



Detective afternoon – securing evidence

AT A GLANCE



Place

Indoors or outdoors, prepared “crime scene”



Key idea

Searching for, securing and analysing clues like detectives – and solving a little case



Effort

Materials 15 min · Preparation 30 min



90 minutes



teams of 3–4



7–11 years



magnifier and notepad



Materials

- ☐ magnifying glasses, notepads, pens
- ☐ prepared footprints in sand or on paper
- ☐ cocoa powder or flour and a soft brush (for fingerprints)
- ☐ a “missing object” and 3–4 clues
- ☐ clear sticky tape and dark paper



Schedule

0–10'

Opening – The case: the group pennant (or another object) has disappeared! Who did it?

10–35'

Detective school – Taking fingerprints: press a finger on glass, dust with cocoa, lift with tape and stick on dark paper.

35–65'

Searching for clues – Teams examine the “crime scene”: compare footprints, secure fingerprints, note down clues.

65–75'

Solution – Teams present their solution; the leaders reveal the answer.

75–85'

Devotion – People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

85–90'

Closing – Make a detective ID card with your own fingerprint.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Press a finger firmly on a glass or a smooth table.
- 2 Sprinkle a tiny bit of cocoa on it and carefully blow away the rest.
- 3 Put a piece of tape on the print and slowly pull it off.
- 4 Stick it on dark paper – now you can see the lines.
- 5 Compare: arch, loop or whorl? No two fingerprints are the same.

 **Example:** “Can you see this whorl in the middle? Only one of you has it. God made each of us unique – right down to our fingertips.”



Safety

- Do not breathe in flour or cocoa; use only a little.
- Set clear boundaries for an outdoor crime scene.
- Do not accuse anyone in the group of being a real “culprit” – the case is made up.



Variations

- Write secret messages with lemon juice and make them visible over a radiator.
- For older Cubs: a case with several suspects and alibis.



Something to think about

What does God see when he looks into your heart?