. God lavishes His love on you. So indulge yourself. Know from Him what it means to love and be loved.

Adapted from Word 4U 2Day. Word 4U 2Day is produced by UCB. Free issues are available for the UK and Republic of Ireland. <http://www.ucb.co.uk>

### A relationship worth more than gold: Silas Marner by 'George Eliot'

There is an old story about a weaver called Silas Marner who loved gold. He lived alone, shut away in a tiny cottage on the outskirts of a village and hardly ever spoke to anyone.

He hadn't always lived like that. His strange lifestyle started when his best friend set him up to make it look like he had stolen something he hadn't. His fiancé then dumped him and got together with his best friend. His community believed that he was a thief. He was so hurt that he left the area.

He spent most of his time in his cottage weaving fine cloth to sell. He spent very little of the money. He just accumulated more and more gold. Every night he would take out his hoard of gold coins. He knew every single one as though they were his children. He would count them, run his fingers through them and look forward longingly to the ones that would arrive when he sold his next piece of work.

One night when he was out of the cottage for just a few minutes, someone came in and stole all his gold. He was really upset, completely inconsolable. He felt as though he had lost his best friend. A few weeks later he saw this golden cluster on his hearth. He was very short-sighted and his first reaction was to think that his gold had returned. But it was the golden curls of a young child who had toddled towards the light of his house. Her mother had died of a drug overdose in the snow just a few steps from his door. This lovely little girl seemed to be a replacement for his lost gold and he decided to bring her up as his own daughter. Raising Eppie, completely changed Silas's life. He was determined to do the best for her and so he started talking to people in the village. Some of them gave him advice; others gave clothes or toys for the little girl. He slowly made friends and became part of the community.

When Eppie was 16, her real father finally made himself known and tried to adopt her. But no amount of gold would persuade Silas and Eppie to be parted. They loved each other too much. When the gold was finally rediscovered, it no longer meant the same to Silas. It was now just money and he did not treasure it in the way that he had when he had nothing else. Because a special relationship is worth far more than any amount of gold.