

Hidden Treasure

What is your treasure? I have a shelf of tiny ornaments that I have been collecting since I was a little girl. I always refer to them as "my treasures". Some of them used to belong to my mother, so they have a special meaning for me. They aren't worth any money, they have what we call sentimental value. We all have things which are special to us – things or people, or animals or places.

Today's story is about someone who finds something special. He realises how important it is; more important than anything else. What might we find which is more important than anything else? Jesus has an answer!



COIN CATCH

I have only two coins in my pocket. They add up to 15 pence, and yet one of them is not a ten pence piece. What denomination are they?

Craft

You will need:

2 sheets of different coloured card, one to represent gold (e.g. yellow) and one to represent silver (e.g. grey)

Two sheets of paper

Glue or double sided tape

Scissors

Felt pens or coloured pencils.

1) Make ten coins.

Cut five circles out of the "gold" card, and five out of the "silver". Decorate each coin with a drawing of yourself on one side and a drawing of something special to you on the other, like this:



on the front...



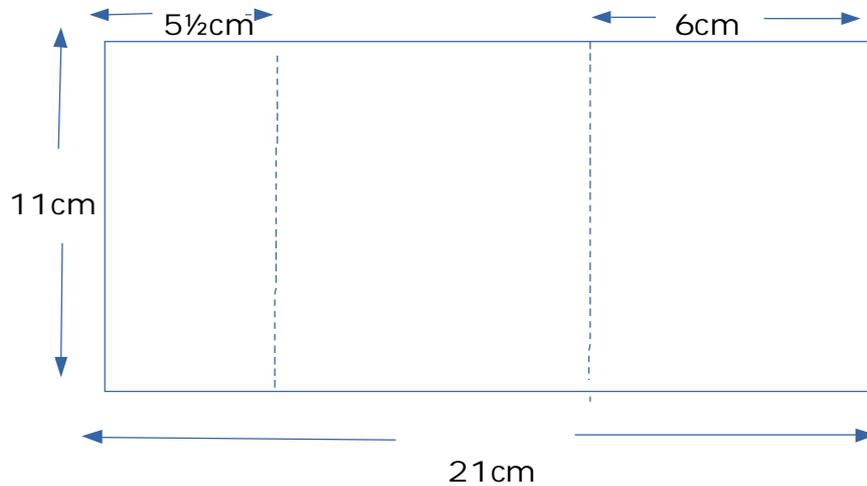
on the back...

Write your name around the edge on the front.

You can draw different things on the backs of the gold and silver coins, if you like.

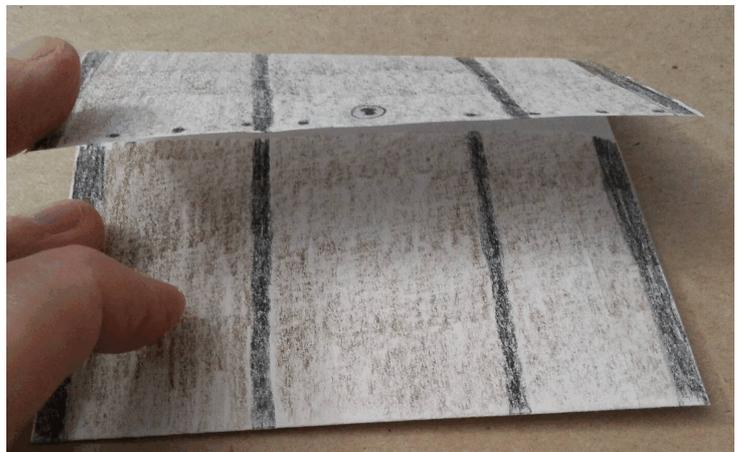
2) Make a chest to keep them in.

Cut a third of a piece of A4 paper, so you have a piece of paper 11cm by 21cm like this:



Fold in at the two dotted lines, and stick the bigger end down with sticky tape.

Then decorate it to look like a treasure chest! It should look something like this:



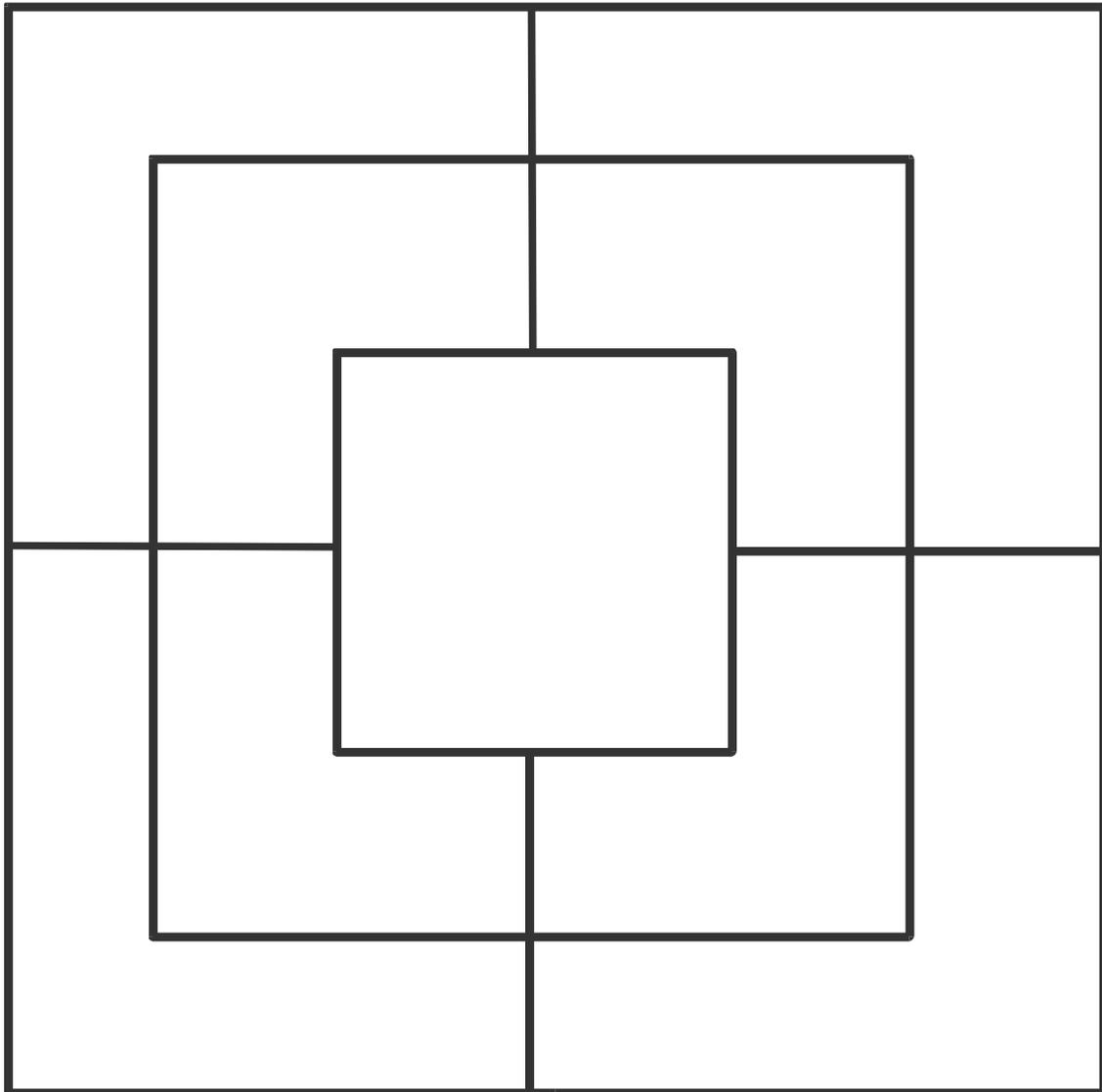
Take the other two thirds of the A4 sheet, fold one edge about two thirds of the way up, stick it together with tape here:

Decorate it to look like a field, then you have somewhere to "bury" your treasure chest!



3. Games to play with the coins

Five Men's Morris

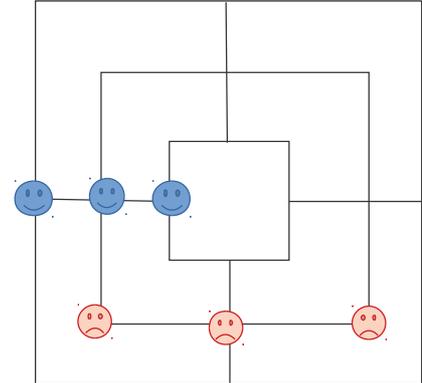


Draw a board as shown above. Make sure it's big enough so you can place your coins at the corners. One player has the gold coins and one has the silver.

Take it in turns to place a coin on one of the corners or joints. The aim is to make a line of three coins where the lines cross. Once all the pieces are on the board, take it in turns to move a piece along one edge of the board, between the corners and joints.

The winner is the first person to make a line of three.

The line has to be along one of the cross lines (like the blue counters in the picture), and not using any of the corners (like the red counters).



If you like this game, try playing nine men's morris. You'll need nine coins (or counters) each. Look for the rules on the internet!

Treasure Hunt

Place all the coins at random on the board, at joints or corners.

One player leaves the room while the others choose one of the coins to hide the treasure under. Put a small piece of paper under one of the coins to represent the treasure. Make sure you can't see it and it is thin enough not to lift the coin at all.

When the missing player returns, they remove one coin at a time until the treasure is revealed. Note how many coins were removed. Each player takes it in turns to leave. The winner is the one who finds the treasure in the fewest moves.

See if you can invent your own games!

You can keep the pieces in your field...

Puzzles

You might need some help here!

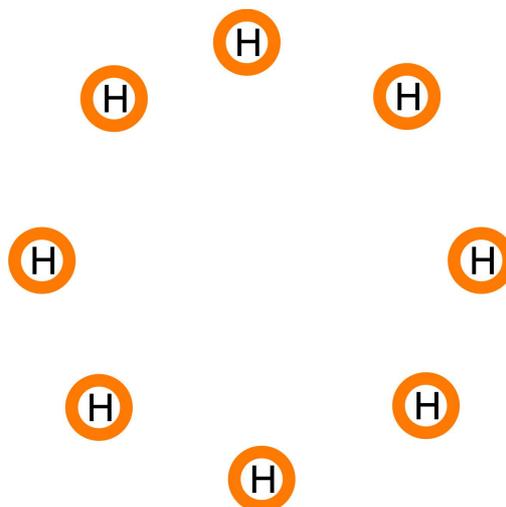
1) Having placed eight coins in a row, as shown below, show how they can be laid or placed in four couples, removing only one at a time, passing over *two* each time.



2) How can I stretch my hands apart, having a coin in each hand, and without bringing my hands together, cause both coins to come into the same hand?

3) **Heads over tails**

Lay out eight coins in a circle, all heads up. Start at any coin of your choice, count four as you touch four coins one after the other, and turn over a head. Choose one of the remaining heads, count to four, starting with the chosen coin, and turn over the fourth coin, to show tails up. Repeat until all but one of the coins are tails up. Remember, you must start each time with a head, and the fourth coin must be a head until you turn it tails up.



Answers

COIN CATCH

5 pence and 10 pence. One of them is not a 10 pence piece, but the other is!

PUZZLE 1)

Place 4 on 7, 5 on 8 and 3 on 1. OR place 5 on 2, 3 on 7 and 4 on 1.
Always start with either 4 or 5.

PUZZLE 2)

Place one of the coins on a table, then keeping the hands apart, pick it up with the other hand.

PUZZLE 3)

Suppose you start with coin 1. Count 1, 2, 3 and turn 4 tails up. Count 6, 7, 8 and turn 1 tails up. Count 3, 4, 5 and turn 6 tails up. Count 8, 1, 2 and turn 3 tails up. Count 5, 6, 7 and turn 8 tails up. Count 2, 3, 4 and turn 5 tails up. Count 7, 8, 1 and turn 2 tails up.