

Camp Copass Boys Camp – Bible Study #3

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Theme: Treasure Hunter

"Treasures in Jars of Clay"

Memory Verse: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

2 Corinthians 4:7

Bible Study Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Object: To help boys understand that God gives the treasure of His word to ordinary people like us.

In the days that Jesus lived on earth glass had not yet been discovered. There were no glass bowls or dishes like your mother uses for serving food and there were no stainless steel or aluminum pots and pans. The only kind of jars people had to carry water in or to cook in were made of clay. And everyone knows that clay jars can be easily broken.

Clay jars were also used to store important papers, so that dust and moisture could be kept out. Sometimes very valuable treasure was stored in clay jars.

In our Bible passage for today we learn that God has given us a special treasure to store in our hearts. This treasure is the knowledge we have of God through the Bible and through His Son Jesus. Here is the way the Bible says it, "**God...made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ**" (2 Corinthians 4:6).

This is a treasure not everyone has, because many people of the world still do not know about Jesus. We say they "live in darkness" because the light of Jesus has not shined on them. They have never been told of His love. But the Bible also says, "**We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this is all-surpassing power is from God and not from us**" (2 Corinthians 4:7). This means that God has chosen to give this wonderful treasure of the knowledge of Jesus to us who are just common ordinary people. We are the jars of clay. We can be chipped, cracked or broken. We aren't perfect or permanent. But we can still carry the wonderful treasure of the knowledge of Jesus in our hearts.

In Africa women sometimes still use jars of clay to carry water for their home and family. They often have to walk a long distance to fill their jars at a water hole or well. Then they walk home carrying it on their heads without spilling a drop. Imagine a child sick with a fever. Her mother goes to get water. She fills her jar and carries it home to

give the child a drink and to cool her forehead. The jar of clay is very important. You might say it saved the child's life.

The Bible says we have the treasure of God's word in our hearts. We must share this treasure with those who don't know Jesus so they can be saved.

In order for God to use us in this way we need to be clean vessels. We may just be clay jars, but we can be clean, clay jars. You wouldn't want to drink water from a dirty jar would you? The Bible says, "**In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work**" (2 Timothy 2: 20- 21).

What these Bible verses mean is that if we keep our lives clean from sin we will be a vessel that is suitable for the Master's use and prepared to do any good work He has for us to do.

For Discussion:

1. How would you like to have to carry all the water for your house in a large jar?
2. What do you think it means when the Bible says that we are "jars of clay"?
3. What is the treasure that we carry in our jars of clay?
4. Is your life clean before God? How can it be made clean?
5. What kind of good works do you think God could use you for?