Activity Guide
for kids and their grownups

LUMA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ART

Let’s take a closer look!

Reliquary Châsse, Limoges, France, ca. 1180
The **Reliquary Châsse** was made in Limoges, France. Can you find Limoges on this map? Where is Chicago?

**DEFINITIONS**

- **châsse** = box that holds a relic
- **ca.** = circa; Latin for “about,” historians use circa when they are unsure of the exact date
- **relic** = any item associated with a saint, such as a piece of bone or clothing
- **saint** = holy person who does good works

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**What Would Your Life Be Like in Medieval Times?**

The medieval period was 500 to 1,600 years ago. Back then no one, not even rich people, had indoor plumbing. People bathed only for special occasions—just once or twice a year!

People who lived in medieval times seldom traveled more than 20 miles from home. One of the few occasions to go abroad was on a pilgrimage. **What’s the furthest from home you’ve ever gone?**

During this time builders created beautiful churches that were often filled with stained glass. These windows told the stories of the Bible in pictures. **Can you find stained glass in this room?**
Let's Take a Closer Look

* In medieval times people went on long journeys, called pilgrimages, to visit the relics of saints. Pilgrims believed relics had powers to heal, protect and bring good fortune.

* Each saint has one feast day a year. On that day, people carry the saint’s reliquary (like the one we see here) through the streets. For the rest of the year, the reliquary is kept in a safe place in the church. What things do you use only on special days? Where do you keep them?

* Imagine you are a saint. How would people celebrate your feast day? Are there special foods eaten or special clothes worn? Finish the short story below:

It was the feast day of St. _________________ (fill in your name) and everyone in the town

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________.  

Help me hunt for more treasures!

Look Around

This reliquary is made out of copper, crystals and enamel (colored glass that is opaque [not see-through]). Look around this floor. Do you see other art made of copper, crystals and enamel?
Activities

Imagine
What treasures would you keep in a box like this one? On which special days would you bring out your treasure box?

Discuss
If you discovered a treasure chest, what would you hope to find inside? What would you place in a treasure chest for people to discover in the future?

Create
Decorate your own reliquary châsse. Remember to use lots of color!