



Geocaching – treasure hunt with GPS

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors: park, woods or town centre



Key idea

Finding a hidden treasure with coordinates and GPS – and hiding one yourselves



Effort

Materials 20 min · Preparation 45 min



120 minutes



teams of 3–4



12–16 years



1 smartphone per team



Materials

- ☐ one smartphone with GPS per team (map app or geocaching app)
- ☐ spare power bank
- ☐ prepared list of 3–5 coordinates
- ☐ paper map of the area for emergencies
- ☐ a small waterproof box as treasure with logbook and pen



Schedule

0–15'	Opening – What are coordinates? Latitude and longitude – read your own position in the app together.
15–75'	Search – Teams go from point to point. At each point there is a clue to the next one.
75–95'	Your own treasure – Teams hide a box and write down the coordinates for another team.
95–110'	Devotion – “Seek and you will find” (Matthew 7:7): God lets himself be found.
110–120'	Closing – Collect all boxes again and share experiences.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Enter the coordinates of the first point in the app.
- 2 Follow the direction and distance – in the last few metres GPS jumps around, so look carefully.
- 3 At the point, look for the clue and enter the next point.
- 4 Find the treasure, sign the logbook and put everything back exactly as it was.
- 5 When hiding your own box: damage nothing, no private land.

 **Example:** “The app says 8 metres to go, but there is only a tree here? Look down at the roots – GPS is inaccurate for the last few metres.”

Safety

- Only in the agreed area; cross roads only after agreement.
- Teams stay together and have an emergency number.
- Not on private land, in protected core areas or near steep slopes.
- Collect your own boxes again at the end.

Variations

- Combine with real geocaches in the area (public geocaching platform).
- Puzzle cache: the coordinates must first be worked out through a task.

Something to think about

What are you looking for in your life – and where have you already found something of God?