

Treasure Hunt

Read The numbered readings that follows this page

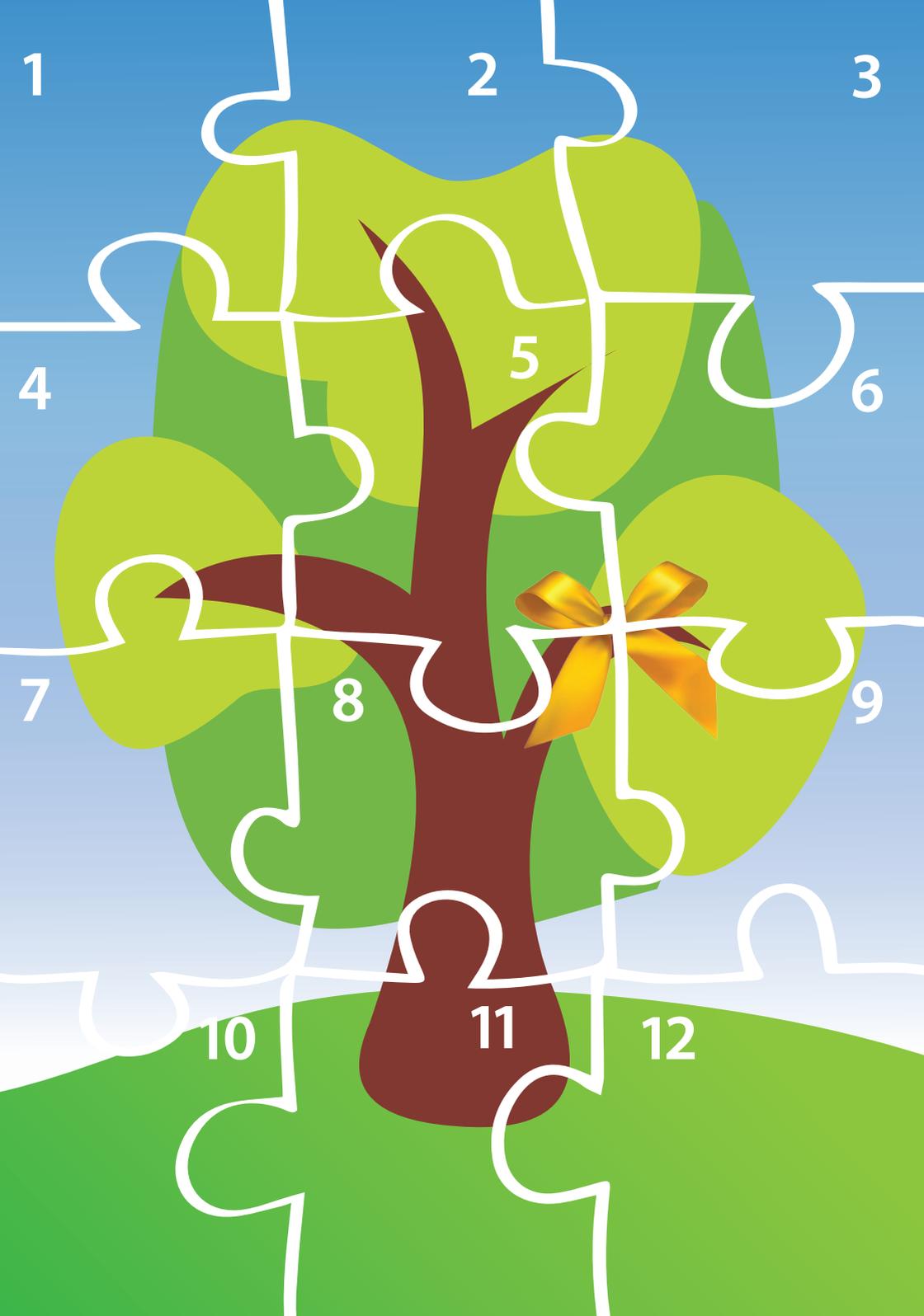
Do You'll need: puzzle cut-outs on the next page, Treasure Map and Readings 1-10, yellow ribbon and a prize.

1. Cut out the puzzle pieces from on the next page
2. Using the Treasure Map hide the puzzle pieces as per the numbers indicated eg. hide puzzle piece 1 at the front door. Hide each piece according to the other numbers on the Treasure Map. The Treasure Map spots are places in and around most people's homes.
3. Tie a yellow ribbon on a tree in your garden. Hide the "prize" in or around the tree. Make sure it's well hidden!
4. Give the children the Treasure Map with readings on the back. The hunt begins!!
5. The children use the map to find each puzzle piece. As you find each piece read the matching numbered reading on the back of the map.
6. Once the children have all the pieces, they need to put the puzzle together to reveal where 'the prize' is hidden. Remember the prize is hidden in or around the tree with the yellow ribbon.



Talk The treasure hunt readings give the children a brief look at the whole of God's 'big story' – helping them to understand who Jesus is and why he came to earth. The story of Easter is put into its context and is seen as part of a greater whole. God has been working through all of history and continues to work in us today. We are part of his plan for all creation and we look forward to the time when Jesus returns and we will be with him forever. The glow sticks remind us that Jesus came to be the light of the world and he wants us to shine his light to the people around us.

- 1 God created the world and he said it was good, but the people he created sinned and didn't follow him. Sin separated them from their creator God. This didn't stop God – he had a plan to make things right because he loved them so much.
- 2 God loved his people and he acted to save them. He came to Abraham and said “I will make you a mighty nation. You will be blessed to be a blessing to all nations.” Even though Abraham and Sarah were very old, God kept his promise and gave them a son named Isaac.
- 3 Isaac's grandson, Joseph was a child who liked to show off. This annoyed his brothers and they sold him into slavery in Egypt. Joseph grew up there and came to be the second most powerful man in the land. When famine came to Israel, Joseph was able to forgive his brothers and help his family who came to live in Egypt. God had a plan to save his people.
- 4 400 years later the Israelites were still in Egypt but now they were Pharaoh's slaves. They cried out to God to save them. He heard their cry and sent Moses to lead them out of slavery, through the Red Sea and into the Promised Land. The land that God had promised to Abraham all those years ago.
- 5 Even though God had taken them out of slavery and given them a new land the people still turned away from him. There were good leaders, like Deborah, who helped the people follow God and bad leaders who led them away from God.
- 6 Even though God was their King the people cried out for a human king like the other nations. God was sad because he was really their king, but he gave them Saul and then David. David was a good king and a man who loved God. He helped the people to follow God. God promised that one day he would give them a forever-king.
- 7 After David died some of Israel's kings followed God but some did not. Eventually the bad kings led the people so far from God that God sent them out of the Promised Land into exile in a country called Babylon. There they learned that God was still with them.
- 8 After a long time the Persian king, Cyrus allowed the people to go home. They found Jerusalem in ruins but Nehemiah, who loved God, helped them rebuild the temple and the city. At last they had somewhere to worship God again!
- 9 After another 400 years the people were still waiting for God to give them their promised king. At last the time for God's plan had come. He sent Jesus, his own son as their forever-king, born to a young peasant girl named Mary. The Saviour of the world had arrived!
- 10 Jesus, filled with the Spirit, spent his life following God. He called people to follow him too. He blessed children, he healed the sick and even raised the dead. He pointed people to God the Father. He had come to fulfill God's plan.
- 11 The religious leaders did not understand who Jesus was and they had him killed. Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross but even on the cross Jesus still helped people. Jesus died but God raised him from the dead because Jesus was the perfect king, the sinless one, the Saviour of the world. Death is no longer forever. God's plan had worked!
- 12 God's plan is still working in you and in me. God poured out his Spirit upon everyone who believes in Jesus and through God's Spirit we live with him now. And the exciting thing is that one day Jesus will return to earth again, and everyone will know that he is the strong and mighty King of Kings. Those who follow God will live with him in a new heaven and a new earth. We'll be perfect friends with him forever, just as God planned it in the beginning.



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Begin Here

Treasure Map

