



**Unit 1 Core Curriculum--ESV
The God Who Reveals Himself**



Curriculum for preschool and elementary age children,
training tools, music and other resources
are available for download or to order at:
www.praisefactory.org

© 2015 Praise Factory Media all rights reserved. May be reproduced by licensed user for classroom purposes only.

This and many other resources are available online at www.praisefactory.org

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.www.zondervan.com

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

The Psalm Behind the Name

Psalm 100

(v.1) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

(v.2) Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into His presence with singing!

(v.3) Know that the LORD, He is God!

It is He who made us, and we are His;

We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

(v.4) Enter His gates with thanksgiving,

And His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

(v.5) For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,

And His faithfulness to all generations.

May this curriculum help you to be manufacturers of noisy joy unto the Lord (v.1).
To sing (v.2), to know (v.3), and to worship Him with thanksgiving and praise (v.4),
that the witness of His great faithfulness might continue through all generations (v.5).

The Lord is amazing! He's not like anyone else!

Constance Dever

January 27, 2015

Table of Contents

Introducing the Praise Factory Family of Curriculum	7
The PFI Companion Resources	7
About PFI	8
Overview Chart of Units	9
PFI Curriculum Basics	10
Getting Started with Praise Factory Investigators	11
Session Prep	13
Learning More about the Praise Factory Investigators, by Resource	15
PFI Activities with Descriptions	20
Making the Curriculum Work for You	
Unit 1 Curriculum: The God Who Reveals Himself	21
Unit 1 Overview	23
List of Track Numbers for Unit 1 Music (ESV)	25
Bible Truth 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him	26
Overview	28
Lesson Plan (for use with all three lessons)	29
Lesson 1 Story and Resources	35
Lesson 2 Story and Resources	65
Lesson 3 Story and Resources	97
Bible Truth 2: God’s Creations Tell Us about Him	127
Overview	128
Lesson Plan (for use with all three lessons)	129
Lesson 1 Story and Resources	135
Lesson 2 Story and Resources	165
Lesson 3 Story and Resources	193
Bible Truth 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago	225
Overview	226
Lesson Plan (for use with all three lessons)	227
Lesson 1 Story and Resources	233
Lesson 2 Story and Resources	263
Lesson 3 Story and Resources	293
Bible Truth 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible	323
Overview	324
Lesson Plan (for use with all three lessons)	325
Lesson 1 Story and Resources	331
Lesson 2 Story and Resources	361
Lesson 3 Story and Resources	393
Bible Truth 5: God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus	425
Overview	426
Lesson Plan (for use with all three lessons)	427
Lesson 1 Story and Resources	433
Lesson 2 Story and Resources	463
Lesson 3 Story and Resources	493
VIPP Coloring Sheets	

The PFI Companion Resources

While all the PFI resources are available for free download at praisefactory.org, many of the resources are available for purchase as hard copies, too.

There are three companion resources for each of the sixteen PFI units:

➔ **PFI Unit Core Curriculum Book (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit**

The PFI Core Curriculum books contain the curriculum introduction, lesson plan, stories and activities for each Bible Truth in a unit. There are three stories per Bible Truth: an Old Testament, New Testament and church history/missions story. All three reinforce the same Bible truth concept, but from a different perspective. Each story has its own set of eleven response activities.

PFI Unit Songbook (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit

The PFI Unit Songbooks provide lead sheets and sign language for every song used in a unit. The audio music is available for download online at www.praisefactory.org.

PFI Unit Prontos (ESV/NIV) --offered for each unit

The PFI Prontos books provide all of the unit's take home sheets. They are offered separately from the rest of the curriculum because they are usually photo-copied. These take-home sheets include the key concepts, lyrics to the songs, the session story, some review questions, a prayer and an activity sheet.

All of these materials may be photocopied for non-commercial church, classroom or school use by licensed users.

About the PFI Core Curriculum Book

This PFI Core Curriculum Book allows you to have the bulk of a unit's curriculum at your fingertips. It is a great way to get an overview of the curriculum and make decisions about which of the many resources offered for each session you want to use.

The only resources it does not include are those found in the PFI Songbook (large format lyric sheets, the lead sheet music and the sign language); and, the PFI Prontos.

The core curriculum for most units is contained in one book. A few of the very large units (with more than 6 Bible Truths) will be split into several volumes.

Other Praise Factory Resources

PFI: Praise Factory Investigators is the third in a family of three, inter-related curriculums:

- Hide 'n' Seek Kids (focus group: ages 2-4; adaptable range: ages 2-pre-K 5's)
- Deep Down Detectives (focus group: ages 4--6's; adaptable range: ages 3-2nd grade)
- PFI: (focus group: grades K-5th grade; adaptable range: pre-K 5's-6th grade)

Each curriculum teaches the same biblical themes, but present them in greater depth as the children grow and develop. Together, the curriculums work like an expanding spiral of truth that returns to reinforce the same truths with each curriculum, while leading the children to deeper understanding with each step up.

Learn more about these curriculums as well as other resources and ideas for reaching children with the gospel at: www.praisefactory.org.

About Praise Factory Investigators (PFI)

written for K-5th grade

can be used with pre K - 6th grade

In K-5th grade, the children take part in Praise Factory Investigators—the “mother ship” curriculum that gives name to the whole family of curriculum.

Curriculum Overview

Praise Factory Investigators is the third of the Praise Factory family of curriculums and is most suitable for kindergarten- grade 5 (ages 5-11). Like the other two Praise Factory curriculums, PFI is built around sixteen, theological themes, each framed in the form of a Big Question and Answer.

The sixteen themes form sixteen units of Bible truths which help the children understand the theme. There are a total of 104 Bible truths taught in the whole curriculum. Three sessions of curriculum are spent on each of these 104 Bible truths: one Old Testament lesson, one New Testament lesson and one “Story of the Saints” lesson (a Christian from church history, missions or today). This gives the children three sessions to dwell on the same Bible truth, but also see its enduring truth from three different perspectives.

In keeping with its detective-ish name, each story in PFI is presented as a case to solve. Each case begins with two questions for the children to find answers to as they listen. At the end of the story-telling, the children will be asked to solve the case and answer the questions.

The resources available for each session’s lesson are robust and expansive. They include a fully-scripted lesson plan, story, and eleven different reinforcement activities from which to choose.

An overview chart of the Theme/Big Question units and keys aspects of the curriculum follow. Then, we will look at the curriculum in more depth.

	PRAISE FACTORY UNIT	THEOLOGICAL THEME
1	Unit 1: The God Who Loves Big Question: How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like!	Revelation
2	Unit 2: God's Wonderful Word, the Bible Big Question: What's So Special about the Bible? It Alone Is God's Word!	The Bible
3	Unit 3: The Good News of God Big Question: What Is the Gospel? Salvation through Faith in Christ!	The Gospel
4	Unit 4: The God Like None Other Big Question: Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like? He's Not Like Anyone Else!	The Attributes of God
5	Unit 5: God, the Good Creator Big Question: Can You Tell Me What God Made? God Made All Things Good!	Creation
6	Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful Big Question: How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World? Bad Things Came through Sin!	The Fall
7	Unit 7: The Law-Giving God Big Question: What Are God's Laws Like? God's Laws Are Perfect!	God's Laws
8	Unit 8: The God Who Loves Big Question: What Is God's Love for His People Like? It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!	God's Enduring Love for His People
9	Unit 9: Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with Us Big Question: What Did Jesus Come to Do? Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!	Jesus, the Son of God
10	Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling God Big Question: What Does the Holy Spirit Do in God's People? He Changes Their Heart!	The Holy Spirit
11	Unit 11: The God Who Saves Big Question: How Can We Be Saved? It's God's Free Gift!	Salvation
12	Unit 12: God's People Live for Him Big Question: How Should God's People Live? They Should Live Like Jesus!	Discipleship
13	Unit 13: The Sustaining God Big Question: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It is God's Sustaining Grace!	Perseverance of the Saints
14	Unit 14: The God Who Delights in Our Prayers Big Question: How Does God Want Us to Pray? Every Night and Day!	Prayer
15	Unit 15: God's People Gather Together Big Question: Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another!	The Church
16	Unit 16: Jesus, the Returning King Big Question: What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back? God Will Make Everything New!	The Return of Christ

Praise Factory Investigators Curriculum Basics

Focus Age Range:	K-5th grade
Useful Age Range	pre-K 5's to 6th grade
Number of Units	16 (one per Theme)
Number of Bible Truths included in the 16 Units (Themes)	104 in all (3 to 14 per unit)
Number of Lessons for each of the 104 Bible Truths	3 lessons
Stories per Bible Truth	3 Stories: 1 Old Testament Story 1 New Testament Story 1 Story of the Saints (Church History/Missions)
Bible Verse per Bible Truth	1 Bible Verse
Resources/Activities for each Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully Scripted Lesson Plan • Story • Big Question, Bible Verse, Hymn Songs • Craft • Story Review Games • Hymn Singing and Sign Language Activity • Bible Verse Games • ACTS Prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) • Custom Discussion Sheets to Go with Every Activity • Story-related Snack • VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Activity • Take Home Sheets for Each Lesson
Total Amount of Curriculum	6 years <i>(if you use all 3 lessons)</i>
Adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can be adapted to 1-3 lessons per Bible Truth, though you will lose stories if you do cut it down • great for Sunday School, "Children's Church", Wednesday and Sunday evening programs, schools and Vacation Bible School

Getting Started with Praise Factory Investigators

Get It



Order the **Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version** (or follow along on the website in the Tour section). It is going to be your easiest, most visual way to learn about this curriculum. Order/download the **Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Core Curriculum, Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Songbook, and the Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Prontos**, for Unit 1, or whichever unit you want to do.

Tour It....Three Times

1

1. Read through the whole Praise Factory Tour book once.

Learn how the Praise Factory family of curriculum is related to each other. Pay special attention to the section on Praise Factory Investigators.

2

2. Go back and read through just the section on Praise Factory Investigators in the Tour book again.

3

3. Now go back and read the Praise Factory Investigators section of the Tour book a third time, only this time, get out your curriculum books: Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Core Curriculum, Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Songbook, and the Praise Factory Investigators ESV or NIV Unit Prontos and follow along.

This will help see how the curriculum flows and where to find each of the resources visualized in the Tour Book.

Take Note

A few things to notice about the curriculum:

1. The resources for every Bible Truth **always include the same set of resources and are always presented in the same order.** Get to know the resources of one Bible Truth and you know them for all.

2. There is one Bible verse, but three stories for each Bible Truth: **an Old Testament, a New Testament, and a Church History/Missions story.**

3. The Unit Core Curriculum has **almost** everything your teachers will use in the classroom.

Notice that there is only lesson plan used for all three lessons for each Bible Truth. That's because the basic Bible truths are the same. Stories, questions, and activities for each lesson are different, of course. These difference are clearly noted, as you can see if you look through the lesson plan.

4. The Songbooks are more than just books of lyrics and sheet music for the unit. They also **contain the sign language signs that the songs activities use.**

5. The Prontos are **designed to be the take home sheets for each lesson.** However, **some people like to teach from it.** It has the Bible Truth and Bible verse, the story text, a few questions, the lyrics to the songs, and an ACTS prayer. If you download a couple activities from the website, then you have all you need for a basic teaching session...in a much smaller package.

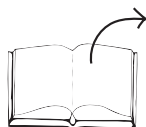


Choose What You'll Use



Not everyone will want or will need or will be able to do all of the curriculum, as written. So much depends upon your kids, your teachers, your space, your time and your teaching goals. There are a ton of activities and pretty much no one, except our church (CHBC for whom this curriculum is written) does all of the activities. This means you need to think about what fits you best. Ideas for how to choose what to use for various situations are included in the "More Details" section of this chapter.

Ready to Rip?



Chances are, you will be making copies of the curriculum for your teachers. You may want to keep your books intact and photocopy right from the book. However, if you are using a lot of activities and distributing them to a number of teachers, you may find it easier to take the resources out of the book completely and copying them that way. This will save you a lot of time. Just make sure to clip your originals together with a binder clip to get them in good shape and ready for you next time you use them. **Or, you may just want to print your copies from the download version of the curriculum. All resources (except the lesson plans and the stories) can accessed this way.**

Getting Started with Praise Factory Investigators, continued

Bind It So They Can Find It



Once you've chosen what you want to use, make copies and put them in binders. Separate each lesson's materials with labeled tab dividers so that the teachers will be able to find the resources they need for each session. We like to put a few extra aids in the binder in the back: such as classroom management tips; what our teachers should do if they need a substitute teacher; and, where to find certain supplies they will need.

Download It



Download the **zip file of unit songs** from the website. A pdf of the track numbers is also included.

Make It... Before You Get Started

There is a set of resources you will be glad you made ahead of time: the games! The Praise Factory Investigators curriculum is a very active curriculum, with a number of different games suggested each lesson. The good news is that they are used in a rotation throughout the curriculum. That means, once you make these games, you store them and use them over and over (and for years to come!).



While you only need to make whatever games you choose to use with each lesson, **I would highly suggest you make all the games before you start using the curriculum and then storing them.** Get the prep work over with at the beginning and coast your way through years of enjoyment!

Store them in ziploc bags or baskets and pull them out when needed. So simple! Your teachers will love how easy it is to have an engaging learning session with so little work for them to do! And happy teachers are repeat teachers! **A full list of the games and the supplies needed to make them can be found in the "More Details" section of this chapter or in the Praise Factory Investigators Curriculum section online.**

Protect and Store It



This is a curriculum that keeps on giving, year after year. If you do a good job of storing the curriculum it will serve your church well and at little cost for many years. We store the resources for each unit in **manila envelopes and magazine storage boxes.**

Learn More



There are many more resources online that may help you customize the curriculum to fit your learning situation. These are listed online in the Praise Factory Resources section, as well as in the Getting Started Section.

Two you might especially want to look at are:

- **From the Ground Up** (Making a Great Start in Children's Ministry and with the Praise Factory Family of Curriculum)--(you've got this already. That's this book!)
- **Classroom Management Suggestions for Elementary School Age Children**

These are available for download or to order through amazon.com

See It in Action



visit us in
Washington,
D.C.

Three times a year (the third Saturday/Sunday of March, May and September), we hold a **free lunch, learn-and-look workshop and observation time here at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.**

On the Saturday, we gather for lunch and talk philosophy, child protection policy, encouraging parents, dealing with discipline issues, etc. and, of course, curriculum. After finishing up our group session, we are happy to talk to individual churches about their particular situation.

Then, on Sunday, we offer an opportunity to see Praise Factory Investigators as well as the other Praise Factory curriculum in action in our classes. The registration form for these workshops can be found on the Praise Factory website.

Session Prep (especially good for newbies!)

Pray!



Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your heart and in the children's hearts.

Review



1. If new to the curriculum, look at the previous **Getting Started with Praise Factory Investigators section** (p.11 in each Core Curriculum book). It will be especially helpful to read through the Praise Factory Investigators section of **The Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version Book**. This will be a visual way to understand what goes on in the classroom.
2. Notice that there is only lesson plan used for all three lessons for each Bible Truth. That's because the basic Bible truths are the same. Stories, questions, and activities for each lesson are different, of course. These difference are clearly noted, as you can see if you look through the lesson plan.
3. Flip through the resources for a particular Bible Truth. The resources offered for every Bible Truth are always the same and they are always ordered in the same order.

Look through and Learn the Lesson



Read over **lesson plan**. Learn the flow of the lesson. Read through the key concepts. You might want to look at the Bible Truth Discussion Sheet, found with each session's activities. It takes the Bible Truth concept and breaks it down into discussion question format. Some of the questions and answers might be helpful to have in your head before teaching the concept to the children.

Let There Be Music



Download the music and listen to the songs. Choose which of the songs you will use with the children. Practice the sign language, if you are using it. If using live musicians, make sure they have the sheet music from the Praise Factory Investigators Unit songbook.

You've Got a Story to Tell!



1. Read the Bible verses and the story, itself. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

Prepare Any Activities



Choose the activities you want to use. Bear in mind your time frame as well as the developmental abilities and attention span of your children as you decide what/how many to prepare. Look over the Discussion Question Sheet that goes with each activity. Choose a few questions you might use to spark discussion with the children. Prepare any craft, snack or game for your class.

Let Them Take It with Them



Make copies of the take home sheet.

Store It



After your session is over, collect the resources and store them for future use. This curriculum can be used over and over for years to come.

Learning More about the Praise Factory Investigators, by Resource

The extra-depth information starts here! Follow along in the Core Curriculum, Songbook and Pronto Books for Unit 1 (or another unit) as you read below. **We will be describing curriculum elements in the order they appear in the lesson plan. But first, here's a reminder of how a Praise Factory Investigators session is structured:**

Session Format: Regular Classroom or Large Group/Small Group Format

The PFI curriculum can be used in a regular classroom setting, in which all the children participate in the same activities at the same time; or, in a large group/small group format, in which the children gather together for opening activities and the story, then split up into small groups, each with their own activity, and finally coming back together for each group to make a presentation to the other children (or to the parents) at the end of session. Small groups alternate to a different activity each lesson for variety. Each PFI session follows the same three-part format, as described here:

Session Overview

Each PFI session follows the same three-part format, as described here:

PART 1: GETTING STARTED

A time to welcome the children to the class, introduce the class rules and the "Big Question and Answer" (and related songs) of the theological theme they are studying.

PART 2: DIGGIN' DEEP DOWN

The Bible truth (and related songs) is introduced. The Case Questions are revealed, the Bible story told, then the Case Questions answered. The teacher closes with an ACTS prayer (A prayer including **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, and **S**upplication related to the Bible truth they are learning.)

PART 3: TAKING ACTION

The children participate in the response activities chosen for the day and (if desired), presenting what they've learned to each other or to parents at the end of the session. Teachers give out take home sheets as children are dismissed.

Session Length

The resources for each PFI session-- as described in the lesson plan--are designed for a 60 to 90 minutes session. However, they can be easily shaped for you to tailor them to fit a shorter or longer session.

PFI Activities with Descriptions *(in order of use in curriculum)*

PFI Activities, by Section

Ok, now let's look at all of the activities included in each Praise Factory Investigator session, in order of use. You can, of course, choose which ones you want to include (or not include) in your own classroom.

Remember! Get out your resources and follow along!

PART ONE: Getting Started (Welcome and Opening Songs)

A time to welcome the children to the class, introduce the class rules and the Big Question and Answer (and related songs) of the theological theme they are studying.



Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song

PFI begins with the **Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song**--a detective-sounding song that introduces the idea of digging down in the truths of God's Word for answers to our Big Questions about God. Found on the PFI Unit Songs along with all the other songs. These songs are all downloadable off of the Praise Factory website.



Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:

The WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song

WoGoLOA stands for Worship God and Love One Another--the two things we hope to help the children do during the PFI session. This song reminds the children of ways they can act to help all worship God and love one another. *(PFI Unit Songs)*



Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question & Answer and Songs

The Big Question and Answer for the unit (theological theme) are introduced. There are two Big Question songs to help the children remember the Big Question and Answer and what it means. The Big Q & A song is an adapted familiar nursery song/folk song which simply states the Big Question under Investigation and its answer. The Big Question Song is a new song especially written to help the children remember not just the Big Question and Answer, but what it means. *(PFI Unit Songs)*









Big Question Bible Verse: Bible Verse and Song

Each unit has a Bible verse that is central to the theological theme. This verse has been set to music to help the children remember it. *(PFI Unit Songs)*

PFI Activities with Descriptions *(in order of use in curriculum)*

PART TWO: Digging Deep Down (Key Bible Truth Concepts and Story)

With the unit's theological theme introduced, the session now turns to digging deeper down into the theological theme by looking at one particular aspect (Bible Truth) of the theme.

	<p>Bible Truth: Each unit has from three to fourteen Bible Truths. Each Bible truth is studied for three lessons. There are 104 Bible Truths in the whole curriculum.</p>
	<p>Bible Truth Hymn: One or more verses of a hymn that tie into the Bible Truth can be introduced at this point in the session. It also is offered in Part Three as a response activity with a complete set of discussion questions, sign language and a song game. <i>(PFI Unit Songs)</i></p>
	<p>Bible Truth Bible Verse: Each Bible Truth has a Bible verse that is central to the concept. This verse has been set to music to help the children remember it. The song can be introduced now, but it also offered in Part Three as a response activity with a complete set of discussion questions, sign language and a song game. <i>(PFI Unit Songs)</i></p>
	<p>Extra Bible Truth Bible Verse Song: Sometimes an extra Bible verse song is suggested. The words for this song are included in the response activities along with sign language. It can be used here or as a response activity. <i>(PFI Unit Songs)</i></p>
	<p>Bible Truth Story: (Old Testament, New Testament, or Story of the Saints) There is an Old Testament, New Testament and Story of the Saints story for each Bible Truth. The Old Testament or the New Testament story leads, followed by the Story of the Saints, then ending with the story from the other Testament. In keeping with the detective feel of PFI, each story is called a case and is introduced with two questions for the children to solve as they listen to the story. After the story is read, the teacher asks the children again and together they solve the case.</p>
	<p>Part Two: Digging Deep Down ends with prayer and dismissal to response activities.</p>

PFI Activities with Descriptions *(in order of use in curriculum)*

PART THREE: Taking Action (Response Activities to Choose from)

The children participate in the response activities chosen for the lesson; and (if desired), present what they've learned to each other or to parents at the end of the session. There are eleven different activities from which to choose. How many a teacher uses depends upon how much time you have and on whether you choose for everyone to do the same activities or whether you will split up into small groups and each do a different activity. A description of each activity follows.



Snack (and Discussion Planner):

A snack that includes food mentioned in the story or looks like something from the story, along with a description of how it ties into the story. Always feel free to modify the snack, being sensitive to food allergies. The snack sheet also includes a discussion planner to write down the questions you want to ask the children as they enjoy their snack. A question about the snack is included as the first discussion question.



ACTS Prayer:

In Praise Factory, the children learn the "ACTS" format of prayer. "A" is for Adoration (Praising God for who He is); "C" is for Confession (Saying sorry to God and turning from our sins); "T" is for Thanksgiving (Thanking God for His provisions); and, "S" is for Supplication (Asking God to supply our specific needs). Try to at least weave the Big Idea/Scripture Verse into A, C, T, or S, if not all four. Suggested ACTS applications for each Bible Truth are included on the ACTS prayer sheet.

Younger children can usually think up at least a related "Adoration" and a "Thanksgiving" related to the Bible Truth, while older children can usually think up a connection to all four. This is a wonderful way for them to expand their understanding of who God is, who we are as sinners, what we can thank God for and what we should ask of Him. It is also of great benefit to families who can easily apply this format to their own family devotions and prayer times.



Story Review and Game:

This activity includes discussion questions to understand and a game to reinforce the story.

End of session presentation option: Have children read some of their discussion questions for the other children to answer.









Bible Truth Review and Game:

This activity includes discussion questions to understand and a game to reinforce the Bible Truth.

End of session presentation option: Have children read some of their discussion questions for the other children to answer.



PFI Activities with Descriptions *(in order of use in curriculum)*

	<p>Bible Truth Hymn: This activity is one or more verses from a hymn which relates to the Bible Truth being learned. It includes discussion question for understanding the hymn, sign language of key words, and a song game that can be used with the song and the sign language. The audio and sheet music is available for download on the Praise Factory website.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have children sing and sign their song and teach it to the other children.</p>
	<p>Bible Verse Review and Game: This activity includes discussion questions to understand and a game to reinforce the Bible Verse.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have children read some of their discussion questions for the other children to answer.</p>
	<p>Bible Verse Song: Every PFI Bible verse has been set to music. This song can be used along with the Bible Verse Review discussion questions, listed in the previous activity. Sign language of key words and a song game that can be used with the song and the sign language are also included. The audio and sheet music is also available on the website for download.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have children sing and sign their song and teach it to the other children.</p>
	<p>Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)</p> <p>This is a simpler drama activity in which the teacher leads all the children in doing the same actions as she retells the story.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have the children act out the story for the others to watch.</p>
	<p>Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)</p> <p>This is a more involved drama activity in which each child acts out a particular role as the teacher retells the story.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have the children act out the story for the others to watch.</p>
	<p>Craft: This craft activity includes discussion questions to help the children understand the significance of what they are making.</p> <p><i>End of session presentation option:</i> Have children read some of their discussion questions for the other children to answer.</p>

PFI Activities with Descriptions *(in order of use in curriculum)*



VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time, Coloring Sheets and Game

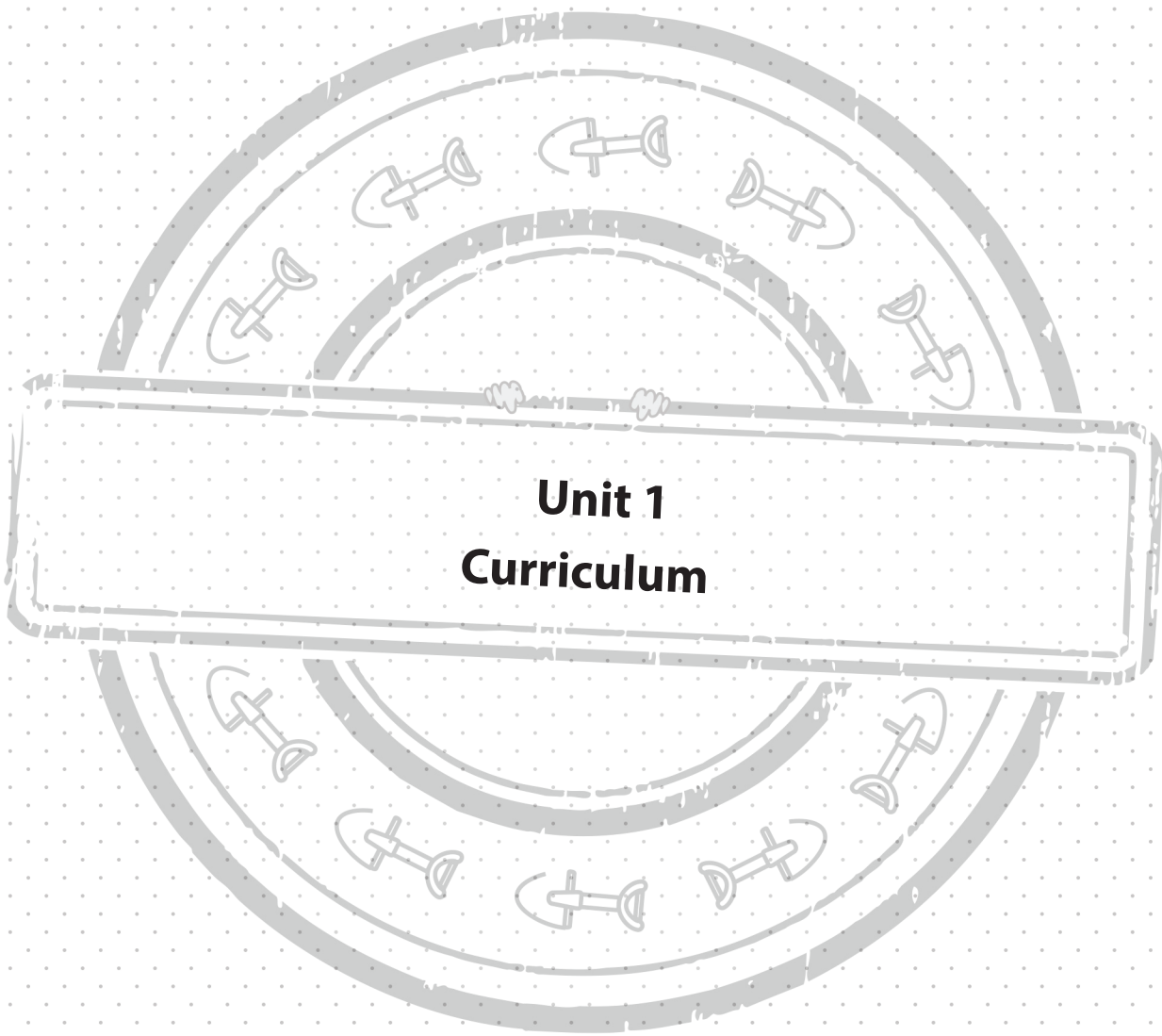
VIPP stands for Very Important Prayer Person. The VIPP Group learns about a VIPP—a Very Important Prayer Person—from your church. This activity really has nothing to do with the Bible Truth or the story. Instead, it is an opportunity to help the children know more about and pray for church leaders and missionaries. VIPPs should include elders, deacons, supported workers, and church staff. However, your church may not have many VIPPs of this kind. Feel free to use special volunteers (such as Sunday School teachers or the pianist) and other regular church members as VIPPs. It never hurts for children to get to know everyone in their church and pray for them! There is a fill-in-the-blank questionnaire that you can use to get information about the VIPP to share with the children. Or, you also can invite the VIPP to the class. There is a game and a set of coloring sheets (called Clue Cards) that you can use to help the children remember what they've learned about the VIPP. This activity ends with praying for the VIPP. The coloring sheets are set up as a take-home activity that they can use to teach and pray with their parents for the VIPP.

End of session presentation option: Have children tell about the VIPP and lead the class in praying for him (kids or the teacher can pray, as desired.)

TAKING IT HOME: The PFI Pronto



A take home booklet, called the PFI Pronto, is available for each lesson. It includes the key concepts, lyrics and track numbers for the songs, the story, and a few review questions is available online with the Praise Factory resources.



Unit 1
Curriculum

UNIT 1: THE GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF

UNIT OVERVIEW

God made us. He wants us to know what He is like so we can know Him, love Him, and praise Him. God shows us what He is like. How? By the heart He gave us to know and love Him; through everything He's made that we see around us; through His Word, the Bible; and most of all, through His very own Son, Jesus Christ.

In this unit we will learn five ways God does this.

UNIT BIBLE VERSE: Amos 4:13 ESV

"For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares His thoughts to man. The LORD, the God of Hosts, is His name."

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION: How Do I Know What God Is Like?

ANSWER: He Shows Me What He's Like...

BIBLE TRUTH 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

The Case of the Stone and the Seekers *Acts 17 NT*

The Case of the Prayerless Man *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Man After God's Heart *Ps. 19, 23, 24, 62; 1 Chr. 29; 2 Sam. 5-6, 15 OT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,3,5 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 2: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

The Case of the Speaking Rain *1 Kings 17:1-18:46 OT*

The Case of the Chilly Camouflage *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Mysterious Messengers *Acts 14:8-23 NT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

The Case of the Warned Wicked *1 Kings 21 OT*

The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man *Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; Luke 3,9; John 1 NT*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 HCSB

BIBLE TRUTH 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

The Case of the Burning Hearts *Luke 24:13-35 NT*

The Case of the Ragged Bible *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Forgotten Book *Deuteronomy 4,5,27-30,34; Jeremiah 1-2,4,11,25,36 OT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 5: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

The Case of the Lips of Life or Death *John 10:22-33, 39-42 NT*

The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Great Revealing *Daniel 9; Matthew 2:1-12 OT*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

PFI ESV SONGS 1 TRACK NUMBERS

This is a listing of all songs mentioned in the unit curriculum. You may or may not choose to use all of the songs. They are listed in easy-reference order--NOT in the order used in the curriculum.

You may choose to simply burn a CD/load them onto an mp3 device in this order. Or, you may want to do what we do: choose the songs we want to use and create a playlist of them in that order. Then, we burn a CD/upload the playlist onto an mp3 device. A teacher only has to click forward to the next song, instead of hunting for the right track. The track number have been included as part of the title of each song, teachers will still have a reference to the track number listed in the curriculum (same as those listed below), even if you change the order on your customized playlist.

- 1 PFI Theme Song
- 2 WoGoLOA Rules Song

UNIT 1: THE GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF

- 3 Big Q & A 1 Song
- 4 Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like?
- 5 Unit 1 Bible Verse: The LORD Declares Amos 4:13, ESV
- 6 Extra Unit 1 Bible Verse: He Who Declares His Thought Amos 4:13, ESV
- 7 Extra Unit 1 Bible Verse: He Who Forms the Mountains Amos 4:13, ESV
- 8 Extra Bible Verse Song: Behold Amos 4:13, ESV
- 9 Extra Bible Verse Song: For Behold Amos 4:13, ESV

Bible Truth 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

- 10 Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1
- 11 Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.2
- 12 Bible Verse: O God, You Are My God Psalm 63:1,5 ESV
- 13 Extra Bible Verse: You Are My God Psalm 63:1,5 ESV
- 14 Extra Bible Verse: As the Deer Psalm 42:1-2, HCSB

Bible Truth 2: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

- 15 Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3
- 16 Bible Verse: O LORD, Our Lord Psalm 8:1,3-4, ESV
- 17 Extra Bible Verse: The Heavens Declare Psalm 19:1-4, ESV

Bible Truth 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

- 18 Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2
- 19 Bible Verse: I Will Raise Up Deuteronomy 18:18-19, HCSB

Bible Truth 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

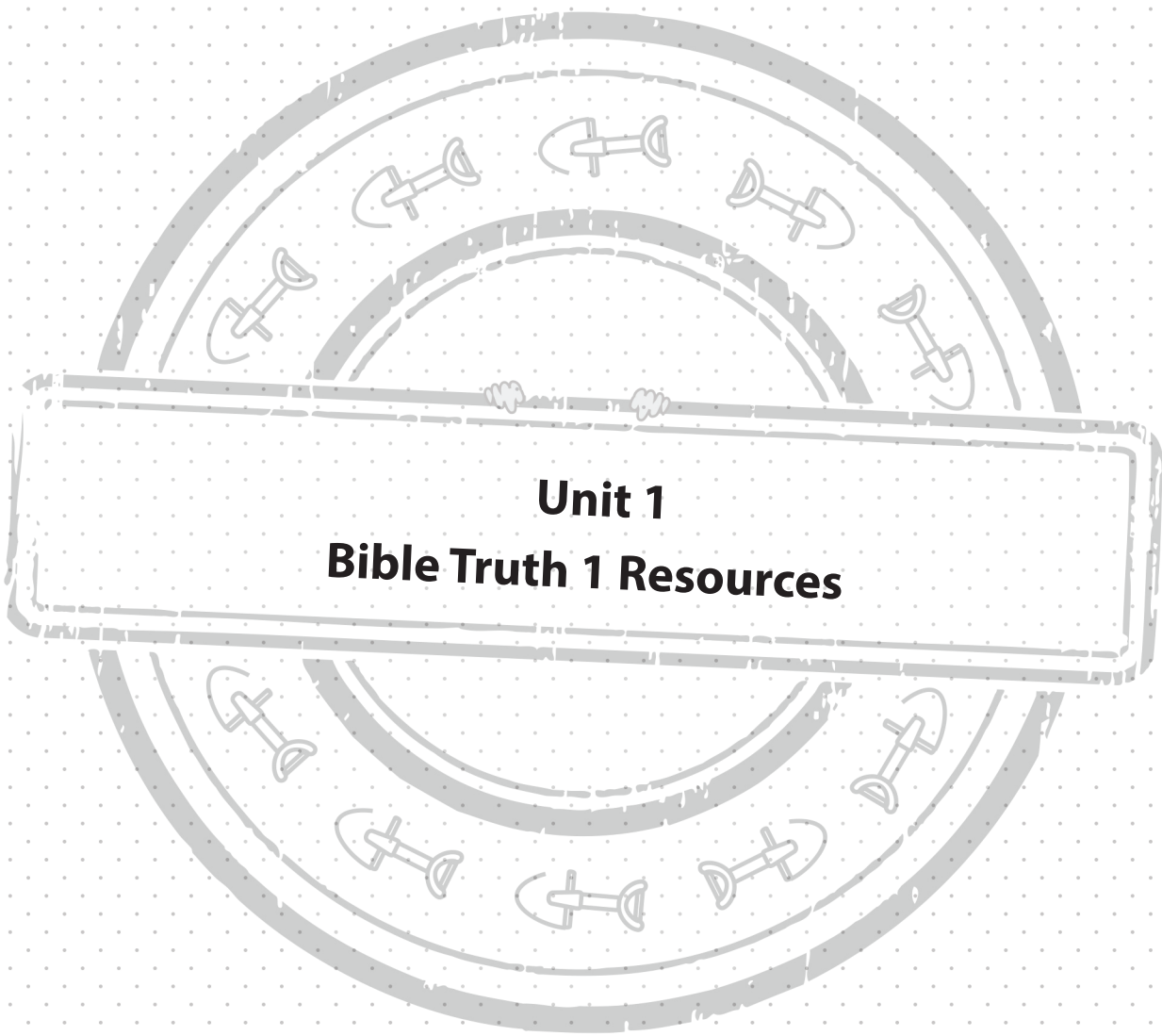
- 20 Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4
- 21 Bible Verse: Open My Eyes Psalm 119:18,72-73, ESV

Bible Truth 5: God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

- 22 Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, v.1
- 23 Bible Verse: The Son is the Radiance Hebrews 1:3, ESV
- 24 Extra Bible Verse: Whoever Has Seen Me John 14:9, ESV

Why the Extra Songs?

PFI is a curriculum used by a wide age-span of kids. Sometimes one of the other songs is a better fit for your kids. Or, you may simply want to teach them more songs on the same Bible Truth. Use as many or as few as you want.



BIBLE TRUTH 1 OVERVIEW

UNIT 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Big Question and Answer: "How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like!"

Bible Verse: "For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name." Amos 4:13 ESV

Bible Truth 1 Concept: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:1, 5

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:1

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you."

Bible Truth 1 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being a God we can know. We praise You for being our Maker who wants us to know and love You.
- C** God, we confess that we don't seek You as we should, even though You made us to know You. We're sinners! We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God for making us to know and love You. Thank You for helping us to know and love You--even when we don't seek You! Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.
- S** God, help us to know You better and help others to know You better, too. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our heart that we might know, love and obey You, more and more.

Bible Truth 1 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Stone and the Seekers (New Testament)

Acts 17

Lesson 2: The Case of the Prayerless Man (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Man After God's Heart (Old Testament)

Psalm 19, 23, 24, 62; 1 Chronicles 29; 2 Samuel 5-6,15

1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI, we’re investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>	
Big Question Under Investigation:	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Can I Know What God Is Like?</p> <p>"God made us. He wants us to know what He's like so we can know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him. We don't have to figure out what God is like by ourselves. We couldn't do that. So God shows us what He's like.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Can I Know What God Is Like?' is: God Shows Me What He's Like!</p>	
Big Question 1 and Songs	<p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s):</p> <p>Big Q & A 1 Song <i>(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")</i> How can I know what God is like, God is like, God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like? I have a very big question, A big question 'bout God. I have a very big question, It's Big Question Number One, I wanna know...</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Verse 1: He gave me a heart to know God, He made everything I see. Big tall mountains, galloping horses, Every little bird and bee. Everybody sing... <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: He gave us the Bible, His Word, To learn of His mighty deeds, But most of all, through Jesus, His Son, God shows Himself to me. Everybody sing.... <i>(Refrain)</i></p>	<p><i>choose one or both</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 3</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 4</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 1
Bible Verse**

You may also enjoy some other versions this verse:
He Who Declares His Thought
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6
He Who Forms the Mountains
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7
Behold,
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8
For Behold,
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Amos 4:13 tells us: "For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares to man what is His thought...the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

**Big Question 1 Bible Verse Song
The LORD Declares: Amos 4:13 ESV**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

The LORD declares to man his thought,
The LORD declares to man his thought,
The LORD declares to man his thought,
Amos Four, thirteen.

"The LORD created everything--even us! He's the one to declares to us what His thoughts are. That means He shows us what He's like."

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story *(introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)***Bible Truth 1**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FIVE** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God us what He's like.

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

<p>Bible Truth 1 Hymn</p>	<p>“Long ago, a woman named Mary Byrne was thinking about this Bible truth, too. She translated from Irish into English a hymn called “Be Thou My Vision.” We’re going to learn two verses from it.”</p> <p>Be Thou My Vision <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Verse 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Verse 2 Be Thou my Wisdom, And Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee And Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I, Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, And I with Thee one.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>“God’s people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. They keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading...and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness. He lives inside their heart, giving them wisdom and showing them what He’s like.”</p>	<p>Verse 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.</p>	<p>Verse 2 Be Thou my Wisdom, And Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee And Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I, Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, And I with Thee one.</p>
<p>Verse 1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.</p>	<p>Verse 2 Be Thou my Wisdom, And Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee And Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I, Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, And I with Thee one.</p>		
<p>Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse and Song</p> <p>You may also enjoy: You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12</p> <p>As a Deer: Psalm 42:1,2 HCSB PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 13</p>	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p> <p>Psalm 63:1,5 ESV “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.”</p> <p>God made our bodies (or flesh) to need water to live. When we go too long without water, such as on a hot summer’s day, we get so thirsty that nothing else will do. It’s the same with our heart (our soul). God made our heart to need Him. Our hearts long to be satisfied by knowing and loving God. God’s people especially know this because His Holy Spirit lives in their heart. They praise God because He satisfies them like nothing else can. God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.</p> <p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p> <p>O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63: 1,5 <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12</i></p> <p>Refrain: O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You, O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food, My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food, My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you. <i>Refrain</i> Psalm Sixty-three, one and five.</p>		

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****New Testament
Story:****The Case of the
Stone and the
Seekers**

Acts 17

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Stone and the Seekers.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek?**
- 2. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek? The people of Athens sought an Unknown God. They wanted Him to stop the plague. They laid down this stone (and many others) as altars on which to sacrifice sheep as worship offerings to this Unknown God.

2. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts? Paul used the stone many years later to tell the people of Athens about the Lord, the one, true God, they had long ago worshiped as the Unknown God. He told them that the Lord made their hearts to worship and know Him.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the
Prayerless Man**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Prayerless Man.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who was the man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray?**
- 2. How did he change and why?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was the man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray? The Streetlayer wouldn't pray to God. His family, Mr. Spurgeon (and God!) wanted him to pray.

2. How did he change and why? The Streetlayer became a praying man. His family and Mr. Spurgeon prayed for him and encouraged him to pray. God worked in his heart, helping him to turn to Him and pray.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Man After God's Heart**

Psalm 19, 23, 24, 62;
1 Chronicles 29; 2
Samuel 5-6, 15

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Man After God's Heart.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean?**
- 2. How did God reveal himself to this man and help him?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean? David. It meant that David loved God and trusted Him to be who He was--the one, true God!

2. How did God reveal himself to this man in his heart and help him? God's Holy Spirit whispered into David's heart the truths he had learned from the Bible. He reminded David that God could be trusted to be who He said He was. He would always take care of David. This helped David step out in faith and do courageous things to the glory of God.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)***Response Activities**

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Extra Bible Verse Song: You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 13

Extra Bible Verse Song: As A Deer: Psalm 42:1,2 HCSB PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 14

Lesson 1 New Testament Story: The Case of the Stone and the Seekers *Acts 17*

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Greek Gods and the Altar to the Unknown God

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV 1 SONGBOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:1,5 Discussion Sheet and Game: Simon Says How

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV 1 SONGBOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Secret Agent

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Altar to the Unknown God

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book); Game: Mix and Match

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Stone and the Seekers Acts 17

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Stone and the Seekers.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek?
2. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts?

This story is a New Testament story. It takes place about 20 years after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead.

What a place ancient Athens was to visit! Its white, stone temples and buildings were beautiful to look at. Its people were smart and loved to talk about interesting things... for hours! No wonder so many people travelled great distances to visit Athens!

The people of Athens loved to build beautiful buildings and talk about important things, but also they loved to worship, too. Did you know the people of Athens worshipped HUNDREDS of gods and goddesses?! They would carve beautiful, stone statues of them. Some statues were put in the big temple buildings. Other statues were put in little shrine buildings. And many more statues were put along the streets and in gardens. Everywhere you looked in Athens, there seemed to be a statue to another god!

When Paul went to Athens, he was shocked by these hundreds of gods. And, he wasn't just shocked. He was so, so sad! So many gods, yet none of them was the LORD, the one, true God. The LORD was the one who had made these people with a heart to know and love Him; yet, He was completely unknown to them. So many gods, but none could save! How the people of Athens needed to hear the good news of His Son, Jesus! But how?

The answer came to Paul as he looked down among all those statues and saw a very old, very simple stone. On it, someone had carved the words, "To an Unknown God."

There was an amazing, old story behind that simple, little stone. A man named Laertius wrote it down. Many years earlier, a terrible sickness had spread through Athens. Many people were dying. The leaders tried everything they could think of. The people brought

worship gifts and prayed to every god. But still the sickness continued. Things seemed hopeless.

They called for a wise man named Epimenides to come help them. Epimenides listened to their problem and came up with a very surprising idea. "You worship many gods...hundreds of gods...but there must be another. An Unknown God who has power to heal this illness. We must seek Him and ask Him to help you," he told them.

"Meet me tomorrow morning at Mars Hill-- that grassy hill where you have put the statues of your many gods," Epimenides said. "Bring a flock of sheep of all different colors. Make sure they are healthy and very hungry. Bring stonemasons with their carving tools. Bring lots of stones and mortar (like cement), too," Epimenides ordered. "We will cry out to this Unknown God and offer Him worship gifts. Perhaps He will hear us and help us, even though we do not know His name," he told them.

"We will do what you ask," the leaders agreed, then sent off servants to make the necessary preparations.

The next morning, the leaders of Athens met Epimenides on Mars Hill with everything he had asked for. Many of the people of Athens came, too. Everyone watched and hoped.

"Very good," Epimenides said, as he looked at the hungry sheep. "Don't let them eat until I say so," he told the shepherds. "They must stay hungry!" This was not an easy job! The sheep kept trying to nibble the juicy grass of Mars Hill.

"Quiet!" Epimenides said, "I'm going to pray to the Unknown God and ask for His help." Everyone listened as Epimenides prayed: "Great Unknown God! Please hear our prayers and help us! These sheep are our

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

offering to You. Show us that You hear us and accept our worship gifts by causing these hungry sheep to lie offering to You. Show us that You hear us and accept our worship gifts by causing these hungry sheep to lie down on the grass instead of eating it. Please help us, though we do not know Your name. Please stop the plague," Epimenides begged.

When Epimenides finished praying, he turned to the shepherds and said, "Release the sheep! Watch them carefully! Notice which ones eat and which ones lie down. We will offer the ones who lie down as worship gifts to the Unknown God," he told them.

"This is crazy!" many thought. "These sheep are straining to eat the grass! It would truly be an act of God for sheep as hungry as these to not eat!"

But sure enough, sheep all over the hillside lay down instead of eating! "It's a sign from the Unknown God! These are the sheep to offer to Him as worship gifts!" everyone shouted in excitement.

"Come, stonemasons!" Epimenides ordered. "Bring your stones and tools. Make an altar where each sheep is lying down. On the side of each altar, carve these words: 'To an Unknown God,'" Epimenides told them.

Soon the air was filled with the loud banging of chisels and hammers of the stonemasons. When they finished, the sheep were placed on the altars as worship gifts. Then everyone prayed and waited.

Within a week, the plague had stopped completely! The people of Athens were overjoyed! The Unknown God had heard their prayers and helped them. They offered Him more worship gifts on the stone altars. They prayed to Him, saying, "Thank You for stopping the plague."

This was the story of the great sickness that was stopped and the great, mysterious One who rescued the people of Athens, as Laertius wrote it down. And now, six hundred years later, Paul would use that old story and one of the simple, little stone altars left on that hill to tell the people of Athens the good news of Jesus.

Paul stood up and said, "I can tell by your hundreds of gods that you are seeking to find God. But the true God you are looking for is the one you call 'The Unknown God.' I want to tell you about Him," he told them. The

people listened eagerly. Could it be, after all these years, would they finally hear more about the Unknown God?

"The God you worship as the Unknown God is the Creator of heaven and earth," Paul told them. He made everything that you see and enjoy. He is why we live. He created people to know Him, that they would seek him and find Him," Paul told them. "He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of all who put their trust in Him as their Savior. He rose from the dead in victory over sin and death. Turn away from your sin and seek after this true God! Be saved from your sins!" he urged. "Be ready, for one day He will come back on the clouds of heaven. Yes, the Lord Jesus, Himself, who rose from the dead, shall come to judge all the world," he said.

"Ha!" laughed many. "A god who died on a cross and rose from the dead! How silly!" they said and left. They wanted to worship gods, but not one like this! They liked their fake gods who let them do what they wanted to do—like have wild parties to honor them. They wanted nothing to do with this Unknown God, even if He was the one, true God, as Paul claimed.

But others, like Damaris and Dionysius, listened to Paul and stayed. As Paul told them more about Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, helping them believe. They turned from their fake gods and began to follow the Lord Jesus. At last these thirsty hearts were fully satisfied with knowing the one, true God!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who first laid down this stone and who did they seek? The people of Athens sought an Unknown God. They wanted Him to stop the plague. They laid down this stone (and many others) as altars on which to sacrifice sheep as worship offerings to this Unknown God.

2. How did Paul use the stone? What did he tell the people of Athens about their hearts? Paul used the stone many years later to tell the people of Athens about the Lord, the one, true God, they had long ago worshiped as the Unknown God. He told them that the Lord made their hearts to worship and know Him.

Something For You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV**

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Our Bible Truth tells us that God gave us a heart to know and love Him. That include you and me! Who will we be like today? Will we be like the people of Athens who laughed when they heard the good news of Jesus? Or will we be like Damaris and Dionysius, with hearts thirsty for God? They wanted to know more about Jesus. They turned from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior and were saved!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like the Athenians were. And, even though we know that You are the One, True God, too many times we still do not seek You as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank you for showing us who you are, especially in Jesus. Thank You for showing Yourself to us so we can know You.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You and love You more and more.

Special Words

Stonemason: A person who cuts, carves and builds with stone.

Chisel: A hand tool with a blade for shaping wood, stone, or metal.

A Note on the Source of This Story

Don Richardson, author of *Eternity in Their Hearts*, cites this incident in Greek ancient history. Diogenes Laertius is the Greek historian who records the plague and Epimenides' solution in his book, *Lives of the Philosophers* 1.110. Paul's quote in Titus 1:13, "All Cretans are liars..." is actually a quote from Epimenides, himself. Even though this story may be new to us, the Greeks would have been familiar with Epimenides as a philosopher, and the incident with him and the altar to the Unknown God.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being a God we can know. We praise You for being our Maker who wants us to know and love You.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we don't seek You as we should, even though You made us to know You. We're sinners! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for making us to know and love You. Thank You for helping us to know and love You--even when we don't seek You! Thank You for sending You Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better and help others to know You better, too. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our heart that we might know, love and obey You, more and more.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Greek Gods and the Altar to the Unknown God

Stick four Teddy graham "greek gods" upright in donut hole halves and have one extra donut hole with nothing on it.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: The people of Athens worshipped many gods, but Paul used the Altar to the Unknown God to tell them about the Lord, the one, true God.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people with so they can know and love Him? *A heart.*
2. Is this special heart the one that we feel beat in our chest? If not, then what is it? *No. This heart is something very different from the one that pumps blood. We can't feel it or see it. And it will never die.*
3. What are other names the Bible calls this special heart? *Soul or spirit.*
4. What does God do in this very special heart? *He reveals Himself to us.*
5. What does God, the Holy Spirit do in this heart? *He is the one that works in our hearts, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
6. What kind of work does God do in our heart when we do turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? *He makes our heart brand new, filling it with more knowledge of Him and more love for Him and for others.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**? *Paul used the Altar to the Unknown God to tell the people of Athens about the one, true God who made them to know and love Him. He told them about Jesus, God's Son, who came to save us from our sins. As Paul preached, God worked in the hearts of some of the listeners, showing them that He was the one, true God and helping them to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.?"
This verse tells us that God created us with a soul--another word for this special heart-- that longs to know Him. It reminds us that only God can satisfy our heart and when we seek after Him, He satisfies our heart as much as a big glass of water satisfies us when we are thirsty, or a big, yummy meal satisfies us when we are hungry. And the better we know Him, the more joy we have.

Life Application Questions

1. What did God give you to know Him? *A heart.*
2. Who can help you seek and find God? *God's Holy Spirit.*
3. What can God's Holy Spirit do in your heart? *He can help you to believe in God, turn away from your sins, and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can make your heart brand-new, helping you know Him and giving you love for Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being a God we can know. Praise God for being our Maker who wants us to know and love Him.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that we don't seek God as we should, even though He made us to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need Jesus to save us!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

Thank God for not just making us to know and love Him, but helping us to know Him and know love, even when we don't seek Him! Thank Him for sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Truth? *Ask God to help us know Him better and help others to know Him, too. Ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know, love and obey God more and more.*

The Gospel

1. God made us to know and love Him. But what must happen if we ARE to know and love Him?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Beanbag Scramble

Materials

Small bowl or bag
1 Bean Bag per child
CD and CD player
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big, double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have the children who are "out" help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

Non-competitive Option

Let all the children whose beanbag fell join back into the march, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom,
And Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thou" mean? *Old English word for "you," often used to show respect to God.*
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? *We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He's talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on –or think about– in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.*
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? *A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people's hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.*
4. What does "naught" mean? *Another word for "nothing."*
5. What does "naught be all else to me, save that Thou art"? *There is nothing that means as much to him as God.*
6. What does it mean that God is his "best thought, by day or by night"? *God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.*
7. What does mean for God's presence to be your light? *Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.*
8. Was does it mean to ask God to be your "Wisdom"? *To not depend on your own understanding but on God's to know what is best. It also means asking God to show you what He thinks as wise, to help you believe it and do it.*
9. What does it mean to ask God to be your "true Word"? *It means to ask God to help you to believe in His Word., and help you desire to live by them in all you think, say and do.*
10. Who does the writer of the song what to always be with Him? *The Lord.*
11. Who is God a great Father to? *God is a great Father, not just to Jesus, but also to all of His people.*
12. Who is like a "true son" to God? *Not just Jesus, but all of God's people.*
13. How can we have God as our true Father? How can we be His true sons? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
14. Is true sons just talking about boys/men or does it include girls/women, too? *Yes. Sons means all people.*
15. How does God dwell in His people? *The Holy Spirit lives inside their hearts.*
16. What does it mean to be one with God? *It means to be in happy fellowship with Him in your heart; and, in agreement with what He wants.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?**

God reveals Himself by placing in all people a spirit (or special heart), by which we can know and love God. Those who seek after God and become His people (by turning from their sins and trusting in Jesus as their Savior) have the greatest joy of knowing and loving God in their hearts now. And, they will go on knowing and loving Him more and more for all eternity.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Athenians worshipped many gods, but Paul pointed them to the Lord. He made their hearts. He alone could save them and come live inside their hearts, if they repented of their sins and believed in Him. They would see that He was the one, true God. He would be their best thought day or night.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5:** "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."?

Just like water satisfies our body's thirst, so our soul will only be satisfied by knowing the God who made us. Nothing else will do. No one else will satisfy us. He is our best thought by day or by night. He is the Lord of our heart.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to know. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our heart--helping us to trust Him as our Savior. And, continuing to work in our hearts that we might know and love Him more and more.*

2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our heart. Many times we want to do things our way instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to know and love Him, and be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them. What is this amazing good news of God's love? How can we know it ourselves? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song

White board and marker

Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.

2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.

3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.

4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:1, 5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:1 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who does the writer call God? What does that mean? *His God. That means that he worships God and wants to know, love and obey Him.*
2. What does it mean to earnestly seek God? *To be earnest about something to try hard to do it. The writer of this psalm is trying hard to seek God. He is trying hard to know God and live for Him.*
3. What does it mean for your soul to thirst after God and your flesh to faint for God, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water? *It doesn't mean that you need to drink a cup of water or you will faint! It is a word picture that tells us that this man really, really wanted to know God and that only God can satisfy him.*
4. What does it mean for your soul to be satisfied as with fat and rich food? *It means that knowing God is so wonderful and satisfying to your heart, just like a big meal of your favorite food is satisfying to your stomach.*
5. What does knowing God make the writer want to do with his lips? *Praise God joyfully.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?** *God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Paul used the story of the Altar to the Unknown God to show the Athenians that though they worshipped hundreds of gods, their hearts were thirsty to know the one, true God and His Son, Jesus. He created them and made them to know and love Him. They would only be satisfied when they turned away from their sins and worshiped Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God become OUR God? How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
2. What can God give us when we earnestly seek Him? *He can satisfy our soul--give us the joy, rest and peace that we desire but can only find in Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the God who satisfies us with Himself.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *Confess that many times we don't turn to God to be satisfied and happy. We choose to go to other things or people to try to be satisfied instead. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *Thank God that He truly is most satisfying. Thank Him for sending Jesus to make the way for us to know God and be satisfied in Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse? *Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to satisfy our souls with Himself. We can ask Him to help us to know Him and the joy that comes only from knowing Him..*

Gospel Question

1. God made us to earnestly seek Him, but instead all of us have turned away from Him. Is there any hope for us? Yes, there is! What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Simon Says How

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

A die

Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

Preparing the Game

Make a sign as follows:

1 = Head

2 = Feet

3 = Hands

4 = Head and Feet

5 = Feet and Hands

6 = Whole Body

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play "Simon Says How", a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that "Simon" will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions "Simon" made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, or as time and attention span allow.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63: 1,5

Refrain:

O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You,
 O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. *Refrain*

My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
 My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you.
Refrain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song
 Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What sad thing was happening in Athens? *Lots of people were dying from a terrible sickness.*
2. What did the leaders first do to try to stop the plague? *They gave worship gifts to their hundreds of gods, but the plague continued.*
3. Who did the leaders decide to send for? *They sent for Epimenides, a man from Crete to help them.*
4. What did Epimenides have the leaders do? *He had them bring hungry sheep out to a grassy field on Mars Hill and had men stand by ready to sacrifice on stone altars whichever sheep did not eat the grass, in answer to his prayer.*
5. What did Epimenides pray? *That the Unknown God would accept the sheep as a worship gift, have mercy on them and stop the plague. He asked that the sheep to be sacrificed would lie down without eating the grass, even though they were very hungry as a sign.*
6. What happened after Epimenides prayed? *Many sheep lay down instead of eating the grass. These were sacrificed to the Unknown God.*
7. What did the stonemasons chisel on the stone altars? *To the Unknown God.*
8. When did the plague stop? *Within a week of sacrificing the sheep, the plague had completely stopped.*
9. Did the people keep remembering the Unknown God after the plague stopped? *They did for a while, but in the end they forgot Him.*
10. How did Paul use the Altar to the Unknown God to tell the Athenians about Jesus? *He told them that the god they worship as the Unknown God was the one, true God, who created all things and gave them hearts to know and love Him. He sent Jesus, His Son, to show them what He is like and to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior.*
11. What did Paul tell the Athenians that God wanted them to do? *To turn away from their sins and seek Him.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**? *Paul used the Altar to the Unknown God to tell the people of Athens about the one, true God who made them to know and love Him. He told them about Jesus, God's Son, who came to save us from our sins. As Paul preached, God worked in the hearts of some of the listeners, showing them that He was the one, true God and helping them to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

Life Application Questions

1. What did God give you to know Him? *A heart.*
2. Who can help you seek and find God? *God's Holy Spirit.*
3. What can God's Holy Spirit do in your heart? *He can help you to believe in God, turn away from your sins, and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can make your heart brand-new, helping you know Him and giving you love for Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."
Paul used the story of the Altar to the Unknown God to show the Athenians that though they worshipped hundreds of gods, their hearts were thirsty to know the one, true God and His Son, Jesus. He created them and made them to know and love Him. They would only be satisfied when they turned away from their sins and worshiped Him.

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise Him for being the merciful God who stopped the plague, even though the Athenians did not even know Him name or worship Him.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that we are sinners, just like the Athenians. And, that even though we even know who the One, True God is, that we still do not seek Him as we know we should.*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for showing us who He is, especially in Jesus. We can thank Him for letting us know that He is the One, True God; and know how to be saved through Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *We can ask God to send out more people, like Paul, to tell others in the world about Jesus who do not yet know who He is. We can ask Him to work in our heart, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us all know and love Him more.*

The Gospel

1. What message did Paul preach to the Athenians? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.
2. How long would the Athenians wait before someone brought them that message? *600 years!!*
3. Why was it so important that Paul tell the Athenians about the unknown God, even though they worshipped so many other gods? *Because even though the Athenians worshipped many gods, none of them were the Lord, the one true God. They, like all of us, had rebelled against His good laws and deserved His forever punishment. The sacrifices they made to their gods were no good. They needed to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as the Savior who came to make the one sacrifice that could satisfy God's just punishment. Paul wanted them to turn and trust in Jesus so that they could be forgiven and be saved to live as God's people, knowing Him and loving Him forever.*

Game: Secret Agent

Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)

Paper and Marker

Tape

Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: "on top of your hat" or "inside your hat", or "under your left shoe", etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Tell the children how many questions you have hidden on your outfit and challenge them to work together to find them all and answer the questions. Keep track of how many questions they've found with tally marks on a piece of paper.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Stone and the Seekers.

Our story takes place in Athens, Greece during two times. It starts out before New Testament times, then finished during New Testament times, after Jesus ROSE from the dead and went back to heaven. It is during the time when the first believers began to spread the good news of Jesus to people everywhere and the Church began to grow.

And now we present: "The Case of the Stone and the Seekers."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Paul comes to Athens to tell the good news of Jesus. He is shocked at the hundreds of gods the people of Athens worship. He is so sad that the people of Athens do not know the one, true God. He sees the stone to the Unknown God. There is an amazing story behind the stone. There was a terrible sickness in Athens. Many people got sick. Many people died. The people of Athens worshiped hundreds of gods. They prayed to they all for help, but no help came. At last they asked a man named Epimenides to help them.

Scene 2:

Epimenides tells the leaders that he thinks there must an unknown God who could heal the sickness. They must ask Him for help. Epimenides orders the Athenian leaders to meet him on Mars Hill with a flock of hungry sheep stonemasons, stones and mortar for making altars the next morning. Epimenides prays to the Unknown God up on Mars Hill. He asks Him to accept as a worship gift any of the hungry sheep that lay down instead of eat the juicy grass. He asks that this be a sign that He has heard them and will help them. To their amazement, many sheep lay down in the grass and do not eat. The people are overjoyed! stonemasons make altars for each sheep with the inscription: "To an Unknown God" carved on it. The sheep are then sacrificed as worship gifts on them. Within a week the plague has ended. This was the story Laertius wrote down about the sickness and the One who stopped it. The stones stood for years to remind all of it.

Scene 3

Many years pass. The stone altar to the Unknown God still stands on the hill where it had been laid so long ago. Now Paul gathers the people of Athens and tells them the name of the Unknown God. He is Lord, the one, true God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross for God's people and rose from the dead in victory. Paul urges the people to put their trust in Him. Many people listen. Some laugh and go back to worshipping their fake gods. But the Lord is at work in the hearts of others, like Dionysius and Damaris They become Christians. At last these people of Athens get to know the one, true God who gave them hearts to know and love Him.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** The Lord used Paul and the Altar to the Unknown God to show Himself to the hearts of the people of Athens. Some came to know Him that very day. He will show Himself to our hearts, too, if we will ask Him; and, when we will turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Stone and the Seekers.

Our story takes place in Athens, Greece during two times. It starts out before New Testament times, then finished during New Testament times, after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven. It is during the time when the first believers began to spread the good news of Jesus to people everywhere and the church began to grow.

The characters in our story are: Nicias, Epimenides, the leaders of Athens, sick and dying people, sheep, stonemasons, Shepherds, Paul, Dionysius, Damaris, and other people of Athens.

And now we present: "The Case of the Stone and the Seekers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Paul comes to Athens to tell the good news of Jesus. He is shocked at the hundreds of gods the people of Athens worship. He is so sad that the people of Athens do not know the one, true God. He sees the stone to the Unknown God. There is an amazing story behind the stone. There was a terrible sickness in Athens. Many people got sick. Many people died. The people of Athens worshiped hundreds of gods. They prayed to them all for help, but no help came. At last they asked a man named Epimenides to help them.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Epimenides tells the leaders that he thinks there must be an unknown God who could heal the sickness. They must ask Him for help. Epimenides orders the Athenian leaders to meet him on Mars Hill with a flock of hungry sheep, stonemasons, stones and mortar for making altars the next morning. Epimenides prays to the Unknown God up on Mars Hill. He asks Him to accept as a worship gift any of the hungry sheep that lay down instead of eat the juicy grass. He asks that this be a sign that He has heard them and will help them. To their amazement, many sheep lay down in the grass and do not eat. The people are overjoyed! Stonemasons make altars for each sheep with the inscription: "To an Unknown God" carved on it. The sheep are then sacrificed as worship gifts on them. Within a week the plague has ended. This was the story Laertius wrote down about the sickness and the One who stopped it. The stones stood for years to remind all of it.

Scene 3: (End)

Many years pass. The stone altar to the Unknown God still stands on the hill where it had been laid so long ago. Now Paul gathers the people of Athens and tells them the name of the Unknown God. He is Lord, the one, true God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered on the cross for God's people and rose from the dead in victory. Paul urges the people to put their trust in Him. Many people listen. Some laugh and go back to worshiping their fake gods. But the Lord is at work in the hearts of others, like Dionysius and Damaris. They become Christians. At last these people of Athens get to know the one, true God who gave them hearts to know and love Him.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** The Lord used Paul and the Altar to the Unknown God to show Himself to the hearts of the people of Athens. Some came to know Him that very day. He will show Himself to our hearts, too, if we will ask Him; and, when we will turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Altar to the Unknown God

Description

Children will make a small clay altar with the Greek words "To an Unknown God" etched on it; and, a stand-up sheep decorated with pom-poms.

Materials

Gray or brown clay, enough to make a 3.5" x 3" slab for each child (can also use salt dough instead of clay, recipe on following page)

1 Toothpick per child

Display of Greek words "To an Unknown God" **αγνωστω θεω**

Black/gray markers

Jiggly eyes, if desired

Sheep outline copied onto card stock for each child (next page)

¼" white &/or black pom-poms

Glue sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Separate the clay/salt dough into a clump large enough for each child to be able to make a 3.5" x 3" thin slab.
2. Clearly write the Greek words on a large sheet of paper or on a white board in the classroom.
3. Make a copy of the sheep outline for each child and cut out along sides.
4. Set out cotton balls/white pom-poms, giggly eyes enough for each child's sheep.
5. Set out glue sticks or small bowls of glue for the children to easily share.
6. Set out a toothpick, gray/black markers for each child.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children shape their clay/salt dough into a 3.5" x 3" slab.
3. Ask them what the Greeks wrote on the altars when they sacrificed their sheep.
4. Show them the Greek words and explain/have them guess what the words say: "To an Unknown God."
5. Have them etch some or all of the words on their slab using the toothpick, along the bottom of the slab, leaving room for the sheep along the top of the altar. (You may need to do this for the youngest children; or choose to have them not put the words on at all.)
6. Have them make sheep by gluing pom-poms, giggly eyes, etc. to the sheep outline and filling in other facial and other body details with the markers.
7. Fold sheep along top, allowing it to stand up.
8. If there is time, children may add additional carvings to stone slab.
9. Place finished sheep on altar.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where was the Altar to the Unknown God?

In Athens, Greece.

2. Who used the Altar to the Unknown God?

Paul (also Epiminedes).

3. What did Paul do with the Altar to the Unknown God?

Paul used the stone Altar to the Unknown God to tell the people of Athens about the Lord, the one true God, and how they could be saved from their sins by faith in Jesus.

4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?

He Gave Me a Heart to Know and Love Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?

God worked in the hearts of some, like Dionysius and Damaris, when Paul told them the good news of Jesus. He showed them that Jesus was God's Son, sent to save them and gave them faith to believe in Him. How happy they were to know God in their hearts!

6. What can the Altar to the Unknown God help us remember?

God made all people to know and love Him. There are still many people in the world today who have never heard the name of the true God or of salvation through Jesus. They worship other, false gods. Like Paul, God wants His people today to go and tell them who He really is, that they might come to know Him, too.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is The Altar to the Unknown God.

2. In Athens, Greece, Paul used the stone Altar to the Unknown God to tell the people of Athens about the Lord, the one true God, and how they could be saved from their sins by faith in Jesus.

3. Bible Truth 1 is: How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like...He Gave Me a Heart to Know and Love Him.

4. God worked in the hearts of some, like Dionysius and Damaris, when Paul told them the good news of Jesus. He showed them that Jesus was God's Son, sent to save them and gave them faith to believe in Him. How happy they were to know God in their hearts!.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God made all people and gave them each a heart to know and love Him. There are still many people in the world today who have never heard the name of the true God or of salvation through Jesus. They worship other, false gods. Like Paul, God wants His people today to go and tell them who He really is, that they might come to know Him, too.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Salt Dough Recipe

2 cups of flour

1 cup of table salt

1 cup of water

1 tablespoon of vegetable oil (makes it a little easier to knead)

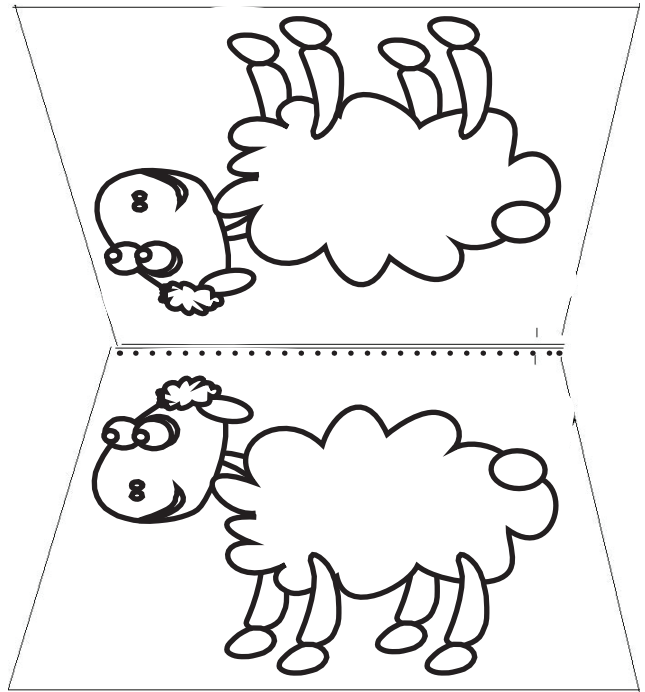
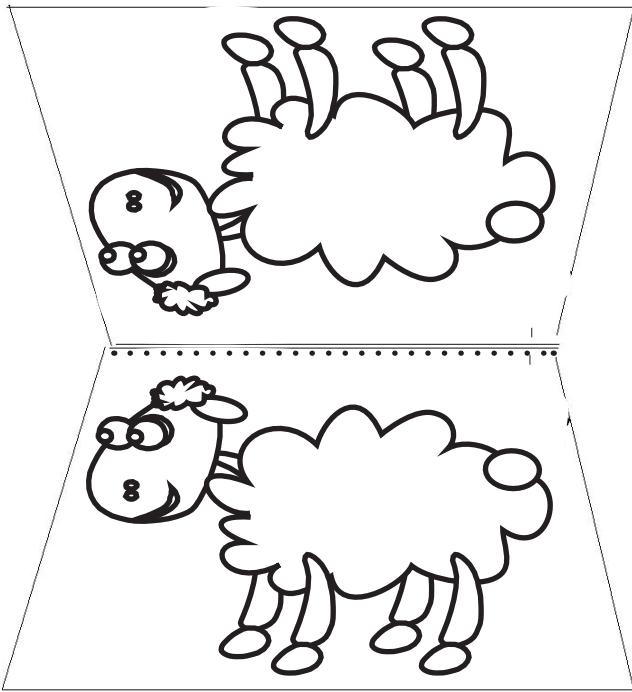
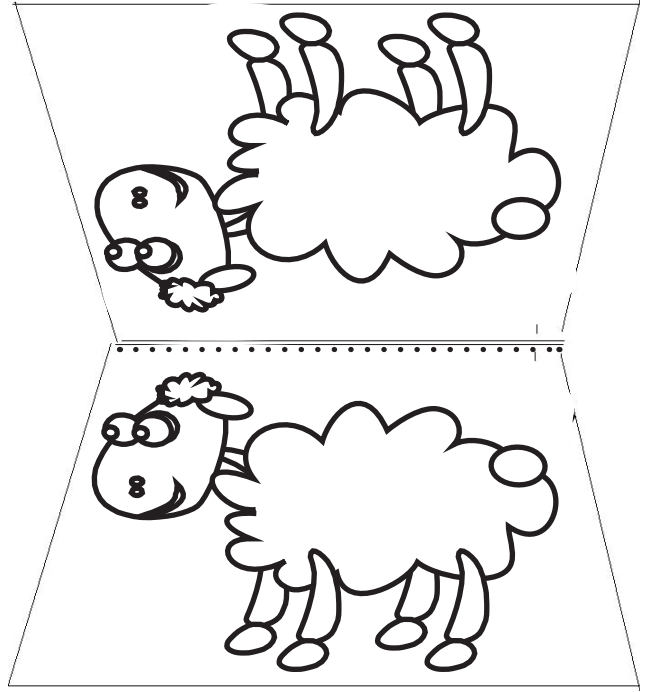
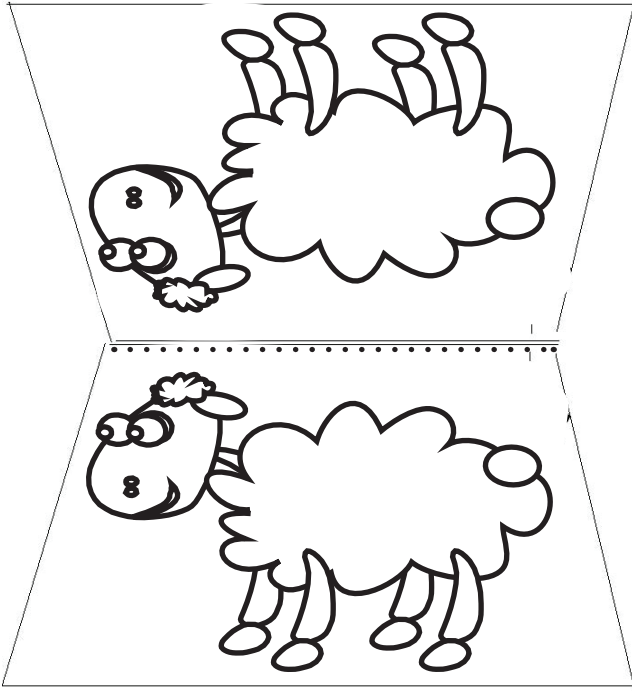
1 tablespoon of wallpaper paste (gives the mixture more elasticity)

1 tablespoon of lemon juice (makes the finished product harder)

Directions

Put plain flour, salt and any, or all, of the optional ingredients into a mixing bowl and gradually add the water, mixing to soft dough. This should be neither too sticky, in which case add more flour, nor too dry, in which case add more water. When mixed remove from the bowl, place on a flat surface and knead for 10 minutes to help create a smooth texture. If possible it is best to let the dough stand for approximately twenty minutes before beginning a project. Unused dough can be stored in the fridge, in an airtight container or cling film, for up to a week. Children always love making models, and as long as you don't add wallpaper paste all of the ingredients are natural. So if they are tempted to put it in their mouths, all it will do is taste incredibly salty.





BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. Clue Cards found at the back of this book.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about each VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Extra Bible Verse Song: You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 13

Extra Bible Verse Song: As A Deer: Psalm 42:1,2 HCSB PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 14

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Prayerless Man

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: The StreetLayer's Street

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:1,5 Discussion Sheet and Game: Scrambled Eggs

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Four Corners

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Three Pounds in Praying Hands

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) and Game: Picture Run

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Prayerless ManAdapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old*, vol. IV, compiled by Joel Beeke**Our story is called:****The Case of the Prayerless Man.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray?
2. How did he change and why?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's in London, England.

What a busy, crowded city was London! People rushed to and fro on foot and by horse-drawn carriages along the cobblestone streets. Clackety-clack! Clackety-clack! You could hear the carriage wheels over the streets day and night.

Our story is about two men: a pastor named Charles Spurgeon and a Streetlayer. What is a pastor? He's a man who preaches God's Word and cares for the people in his local church. But Mr. Spurgeon wasn't just any pastor. He was one of the greatest, most famous preachers of God's Word, not only in London, but all over the world! Did you know that even today, people still love to read and learn from his sermons!

But in Spurgeon's time, people didn't just read his sermons. They went to hear him preach in person. And that's what thousands of people would do every Sunday. They would jam into the Metropolitan Tabernacle—Spurgeon's church—and listen to him tell about Jesus from the Bible. Everyone wanted to hear him preach—even the Prince of England himself! Wow!

Well, ALMOST everyone wanted to hear Spurgeon preach. The other man in our story—the Streetlayer—certainly did not. Let me tell you about him. A streetlayer is someone who lays down the big, heavy cobblestones that made up the roads of London. Streetlaying was a hard, tiring job, but this Streetlayer was pretty cheerful about it. As he pulled up damaged stones and laid down the new ones on the streets of London, he would sing in a loud, happy voice. But this Streetlayer didn't always sing as he worked. If he smashed his hand between stones, his happy singing changed to a bad temper and bad words! People covered their ears as they listened to the awful words that came out of his mouth!

But far worse than the Streetlayer's bad words, was

what was going on in his heart! This Streetlayer may have been made to know and love God, but he did not want know Him...at all! Yet God, in His kindness, had even given this man a wife and three children who loved God. Each day, he could watch them and see how good it was to know and love God, but still he wanted nothing to do with God! What a very hard heart this Streetlayer had!

No, the Streetlayer didn't want to know or love God, but his family did! They prayed for him and urged him to join them in praying and worshiping God, too. But no matter what they did or said, the Streetlayer's answer was always the same: "No! I will not pray!"

And no, the Streetlayer did not care about God, but God cared about him. God wanted him to know and love Him and He planned to change this stubborn man's heart. And so He did, using a sickness, three pounds (a pound is the name of English money, like American dollars), and Mr. Spurgeon.

It all started when the Streetlayer sat down to eat lunch with his family one day. His wife and children gave thanks before eating, as usual. And also as usual, the Streetlayer refused to pray with them. His little girl did not like this and said, "Mommy, Daddy never prays with us; you must also teach Daddy a little prayer."

This made that Streetlayer very mad! He lost his temper and yelled at his sweet little daughter, "Say, you little rascal, don't worry about me and my prayers! I will not pray!" That silenced them all, but how sad he made his little girl by his harsh words!

The next day the Streetlayer went to work laying cobblestones. As usual, he sang cheerfully, until something bad happened, then, as usual, out came all those

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

bad words again! But then something happened that was not usual at all. For in God's great plan, the Streetlayer was working on Mr. Spurgeon's street that day!

Mr. Spurgeon was working in his study when first he heard the Streetlayer's loud singing, and then all those bad words. "This is terrible! I can't work with that man yelling those bad words outside my house!" Spurgeon said to himself. "I must do something about this man, but what? If I tell him to stop saying bad words, he probably won't listen. Besides, what he really needs is to know the God who made him. What shall I do?"

Then an idea came to him. He got up from his desk and went out to the Streetlayer. "Good morning, sir. I am Mr. Spurgeon," he greeted the man cheerfully. "What wonderful work you are doing on my street! It will be so much easier to travel on now," he told the Streetlayer. "Everyone enjoys your cheerful singing as you work, but sir, when you get angry, your bad words are terrible to listen to! I suppose it shall be of no use to ask you to stop talking like this because you would not be willing or able to stop it. But, may I ask you something: Do you ever pray?"

"Oh, no, here come more questions about prayer!" thought the Streetlayer. "Pray? No, I will not pray!" the man replied to Spurgeon. "That would never work for me, because you cannot pray and say bad words at the same time," he said.

"Listen here," answered Mr. Spurgeon. "I shall give you three pounds in English money, if you will promise to NEVER pray in your whole life. I would offer you two pounds more if you will promise not to say bad words anymore, but I don't think you will do that. So, let's just leave it at this: these three pounds are yours to keep, if you promise to never pray! But, as soon as you pray, you must promise me that you will give me back the three pounds," Spurgeon said, as he held out three pounds to the man.

"What a strange request! Who would expect a pastor to ask someone to promise to never pray?!" the Streetlayer thought, but that didn't stop him from wanting all that money. "Yes, I give you my word. I will not pray!" he told Mr. Spurgeon. He put the money in his pocket and went back to work. Mr. Spurgeon went home, too, and waited for what would happen next.

The rest of the morning, Mr. Spurgeon already noticed the Streetlayer's bad words had stopped. How nice! At last he could get good work done! But what had Mr. Spurgeon really done? Had he really wanted this man to never pray? Didn't he remember that the Streetlayer had a heart made to know and love God? If he wouldn't pray, how could he ever seek after God and know Him? But let's see what happens. Perhaps there was more to this promise than first it appears.

The Streetlayer went home to join his family for lunch, but this time he didn't sing as usual. He was worrying about his promise to never pray. In his heart the Streetlayer knew there was a God and he should seek Him. Yet he had promised to never speak to this God for just three pounds and this bothered him!

As the Streetlayer joined his family at the table for lunch, he noticed that the chair of his little girl was empty. "Where is Mary?" he asked.

"She's in bed," his wife replied. "She had such a bad headache this morning that I had the doctor come. She's to rest with a wet cloth on her head," she replied.

The Streetlayer worried about his little girl. He thought about how he had treated her the day before and wished he hadn't lost his temper with her just because she wanted him to pray. He worried about her sickness. Would the doctor heal her? Would she die? Could God help her if they prayed? But then the Streetlayer's promise to Mr. Spurgeon came to mind: "I will never pray," he had promised.. So the Streetlayer did not pray.

The Streetlayer didn't tell his wife about his promise to Mr. Spurgeon or the money, but it bothered him. Would he really not ask God to help his sick, little girl... all for three pounds and a promise? Soon he was so upset he couldn't even eat. He went upstairs to see his little girl instead.

"How are you? Do you have a headache?" he asked. "I hope you get better quickly," he told her.

Hello, Daddy," she sweetly replied. How sick she looked! The Streetlayer worried even more for her.

That afternoon the Streetlayer went back to work, but he did little work. He thought of his sick, little daughter. But would he pray for her? No, he would not...He COULD not! "I will not pray!" he had promised, but it was getting hard to keep it now.

At the end of the day, the Streetlayer hurried home to check on his daughter again. She was sicker! Now she thrashed about from side to side in her little bed with a terribly high fever. The doctor feared she had meningitis and might die!

At dinner, the youngest boy prayed. "Lord, bless this food, and please make Mary better."

The Streetlayer wanted to pray with them, but he remembered his promise and forced himself to stop.

He went to see his daughter. "Oh, Lord," he began to pray; but, quickly he caught himself: "No! I must not pray!" He went to the barn, then to the house. He tried to read the newspaper. But all he could think about was not praying about Mary. "Ah ha! I've got it! I cannot pray," thought the Streetlayer, "but others can! I will get my wife to pray again for her. Perhaps this will help me feel better," he decided.

He went straight to his wife and said: "Wife, how is Mary now? You've been praying for her, haven't you?"

The Streetlayer's wife could not believe her ears. "When did you begin to care that I pray?" she asked him. Then the Streetlayer told her the whole story and together they decided what to do.

The next morning, the Streetlayer went to Mr. Spurgeon's house. "Mr. Spurgeon, here are your three pounds back," the Streetlayer said. "I cannot keep my promise," he confessed. "I must pray!" He told Mr. Spurgeon about his daughter and what the Lord had done in his own heart. Mr. Spurgeon went to see little Mary and pray for her, too.

What a lot Mr. Spurgeon, the Streetlayer and his family had to praise God for! Mary got well. And the Streetlayer turned away from his old life of wanting to disobey God and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. No longer was the Streetlayer a man who would not pray to God. Now he was a man who knew God and loved Him in his heart... and he stayed that way the rest of his life!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the man who wouldn't pray and who wanted him to pray? The Streetlayer wouldn't pray to God. His family, Mr. Spurgeon (and God!) wanted him to pray.

2. How did he change and why? The Streetlayer became a praying man. His family and Mr. Spurgeon prayed for him and encouraged him to pray. God worked in his heart, helping him to turn to Him and pray.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Like the Streetlayer, we are made to know and love God. And like him, we can know God. How? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. If we do, God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy! *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like the Streetlayer was. And, even though we know that You are the One, True God, too many times we still do not seek You as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank you for showing us who you are, especially in Jesus. Thank You for showing Yourself to us so we can know You.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You and love You more and more.

Special Words

Cobblestones: Stones, about the size of bricks, used to make stone streets.

Streetlayer: A person who lays cobblestones to make a street.

Meningitis: A very bad sickness that would have been very hard for doctors to cure in Spurgeon's day.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being a God we can know. We praise You for being our Maker who wants us to know and love You.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we don't seek You as we should, even though You made us to know You. We're sinners! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for making us to know and love You. Thank You for helping us to know and love You--even when we don't seek You! Thank You for sending You Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better and help others to know You better, too. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our heart that we might know, love and obey You, more and more.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: The Streetlayer's Street

Graham Cracker streets with peanut butter (or Nutella or sugar-free chocolate pudding) "dirt" and raisin blocks laid on it.

Case Tie-in: God used Mr. Spurgeon to begin to work in the Streetlayer's heart as he worked on Mr. Spurgeon's street.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people with so they can know and love Him? *A heart.*
2. Is this special heart the one that we feel beat in our chest? If not, then what is it? *No. This heart is something very different from the one that pumps blood. We can't feel it or see it. And it will never die.*
3. What are other names the Bible calls this special heart? *Soul or spirit.*
4. What does God do in this very special heart? *He reveals Himself to us.*
5. What does God, the Holy Spirit do in this heart? *He is the one that works in our hearts, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
6. What kind of work does God do in our heart when we do turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? *He makes our heart brand new, filling it with more knowledge of Him and and more love for Him and for others.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**? *The Streetlayer thought he wanted nothing to do with God, but God knew the truth. Even this man was made with a heart to know and love Him—even though he was choosing not to. In the end, the Holy Spirit stirred in the Streetlayer's heart and brought it alive with a desire to know God and cry out for His help. How kind God is to us, sinners!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."
This verse tells us that God created us with a soul--another word for this special heart-- that longs to know Him. It reminds us that only God can satisfy our heart and when we seek after Him, He satisfies our heart as much as a big glass of water satisfies us when we are thirsty, or a big, yummy meal satisfies us when we are hungry. And the better we know Him, the more joy we have.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being a God we can know. Praise God for being our Maker who wants us to know and love Him.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that we don't seek God as we should, even though He made us to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need Jesus to save us!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for not just making us to know and love Him, but helping us to know Him and know love, even when we don't seek Him! Thank Him for sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Truth? *Ask God to help us know Him better and help others to know Him, too. Ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know, love and obey God more and more.*

Life Application Questions

1. What did God give you to know Him? *A heart.*
2. Who can help you seek and find God? *God's Holy Spirit.*
3. What can God's Holy Spirit do in your heart? *He can help you to believe in God, turn away from your sins, and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can make your heart brand-new, helping you know Him and giving you love for Him.*

The Gospel

1. God made us to know and love Him. But what must happen if we ARE to know and love Him?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Storks

Materials

Three large, but soft balls
Tape
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, each on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. One team is "The Hunters". The other team is "The Storks." The hunters have three balls and they are to stand about twenty feet away from the storks, who are lined up, similarly to ten bowling pins. Storks are to balance on one leg without leaning on anything. They can switch from leg to leg, but must not stand on both at the same time. Read a question to the hunters. If they get it right, then one of the hunters gets three chances (3 balls) to roll the ball at the storks FAIRLY GENTLY and try to get them to put their other foot down. The Hunters score as many points as storks who lost their balance and put their foot down. Sides get switched when all the Hunters have had a turn: or, when they have been stumped by a question.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom,
And Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thou" mean? *Old English word for "you," often used to show respect to God.*
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? *We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He's talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on –or think about– in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.*
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? *A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people's hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.*
4. What does "naught" mean? *Another word for "nothing."*
5. What does "naught be all else to me, save that Thou art"? *There is nothing that means as much to him as God.*
6. What does it mean that God is his "best thought, by day or by night"? *God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.*
7. What does mean for God's presence to be your light? *Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.*
8. Was does it mean to ask God to be your "Wisdom"? *To not depend on your own understanding but on God's to know what is best. It also means asking God to show you what He thinks as wise, to help you believe it and do it.*
9. What does it mean to ask God to be your "true Word"? *It means to ask God to help you to believe in His Word., and help you desire to live by them in all you think, say and do.*
10. Who does the writer of the song what to always be with Him? *The Lord.*
11. Who is God a great Father to? *God is a great Father, not just to Jesus, but also to all of His people.*
12. Who is like a "true son" to God? *Not just Jesus, but all of God's people.*
13. How can we have God as our true Father? How can we be His true sons? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
14. Is true sons just talking about boys/men or does it include girls/women, too? *Yes. Sons means all people.*
15. How does God dwell in His people? *The Holy Spirit lives inside their hearts.*
16. What does it mean to be one with God? *It means to be in happy fellowship with Him in your heart; and, in agreement with what He wants.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?**

God reveals Himself by placing in all people a spirit (or special heart), by which we can know and love God. Those who seek after God and become His people (by turning from their sins and trusting in Jesus as their Savior) have the greatest joy of knowing and loving God in their hearts now. And, they will go on knowing and loving Him more and more for all eternity.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Streetlayer's family and Mr. Spurgeon prayed that God would work in the Streetlayer's heart and change it so that he knew and loved God. God answered these prayers. The Streetlayer changed from someone who would not pray or have anything to do with God to someone who loved God and knew that He was his best thought, by day or by night. He delighted to know God.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5:** "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Just like water satisfies our body's thirst, so our soul will only be satisfied by knowing the God who made us. Nothing else will do. No one else will satisfy us. He is our best thought by day or by night. He is the Lord of our heart.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to know. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our heart--helping us to trust Him as our Savior. And, continuing to work in our hearts that we might know and love Him more and more.*

2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our heart. Many times we want to do things our way instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to know and love Him, and be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them. What is this amazing good news of God's love? How can we know it ourselves? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:1, 5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:1 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who does the writer call God? What does that mean? *His God. That means that he worships God and wants to know, love and obey Him.*
2. What does it mean to earnestly seek God? *To be earnest about something to try hard to do it. The writer of this psalm is trying hard to seek God. He is trying hard to know God and live for Him.*
3. What does it mean for your soul to thirst after God and your flesh to faint for God, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water? *It doesn't mean that you need to drink a cup of water or you will faint! It is a word picture that tells us that this man really, really wanted to know God and that only God can satisfy him.*
4. What does it mean for your soul to be satisfied as with fat and rich food? *It means that knowing God is so wonderful and satisfying to your heart, just like a big meal of your favorite food is satisfying to your stomach.*
5. What does knowing God make the writer want to do with his lips? *Praise God joyfully.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?** *God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.*

Story Connection Questions

1. When did the Streetlayer begin to thirst for God? *After he had made a promise to not pray (talk to God); and especially after his little girl got sick.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God become OUR God? How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
2. What can God give us when we earnestly seek Him? *He can satisfy our soul--give us the joy, rest and peace that we desire but can only find in Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the God who satisfies us with Himself.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *Confess that many times we don't turn to God to be satisfied and happy. We choose to go to other things or people to try to be satisfied instead. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *Thank God that He truly is most satisfying. Thank Him for sending Jesus to make the way for us to know God and be satisfied in Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse? *Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to satisfy our souls with Himself. We can ask Him to help us to know Him and the joy that comes only from knowing Him..*

Gospel Question

1. God made us to earnestly seek Him, but instead all of us have turned away from Him. Is there any hope for us? Yes, there is! What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Scrambled Eggs

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
 Plastic Hollow Easter Eggs, 10 of one color for each team
 Pen and paper
 2 carpet squares or other base marker

Preparing the Game

1. Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.
2. Hide the eggs around the classroom. Place the two carpet squares down in opposite ends of the classroom.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Have the children form two teams seated at their bases. Give each team a written out copy of the verse and place it on their base. Assign each team a particular color of Easter egg and tell them that pieces to the verse are hidden in eggs around the room. They are to find all their eggs, remove the verse section from the egg and put it in order. They can use the copy of the verse (and numbers on each section—especially helpful for pre- and early readers) to help them put it in order. The first team to find all the verse, put it in order and recite it as a group wins.

Game continues until all the eggs have been found or as time allows.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Use any color Easter egg for the pieces of the verse. Hide them around the room. Have the children take turns finding an egg and bringing it back to the group. Have the child open the egg and read (or have you read) the word/s on the piece of paper. Stick them in place on the copy of the verse. If desired, have the children say the verse each time before each "hunt", reinforcing the verse.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63: 1,5

Refrain:

O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You,
 O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. *Re-
 frain*

My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
 My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you.
Refrain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign**Materials**

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, "It," who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When "It" says "Pass the Secret Sign", the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When "It" says "Stop the Passing!" the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of "It", watch the child with the card do the sign, then have "It" guess the name of the sign. (If desired, "It" can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes "It." Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What was Reverend Spurgeon like? *He was a godly man who was a pastor of a big church in London. He loved God and he wanted all people to come to know Jesus as their own Savior.*
2. What was the Streetlayer like? *He was a man who was a good worker, but cussed and got angry a lot. He didn't think he wanted to have anything to do with God.*
3. What did the Streetlayer NOT want to do? *The Streetlayer did not want to pray.*
4. What did the Streetlayer's family think about God? *They loved and obeyed God. They prayed to Him.*
5. **What did Reverend Spurgeon want everyone to know?** *The good news of salvation through Jesus.*
6. What did Reverend Spurgeon give the Streetlayer three pounds to do? *To not pray.*
7. Why did the Streetlayer think he could keep his promise to Rev. Spurgeon? *Because he didn't want to pray anyway. He didn't want to have anything to do with God.*
8. Why was the little girl sick? What did the doctor say?
He was afraid it might be a terrible sickness called meningitis.
9. What made the Streetlayer want to start praying? *He wanted his little girl to get well.*
10. Who did the Streetlayer ask to pray? *His wife.*
11. Why was his wife so shocked that he would want her to pray?
Because the Streetlayer never wanted them to pray before.
12. *Why did the Streetlayer return the money to Rev. Spurgeon? Because he prayed and broke his promise.*
13. What about the Streetlayer's heart made it so that he knew he needed to pray for his daughter? *God had put in his heart, like all other people, the knowledge that He exists and that the Streetlayer was made to love and know Him.*
14. Why do you think Spurgeon made this bet with the Streetlayer? What was he counting on?
He knew that the Streetlayer was made to know and love God. He was made to pray to God. Perhaps being told NOT to pray, would make him see how much he was made to seek after God.

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?** *Streetlayer thought he wanted nothing to do with God, but God knew the truth. Even this man was made with a heart to know and love Him—even though he was choosing not to. In the end, the Holy Spirit stirred in the Streetlayer's heart and brought it alive with a desire to know God and cry out for His help. How kind God is to us, sinners!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5:** "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."
The Streetlayer seemed to be the last man with a heart thirsty to know God. But thanks to God answering His people's prayers and the Holy Spirit at work in his heart, he, too, sought after God and longed to know Him.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the kind and powerful God who worked in the Streetlayer's heart and helped him to cry out to Him and know Him as his own Savior.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that like the Streetlayer, we sometimes do not want to talk to God or have anything to do with Him. We are sinners who need a Savior, just like he was. We all need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sending Mr. Spurgeon to tell him about Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts, that we might want to know Him and love Him, just as He worked in the Streetlayer's heart. We can ask God to work in the hearts of others that we know who do not want to have anything to do with God. We can ask Him to change their hearts and draw them to Himself.

The Gospel

1. What message did Paul preach to the Athenians? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

2. How long would the Athenians wait before someone brought them that message? 600 years!!

3. Why was it so important that Paul tell the Athenians about the unknown God, even though they worshipped so many other gods? *Because even though the Athenians worshipped many gods, none of them were the Lord, the one true God. They, like all of us, had rebelled against His good laws and deserved His forever punishment. The sacrifices they made to their gods were no good. They needed to turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as the Savior who came to make the one sacrifice that could satisfy God's just punishment. Paul wanted them to turn and trust in Jesus so that they could be forgiven and be saved to live as God's people, knowing Him and loving Him forever.*

Game: Secret Agent

Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)

Paper and Marker

Tape

Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: "on top of your hat" or "inside your hat", or "under your left shoe", etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Tell the children how many questions you have hidden on your outfit and challenge them to work together to find them all and answer the questions. Keep track of how many questions they've found with tally marks on a piece of paper.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Prayerless Man.

Our story takes place in London, England in the 1860's.

And now we present: "The Case of the Prayerless Man.

Actions:

Scene 1:

The Streetlayer goes home to his family for lunch. When his little girl sees her father not praying, she asks her mother to teach him a prayer. He loses his temper with her. The next day, the Streetlayer works on Reverend Spurgeon's street. Reverend Spurgeon hears the Streetlayer's singing and his bad words and makes a plan that he hopes will lead the Streetlayer to seek the Lord. He offers him three pounds to promise not to pray. The Streetlayer agrees.

Scene 2:

The Streetlayer goes home to find out that his little girl has a terrible headache and is very, very ill. He feels guilty about how he treated her the day before. He begins to want to pray. He knows he cannot and keep his promise. He goes back to work and his friends notice something is wrong. He tells them about his daughter. Then returns home to find she is worse.

Scene 3

The Streetlayer becomes so worried about his daughter that he can't stop thinking about her. He wants to pray, but can't. He asks his wife if she is praying, then finally breaks down and tells her about what happened with Mr. Spurgeon and the three pounds. In the morning the Streetlayer returns the money to Mr. Spurgeon. The Streetlayer brings Mr. Spurgeon to his house to pray for the little girl. The little girls gets well and the Streetlayer becomes a Christian. Now the man who once was without a prayer has become a man with a heart full of them.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** The Streetlayer cried out to God to help his daughter and changed his stubborn heart into one that wanted to know and love Him.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Prayerless Man.

Our story takes place in London, England in the 1860's.

The characters in our story are: The Streetlayer and his family, other streetlayers, the doctor and Mr. Spurgeon.

And now we present: "The Case of the Prayerless Man.

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Streetlayer goes home to his family for lunch. When his little girl sees her father not praying, she asks her mother to teach him a prayer. He loses his temper with her. The next day, the Streetlayer works on Reverend Spurgeon's street. Reverend Spurgeon hears the Streetlayer's singing and his bad words and makes a plan that he hopes will lead the Streetlayer to seek the Lord. He offers him three pounds to promise not to pray. The Streetlayer agrees.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The Streetlayer goes home to find out that his little girl has a terrible headache and is very, very ill. He feels guilty about how he treated her the day before. He begins to want to pray. He knows he cannot keep his promise. He goes back to work and his friends notice something is wrong. He tells them about his daughter. Then returns home to find she is worse.

Scene 3: (End)

The Streetlayer becomes so worried about his daughter that he can't stop thinking about her. He wants to pray, but can't. He asks his wife if she is praying, then finally breaks down and tells her about what happened with Mr. Spurgeon and the three pounds. In the morning the Streetlayer returns the money to Mr. Spurgeon. The Streetlayer brings Mr. Spurgeon to his house to pray for the little girl. The little girl gets well and the Streetlayer becomes a Christian. Now the man who once was without a prayer has become a man with a heart full of them.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** The Streetlayer cried out to God to help his daughter and changed his stubborn heart into one that wanted to know and love Him.

Three Pounds in Praying Hands

Description

Children will make and decorate hands holding English coins and which fold into pray position.

Materials

Skin-toned Wonder-foam sheets, 8.5" x 11", 2 per child

10 pipe cleaners per child, preferably skin-toned.

1 yellow pipe cleaner per child

Hot glue gun

Pens, Pencils and Markers (thin-tipped, preferable)

Flat-backed craft jewels (optional)

Yellow Wonder-foam sheets OR 1 1/2" diameter round wooden pieces & gold paint/yellow markers;

OR use Template #2 or 3, cardstock and markers

Strong Glue (like Elmer's)

Preparing the Craft

1. Use Template #1 to cut out 2 pairs of hand shapes for each child.
2. Along back of one of the pairs, use the hot glue gun to glue down a skin-toned pipe cleaner from close to each tip of finger and down to palm. When you are finished, you will have five ends of pipe cleaners grouped together near the center of the palms and extending on down.
3. Glue both hand shapes together with pipe cleaners enclosed in the middle. You may want to glue more carefully around the edges for a more finished look.
4. Cut yellow pipe cleaners into lengths that can be wrapped around a finger and twisted into a ring.
5. Set out glue, craft jewels, pens, pencils and markers.
6. Cut three per child of Template #2 out of the yellow Wonder-foam rounds for each child to have three; OR set out the wooden pieces and gold paint/yellow markers; OR cut three per child of Template #2 or #3 (both sides and can glue together) out of the cardstock. (These will be the three pounds.)
7. Put the picture of hands on display within easy view of the children. (Picture #1)

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. If using wooden pieces, have the children paint their "pounds" so that they will be dry by the time they finish decorating their hands. If using paper pounds, they can decorate their own pounds. Glue the 2 sides together after decorating.
3. Have the children decorate their hands. Show them hand details for the front and back of their hands, so they can add them to their hands. (Picture #2)
4. If desired they can add a ring by twisting the yellow pipe cleaner into a circle; or they can glue a jewel in place and make the ring shape out of pen or marker. They could also think about adding calluses, blisters, some dirt, etc. to make the hands look more like the Streetlayer's would have. On the other hand, they also could creatively decorate their hands with designs and patterns.
5. Finally, TEACHER should glue gun down the three coins into the palms of the hands.
6. The children can bend the hands out into a cupped hands shape to reveal the coins; then, together and up into praying hands.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did our story take place?

In London, England.

2. What was the Streetlayer's family like?

They knew and loved God. They wanted their father/husband to know and love Him, too.

3. What was the Streetlayer happy to promise Mr. Spurgeon? Why?

He could have Mr. Spurgeon's three pounds if he would not pray. He didn't know or love God, so he was happy to make this promise--especially for so much money!

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?

The Streetlayer knew in his heart that he was to know and love God; but he refused to seek Him. He gladly promised Mr. Spurgeon to not pray for three pounds. But when his daughter was deathly sick, the Streetlayer gave up the three pounds and cried out to God to heal her. Then, he turned to the Lord in faith. Things had turned out as Mr. Spurgeon hoped they would.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

Nothing will ever be more valuable than knowing and seeking after God.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: Three Pounds in Praying Hands.

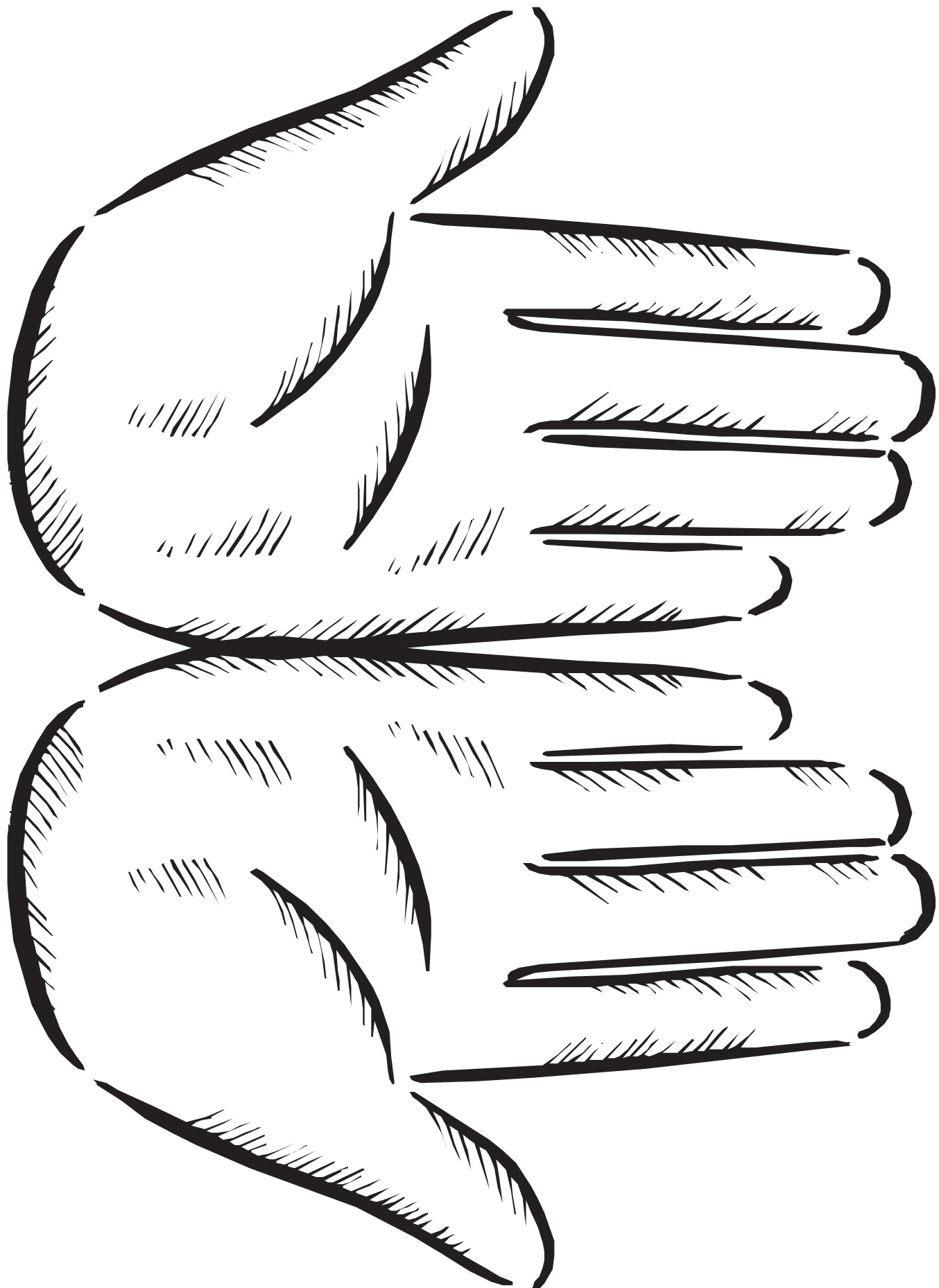
2. In London, England, there was a Streetlayer who didn't know or love God, even though his family did.

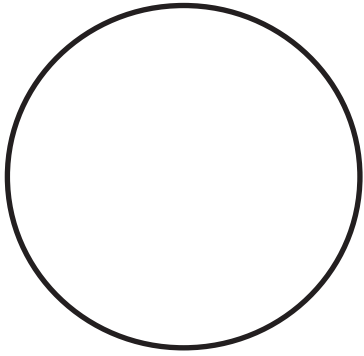
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

4. The Streetlayer knew in his heart that he was to know and love God; but he refused to seek Him. He gladly promised Mr. Spurgeon to not pray for three pounds. But when his daughter was deathly sick, the Streetlayer gave up the three pounds and cried out to God to heal her. Then, he turned to the Lord in faith. Things had turned out as Mr. Spurgeon hoped they would.

5. Our craft can help us remember that nothing will ever be more valuable than knowing and seeking after God.

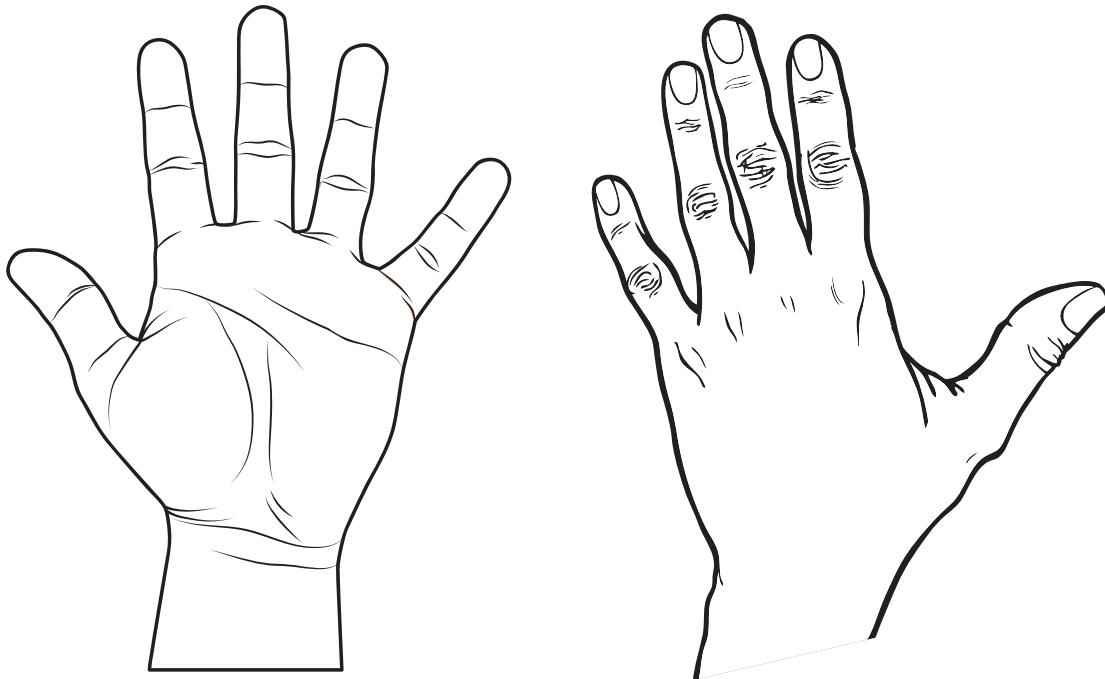
Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.





Template #2 Coin Shape

Picture #1 Hand Details





BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (a.k.a. missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. Clue Cards found at the back of this book.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Picture Run

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPPs, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 1: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Extra Bible Verse Song: You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 13

Extra Bible Verse Song: As A Deer: Psalm 42:1,2 HCSB PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 14

Lesson 3 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Man After God's Heart

Psalm 19, 23, 24, 62; 1 Chronicles 29; 2 Samuel 5-6,15

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Hearts of Love, Horns of Praise

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Silly Grand March

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:1,5 Discussion Sheet and Game: Ball Circle Toss

Bible Verse Song: O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63:1,5 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: David's Harp

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) & Game: Crabbin' Around

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Man After God's Heart Psalm 19, 23, 24, 62; 1 Chronicles 29; 2 Samuel 5-6,15

Our story is: The Case of the Man After God's Heart.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean?
2. How did God reveal himself to this man and help him?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Out in the hills of Judah, not far from the village of Bethlehem, lived a man named Jesse and his family. Now Jesse's family might not have seemed special at first glance. They were farmers and shepherds, just like many others who lived in Bethlehem. But in God's eyes, there was something very special about this family—and particularly, the youngest son in this family.

It wasn't something on the outside that made this son special to God. It didn't have to do with how handsome or strong or smart he was. The "something special" had to do with something that was inside him. For there inside his heart was something that pleased God so much that God gave this son of Jesse the highest compliment of all: God called him "a man after His (God's) own heart."

What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart? It means to have a heart full of wanting to know, love and obey God. It's a heart that is thirsty for God, just like we are thirsty for water on a hot day. Nothing but God would satisfy the heart of young man!

What was the name of this son? Perhaps you can guess. It was David. He was the man after God's own heart! God had done a wonderful work in David's heart. He helped David know that He was the one, true God. He gave David faith in Him and love for Him. He helped David want to live for Him. So much so, that only knowing and loving God truly satisfied David. And so, everywhere he went, and everything he saw and did, David was reminded of his wonderful God.

Sometimes David would take out his harp and make up his own songs to sing to God. He sang: "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). At night when he was out with

his father's flocks of sheep, David would look up at the skies and think: "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1). During the day, David would look up at the blue sky and puffy, white clouds as they floated above the beautiful, grassy hills and he would exclaim: "Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love!" (Psalm. 36:5-6).

David thought about God as he took care of his father's sheep. He led them to grassy meadows to feed and rest. He rescued them out of holes with his shepherd's staff. He chased away hungry lions and bears with the sharp, spiky nails of his rod. As David took care of the sheep, he thought about how God cared for him: "The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.... His rod and his staff they comfort me," he sang. (Psalm 23:1-2, 4)

God blessed David in many ways. He chose David to be king over His people, Israel, and He helped him to lead them well. God gave David and his soldiers victory over all their enemies. He gave David the love of the people of Israel! He blessed David with a big family; a beautiful, cedar palace to live in; and lots and lots of money. Oh, how great were God's blessings to David!

But what would all these blessings do in David's heart? Would they make him proud? Would he stop seeking God and just be satisfied with all of God's blessings instead? No, he would not! Even when all these

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

things happened to David, David just praised God more. David made up new songs to praise God, the true King and the Giver of all the good things he enjoyed.

But David wasn't satisfied with just worshipping God himself. He wanted everyone to worship the LORD. So David made plans to build a big, beautiful Temple where all could come to worship God. David didn't even wait until the Temple was built to lead the people in praising the LORD. No! Long before even the first stone of the Temple would be put in place, David had 16,000 men come and serve before the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant.

Each day these men would lead the people in offering sacrifices and praising God. Did you know that David chose 4000 of these men just to be teachers, singers and musicians? Their job was to teach the people about God and to lead them in singing praises to Him. Lyres, harps, flutes, trumpets and cymbals would sound out as the great choirs of these worship leaders led the people in praising the LORD. David would stand in front with them, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You: You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name" (1 Chronicles 29:10-13).

Yes, David was a man who wanted to know and love God with all his heart. But let's get one thing straight: that didn't mean David was a perfect man. David was a sinner, just like you and me. And don't think that just because he loved God that he lived a perfectly happy life. Sad things happened to David, just like they do to you and me, too.

One of the saddest things in David's life happened when he was an old man. His son Absalom came up with a plan to kill him and make himself king in his place. Absalom talked many people into rebelling against David, too--even some of David's closest friends! Can you imagine how sad David was? His own son getting some of his best friends to help kill him!

Absalom's plan worked, in part. He didn't kill David, but he made him leave his beautiful palace in Jerusalem and run away to the dry, lonely desert of Judah for safety. As David ran away, some people yelled mean things and threw rocks at him! He! Their king!

What was inside David's heart as all these sad things happened to him? Would he stop thinking about God? Would he stop wanting to know and love Him now?

No, David would not! David picked up his harp, even out there in the wilderness and sang this song, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water... Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips." (Psalm 63:1,3-5)

Maybe he did not have a palace any more. Maybe his son didn't love him any more. Maybe people threw stones at him and called him bad names. But David still knew God in his heart. He knew God would always be with him and He was all that David really needed.

David was right! God did sustain him through all those hard days. And after a while, Absalom and his helpers were defeated. David returned to Jerusalem and ruled as king until he was a very old man.

At last it came time for David to die. What was inside David's heart then? Did he worry what would happen to him when he died? Would God take care of him even in death? David didn't worry. He knew God would take care of him! Once he wrote a song about this. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever," he wrote (Psalm 23:6). How happy David knew he soon would be! Yes, he would have to die, but then he would get to be live face to face forever with the God he had loved and known in his heart for so many years! And that would be best of all!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the man after God's own heart? What does that mean? David. It meant that David loved God and trusted Him to be who He was--the one, true God!

2. How did God reveal himself to this man in his heart and help him? God's Holy Spirit whispered into David's heart the truths he had learned from the Bible. He reminded David that God could be trusted to be who He said He was. He would always take care of David. This helped David step out in faith and do courageous things to the glory of God.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:
God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

The words of this psalm were one of the songs written by David in some of his most difficult times. He knew only the LORD could help him through! How he loved the LORD!

What about you and me? What will we do with the special heart that God has put in us to know and love Him? Let's ask God to work in our heart today, helping us to know, love and obey God, like David did.

What about you and me? What will we do with the special heart that God has put in us to know and love Him? Let's ask God to work in our heart today, helping us to know, love and obey God, like David did.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being our Creator who gave us a heart to know You.

C God, we confess that many times when bad things happen to us, we are not like David. We get upset with You and do not trust You. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for inspiring David to write down his psalms so we can know them and sing them, too.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Work in our heart like you worked in David's, helping us to love and know You, more and more. Help us to trust You like David did, even when very hard things happened to him.

Special Words

Glory of God: In heaven, God's glory appears around Him kind of like a beautiful, shiny light. But anything that shows how beautiful and wonderful God is, tells us something of God's glory.

Righteousness: Without any sin. Reflecting God's goodness, fairness and love.

Rod: A shepherd's weapon made from the root of a tree that can be used to hit a wild animal or other enemy that threatens his sheep's safety.

Staff: A stick (often with a curved top end) that a shepherd carries to guide and sometimes rescue his sheep.

Tabernacle: The portable worship tent that God commanded the Israelites to make.

Ark of the Covenant: A special golden box with angels on top of it. It contained the 10 Commandments and a few other things. It was kept in the holiest part of the Tabernacle and then in the Temple. Prayers and offerings for the sins of the people were made at it by the high priest only.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being a God we can know. We praise You for being our Maker who wants us to know and love You.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we don't seek You as we should, even though You made us to know You. We're sinners! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for making us to know and love You. Thank You for helping us to know and love You--even when we don't seek You! Thank You for sending You Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better and help others to know You better, too. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our heart that we might know, love and obey You, more and more.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Hearts of Love, Horns of Praise

Serve cut-in-half strawberry hearts to remind us of David’s heart after God. And, “Bugle” corn snacks to remind us of the horns David and the musicians would have used in leading the people worship.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: David was a man after God’s own heart. He loved God and longed to know Him more and serve Him always. He led others in praising God, too, such as the time he led the people of Jerusalem in praising God with songs and trumpets as the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

When God created people, He made them with a special heart so they could know and love Him. This isn't the heart that pumps blood through our body. This is something very different. We can't feel this heart inside of us in the same way as we feel the heart that beats in our chest. This heart is even more amazing! THIS heart will never die--it lives forever!

The Bible also calls this heart, a spirit or a soul. And it's in this very special heart that God reveals Himself to us. God's Holy Spirit works in our heart, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will work in our heart even more, making it brand new, and filling it with knowledge of Him and with more love for Him and others.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people with so they can know and love Him? *A heart.*
2. Is this special heart the one that we feel beat in our chest? If not, then what is it? *No. This heart is something very different from the one that pumps blood. We can't feel it or see it. And it will never die.*
3. What are other names the Bible calls this special heart? *Soul or spirit.*
4. What does God do in this very special heart? *He reveals Himself to us.*
5. What does God, the Holy Spirit do in this heart? *He is the one that works in our hearts, helping us to believe in God, turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
6. What kind of work does God do in our heart when we do turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? *He makes our heart brand new, filling it with more knowledge of Him and and more love for Him and for others.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**? *David loved God with all of his heart, as God meant us to love Him. David always longed to know God even more. He looked forward to the day when he did not just know God in his heart, but would live before Him in heaven.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."
This verse tells us that God created us with a soul--another word for this special heart-- that longs to know Him. It reminds us that only God can satisfy our heart and when we seek after Him, He satisfies our heart as much as a big glass of water satisfies us when we are thirsty, or a big, yummy meal satisfies us when we are hungry. And the better we know Him, the more joy we have.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being a God we can know. Praise God for being our Maker who wants us to know and love Him.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that we don't seek God as we should, even though He made us to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need Jesus to save us!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for not just making us to know and love Him, but helping us to know Him and know love, even when we don't seek Him! Thank Him for sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and for sending Jesus to save us.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to help us know Him better and help others to know Him, too. Ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know, love and obey God more and more.

Life Application Questions

1. What did God give you to know Him? *A heart.*
2. Who can help you seek and find God? *God's Holy Spirit.*
3. What can God's Holy Spirit do in your heart? *He can help you to believe in God, turn away from your sins, and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can make your heart brand-new, helping you know Him and giving you love for Him.*

The Gospel

1. God made us to know and love Him. But what must happen if we ARE to know and love Him?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Silly Grand March

Materials

CD and CD player
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they and their partner are to grab hands and sit down as quickly as possibly. The last pair to sit down become the Question Choosers for the class. If the class answers it correctly, then the pair is added back into the group immediately. If not, then the pair stays out until another round when a correct answer is given to a question. (Feel free to add back incorrectly answered questions into the bag).

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have the children who are "out" help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

Non-competitive Option

Don't exclude the Question Choosers from the game, even if class gets the wrong answer.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 10,11

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thou" mean? *Old English word for "you," often used to show respect to God.*
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? *We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He's talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on –or think about– in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.*
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? *A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people's hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.*
4. What does "naught" mean? *Another word for "nothing."*
5. What does "naught be all else to me, save that Thou art"? *There is nothing that means as much to him as God.*
6. What does it mean that God is his "best thought, by day or by night"? *God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.*
7. What does mean for God's presence to be your light? *Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.*
8. Was does it mean to ask God to be your "Wisdom"? *To not depend on your own understanding but on God's to know what is best. It also means asking God to show you what He thinks as wise, to help you believe it and do it.*
9. What does it mean to ask God to be your "true Word"? *It means to ask God to help you to believe in His Word., and help you desire to live by them in all you think, say and do.*
10. Who does the writer of the song want to always be with Him? *The Lord.*
11. Who is God a great Father to? *God is a great Father, not just to Jesus, but also to all of His people.*
12. Who is like a "true son" to God? *Not just Jesus, but all of God's people.*
13. How can we have God as our true Father? How can we be His true sons? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
14. Is true sons just talking about boys/men or does it include girls/women, too? *Yes. Sons means all people.*
15. How does God dwell in His people? *The Holy Spirit lives inside their hearts.*
16. What does it mean to be one with God? *It means to be in happy fellowship with Him in your heart; and, in agreement with what He wants.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?**

God reveals Himself by placing in all people a spirit (or special heart), by which we can know and love God. Those who seek after God and become His people (by turning from their sins and trusting in Jesus as their Savior) have the greatest joy of knowing and loving God in their hearts now. And, they will go on knowing and loving Him more and more for all eternity.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *David was a man after God's heart. Throughout the night and the day, David thought about God and how to please Him. Nothing else meant as much to David as the LORD.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:1,5:** "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Just like water satisfies our body's thirst, so our soul will only be satisfied by knowing the God who made us. Nothing else will do. No one else will satisfy us. He is our best thought by day or by night. He is the Lord of our heart.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to know. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our heart--helping us to trust Him as our Savior. And, continuing to work in our hearts that we might know and love Him more and more.*

2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our heart. Many times we want to do things our way instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to know and love Him, and be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them.

What is this amazing good news of God's love? How can we know it ourselves? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:1, 5 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:1 ESV

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who does the writer call God? What does that mean? *His God. That means that he worships God and wants to know, love and obey Him.*
2. What does it mean to earnestly seek God? *To be earnest about something to try hard to do it. The writer of this psalm is trying hard to seek God. He is trying hard to know God and live for Him.*
3. What does it mean for your soul to thirst after God and your flesh to faint for God, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water? *It doesn't mean that you need to drink a cup of water or you will faint! It is a word picture that tells us that this man really, really wanted to know God and that only God can satisfy him.*
4. What does it mean for your soul to be satisfied as with fat and rich food? *It means that knowing God is so wonderful and satisfying to your heart, just like a big meal of your favorite food is satisfying to your stomach.*
5. What does knowing God make the writer want to do with his lips? *Praise God joyfully.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?** *God gave us each a heart that desires to know and love Him. When we do know Him, He satisfies us in a way that nothing else can. The more we know Him, the more joy we have.*

Story Connection Questions

1. When did David thirst for God? *Many, many times in his life. As a believer, he thirsted each day for God. Especially during hard times, like when he had to flee from Absalom, he thirsted for God and found his joy and peace in God.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God become OUR God? How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
2. What can God give us when we earnestly seek Him? *He can satisfy our soul--give us the joy, rest and peace that we desire but can only find in Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the God who satisfies us with Himself.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *Confess that many times we don't turn to God to be satisfied and happy. We choose to go to other things or people to try to be satisfied instead. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *Thank God that He truly is most satisfying. Thank Him for sending Jesus to make the way for us to know God and be satisfied in Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse? *Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to satisfy our souls with Himself. We can ask Him to help us to know Him and the joy that comes only from knowing Him..*

Gospel Question

1. God made us to earnestly seek Him, but instead all of us have turned away from Him. Is there any hope for us? Yes, there is! What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Ball Circle Toss

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
Foam or other soft surface ball

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm's length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Alternative Game Version:

1. Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
2. No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O God, You Are My God: Psalm 63: 1,5

Refrain:

O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You,
 O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.
 My soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
 As in a dry and weary land, where there is no water. *Refrain*

My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you
 My soul will be satisfied, as with rich food,
 My soul will be satisfied, and my mouth will praise you.
Refrain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Song Game: Word Take Away**Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song
 White board and marker
 Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What did God call David and why? *God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God.*
2. What did David think about when he looked at the stars, the skies and the hills? *They all showed how great is the God who created them all. They declare His glory because He made them.*
3. What did David think about God when he was shepherd of his sheep? *That God is His shepherd, the One who takes care of him and gives him everything he needs.*
4. What good things did David enjoy when he became king of Israel? *A big family, a big palace, lots of servants and beautiful things. The best of everything there was.*
5. What happened to Israel's enemies when David was king? *The LORD helped David to win against them in battle.*
6. What did the people think of David when he was king? *They loved him and respected him.*
7. How did David show God that even as king that God was still most important in his heart? *David kept writing songs about the LORD. He led the people in worship of Him at the Tabernacle. He did not forget God when he received all these blessings.*
8. What was worship at the Tabernacle like? *Lots of priests, with different music instruments, making sacrifices to the LORD and leading the people in praises to Him.*
9. Which of David's son turned against David and what did he try to do? *Absalom. He tried to kill David and become king in his place.*
10. Where did David flee to? *The wilderness of Judah.*
11. What happened to David while he fled to the desert of Judah? *People yelled names at him and even threw stones.*
12. How did David show that he still loved God most of all when he was in the desert? *He still kept praising God. He still kept writing and singing songs to Him and trusting in Him.*
13. What did David look forward to happening when he died? *To being with the LORD forever.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him**? *David loved God with all of his heart, as God meant us to love Him. David always longed to know God even more. He looked forward to the day when he did not just know God in his heart, but would live before Him in heaven.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips." *David's heart thirsted after God like this. These are actually the part of a song he wrote when he was in the Wilderness of Judah. Nothing was better to David than knowing and loving God!*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the Giver of our hearts that we might know and love Him.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times when bad things happen to us, we are not like David. We get upset with God and do not trust Him. We need a Savior! Jesus!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for David's psalms to sing and praise God with. We can thank Him for giving us the beauties of this world to know what He is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts: to help us to love and know God, like David did. We can ask Him to help us to trust Him and keep praising Him, even when very hard things happen to us.*

Life Application Questions

1. What is something about David's heart that God's people can ask God to do in their hearts? *To give them hearts that deeply love and trust God, all the time—even when very hard things happen to them.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. Who did David look forward in faith for God to send, as He promised in the Bible?

Jesus, to the promised son of David's that would come one day to save His people.

2. What is the good news of salvation through Jesus?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

Materials

- 3 baskets
- A ball
- Paper and marker
- Masking Tape
- 20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review Questions to come up with 20+ statements about the story that are true, false, or not in the story.
2. Write the words "true", "false", and "not in the story" on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns making baskets and answering the questions.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Man After God’s Heart.

Our story takes place In the hills around Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, and in the wilderness of Judah. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus was born.

And now we present: “The Case of the Man After God’s Heart.”

Actions:

Scene 1:

God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God. As a shepherd boy, David would think about God as he looked up at the stars at night, as he looked at the sky and the hills during the day, and as he took care of his sheep.

Scene 2:

God made David king over all of Israel. He gave David a big family, a beautiful palace to live in, and lots of money. He gave David victory over all of Israel’s enemies until they did not attack Israel anymore. All the people loved and respected David. David did not forget God when he received all these blessings. He assigned 12,000 priests to lead the people in worshiping God in the Temple, to sing praises to Him and to teach the people to praise Him, too.

Scene 3

David had hard times, too. Absalom, his son, tried to take over his kingdom and kill him. David had to flee Jerusalem to keep from being killed. People yelled names at him and even threw stones. David’s heart did not grow hard towards God even then. He kept praising God. When David was old and about to die, his heart still loved God. He did not fear death but looked forward to worshiping God in His very presence.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** David had a heart wanted to know and love God so much that God called him a man after His own heart. No matter what happened to David, he still loved God.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Man After God's Heart.

Our story takes place In the hills around Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, and in the wilderness of Judah. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus was born.

The characters in our story are: David and his family, Sheep, People of Jerusalem, Enemies of Israel, Israelite soldiers, Absalom and his men; David's friends and enemies.

And now we present: "The Case of the Man After God's Heart."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God. As a shepherd boy, David would think about God as he looked up at the stars at night, as he looked at the sky and the hills during the day, and as he took care of his sheep.

Scene 2: (Middle)

God made David king over all of Israel. He gave David a big family, a beautiful palace to live in, and lots of money. He gave David victory over all of Israel's enemies until they did not attack Israel anymore. All the people loved and respected David. David did not forget God when he received all these blessings. He assigned 12,000 priests to lead the people in worshipping God in the Temple, to sing praises to Him and to teach the people to praise Him, too.

Scene 3: (End)

David had hard times, too. Absalom, his son, tried to take over his kingdom and kill him. David had to flee Jerusalem to keep from being killed. People yelled names at him and even threw stones. David's heart did not grow hard towards God even then. He kept praising God. When David was old and about to die, his heart still loved God. He did not fear death but looked forward to worshipping God in His very presence.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** David had a heart wanted to know and love God so much that God called him a man after His own heart. No matter what happened to David, he still loved God.

David's Harp

Description

Children will make a simple harp with rubber band strings.

Materials

White foam core board (30"x40" is best value), enough to cut out 1 of Template #1 for each child
OR Sheets of corrugated cardboard, purchased from office supply or shipping company, etc. (or lots of old boxes) need enough for TWO 8 ½" by 11" sheets per child. (2 pieces of cardboard are required to make body of harp strong enough)

NOTE: Foam core makes a lot prettier harp to decorate!

Razor blade or craft knife

Pen

8-32 2" long bolts, 8 per child

Matching 8-32 nuts for bolts, 16 per child

Rubber bands of varying gauges, 4 per child (plus extra for breakages)

Decorating supplies, such as markers, crayons, sequins, glitter glue, foam shapes, etc.

Glue

Preparing the Craft

1. Using Template #1, cut one out of foam core OR two out of cardboard per child out of the cardboard, if possible lay lines of cardboard in the direction of the arrows on the template. This will make for a stronger harp. Mark the inside of each piece of cardboard with an "X."
2. Use the pin or craft knife to bore 8 holes in the foam core/cardboard, as indicated by black dots on Template #1. If using the cardboard, line up the two pieces of cardboard so that the holes go through the same place in each piece.
3. Lay out decorating supplies, glue, nuts and bolts. KEEP THE RUBBER BANDS TO DISTRIBUTE LATER

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children decorate one or both sides of their foam core harp shapes. If using the cardboard, the children will decorate one side of each piece of cardboard, leaving the inner sides (marked with an "X" blank).
3. Have the children attach one nut to each of the 8 bolts, winding them up the threads until they are about 1/4" from the head. Then have them stick the bolt down through each hole (head side sticking up on the same side of harp), then wind the other nut on the bolt until the foam core/cardboard is firmly sandwiched between them. If using cardboard instead of foam core, have the children put the inner two pieces together, line up the holes, then thread the bolt and attach it.

NOTE: You may want to attach the first nut to the bolt ahead of time for the children; OR for the youngest children, you may want to attach the bolts for them. Also, do not screw the bolts down so tightly that it squashes into the harp—this will weaken it.

4. Children can now attach their rubber bands. Have them place them between the nut and the head on one side of the harp and stretch them across to the corresponding bolt on the other side. Each side of each rubber band can be tuned to its own pitch. Simply wind each side (separately) around the bolt, until you get the pitch you want. Also, different gauges and lengths of rubber bands make different sounds. Have the kids experiment.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did David think about God?

Everywhere he went.

2. What about God did David think about? How did David use his harp to express what he thought about God? *How wonderful He is. He made up songs about God. He played his harp as he sang them.*

3. Why did David keep singing and playing his songs of praise to God when he went through hard times?

Because he loved God most of all. He knew that no matter what he went through, God always loved him and would take care of him.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him?

God called David a man after His own heart because David sought to know and love Him, just as God created people to.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants us to seek after Him and sing His praises no matter what we go through, just like David did.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: David's Harp.

2. Everywhere he went, David sang and played praises about the wonderfulness of God on his harp because he loved God most of all. No matter what he went through he knew that God always loved him and would take care of him.

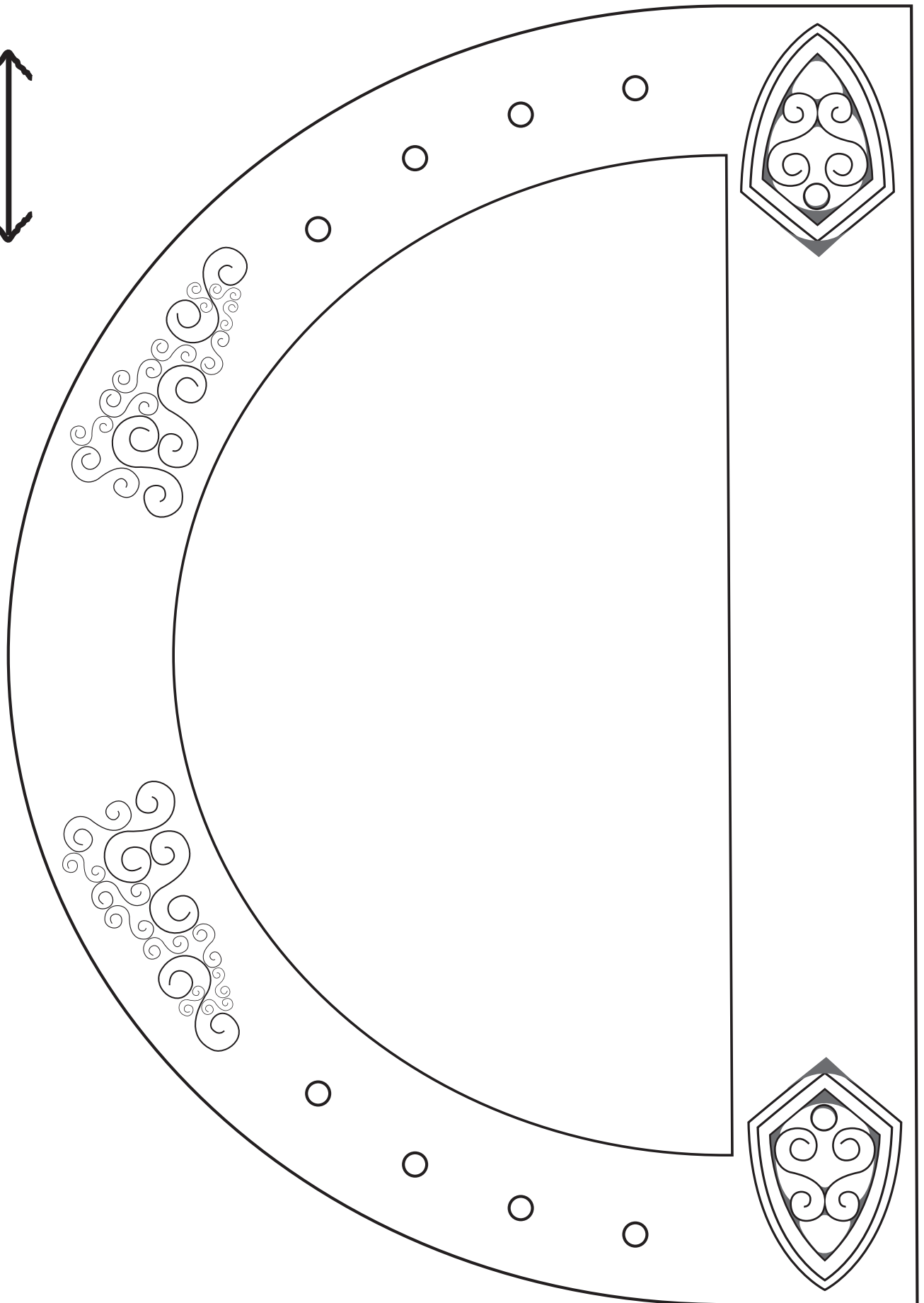
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

4. God called David a man after His own heart because David sought to know and love Him, just as God created people to.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us to seek after Him and sing His praises no matter what we go through, just like David did.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

direction of warp of cardboard



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. Clue Cards found at the back of this book.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Tape the picture and name of each VIPP to the wall, about 3 feet from the ground.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPPs, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for both VIPPS put in one bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

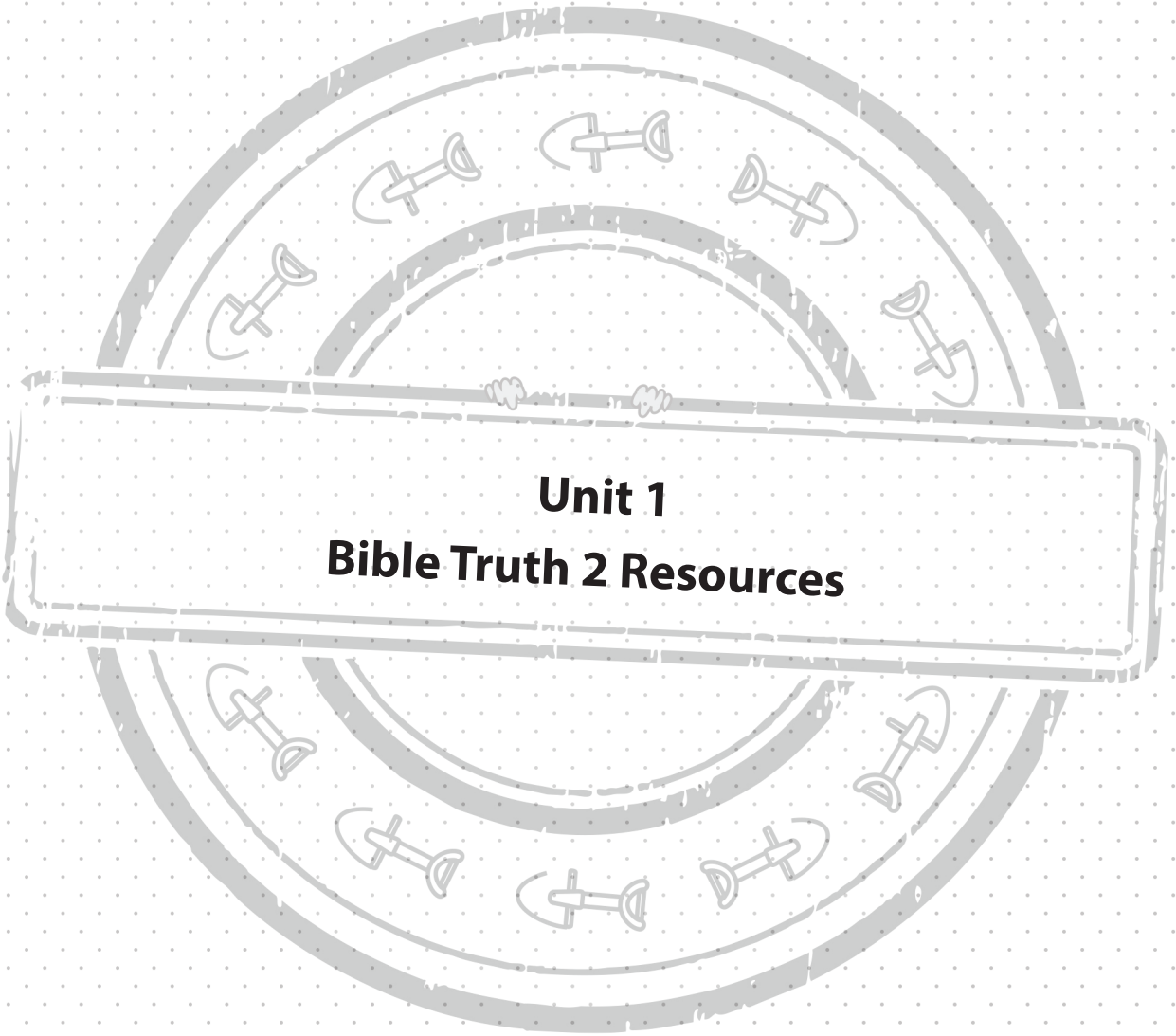
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



BIBLE TRUTH 2 OVERVIEW

UNIT 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Big Question and Answer: "How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like!"

Bible Verse: "For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought...The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name." Amos 4:13 ESV

Bible Truth 2 Concept: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 8:1,3-4 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 8:1 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for showing us many things about You as we look at all Your creations. You show Yourself to be powerful, beautiful, loving, infinite and so much more.
- C** God, we confess that we look at Your creations and enjoy them, but often forget to praise You for them or learn about You from them. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God for all that You show us about Yourself in Your creations. Thank You for making us able to look at Your creations and learn more about You. Thank You for wanting us to know You.
- S** God, use all Your creations to help us remember You, our Creator. Use them to teach us more about You. You created our hearts. Work in them that we might not just see You in Your many creations, but turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior and know You as our God.

Bible Truth 2 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Speaking Rain (Old Testament)

1 Kings 17:1-18:46

Lesson 2: The Case of the Chilly Camouflage (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Mysterious Messengers (New Testament)

Acts 14:8-23

1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>	
Big Question Under Investigation:	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Can I Know What God Is Like?</p> <p>"God made us. He wants us to know what He's like so we can know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him. We don't have to figure out what God is like by ourselves. We couldn't do that. So God shows us what He's like.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Can I Know What God Is Like?' is: God Shows Me What He's Like!</p>	
Big Question 1 and Songs	<p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s):</p> <p>Big Q & A 1 Song <i>(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")</i> How can I know what God is like, God is like, God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like? I have a very big question, A big question 'bout God. I have a very big question, It's Big Question Number One, I wanna know...</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Verse 1: He gave me a heart to know God, He made everything I see. Big tall mountains, galloping horses, Every little bird and bee. Everybody sing... <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: He gave us the Bible, His Word, To learn of His mighty deeds, But most of all, through Jesus, His Son, God shows Himself to me. Everybody sing.... <i>(Refrain)</i></p>	<p><i>choose one or both</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 3</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 4</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

**Unit 1
Bible Verse**

You may also enjoy some other versions this verse:
 He Who Declares His Thought
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6
 He Who Forms the Mountains
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7
 Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8
 For Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

“How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Amos 4:13 tells us: “For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares to man what is His thought...the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name.”

**Big Question 1 Bible Verse Song
The LORD Declares: Amos 4:13 ESV**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 Amos Four, thirteen.

“The LORD created everything--even us! He’s the one to declares to us what His thoughts are. That means He shows us what He’s like.”

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)

Bible Truth 2

“It’s time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We’re learning **FIVE** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God us what He’s like. We’ve learned one already. Can you remember what it is? It was God God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:
God’s Creations Tell Us about Him.

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God’s creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He’s like.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

<p>Bible Truth 2 Hymn</p>	<p>“Long ago, a man named Robert Grant was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to a hymn called “O Worship the King.” We’re going to learn a verse from it.”</p> <p>O Worship the King <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15</i></p> <p>Verse 3</p> <p>Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light, It streams from the hills, It descends to the plain, And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.</p> <p>“All of God’s creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.”</p>
<p>Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse and Song</p> <p>You may also enjoy: The Heavens Declare: Psalm 19:1-4, ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16</p>	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p> <p>Psalm 8:1,3-4</p> <p>“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”</p> <p>God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the “name” of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great! They display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God’s glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it’s amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!</p> <p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p> <p>O LORD, Our Lord <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16</i></p> <p>O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name! How majestic is your name in all the earth! O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name! How majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers, The moon and the stars that you have set in place, What is man? What is man? That you are mindful of him? And the son of man that you care for him? Psalm Eight, verses one, three and four.</p>

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Speaking Rain**

1 Kings 17:1-18:46

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Speaking Rain.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. How did the rain "speak"?**
- 2. What the rain "tell" the people of Israel?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. How did the rain "speak"? It showed who was the one, true God and who was not, as the LORD first withheld the rain, then brought it back, all at His command.

2. What the rain "tell" the people of Israel? That the LORD was the creator of the rain and everything else. He was the one, true God, not Baal, who they called the God of Rain and Lightning. They learned that they should turn back and worship the LORD.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Chilly Camouflage**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Chilly Camouflage**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. What was chilly? What was camouflaged?**
- 2. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. What was chilly? What was camouflaged? The snow was chilly. The widow's house was camouflaged.

2. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage? That He is in control of all things, including all creation. He is always able to rescue His people and can even use His creation to do it in remarkable ways.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

LESSON 3	
<p>New Testament Story:</p> <p>The Case of the Mysterious Messengers Acts 14:8-23</p>	<p>“Now it’s time for today’s story called: The Case of the Mysterious Messengers.</p> <p>As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who were the Mysterious Messengers? Who did the people of Lystra think they were? 2. What was the message they brought? How did they tell the people of Lystra that they could know it was true? <p><i>(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)</i></p> <p><i>Read story.</i></p> <p><i>After reading story, ask for the children’s answers to the questions.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who were the Mysterious Messengers? Who did the people of Lystra think they were? Paul and Barnabas. The Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes. 2. What was the message they brought? How did they tell the people of Lystra that they could know it was true They brought the good news of the one, true, living God who offers them salvation through Jesus. They told the people of Lystra that they could see what this one, true God was like in how He had provided for them in creation. <p><i>Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)</i></p>

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)*

Response Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTS Prayer Activity: Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer • Sneaky Snack: Story-related snack • Bible Truth Review Activity: Game with questions related to the Bible Truth • Bible Truth Hymn: Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn • Bible Verse Review Activity: Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse • Bible Verse Song: Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song • Story Review Activity: Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case • Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.: Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children. • Craft: Story-related craft • VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person): Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them. <p><i>(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)</i></p>
----------------------------	--

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class*

Presenting to Other Children	<p><i>If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.</i></p>
Presenting to Parents	<p><i>If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.</i></p>

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)*

PFI Pronto	<p><i>Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.</i></p>
-------------------	--

BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 2: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4

Bible Verse Song: O LORD, Our Lord *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16*

(Extra Bible Verse Song: The Heavens Declare PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 17)

Lesson 1 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Speaking Rain

1 Kings 17:1-18:46

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Altars of the Contest

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 14*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Ephesians 1:4-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Balancing Act

Bible Verse Song: The Heavens Declare: Psalm 8:1,3-4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Go Fish

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Withered Land of Mount Carmel

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Hit the Wall

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Speaking Rain 1 Kings 17:1-18:46

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Speaking Rain.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. How did the rain "speak"?
2. What the rain "tell" the people of Israel?

This story is a Old Testament story that takes place in Israel, about 900 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Mount Carmel. That name might not mean much to you. It is the name of a little mountain range in Israel, 1800 feet high, sixteen miles long and four miles wide, right near the Mediterranean Sea. No, that name might not mean much to you, but to the people of Israel, it was about the closest thing they had to paradise.

Unlike the rest of Israel, which was fairly dry and rainless except during the short rainy season, Mount Carmel stayed green all year round. Men took advantage of Mount Carmel's richness and planted vineyards all over its slopes. They named these mountains "Mount Carmel," meaning "Vineyards of God," because God certainly had blessed them with so much fruitfulness.

But, at the time of this story, Mount Carmel was brown and liveless. Its slopes had lost their greenness. the trees were leafless, the grass was dead. The grapevines were bare and dry. What had happened?! The prophet Elijah knew. It had to do with King Ahab's sin.

"King Ahab," Elijah said, "the LORD made you king over Israel. You should worship Him, but you have led the people to worship the fake god, Baal, instead! You worship him as the god of rain and lightning. You've built altars to him on the hilltops and even on Mount Carmel. You think he's the one who brings the rain that grows all your crops and makes your families and animals happy and healthy. But you're wrong! The LORD is the creator of all things and now He will prove it to you," Elijah told Ahab. "He is going to withhold rain from Israel for a few years. It will not come back until he says so. Then you will see that He, not Baal, is the one, true God."

Everything happened, just as Elijah said. No rain fell for the next two years. Plants didn't grow. Wells dried up. Some people and animals even died!

"Bring us rain, oh great Baal!" the prophets of Baal, King Ahab and the people prayed. They offered

sacrifices, too. But no matter how much they prayed or how many sacrifices they made on the altars, no rain came. The LORD was sending a message loud and clear through the rain – or lack of it. He, not Baal, was the one, true God. King Ahab and the people should turn back and worship Him alone. When they did, the rain would come.

At last the LORD spoke to Elijah: "It's time. The people are ready to repent. Go to Ahab. I'm going to make it rain."

King Ahab was far from happy to see Elijah. The king blamed all this trouble on him. "Why have you come here, you troublemaker?" he said to Elijah, when he appeared before him.

"I'm not the troublemaker. You are," Elijah replied. "You and your father's family turned away from the LORD and worshiped Baal instead. But now it's time for you to see that the LORD is the one, true God. Have all of the people of Israel and all the 450 prophets of Baal meet me up on top of Mount Carmel. There's going to be a showdown between Baal and the LORD up there."

The king sent the message throughout Israel. Before long, the prophets of Baal and all the people joined King Ahab and Elijah up on Mount Carmel.

"Is the LORD God or is Baal?" Elijah asked them all. "It's time for you to decide who you will worship."

The people just stood in silence.

"Get two bulls," Elijah told them. "The prophets of Baal can choose one to sacrifice to Baal. Let them cut it up and put it on the wood of Baal's altar, but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull, put it on the wood of the LORD's altar, but not set fire to it," he instructed.

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

They will call on the name of Baal and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire is the one, true God," Elijah told them.

Everyone agreed to the contest. The prophets of Baal prepared their bull and put it on the wood of Baal's altar, just as Elijah had told them too. They cried out to Baal from morning until noon. "Oh Baal, answer us!" they shouted, as they danced around his altar. But Baal did not answer.

At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely Baal is God! Perhaps he's sleeping and must be awakened. Or maybe he's thinking or busy."

So the prophets of Baal shouted louder and louder. They even cut themselves with swords, as they sometimes did when they worshiped Baal. Surely this supposed god of rain and lightning could send down a spare lightning bolt to light the fire. But no. Nothing happened.

At last it was Elijah's turn. "Come here to me," he told the people. They gathered near and watched as Elijah repaired the LORD's altar. He built it with twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel. He dug a deep trench all the way around the altar. He put wood on the altar, then cut his bull into pieces, and laid it on top.

"Fill four, large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood. Do this three times," he ordered. At last there was so much water that it ran down the altar and filled the trench. No ordinary fire would burn up this wet wood and offering!

Then Elijah prayed: "O LORD, accept this sacrifice. Answer me, Lord, so that the people will turn back and worship You, the one, true God."

Immediately, the LORD sent fire down and burned up not just the sacrifice and the wood, but the stones, the water in the trench and even the soil!

The people saw this and fell down to the ground, worshiping the LORD. "The LORD, He is God! Baal is just a fake god," they declared.

"Seize the prophets of Baal Don't let any get away!" Elijah commanded the people. The people quickly obeyed. These false prophets wouldn't get to tempt the people to turn away from the LORD anymore.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go, eat and drink! Celebrate! The LORD is going to send rain now. Heavy rain!"

As Ahab headed back to his palace in Jezreel, the sky began to change. First, only a tiny, black cloud was spotted in the distance. But before long, the wind began to blow and the whole sky became dark and stormy. Then whoosh! Down came the rain!

For over two years the rainless skies had proclaimed that it was the LORD, not Baal who was God. Now, the rain proclaimed that He was God, too. It drenched the earth and quenched the thirst of the people, the animals and even the dry slopes of Mount Carmel.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. How did the rain "speak"? It showed who was the one, true God and who was not, as the LORD first withheld the rain, then brought it back, all at His command.

2. What the rain "tell" the people of Israel? That the LORD was the one, true God, not Baal, who they called the God of Rain and Lightning. They learned that they should turn back and worship the LORD.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 8:1,3-4

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

The whole world is full of the majestic of the LORD. Everything in it was made by God and tell us something about Him. He has filled both heaven and earth with wonderful things for us to enjoy and from which we can learn about Him.

But what will we do when we see God's creations? Will we remember look for each can tell us about God and praise Him? Or, will we forget Him when we look at them? Too many times, we—like the Israelites, like all people—forget the LORD who made them all.

Let's praise the LORD now: the great God who shows us what He's like in all He's created. Let's ask Him to help us know Him better through His creations and always

remember to praise Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Creator of all things. We can see how wonderful You are in the many things You have made!

C God, we confess that we are sinners, just like the people of Israel. And, that even though we know about You and Your good ways, we still don't seek You as we should or could. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank you for telling us so much about You through Your creations. Thank You for being so merciful to the people of Israel long ago and to us. You want us to know and worship You!

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Use Your creations to help us know You better.

Special Words

Idol: An image of a (fake) god used as an object of worship.

Altar: A special place or structure, usually raised, where worship gifts to a god are made.

Vineyard: An area of land planted with grapevines, usually for producing wine.

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of a god.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for showing us many things about You as we look at all Your creations. You show Yourself to be powerful, beautiful, loving, infinite and so much more.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we look at Your creations and enjoy them, but often forget to praise You for them or learn about You from them. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for all that You show us about Yourself in Your creations. Thank You for making us able to look at Your creations and learn more about You. Thank You for wanting us to know You.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, use all Your creations to help us remember You, our Creator. Use them to teach us more about You. You created our hearts. Work in them that we might not just see You in Your many creations, but turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior and know You as our God.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Water and Worship Gifts

Use a graham cracker laid flat to make the altar's base. Put mini marshmallow "stones" on top, add pretzel sticks "wood" and an animal cracker "sacrifice." Things gets really, REALLY fun if you put this in the microwave and let the children watch, but don't keep it in very long. Empty cups (the drought) and later fill with water.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: The LORD showed Himself to be the one, true God. He withheld the water that Baal was supposed to provide and only He sent down fire for the worship gifts.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who do creations tell us and why? *Creations tell you about their creator. A creator makes things out of his own thoughts and abilities. When you see what someone makes, it tells you what they think about and what they are able to do.*
2. What do God's creations tell us about God? *The greatness of the universe tell us that He is even greater. The beauty and variety of flowers show us that He loves beauty and has never ending ability to think up new ways to make things. The perfection of how movement of the sun, moon, stars and planets show how amazingly wise He is.*
3. What does God love for us to use His creations to do? *To learn about Him and to praise Him for what He's like.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him**? What did God's creations tell King Ahab and the Israelites about the LORD? *That He is the true God over the rain, the lightning, the fire and everything else. He alone is to be worshiped.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!

Life Application Questions

1. What about God do we see from His creations that help God's people to trust His care for them? *He is powerful enough to create the whole world, so He is able to take care of them. He cares that even the smallest creatures are fed, He will takes care of their needs. He makes beautiful things for them to enjoy. He loves to delight us by giving us good things.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for His greatness, beauty, wisdom, kindness, etc. that we see when we look at His creations.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That though we see how good and great God through His creation, we all choose to rebel against Him and many times do not want to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth? *We can thank God for all the wonderful things He has created and all the pleasure we have in looking at them. We can thank God for letting us know some of what He is like as we look at His creations.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth? *We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to see what He is like and praise Him, as we look at His creations.*

The Gospel

1. God made all things for His pleasure, but we are sinners who have chosen to disobey Him! We deserve His eternal punishment for our disobedience. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Menagerie

Materials

Small Bag/Bowl
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into three or four teams, depending on how many children you have. Each group of children is given the name of an animal and is assigned a corner of the room. You are "It" and stand in the middle of the room. When everyone is ready, give instructions to different groups of animals, such as "I want the bears to change places with the monkeys." The bears and monkeys when then run to change places. You, as It, will try to tag bears and monkeys. Choose a question from the bag to read to your caught animals. If they get it right, they are released to be back with their fellow animals. If not, they must wait until another, correct answer to be released.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Do not exclude "caught" animals from the game, even if they get the answer wrong. Instead release them back to their fellow animals and put the question back in the bag for review again.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O Worship the King

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills,
It descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 14

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thy" mean? *"Thy" is the old English word for "Your."*
2. What does "bountiful" mean? *An overflowing amount of something, far more than expected or needed.*
3. What is God's care for His people like? *It is so bountiful—so overflowing—that the tongue cannot even recite (a person does not even have time to tell) all the ways He has cared for them.*
4. What "breathes in the air" and what does that mean? *God's care "breathes in the air." This is a beautiful way of saying that we see God's care by giving us the air we breathe in with each breath.*
5. What "shines in the light" and what does that mean? *God's care for us. God cares for us by giving us the light we and all living creatures need to live.*
6. How does God's care "stream from the hills and descend to the plain?" *God takes care of all the needs of His creations—animals, plants, birds, people—whether they live high on the hills or down on the lowland plains.*
7. What does "distill" mean? *To come from.*
8. How does God's care "distill in the dew and the rain?" *God gives the water that all living creatures need to live in the dew and the rain. God's great care for us shows in every dew drop and rain drop.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him?**
All of God's creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Israelites worshiped Baal like it was he whose bountiful care they lived in. They learned that it was the Lord, not Baal who gave them everything. Creation told of His rule, not Baal's.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them to see His care in everything in creation around us and give them grateful hearts that thank Him for it.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

God reveals His majestic name--the way He is-- in loving care for all His creation by providing them light from the heavens (the sun), as well as the rain and dew that is needed to grow the food that they need. We can look at all the ways that God cares for His creations and be amazed that someone so great cares so much for someone so small as us!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being full of care for all of His creations, especially us!

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God that His care of us is so great that our tongues cannot recite everything He has done!

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would give us grateful hearts and would help us see His bountiful care for the whole world. We can pray that God would work in our hearts and help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the greatest way God has cared for us!

Gospel Question

1. When we look at the how God waters the hills and plains so that all things can grow, we see a picture of God's care for us and the world He created. But the greatest way God has shown His care for us is not through the rain, it is through sending Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 8:1,3-4 ESV

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 8:1 ESV

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does majestic mean? *Amazing and grand.*
2. Who's name is majestic in all the earth? The LORD's.
3. Why is the LORD's name majestic in all the earth? Because He is the one that made everything. When we look at the things He has made, we see some of what He is like. His creations are so amazing that they point to how amazing the LORD, Himself, is.
4. This verse says that the heavens are the work of God's fingers? Does God really have fingers like us? *Jesus, the Son of God who became man, does have fingers. But that's not the point of these words. They are really just saying that God made the heavens.*
5. Why is it so amazing that God cares about us (man)? He is so great that He made the heavens...something so big that we can't even see the end of it! We are so tiny when compared to this great creation of God's. Yet, He has chosen to love us and care for us most of all.
6. Does the LORD just care for men and not women? No, this verse is using the word man to mean all people.

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?** *God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did God use the heavens to declare His name to the Israelites? *By not allowing the rain to fall until He (the LORD) commanded it to, so that all would know He is God over all, even the rain. Not Baal.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people use all of God's creations in heaven and earth to praise Him? *By looking at it and seeing all the different things about God and His name (the way He is) that they each reflect.*
2. How can God's people use God's creation to encourage them in hard times? *By looking at it and all of God's wisdom and powerful and goodness it reflects and reminding themselves that it is this same God who loves and cares for them.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Revealer of Himself through all things He's created.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Confess that many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for all the wonderful and beautiful ways He shows us what He is like in everything we see that He has made.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Gospel Question

1. How has the LORD shown how much He cares about man --about people-- most of all? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

Game: Cross the Raging River

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

Two yardsticks or long pieces of rope

Preparing the Game

Make up some questions about the verse and/or story (use the Bible verse Discussion and Story Review Discussion Questions).

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.

2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children line up in a straight line behind the leader. Explain to them that there's a river to cross and they get to jump the bank without getting wet. Each child will say the verse and then jump across the two yardsticks/ropes lying next to each other on the floor. After each round, the sticks/ropes will be separated by more space, making it a wider river to jump across. As the river gets wider, some children will not make it but "fall in". Explain to them that they are stuck in the river unless they can answer a question (that you make up) about the Bible verse or the story. Feel free to let a child "stuck in the river" ask another child for a "lifeline" and help them answer their question.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Caution: Avoid accidents by not letting the "river" get too wide.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

O LORD, Our Lord

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
 The moon and the stars that you have set in place,
 What is man? What is man?
 That you are mindful of him?
 And the son of man that you care for him?

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What did King Ahab do to provoke the LORD to anger? *He worshiped Baal and led the people in worshiping him, too.*
2. Of what was Baal supposed to be the god? *The god of rain, storms, and everything good.*
3. Why did the LORD choose to not make it rain for two years to make the point that He was the true God? *Because it showed that He, not Baal, really had power over the Rain and everything else.*
4. What did Elijah challenge the prophets of Baal to do? *To prove that Baal was the real god by sending fire down from heaven to burn up a sacrifice.*
5. How many prophets of Baal were there? *450 prophets of Baal.*
6. Where did the contest take place? *On the top of Mt. Carmel.*
7. What did the prophets of Baal do when Baal did not answer them? *They danced and cut themselves; they shouted loudly to him.*
8. Why did Elijah have to fix the LORD's altar? *Because it had not been used for so long.*
9. Why was the altar made from 12 stones? *One stone for each of the 12 tribes of Israel—all of the Israelites.*
10. What was different about how Elijah prepared the LORD's altar for the sacrifice? *He had lots of water poured all over the sacrifice and the altar.*
11. Why did Elijah want water poured on the altar? *To show that even with water on it, the LORD would still send fire down to burn up the sacrifice, even though water usually makes it harder to make fire.*
12. How did the LORD answer Elijah's prayer for fire? *He sent down a huge amount of fire that burned up not just the sacrifice, but the wood and stones and water as well.*
13. What did the Israelites do after the LORD sent fire? *They bowed down and exclaimed that the LORD was the one, true God.*
14. What happened to the prophets of Baal? Why was that important? *They were killed so that they could not lead the people astray anymore.*
15. Why did Elijah tell King Ahab to celebrate? *Because at last the LORD was sending rain.*
16. Why did Elijah bow down to the ground? *To pray to the LORD and ask Him to send the rain.*
17. How did God show Himself in His creation in this story? *That He, not any other idol, is the powerful God over the rain and everything else.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him**? *Rain fell only when the LORD told it to. Fire fell from heaven only when He told it to. Creation showed that He alone is the true God.*

Life Application Questions

1. What does God want His people to do when they see His creation? *He wants them to see what He is like, that they would enjoy Him, know Him and praise Him more.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"
The heavens showed that they were the work of the LORD's hand, not Baal's, by the fact that they did not bring rain until the LORD commanded it to rain. The LORD used the skies in this way to show the Israelites that He was the one, true God and they should turn back and worship Him.

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise Him for being the true Creator of all things.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that we are sinners, just like the Israelites. And, that even though we even know about the LORD and His good ways, that we still do not seek Him as we know we should. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for being so merciful that He wouldn't just punish His sinful people, but would help them to repent of their sins and come back to worship Him. We can thank Him for offering forgiveness even to us, today, through Jesus..*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to worship and love Him as the One, True God. We can ask Him to help us to see His greatness in His creations around us.*

The Gospel

1. How are we like the Israelites in this story? *Like the Israelites we are sinners, who chose to live life our own way. Maybe we don't bow down to idols, but we many times choose to not worship the LORD and obey His good ways.*
2. God's just punishment for sinners is eternal punishment, away from Him and everything good forever! Is there any hope for sinners? What is the gospel?
Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Go Fish

Materials

Broom stick or pole
String
U-shaped magnet
Paper clips, 1 per question
Construction paper
Scissors
Basket/Pail
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Cut out fish (different sizes and shapes, if desired), one per question. Write a question on each fish. And assign a point value to each fish based on difficulty. Attach a paper clip to the mouth of each fish. Place the fish in the basket. Attach the magnet to one end of the string and the pole to the other end.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns catching fish by hooking them with the magnet and the paper clip. The question is then read to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the fish. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team for a possible one point.

Play continues as questions last, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns catching fish and answering the questions together.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Speaking Rain.

Our story takes place in Israel, up on Mt. Carmel. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 900 years before Jesus came to earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Speaking Rain."

Actions:

Scene 1:

King Ahab provoked the LORD to anger by worshiping Baal, the god of rain, lightning and fire, instead of the LORD. He made a temple to Baal and set up altars on many hills for the Israelites to worship him, too. The prophet Elijah brought the LORD's word to King Ahab that Israel would not have rain for two years because of his sin. Ahab did not repent. For two years, no rain fell. Crops withered, animals and people died. The LORD was showing that He, not Baal, was the one, true God. He alone should be worshipped.

Scene 2:

After the two years, Elijah appeared before King Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel to prove whether Baal or the LORD was the true God. The prophets of Baal set up their sacrifice on the altar to Baal and began to pray to him. When nothing happened they began to shout and even cut themselves to try to get him to answer them. Still nothing happened. Elijah repaired the stones of the LORD's altar, placed the bull on it and had it flooded with water. Elijah prayed and the LORD sent down fire and everything, even the rocks were burned up. The Israelites worshiped the LORD and the prophets of Baal were killed.

Scene 3

Elijah told King Ahab to celebrate because the LORD would soon send rain. Elijah bowed down and prayed to the LORD. King Ahab hurried back to his palace. At first only a tiny, black cloud appeared, but soon it was pouring with rain. The LORD had used the skies once more to show that He, not Baal, was the one, true God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** Rain fell only when the LORD told it to. Fire fell from heaven only when He told it to. God's creation showed that He is their Maker and He alone is the one, true God. This helped the people of Israel turn away from worshiping Baal and turn back to worship the LORD.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Speaking Rain.

Our story takes place in Israel, up on Mt. Carmel. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 900 years before Jesus came to earth.

“The characters in our story are: Baal, King Ahab, Elijah, the LORD, the Prophets of Baal, and the Israelites.

And now we present: “The Case of the Speaking Rain

Scene 1: (Beginning)

King Ahab provoked the LORD to anger by worshiping Baal, the god of rain, lightning and fire, instead of the LORD. He made a temple to Baal and set up altars on many hills for the Israelites to worship him, too. The prophet Elijah brought the LORD’s word to King Ahab that Israel would not have rain for two years because of his sin. Ahab did not repent. For two years, no rain fell. Crops withered, animals and people died. The LORD was showing that He, not Baal, was the one, true God. He alone should be worshipped.

Scene 2: (Middle)

After the two years, Elijah appeared before King Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel to prove whether Baal or the LORD was the true God. The prophets of Baal set up their sacrifice on the altar to Baal and began to pray to him. When nothing happened they began to shout and even cut themselves to try to get him to answer them. Still nothing happened. Elijah repaired the stones of the LORD’s altar, placed the bull on it and had it flooded with water. Elijah prayed and the LORD sent down fire and everything, even the rocks were burned up. The Israelites worshiped the LORD and the prophets of Baal were killed.

Scene 3: (End)

Elijah told King Ahab to celebrate because the LORD would soon send rain. Elijah bowed down and prayed to the LORD. King Ahab hurried back to his palace. At first only a tiny, black cloud appeared, but soon it was pouring with rain. The LORD had used the skies once more to show that He, not Baal, was the one, true God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s Creations Tell Us about Him.** Rain fell only when the LORD told it to. Fire fell from heaven only when He told it to. God’s creation showed that He is their Maker and He alone is the one, true God. This helped the people of Israel turn away from worshiping Baal and turn back to worship the LORD.

Withered Land of Mt. Carmel

Description

Children will make a sand picture of the withered land around Mt. Carmel.

Materials

Brown, black, yellow, blue, orange, red, grey, beige colored sands

Glue and sponge pieces (for spreading the glue) OR Glue sticks

Toothpicks, one per child (optional)

Cookie sheets with low sides (optional)

Paper towels

Pieces of thin cardboard, like cereal boxes or poster board, one per child (optional)

Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of Mt. Carmel scene (Template #1) onto cardstock, one per child.
2. Set out sands in bowls for all children to easily access them.
3. Set out glue and sponge pieces; or glue sticks.
4. Set out a cookie sheet in front of each child's place and place their pictures in it.
5. You may want to have wet paper towels on hand, for easy clean up of gluey hands.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
 2. Have children glue a section of the picture that will be a particular color sand.
 3. Have them sprinkle the sand over that portion of their picture, letting the excess fall onto the cookie sheet (and saving you a lot of clean up time!!)
 4. Continue the process of gluing and sand-sprinkling until finished.
- NOTE: Different effects can be made by sprinkling one base color and then adding sprinkles of another color on top; or, by using the end of a toothpick to make swirls in the sky, hatch marks on the mountains, strips on the snake, etc.
5. Children may find it easier to transport sand pictures home the next week when they've dried thoroughly; or, you can cut pieces of the light cardboard to support their work as they take it home that day.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. In what surprising place in Israel was the land dry and withered? *Mt. Carmel.*
2. Whose sin led to this drought? Who brought the drought on the land? *King Ahab's sin of worshiping Baal led to the drought. The LORD was the one who caused no rain to fall.*
3. What did the LORD show King Ahab and the people of Israel through His control over the drought? *That He, not Baal, was the one, true God. They should turn away from their sins and worship Him alone.*
4. What is Bible Truth 2, that we are learning? *God's Creations Tell Us about Him.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him? *God used the drought that withered even the land on Mt. Carmel to show King Ahab and all the Israelites that He, not Baal, was God over all creation; and, to encourage them to turn back and worship Him, for their good and His glory.*
6. What can the Withered Land of Mt. Carmel help us remember? *God made all of creation to show us who He is and what He is like.*

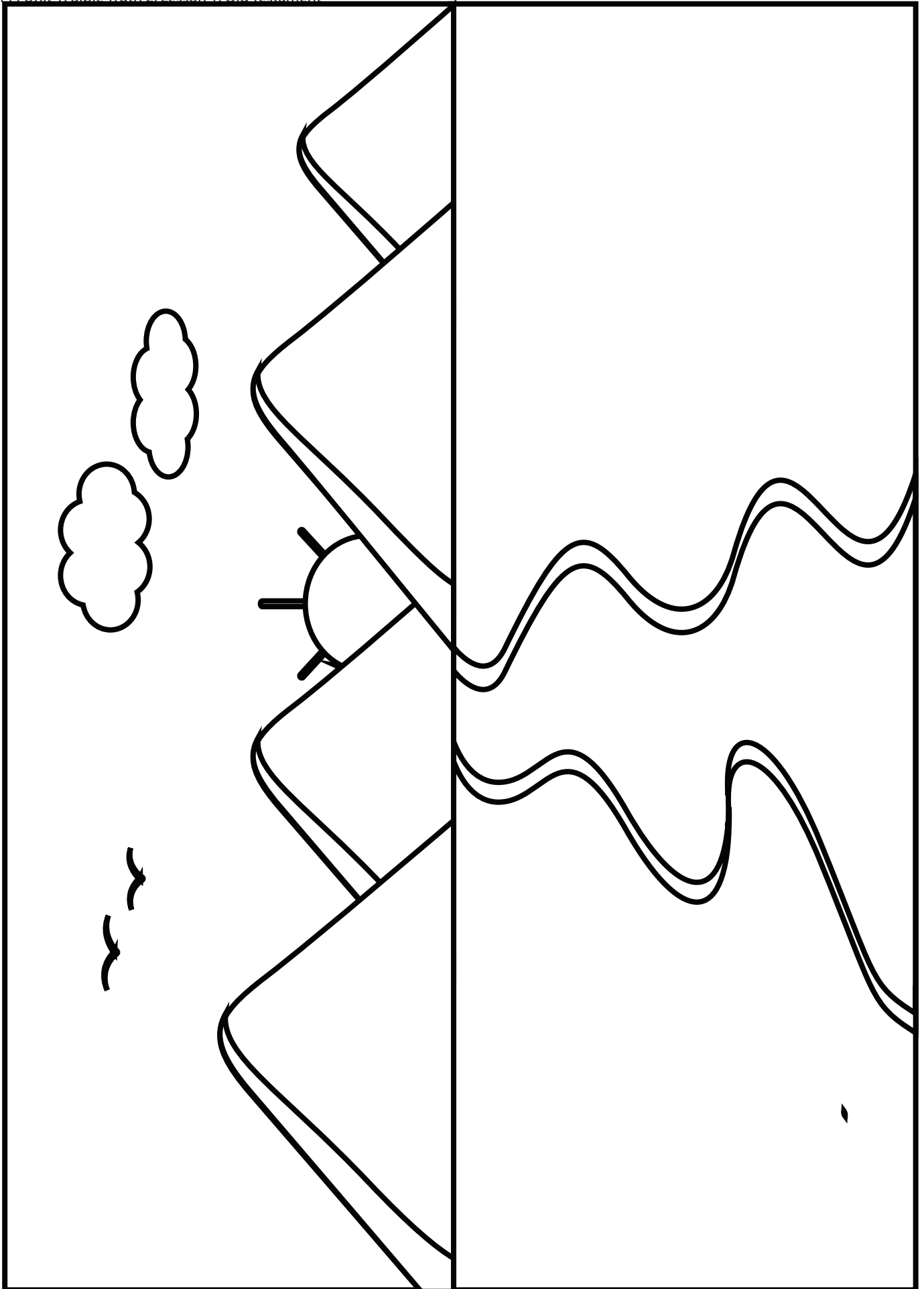
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is Withered Land of Mt. Carmel.
2. In Israel, the LORD brought a drought upon all the land that even withered the land on Mt. Carmel. He did this to show King Ahab and all the Israelites that He, not Baal, was God over all creation.
3. Bible Truth 2 is: How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like...God's Creations Tell Us about Him.
4. Baal was worshiped as the God of Rain and Thunder by Ahab and the Israelites, but the LORD was the real Giver of them. They should have worshiped Him. The LORD used His control over the rain and thunder to show the Israelites that He—not Baal—was Creator. They should worship Him alone.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God made all of creation to show us who He is and what He is like.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in the their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Hit the Wall

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape the envelopes to the wall.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be aimed at.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 2: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4

Bible Verse Song: O LORD, Our Lord *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16*

(Extra Bible Verse Song: The Heavens Declare PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 17)

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Chilly Camouflage

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Hidden House Under a Snowy Mound

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Inspecting the Troops

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 19:1-4: Discussion Sheet and Game: Duck, Duck, Goose

Bible Verse Song: The Heavens Declare *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Windsock Wall Ball

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Storm of Snowflakes

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Beanbag Toss In

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Chilly CamouflageAdapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old*, vol. IV, compiled by Joel Beeke**Our story is called:****The Case of the Chilly Camouflage.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was chilly? What was camouflaged?
2. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1890's, just outside of Stralsund, a great city on the cold, northern coast of Germany. Stralsund was called the jewel of the Baltic Sea in those days. It was an important center for ship-building and trading. From Stralsund, it was easy to sail up to Russia for buy animal furs for coat-making; or, to other parts of Europe to sell fish and salt. The Kings of Sweden, Prussia and Pomerania fought each other for the great city. In battle after battle, they would send in their troops into Stralsund. Each time, many people would be hurt and everything they owned destroyed. Everyone dreaded these wars.

In a little cottage on the edge of Stralsund lived an old woman named Bertha Schmidt. Some would say Bertha had a hard life. Her husband had died. She was old and was often sick or in pain. She would be all alone in the world, if it were not for her son, Karl who lived with her and cared for her.

Bertha was grateful for Karl, but she was even more grateful for someone else--the Lord! Bertha knew and loved Him. She trusted Him to care for her every day of her life, and so, her heart was filled with joy.

One summer, Karl met and fell in love with a wonderful girl. A few months later, on a chilly winter's day, Karl married her. After the ceremony, Bertha, Karl and his bride returned to Bertha's cottage to celebrate.

The next morning should have been the bright beginning of their lives together, but it was not.

"Enemy soldiers are on the move!" spread the terrible news. "They're headed for Stralsund! They'll be here anytime! Prepare your homes and families!"

The day passed in watchful fear as everyone waited for the soldiers. As the sun went down, the people were still waiting and watching. As the night dragged on, a new problem arose. A terrible snowstorm struck the

city. How cold it would be for those who lost their homes when the soldiers came and attacked. Who could possibly survive all of this?

But how was it within the widow's cottage? Karl barricaded the doors and windows to try to keep the soldiers out. But they knew it was really hopeless. A few boards with nails in them were no match for the soldiers coming through. They would have no problem busting in or setting the whole cottage on fire. So at last, Karl sat down next to his frightened wife and waited. There was nothing else he could do. He felt so helpless.

But Bertha Schmidt disagreed. She knew where hope and help was to be found--with the Lord! He could take care of them, even when everything looked hopeless! She sat in her chair, looking down at the words in her little hymnal and soaking in the truths she read. After a while she looked up with a big smile on her face, as she repeated aloud what she had read: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear."

"What do you say, mother?" replied Karl, "Is your faith as strong as that? Do you really expect God will build a wall round our poor hut, strong and high enough to keep out an army? I wish I could believe it right now. It is terrible to wait for the soldiers as worried and fearful as I am," he confessed.

"Hasn't my son read that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the will of our Father; that faith has stopped the mouths of lions, and turned aside the edge of the sword?" Bertha replied.

Karl knew those truths, but his heart had a hard time finding comfort in them now that soldiers were

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

coming. Would the Lord really rescue them like He did in those Bible stories from long ago?

Just before midnight, there was a lull in the storm. "Dong, dong," the town clock struck midnight. At the same moment, from the opposite direction, the faint sound of the drums and pipes of the enemy soldiers could be heard. The terrible hour had come at last!

The little family drew closer together, holding hands. Karl and his wife became even more fearful, but not Bertha Schmidt. She squeezed her son's hand and again repeated: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear." Bertha kept trusting in the Lord, even then.

The music drew nearer, and now they could hear the sound of marching feet and the fire of guns. There was the sound of people crying and the crackling of flames and the crash of falling houses. It was so sad! All around them the soldiers were destroying Stralsund! Karl and the two women waited for the soldiers to start in on their little cottage; but no one ever came, as if angels were encamping around it.

At long last, the music grew faint, the shooting stopped, and the sound of marching feet could be heard no more. Everything became completely silent. Bertha, Karl and his wife sat there and kept listening. Finally after a few hours, Karl dared to open one of the boarded up window shutters and look outside. As he opened the shutter, to his amazement all he could see was snow! The storm in the night had dropped so much snow that it had heaped up to the very top of the window!

Cautiously Karl next opened the door, but here again a wall of snow met his view, and he had to dig his way through it to get to open air. Pulling himself through his tunnel of snow and up onto the ground he stood in astonishment at what he saw. Huge drifts of snow had completely surrounded the cottage, and made it in appearance a mere mound of snow. There was no sign of the cottage. Not even the steep roof or the chimney stuck out the top to give a clue of the little house that lay beneath the snow, like hidden treasure. It was exactly as his mother had believed: they had, indeed, been hidden by a "wall," kept safe from all their enemies.

ow looked out upon the mounds of snow and rejoiced in her heart.

Bertha Schmidt was a woman who knew and loved God. Each day of her life she had seen God's goodness and care for her. She had trusted Him, even with these enemies all around. But never had Bertha seen anything like this! God had even created a snowstorm and used His complete control over it to save her little family and to reveal to them His mighty power and faithfulness to them. Bertha praised God and wept for joy. "Faithful is He who has promised. He also has done it," she exclaimed. Karl and his wife completely agreed!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

- 1. What was chilly? What was camouflaged?** The snow was chilly. The widow's house was camouflaged.
- 2. What did the Lord show about Himself through the camouflage?** That He is in control of all things, including all creation. He is always able to rescue His people and can even use His creation to do it in remarkable ways.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 8:1,3-4

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Bertha Schmidt and her little family got to see how majestic God's name is in both the earth and the skies. God showed that He is a greater protector than any enemy His people may face.

But did Bertha's faith in God begin with that snowstorm? No, it didn't. It began much earlier when Bertha heard the wonderful good news of salvation through Jesus, turned from her sins and trusted in Him as her Savior. And since that day, God's Holy Spirit had been at work in her heart, helping her to know and to

trust Him more and more. So when the day of trouble came, Bertha didn't fear. She trusted and rejoiced in God.

Each day you and I have the same choice as Bertha. We can choose to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to forgive our sins and send His Holy Spirit to work in our heart—just like He did in Bertha.

Let's praise our wonderful God who is Creator over all things and uses even things like snowstorms to take care of them! Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might trust Jesus as our Savior, just like Bertha Schmidt did!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so faithful to take care of Your people. We praise You for being the Powerful Creator who controls all of nature and uses it to do all of His good will.

C God, we confess that many times we don't have faith like Bertha. We worry and are afraid. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank you for always being faithful to take care of Your people. We thank You that there is never anything that we need to be afraid of when we are trusting in You.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust in you, like Bertha did.

Special Words

Camouflage: Being hidden by something that causes you to be unseen because it blends in with your surroundings.

Pomerania: The name of a country in Europe that is now a part of Germany and Poland.

Prussia: The name of a country in Europe that is now a part of Germany and Poland.

Widow: A woman whose husband has died.

Quail: To Tremble (with fear).

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for showing us many things about You as we look at all Your creations. You show Yourself to be powerful, beautiful, loving, infinite and so much more.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we look at Your creations and enjoy them, but often forget to praise You for them or learn about You from them. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for all that You show us about Yourself in Your creations. Thank You for making us able to look at Your creations and learn more about You. Thank You for wanting us to know You.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, use all Your creations to help us remember You, our Creator. Use them to teach us more about You. You created our hearts. Work in them that we might not just see You in Your many creations, but turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior and know You as our God.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: The Hidden House under a Snowy Mound

Place a strawberry, tip up, on the plate. This is the house. Cover it with a snowy mound of whipped cream, pudding or ice cream.

Case Tie-in: Bertha believed that the Lord could protect her and her family from the soldiers, though she didn't know how. The Lord answered her prayers with the snow that covered up her little house. He used the snow to show Bertha's son and wife as well as Bertha that He is always powerful to save.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who do creations tell us and why? *Creations tell you about their creator. A creator makes things out of his own thoughts and abilities. When you see what someone makes, it tells you what they think about and what they are able to do.*
2. What do God's creations tell us about God? *The greatness of the universe tell us that He is even greater. The beauty and variety of flowers show us that He loves beauty and has never ending ability to think up new ways to make things. The perfection of how movement of the sun, moon, stars and planets show how amazingly wise He is.*
3. What does God love for us to use His creations to do? *To learn about Him and to praise Him for what He's like.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him**? What did God's creations tell Bertha Schmidt about God? *That He was the all-powerful Creator that could use it however He wanted to care for His children.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"
God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!

Life Application Questions

1. What about God do we see from His creations that help God's people to trust His care for them? *He is powerful enough to create the whole world, so He is able to take care of them. He cares that even the smallest creatures are fed, He will takes care of their needs. He makes beautiful things for them to enjoy. He loves to delight us by giving us good things.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for His greatness, beauty, wisdom, kindness, etc. that we see when we look at His creations.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That though we see how good and great God through His creation, we all choose to rebel against Him and many times do not want to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth? *We can thank God for all the wonderful things He has created and all the pleasure we have in looking at them. We can thank God for letting us know some of what He is like as we look at His creations.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth? *We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to see what He is like and praise Him, as we look at His creations.*

The Gospel

1. God made all things for His pleasure, but we are sinners who have chosen to disobey Him! We deserve His eternal punishment for our disobedience. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Inspecting the Troops

Materials

Crown (if desired)
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Tell the children that they are the Queen's/King's soldiers and are to follow her/his every command. Have the soldiers march, pretend to hold out their swords, ride their horses, etc. Then, finally have them stand at attention, very still and showing no emotion. Tell them that you are the Queen/King and have come to inspect the troops. (Put on the crown). You have to remove anyone who is not very straight and still, and show no emotion. As you inspect the troops, make faces or say things to try to get the troops to break into a smile, etc. Watch them for movement. Whoever breaks a smile or moves, etc. told to step forward and must answer a question to be reinstated to the Troops. If it is just one soldier, he/she may choose two other soldiers to help them answer the question. If the soldier (and the soldiers he chose to help him) answer the question correctly, everyone goes back into the line. If they get it wrong, they must wait out one turn. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the king/queen.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have the children who remain out help you to give commands to the troops.

Non-competitive Option

Don't exclude the soldiers from the Troops, even if they get the wrong answer. Do put the answer back in the bag to be reviewed again.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O Worship the King

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills,
It descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thy" mean? *"Thy" is the old English word for "Your."*
2. What does "bountiful" mean? *An overflowing amount of something, far more than expected or needed.*
3. What is God's care for His people like? *It is so bountiful—so overflowing—that the tongue cannot even recite (a person does not even have time to tell) all the ways He has cared for them.*
4. What "breathes in the air" and what does that mean? *God's care "breathes in the air." This is a beautiful way of saying that we see God's care by giving us the air we breathe in with each breath.*
5. What "shines in the light" and what does that mean? *God's care for us. God cares for us by giving us the light we and all living creatures need to live.*
6. How does God's care "stream from the hills and descend to the plain?" *God takes care of all the needs of His creations—animals, plants, birds, people—whether they live high on the hills or down on the lowland plains.*
7. What does "distill" mean? *To come from.*
8. How does God's care "distill in the dew and the rain?" *God gives the water that all living creatures need to live in the dew and the rain. God's great care for us shows in every dew drop and rain drop.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him?**

All of God's creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Bertha Schmidt saw God's bountiful care for her in many ways. She knew His care in the past and believed He would be faithful to take care of her against the soldiers. God even used His creation (a snowstorm) to show His faithfulness to her*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them to see His care in everything in creation around us and give them grateful hearts that thank Him for it.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

God reveals His majestic name--the way He is-- in loving care for all His creation by providing them light from the heavens (the sun), as well as the rain and dew that is needed to grow the food that they need. We can look at all the ways that God cares for His creations and be amazed that someone so great cares so much for someone so small as us!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being full of care for all of His creations, especially us!

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God that His care of us is so great that our tongues cannot recite everything He has done!

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would give us grateful hearts and would help us see His bountiful care for the whole world. We can pray that God would work in our hearts and help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the greatest way God has cared for us!

Gospel Question

1. When we look at the how God waters the hills and plains so that all things can grow, we see a picture of God's care for us and the world He created. But the greatest way God has shown His care for us is not through the rain, it is through sending Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, “It.” who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When “It” says “Pass the Secret Sign”, the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When “It” says “Stop the Passing!” the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of “It”, watch the child with the card do the sign, then have “It” guess the name of the sign. (If desired, “It” can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes “It.” Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 8:1,3-4 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 8:1 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does majestic mean? *Amazing and grand.*
2. Who's name is majestic in all the earth? The LORD's.
3. Why is the LORD's name majestic in all the earth? Because He is the one that made everything. When we look at the things He has made, we see some of what He is like. His creations are so amazing that they point to how amazing the LORD, Himself, is.
4. This verse says that the heavens are the work of God's fingers? Does God really have fingers like us? *Jesus, the Son of God who became man, does have fingers. But that's not the point of these words. They are really just saying that God made the heavens.*
5. Why is it so amazing that God cares about us (man)? He is so great that He made the heavens...something so big that we can't even see the end of it! We are so tiny when compared to this great creation of God's. Yet, He has chosen to love us and care for us most of all.
6. Does the LORD just care for men and not women? No, this verse is using the word man to mean all people.

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?** *God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does our story fit in with our Bible Verse? *God protected Bertha from sending a snow storm down from the skies in answer to her prayers. Not just Bertha but also her son and daughter in law could see how God proclaimed God's greatness through that storm.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people use all of God's creations in heaven and earth to praise Him? *By looking at it and seeing all the different things about God and His name (the way He is) that they each reflect.*
2. How can God's people use God's creation to encourage them in hard times? *By looking at it and all of God's wisdom and powerful and goodness it reflects and reminding themselves that it is this same God who loves and cares for them.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Revealer of Himself through all things He's created.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Confess that many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for all the wonderful and beautiful ways He shows us what He is like in everything we see that He has made.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Gospel Question

1. The skies proclaim God's glory. They point us to their Creator, God. But what is the good news about Jesus that we need to hear if we are to know and enjoy God forever? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Duck, Duck, Goose

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children sit in a circle, cross-legged on the floor. Choose a child to be "it". "It" will walk around behind the seated children, tapping each one on the head, the whole group recites the verse, saying one word for each head tap. The child whose head is the last one to be tapped must get up and chase "It", hoping to tag "It" before "It" can get around the circle and sit down in the open spot in the circle. If the child does tag "It" then he may take his place in the circle. If not, then the new child is "It." Repeat as frequently as desired.

Game continues until all children are out; or, as time and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

O LORD, Our Lord

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
 The moon and the stars that you have set in place,
 What is man? What is man?
 That you are mindful of him?
 And the son of man that you care for him?

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 17

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What sadness did Bertha Schmidt have? *Husband was dead. Her body was old and sick.*
2. What did Bertha see that reminded her of God and made her glad? *The beauty of her garden, reminded her of Her Creator who cares for her. Her son's love reminded her of God's love and care for her.*
3. What happy change happened to Karl? *He got married.*
4. What news did they get the morning after they were married? *Soldiers were coming to attack and burn the city.*
5. What did Karl do to prepare for the soldiers? *Board up the windows and hide inside the house.*
6. How did Karl and his wife react to the news of the soldiers' attack? *Worried and scared.*
7. How did Bertha Schmidt react differently to the news about the soldiers than Karl and his wife? *She prayed and trusted that God would deliver them and protect them.*
8. What did Bertha read that helped her to trust that God would deliver them? *Bertha read her hymnal and found comfort in a phrase: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear." She believes God will do this for them.*
9. Why didn't Karl believe like his mother? *Maybe he didn't believe in God. But maybe he did believe in God, but was being tempted to worry.*
10. What did the soldiers do when they came to Stralsund? *They attacked it and burned it down.*
11. How did God answer Bertha's prayers? *By sending a snowstorm to cover up the house and surround it so that the soldiers couldn't see it or get to it.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?** How did God use His creation to tell about Him? *He used the snowstorm to show that He is the Creator of all things and that He can command them to do whatever He wants them to do—even surround Bertha Schmidt's house to protect her.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4:** "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

God protected Bertha from sending a snow storm down from the skies in answer to her prayers. Not just Bertha but also her son and daughter in law could see how God proclaimed His great, majestic name through that storm.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the true Creator of all things and so mighty that He can use them even to take care of His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not have faith like Bertha. We worry and are afraid instead. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for loving His people, like Bertha so much, that He would help her through all her sadnesses and even protect her against soldiers in a miraculous way.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to trust in Him, like Bertha did.

Life Application Questions

1. What can God's people learn from Bertha when they are in fearful situations? *That they may be tempted to worry like her son, but they can remember what God is like and trust in Him.*
2. What is the first step in trusting God that God wants us each to take? *To turn away from our sins and trust Jesus to be our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of the gospel that Bertha Schmidt believed?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Windsock Wall Ball

Materials

Small ball such as a tennis ball, Nerf or foam ball
 The bottom half of a pantyhose leg
 16 sheets of variously colored construction paper
 Paper and marker
 Masking Tape
 Story Review Questions or other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Make a windsock ball by placing the ball in the pantyhose leg and tying a knot right above the ball.
3. Choose three different point values for questions and write each value on three sheets of the construction paper. On the last four sheets draw a question mark shape. Tape these sheets of paper to the wall (or on the floor, if no wall is available) in the shape of a square, mixing up all of the point values. Make a shooting line with the masking tape.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child from Team A to come up to the throw line. Hand him the windsock ball and let him throw it at the point cards on the wall. If he hits a point value, then the leader reads a Story Review question to his team. If they answer it correctly, they get the points. If not, then Team B can get the points for a correct answer. If he hits a star instead of a point value, then Team B gets to think up a question to ask Team A. If Team A gets it right, then they get double the highest point value on the board. If Team B stumps them—and can answer the question, themselves—then THEY get the double point value.

Play then resumes as the first player for Team B throws the windsock ball. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues until everyone gets a chance to toss the windsock ball, as Story Review questions last; or, as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the ball and answering the questions together. Tally up the points as a group number.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Chilly Camouflage.

Our story takes place in 1890's, in Stralsund, Germany.

And now we present: "The Case of the Chilly Camouflage."

Scene 1:

Bertha Schmidt could have been a very sad woman. Her husband had died. She was old and sick. But, Bertha wasn't sad. She was happy. She loved God and could see the ways He cared for her, especially through her son, Karl. One day, Karl brought his mother good news. He was going to be married to a wonderful girl. Bertha was excited. Later, that winter, the wedding took place. The three went home to live in Bertha's little cottage. They celebrate and looked forward to a happy life together.

Actions:

Scene 2:

The next morning, Bertha, Karl and his wife heard some terrible news. Enemy soldiers were coming to burn the city. Karl prepared the house by boarding windows and doors, then they sat down together and waited. Karl and wife were very anxious, but Bertha read her hymnal and found comfort in a phrase: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear." She trusts that God will take care of them and encourages the others to, also. Karl struggled to have faith to trust God to do this. As they waited for the soldiers, a huge snowstorm hit. When the town clock struck midnight, the enemy soldiers attack. The three listened to the sounds of the battle all around them. They wait for their house to be attacked, but nothing happens. At last they hear the soldiers go away and everything is silent.

Scene 3

The next morning Karl opened a window to find snow blocking it. He tried to open the door, but he couldn't do it. There was too much snow! So Karl dug a tunnel through the snow and crawled out. He was amazed at what he saw: snow so deep that formed a wall around the house and completely covered it. Karl made a way for Bertha to come out and see, too. God had answered her prayers in an amazing way. Together they praise God for protecting them and for showing them through the snowstorm just how able He great He is and how able He is to take care of His people.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** Bertha loved God and trusted in Him to take care of her. God used His creation--a snow storm-- to protect her and to show her just how able He was to take care of her, no matter how impossible it looked.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Chilly Camouflage.

Our story takes place in 1890's, in Stralsund, Germany.

The characters in our story are: Bertha, Karl, Karl's wife, Pastor (who married them), Soldiers, and other people.

And now we present: "The Case of the Chilly Camouflage."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Bertha Schmidt could have been a very sad woman. Her husband had died. She was old and sick. But, Bertha wasn't sad. She was happy. She loved God and could see the ways He cared for her, especially through her son, Karl. One day, Karl brought his mother good news. He was going to be married to a wonderful girl. Bertha was excited. Later, that winter, the wedding took place. The three went home to live in Bertha's little cottage. They celebrate and looked forward to a happy life together.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The next morning, Bertha, Karl and his wife heard some terrible news. Enemy soldiers were coming to burn the city. Karl prepared the house by boarding windows and doors, then they sat down together and waited. Karl and wife were very anxious, but Bertha read her hymnal and found comfort in a phrase: "Round us a wall our God shall rear, And our proud foes shall quail with fear." She trusts that God will take care of them and encourages the others to, also. Karl struggled to have faith to trust God to do this. As they waited for the soldiers, a huge snowstorm hit. When the town clock struck midnight, the enemy soldiers attack. The three listened to the sounds of the battle all around them. They wait for their house to be attacked, but nothing happens. At last they hear the soldiers go away and everything is silent.

Scene 3: (End)

The next morning Karl opened a window to find snow blocking it. He tried to open the door, but he couldn't do it. There was too much snow! So Karl dug a tunnel through the snow and crawled out. He was amazed at what he saw: snow so deep that formed a wall around the house and completely covered it. Karl made a way for Bertha to come out and see, too. God had answered her prayers in an amazing way. Together they praise God for protecting them and for showing them through the snowstorm just how able He great He is and how able He is to take care of His people.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** Bertha loved God and trusted in Him to take care of her. God used His creation--a snow storm-- to protect her and to show her just how able He was to take care of her, no matter how impossible it looked.

A Storm of Snowflakes

Description

Children will make beaded snowflakes.

Materials

Gold or silver chenille stems (at least 3 per snowflake)

1 25mm sunburst bead for center of each snowflake (a sunburst bead has multiple holes)

12 mm sunburst beads, clear pony beads, 8 mm faceted beads, or any other beads that look glittery.

String

*You very well will want to get enough supplies for children to make 2 or 3 of these.



Preparing the Craft

1. Set out supplies so everyone can reach the beads.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children start their snowflake with 3 chenille stems (or more) and one 25 mm sunburst bead. Insert the three chenille stems through the hole in the sunburst bead so the stems are centered (same length on both sides of the bead).
3. Fold the stems out evenly spaced to form the framework of the snowflake.
4. Add beads to each of the spokes of the snowflake.
5. Connect two spokes by putting one bead through two chenille stem spokes.
6. Finish the snowflake by cutting off the excess chenille stem and folding the end into the last bead on the stem.
7. Tie a string around one spoke and hang it up.
8. Make another one!

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did our story take place?

In Stralsund, Germany.

2. Why were Bertha and her family needing protection? *Enemy soldiers were coming and would burn down the houses in their town and hurt the people.*

3. Who did Bertha depend on for protection? How did He protect her?

The Lord. He protected her by sending a huge snowstorm to hide them in her house so the soldiers wouldn't find them.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God's Creations Tell Us about Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?

God used the snowstorm to reveal Himself as Lord over all creation and the Trusted Protector of His People.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God's control over Creation show what a mighty God He is. When we are afraid, we can remember that God loves and cares for His people.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Storm of Snowflakes.

2. In Stralsund, Germany, God used A huge storm of snowflakes (millions and millions of snowflakes) To safely hide a godly woman and her family from soldiers and to show them that He is always able to take care of His people.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's Creations Tell Us about Him.

4. God used the snowstorm to reveal Himself as Lord over all creation and the Trusted Protector of His People.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God's control over Creation show what a mighty God He is. When we are afraid, we can remember that God loves and cares for His people.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in the their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Picture Run

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPPs, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**

BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 2: God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4

Bible Verse Song: O LORD, Our Lord *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16*

(Extra Bible Verse Song: The Heavens Declare PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 17)

Lesson 3 New Testament Story: The Case of the Mysterious Messengers
Acts 14:8-23

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: God-given Lunch for Lystrans

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Enemy Invaders

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 19:1-4: Discussion Sheet and Game: Mr. Freezie Ball

Bible Verse Song: O LORD, Our Lord *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Obstacle Course Review

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Wreathes and Laurels

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Hot and Cold Hide

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Mysterious Messengers Acts 14:8-23

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the Mysterious Messengers.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the Mysterious Messengers? Who did the people of Lystra think they were?
2. What was the message they brought? How did they tell the people of Lystra that they could know it was true?

This story takes place in New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. It takes place in the city of Lystra, Turkey.

The people of Lystra looked at the beauties of the countryside around them and were believers. They looked up at the glorious skies, over to the mountains and off to roaring, foamy sea, and they believed. They were enjoyed the rain that gave them good water to drink and grew the crops in their fields, and they believed. They enjoyed their children and each other and so many other good things that filled their hearts with joy...and they believed that only a god could have made all these things.

Well, they didn't really believe **A** god made all these things, but many gods. They didn't know the Lord. They gave their worship to other gods: the fake gods—or idols-- of the Greek people. So they praised Aphrodite for the love they knew in their hearts. They praised Poseidon for the seas; for the earth. And most of all, they praised Zeus for giving them the skies, the rain and the crops of food they enjoyed.

And oh, how they worshiped Zeus! What would they do without his blessing of rain and crops? They built a huge temple to him right outside the city and hired priests to make sacrifices of bulls to him. Many even believed an old tale that Zeus and his messenger, Hermes, had once come to earth as poor strangers seeking a place to stay. All but one, elderly couple refused them help. It was said that Zeus greatly blessed the couple for their kindness.

The people of Lystra knew this story and wondered: "What if Zeus and Hermes came to Lystra? Would they treat the gods with honor? Would the gods bless them, if they did?"

But Zeus and Hermes would never come to Lystra disguised as strangers, no matter how long the people might wait. Why? Because Zeus and Hermes were only idols. No, these gods would never visit, but the Lord, the one, true Creator God had something wonderful planned for the people of Lystra. He wanted them to know Him. He wanted them to save them. He was sending His messengers Paul and Barnabas to them with His message of salvation.

Paul and Barnabas came to Lystra, dusty and tired from their 20-mile walk on the mountainous roads. At God's command, they had been traveling from town to town throughout Turkey, telling all who would listen about the true Creator God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Everywhere they went people came to hear their message. Many listened. Some believed. Others—especially the Jews—were very angry. Paul and Barnabas knew that all too well that anger usually turned into danger for them. They had just run from the cities of Iconium and Antioch where the Jews had tried to kill them! Now they had come to Lystra. What would the Lord have in store for them there?

Paul and Barnabas entered Lystra and began sharing the good news about Jesus. Soon a crowd gathered around them, eager to hear what these two strangers had to say about the true Creator God and His Son, Jesus Christ, whom they had never heard about before.

Among the listeners in the crowd was an old man who had been crippled from birth. Paul watched the man soak in the truth about Jesus. He could see that God had given him faith to believe and even be healed. Paul looked straight at the man and shouted to him: "Stand

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

up on your feet!" The shocked crowd watched as the crippled man jumped to his feet and began to walk around!

"Who has ever heard of such a thing! This is an act of the gods!" one person gasped.

"These strangers must be Zeus and Hermes, come to visit us as humans, just like in the old story!" they exclaimed.

"The gods have come!" the word spread among the crowd.

"Quickly, go get the priest at Zeus' temple!" they exclaimed. "We must offer sacrifices to them! We want to be sure to treat them well!"

The priest was sent for. The crowd parted to let the priest of Zeus through, with wreaths to place upon Paul's and Barnabas' necks. They led fat bulls to them to be sacrificed in their honor.

Paul and Barnabas were horrified! The people didn't understand! They thought they were the gods, Zeus and Hermes, from that old tale! Had the people not understood the message? It was in the name of Jesus, not Zeus or Hermes, that this man had been healed! They must make them understand.

Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes--as a sign that something was very wrong. They rushed into the crowd, shouting: "Stop! Don't do this! We are only humans, like you. We aren't gods! We've come to bring you good news of salvation through Jesus. Turn from the gods you worship. They are just worthless idols! Turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them."

"In the past, God let the peoples of the nations like you go their own way, worshiping their fake gods. Yet He hasn't left you without ways to know that He's the one, true God and show you what He's like. He has shown you kindness by giving you rain that waters your crops. He has provided you with lots of food and He fills your hearts with joy," Paul explained.

Even with this explanation, some of people of Lystra still wanted to treat them like gods and make sacrifices to them. But others wondered at these strange, new ideas. Could it be that Zeus and Hermes were only worthless idols? Could it be that the LORD was the true Creator God who had been revealing Himself to them

in His creations around them and in their hearts? They wanted to hear more.

But before Paul could tell them more, some Jews who had tried to kill him in Iconium and Antioch joined the crowd. "These men speak lies!" they told the others. "Don't listen to them. They deserve death!"

Only a little while before this crowd had tried to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods. Now the crowd turned on them. The Jews pelted Paul with rocks until he fell unconscious to the ground. They dragged him out of the city and left him for dead.

Barnabas and the new believers in Christ anxiously gathered around Paul when the Jews had left. Was he dead? No! He was only terribly hurt.

Paul and Barnabas spent the night in Lystra with the new believers, then left the next morning. Paul was bruised, sore, beat up—but happy as they headed to the city of Derbe. Why happy? Because they had been able to tell the people of Lystra about the Lord, the true Creator God and His Son, Jesus Christ and some had believed! Now there would be people in Lystra to tell others about the true Creator God, who revealed Himself in the heavens and earth and sea and everything in it. Who gave rain to make their crops grow and put joy in their hearts-- and that made all the suffering worthwhile to Paul.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the Mysterious Messengers? Who did the people of Lystra think they were? Paul and Barnabas. The Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes.

2. What was the message they brought? How did they tell the people of Lystra that they could know it was true? They brought the good news of the one, true, living God who offers them salvation through Jesus. They told the people of Lystra that they could see what this one, true God was like in how He had provided for them in creation.

Something For You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's Creations Tell Us about Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 8:1,3-4**

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

The heavens and the earth are majestic with God's name! They are His creations and they remind us how great He is.

But it wasn't enough for the people of Lystra to know God by looking at His creations. And it will never be enough for us today. We need to learn about Him in the Bible. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we can truly know Him.

Let's praise God for revealing Himself in His creation, but let's also pray that He would work in our hearts and the hearts of people everywhere, to turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Let's ask Him to even send out some of us one day, tell all these people who He really is and how they can be saved from their sins.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the one, true God and Creator of all things.

C God, we confess that many times we don't choose to love You or obey You, even though we know about You. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You sending Your people all over the world to tell others about Jesus. Thank You for sending people to tell us about Him!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send out Your people to tell others about Jesus, too! Help us all to know You better as we look at Your wonderful creations.

Special Words

Idol: An image of a (fake) god used as an object of worship.

Priest: A person who prays and performs ceremonies as a middle man between a god and people.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth in prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also, have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for showing us many things about You as we look at all Your creations. You show Yourself to be powerful, beautiful, loving, infinite and so much more.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we look at Your creations and enjoy them, but often forget to praise You for them or learn about You from them. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for all that You show us about Yourself in Your creations. Thank You for making us able to look at Your creations and learn more about You. Thank You for wanting us to know You.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, use all Your creations to help us remember You, our Creator. Use them to teach us more about You. You created our hearts. Work in them that we might not just see You in Your many creations, but turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior and know You as our God.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: God-given Lunch for Lystrans

Serve Grapes, olives, figs or other fruit with Pita bread/Pita chips or other food representative of crops harvested in Greece/Turkey area

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: Paul encouraged the people of Lystra to believe in the Lord. Paul told them that He had shown himself to them in the many good gifts they could see around them, such as the good crops in their fields. He alone was the one, true God. He sent His Son Jesus to save all who repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. He would be their Savior, if they did this.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God's Creations Tell Us about Him

Creations tell you something about the person who created them. God is the creator of our world and His creations tell us about Him. God's creations show us many things about Him. They show us that He is mighty, glorious, beautiful, good, wise, infinite, perfect and so much more. God loves for us to learn about Him from His creations and praise Him for what He's like.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who do creations tell us and why? *Creations tell you about their creator. A creator makes things out of his own thoughts and abilities. When you see what someone makes, it tells you what they think about and what they are able to do.*
2. What do God's creations tell us about God? *The greatness of the universe tell us that He is even greater. The beauty and variety of flowers show us that He loves beauty and has never ending ability to think up new ways to make things. The perfection of how movement of the sun, moon, stars and planets show how amazingly wise He is.*
3. What does God love for us to use His creations to do? *To learn about Him and to praise Him for what He's like.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him**? How did Paul use creation to tell the people of Lystra what the Lord was like? *He told them of the goodness of God that they knew already by looking at the heaven, sea, earth and by enjoying the rain for crops and joy in their hearts. He wanted to bring them the good news that this good God had also sent His Son Jesus to pay for the sins of all those who turn and trust in Him for forgiveness.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"
God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!

Life Application Questions

1. What about God do we see from His creations that help God's people to trust His care for them?
He is powerful enough to create the whole world, so He is able to take care of them. He cares that even the smallest creatures are fed, He will takes care of their needs. He makes beautiful things for them to enjoy. He loves to delight us by giving us good things.
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for His greatness, beauty, wisdom, kindness, etc. that we see when we look at His creations.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That though we see how good and great God through His creation, we all choose to rebel against Him and many times do not want to know Him. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for all the wonderful things He has created and all the pleasure we have in looking at them. We can thank God for letting us know some of what He is like as we look at His creations.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to see what He is like and praise Him, as we look at His creations.

The Gospel

1. God made all things for His pleasure, but we are sinners who have chosen to disobey Him! We deserve His eternal punishment for our disobedience. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Enemy Invaders

Materials

Index cards of two different colors (or use red and black playing cards, such as hearts and spades)

Bible Truth Questions

String or yarn

Two chairs

Masking Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Tie an end of the string to each chair and draw the line across the room where the teams will be. Preferably this line will be about 4' above the ground.
4. Tape a line about 6' to 9' from the string on each side.
5. Cut cards in half along the long side, making them about the same size as playing cards.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them stand (or kneel to make it even harder!) on their team's line. Give each child an index card, the same color for the children on one team. At your signal, have them try to toss their cards over the line and into their "enemy's" territory on the other side. Add up how many cards fell on each side. That is how many points they can win by answering a question. Choose a question for each team. If the team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for an extra point. Distribute the cards and play again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O Worship the King

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills,
It descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 15

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thy" mean? *"Thy" is the old English word for "Your."*
2. What does "bountiful" mean? *An overflowing amount of something, far more than expected or needed.*
3. What is God's care for His people like? *It is so bountiful—so overflowing—that the tongue cannot even recite (a person does not even have time to tell) all the ways He has cared for them.*
4. What "breathes in the air" and what does that mean? *God's care "breathes in the air." This is a beautiful way of saying that we see God's care by giving us the air we breathe in with each breath.*
5. What "shines in the light" and what does that mean? *God's care for us. God cares for us by giving us the light we and all living creatures need to live.*
6. How does God's care "stream from the hills and descend to the plain?" *God takes care of all the needs of His creations—animals, plants, birds, people—whether they live high on the hills or down on the lowland plains.*
7. What does "distill" mean? *To come from.*
8. How does God's care "distill in the dew and the rain?" *God gives the water that all living creatures need to live in the dew and the rain. God's great care for us shows in every dew drop and rain drop.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him?**

All of God's creation tells us about Him. We can look at everything from the air to the light, to the hills and plains, to the dew and rain, and see that God cares for us.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The people of Lystra thought that it was the Greek gods who gave them all of creation and took care of them. Paul and Barnabas told them about the true God who really did make it all, and how they could know and live for Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them to see His care in everything in creation around us and give them grateful hearts that thank Him for it.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

God reveals His majestic name--the way He is-- in loving care for all His creation by providing them light from the heavens (the sun), as well as the rain and dew that is needed to grow the food that they need. We can look at all the ways that God cares for His creations and be amazed that someone so great cares so much for someone so small as us!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being full of care for all of His creations, especially us!

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God that His care of us is so great that our tongues cannot recite everything He has done!

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would give us grateful hearts and would help us see His bountiful care for the whole world. We can pray that God would work in our hearts and help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the greatest way God has cared for us!

Gospel Question

1. When we look at the how God waters the hills and plains so that all things can grow, we see a picture of God's care for us and the world He created. But the greatest way God has shown His care for us is not through the rain, it is through sending Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 8:1,3-4 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 8:1 ESV

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does majestic mean? *Amazing and grand.*
2. Who's name is majestic in all the earth? The LORD's.
3. Why is the LORD's name majestic in all the earth? Because He is the one that made everything. When we look at the things He has made, we see some of what He is like. His creations are so amazing that they point to how amazing the LORD, Himself, is.
4. This verse says that the heavens are the work of God's fingers? Does God really have fingers like us? *Jesus, the Son of God who became man, does have fingers. But that's not the point of these words. They are really just saying that God made the heavens.*
5. Why is it so amazing that God cares about us (man)? He is so great that He made the heavens...something so big that we can't even see the end of it! We are so tiny when compared to this great creation of God's. Yet, He has chosen to love us and care for us most of all.
6. Does the LORD just care for men and not women? No, this verse is using the word man to mean all people.

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?** *God created the heavens and the earth. Creations show us the "name" of their creator. That means they tell us something about their creator. When we look at all that God has made in the earth around us, we can see that His name is majestic--He is so wise, so beautiful, so power, so much greater than anyone or anything else. The heavens God made are so great. display some of His glory: how good and great He is. Everyone can look up in the heavens and see a picture of God's glory in what they see. When we look at them and think about how small we are, it's amazing to think that God cares so much about us! To think: He created all these things to show us what He is like! And to think: that of all His creations, He sent His Son to die for us!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did Paul use the heavens to speak to the people of Lystra about the true God? *He explained to them that it was the true God who made the heavens and gave them seasons and rain for their crops, not some idol like Hermes or Zeus or other Greek false god.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people use all of God's creations in heaven and earth to praise Him? *By looking at it and seeing all the different things about God and His name (the way He is) that they each reflect.*
2. How can God's people use God's creation to encourage them in hard times? *By looking at it and all of God's wisdom and powerful and goodness it reflects and reminding themselves that it is this same God who loves and cares for them.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Revealer of Himself through all things He's created.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Confess that many times, we see God, His goodness and greatness, in His creations, but we do not want to know Him or obey Him. We would rather do things our own way. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for all the wonderful and beautiful ways He shows us what He is like in everything we see that He has made.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Gospel Question

1. The skies proclaim God's glory. They point us to their Creator, God. But what is the good news about Jesus that we need to hear if we are to know and enjoy God forever? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Mr. Freezie Ball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
Medium size foam or other soft surfaced ball, or tennis ball

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out around the leader, who will be the first Mr. Freezie. Everyone says the Bible verse together. Then, Mr. Freezie throws the ball up in the air as he calls out the name of one child. That child runs to get the ball, while everyone else spreads out. When the child gets the ball, he yells "freeze" to the other children. He then rolls the ball to gently hit another child. That child tries to say the memory verse, getting the assistance of one other person if desired. If he says it correctly, he becomes the new Mr. Freezie and will be the next to toss the ball. If not, then the child who rolled the ball remains Mr. Freezie for another turn. The person who rolled the ball would then become the new Mr. Freezie and be next to toss the ball. Class says verse together each time before Mr. Freezie says the next child's name.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

O LORD, Our Lord

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name!
 How majestic is your name in all the earth!
 When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
 The moon and the stars that you have set in place,
 What is man? What is man?
 That you are mindful of him?
 And the son of man that you care for him?

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 16

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song
 Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. Who did the people of Lystra worship instead of the Lord? *Zeus, Poseidon, Hermes, Aphrodite*
2. What did they think Zeus was the god of? *The god of rain and crops.*
3. Why did they especially honor Zeus? *Because they wanted him to give them plenty of rain and good crops so they had lots of food to eat.*
4. What was the old story about Zeus and Hermes? *That they came to earth to visit an old couple, disguised as strangers and blessed an old couple who helped them.*
5. How do we know that Zeus and Hermes will not come to visit? *They are only idols.*
6. Why did Paul and Barnabas leave Antioch and Iconium quickly? *Because Jews were trying to kill them because they were telling the good news of Jesus.*
7. What did Paul tell the crowd when they entered Lystra? *The good news of Jesus.*
8. What did Paul do to the crippled man? *He healed him in Jesus' name.*
9. Who did the people of Lystra think Paul and Barnabas were and what did they want to do? *They thought they must be Zeus and Hermes and they wanted to make sacrifices to them and worship them.*
10. Why did Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes? *It was a sign of being very upset about something.*
11. How did Paul use creation to tell them about God? *He told the people of Lystra that it was the LORD, not these other gods who gave them the rain and everything else they enjoyed. He had come to tell them who the true God was who had given these things to them.*
12. Why did the Jews want to kill Paul? Why did they leave him outside the city? *They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and to say that He was dishonoring to God's name and so Paul must die. They left him outside the city to die.*
13. Who did Paul and Barnabas leave in Lystra that made them happy? *The people of Lystra who believed in Jesus.*
14. Why is it not enough just for people to look at nature to know God? *People need to hear the good news of Jesus to know how to be saved. Believing comes through hearing this good news, not just by seeing God in His creations.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him**? *The people of Lystra looked at creation and knew there was a creator, but they did not know it was the Lord. Paul and Barnabas came to tell them about the true creator God and His Son Jesus who came to die for sinners who turn and trust in Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 8:1,3-4**: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Paul used the things God had created in the heavens and on earth to show the people of Lystra what He was like.. He explained to them that it was the true God who made the heavens and gave them seasons and rain for their crops, not some idol like Hermes or Zeus or other Greek false god. They could see how majestic--how great--God and His name are everywhere they look. Paul wanted the people of Lystra to see how great God is and desire to come to Him to know Him and to be saved.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the true Creator of all things and the Sender of people to tell others about Jesus.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not choose to love God or obey Him, even though we know about Him We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sending His people all over the world to tell others about Jesus. We can thank Him for sending people to tell us about Jesus!*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to send out more of His people to tell others about Him—even some of us, one day!

Life Application Questions

1. Are there still people today who look at creation and worship the wrong god? *Yes, many, many people.*
2. What does God call His people to do even today? *He wants them to tell the good news to others in the whole world, that they might hear and believe and be saved.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Paul and Barnabas shared? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Obstacle Course Quiz

Materials

Various materials, such as jump ropes, balls, inner tubes, carpet squares, boxes, tunnels made from chairs and bedsreads, etc. to make a simple obstacle course for each team.

Masking Tape

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions, 1+ per child

Paper/post-it notes & marker/pencil

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Set up two identical obstacle courses, one for each team, that both end up at the same wall of your room.
3. Write a question on the back of a post-it note. On the front, write a point amount, such as 5, 10, 25 points, depending upon the difficulty of the question. Place these questions on the wall at the end of the obstacle courses.
4. Use the masking tape to make starting lines.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit down in a line. Demonstrate how they are to go through the obstacle course. At the leader's command, the first person in each line goes through the obstacle course. Whoever reaches the question wall first wins 1 point for their team and gets to take down one question to give to the teacher. The teacher will ask the question to both teams, calling on the team who raises their hand first. If that team is correct in their answer, they get 2 points. If not, then the question goes to the other team. Process is repeated with next 2 children in line, etc.

Game continues until all have had a chance to run the course, or as question cards, time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Send the children through two at a time, each child choosing a question from the wall. Have the children ask their question to the whole group and work together on the answer. Have the two children come back through the obstacle course and go to the back of their own lines. Repeat with next two children.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Mysterious Messengers.

Our story takes place In New Testament times, a number of years after Jesus died on the rose and rose from the dead. It takes place in Lystra, Turkey.

And now we present: "The Case of the Mysterious Messengers."

Actions:

Scene 1:

The people of Lystra looked at the skies, the earth, the ocean, the rain, the crops and even at the joy in their hearts and knew there was a God who gave them to them. But instead of worshiping the Lord who made them, they worshiped the many Greek gods. There was Aphrodite: goddess of love; Poseidon god of the sea, god of the earth, and Zeus, god of the rain and crops. They especially loved Zeus and built a huge temple to him, right outside the city. They paid priests to stay at the temple and offer sacrifices to Zeus. They even thought that Zeus and his messenger Hermes would come in disguise and reward people who were nice to them.

Scene 2:

Paul and Barnabas came into Lystra after fleeing Jews trying to kill them in Iconium and Antioch. They shared the gospel with a crowd of people and then healed one man who believed their message who had been crippled from birth. The crowds think that Paul and Barnabas are Zeus and Hermes in disguise. The people got so excited that they call for the priests of Zeus to bring wreaths and bulls to present to them as worship offerings.

Scene 3

Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes in horror. They tell the people of Lystra to worship the God who made all of the creation they enjoy; and His Son, Jesus Christ, who He sent to save sinners. The people still want to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas, but suddenly angry Jews from Antioch and Iconium join the crowd and stir them up against Paul and Barnabas. Paul is stoned and dragged out of the city for dead. The believers gather round Paul and he gets up. The next day they leave for another city, sore but joyful that God has saved some of the people of Lystra.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** The people of Lystra looked at creation and knew their was a creator, but they did not know it was the Lord. Paul and Barnabas came to tell them about the true creator God and His Son Jesus who came to die for sinners who turn and trust in Him.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Mysterious Messengers.

Our story takes place In New Testament times, a number of years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. It takes place in Lystra, Turkey.

The characters in our story are: People in Iconium and Antioch, who listened, who believed and who were very angry about the gospel, people of Lystra, Lame man of Lystra, Paul and Barnabas, and New believers of Lystra.

And now we present: "The Case of the Mysterious Messengers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The people of Lystra looked at the skies, the earth, the ocean, the rain, the crops and even at the joy in their hearts and knew there was a God who gave them to them. But instead of worshiping the Lord who made them, they worshiped the many Greek gods. There was Aphrodite: goddess of love; Poseidon god of the sea, god of the earth, and Zeus, god of the rain and crops. They especially loved Zeus and built a huge temple to him, right outside the city. They paid priests to stay at the temple and offer sacrifices to Zeus. They even thought that Zeus and his messenger Hermes would come in disguise and reward people who were nice to them.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Paul and Barnabas came into Lystra after fleeing Jews trying to kill them in Iconium and Antioch. They shared the gospel with a crowd of people and then healed one man who believed their message who had been crippled from birth. The crowds think that Paul and Barnabas are Zeus and Hermes in disguise. The people got so excited that they call for the priests of Zeus to bring wreaths and bulls to present to them as worship offerings.

Scene 3: (End)

Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes in horror. They tell the people of Lystra to worship the God who made all of the creation they enjoy; and His Son, Jesus Christ, who He sent to save sinners. The people still want to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas, but suddenly angry Jews from Antioch and Iconium join the crowd and stir them up against Paul and Barnabas. Paul is stoned and dragged out of the city for dead. The believers gather round Paul and he gets up. The next day they leave for another city, sore but joyful that God has saved some of the people of Lystra.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** The people of Lystra looked at creation and knew there was a creator, but they did not know it was the Lord. Paul and Barnabas came to tell them about the true creator God and His Son Jesus who came to die for sinners who turn and trust in Him.

Wreathes and Laurels

Description

Children will make a wreath decorated with tissue flowers and straws/pasta; and/or a laurel of leaves headpiece. (You may find that the boys want to make the laurels and the girls want to make the wreathes. Plan accordingly.)

Materials

Wreathes:

Tissue paper of various bright colors

String

Plastic straws or ziti pasta (colored, if possible; available in many craft stores)

Blunt tapestry needles with a large eye, one per child

Laurels:

1" plastic headband; or, a 24" x 1 1/2" piece of poster board, one per child

Gold and Green tissue paper

Glue (or staplers)

Stapler

Preparing the Craft

Wreathes:

1. Cut lots of flowers out of Template #1 using colored tissue paper, about 24 per child. (Cut multiple layers of flowers at once.)

2. Cut straws into 1 1/2" pieces.

3. Thread needles with thread about 24-30" long (depending on size of child), double thickness (i.e., 48-60" but doubles up to 24-30" when knotted together at the ends.)

Laurels:

1. Cut lots of leaves out of the gold and green tissue paper, about 30 per child. (Cut multiple layers of leaves at once.)

2. Set out headbands or cut 24 x 1 1/2" strips out of poster board. Cut Velcro or fill stapler with staples.

3. Set out glue.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft(s) you have made.

Wreathes:

1. Have children alternate groups of flowers and a piece of straw/pasta until necklace is filled up. Tie the ends together.

Laurels:

1. If using the poster board, have the child hold it up to their head and then cut it to the appropriate length. Leave 1 1/2" extra on each end.

2. Have the children glue (or staple) leaves on their bands, alternating the leaf points up and down.

3. Staple the laurel into a circle shape, using the excess 1 1/2" on each side to staple it.

4. If using the headband, wear it with the open part facing forward.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas share the good news of Jesus in our story?

Throughout the towns of Turkey, especially Iconium, Antioch and Lystra.

2. Who did the people of Lystra think Paul and Barnabas were? Why? What did they present them with? *The Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes, because of the miraculous healing of the crippled man. They presented them with wreathes and laurels.*

3. What did Paul use to tell them about the Lord, the one, true God instead?

He used the Lord's good gifts of creation and other blessings to tell them about Him and turn them away from worshipping the fake Greek gods.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God's Creations Tell Us about Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's Creations Tell Us about Him?

The people of Lystra had worshiped Zeus and other Greek idols. When they began to worship Paul and Barnabas as Zeus and Hermes for healing the crippled man, Paul tried to tell them that this healing and all the good things of creation they enjoyed were really

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God alone should be worshiped as the amazing Creator of all we see and enjoy.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: Wreathes and Laurels.

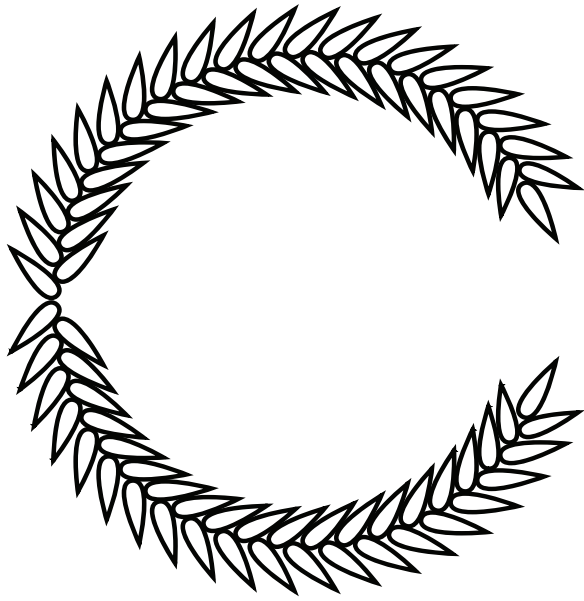
2. In Lystra, the people covered Paul and Barnabas with wreathes and laurels because when Paul healed the crippled man in the name of Jesus, they did not understand that Jesus had healed him. They thought Paul and Barnabas were the gods, Zeus and Hermes, who they believed had come to visit them.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's Creations Tell Us about Him.

4. The people of Lystra had worshiped Zeus and other Greek idols. When they began to worship Paul and Barnabas as Zeus and Hermes for healing the crippled man, Paul tried to tell them that this healing and all the good things of creation they enjoyed were really

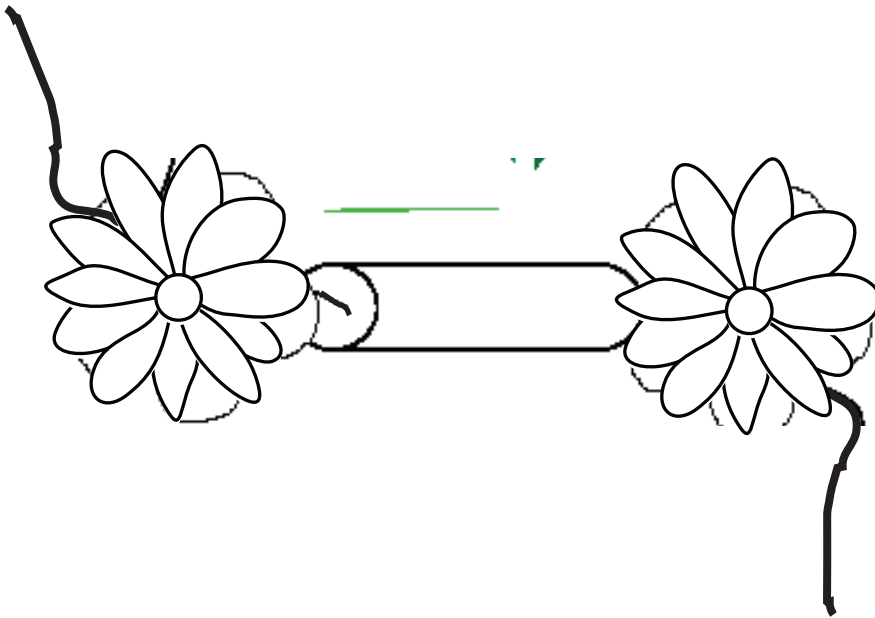
5. Our craft can help us remember that God alone should be worshiped as the amazing Creator of all we see and enjoy.

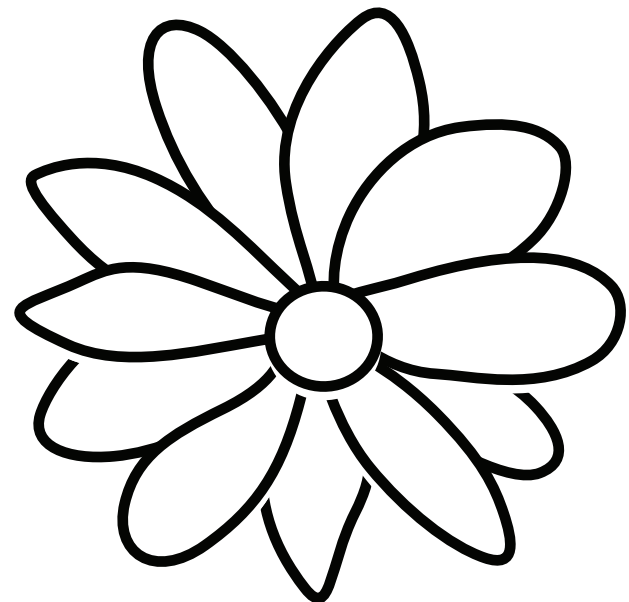
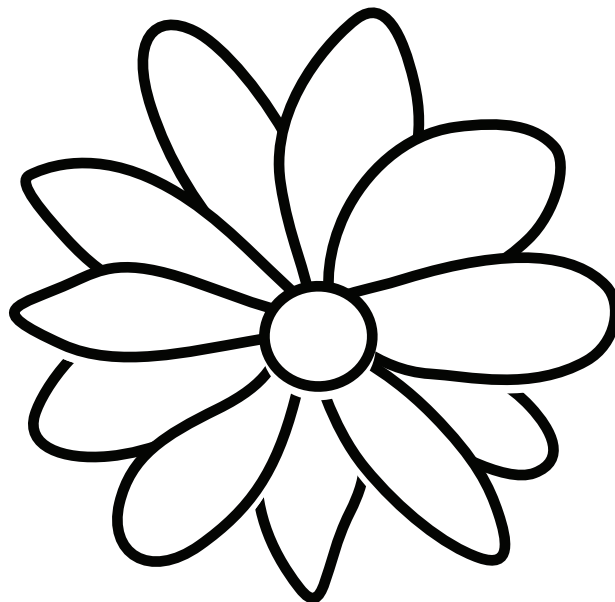
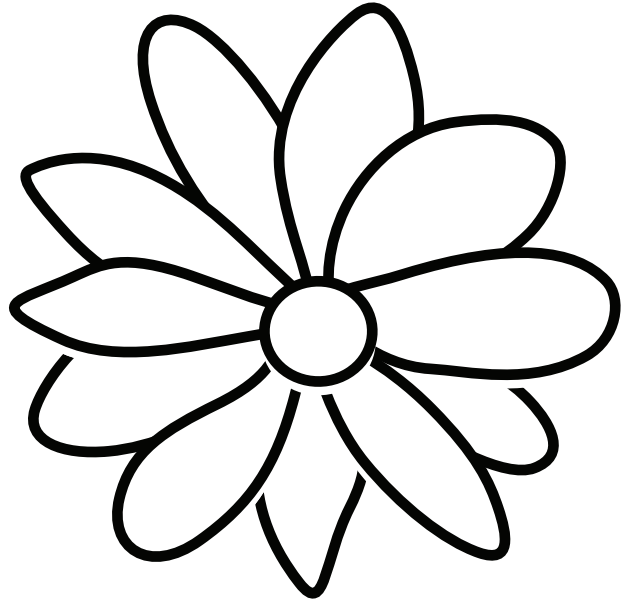
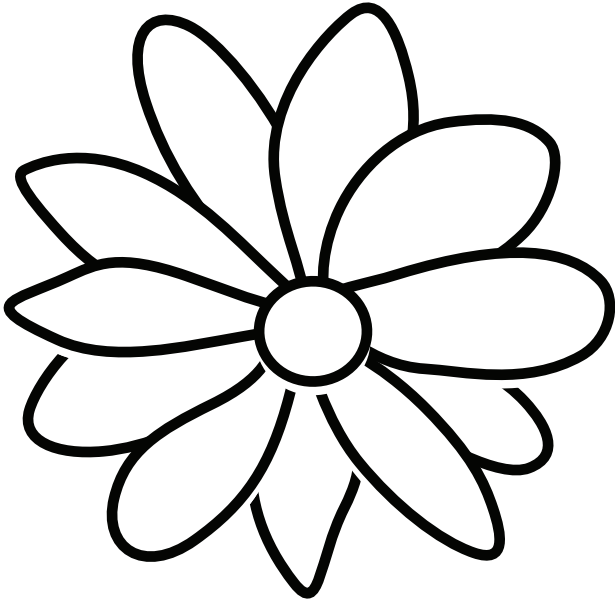
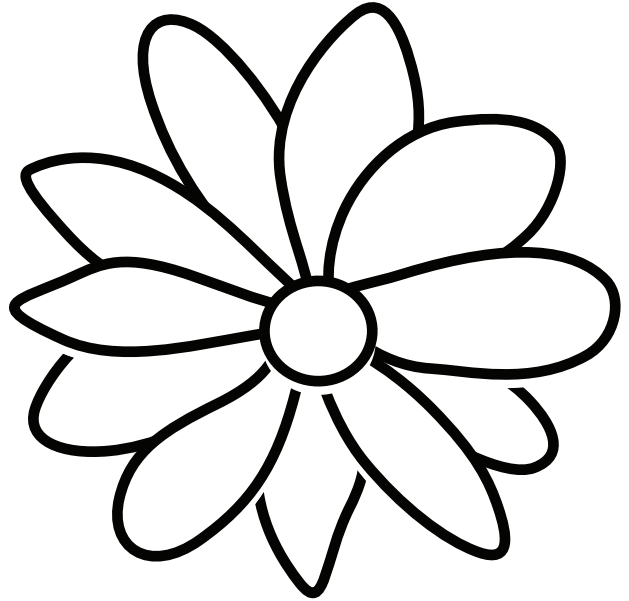
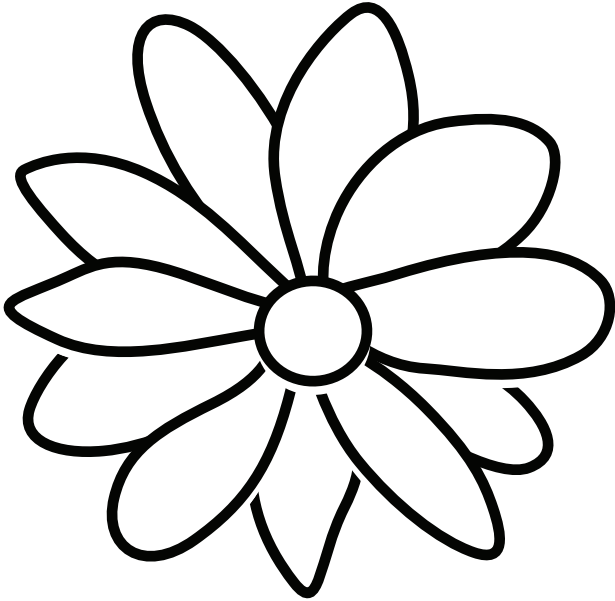
Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

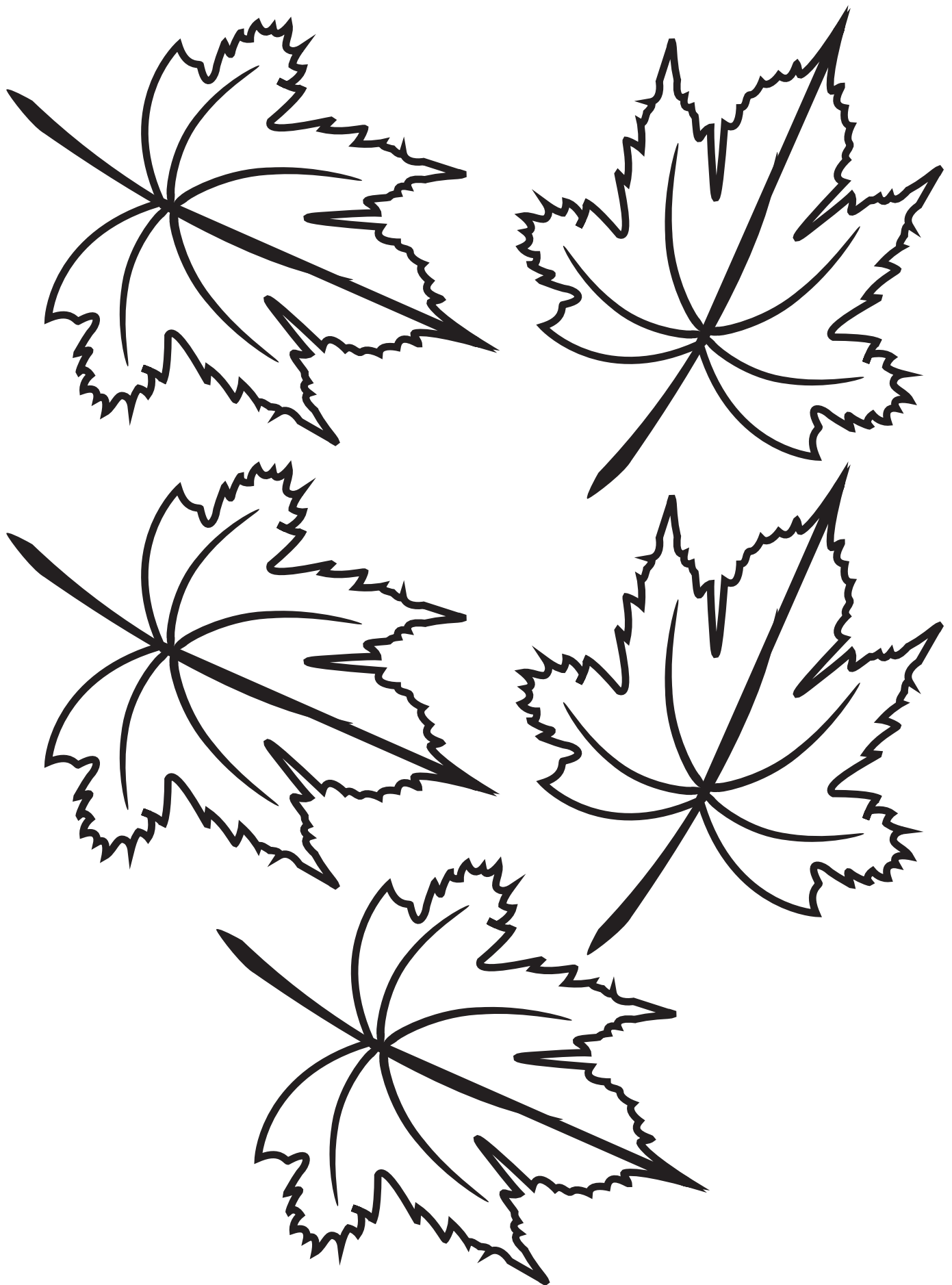


Laurel:
alternate points of leaves as you glue onto headband

Wreath:
alternate flowers and pasta in wreath necklace







BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
An object to hide

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, led by the teacher, will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

Game continues as time or attention span allow.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

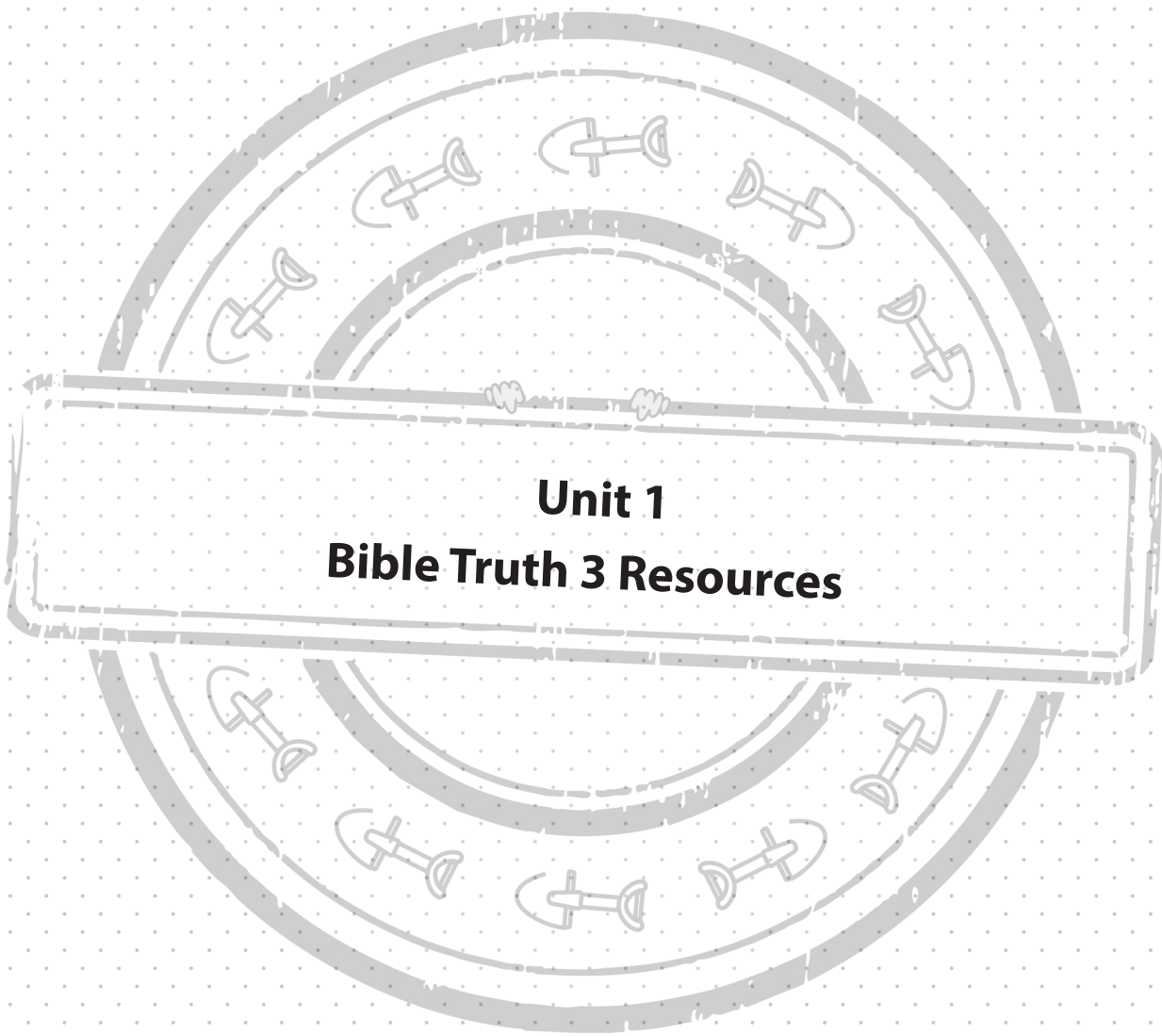
WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Church Member | Deacon |
| Elder | Church Staff |
| Special Volunteer | Supported Worker
(Missionary) |

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



Unit 1
Bible Truth 3 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 3 OVERVIEW

UNIT 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Big Question and Answer: “How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He’s Like!”

Bible Verse: “For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought...The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name.” Amos 4:13 ESV

Bible Truth 3 Concept: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God’s words to people, especially God’s people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God’s words. The difference between the false prophets and God’s true prophets was that the words of God’s prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God’s Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God’s people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That’s because Jesus is God. He always spoke God’s Word.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 18:18-19, HCSB

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.”

Alternate Memory Version: Deuteronomy 18:18,19, HCSB

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.”

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through the words You gave Your prophets to speak and to write down.
- C** We confess that many times we don’t want to obey or even listen to the words You spoke through the prophets. We like to live our own way. We need Jesus to save us!
- T** Thank You, God, for speaking through the prophets and making sure they wrote down Your words just right. Thank You that through their work, we can know more about You and how You want us to live.
- S** God, help us to learn the words You spoke through the prophets long ago. Work in our hearts that we might remember and obey them. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 3 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Warned Wicked (Old Testament)

1 Kings 21

Lesson 2: The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man (New Testament)

Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; John 1

1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>	
Big Question Under Investigation:	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Can I Know What God Is Like?</p> <p>"God made us. He wants us to know what He's like so we can know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him. We don't have to figure out what God is like by ourselves. We couldn't do that. So God shows us what He's like.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Can I Know What God Is Like?' is: God Shows Me What He's Like!</p>	
Big Question 1 and Songs	<p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s):</p> <p>Big Q & A 1 Song <i>(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")</i> How can I know what God is like, God is like, God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like? I have a very big question, A big question 'bout God. I have a very big question, It's Big Question Number One, I wanna know...</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Verse 1: He gave me a heart to know God, He made everything I see. Big tall mountains, galloping horses, Every little bird and bee. Everybody sing... <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: He gave us the Bible, His Word, To learn of His mighty deeds, But most of all, through Jesus, His Son, God shows Himself to me. Everybody sing.... <i>(Refrain)</i></p>	<p><i>choose one or both</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 3</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 4</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 1
Bible Verse**

You may also enjoy some other versions this verse:
 He Who Declares His Thought
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6
 He Who Forms the Mountains
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7
 Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8
 For Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Amos 4:13 tells us: "For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares to man what is His thought...the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

**Big Question 1 Bible Verse Song
The LORD Declares: Amos 4:13 ESV**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 Amos Four, thirteen.

"The LORD created everything--even us! He's the one to declares to us what His thoughts are. That means He shows us what He's like."

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 3**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FIVE** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God us what He's like. We've learned some already. Can you remember what they are?
 (God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.; God's Creations Tell Us about Him)

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God's words to people, especially God's people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God's words. The difference between the false prophets and God's true prophets was that the words of God's prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God's Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God's people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That's because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's Word.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

<p>Bible Truth 3 Hymn</p>	<p>“Long ago, a man named Daniel ben Judah Dayyan was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote this hymn based on an ancient Hebrew song of praise. He called it “The God of Abraham Praise.” We’re going to learn a verse from it.”</p> <p>The God of Abraham Praise <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18</i></p> <p>Verse 2 His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will: In prophet’s word He spoke of old, He speaketh still. Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand, Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.</p> <p>“This hymn reminds us that by His Holy Spirit, the Lord gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.”</p>
<p>Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse and Song</p>	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p> <p>Deuteronomy 18:18-19, HCSB “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.”</p> <p>God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet’s words because they were His words. God’s people still read the words of the prophet’s written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.</p> <p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p> <p>I Will Raise Up <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19</i> will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you. I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you. He will come from among their brothers, I will put my words in his mouth, And he will tell them everything I command him. And whoever does not listen, I will hold him accountable. I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you. I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you. Deuteronomy Eighteen, eighteen and nineteen.</p>

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY**

**Old Testament
Story:**

**The Case of the
Warned Wicked**
1 Kings 21

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Warned Wicked.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who were the Wicked? What did they do that was wicked?**
- 2. What were they warned about? What happened after they were warned?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who were the Wicked? What did they do that was wicked? King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were wicked. They worshiped Baal and Asherah and led the people in worshiping them, too. They broke God's laws in terrible ways.

2. What were they warned about? What happened after they were warned? That if they didn't turn away from their sins, they would be punished. Ahab repented of his sins and turned back to the LORD. The LORD didn't give him the full punishment he deserved. Jezebel refused to repent and she died, as the LORD said she would.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY

Story of the Saints:

**The Case of the
Doctor and the
Drummer Boy**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. How did the Doctor and the Drummer Boy meet?**
- 2. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know? How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was the Doctor and the Drummer Boy? How did they meet? Max Rosvally was the doctor. Charley was the drummer boy. In a hospital during the American Civil War, when Charley was injured in battle.

2. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know? How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him? Jesus. Max Rosvally read the prophets and realized that they all pointed to Jesus as the Messiah.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man**

Matthew 3,14;
Mark 1,6; Luke 3,9;
John 1

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who was the Wilderness Wild Man?**
- 2. Why was he out in the wilderness? What was his message?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was the Wilderness Wild Man? How was he like a wild man?

John the Baptist. He didn't cut his hair; he wore for camel's hair clothes; he ate locusts and honey.

2. Why was he out in the wilderness? What was his message? The LORD told him to go live in the wilderness, in fulfillment of the words of the prophets spoken many years earlier. He told people to repent of their sins and be baptized to be prepared for the coming Messiah.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)***Response Activities**

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Lesson 1 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Warned Wicked *1 Kings 21*

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Fruit from Naboth's Vineyard, Vegetables from Ahab's Garden

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Help the Blind Man

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Deuteronomy 18:18-19: Discussion Sheet and Game: Rush to the Store

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: String Along

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Naboth's Vineyard

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Ball Roll Review

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Warned Wicked 1 Kings 21

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Warned Wicked.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the Wicked? What did they do that was wicked?
2. What were they warned about? What happened after they were warned?

This story is a Old Testament story. It takes place about 900 years before Jesus lived on earth, in the city of Jezreel, Samaria, home of Ahab, king of Israel.

“Warning, discipline, comfort!” Those were the LORD’s words to His people through His prophets. And if there was ever a king of Israel who needed the LORD’s warning, it was King Ahab. Israel’s kings did many evil things but Ahab did just about all of them! And who was it that tempted King Ahab to be so evil? A woman by the name of Jezebel!

Jezebel was a princess from the country of Sidon. Ahab made her his queen, even though he knew she worshiped two, terrible, fake gods: Baal and Asherah. Before long, Jezebel had Ahab worshiping these terrible gods, too!

When Jezebel became queen, she brought 950 priests of Baal and Asherah with her. She wanted them to set up altars to these fake gods all over Israel... and Ahab let her! Jezebel didn’t want Ahab rule over the people in the good way the Bible told him to... and Ahab listened to her! Soon Ahab and the people of Israel had turned away from worshiping the LORD and were worshiping Baal and Asherah, too.

As you can imagine, the LORD had a message of warning for Ahab and the people of Israel. He brought it through the prophet Elijah. “Ahab, you have made me angry by marrying that wicked women Jezebel and worshiping Baal,” the LORD told them. “You worship Baal and made a temple to him. You’ve led my people to follow him, too. You have broken my laws. Turn away from your sins and turn back to me or else I will discipline you!” He warned.

But Ahab didn’t turn away from his sins and neither did Jezebel. They kept on sinning against the LORD and kept encouraging the people to sin, too. But, the

LORD’s warning would not last forever. It would one day change to discipline, if they did not repent. And so it did, right after Ahab and Jezebel did something terrible to a godly man named Naboth.

Naboth family owned a beautiful vineyard was right next to King Ahab’s palace. King Ahab wanted the land to make a vegetable garden.

“Naboth, let me have your vineyard since it’s right next to my palace. I’ll give you a better vineyard or I’ll pay you for whatever it’s worth,” the king offered.

“I can’t do that, King Ahab!” Naboth replied. “This is the land the LORD has given my family. It’s against God’s law for me to sell it.”

Ahab went back to his palace and pouted. He lay on his bed and refused to eat.

“Why are you upset? Why don’t you eat?” Jezebel asked Ahab.

Ahab told her the story and Jezebel came up with a wicked plan to get Ahab what he wanted.. She wrote letters in the king’s name, and sent them to the important leaders of the city. “Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth where everyone can see him. Put two bad men across from Naboth and have them accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then punish him as the law requires--by stoning him to death,” Jezebel ordered in the letters.

The city leaders dared not disobey Jezebel and the king. They called the feast and followed her plan completely. Naboth was falsely accused, then put to death. Then the king scooped up Naboth’s vegetable garden. It was a simple as that.

Or was it? For now the LORD’s word of warning changed to words of discipline. Elijah, once more, went

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

to Ahab and Jezebel. "The LORD has a message for you. He says: "I have warned you, but you have chosen to keep on sinning against Me in terrible ways. You keep leading the people of Israel to sin against Me, too. Now I'm going to discipline both of you. Ahab, the kingdom will be taken away from your family. Jezebel, you will die at the hands of enemies and not even have a proper burial.," the LORD promised.

When Ahab heard this he repented of his sins. He knew he has sinned terribly against the LORD and against the people of Israel, especially Naboth. The LORD had warned him, but he hadn't listened. He deserved to be disciplined. He confessed his sins and humbled himself before the LORD by tearing his clothes, putting on scratchy sackcloth clothes and fasting, as they did in those days.

The LORD was pleased with this change in Ahab's heart. Ahab hadn't listened to the His warnings at first, but now he repented of his sins as the LORD disciplined him. The LORD accepted Ahab's confession and comforted him with mercy. "Ahab, I will still take the kingdom away from your family because of the terrible things you have done. But I will hold off taking away it kingdom until after you have died," the LORD told him. In His mercy, the LORD had chosen to withhold the full punishment Ahab deserved.

But Jezebel was a completely different matter! She refused to repent of her sins. She received God's full punishment. She died and was never even buried. Jezebel's days ended with the LORD's discipline since she refused to repent of her sins and turn to worship the LORD. There would be no comfort for her.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the Wicked? What did they do that was wicked? King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were wicked. They worshiped Baal and Asherah and led the people in worshipping them, too. They broke God's laws in terrible ways.

2. What were they warned about? What happened after they were warned? That if they didn't turn away from their sins, they would be punished. Ahab repented of his sins and turned back to the LORD. The LORD

didn't give him the full punishment he deserved. Jezebel refused to repent and she died, as the LORD said she would.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 HCSB

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Warning, Discipline, Comfort! That was how the LORD lovingly treated His sinful people. Those were the words He spoke to them long ago through His prophets, time after time after time. How merciful the LORD had been to them! But did you know that the greatest way the LORD comforted His people through the prophets was with the promise to one day send a Savior. This Savior would save them from their sins and change their hearts to hearts of love for God. Who is that Savior? Jesus, that's who! God's own Son. Many looked forward in faith to the day He would come. Oh, how they longed to know God's Savior!

Warning, Discipline, Comfort! Those are the words the LORD still speaks to sinful people today. Through His Word--the Bible-- and His Spirit working in our hearts, the LORD still warns us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him. If we are like Jezebel and do not turn from our sins, there will be no comfort for us. There will come a day at the end of time when we will receive the full and final punishment that our sins deserve.

But, oh, what comfort we can know if we, like Ahab, we humbly turn from our sins and ask God for forgiveness. Jesus is the Savior God promised would come. If we trust Him as our Savior, He will not treat us as our sins deserve. He will comfort us with His mercy and forgive us our sins once and for all. He will make us His special people...a people for Himself! We can know Him in our hearts now; and one day, He will take us to live with Him forever. That will be most wonderful of all!

Let's praise this loving, merciful God who spoke words of warning, discipline and comfort through His

prophets long ago. Let's ask Him to help us to heed His warnings and discipline when we sin so that we might also receive His comfort through Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being a holy God that justly punishes sin, yet also a merciful God who forgives those who turn away from their sins.

C God, we confess that we are sinners who many times hear Your words of warning, but deep on disobeying You. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank you for being so merciful that You don't just punish sinful people as they deserve, but help them repent of their sins and turn back to You. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for our sins when we trust in Him as our Savior.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to hear Your words of warning against our sins and turn away from them.

Special Words

Idol: An image of a (fake) god used as an object of worship.

Altar: A special place or structure, usually raised, where worship gifts to a god are made.

Vineyard: An area of land planted with grapevines, usually for producing wine.

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of a god.

Discipline: Punishment given in hopes of turning someone away from the bad things they are doing.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through the words You gave Your prophets to speak and to write down.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to obey or even listen to the words You spoke through the prophets. We like to live our own way. We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God, for speaking through the prophets and making sure they wrote down Your words just right. Thank You that through their work, we can know more about You and how You want us to live.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to learn the words You spoke through the prophets long ago. Work in our hearts that we might remember and obey them. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Fruit from Naboth's Vineyard, Vegetables from Ahab's Garden

Serve grapes (or sparkling grape juice) and vegetables. Provide a dip, if desired.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: Ahab and Jezebel plotted to have Naboth killed when he would not sell his vineyard to Ahab so he could have his vegetable garden near the palace.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God's words to people, especially God's people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God's words. The difference between the false prophets and God's true prophets was that the words of God's prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God's Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God's people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That's because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's Word.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. How did God often speak to His people before Jesus came? *Through the prophets.*
2. How would God use the prophets to speak to the people? *God would speak to a prophet, then the prophet would tell God's words to the people.*
3. What was a false prophet? *Someone who pretended to speak God's words.*
4. How could you tell the difference between a false prophet and one of God's true prophets? *The words God's prophets spoke from God always came true.*
5. What kind of messages did the prophets give the people? *Messages of salvation through trusting in Him. Messages of warnings, discipline, comfort and the promise of deliverance when they turned away from following Him.*
6. How did the prophet know what to say to the people? *The LORD gave him the words to say and then he would say them to the people.*
7. How do we know what the prophets spoke long ago to God's people? *The words God gave them to speak to the people, they also wrote down and are in the Bible.*
8. Why is Jesus called the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all? *Because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's word.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago**? What prophet did the Lord use to speak to Ahab? *Elijah.*
2. What words did the LORD have for Ahab? *Words of warning, discipline and comfort.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."? *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God use the prophets to still speak to His people today? *Through their words written in the Bible.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being the Instructor of His people through the prophets He gave them.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's commands that we choose to rebel against them. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for giving His people prophets to tell them His offer of salvation through trusting in Him; and, for His warnings and commands that help them to know what pleases Him and urge them to turn and trust in Him. We can thank God most of all for Jesus, who came and spoke God's Words most clearly of all, because He is God. And, who came to save us from our sins. He is the reason we can know God's comfort, even though we have sinned!

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, that the prophet's spoke. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that all the words of the prophets in the Bible were preparing us for? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Help the Blind Man

Materials

Blindfold

Cane

Bible Truth Questions

Bag/Bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Children form a circle, with "It", a blind man, in the center. The circle moves slowly to the left or to the right at the Blind Man's command. Then, the Blind Man says, "Halt!" Everyone in the circle stands still. The Blind Man then begins walking out towards the circle of children, GENTLY touching his cane out until he touches someone. When he does, the blind man gets to choose a question from the bag for the teacher to read to the class. When they get a correct answer, the blind man gives up his blindfold to the other child who becomes the blind man, while the former blind man joins the circle.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The God of Abraham Praise

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.
Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18

Understanding the Song

1. Who is "His Spirit?" *The Holy Spirit of God.*
2. Where does the Holy Spirit go and why? *He flows freely, where He wills to go, with the power to do to will of God the Father and the Son, like a surging, powerful wave.*
3. How did the Holy Spirit flow in prophet's word? *By giving the prophet God's words to speak and to write down.*
4. How does God speak still? *By the Holy Spirit working in our hearts as we hear the words of the Bible spoken and explained.*
5. What does it mean for God's law to be established and changeless? *To be established means that it is firmly in place and cannot be taken away. God's law—another name for the Bible—has been put in place by God. No one can change one of His laws that they don't like and make a new one instead. His law is changeless, always true.*
6. How is God's law written upon the human heart? *It is NOT written with a pen or pencil. It means that God made people to know deep down in their hearts that there is a God and to know what He has set up as right and wrong.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *By His Holy Spirit, the LORD gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *By the Holy Spirit, the Lord gave Elijah the prophet His words of warning, discipline and comfort to King Ahab.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19:** "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.?" *These verses remind us that by His Holy Spirit, the Lord gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for speaking to them, even today through the words of the prophets written in the Bible, through His law, and even by the way He made their hearts to know Him. They can ask Him to have His Holy Spirit fill them with understanding and desire to please Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Speaker of His Word through prophets long ago and that still speaks to us as we read His Word, the Bible.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for giving us His Word to speak to His people, long ago through the prophet's and even today as we read it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we’ve learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Alternate Memory Version: Deuteronomy 18:18,19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who did the LORD promise to raise up for the people? *A prophet like Moses.*
2. What would the prophets do for the people? *They would speak to them the words the LORD gave them to speak.*
3. What was the prophet to tell the people? *Everything God commanded them to say: God's promises to save them through faith in Him. And also, God's words of warning, discipline and comfort for those who sin.*
4. What would happen to anyone who did not listen to the words of the LORD's prophet? *The Lord would call him to account, Himself.*
5. What do you think it means for the LORD to call someone to account? *It might mean disciplining them here on earth; but it also definitely means that the Lord will judge them for their sinfulness when He judges all people at the end of time.*
6. Why was it kind of the LORD to raise up prophets for the people? *It could have been enough for Him to just give them His laws and have them obey. But the people were rebellious and the LORD used the prophets to speak His warnings to them that they might listen and turn from their sins.*
7. Who is the greatest prophet who the LORD raised up to fulfill this promise? *The Lord Jesus. He did not just speak God's words like the other prophets. Jesus is God. When He spoke, He spoke as God, Himself, speaking.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What prophet did the LORD raise up to speak to King Ahab? *Elijah.*
2. Did King Ahab and Jezebel listen to Elijah? *Yes, Ahab did. Repented of his sins. No, Jezebel didn't.*
3. How did the LORD call them to account? *Ahab was forgiven by God when he repented of his sins, but his family did lose the privilege of ruling the kingdom.*

Life Application Questions

1. How should we response to God's words given us through His prophets (and written down in the Bible)? *We should turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We should ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit and help us obey His good words given to us.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of prophets to speak His words to His people, long ago.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus as the greatest prophet who perfectly spoke God's Word; and who came to save His people from their sins, even though they have not obeyed His commands as they should.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets' words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who've rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus to earth as a man to save sinners. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who's ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Rush to the Store

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

2 large pieces of paper or poster board

A toy shopping cart or shopping bag per team

Empty food or beverage containers such as milk cartons or cereal boxes—one for each word or group of words of the verse (no more than 10 per team)

Paper and marker

Bag or jar

Masking tape

Two tables

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as containers per team. Number this verse pieces in order and tape them to the containers.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. Use the masking tape to mark each team's home starting line.
5. Place each team's "groceries" in separate piles at the far end of the room with space between the two piles for the teacher to stand.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

WARNING: Limit the children to walking quickly if you have a slick floor.

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at their home lines. Explain that the class will say the Bible verse together, then you will pick a number out of your bag. The first player of each team will rush to the store to find the grocery item with that number on it. Instead of money to pay for the grocery, a child says the memory verse to the teacher. Then they rush home with the item in their bag, this place it on their team's table of groceries. The whole class will say the verse again, the teacher will choose another number and the next two children will go find that item, etc. until all items have been purchased and retrieved. Then, the children will line up their groceries so that their verse is in the right order and say the verse together. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have only one set of groceries. Have the children take turns retrieving the item and adding it to the class groceries on the table. Together they will work to put the verse together after collecting all the groceries.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

I Will Raise Up

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19

I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 He will come from among their brothers,
 I will put my words in his mouth,
 And he will tell them everything I command him.
 And whoever does not listen,
 I will hold him accountable.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 Deuteronomy Eighteen, eighteen and nineteen.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, "It" who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When "It" says "Pass the Secret Sign", the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When "It" says "Stop the Passing!" the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of "It", watch the child with the card do the sign, then have "It" guess the name of the sign. (If desired, "It" can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes "It." Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

STORY REVIEW**P.1**

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What evil things did Queen Jezebel led King Ahab into doing? *Worship Baal instead of the LORD.*
2. What was the LORD's first message to Ahab? *Warning that he should stop worshiping Baal or else he would be disciplined.*
3. What did Ahab want from Naboth? Why? *He wanted his vineyard to use as his own garden because it grew such good crops and was right next to his palace.*
4. Why didn't Naboth want to give it to him? *Because it had always been in his family and it was against the laws the LORD had set up in the Bible.*
5. What plan did Jezebel make to get Naboth's vineyard? *She planned to have Naboth killed.*
6. What did the 2 men accuse Naboth of doing? Why did this deserve death? *Of cursing King Ahab and the LORD.*
7. What was the LORD's second message to Ahab? *A message of discipline for killing Naboth.*
8. Who did the LORD use to speak His messages to Ahab? *The prophet Elijah.*
9. What punishment did the LORD plan for Jezebel? *She would die a dishonorable death and without a proper burial.*
10. How did Jezebel respond to the LORD's punishment? *Jezebel did not repent.*
11. What punishment did the LORD plan for Ahab? *He would die a dishonorable death and he and his family would lose the honor of ruling over the kingdom of Israel.*
12. Why did the LORD not punish Ahab as He planned? *Ahab repented of his sins and turned and worshiped the LORD.*
13. What was the third message the LORD gave to Ahab? *A message of comfort for repenting. God would spare Ahab the discipline He had promised him because he repented.*
14. What is the greatest word of comfort God gave His people through His prophets? *That He would send His Son Jesus one day to save them from their sins when He suffered and died on the cross.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago**? *The LORD called the people of Israel to be His special people. While some faithfully followed Him, many did not, including King Ahab. The LORD used the prophet Elijah to speak words of warnings, discipline and comfort to King Ahab and the people of Israel that they would turn from their sins and turn back to loving and following Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God warn us today? *In His Word, the Bible and through His people telling us His Word.*
2. How should we respond to His warnings? *We should repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19**: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."? *Elijah was one of the prophets that the LORD raised up to speak His words of salvation through trusting Him; and, of warning, discipline and even comfort to those who kept rebelling against Him. The people were supposed to do everything he commanded because the words the prophet spoke were words from the LORD.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise Him for being a holy God that fairly punishes sin; yet a merciful God who forgives those who turn from their sins.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that we are sinners who many times here God's words of warning, but keep disobeying God anyway. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for being so merciful that He wouldn't just punish His sinful people, but would help them to repent of their sins and come back to worship Him. We can thank Him for offering forgiveness even to us, today, through Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *That God would help us, like Ahab, to hear God's words of warning and turn from our sins and trust in Jesus—instead of having to face His eternal punishment.*

The Gospel

1. How are we like Ahab and Jezebel in this story? *Like Ahab and Jezebel we are sinners, who chose to live life our own way. Maybe we don't bow down to idols, but we many times choose to not worship the LORD and obey His good ways.*
2. God's just punishment for sinners is eternal punishment, away from Him and everything good forever! Is there any hope for sinners? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: String Along

Materials

- Ball of string
- Scissors
- A jar/bag big enough to fit all the string
- Masking tape
- Paper and marker
- 20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Cut various lengths of string and place them in the jar, mixed up so it is not easy to see how long they are.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the masking tape line. Read Team A a Story Review question. If they can correctly answer it, then the first child in line stands up and picks a piece of string from the bag/jar without looking. He holds up the string for every one to see. The leader places the piece of string at Team's A's line, but lets it point away from the group. If Team A does NOT correctly answer the question, the Team B can try to correctly answer it. If they do, then the first person in the Team B line gets to pick out a string instead of Team A. Next, it is Team B's turn. Continue as above. Each time a team gets a new piece of string, it is tied to the other strings. The goal is to see who can get the longest string by the end of the game.

Play continues as Story Review cards last; or, as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Mark a length along the floor, wall, etc. Tell the children this is their target string length and they will work together to see how few questions it takes the group to reach the target length. Have the children take turns pulling out a piece of string to be added to the group as the leader reads a question. If the class gets the right answer, the piece of string is added onto the group's string. Continue until the target length is reached, noting how many pieces it took. Untie the string pieces, put them back in the jar and start again, seeing if they can reach the target length with less pieces the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Speaking Rain.

Our story takes place in Israel, up on Mt. Carmel. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 900 years before Jesus came to earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Speaking Rain."

Actions:

Scene 1:

King Ahab provoked the LORD to anger by worshiping Baal, the god of rain, lightning and fire, instead of the LORD. He made a temple to Baal and set up altars on many hills for the Israelites to worship him, too. The prophet Elijah brought the LORD's word to King Ahab that Israel would not have rain for two years because of his sin. Ahab did not repent. For two years, no rain fell. Crops withered, animals and people died. The LORD was showing that He, not Baal, was the one, true God. He alone should be worshipped.

Scene 2:

After the two years, Elijah appeared before King Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel to prove whether Baal or the LORD was the true God. The prophets of Baal set up their sacrifice on the altar to Baal and began to pray to him. When nothing happened they began to shout and even cut themselves to try to get him to answer them. Still nothing happened. Elijah repaired the stones of the LORD's altar, placed the bull on it and had it flooded with water. Elijah prayed and the LORD sent down fire and everything, even the rocks were burned up. The Israelites worshiped the LORD and the prophets of Baal were killed.

Scene 3

Elijah told King Ahab to celebrate because the LORD would soon send rain. Elijah bowed down and prayed to the LORD. King Ahab hurried back to his palace. At first only a tiny, black cloud appeared, but soon it was pouring with rain. The LORD had used the skies once more to show that He, not Baal, was the one, true God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Creations Tell Us about Him.** Rain fell only when the LORD told it to. Fire fell from heaven only when He told it to. God's creation showed that He is their Maker and He alone is the one, true God. This helped the people of Israel turn away from worshiping Baal and turn back to worship the LORD.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Speaking Rain.

Our story takes place in Israel, up on Mt. Carmel. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 900 years before Jesus came to earth.

“The characters in our story are: Baal, King Ahab, Elijah, the LORD, the Prophets of Baal, and the Israelites.

And now we present: “The Case of the Speaking Rain.”

Scene 1: (Beginning)

King Ahab provoked the LORD to anger by worshiping Baal, the god of rain, lightning and fire, instead of the LORD. He made a temple to Baal and set up altars on many hills for the Israelites to worship him, too. The prophet Elijah brought the LORD’s word to King Ahab that Israel would not have rain for two years because of his sin. Ahab did not repent. For two years, no rain fell. Crops withered, animals and people died. The LORD was showing that He, not Baal, was the one, true God. He alone should be worshipped.

Scene 2: (Middle)

After the two years, Elijah appeared before King Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mount Carmel to prove whether Baal or the LORD was the true God. The prophets of Baal set up their sacrifice on the altar to Baal and began to pray to him. When nothing happened they began to shout and even cut themselves to try to get him to answer them. Still nothing happened. Elijah repaired the stones of the LORD’s altar, placed the bull on it and had it flooded with water. Elijah prayed and the LORD sent down fire and everything, even the rocks were burned up. The Israelites worshiped the LORD and the prophets of Baal were killed.

Scene 3: (End)

Elijah told King Ahab to celebrate because the LORD would soon send rain. Elijah bowed down and prayed to the LORD. King Ahab hurried back to his palace. At first only a tiny, black cloud appeared, but soon it was pouring with rain. The LORD had used the skies once more to show that He, not Baal, was the one, true God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s Creations Tell Us about Him.** Rain fell only when the LORD told it to. Fire fell from heaven only when He told it to. God’s creation showed that He is their Maker and He alone is the one, true God. This helped the people of Israel turn away from worshiping Baal and turn back to worship the LORD.

Naboth's Vineyard

Description

Children will make a grapevine with clusters of grapes.

Materials

Bubble wrap with large bubbles (make best looking grapes)

Purple, Red and/or Green tempera paint (If using powder, mix it thickly) and Craft glue

OR, Purple, Red and/or Green "Plaid Plastic Paint" (The tempera paint will be more likely to flake off. Glue helps it to stick to plastic better.)

White/Green Cardstock or Green construction paper

Pieces of sponge or paper towel

Brown Chenille Pipe Cleaners, 2 per bunch of grapes

Purple, Red and/or Green tissue paper

Clear packing tape

Hole Punchers

Markers

Sticks, 1 per child

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut two or three of Template #1 out of the bubble wrap, per child. Cut around the bubbles, not through them. (This means you will only keep roughly to the shape of Template #1)
2. Photocopy Template #2 and cut out around leaves (Can cut out around general shape, don't have to cut every nook and cranny.) OR, if using construction paper leaves, use one of Template #2 as a guide to cut out your leaves. OR Can just have the children color in a set of leaves.
3. Cut out tissue paper into pieces the size of a paper towel, about 12"x12".
4. If using tempera paint, mix about 2 parts paint to 1 part glue. If using plastic paint, you don't need to add glue to it. Set out bowls of paint.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. With bubble side out, have children make the bubble wrap into a basic cone shape by overlapping point A to point B, and point C to point D (See Template#1).
3. Use a piece of clear packing tape down the seam to secure the cone.
4. Crumple up a piece of tissue paper the color of the grape they plan to make and stick it inside the cone shape.
5. Bring top ends together and secure the top by place the middle of the two brown chenille pipe cleaners over the ends and twisting them around several times. You also can simply tape the top and then use more tape to tape the middle of the 2 pipe cleaners in place.
6. With the sponges or paper towels, have the children dip into the purple, red or green "grape" paint and smear it over the bubble wrap. The bubbles will hold the paint and begin to stand out like grapes.
7. Repeat process and make more bunches of grapes, if desired.
8. Color the leaves (if desired) with marker; or simply hole punch them and slip them through the pipe cleaner ends.
9. Attach the grape cluster to a stick with one pair of pipe cleaners. The other set can be twisted around in a curly-cue, making tendrils of the grape vine.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where was Ahab's palace and Naboth's vineyard.
Right next to each other in Jezreel, Israel.
2. What terrible things did Queen Jezebel encourage King Ahab to do in Israel? *Worship Baal, not the LORD. Kill Naboth to get his vineyard.*
3. What happened after King Ahab heard of the LORD's promised punishment? *King Ahab repented of all his wickedness and the LORD spared him much of the punishment. Queen Jezebel did not repent and she died a dishonorable death with no burial.*
4. What is Bible Truth 3, that we are learning?
Bible Truth 3 is God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?
Through the prophet Elijah, Ahab received God's warning of discipline. Ahab repented of his sins and received God's mercy.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
God graciously gives each of us many warnings about our sins. He wants us to turn from our sins and show us His mercy.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

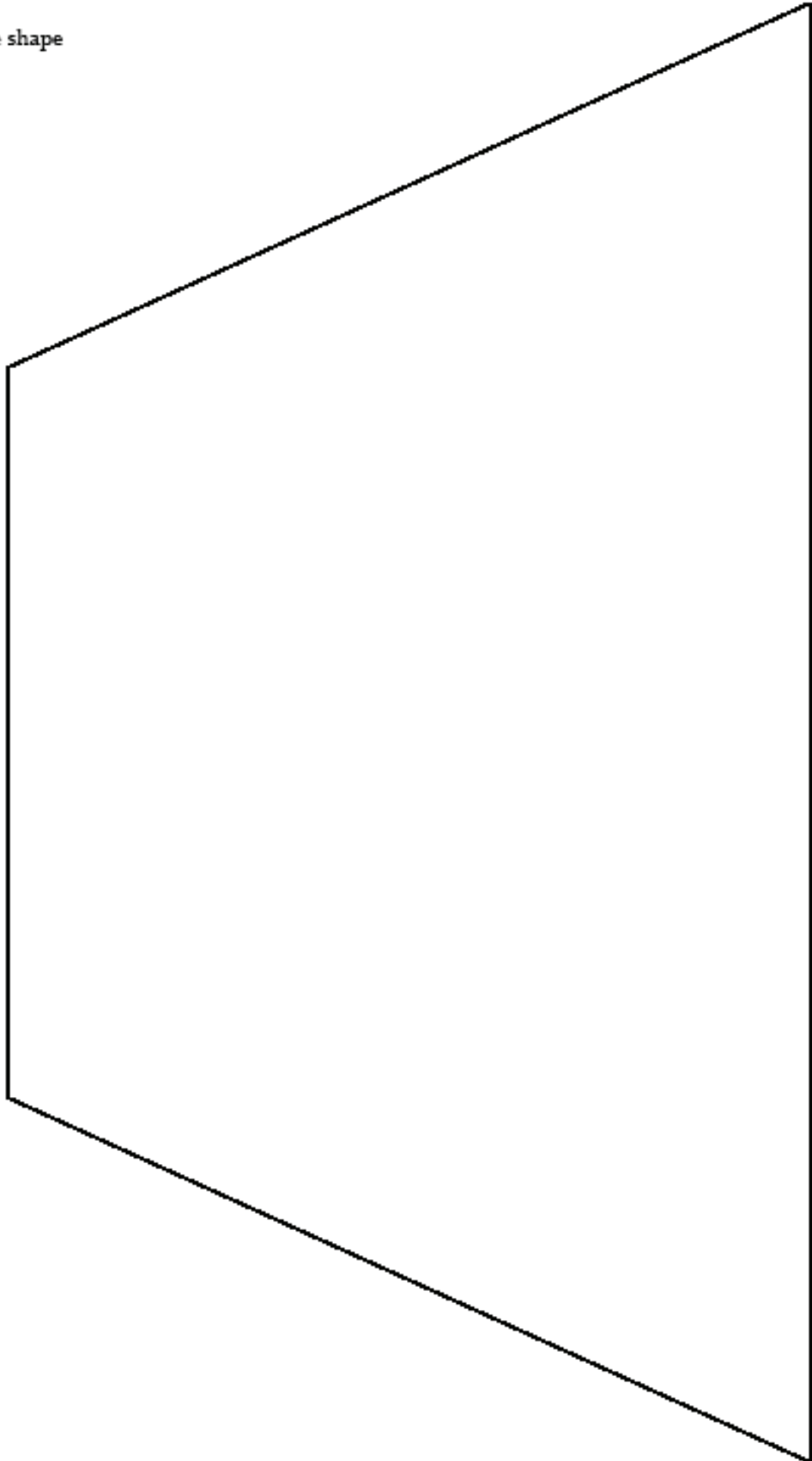
Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

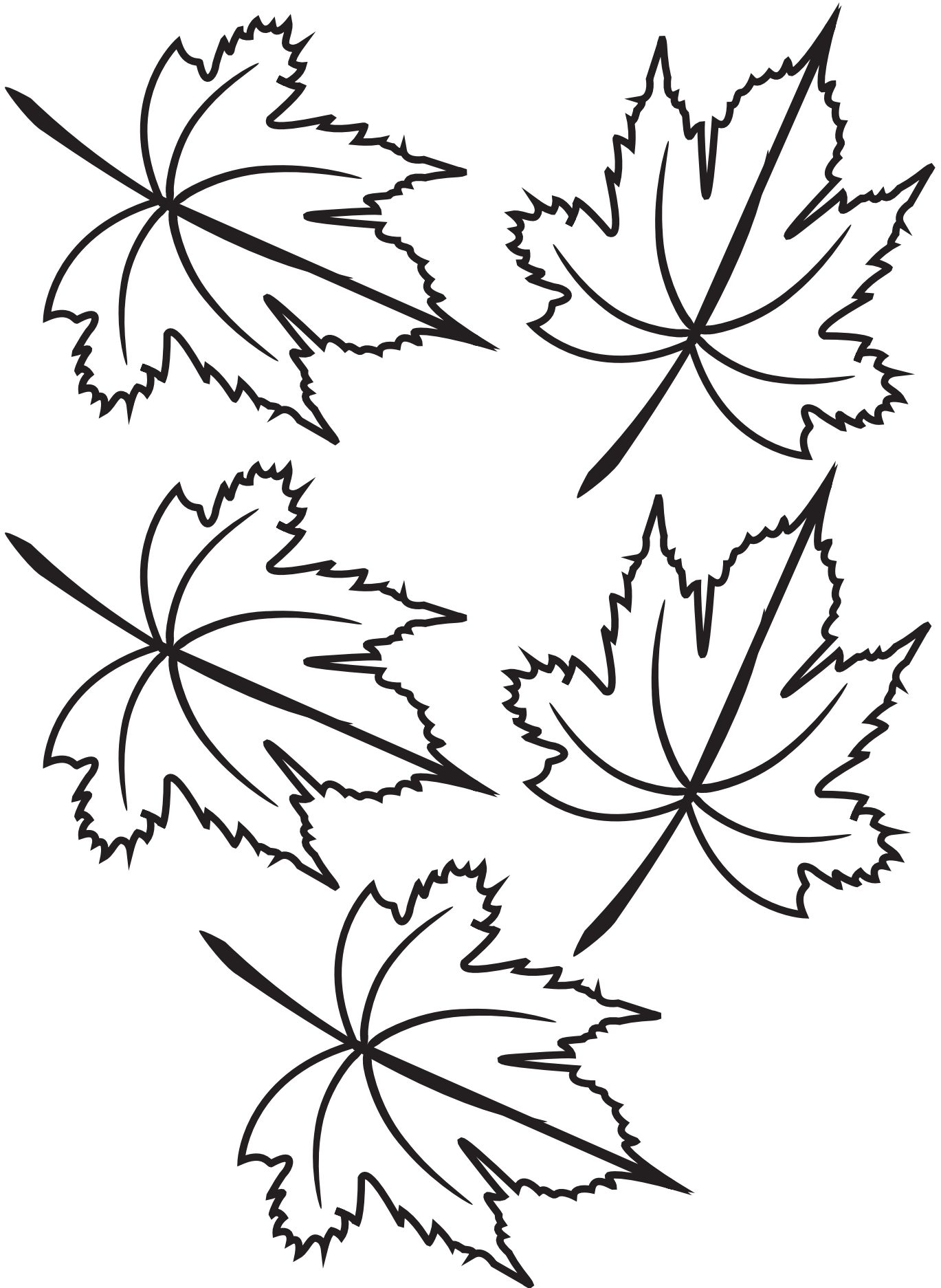
Presentation:

1. Our craft is Naboth's Vineyard.
2. In Jezreel, Israel, King Ahab repented of his many wicked acts, including killing Naboth to take his vineyard, after the prophet Elijah told him of the LORD's promise of punishment. Queen Jezebel, however, did not repent and received the LORD's punishment, as promised.
3. Bible Truth 3 is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.
4. Through the prophet Elijah, Ahab received God's warning of discipline. Ahab repented of his sins and received God's mercy.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God graciously gives each of us many warnings about our sins. He wants us to turn from our sins and show us His mercy.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Template #1 Grape shape





BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

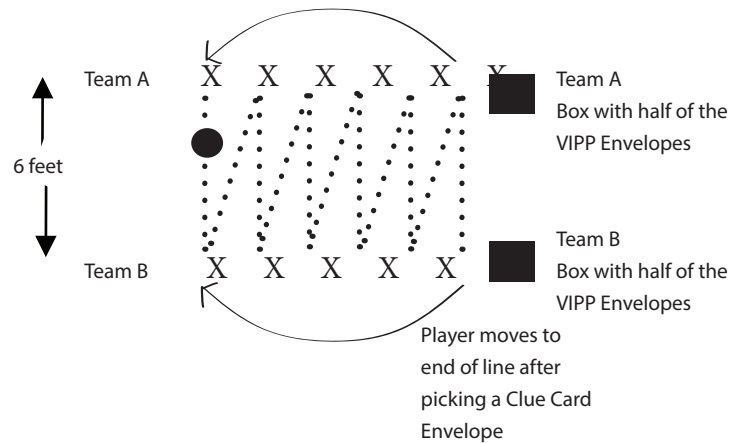
Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Ball Roll Review

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
 2 Set of Clue Cards
 Ball
 8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
 Tape
 Pen and Markers
 2 Boxes



Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put half the Clue Card Envelopes in one box and the other half in the other box. These are the Team A and Team B Boxes.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Have the children break into two even groups and sit down on the floor facing each other, with about a 6' spread between the 2 lines (see diagram above). For Round 1, Give the ball to the first child in Team A and have them roll it across to the child on Team B directly across from them. Then, that Team B child rolls it back across to the next child on Team A, etc. all the way down the line to the last child on Team B. The last child to get the ball will then pick a Clue Card envelope out of their team's box. They (or the teacher) will tell the group and the Clue Card category by looking at the picture of the Clue Card on the outside of the envelope. Have the children try to remember the VIPP's answer to the category. If the class gets it right, the category is "retired". If they get it wrong, then it gets put back in the pile of category envelopes. The child who picked the Clue Card, then takes their place at the other end of the line. They begin Round 2 by rolling the ball to the first person on Team A, etc. This time, the ball will end up with the last child in the Team A line. ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue from their Clue Card box. Continue until all the clues have been chosen/answered correctly.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

P.3

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Scrolls of the Prophets

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Squirrel and Nut

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Deuteronomy 18:18-19: Discussion Sheet and Game: Paper Boot Shuffle

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: People Pins

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: A Phylactery

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets(back of book) &
Game: Over, Under & Throw

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer BoyAdapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old*, vol. IV, compiled by Joel Beeke**Our story is called:****The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. How did the Doctor and the Drummer Boy meet?
2. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know? How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1860's during the American Civil War.

Max Rosvally, dressed in white shirt, black pants, vest and yarmulke, sat excitedly in the Jewish congregation. At the rabbi's nod, Max rose from his seat and stood before the silent but eager congregation. The white tassels dangling from his prayer shawl seemed to quiver with excitement. This was a most important day in this thirteen-year-old boy's life!

The rabbi in his long ceremonial robes turned to Max, handing him a large scroll written in Hebrew. Carefully Max opened it up and read the passage of the Bible in Hebrew, then handed it back to the rabbi. After a few moments the ceremony was over, Max was surrounded with the handshakes and hugs of the synagogue congregation. Max Rosvally had just completed his bar-mitzvah: the special Jewish ceremony which recognized him as no longer a boy. Now Max was a man.

Max Rosvally, like his fathers before him, was an orthodox Jew. For as long as he could remember, he had been taught to love the Law of Moses and the prophets. Each day he strapped one phylactery to his arm and another to his forehead, then prayed the Shema--words that Moses spoke to Israel thousands of years before: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD is God, the LORD is One. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, NIV). Every Sabbath, (Saturday), his family would rest from their work and go to the synagogue to hear the rabbi speak from the Law of Moses or from the Writings of the Prophets (what we call our Old Testament). "Love the LORD, love the Law, love the Prophets, do good to others," Max was told.

"But there is someone you should not love," Max's teachers cautioned him. "His name is Jesus. Christians

say he was the Jewish Messiah, come to save sinners who break the Law of Moses. They say that he was the greatest prophet of all, who didn't just speak God's Word like the other prophets, but was God, Himself. They are wrong. Don't believe in Jesus," they said.

Max never forgot those words. He tried to love the LORD, love the Law, love the Prophets, do good to others....and he would NOT believe in Jesus.

When Max grew up, he became a doctor in the army during the American Civil War. What a terrible war it was! Many men were hurt. Many others died. After each battle, the wounded would be carefully carried to the nurses and doctors in the medical tents. Many times, very little could be done. Doctors hadn't learned how to heal bodies like they do now, but they did what they could.

One day while Max--Dr. Rosvally--was on duty, a wounded young man named Charley Coulson was brought in to him. He was a drummer boy, whose beat kept the soldiers marching together as they went into battle. Dr. Rosvally looked down at Charley's hurt body. How bad his wounds were! He would have to operate quickly if there was even a chance to save his life.

"Prepare this young man for surgery immediately!" ordered Dr. Rosvally. As the nurses prepared Charley for the operation, the doctor noticed something different about him. Charley was about to have a very painful operation. He might very well die. Most men would be panicking with fear. Yet, he had such a complete calm. Max was amazed!

Charley laid his hand on the doctor's, looked him in the face, and explained why: "Doctor, one Sunday

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

STORY OF THE SAINTS

P.2

afternoon, when I was just nine and a half years old, I gave my heart to Christ. I learned to trust Him then, and I've been trusting Him ever since. I know I can trust Him now. He is my strength. He will support me even while you operate on me."

Dr. Rosvally was amazed at the peace Charley had, but he bristled at what he said about Jesus. No! Jesus was not the Messiah! This young man was wrong!

Charley made it through the operation and through the night, but his body wasn't healing. He was in a lot of pain and was very weak; yet to the doctor's amazement, Charley found the strength to sing a hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

Five days later a nurse came rushing to Dr. Rosvally with news, "Doctor, come quickly! Charley is calling for you. He is about to die."

Max rushed to the room where Charley lay dying. "What is it, Charley?," he asked.

"Doctor, my time has come; I do not expect to see another sunrise, but thank God I am ready to go. Before I die, I want to thank you with all my heart for your kindness to me. Doctor, I love you because you are a Jew. The best friend I have found in this world was a Jew--Jesus Christ. Five days ago, while you operated on me, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ and asked Him to make His love known to you. Promise me that you will never forget this," Charley said.

"I promise," Dr. Rosvally replied.

Only a few minutes later, Charley died.

Ten, long years past and the memory of Charley Coulson the drummer boy faded to the back of Dr. Rosvally's memory. But God had not forgotten Charley's prayer for the Jewish doctor. He would answer that prayer with a "yes!"

One day when the doctor went to get his haircut, the Lord, in His kindness, gave him a barber who loved Jesus and loved to tell others about Him. As the barber set to work on Dr. Rosvally's hair with his scissors, the Holy Spirit used his words to work in Dr. Rosvally's heart. As the barber spoke about Jesus, the doctor began to remember Charley Coulson and his love for Jesus, too. "The rabbis told me to never believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but I'm beginning to wonder. Here is yet another man who loves Him and knows Him, just like

Charley did. Maybe I need to look in God's Word and see for myself what it says about Jesus," he decided.

Doctor Rosvally went home and shut himself in his room, all the time thinking about Jesus. He tied his phylacteries to his arm and forehead and put his prayer shawl over his head, just like the old days; and he began to pray and pray.

"Please God show me if Jesus is the Messiah, Your Son."

Immediately the Holy Spirit brought to mind words about Jesus that God spoke through the prophets long ago that were written down in the Bible. "I see! I see!" the doctor exclaimed. "The prophets did speak about Jesus! It is not a lie. Jesus really is the Messiah! I believe in Jesus! I love Jesus!"

At last the doctor's heart was filled with faith and joy; and Charley Coulson's prayers were answered. God had used the words spoken a dying young man, a barber and His very own Words spoken by the prophets long ago to bring this doctor to believe in Him.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Doctor and the Drummer Boy? How did they meet? Max Rosvally was the doctor. Charley was the drummer boy. In a hospital during the American Civil War, when Charley was injured in battle.

2. Who did the Drummer Boy want the Doctor to know? How did the prophets help the Doctor meet Him? Jesus. Max Rosvally read the prophets and realized that they all pointed to Jesus as the Messiah.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 18:18-19:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Does God still use the words He spoke through the prophets today? Yes, He does—in the Bible, the Word of God. And what do the prophets tell us? That God loved sinners so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save from their sins all who will repent and believe in Him.

This is the message that we all need to hear and believe! Let's praise this God who spoke through the prophets long ago and still uses the words He gave them—written down in the Bible—to bring people to know Him today. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, helping us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And let's ask Him to make us people He can use to tell others about salvation through His Son, Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being a God who speaks to us. We can know what You are like because You have spoken through the prophets' words, written down in the Bible.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like Max Rosvally. Too often we choose to not believe in You. And, many times when we are in scary situations, like Charley Coulson, we do not trust You to take care of us. We need the Savior Jesus!

T God, we thank You for loving sinners so much that You pursue them even when they are not interested in You, just as You did with Max Rosvally.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, like Charley, help us to boldly tell others about Jesus.

Special Words

Phylactery: A small, leather box usually containing the words of the Shema, worn by Jewish men around their arm or forehead to remind them to love God by keeping His laws.

Law of Moses: The Jewish name for the first five books of the Old Testament, which the LORD gave Moses to write down. These books contain the 10 Commandments and many other laws.

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of the LORD.

Synagogue: A local gathering of Jews where they worship the LORD and hear preaching from the Old Testament.

Jew: A person who is in the family line of Abraham.

Messiah: The Special One promised by God, who would come and save God's people and establish His kingdom. The Old Testament is full of promises about what the Messiah would be like. Jesus has fulfilled them all.

Drummer Boy: A young man who beats a drum for soldiers to march in time to.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through the words You gave Your prophets to speak and to write down.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to obey or even listen to the words You spoke through the prophets. We like to live our own way. We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God, for speaking through the prophets and making sure they wrote down Your words just right. Thank You that through their work, we can know more about You and how You want us to live.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to learn the words You spoke through the prophets long ago. Work in our hearts that we might remember and obey them. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: Scrolls of the Prophets

Flatten slice of bread (white works best), spread peanut butter & jelly (or just honey) on bread; Place two thin pretzel sticks in the middle. Roll up bread.

Case Tie-in: Max grew up loving the words of the prophets from the Old Testament, but was warned to not love Jesus because He wasn't the Messiah. Years after meeting Charlie Coulson, Max read the words of the prophets and came to believe that they spoke of Him and that Jesus indeed was the Messiah. He repented of his sins and trusted Him as his Savior.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God's words to people, especially God's people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God's words. The difference between the false prophets and God's true prophets was that the words of God's prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God's Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God's people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That's because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's Word.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. How did God often speak to His people before Jesus came? *Through the prophets.*
2. How would God use the prophets to speak to the people? *God would speak to a prophet, then the prophet would tell God's words to the people.*
3. What was a false prophet? *Someone who pretended to speak God's words.*
4. How could you tell the difference between a false prophet and one of God's true prophets? *The words God's prophets spoke from God always came true.*
5. What kind of messages did the prophets give the people? *Messages of salvation through trusting in Him. Messages of warnings, discipline, comfort and the promise of deliverance when they turned away from following Him.*
6. How did the prophet know what to say to the people? *The LORD gave him the words to say and then he would say them to the people.*
7. How do we know what the prophets spoke long ago to God's people? *The words God gave them to speak to the people, they also wrote down and are in the Bible.*
8. Why is Jesus called the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all? *Because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's word.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago**? *The LORD used the words of the prophets from long ago to show Max that Jesus really was the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."? *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God use the prophets to still speak to His people today? *Through their words written in the Bible.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being the Instructor of His people through the prophets He gave them.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's commands that we choose to rebel against them. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for giving His people prophets to tell them His offer of salvation through trusting in Him; and, for His warnings and commands that help them to know what pleases Him and urge them to turn and trust in Him. We can thank God most of all for Jesus, who came and spoke God's Words most clearly of all, because He is God. And, who came to save us from our sins. He is the reason we can know God's comfort, even though we have sinned!

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, that the prophet's spoke. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that all the words of the prophets in the Bible were preparing us for? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Squirrel and Nut

Materials

Marble

Chairs

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Have children seated in chairs in a circle, with their heads down and their eyes closed. "It" is in the middle and is holding the marble. He walks around quietly and chooses someone's lap to drop the marble into. The person who receives the marble jumps up and chases "It" around the circle and tries to tag "It" before "It" gets to the chair and sits down. Either the tagged old "It" or the new "It" gets to choose a question from the bag for the class to answer. Play continues after the question is answered. Be careful about running on slick floors! You may want to ask the children to walking rapidly instead.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The God of Abraham Praise

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.
Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18

Understanding the Song

1. Who is "His Spirit?" *The Holy Spirit of God.*
2. Where does the Holy Spirit go and why? *He flows freely, where He wills to go, with the power to do to will of God the Father and the Son, like a surging, powerful wave.*
3. How did the Holy Spirit flow in prophet's word? *By giving the prophet God's words to speak and to write down.*
4. How does God speak still? *By the Holy Spirit working in our hearts as we hear the words of the Bible spoken and explained.*
5. What does it mean for God's law to be established and changeless? *To be established means that it is firmly in place and cannot be taken away. God's law—another name for the Bible—has been put in place by God. No one can change one of His laws that they don't like and make a new one instead. His law is changeless, always true.*
6. How is God's law written upon the human heart? *It is NOT written with a pen or pencil. It means that God made people to know deep down in their hearts that there is a God and to know what He has set up as right and wrong.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *By His Holy Spirit, the LORD gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *By the Holy Spirit, the LORD used the words of the prophets to speak to Max Rosvally's heart and show him that Jesus really was the Messiah.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19:** "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.?" *These verses remind us that by His Holy Spirit, the Lord gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for speaking to them, even today through the words of the prophets written in the Bible, through His law, and even by the way He made their hearts to know Him. They can ask Him to have His Holy Spirit fill them with understanding and desire to please Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Speaker of His Word through prophets long ago and that still speaks to us as we read His Word, the Bible.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for giving us His Word to speak to His people, long ago through the prophet's and even today as we read it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Alternate Memory Version: Deuteronomy 18:18,19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who did the LORD promise to raise up for the people? *A prophet like Moses.*
2. What would the prophets do for the people? *They would speak to them the words the LORD gave them to speak.*
3. What was the prophet to tell the people? *Everything God commanded them to say: God's promises to save them through faith in Him. And also, God's words of warning, discipline and comfort for those who sin.*
4. What would happen to anyone who did not listen to the words of the LORD's prophet? *The Lord would call him to account, Himself.*
5. What do you think it means for the LORD to call someone to account? *It might mean disciplining them here on earth; but it also definitely means that the Lord will judge them for their sinfulness when He judges all people at the end of time.*
6. Why was it kind of the LORD to raise up prophets for the people? *It could have been enough for Him to just give them His laws and have them obey. But the people were rebellious and the LORD used the prophets to speak His warnings to them that they might listen and turn from their sins.*
7. Who is the greatest prophet who the LORD raised up to fulfill this promise? *The Lord Jesus. He did not just speak God's words like the other prophets. Jesus is God. When He spoke, He spoke as God, Himself, speaking.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did the LORD use the words of the prophets to bring Max Rosvally to Himself? *By bringing to mind the promises about the Messiah they made and showing him that Jesus fulfilled them.*

Life Application Questions

1. How should we response to God's words given us through His prophets (and written down in the Bible)? *We should turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We should ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit and help us obey His good words given to us.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of prophets to speak His words to His people, long ago.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus as the greatest prophet who perfectly spoke God's Word; and who came to save His people from their sins, even though they have not obeyed His commands as they should.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets' words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Paper Boot Shuffle

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 2 large pieces of paper or poster board
 two paper grocery bags per team
 a chair per team
 paper and marker
 bag or jar
 masking tape

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut into 10 sections.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. If desired, crop the tops of the bags so they are not so tall, but more like boot height for the children.
5. Mark the start line with masking tape.
6. Place chairs with the pieces of each team's verse at the other end of the relay area.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the start line. Explain that the class will say the Bible verse together, then you will pick a number out of your bag. The first person in each line will put their feet into the bags, like shoes, and shuffle up to the chair. They will then say the verse to the leader, receive a piece of the verse and return to the line. The class will say the whole verse again, the teacher will pull a new number out of the bag and then the next person on each team will then put on the "boots" and shuffle up for another piece of verse, etc. until all pieces are retrieved. The teams will then put all the pieces in verse order on their team's posterboard sign. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. After getting it in order, the team will finish by saying the verse all together. The first team to do so, wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have only one set of verse pieces. Have the children take turns retrieving the pieces. Together they will work to put the verse together after collecting all the pieces.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

I Will Raise Up

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19

I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 He will come from among their brothers,
 I will put my words in his mouth,
 And he will tell them everything I command him.
 And whoever does not listen,
 I will hold him accountable.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 Deuteronomy Eighteen, eighteen and nineteen.

Song Game: Word Take Away**Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song
 White board and marker
 Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign for the erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What part of the Bible do the Jews use? *The Old Testament.*
2. What kinds of things do Orthodox Jews do to please God? *They wear yarmulkes, they try to keep the 10 Commandments and other of God's laws written in the Old Testament.*
3. Who do the Orthodox Jews do NOT believe in? *That Jesus is the Messiah.*
4. What did Max grow up to do? *Become a doctor.*
5. How did Dr. Rosvally meet Charley? *At the army hospital when Charley was wounded in a battle in the Civil War.*
6. What difference about Charley did Dr. Rosvally see as Charley was being prepared for surgery? *He had a calm, complete trust in Jesus.*
7. Why did Dr. Rosvally keep visiting Charley? *He was curious about this young man who loved Jesus so much.*
8. What Jew did Charley want Dr. Rosvally to meet? *Jesus.*
9. What did Charley tell Dr. Rosvally as he was dying? *That he wanted him to remember that he had prayed that God would bring him to love Jesus one day.*
10. What other man shared about Jesus with Dr. Rosvally? *The barber.*
11. Who did Dr. Rosvally start thinking about when the barber shared with him? *Charley.*
12. Whose words did the LORD bring to mind to Dr. Rosvally that helped him know that Jesus was the Messiah? *Words that the prophets spoke long ago about Jesus.*
13. Why do you think that the LORD had the prophets write down the words He gave them to speak? *So that people throughout time would have them to hear and believe.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *The LORD used the words of the prophets from long ago to show Max that Jesus really was the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19:** "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."? *The Old Testament is filled with the words of the LORD given to God's people through prophets that He raised up. He used the words of the prophets to show Max that Jesus really was the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being a holy God that fairly punishes sin; yet a merciful God, who forgives those who turn from their sins. He is a God who pursues those who do not choose to follow Him. How amazing He is!*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we are sinners, like Max Rosvally, who have hearts that choose not to trust in Jesus. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for loving sinners so much that He would pursue them, as He did Max Rosvally.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *That God would help us to have soft hearts to the good news of Jesus. That we would turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. And, that we would, like Charley, tell others the good news of Jesus, too.*

Life Application Questions

1. Should God's people today be discouraged when they share the gospel with others and get no response from them? *No. Perhaps there is no immediate response, but like with Max Rosvally, the Lord can their words of truth even many years later to help them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Charlie wanted Max to believe in? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: People Pins

Materials

A ball
Paper and marker
10 Safety pins
Masking Tape
20+ Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Use the masking tape to mark bowling pin placement on the floor as well as a bowling line.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, Team A and B. Team A will line up behind the bowling throw line, Team B will take their places on an x as a bowling pin. Attach with tape or safety pins on each "bowling pin", with number 1 on the person in front and working across the rows from side to side, so that the biggest numbers will be on the last row of "pins". Ask the first child on Team A to come up to the bowling throw line. Have the child roll the ball into the "bowling pins" Whoever is touched by the ball is considered a knocked down pin. The pin numbers on those people are added up. The bowler is then asked a question. If he can answer it correctly on his own, the team gets as many points as the value of the pins knocked down. If he can answer it with the help of his team, then the team gets half the point value. If he answers it incorrectly, it goes to the Team B for the half point value amount for a correct answer. All pins resume their positions, ready for the next player on Team A to bowl. After everyone on Team A has a turn to bowl, the two teams switch places as pins and bowlers.

Play continues until everyone has had a chance to bowl, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Divide the children into two groups. Set a target point number for whole group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have one set of children be the bowling pins and the other set take turns bowling. Once one set of children have had a turn, switch out bowling pins and bowlers. Tally number of turns on a piece of paper. When the target number has been reached, start over and try to reach the target number in fewer turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script

White board or other large format paper

Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy.

Our story takes place in 1860's, in a battlefield hospital in America during the Civil War.

And now we present: "The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Max Rosvally grew up as an Orthodox Jew. He was taught to keep the Laws of Moses but not to believe in Jesus. Max grew up to be a doctor and served as a surgeon in the Civil War. Charley, a drummer boy, was badly injured and brought into the hospital to have an operation to try to save his life. Dr. Rosvally saw a difference in Charley as they prepared him for surgery. He had a calm, complete trust, that he had rarely ever seen. Charley told him that it is because that he had become a Christian as a boy. He had trusted in Jesus ever since. Charley told Dr. Rosvally that Jesus would give him the strength he needed to make it through the surgery and even death. Dr. Rosvally hated Christians, but he was amazed at this young man's love for Jesus and his calm and complete trust in Him.

Scene 2:

Dr. Rosvally visited Charley a number of times after his operation to see how he was doing. Charley told him about Jesus, but Dr. Rosvally still did not want to believe. As Charley was about to die he told Dr. Rosvally that he had prayed for him to know Jesus all through his operation and hoped that he would one day become a Christian.

Scene 3

The war ended and years passed. Dr. Rosvally went to a Christian barber who talked about Jesus the way Charley did. He remembered Charley's words to him. Dr. Rosvally began to want to be a Christian. God brought to mind the words of the prophets about the Messiah he had read many times. At last he saw that Jesus was the Messiah and became a Christian.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.** The LORD used the words of the prophets written in the Bible to show him that Jesus was the Messiah and brought him to believe in him.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy.

Our story takes place in 1860's, in a battlefield hospital in America during the Civil War.

The characters in our story are: Max Rosvally, Rabbi, Orthodox Jew congregation, nurses, Charley, Barber

And now we present: "The Case of the Doctor and the Drummer Boy."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Max Rosvally grew up as an Orthodox Jew. He was taught to keep the Laws of Moses but not to believe in Jesus. Max grew up to be a doctor and served as a surgeon in the Civil War. Charley, a drummer boy, was badly injured and brought into the hospital to have an operation to try to save his life. Dr. Rosvally saw a difference in Charley as they prepared him for surgery. He had a calm, complete trust, that he had rarely ever seen. Charley told him that it is because that he had become a Christian as a boy. He had trusted in Jesus ever since. Charley told Dr. Rosvally that Jesus would give him the strength he needed to make it through the surgery and even death. Dr. Rosvally hated Christians, but he was amazed at this young man's love for Jesus and his calm and complete trust in Him.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Dr. Rosvally visited Charley a number of times after his operation to see how he was doing. Charley told him about Jesus, but Dr. Rosvally still did not want to believe. As Charley was about to die he told Dr. Rosvally that he had prayed for him to know Jesus all through his operation and hoped that he would one day become a Christian.

Scene 3: (End)

The war ended and years passed. Dr. Rosvally went to a Christian barber who talked about Jesus the way Charley did. He remembered Charley's words to him. Dr. Rosvally began to want to be a Christian. God brought to mind the words of the prophets about the Messiah he had read many times. At last he saw that Jesus was the Messiah and became a Christian.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.** The LORD used the words of the prophets written in the Bible to show him that Jesus was the Messiah and brought him to believe in him.

A Phylactery

Description

Children will make phylacteries like the ones Max Rosvally wore when he prayed.

Materials

SEWING METHOD:

Black Felt, Black Button hole Thread, Skewer

Blunt Tapestry Needles, one per child

OR MATCHBOX METHOD:

Miniature Match Boxes, one per child; Black Markers

AND FOR BOTH:

Black and Blue Cross-stitch Thread; Paper, Pen and Ink (Or copies of Template #3/#4)

Preparing the Craft

SEWING METHOD:

1. Cut 2 of Template #1 and #2 out of felt for each child.
2. Use skewer to make holes in each end of Template #1 as indicated.
3. Thread needles with Black Buttonhole Thread.
4. Cut 6 long strands of black thread, 3 for each end of the phylactery. (These will be braided and then used as the ties to the phylactery. Make them half the size of your children's heads + 1'.

MATCHBOX METHOD:

1. Empty matchboxes of matches.
2. Set out black markers.
3. Cut 3 long strands of black thread the size of your children's heads plus an extra foot.

BOTH: Cut out paper and pens for copying the verse; or, photocopy Template #3, one per child.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children write down verse onto a small piece of paper; or, have them use Templates #3/#4.
3. Roll or fold up verse into a small square, then secure it with blue thread.

SEWING METHOD:

1. Have the children place the smaller rectangle of felt (Template #2) in the middle of other piece of felt (Template #1). Edges of Template #1 felt will hang out both sides. Have the children use an in-and-out stitch to stitch three sides of the Template #2 felt to Template #1 felt, sewing down one long side, across the short side, and up the other long side. Stick the paper with the scripture verse.

inside the pocket, then sew the last short side. Knot, then cut off excess thread.

2. Slip 3 off the long, black cross-stitch threads into a hole at one end of the phylactery and pull ends together to make 6 even strands. Braid the strands together by grouping the six strands into pairs, then braiding them as a pair. Knot all the strands together at the end. Do the same with the other three pieces of black cross stitch thread for the other side of the phylactery.

3. Hold up to forehead and tie in place; or tie onto forearm, criss-cross the threads and then tie.

MATCHBOX METHOD:

1. Use the markers to color the box black.
2. Tie off one set of ends of the three pieces of black cross-stitch thread. Braid the three strands into one long braid and tie off other end.
3. Separate the two pieces of the matchbox, slip the braid through, then put the box back together.
4. Place the verse inside the box.
5. Hold up to forehead and tie in place; or tie onto back of hand; crisscross threads up arm, then tie.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did our story take place?

In America during the American Civil War.

2. Who did Charley Coulson and the barber want Max Rosvally to put his trust in? Why was this so especially hard for him to do? *In Jesus. He had been told that Jesus was not the Messiah that the prophets promised. He even hated Jesus.*

3. Who did the Holy Spirit use to change Max's heart? *Charley Coulson, the barber and the words of the prophets, themselves.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?

Max Rosvally grew up reading the prophet's words, but hating Jesus. The Holy Spirit used Charley Coulson and the barber to bring him to believe that Jesus really was the Messiah the prophets foretold.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God uses the Bible and even people like us to tell others the good news about Jesus, the Son of God.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Phylactery.

2. In his room, Max Rosvally put on his phylacteries and prayed to the LORD that He would show him if Jesus was really the Messiah, the Son of God, the prophets promised would come.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.

4. Max Rosvally grew up reading the prophet's words, but hating Jesus. The Holy Spirit used Charley Coulson and the barber to bring him to believe that Jesus really was the Messiah the prophets foretold.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God uses the Bible and even people like us to tell others the good news about Jesus, the Son of God.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Template #1



Template #2



Template #3

**“You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an idol.
You shall not misuse the name of the
LORD your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.
You shall not covet.”
From Exodus 20**

**“You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an idol.
You shall not misuse the name of the
LORD your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.
You shall not covet.”
From Exodus 20**

**“You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an idol.
You shall not misuse the name of the
LORD your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.
You shall not covet.”
From Exodus 20**

Template #4

**“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is
one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.
These commandments that I give you today are
to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your
children.
Talk about them when you sit oat home and when
you walk along the road, when you lie down and
when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your
hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write
them on the door-frames of your houses and on
your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:3-5**

**“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is
one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.
These commandments that I give you today are
to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your
children.
Talk about them when you sit oat home and when
you walk along the road, when you lie down and
when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your
hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write
them on the door-frames of your houses and on
your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:3-5**

**“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is
one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.
These commandments that I give you today are
to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your
children.
Talk about them when you sit oat home and when
you walk along the road, when you lie down and
when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your
hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write
them on the door-frames of your houses and on
your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:3-5**

BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (a.k.a. missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are 9 coloring sheets in which children fill in the 9 things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Over, Under and Throw

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

Box or basket big enough for the envelopes to fit in and the ball to land in.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
5. Place the envelopes in the basket, a good shooting distance from where the child at the head of the line will stand.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Have the children line up, all facing forward. Give the ball to the last child in line. At your signal, have them pass the ball to the next child with an overhead pass; then that child passes the ball through the legs of the next child, etc. until the ball reaches the first child. The first child in line then tries to make a basket. If he succeeds, he gets to go up and pick out an envelope to open. the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back with the Clue Cards in the basket. Game continues until all the envelopes have been retired or as time or attention span allows.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 3: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Lesson 3 New Testament Story: The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man
Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; Luke 3,9; John 1

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Honey and "Locusts"

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Deuteronomy 18:18-19: Discussion Sheet and Game: Day at the Beach

Bible Verse Song: I Will Raise Up: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Yes, No and Go

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Tax Collectors, Soldiers and Teachers of the Law

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Stop and Go

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; Luke 3,9; John 1

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Wilderness Man? How was he like a wild man?
2. Why was he out in the wilderness? What was his message?

This story takes place in New Testament times, but was the answer to something that started way back near the very beginning of time.

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, sin and death entered the world and spread to all people. It was so terrible! Every person deserved God's just punishment for their sins. They all faced being separated from Him forever and there was nothing they could do to save themselves from this sadness.

No, they couldn't save themselves, but there was someone who could: God. And He planned to do just that. So from even that first awful day, God treated sinners better than they could ever deserve. "Your sins deserve My punishment, but I will send you a Savior," He told them. And through the years, gave them many more promises about the Savior.

Many times these promises were spoken through His prophets. Moses, David, Jeremiah, Hosea, Malachi, Daniel, and many more all passed on glimpses of what this Savior do and be. But perhaps no prophet passed on more about the coming Savior than the prophet Isaiah. "The Savior will be God Himself. He will take the sins of God's people upon Himself. He will rise from the dead," Isaiah reported God's word to the people. And what sign could the people look for to know when the Savior was about to come? "A very special prophet will come to led the way for the Savior," he told them.

"This special prophet will be: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for him. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways, smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation," he foretold.

Straight paths for the LORD, what did that mean?

Just like kings in ancient times used to send servants ahead of their royal caravans to fill in pot holes and level out bumps, God would send a great prophet to go ahead of his Messiah, to prepare the hearts of the people to be ready for Him.

But there aren't pot holes and bumps in our hearts, are there? Of course, not! But there is sin in our hearts. And there is selfishness and hatred for others, and even for God. These were the kinds of things God would use this great prophet to show the people, that they might turn away from their sin and humbly be ready to believe in the Messiah. Through faith in Him, God would bring forgiveness of their sins. He would change their hearts and fill them love for Him.

Who was this great prophet God sent to prepare the people's hearts for the Messiah? An angel appeared to a man named Zecharias and told him: "Zecharias, your wife is going to have a baby, but don't name him after yourself, like everyone expects you, too. You must name him 'John'--which means 'gift of God.' As your son, he is My gift to you. But even more so, he is My gift to My people. He will prepare the way in their hearts for the Messiah," the LORD said through the angel. "John will be greater than any of the Old Testament prophets. I'm not just going to fill him with my Spirit when it's time for him to start speaking to the people for Me, like I did with the other prophets. No! I'm going to fill him with my Spirit even before he is born!" the LORD promised.

"Now I have special rules that you must teach him to obey," the angel said as he continued with the LORD's message for Zecharias. "He is never to have a haircut, drink wine or touch a dead body his whole life. I want you to do these things so that he will be ready to be my

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

special prophet who will speak my words to prepare the people for the Lord, the Messiah Jesus, when the time comes," the angel commanded.

Everything happened just as the angel had said. Elizabeth became pregnant and she gave birth to a baby boy. Zecharias and Elizabeth, John's parents, did just what the angel told them to do. They gave him the name 'John.' They never cut his hair or let him drink wine. They kept him away from dead bodies. They kept all the other special rules God gave them for raising John. They took him to the desert of Judea to raise him there. John grew up living a rough, outdoor life out in the hot sun, among rocks, snakes, scorpions. His parents gave him locusts (like grasshoppers) and honey for food. God blessed John and he grew up to be a godly man. The LORD was getting him ready to be the prophet who would prepare the way for the LORD, the Messiah Jesus.

Thirty, long years passed while John lived out in the desert. He had grown into a strong man, with long, long hair that had never been cut. He wore rough clothes made out of scratching camel's hair and a thick leather belt around his waist, just like the great prophet Elijah had hundreds of years earlier.

But far more important than how John looked on the outside, was God's word in his heart, that he longed to preach. "It is time to prepare the way for the LORD, the Messiah Jesus," the Holy Spirit prompted John inside his heart. "Preach the words to the people that I will give to you."

So John went over to the River Jordan, near Bethany and began to speak the words the LORD gave him: "Repent and turn away from your sins for the kingdom of God is near. Be baptized to show that you are turning away from your sins and turning to God. Prepare the way for the LORD, the Messiah Jesus. Make your hearts ready for Him. Live right for God," he urged his listeners..

Before long crowds of people came from Jerusalem and all over the country to hear John. They heard his message and believed. John brought them down into the water and baptized them.

"What should we do now?" the people asked John.

"Don't just change the way you think, change the way you act, too. Be generous and share with others in

need. "The man with two [shirts] should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same," John told them.

The tax collectors asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

"Stop acting like all the other tax collectors who get greedy and take too much money. Only ask for the fair amount," he told them.

"What should we do?" asked the soldiers.

"Don't be like the other soldiers who threaten people with their swords just to make them give them money. Don't lie about people to get them in trouble with the law. Be satisfied with how much money you get paid," John replied.

Some of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to listen to John, too. But they didn't come to prepare for the coming Messiah. They came to see what John was doing and get him in trouble, To them John said, "You are like a brood of vipers—poisonous snakes. You hide in nooks and crannies waiting for a chance to strike and kill the good works of God. You need to turn away from your sins, too, just like everyone else. If you do not, you will face God's punishment!" John warned.

But did they listen? Sadly they did not! The Pharisees and the Sadducees refused to join the tax collectors, soldiers and others. They would NOT repent and be baptized. They didn't think they needed to. And so, their hearts were not ready to receive the Messiah who was coming.

And soon the Messiah did come. He came and stood among the crowd listening to John as he preached and baptized by the Jordan River. At last it was His time! Yes, Jesus, the Messiah, Himself, had come!

As Jesus walked through the crowd towards John, God gave John a new message to tell the people: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one who comes after me. He is more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.... I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel," John told them.

John's time was through. The prophet had done his job. He had prepared the way and now, praise God, Jesus the Messiah had come! Jesus would preach His

words to the prepared hearts of those who heard God's call through John and many would turn and believe in Him.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Wilderness Wild Man? How was he like a wild man?

John the Baptist. He didn't cut his hair; he wore camel's hair clothes; he ate locusts and honey.

2. Why was he out in the wilderness? What was his message? The LORD told him to go live in the wilderness, in fulfillment of the words of the prophets spoken many years earlier. He told people to repent of their sins and be baptized to be prepared for the coming Messiah.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 18:18-19: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

John had finished his job, preparing the people of Israel for the Messiah, when Jesus began to preach. But do you know, he is still preaching his message today, as we listen to this story. Are our hearts prepared for the LORD? Have we confessed and repented of our sins like many people did when they heard John's message from God? Or are we still like those Pharisees and Sadducees who might know the right answers but still do not think they need to repent of their sins? The LORD wants US to prepare our hearts for Him, too. He wants us to confess and repent of our sins. He want us to turn and trust in Jesus as our Savior. If we do, He will fill our hearts with His Spirit, just as He did to those who turned and trusted in Him two thousand years ago.

Let's praise this God who spoke long ago to His people through His prophets. Let's ask Him to prepare the way in our hearts, too, that we might confess and repent of our sins, and turn and trust in Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so merciful that You would plan to send Jesus to save us from our sins.

C God, we confess that we are sinners, like the people who listened to John the Baptist. We can be greedy. We can look good on the outside when we are really sinful in our hearts. We need to repent of our sins! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for loving sinners so much that You would promise to send them a Savior; and, that You would prepare their hearts so they could be ready to trust in that Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! By Your Holy Spirit, help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Special Words

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of a god.

Messiah: The Special One promised by God, who would come and save God's people and establish His kingdom. The Old Testament is full of promises about what the Messiah would be like. Jesus has fulfilled them all.

Pharisees: A particular group of Jewish teachers who spent years studying God's laws and Jewish customs and were known for trying especially hard to keep them all.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through the words You gave Your prophets to speak and to write down.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to obey or even listen to the words You spoke through the prophets. We like to live our own way. We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God, for speaking through the prophets and making sure they wrote down Your words just right. Thank You that through their work, we can know more about You and how You want us to live.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to learn the words You spoke through the prophets long ago. Work in our hearts that we might remember and obey them. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Honey and “Locusts”

Honey-butter spread on a white cracker or piece of bread dotted with mini shredded wheat bits of “locusts” (Recommend white cracker or bread so that it contrasts well with the locusts).

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: John the Baptist was the special prophet who announced the coming of the Messiah and gave the people the LORD’s message to prepare their hearts to believe in Him. He lived out in the desert and from there proclaimed the LORD’s message. He ate locusts and honey.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago

Before Jesus came, God often spoke to His people through prophets. Prophets were godly people who spoke God's words to people, especially God's people. God would speak to the prophets, then the prophets would tell the people exactly what God said. Sometimes false prophets came who pretended to speak God's words. The difference between the false prophets and God's true prophets was that the words of God's prophets always came true.

Sometimes God used His prophets to warn the people to stop sinning against Him. He urged them to turn away from their sins and receive His forgiveness. If they did not turn back, God used the prophets to tell His people how He would discipline them. After God disciplined His people, He used the prophets to give the people His words of comfort and hope.

The Bible is God's Word. Much of it, God first spoke to His people through the prophets. They wrote it down for God's people to know and obey. The Bible calls Jesus the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all. That's because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's Word.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. How did God often speak to His people before Jesus came? *Through the prophets.*
2. How would God use the prophets to speak to the people? *God would speak to a prophet, then the prophet would tell God's words to the people.*
3. What was a false prophet? *Someone who pretended to speak God's words.*
4. How could you tell the difference between a false prophet and one of God's true prophets? *The words God's prophets spoke from God always came true.*
5. What kind of messages did the prophets give the people? *Messages of salvation through trusting in Him. Messages of warnings, discipline, comfort and the promise of deliverance when they turned away from following Him.*
6. How did the prophet know what to say to the people? *The LORD gave him the words to say and then he would say them to the people.*
7. How do we know what the prophets spoke long ago to God's people? *The words God gave them to speak to the people, they also wrote down and are in the Bible.*
8. Why is Jesus called the Word of God, the greatest prophet of all? *Because Jesus is God. He always spoke God's word.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago**? *John the Baptist was one of the prophets from long ago that the LORD raised up to speak His words to the people.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19**: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."? *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God use the prophets to still speak to His people today? *Through their words written in the Bible.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being the Instructor of His people through the prophets He gave them.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's commands that we choose to rebel against them. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for giving His people prophets to tell them His offer of salvation through trusting in Him; and, for His warnings and commands that help them to know what pleases Him and urge them to turn and trust in Him. We can thank God most of all for Jesus, who came and spoke God's Words most clearly of all, because He is God. And, who came to save us from our sins. He is the reason we can know God's comfort, even though we have sinned!

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, that the prophet's spoke. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that all the words of the prophets in the Bible were preparing us for? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is hope! God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Circle and Cross

Materials

Beanbags, 1 per child
Masking Tape
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Tape a circle about 2' in diameter on the floor. Tape a large X in the middle of it.
4. Mark one team's set of beanbags with a small piece of masking tape or other distinguishing mark.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, giving the members of each team a beanbag of the same color or marking. Have all the children stand outside of the circle, about 6' back. At your signal, have the children toss their beanbags into the circle, trying to make them land on the taped X. Count up the beanbags for each team that landed on it. That's how many points their quiz question is worth. Choose a question for each team from the bag/bowl. If a team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for 1 point, if they can get the correct answer. Gather up the beanbags and continue play.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The God of Abraham Praise

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.
Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 18

Understanding the Song

1. Who is "His Spirit?" *The Holy Spirit of God.*
2. Where does the Holy Spirit go and why? *He flows freely, where He wills to go, with the power to do to will of God the Father and the Son, like a surging, powerful wave.*
3. How did the Holy Spirit flow in prophet's word? *By giving the prophet God's words to speak and to write down.*
4. How does God speak still? *By the Holy Spirit working in our hearts as we hear the words of the Bible spoken and explained.*
5. What does it mean for God's law to be established and changeless? *To be established means that it is firmly in place and cannot be taken away. God's law—another name for the Bible—has been put in place by God. No one can change one of His laws that they don't like and make a new one instead. His law is changeless, always true.*
6. How is God's law written upon the human heart? *It is NOT written with a pen or pencil. It means that God made people to know deep down in their hearts that there is a God and to know what He has set up as right and wrong.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *By His Holy Spirit, the LORD gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *By the Holy Spirit, the Lord gave the prophet John the Baptist the words to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 18:18-19:** "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.?" *These verses remind us that by His Holy Spirit, the Lord gave the prophets His words to speak to His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for speaking to them, even today through the words of the prophets written in the Bible, through His law, and even by the way He made their hearts to know Him. They can ask Him to have His Holy Spirit fill them with understanding and desire to please Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the Speaker of His Word through prophets long ago and that still speaks to us as we read His Word, the Bible.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for giving us His Word to speak to His people, long ago through the prophet's and even today as we read it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 18:18-19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."

Alternate Memory Version: Deuteronomy 18:18,19

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who did the LORD promise to raise up for the people? *A prophet like Moses.*
2. What would the prophets do for the people? *They would speak to them the words the LORD gave them to speak.*
3. What was the prophet to tell the people? *Everything God commanded them to say: God's promises to save them through faith in Him. And also, God's words of warning, discipline and comfort for those who sin.*
4. What would happen to anyone who did not listen to the words of the LORD's prophet? *The Lord would call him to account, Himself.*
5. What do you think it means for the LORD to call someone to account? *It might mean disciplining them here on earth; but it also definitely means that the Lord will judge them for their sinfulness when He judges all people at the end of time.*
6. Why was it kind of the LORD to raise up prophets for the people? *It could have been enough for Him to just give them His laws and have them obey. But the people were rebellious and the LORD used the prophets to speak His warnings to them that they might listen and turn from their sins.*
7. Who is the greatest prophet who the LORD raised up to fulfill this promise? *The Lord Jesus. He did not just speak God's words like the other prophets. Jesus is God. When He spoke, He spoke as God, Himself, speaking.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?** *God tells us in His Word that He would raise up prophets to instruct the people. He used them to instruct the people in how they could be saved by trusting in Him. He used them to warn the people to turn back to Him when they kept on sinning against Him and to offer them forgiveness for their sins. The people were to obey the prophet's words because they were His words. God's people still read the words of the prophet's written in the Bible today. There are things that God wants them to still obey that He commanded through them, long ago.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What prophet did the LORD raise up to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah? *John the Baptist.*
2. Who did John the Baptist especially warn about not listening to his message? *The Pharisees because they knew what to do, but did not do it.*

Life Application Questions

1. How should we response to God's words given us through His prophets (and written down in the Bible)? *We should turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We should ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit and help us obey His good words given to us.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of prophets to speak His words to His people, long ago.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That many times we chose to disobey God's words, including the words of His prophets, written down in the Bible. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus as the greatest prophet who perfectly spoke God's Word; and who came to save His people from their sins, even though they have not obeyed His commands as they should.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to understand His prophets' words, written in the Bible. Ask Him to help us obey all His commands That God would work in our hearts that we might know and love Him, both by what we see of Him in His creations; and, most of all, by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Gospel Question

1. The LORD gave His people many promises about the Savior, Jesus, who would come to save His people. What is the good news of Jesus that the prophet's words foretold? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Day at the Beach

Materials

- Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
- 2 large pieces of paper or poster board
- 10 or so various beach items, per team
(shells, sunglasses, beach balls, lotion bottle, fish, sand bucket, shovel, etc.)
- Paper, marker
- 1 towel (preferably beach towel) per team

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as many pieces as beach articles per team. Number this verse pieces in order and tape them to the beach articles.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. Use masking tape to mark starting line.
5. Tape the numbered verse pieces to the beach items and make a pile for each team at the far end of the relay area.
6. Place a towel at the starting line for each team.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
WARNING: Limit the children to walking quickly if you have a slick floor.
Divide the children into teams. Explain everyone will say the verse together, then you will pull out a number from your bag. The first two children in each line will rush down to the other end of the relay area with the ends of the towel in each partner's hands. The partners are to say the verse to the leader, then they are to find the beach item with the corresponding number in their beach towel for them to carefully carry back to the "beach house" (start). If they drop it, they have to go all the way back and start again. When all items have been retrieved, they are to place them in verse order. The team will then put all the pieces in verse order. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. After getting it in order, the team will finish by saying the verse all together. The first team to do so, wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have only one set of beach items. Have the children take turns retrieving the items in pairs and adding it to the class beach house. Together they will work to put the verse together after collecting all the beach items are collected.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

I Will Raise Up

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 19

I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up,
 I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 He will come from among their brothers,
 I will put my words in his mouth,
 And he will tell them everything I command him.
 And whoever does not listen,
 I will hold him accountable.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 I will raise up, I will raise up, I will raise up for them a prophet like you.
 Deuteronomy Eighteen, eighteen and nineteen.

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. How did Zecharias and Elizabeth know even before John was born, that he was to be a special servant of God?
The words the angel spoke to Zecharias in the Temple.
2. What did the Lord fill John with while he was still inside his mother? *The Holy Spirit.*
3. What special rules was John to live by? *He was never to have a haircut, drink wine or touch a dead body his whole life.*
4. Where did John grow up? *In the wilderness.*
5. What did John eat for food? *Locusts and honey.*
6. How old was John when he started preaching? *Thirty years old.*
7. Where did John preach and why? *John preached out in the desert by the River Jordan.*
8. What was the message the Lord gave John to preach? *Repent of your sins and make your hearts ready for the Messiah who is soon to come.*
9. How could the people prepare their hearts for the coming of the Messiah? *Repent and turn away from your sins for the kingdom of God is near. Be baptized to show that you are turning away from your sins and turning to God. Prepare the way for the Lord, the Messiah Jesus. Make your hearts ready for Him. Live right for God.*
10. What did he tell the tax collectors and soldiers to do? *Not to take more money than was fair; Don't be like the other soldiers who threaten people with their swords just to make them give them money. Don't lie about people to get them in trouble with the law. Be satisfied with how much money you get paid.*
11. What did he tell the Pharisees to do? *To repent of their sins. To stop just doing things that made them look good and holy on the outside, while on the inside their hearts were full of sin.*
12. Why did the people think John might be the Messiah? *Because of the powerful way he preached.*
13. What did John say he was not even fit to do for Jesus? *His sandals.*
14. What special name did he call Jesus when he saw Him? *The Lamb of God, because Jesus would be the sacrifice for His people's sins.*
15. Why were the people being baptized? *To show that they desired to turn away from their sins and please God with their lives.*
16. Why was Jesus baptized? *Jesus had no sins, so He had none to turn away from. But, He was showing that He desired to please only God with His life.*
17. How did John know when his mission was finished? *When Jesus became to preach and heal people.*
18. How was John different from other prophets? *Filled with the Holy Spirit before born.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?**
John the Baptist was one of the prophets from long ago that the LORD raised up to speak His words to the people.

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 18:18-19:** "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name."?
John the Baptist was the last prophet before Jesus that the LORD raised up for the people to hear His words, turn from their sins, and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we prepare our hearts to live for God? *We can confess our sins to God; we can turn away from sinning and trust in Jesus as our Savior. All who do, God promises to forgive their sins and make them His own special people.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being a holy God that fairly punishes sin; yet a merciful God who forgives those who turn from their sins. He is a God who pursues those who do not choose to follow Him. He wants us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus for forgiveness.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we are sinners, like the people listening to John the Baptist. We can be greedy. We can look good on the outside when we are really sinful in our hearts. We need to repent of our sins! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for loving sinners so much that He wanted them to repent of their sins and prepare their hearts to trust in Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
That God would help us to have soft hearts to the good news of Jesus. That we would turn from our sins and trust in Jesus.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that John the Baptist was preparing the people to hear? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Yes, No and Go

Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)

Paper and Marker

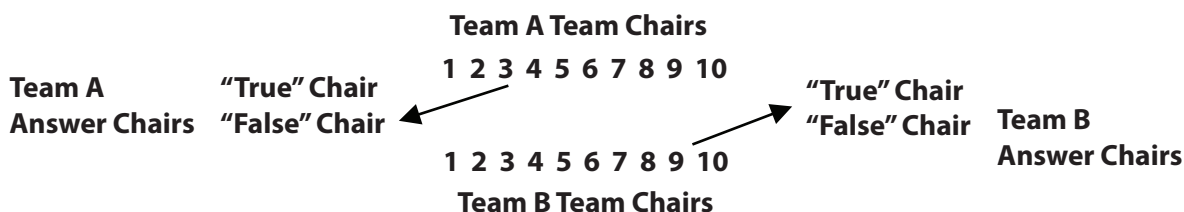
Tape

Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review questions for ideas to come up with 20+ statements that are true, false, or not in the story.

2. Set up the chairs in two lines, with chairs facing each other. Each chair should be spaced far enough from its neighboring chairs so that a child could run around it. Place at each end of the rows, two chairs that also face towards the middle. Write the words "true" and "false" on 2 index cards each and tape each to one of the chairs at the end of the rows. There should be one set of true and false chairs at one end and one set at the other end, one set for each team. With the remaining index cards, make 2 sets of numbers that correspond to the number of chairs in each long row. (If 5 chairs on a side, then number two sets of cards from 1 to 5.) Tape these numbers to the back/bottom of each chair. Have the numbers descend on one side and ascend on the other side. (i.e., if using numbers 1 to 5, then number 1 on one row be across from number 5, number 2 across from number 4, etc.) See diagram for illustration of chair set up.



Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them take their places in the chairs. Assign the child the number on their chair. After everyone is seated, the leader reads one of the true/false/not in the story statements and then calls out a number. The player from each team with that number is to run to sit in their team's true or false chair. If the answer is not in the story, the children are to run around their chair and sit down in their seat with arms folded over their chest. The first of the players to make it to the correct seat scores a point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Instead of using two sets of the same numbers for each "team," use only one set of numbers. (For example, instead of having two sets of chairs numbered from 1-10, number the chairs from 1-20). And, have only one true/false chair. The child whose number is called runs to the right chair.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man.

Our story takes place In New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth, out in the wilderness near the Jordan River in Israel.

And now we present: "The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Through an angel, the LORD told Elizabeth and Zecharias that He would give them a son. This son would be the special prophet promised in the Bible to come and prepare the people's hearts for the Messiah. His heart would be filled with the Holy Spirit from before birth! The angel told Elizabeth and Zecharias to name their son "John." They must raise him by special rules. Never drink wine, never cut his hair. John must do these things to be ready to be the prophet who prepared the way for the Messiah. Zecharias and Elizabeth did everything the angel told them to do. When John was born, they raised him in the desert, according to all the special rules. John grew up to be a godly man, ready to prepare the people for the Messiah.

Scene 2:

When John was thirty years old he went to the Jordan River and began to tell people to prepare for the Kingdom of God. He told tax collectors, soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees what they should do differently with their lives. John baptized people who repented of their sins, showing their desire to live for God. Some people thought John was the Messiah, but he told them he was not. He was only the prophet preparing the way for the real Messiah. Many tax collectors, soldiers and others repented of their sins and were baptized by John. They showed their desire to live for God and be ready to receive the Messiah when He came. But the Pharisees and Sadducees would not listen. They did not repent. They would not be baptized. They didn't think they needed to. Their hearts were not ready to receive the Messiah.

Scene 3

One day Jesus came to be baptized by John. John told everyone that Jesus was the Messiah for whom He had been preparing the way. Jesus began to preach and John's job was done.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.** John the Baptist was the special prophet God promised to send to prepare people's hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man

Our story takes place In New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth, out in the wilderness near the Jordan River in Israel.

The characters in our story are: Zecharias, Elizabeth, John, People who come to listen to John and to be baptized, Tax Collectors, Soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus.

And now we present: "The Case of the Wilderness Wild Man."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Through an angel, the LORD told Elizabeth and Zecharias that He would give them a son. This son would be the special prophet promised in the Bible to come and prepare the people's hearts for the Messiah. His heart would be filled with the Holy Spirit from before birth! The angel told Elizabeth and Zecharias to name their son "John." They must raise him by special rules. Never drink wine, never cut his hair. John must do these things to be ready to be the prophet who prepared the way for the Messiah. Zecharias and Elizabeth did everything the angel told them to do. When John was born, they raised him in the desert, according to all the special rules. John grew up to be a godly man, ready to prepare the people for the Messiah.

Scene 2: (Middle)

When John was thirty years old he went to the Jordan River and began to tell people to prepare for the Kingdom of God. He told tax collectors, soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees what they should do differently with their lives. John baptized people who repented of their sins, showing their desire to live for God. Some people thought John was the Messiah, but he told them he was not. He was only the prophet preparing the way for the real Messiah. Many tax collectors, soldiers and others repented of their sins and were baptized by John. They showed their desire to live for God and be ready to receive the Messiah when He came. But the Pharisees and Sadducees would not listen. They did not repent. They would not be baptized. They didn't think they needed to. Their hearts were not ready to receive the Messiah.

Scene 3: (End)

One day Jesus came to be baptized by John. John told everyone that Jesus was the Messiah for whom He had been preparing the way. Jesus began to preach and John's job was done.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.** John the Baptist was the special prophet God promised to send to prepare people's hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

Tax Collectors, Soldiers, and Teachers of the Law

Description

Children will make finger puppets of these people and of John the Baptist.

Materials

White card stock

Markers

Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of each of the pictures on card stock.
2. Set out markers and scissors.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample of the craft.
2. Have the children color their own characters.
3. Cut out the finger holes. (You may need to do this for the younger children.)

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did John preach?

Out in the wilderness, near the Jordan River.

2. Who came to hear John? *All sorts of people--from some of those considered the worst to those considered some of the best, including tax collectors, soldiers and teachers of the law.*

3. What did John tell them about? What did he want them to do?

He told them about the Messiah who was coming to bring God's Kingdom. He told them to repent of their sins and be baptized to be ready to receive Him.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago?

God used the prophet John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of the Messiah to all who would listen. He wanted them to repent of their sins and turn to God.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants us to prepare our hearts for Jesus by repenting of our sins and trusting in Him.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:1. Our craft is: Tax Collectors, Soldiers and Teachers of the Law.

2. By the Jordan River, John the Baptist Proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom to tax collectors, soldiers and teachers of the law so that their hearts might be ready to receive the Messiah Jesus and be saved from their sins.

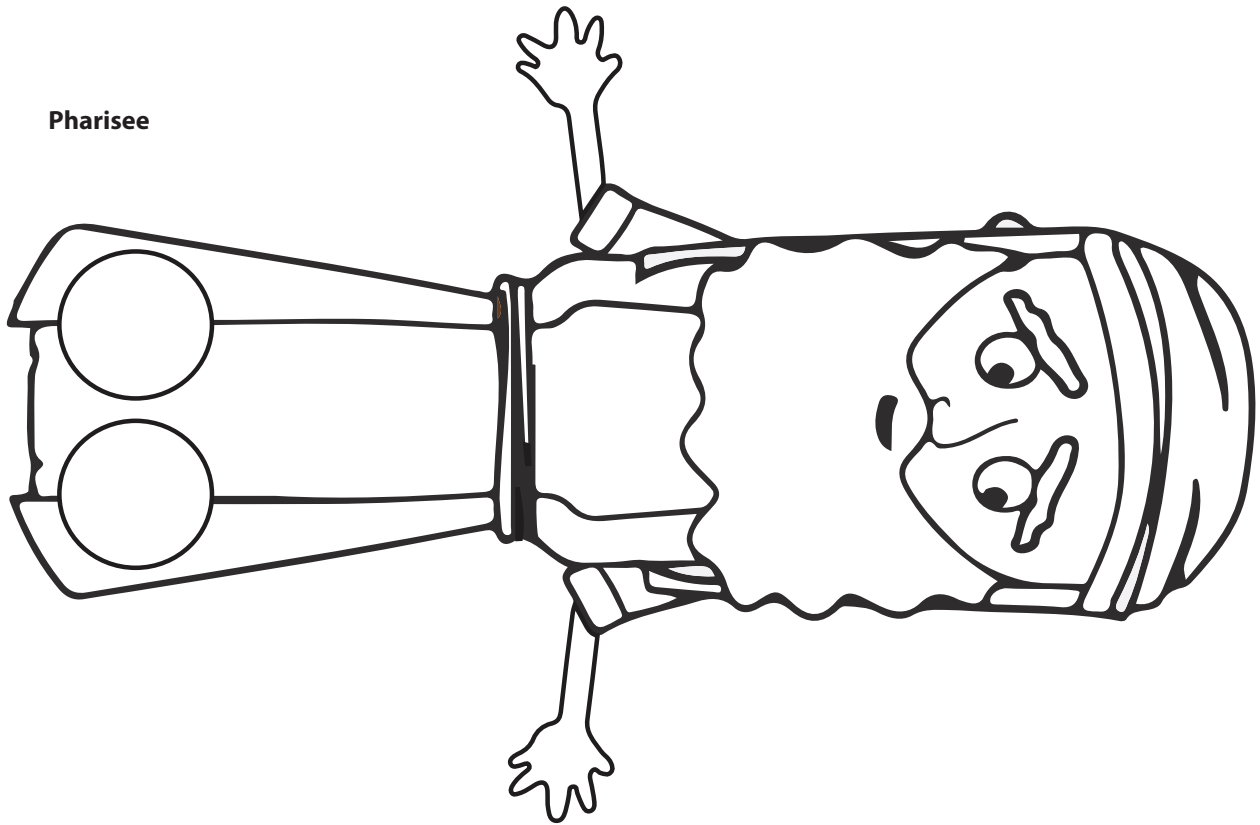
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Spoke to His People through Prophets Long Ago.

4. God used the prophet John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of the Messiah to all who would listen. He wanted them to repent of their sins and turn to God.

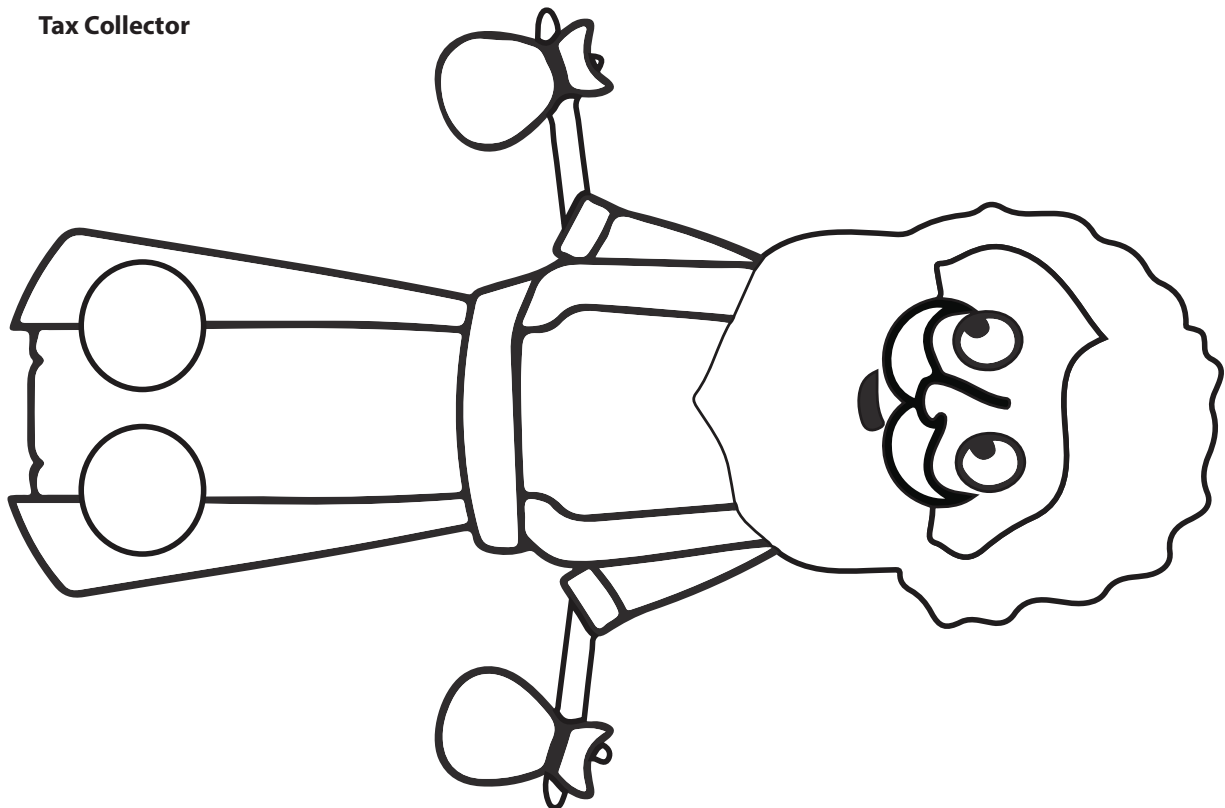
5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us to prepare our hearts for Jesus by repenting of our sins and trusting in Him.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

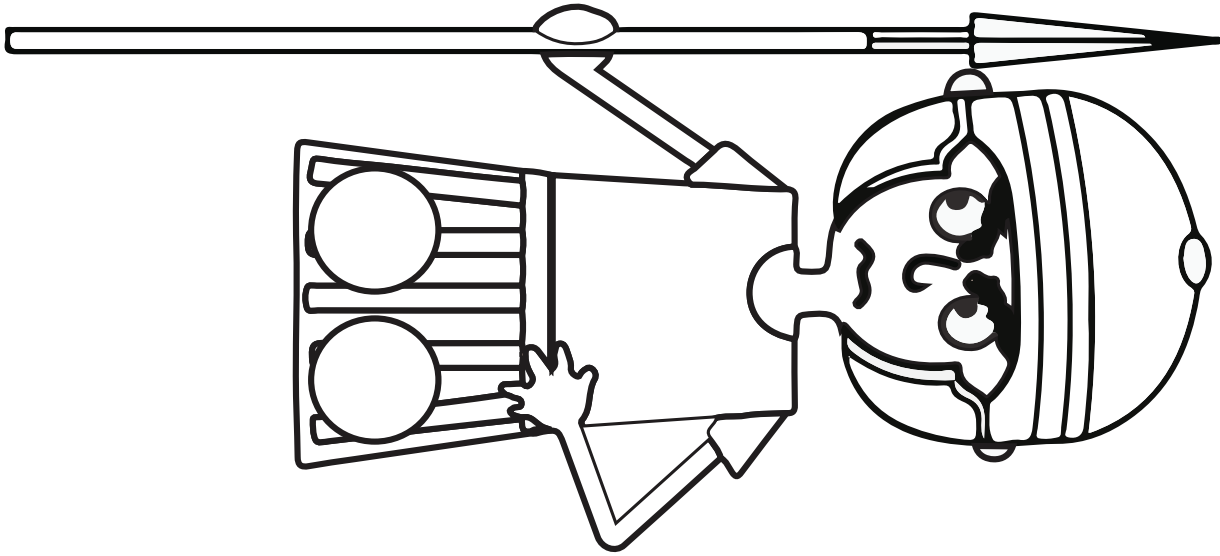
Pharisee



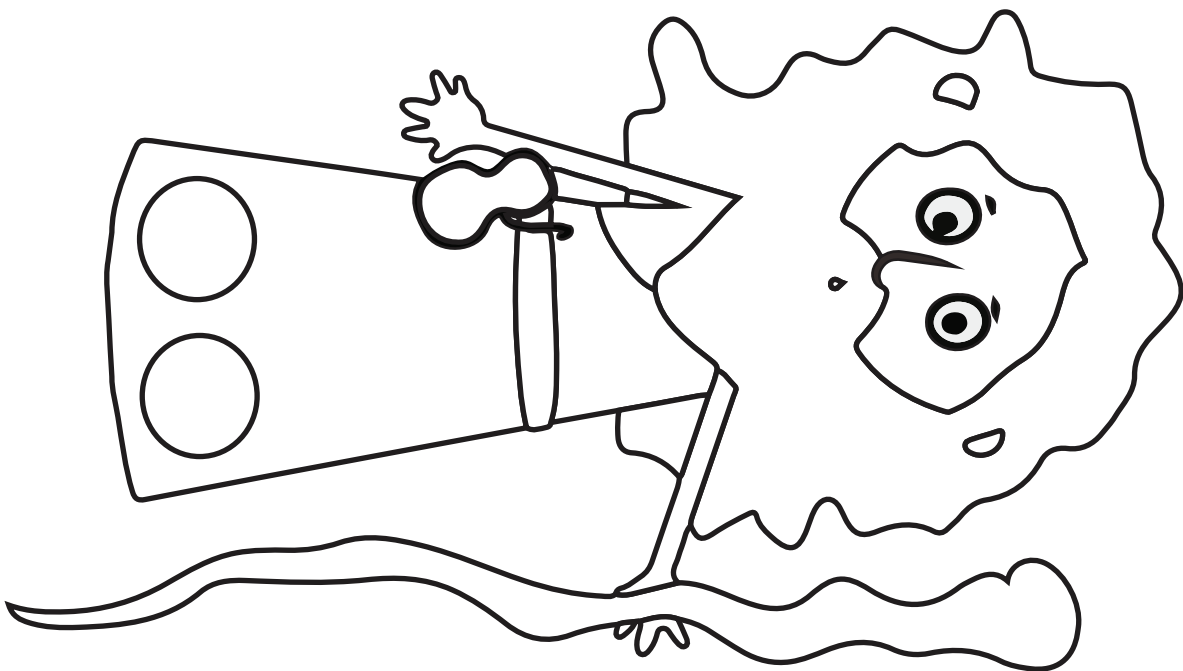
Tax Collector



Soldier



John the Baptist



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Stop and Go

Materials

Information for one VIPP
2 Sets of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Ball
Blindfold
Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller's "Go" command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says "Stop." Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses a Clue Card envelope. The child (or the teacher) tells the class the Clue Card category and asks them if they can remember the answer for the VIPP. The envelope is opened to see what the answer is. If the children get it right, the category is retired. If they get it wrong, it goes back into the pile of envelopes.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

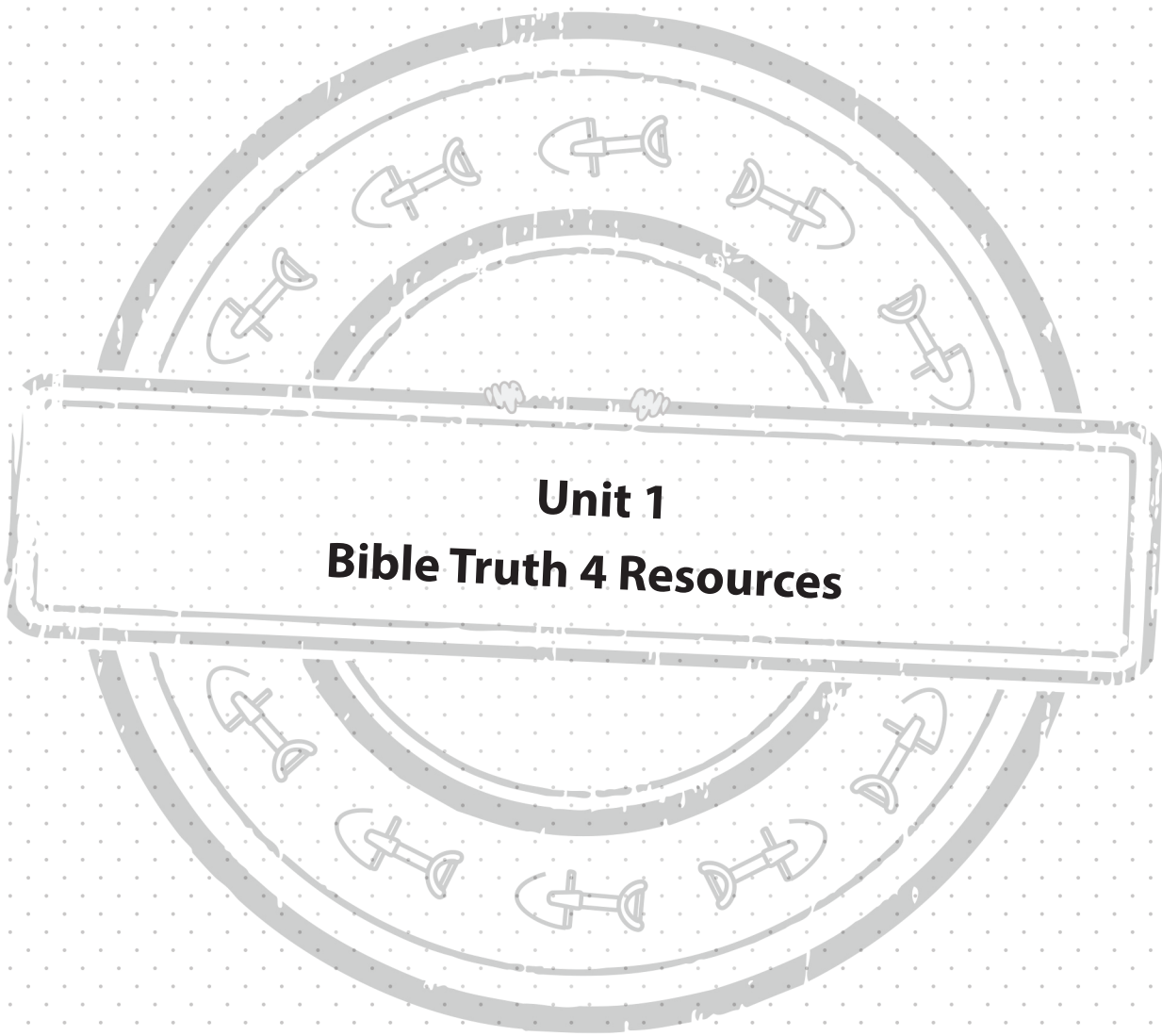
WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Church Member | Deacon |
| Elder | Church Staff |
| Special Volunteer | Supported Worker
(Missionary) |

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



Unit 1
Bible Truth 4 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 4 OVERVIEW

UNIT 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Big Question and Answer: “How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He’s Like!”

Bible Verse: “For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name.” Amos 4:13 ESV

Bible Truth 4 Concept: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That’s why the Bible is called God’s Word. It’s the only book where God’s words are written down perfectly.

When we read the Bible, God tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible. But in it, He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever. And by His Holy Spirit working in our hearts, He can use His Word, not to just know these things, but to do them in us.

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous thing out of your law.”

Bible Truth 4 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through Your Word, the Bible.
- C** We confess that many times we don’t want to learn from Your Word, the Bible. Many times we don’t want to obey what it tells us to do. We would rather think about ourselves or do something else that seems more fun. We need a Savior to save us!
- T** Thank You, God for giving us the Bible so we can know more about You, more about why You made us, and how to be saved through Jesus.
- S** God, help us to know You better as we read the Bible, Your Word. Help us to live out what the Bible tells us to do. Use it to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

Bible Truth 4 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Burning Hearts (New Testament)

Luke 24:13-35

Lesson 2: The Case of the Ragged Bible (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Forgotten Book (Old Testament)

Deuteronomy 4,5,27-30,34; Jeremiah 1-2,4,11,25,36

1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
Praise Factory Theme Song	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
Classroom Rules Song	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>
Big Question Under Investigation:	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Can I Know What God Is Like?</p> <p>"God made us. He wants us to know what He's like so we can know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him. We don't have to figure out what God is like by ourselves. We couldn't do that. So God shows us what He's like.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Can I Know What God Is Like?' is: God Shows Me What He's Like!</p>
Big Question 1 and Songs	<p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 1 Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")</i> How can I know what God is like, God is like, God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like? <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 4</i> I have a very big question, A big question 'bout God. I have a very big question, It's Big Question Number One, I wanna know...</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Verse 1: He gave me a heart to know God, He made everything I see. Big tall mountains, galloping horses, Every little bird and bee. Everybody sing... <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: He gave us the Bible, His Word, To learn of His mighty deeds, But most of all, through Jesus, His Son, God shows Himself to me. Everybody sing.... <i>(Refrain)</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 1
Bible Verse**

You may also enjoy some other versions this verse:
He Who Declares His Thought
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6
He Who Forms the Mountains
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7
Behold,
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8
For Behold,
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Amos 4:13 tells us: "For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares to man what is His thought...the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

**Big Question 1 Bible Verse Song
The LORD Declares: Amos 4:13 ESV**

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

The LORD declares to man his thought,
The LORD declares to man his thought,
The LORD declares to man his thought,
Amos Four, thirteen.

"The LORD created everything--even us! He's the one to declares to us what His thoughts are. That means He shows us what He's like."

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FIVE** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God us what He's like. We've already learned some already. Can you remember them? (God Made Our Hearts

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 4**

through Prophets)

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:
God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly.

When we read the Bible, God tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible. But in it, He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever. And by His Holy Spirit working in our hearts, He can use His Word, not to just know these things, but to do them in us.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**Bible Truth 4
Hymn**

“Long ago, a man named John Newton was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to this hymn. He called it “Amazing Grace.” We’re going to learn a verse from it.”

Amazing Grace*PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20***Verse 4**

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word, my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

“This hymn reminds us that God’s people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs. They know they can depend on Him for these things their whole live because God always does what He promises to do.”

**Bible Truth 4
Bible Verse
and Song**

“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:

Psalms 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God’s Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God’s people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.

We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!

Open My Eyes*PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
The law of your mouth is better to me,
Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
Your hands they made me and fashioned me.
Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Burning Hearts**
Luke 24:13-35

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Burning Hearts.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who had burning hearts! What did that mean?**
- 2. What made their hearts burn?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who had burning hearts? What did that mean? Cleopas and his friend as they listened to Jesus. It means that they were so full of faith and joy with the truths that Jesus was explaining to them.

2. What made their hearts burn? The truths of the Bible that Jesus explained, showing that He really was the Messiah, come to save God's people.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Ragged Bible**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Ragged Bible.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who did the Ragged Bible belong to? Why was it ragged?**
- 2. What did Sam do to replace it?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who did the Ragged Bible belong to? What was it ragged? Sam's mother, then Sam. It was ragged from being used so much.

2. What did Sam do to replace it? He walked all the way around the island twice to get a new one and pay for it.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story))

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Forgotten Book**Deuteronomy
4,5,27-30,34;

Jeremiah

1-2,4,11,25,36

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Forgotten Book.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. What was the Forgotten Book?**
- 2. Who should have remembered it? What happened because they forgot it?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. What was the Forgotten Book?

God's Word, the Bible.

2. Who should have remembered it? What happened because they forgot it? The people of Israel and their kings forgot it. They turned away from God and worshiped other fake gods. When they would not turn back, the LORD disciplined them by sending them to Babylon. In the end, they turned back to the LORD.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)***Response Activities**

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Lesson 1 New Testament Story: The Case of the Burning Hearts
Luke 24:13-35

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Food from Cleopas' Supper

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Rush to Safety

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:18,72,73: Discussion Sheet and Game: Hand Ball

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Sticky Pad

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Burning Hearts

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Mix and Match

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Burning Hearts Luke 24:13-35

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Burning Hearts.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who had burning hearts? What does that mean?
2. What made their hearts burn?

This story is a New Testament story. It took place right around the time Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

“What a Passover week this has been!” exclaimed Cleopas and his companion as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. It had begun with great hope, but ended with hopelessness!

Now, as Cleopas and his friend walked home this Sunday afternoon, they tried to make sense of it all. Like thousands of other Jews, they had gone to Jerusalem for the yearly Passover celebration. While they were there, they had been with Jesus. What wonderful things He had taught about God and His kingdom! What astonishing things He had said about Himself! What miracles He had done!

The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened to Jesus and watched what He did. “Jesus is more than a prophet,” they had decided. “He must be the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible! How exciting to see God’s promises to save His people being fulfilled right before their eyes!

But by the end of the week, everything had changed. Thursday night, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested and brought Him to trial. “You deserve to die, Jesus! You say that you are the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible, but you aren’t! You must die for saying such things and making others believe them,” they said to Jesus. Then they handed Him over to the Romans to be crucified! Jesus, the Messiah was dead on Passover Friday. They could hardly believe it! From Messiah to dead man in one week!

But then, today, this very Sunday morning, they had heard something even more confusing....or was it amazing? Some women had gone to Jesus’ tomb and it was empty. Jesus’ body was gone! Two angels in dazzling robes appeared to them and said: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has

risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified on the third day rise?” they told the women.

The women ran to tell Jesus’ disciples what they had seen and heard. Peter and John hurried to see for themselves, but they found nothing but an empty tomb. Were these just the tales of silly women? It seemed so. They all lost hope.

“This is all so confusing! What does it mean?” Cleopas and his friend thought. They tried to make sense of it as they slowly walked home.

As they were discussing it all, a man came up and began walking with them. Cleopas and his friend didn’t know it yet, but it was Jesus, Himself! (Perhaps He wore a hood over His head, or simply kept them from understanding who He was in a way that only God can do, we don’t know.) Jesus knew what Cleopas and the other disciple were talking about. He knew they were confused. He had come to reveal Himself to them and explain what had happened. He WAS the Messiah. He was the one who God spoke about in His Word, the Bible. Jesus would remove their confusion by first showing them what had been written about Him there, in the Bible. So by God’s power, Jesus kept them from recognizing Him as He came up to them and started talking.

“What are you talking about?” Jesus asked the two.

“Haven’t you heard what happened in Jerusalem lately?” they replied in shock.

“Tell me what has happened,” Jesus replied.

“Jesus of Nazareth was a powerful prophet, preaching

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

God's Word and doing miracles in God's name," they told him. "But the chief priests and our rulers gave him over to the Romans to be crucified. We had thought he was the Messiah promised by God in His Word. We thought He had come to save God's people."

"This is the third day since He was crucified and buried, yet some of the women came with an amazing story. Early this morning, when they went to His tomb to put fresh spices on His body, His body was gone! They said angels spoke to them, saying that Jesus was alive. Some of the men went to the tomb and found the body missing, just as the women had said, but they didn't see Jesus," they told Him.

"How slow you are to believe what the prophets' wrote in God's Word!" Jesus replied to them. "Didn't they say that the Messiah would have to suffer like this then be glorified?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus went through the Old Testament showing how His life fulfilled all God's promises about the Messiah.

God gave Moses these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

Deuteronomy 18:15: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like you...I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command."

The Messiah was to be the greatest of prophet who spoke God's words!

God gave David these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me...All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him...They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.'" (Psalm 22)

"Did you hear that?" the disciples thought with amazement, ***"That prophecy about the Messiah is exactly what happened to Jesus before He died!"***

God gave the prophet Isaiah these words to write down about the Messiah in the Bible: "He was pierced for our transgressions...the LORD has laid on him the sins of us all." "Did you hear that?" the disciples couldn't believe their ears. ***"Jesus fulfilled that prophecy, too, when He died on the cross!"***

On and on through the Bible Jesus took them, to verse

after verse that God had spoken about the Messiah.

As Cleopas and his companion listened to Jesus, their hearts felt like they were burning, they were filled with such faith and with joy. "This man is right! We have been foolish and slow to believe," they exclaimed. "We knew these things which God had spoken in His Word, the Bible, about the Messiah, yet we did not remember them or believe them. But now we do! The Messiah really was supposed to suffer first! Perhaps Jesus really was the Messiah after all!" they hoped.

The sun was beginning to set as the three of them reached Emmaus. It was time for travelers to seek the hospitality of a host for the night. Soon darkness would set in and the road would be pitch black. Anyone left out on the road was in danger of harm from wild animals or robbers. Cleopas and the other disciple headed to their home, while Jesus acted as if he were going farther. It would be rude for Jesus to invite Himself to their home. He waited for their invitation.

"Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over," Cleopas and his friend urged. Jesus accepted their invitation and headed to the house with them.

As good hosts, Cleopas and the other disciple immediately set about preparing food for their guest. When everything was ready, they sat down at the table. Usually Cleopas would host the meal, but shockingly, their guest picked up the bread and served the others as if HE was the host!

"How strange!" Cleopas and his companion must have thought, but they allowed their honored guest to continue.

What happened next was even stranger! When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them, something happened. Maybe they saw the nail prints in his hands, maybe it was the way He broke the bread and prayed, or maybe it was the Holy Spirit at work inside of them, but the Bible tells us that they recognized Jesus, then He vanished—He completely disappeared from their sight."

"It's Jesus! It's Jesus! He is alive! Of course! Who else would show us God's plans for the Messiah through the Bible like that! No wonder our hearts felt like they were burning within us as He taught us! We must go and tell the others! Jesus is alive!"

So right then they got up and hurried the seven miles back to Jerusalem down that dark road. They didn't care if there might be wild animals or robbers along the way. They would take their chances! This good news could not wait!

When at last they arrived in Jerusalem, they found the Eleven (Jesus' closest disciples) and those with them, gathered together. These believers were bursting with excitement, too. "It's true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon Peter," they exclaimed.

Cleopas and his friend told what had happened to them. How Jesus had gone through the Bible and explained everything, then how they recognized Him when He broke the bread at dinner. Everyone was so excited! Jesus was alive and was appearing to His followers to prove it! Surely He was the Messiah!

Even as they were talking about all these things, Jesus Himself suddenly stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Jesus was really alive! He had worked forgiveness of sins for God's people, just as God had promised in His Word that He would!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who had burning hearts? What did that mean?

Cleopas and his friend as they listened to Jesus. It means that they were so full of faith and joy with the truths that Jesus was explaining to them.

2. What made their hearts burn? The truths of the Bible that Jesus explained, showing that He really was the Messiah, come to save God's people.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:18,72-73 ESV

"Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."

What about us? We have heard from God's Word the wonderful promises God made about Jesus that Cleopas and the other disciple heard that Sunday, two

thousand years ago. They are still just as true now as they

were then. What will we do with them?

Let's ask God to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to hear His Word, the Bible, and believe the good news of Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Word and the Savior who came to pay for the sins of Your people.

C God, we confess that like Cleopas and his friend, many times we don't remember or believe what You have promised in Your Word.

T God, we thank you for helping us to understand the truths in Your Word.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us understand and believe Your Word, the Bible.

Special Words

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of God.

Prophecy: The words of God, spoken by the prophet. Sometimes, these are promises about future events, such as the prophecies about the coming Messiah that Jesus perfectly fulfilled.

Crucified: A terrible kind of death the Romans used to punish their worst criminals. A person is hung by nails on a wooden cross and left to die.

Passover: A yearly celebration of how the LORD delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

Disciple: Someone who learns and lives by a particular teacher's teaching.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through Your Word, the Bible.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to learn from Your Word, the Bible. Many times we don't want to obey what it tells us to do. We would rather think about ourselves or do something else that seems more fun. We need a Savior to save us!

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving us the Bible so we can know more about You, more about why You made us, and how to be saved through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better as we read the Bible, Your Word. Help us to live out what the Bible tells us to do. Use it to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Food from Cleopas' Supper

Pita Bread and Hummus or other bread and spread

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: That night, at supper as Jesus broke the bread, Cleopas and his friend realized it was Jesus, risen from the dead, who had walked with them, explained the promises about the Messiah to them and was now eating supper with them!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, about who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible, but He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who did God use to write down His words in the Bible? *Many people.*
2. How did God give men the words to write down? *The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds so they would write down exactly what God wanted written.*
3. Why is the Bible called God's Word? *Because it's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.*
4. What sorts of things does God tell us about in the Bible? *He tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him.*
5. How does God speak to us in the Bible? *When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to help us understand it and apply it to our lives. He also speaks to us through the Bible when the pastor preaches on it in church or Christians discuss what it means.*
6. Does God tell us everything there is to know in the Bible? *No. There are many things He has chosen not to tell us.*
7. What do we know God has put in the Bible? *Everything we need to know to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him, and to look forward to life with Him forever.*
8. What can God's Holy Spirit use God's Word to do? *Use His Word to help us to save us, know Him, live for Him and enjoy life with Him forever.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? *Jesus quoted the prophecies written down by many different men over hundreds of years about the Messiah. How could it be that they all came true? Because the Holy Spirit worked in all those different men over all those hundreds of years and had them write down exactly what He wanted them to write. God was always the author behind every word that every man wrote, so it always was true.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."? *There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why is it so important that we read the Bible? *Because it is the only book that God has given us that is His Word. If we don't read it, how will we know what He is like, who we are, and why He made us? How will we know how to be saved and live to please Him?*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His perfect Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's Word that we choose to rebel against it. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can thank God for giving us His Bible so we can know about Him and how we can be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, written down in the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Rush to Safety

Materials

Construction Paper
 CD and CD player
 Masking Tape
 Small bowl or bag
 Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Cut circles about 9" in diameter, enough for every child but one.
4. Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

Playing the Game

Point out the safety spot circles on the floor. Tell the children that you will tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, crab crawl, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they are to get to a safety spot. Show them that there is one spot too few for them all so that someone will be caught out. The child who has no safety spot picks a question for the class to answer. If the class answers it correctly, then the child is added back into the group. If not, then the child stays out and another safety spot is removed.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have the children who are "out" help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

Non-competitive Option

Have the child without a safety spot choose a question for the class, but then join the game, even if the class gets it wrong. Add the question back into the bag for further review. Don't reduce the number of safety spots.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Amazing Grace

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word, my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20

Understanding the Song

1. What has the Lord promised to the person who believes in Him? *He has promised good.*
2. Where has He promised good to His people? *In the Bible.*
3. What kind of good does the Lord promise? *He does not promise that nothing bad will happen to us; but, that in all things—bad or good—that He will work to make us like Jesus. That is the greatest good of all.*
4. What is "His word?" *The Bible.*
5. What does the Bible secure? *The believer's hope that he will be forgiven his sins and get to live forever with God in heaven.*
6. What does a shield do? *A shield protects someone in a battle from being struck down by the enemy's arrows.*
7. How is God like a shield to His people? *He protects them from all sorts of evil and only allows things in their lives that He knows will work for their good and His glory.*
8. What does it mean for God to be your portion? *To be satisfied that He will take care of absolutely everything you need.*
9. How long will God be the shield and portion for the believer in Jesus? *All his life*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *God's people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs, for all of their lives, because He always does what He promises to do.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Jesus showed the men on the road to Emmaus that God had fulfilled all His promises to do good and provide for all their needs by sending the Messiah to suffer and die for their sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments." *God's Word is where God's people learn that God promises to do good to His people and that their hopes for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him are secure through Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can thank God for giving them a secure hope in His promised salvation They can praise God for being so kind to them as to promise to always protect and provide for them, even when it was at the cost of sacrificing His only Son, Jesus.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, that tells us of His promises for His people and that their hope in Him is secure.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we chose to not believe the promises of God's Word or don't care about them. We need God's forgiveness.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for giving His people promises that He will never break. They know that their whole lives they can always trust what God's Word promises. Their hope is secure in Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose hope is always secure and can always trust His promises to them in the Bible.

Gospel Question

1. How greatest hope that the Bible gives us is the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, "It" who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When "It" says "Pass the Secret Sign", the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When "It" says "Stop the Passing!" the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of "It", watch the child with the card do the sign, then have "It" guess the name of the sign. (If desired, "It" can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes "It." Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous thing out of your law.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What kind of eyes do we need God to open for us to see wonderful things in God's law? *Not our actual eyeballs, but the “eyes” of our spirit, our heart. Our spirit—or heart—doesn't really have eyes, like the ones we look around the room with. No! It's just a way of saying, help us to understand God's Word.*
2. Why do we need God's help to “see” wonderful things in God's law? *Because we are sinners, our hearts do not understand God's Word without God's help. God sends His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and helps us to understand His law.*
3. What is God's law? Is it just a bunch of rules? *God's law is another way of meaning the whole Bible. (Unless you are reading a part of the Bible that is talking just about laws God gave—then it is talking about God's actual laws).*
4. What kind of wonderful things are in God's law? *God shows us what He's like; His plans for this world and His people; the way to be saved; how He wants His people to live; and so much more.*
5. How is the Bible God's Word from His mouth? *God gave His words for men to write down just right. Sometimes He did speak aloud to men, like Moses. Many times, He spoke to them by His Holy Spirit, whispering in their hearts.*
6. What makes God's law worth more than a thousand pieces of silver or gold? *It alone is the perfect Word of God. Without it, we would not know so many things about God. Without it, we would not have the stories of Jesus and how to be saved.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?**

There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.

Story Connection Questions

1. How does our story tie in with this Bible Verse? *Jesus opened the eyes of Cleopas and the other disciple to the truths about Him in the Bible. They were so excited with what they understood about Jesus that they were even willing to risk robbers and wild animals on the dark road back to Jerusalem, just to tell the other disciples that they had seen Jesus and what He had told them.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who made us and formed us? Why does this make God the one to give us understanding of His commands? *Since God made us, He knows exactly how to teach us how to understand His Word.*
2. What is the best first step God calls us to make to know Him, obey Him and understand His Word, as He made us to? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit. He can help us to know God and obey God and to understand God's Word.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His laws and for being the One who made us.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse *That many times we don't want to hear God's law and we don't love it. Many times we just want to do things our own way. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?

We can thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to help us understand it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

Ask God to help us to "see" and understand His laws. Ask Him to help us obey His commands that we might honor Him in the way we live.

Gospel Question

1. What is the most precious good news the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Handball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 A soft-surfaced, medium sized ball, such as a foam ball
 Masking tape
 Paper and markers
 Helpful, but optional: colored team “pennies” (jerseys) to identify members of each team.

Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player
Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player

Preparing the Game

1. Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.
2. Partition the floor into even sections as shown in the diagram above

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Divide the children into two teams and have them put on pennies. Give each child a section and alternate players from each team. Explain to them that everyone will say the verse together, then when you say “go,” they are to roll the ball out of their sections each time it rolls in until time is called. The person who has the ball in his section when time is called can win 2 points for his team if he can say the verse by himself. If he asks someone else from his team to help him, then he can earn 1 point. If he does not get it right, then someone from the other team can try to say it for 1 point.

If desired, you can have less but bigger sections and put 2 team members in each section, that way two children will work together to keep the ball out and recite the verse.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Give the children a group target amount of points to earn and challenge them to try to make the target amount in as few turns as possible. Always give two points to the class for getting the verse right, even if they have a partner help them.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Open My Eyes

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21

Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
The law of your mouth is better to me,
Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
Your hands they made me and fashioned me.
Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. Why had Cleopas and his companion been in Jerusalem? *Celebrate Passover.*
2. What had they thought when they heard Jesus preach? *He was the Messiah who had come to redeem God's people.*
3. What had happened that made them sad and confused? *Jesus had been arrested and then crucified by the Jewish leaders.*
4. What amazing news had they heard from some of the women who were Jesus' followers? *That Jesus' tomb was empty and they had seen angels.*
5. What were they trying to figure out as they walked home? How all the pieces fit together about Jesus.
6. Who joined them as they walked? *Jesus*
7. Why didn't they know who He was? *We don't know for sure. Perhaps the Lord just kept them from understanding who He was, using His powers to do that as God.*
8. What did Jesus say was the reason for why they couldn't understand what had happened to Him? *Because they were slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken about Jesus.*
9. How did Jesus help them understand? *He showed them many verses in the Bible, starting at the beginning that showed them what the Lord had always planned would happen to the Messiah.*
10. What did Cleopas and his companion invite Jesus to do when they got to Emmaus? Why was that so important? *Asked Him to stay the night. It was important b/c there were no hotels, etc. and a traveler would be out in the dark, even exposed to robbers if he had no where to go. It was common courtesy to do this for a stranger back then.*
11. What was Jesus doing when they were allowed to recognize Him? *Breaking bread, much like He did at the Last Supper.*
12. What did Jesus do as soon as they recognized Him? *He disappeared.*
13. What did Cleopas and his friend do as soon as they recognized Him—and what was unusual about that? *They immediately went back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. They were risking their lives to robbers, etc. by traveling at night.*
14. How did God speak to Cleopas and his companion through the Bible? *Jesus quoted God's words about the Messiah to them. As they heard the words, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, helping them to see how they were all fulfilled in Jesus. The Word worked so powerfully in their hearts that it was like they were burning inside them—"burning" with excitement over the truth of who Jesus was.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? *Jesus is God. He used the Bible to show Cleopas and the other disciple what He is like.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments." *Jesus helped to open the eyes of Cleopas and the other disciple to the truths about Him in God's Word. The disciples were so excited at what Jesus showed them that their hearts felt like they were burning with in them. This was the best thing that could ever hear and know! Truly God's Word is more precious than silver or gold! It showed them that they could be saved through Jesus!*

Life Application Questions

1. What makes the Bible so special for us today? *It is still the only book which has the perfect words of God. If we want to know about God, His good laws, and His great plans, we need to read it, too.*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story?

Praise Him for being the Savior who came to pay for the sins of His people..

2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that like Cleopas and the other disciple, many times we do not remember or believe what God has promised through His Word. We need God's Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to understand and to believe.. We need a Savior!*

3. What's something we can thank God for from this story?

We can thank God for helping His people understand the truths about Him and believe.

4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story?

We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to understand and believe His Word, the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news about Jesus that the disciples learned from the Bible? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Sticky Pad Search

Materials

Re-stickable scratch pad sheets
 Paper and marker
 20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. On the sticky pads write various point values, from 1 to 4...with perhaps two 10's thrown in for fun. Make perhaps 50 of these point values. Stick these all over the room, high, low, unusual places. Place the two 10 point sticky pad sheets in the most unusual spots.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit in two lines. At the leaders signal the first child from Team A will get up and have 10 seconds to gather as many point values as he can and get back to his spot. If successful, then that will be the point value for the Story Review question you ask the team. If the team answers the question correctly, they get the point values. If not, then the other team can try to answer it for half the point value. If a player doesn't get back to his spot before time is called, then he loses all his points (they are replaced to their spots) and it is the other team's turn. Play then resumes with the first player from Team B, etc.

Play continues as Story Review cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point value for the children to reach together. Tell the children that they are going to work together and see how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Have the children take turns gathering the point values and everyone together answering the question. If they get it right, then the group keeps the points. If not, then they are returned to their spots. Keep track of how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Replace all of the sticky pads and play again, seeing if the group can make the target in less turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Burning Hearts.

Our story takes place in outside of Jerusalem, in Israel. It takes place in New Testament times, right after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Burning Hearts."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Cleopas and his companion walked along the road from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus on a Sunday afternoon. They were trying to make sense of everything that had happened to Jesus during the Passover week. They had listened to Him preach so powerfully. They had seen Him heal people only as God could heal. They put their faith in Him. Surely, Jesus must be the Messiah! But on Friday, the Jewish leaders arrested Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus was buried in a tomb. No, it seemed Jesus wasn't the Messiah after all. And then came today, Sunday, and with it the most puzzling events of all! Some women went to Jesus' tomb and found Jesus' body gone. Angels told them He had risen from the dead! What did it all mean? they wondered.

Scene 2:

As they walked and talked, a stranger came alongside them and joined in. They didn't realize it yet, but the stranger was Jesus, Himself! Jesus asked them who they are talking about and they tell Him everything that had happened during the past week. Then Jesus took them through the Bible, showing them from prophecy after prophecy how the Messiah was supposed to suffer and die just as Jesus did. Cleopas and his companion's hearts burned with faith and joy as Jesus talked. They were so excited! It all began to make sense!

Scene 3

When at last they reached Emmaus, Cleopas and his friend invited Jesus to stay with them for dinner and the night. Jesus took over the position of host at dinner and as He broke the bread, they recognized that it was Jesus. They immediately got up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. As they were sharing their story, Jesus appeared among them. The disciples are scared and confused, then overjoyed to see that Jesus really had risen from the dead. He had worked forgiveness of sins for all of God's people!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Jesus used the Bible to show His disciples how He fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Burning Hearts.

Our story takes place in outside of Jerusalem, in Israel. It takes place in New Testament times, right after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"The characters in our story are: Cleopas, his companion, Jesus, Disciples

And now we present: "The Case of the Burning Hearts."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Cleopas and his companion walked along the road from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus on a Sunday afternoon. They were trying to make sense of everything that had happened to Jesus during the Passover week. They had listened to Him preach so powerfully. They had seen Him heal people only as God could heal. They put their faith in Him. Surely, Jesus must be the Messiah! But on Friday, the Jewish leaders arrested Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus was buried in a tomb. No, it seemed Jesus wasn't the Messiah after all. And then came today, Sunday, and with it the most puzzling events of all! Some women went to Jesus' tomb and found Jesus' body gone. Angels told them He had risen from the dead! What did it all mean? they wondered.

Scene 2: (Middle)

As they walked and talked, a stranger came alongside them and joined in. They didn't realize it yet, but the stranger was Jesus, Himself! Jesus asked them who they are talking about and they tell Him everything that had happened during the past week. Then Jesus took them through the Bible, showing them from prophecy after prophecy how the Messiah was supposed to suffer and die just as Jesus did. Cleopas and his companion's hearts burned with faith and joy as Jesus talked. They were so excited! It all began to make sense!

Scene 3: (End)

When at last they reached Emmaus, Cleopas and his friend invited Jesus to stay with them for dinner and the night. Jesus took over the position of host at dinner and as He broke the bread, they recognized that it was Jesus. They immediately got up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. As they were sharing their story, Jesus appeared among them. The disciples are scared and confused, then overjoyed to see that Jesus really had risen from the dead. He had worked forgiveness of sins for all of God's people!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Jesus used the Bible to show His disciples how He fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.

Burning Hearts

Description

Children will make a “burning” heart(s) out of foil and tissue.

Materials

Light cardboard (poster board or cereal boxes)

White craft glue

Wide paintbrush or pieces of sponges

Heavy-duty aluminum foil

Shiny sequins, glitter, etc.

Colored tissue paper: red, plus other colors

Clear packing tape or glue sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Use Template #1 to cut out a heart shape (or two) per child.
2. Cut out squares of foil big enough to cover front and back of heart shape.
3. Mix equal amounts of glue and water. Place in bowls within reach of all children.
4. Cut tissue paper into different sized and shaped pieces, 1” to 3” in length
5. Set out rest of materials.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample craft you have made.
2. Spread out the foil on top of the heart shaped cardboard, shiny side up. Smooth it into place, then flip the heart over and flatten the ends on the back. Make a cut in the foil down to the hollow of the heart and fold back. (You may want to do this step ahead of time for youngest children.) Tape or glue down the foil on the back of the heart. Turn heart back over.
3. Use a sponge piece/brush to spread a thin layer of glue mixture over all the foil.
4. Lay pieces of tissue on the glue, piece by piece, spreading more glue over the top each time. Keep adding tissue and glue, overlapping the tissue pieces to make a design. They may want to use a higher proportion of red along with other colors to keep to traditional heart color, but don't have to.
5. The tissue paper will begin to bleed into the glue, giving it color. As colors of tissues overlap, they will blend to make new colors.
6. When finished with the tissue, add sequins, glitter, etc. to the design.
7. If time allows, let the children make two hearts, one for each of the two disciples.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where were Cleopas and his companion walking? *From Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus.*
2. Who joined them and what did he explain to them? *Jesus. He explained the prophecies in the Bible that had to do with the Messiah.*
3. How did Cleopas and his friend react to what Jesus told them? Why? *They were so filled with joy and faith that it felt like their hearts were burning. They felt this way because it was clear that Jesus was the Messiah and everything that had happened to Him was part of God's plan to save His people.*
4. What is Bible Truth 4, that we are learning? *God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible? *Cleopas and the other disciple were amazed that God had spoken so clearly in His Word that the Messiah would live and die just exactly as Jesus had.*
6. What can this craft help us remember? *God will reveal His truth to us through His Word, the Bible, if we will read it.*

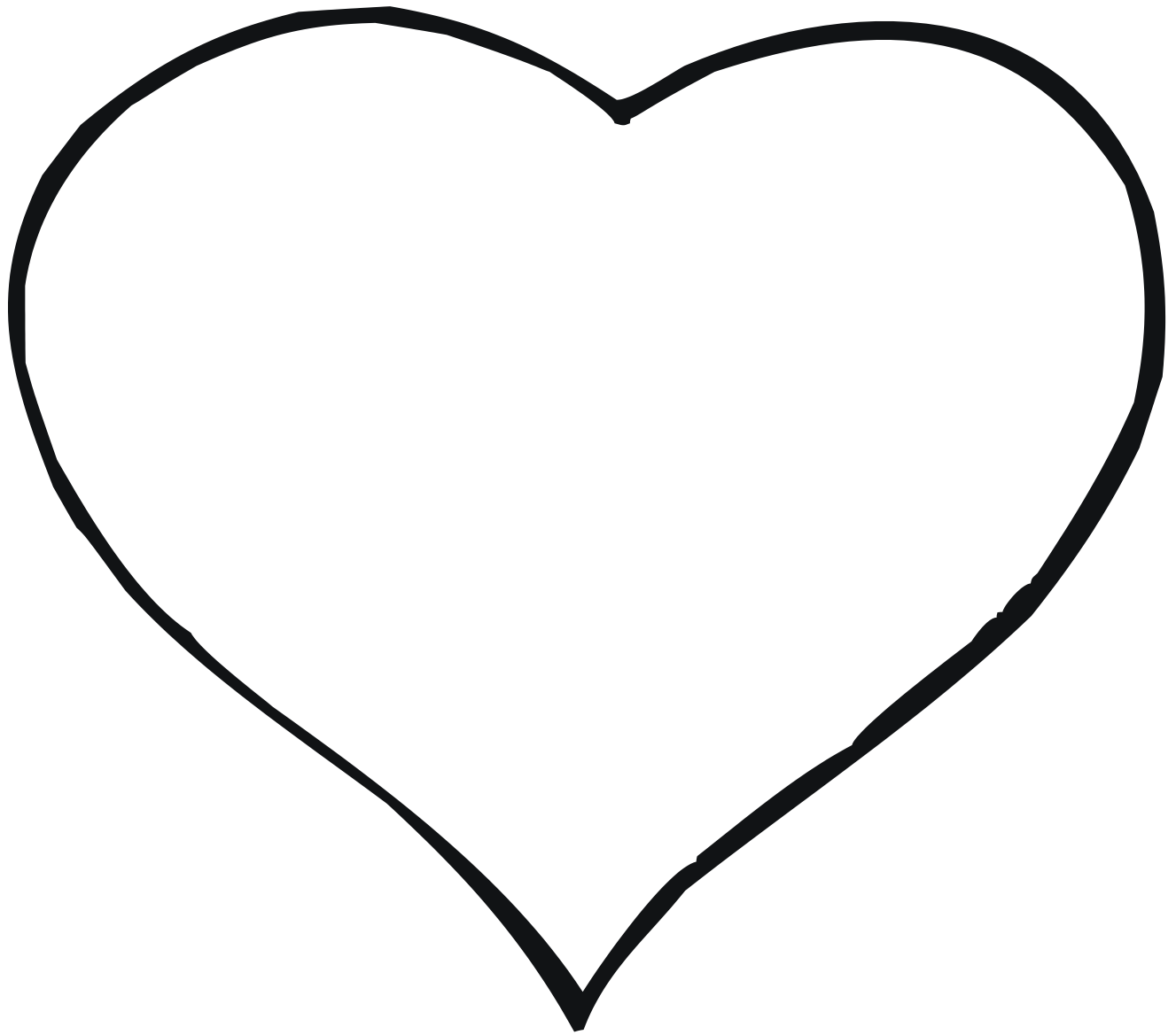
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is Burning Hearts.
2. On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and the other disciples were so full of Joy and faith that they felt like their hearts were burning within them As they heard Jesus—who they thought was just a stranger—showed them from the Bible all the prophecies about the Messiah He had fulfilled.
3. Bible Truth 4 is: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.
4. Cleopas and the other disciple were amazed that God had spoken so clearly in His Word that the Messiah would live and die just exactly as Jesus had.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God will reveal His truth to us through His Word, the Bible, if we will read it.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about each VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Ragged Bible

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Sam's Island of Jamaica

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circus Lions

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:18, 72-73: Discussion Sheet and Game: Forceball

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Ring Toss

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Sam's Bag with the Slaves' Money

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Picture Run

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Ragged BibleAdapted from *Religious Stories for Young and Old*, vol. IV, compiled by Joel Beeke**Our story is called:****The Case of the Ragged Bible.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who did the Ragged Bible belong to? Why was it ragged?
2. What did Sam do to replace it?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the late 1700's on the island of Jamaica.

Far south of the coast of Florida, in the middle of the Caribbean Sea, lies the tropical, mountainous island of Jamaica. Long ago, when the Spanish and the English discovered the island, they found its mountain slopes to be a perfect place to grow sugar cane.

Sugar from sugar cane was the new favorite food of Europe, but there was a problem: it was too cold to grow sugar cane there. But then the Europeans found Jamaica. Its warm climate was perfect for growing sugar cane. So they came and set up huge sugar cane plantations on the island. Then they did something absolutely terrible: they kidnapped thousands of Africans and forced them to work the plantations for free, as slaves!

Life for many of the slaves was horrible. They were cruelly punished if they didn't work the long, tiring hours their owners demanded of them. And even if they did work hard, most were treated terribly. Very few certainly had the chance to learn to read, to have any sort of education, to enjoy freedom or have a chance to return home to Africa.

But the Lord in His mercy, brought good even out of the terrible evil of slavery. There were some people who cared about the slaves. They were kind to them. They taught them how to read; and most of all, they told them about Jesus and the Bible, God's Word.

Two slaves who received these kindnesses were a woman and her son, Sam. Sam's mother had been taught how to read. She heard about Jesus and had become a Christian. She loved God and His Word. Among the few things Sam's mother owned were some pages from the New Testament. These few words were worth to her than anything else she could have.

Sam had learned to read, too. When his mother grew old and ready to die, she called him to her side, and

said, "Don't stop reading the Bible, Sam!" Sam's mother knew that there was nothing else in the world like the Bible. It was the only book God has given us to tell us who He is, who we are and why He made us. When we read it, He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. She wanted Sam to know it and to know God like she did.

"I won't stop reading it, mother," Sam promised her.

Sam kept his promise to his mother. In the evening, when the day's hard work was done, Sam often sat at the door of his hut and read. He turned over the fragile, worn pages of his mother's New Testament. He read very slowly. Sometimes there were big words that he didn't know how to pronounce. Sometimes there were sections that didn't make sense. But still, Sam didn't give up. He tried to figure it out and asked God to help him understand.

Sam didn't just keep God's Word to himself. He knew that everyone needed to know God and His Word, yet many of the other slaves did not know how to read, nor did they have a Bible to read, anyway. Sam would read aloud to the other slaves as they worked in the sugar-cane fields or in the sugar house where the cane was made into white, powdery sugar. More than anything else, Sam wanted to love God and know Him better. He wanted others to, as well. So he read over and over the few pages of the New Testament that he had.

Unfortunately, Bibles wear out from so much use. Before long, the pages of Sam's little book were falling apart. First the cover came off; then, page after page was lost, until it was nearly all gone. But even this didn't stop Sam from learning God's Word! He had read it so much that he knew most of the pages by heart. He

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

STORY OF THE SAINTS

would recite to himself and the others the chapters he had memorized. Sam knew that he mustn't stop reading the Bible. He needed it and so did the others. It alone was God's Word!

After a number of years, Sam's master freed him and gave him a cottage of his own to live in. Now Sam could spend more time than ever teaching the others about the Bible and Jesus. But now when Sam told them what the Bible said, the others replied, "Well, it may be true but show us in the book. We want to see it ourselves."

But sadly, Sam no longer had a book to show them.

One day Sam heard that a missionary had brought a new shipment of Bibles to Kingston, the capitol of Jamaica, and was selling them very cheaply.

"Imagine that!" thought Sam, "Whole Bibles, not just a piece like I had! If I had enough money I could read ALL of God's Word. I could share ALL of it with the others! I must get one of those Bibles!" he decided. So Sam gathered up his money—a dollar (which was worth a lot more then than it is now)—and set off for Kingston.

The journey to Kingston was a long, fifty-mile walk from Sam's hut. It was too hot to walk in the middle of the day, so early in the morning Sam would set off, rest in the middle of the day, then set off again late in the evening. After a few days of travelling like this, Sam at last came to the missionary's house where the Bibles were.

Sam saw them all in a row. New Bibles, all complete! "Oh, Sir," he cried, "how wonderful are these Bible. I want to buy one," Sam said. "How much are they?"

"A dollar and a half," was the answer. Sam's face looked sad. "What is the matter?" said the missionary asked.

"I only have a dollar," Sam replied.

"These Bibles cost a lot to make. I can't sell it to you for less than \$1.50," the man told Sam. "But what is your name and where do you come from?" asked the missionary. How amazed he was to learn how far Sam had traveled on foot just to get a Bible.

"Surely, a man who's willing to walk fifty miles both here and back just to get God's Word, is a man I can trust," the missionary thought. "Isn't this one of the very people I have come to help? Do I really want to stop a man like this from getting a Bible?"

"Well," he said to Sam, "you have come a long way

and I don't like to send you home without the book. Will you promise, if I let you have it, to pay me the half dollar as soon as you get it?"

"Oh yes, Sir," cried Sam, "I will do that."

So Sam set off home with a glad heart and his Bible in his hand. After a few days, he made it home.

"Joy, joy!" shouted Sam to the others as he held up the Bible above his head for all to see.

They gathered around him and said, "Now, Sam, read it! Read it!"

Sam read, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him."

"Go on! Read more! We want to hear all of God's book! We want to know all that God says," they cried when he finished.

"No, I will not go on. Not until the book is not paid for. We have to find the money," Sam told them. They all gathered what money they had and came up with the fifty cents.

After a few days' rest, Sam set out again to Kingston and paid the money, and from that time he had the joy of having a complete copy of the Bible. It was his comfort the rest of his life and his joy to share with the others, too.

Cracking the Case:**It's time to answer our Case Questions.**

1. Who did the Ragged Bible belong to? What was it ragged? Sam's mother, then Sam. It was ragged from being used so much.

2. What did Sam do to replace it? He walked all the way around the island twice to get a new one and pay for it.

Something For You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God Speaks through His Word, the Bible****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:18,72-73 ESV**

"Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."

Sam walked two hundred miles just so he might have a copy of the Bible. What about you and me? How much do we care whether or not we have God's Word so that He can speak to us? Do we neglect the Word as Sam's mother warned him not to? Do we try to learn about God, who we are and why He made us?

Let's praise this God who has revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible. Let's ask Him to give us hearts that hungry to know Him and do not neglect His Word. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Bible, Your perfect Word.

C God, we confess that many times we don't love Your Word and don't want to read it, listen to it or obey it. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for wonderful Your Word is. Thank You that in it, You have given us everything we need to know about You, how we can be saved and how You want us to live.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We ask that You would help us understand, love and live by Your Word, the Bible.

Special Words

Sugar Cane: A tall, grass whose stalk can be used to make sugar.

Europe: One of the seven continents of the world.

Slave: In this story, a person who is owned by another person.

Plantation: A large piece of land, usually in warm climates, used to grow crops like cotton, tobacco and sugar cane. Tended by resident workers, many times, slaves.

Caribbean Sea: A large body of water south of the United States.

Kidnapped: When someone is taken against away from their home, against their will and by force.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through Your Word, the Bible.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to learn from Your Word, the Bible. Many times we don't want to obey what it tells us to do. We would rather think about ourselves or do something else that seems more fun. We need a Savior to save us!

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving us the Bible so we can know more about You, more about why You made us, and how to be saved through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better as we read the Bible, Your Word. Help us to live out what the Bible tells us to do. Use it to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: Sam’s Island of Jamaica

Mini bagel half “Jamaica island” with peanut butter or cream cheese “land” & chocolate kiss “mountain(s)” in the middle to remind them of how far Sam walked for a Bible Or sugar product (sugar cane) or Jamaican food.

Case Tie-in: Sam loved God’s Word so much that he was willing to walk fifty miles around Jamaica four times in order to get a complete Bible to read for himself and the other people who worked as slaves on the sugar cane plantations.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, about who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible, but He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who did God use to write down His words in the Bible? *Many people.*
2. How did God give men the words to write down? *The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds so they would write down exactly what God wanted written.*
3. Why is the Bible called God's Word? *Because it's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.*
4. What sorts of things does God tell us about in the Bible? *He tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him.*
5. How does God speak to us in the Bible? *When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to help us understand it and apply it to our lives. He also speaks to us through the Bible when the pastor preaches on it in church or Christians discuss what it means.*
6. Does God tell us everything there is to know in the Bible? *No. There are many things He has chosen not to tell us.*
7. What do we know God has put in the Bible? *Everything we need to know to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him, and to look forward to life with Him forever.*
8. What can God's Holy Spirit use God's Word to do? *Use His Word to help us to save us, know Him, live for Him and enjoy life with Him forever.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? Why did Sam's mother want Sam to promise to read the Bible? *Because she knew that it is the only book that is God's Word.*
2. What did Sam do that showed how much he wanted to know God's Word? *He was willing to walk 200 miles and to spend all his money to get one.*
3. What did Sam have to do to help the other slaves know God's Word? *He had to read it to them because they could not read.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."? *There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why is it so important that we read the Bible? *Because it is the only book that God has given us that is His Word. If we don't read it, how will we know what He is like, who we are, and why He made us. How will we know how to be saved and live to please Him?*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His perfect Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's Word that we choose to rebel against it. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can thank God for giving us His Bible so we can know about Him and how we can be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, written down in the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Circus Lions

Materials

Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.

Hula hoop, etc.

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Tell the children that they are circus lions. Have them get on all four and roar and roam like lions. Have them “jump” through a hula hoop, etc. Then tell them they are getting very, very sleepy and must lie down....on their backs... in their den. Tell them that sleeping lions lie very still, make no noise, and keep their eyes open! Tell them that you are the Lion Trainer and are trying to wake up the Sleeping, Lazy Lions to perform in the circus. Any lion that makes a move, a sound or smiles will have to get up! Put on your funny wig, glasses, hat, etc. and make your rounds, trying to catch the lions moving, making noise or to make them smile. Lions who are caught are asked to answer a question correctly as their circus trick to before they can go back to their den. Have one of the lions caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don't get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the Lion Trainer.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Let all the caught lions join back into the circus, even if the class answers a question incorrectly. Put the question back in the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Amazing Grace

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word, my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20

Understanding the Song

1. What has the Lord promised to the person who believes in Him? *He has promised good.*
2. Where has He promised good to His people? *In the Bible.*
3. What kind of good does the Lord promise? *He does not promise that nothing bad will happen to us; but, that in all things—bad or good—that He will work to make us like Jesus. That is the greatest good of all.*
4. What is "His word?" *The Bible.*
5. What does the Bible secure? *The believer's hope that he will be forgiven his sins and get to live forever with God in heaven.*
6. What does a shield do? *A shield protects someone in a battle from being struck down by the enemy's arrows.*
7. How is God like a shield to His people? *He protects them from all sorts of evil and only allows things in their lives that He knows will work for their good and His glory.*
8. What does it mean for God to be your portion? *To be satisfied that He will take care of absolutely everything you need.*
9. How long will God be the shield and portion for the believer in Jesus? *All his life*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *God's people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs, for all of their lives, because He always does what He promises to do.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Sam was willing to spend all of his money and travel so far to get a Bible because it was God's Word and it was full of God's promises that he and the slaves wanted to know. Their hope rested on His Words to them.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments." *God's Word is where God's people learn that God promises to do good to His people and that their hopes for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him are secure through Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can thank God for giving them a secure hope in His promised salvation They can praise God for being so kind to them as to promise to always protect and provide for them, even when it was at the cost of sacrificing His only Son, Jesus.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, that tells us of His promises for His people and that their hope in Him is secure.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we chose to not believe the promises of God's Word or don't care about them. We need God's forgiveness.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for giving His people promises that He will never break. They know that their whole lives they can always trust what God's Word promises. Their hope is secure in Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose hope is always secure and can always trust His promises to them in the Bible.

Gospel Question

1. How greatest hope that the Bible gives us is the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song
White board and marker
Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous thing out of your law.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What kind of eyes do we need God to open for us to see wonderful things in God's law? *Not our actual eyeballs, but the “eyes” of our spirit, our heart. Our spirit—or heart—doesn't really have eyes, like the ones we look around the room with. No! It's just a way of saying, help us to understand God's Word.*
2. Why do we need God's help to “see” wonderful things in God's law? *Because we are sinners, our hearts do not understand God's Word without God's help. God sends His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and helps us to understand His law.*
3. What is God's law? Is it just a bunch of rules? *God's law is another way of meaning the whole Bible. (Unless you are reading a part of the Bible that is talking just about laws God gave—then it is talking about God's actual laws).*
4. What kind of wonderful things are in God's law? *God shows us what He's like; His plans for this world and His people; the way to be saved; how He wants His people to live; and so much more.*
5. How is the Bible God's Word from His mouth? *God gave His words for men to write down just right. Sometimes He did speak aloud to men, like Moses. Many times, He spoke to them by His Holy Spirit, whispering in their hearts.*
6. What makes God's law worth more than a thousand pieces of silver or gold? *It alone is the perfect Word of God. Without it, we would not know so many things about God. Without it, we would not have the stories of Jesus and how to be saved.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?**

There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.

Story Connection Questions

1. How does our story tie in with this Bible Verse? *Sam believed that God's Word was so precious that it was worth giving up ALL his money and even walking 200 miles just to have and be able to read.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who made us and formed us? Why does this make God the one to give us understanding of His commands? *Since God made us, He knows exactly how to teach us how to understand His Word.*
2. What is the best first step God calls us to make to know Him, obey Him and understand His Word, as He made us to? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit. He can help us to know God and obey God and to understand God's Word.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His laws and for being the One who made us.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse *That many times we don't want to hear God's law and we don't love it. Many times we just want to do things our own way. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?

We can thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to help us understand it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

Ask God to help us to "see" and understand His laws. Ask Him to help us obey His commands that we might honor Him in the way we live.

Gospel Question

1. What is the most precious good news the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Forceball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
One kick ball or other rubber ball
Masking tape
Yard stick

Preparing the Game

1. Use the tape to mark 2 lines about 3 yards apart.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind one of the lines. Players should stand side to side, with legs apart and feet touching. The two teams are facing each other. Have all the children say the verse together. Then, one team rolls (with their hands) the ball to the other team, trying to get it through the other team's legs without being blocked. The defending team cannot move their feet to block the ball. They can only block it with their hands. If the ball gets through their legs, the other team can get 2 points if they can say the verse correctly. If they do not say it correctly, then the defending team can try for 1 point. The defending team then bats the ball and tries to get it through the other team's legs. Give all to other team. Have everyone say verse together, then begin play again. Repeat. The team with the most points wins.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive option

This game is difficult to make completely non-competitive. You can, however, not keep track of points.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Open My Eyes

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21

Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
The law of your mouth is better to me,
Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
Your hands they made me and fashioned me.
Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. Where were Sam and his mother from? *Jamaica (they were African, originally)*
2. What did they do in Jamaica? *They were slaves who worked in the sugar cane fields.*
3. What was Sam's mother's most treasured possession? Why? *The Bible. Because she knew it was God's Word. She knew that it alone told us how to be saved from our sins.*
4. What did Sam's mother tell him to make sure to do? *To never stop reading God's Word.*
5. Why did Sam want to read to the other slaves so much? *Because they could not read it themselves and he wanted them to know how to be saved and how to live to please God.*
6. What happened to Sam's mother's piece of Bible? *Bit by bit it fell apart.*
7. How could Sam keep reading the others the Bible, even when the pages were worn out and gone? *He told them what he had memorized.*
8. What was in Kingston that Sam wanted? *A missionary selling Bibles.*
9. Why was the journey so hard to Kingston? *It was very hot and mountainous. Sam had to travel on foot the whole fifty miles each way.*
10. What did the missionary decide to trust Sam for the extra money? *Anyone who would walk so far just to get a Bible could be trusted to return with 50 cents more.*
11. Why did Sam think it was worth walking 200 miles for a Bible? *He loved God's Word so much. He knew there was no other book that was God's Word. No other book told him how to be saved and live for God, like this one. No other book could tell him about God like this one.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *Sam knew that the Bible only is God's Word. He knew it showed him what God is like. It showed him how to be saved.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments." *The LORD had opened Sam's eyes to see wonderful things in His law, the Bible. Sam wanted a Bible so much that he walked 200 miles and gave up all the money he had to get one. It truly was worth than much silver and gold to him!*

Life Application Questions

1. What makes the Bible so special for us today? *It is still the only book which has the perfect words of God. If we want to know about God, His good laws, and His great plans, we need to read it, too.*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
3. How often do you read the Bible or ask someone to read it to you?
4. How long do you think it would take you to walk 200 miles in hot, hot sun? Why do you think someone would choose to walk so far in such hard conditions just to get a Bible? *Because they loved God and His Word so much.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the Giver of the Bible, His perfect Word.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we don't love God's Word and don't want to read it or listen to it. Many times we don't obey it. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for how wonderful His Word is. How much it tells us about Him, about how to be saved, and how to live to please God.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to understand, love and believe His Word, the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news about Jesus that the disciples learned from the Bible? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Ring Toss

Materials

Pre-made Ring toss board and rings

OR

Large piece of cardboard, popsicle sticks, and a child's plastic bracelet

Paper and marker

Masking Tape

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Set up the ring toss board; or, cut a triangle shape from the cardboard and stick popsicle sticks into the board and assign point values for different sticks

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line and toss the ring onto the board. Each child gets three tries, adding up the total points from all three tries. The leader then reads a Story Review question. If the child answers it correctly by himself, it is worth the number of points he scored from the ring toss. If he has another team member help him, it's worth half the point value. If he cannot answer it correctly, it goes to the other team with half points for a correct answer. Play resumes as the first player from the other team takes a turn tossing.

Play continues until each child has a turn, as Story Review questions last; or as time and attention span allow.

Tip: You might find that this game works best with the board laying flat on the floor rather than standing up and tilted.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point value for the children to reach together. Tell the children that they are going to work together and see how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Have the children take turns toss the ring for points. Read a question for everyone to work together to answer. If the group gets it right, then they get to keep the points. Keep track of how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Replace all of the sticky pads and play again, seeing if the group can make the target in less turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Ragged Bible.

Our story takes place in late 1700's, in Jamaica, an island in the Caribbean Sea.

And now we present: "The Case of the Ragged Bible."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Sam and his mother are slaves in Jamaica who work on the sugarcane plantations. Sam's mother had a small portion of the Bible that was her most treasured possession. When she died, she gave it to Sam and told him to never stop reading it. Sam keeps his promise to her. He reads the Bible often and shared it with the other slaves, too. Soon all the Bible was destroyed from so much use. From memory Sam would still tell the others the words of the Bible, but they wanted to see the book to prove that what he was saying was right.

Scene 2:

Sam hears that a missionary in Kingston has come with Bibles to sell. Sam gathers up all his money and makes the hard, 100 mile walk to buy a Bible. Sam gets to Kingston to find he doesn't have enough money to buy a Bible. The man gives him a Bible as long as Sam promises to come back with the rest of the money to pay it off as soon as he could.

Scene 3

Sam walks all the way home, collects the money from the other slaves, and walks all the way back to pay the man.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Sam knew that the Bible was the only book that would tell him and others about God and what pleases Him. He was willing to walk 200 miles just to get one.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Ragged Bible.

Our story takes place in late 1700's, in Jamaica, an island in the Caribbean Sea.

The characters in our story are: Sam, His mother, Other slaves, Master, Missionary.

And now we present: "The Case of the Ragged Bible."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Sam and his mother are slaves in Jamaica who work on the sugarcane plantations. Sam's mother had a small portion of the Bible that was her most treasured possession. When she died, she gave it to Sam and told him to never stop reading it. Sam keeps his promise to her. He reads the Bible often and shared it with the other slaves, too. Soon all the Bible was destroyed from so much use. From memory Sam would still tell the others the words of the Bible, but they wanted to see the book to prove that what he was saying was right.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Sam hears that a missionary in Kingston has come with Bibles to sell. Sam gathers up all his money and makes the hard, 100 mile walk to buy a Bible. Sam gets to Kingston to find he doesn't have enough money to buy a Bible. The man gives him a Bible as long as Sam promises to come back with the rest of the money to pay it off as soon as he could.

Scene 3: (End)

Sam walks all the way home, collects the money from the other slaves, and walks all the way back to pay the man.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Sam knew that the Bible was the only book that would tell him and others about God and what pleases Him. He was willing to walk 200 miles just to get one.

Sam's Bag with the Slaves' Money

Description

Children will make clay or paper coins and a little drawstring coin bag.

Materials

Coin Bag:

Brown, tan or black felt; Brown, tan or black yarn/string;

Blunt tapestry needles, one per child

Clay coins:

Skewer(s), Toothpicks

Self-hardening clay, terracotta-colored, if possible

Rolling pin(s) or tin cans (optional)

Screw caps from bottles, about 1" to 1 ½" in diameter, in varying sizes, 1 per child

Scrap plastic container and scissors

Acrylic metallic paint and brushes (optional)

Paper coins:

Cardstock

Silver and gold metallic gel pens or calligraphy pens

Thin-point black pens

Preparing the Craft

Coin Bag:

1. Cut out Template #1 from the felt, one per child.

2. For younger children, use the skewer to create a series of holes along outside of circle as shown on Template #1. You may want to let older children do this themselves.

3. Cut 20" pieces of yarn. Thread the tapestry needles with the yarn, both ends knotted together.

Clay coins:

Cut Templates #2,#3 and/or #4 out of the plastic, making about 1 per every two children.

Paper coins:

Photocopy page of Templates #5 and/or #6, making enough for each child to have 4 or 5 coins.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.

Coin Bag:

1. Have the children weave the tapestry needle with yarn in and out of the holes in the felt. Cut off yarn near the needle and tie ends together. Pull on one end of the yarn and draw the circle up into a gather. This will be the change purse.

Clay Coins:

1. Have the children flatten their clay with their hands or a rolling pin (tin cans without labels rolled on their sides work well, too) to about a ¼" thickness.

2. Using the bottle caps as shape cutters, cut out the coin shape. Children can switch around caps for different sized coins.

3. Lift the clay circles from the rest of the clay (Can use knives or spatulas, if desired). Use the small plastic shapes to press designs into the clay coins. Use the toothpicks to etch little dates or letters around the edges. These coins will take a day or so to dry hard. Can be painted when dried.

Paper Coins:

1. Have children use blanks to make their own coin faces or color in the ones provided with the gel pens (all ages) or calligraphy pens (best for older children) Put coins in bag.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did our story take place?

In Jamaica.

2. Where did Sam walk to twice? How many miles was it? What did he take with him? *To Kingston, about fifty miles, each way...two hundred miles in all. He took all of his and the other slaves' money.*

3. What did he take the money to buy? Why would he spend all their money and walk all these miles for just a Bible? Sam knew that there was nothing more important than getting to know God's Word.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?

Sam walked 200 miles to buy a Bible for himself and the slaves because he knew it was the only book of God's words.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

A Bible is the greatest treasure we can own because it alone is God's Word.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: Sam's Bag with the Slaves' Money.

2. In Jamaica, Sam walked about 200 miles in twelve days to take all of his and the other slaves' money to pay for a Bible so they could hear all of God's Word.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.

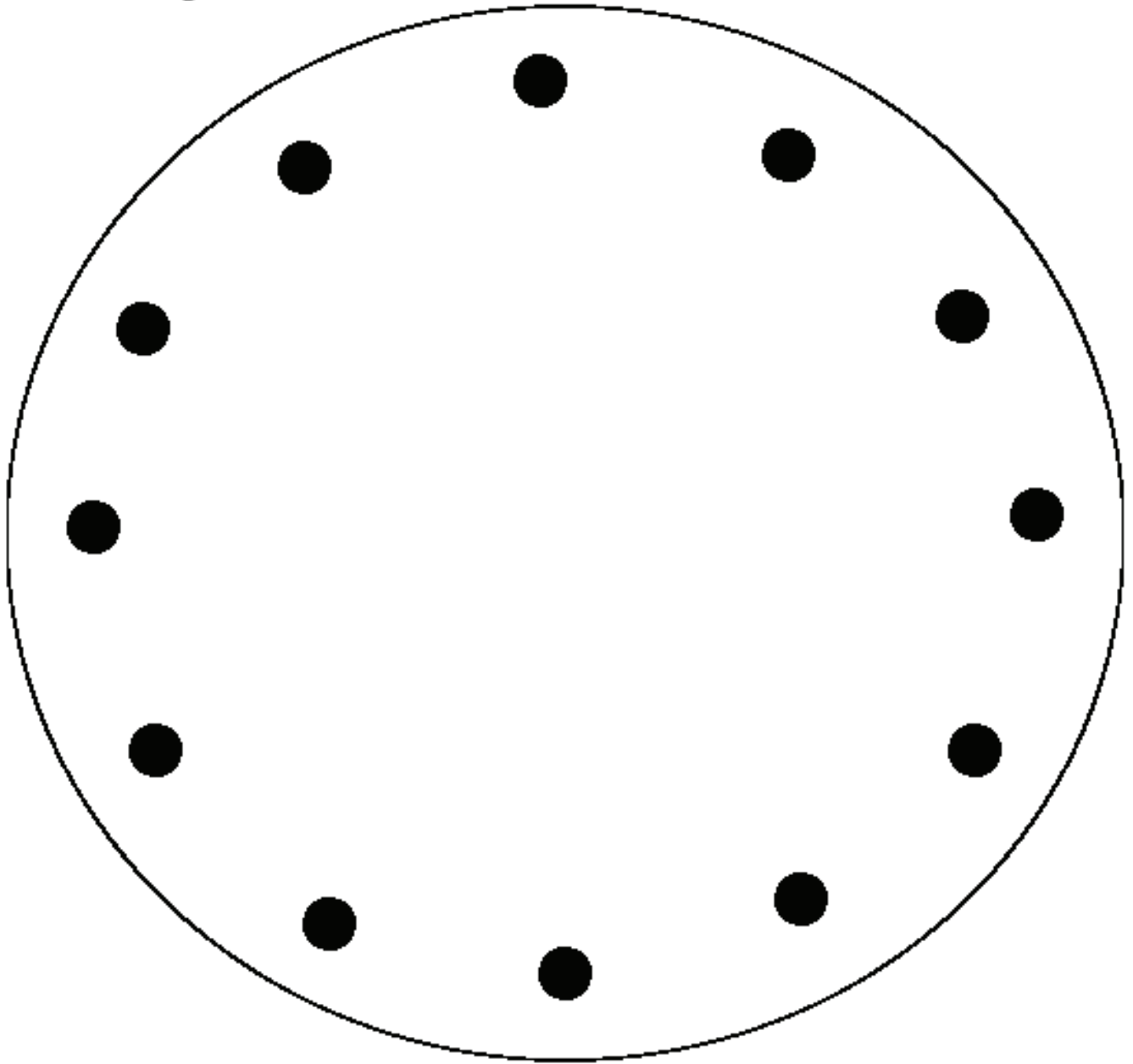
4. Sam walked 200 miles to buy a Bible for himself and the slaves because he knew it was the only book of God's words.

5. Our craft can help us remember that a Bible is the greatest treasure we can own because it alone is God's Word.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

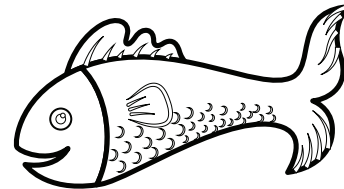
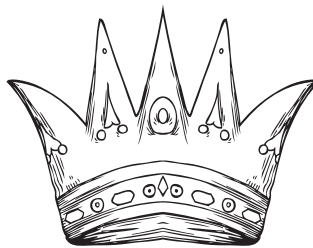
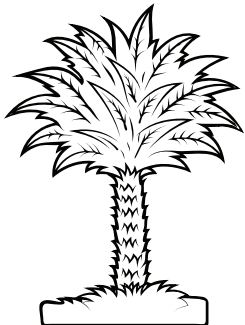
Template #1

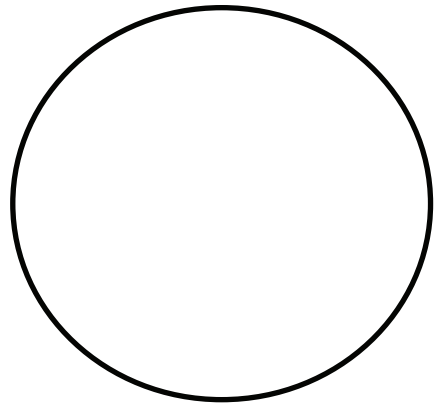
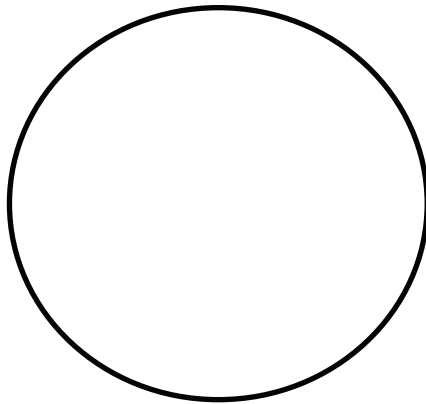
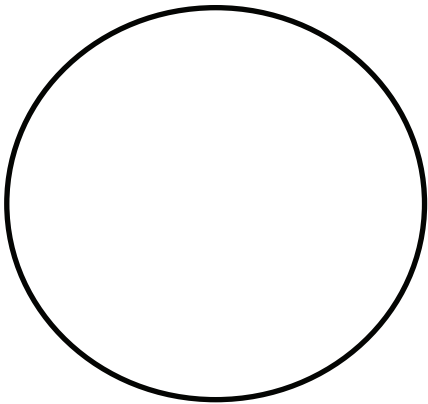
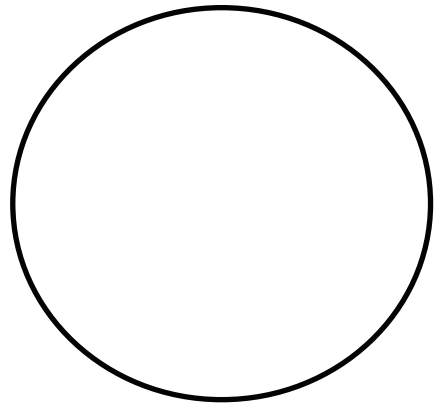
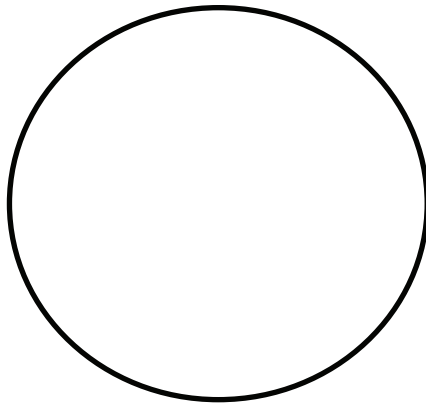
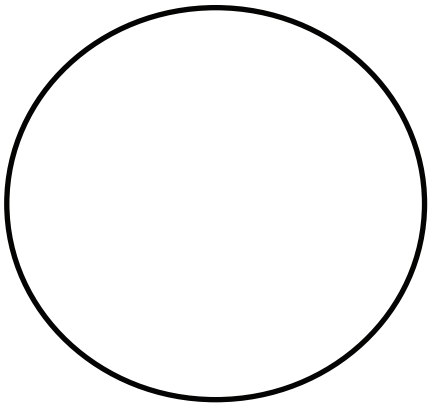
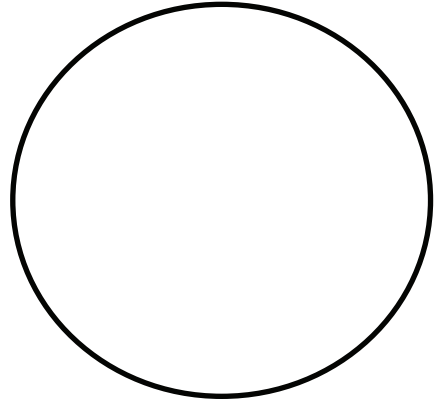
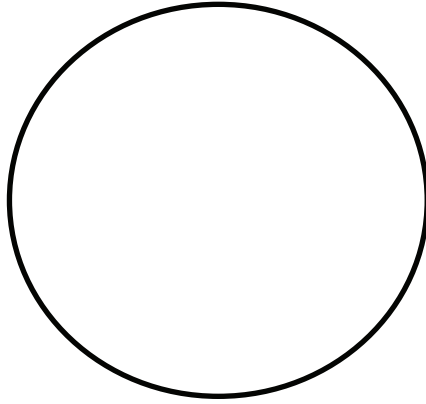
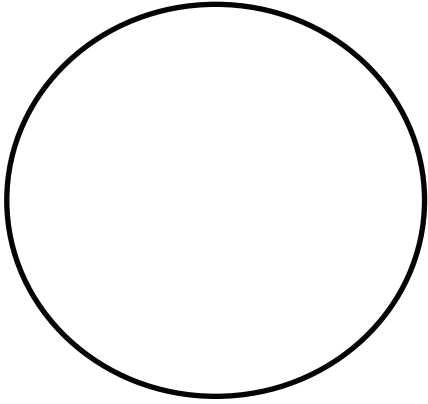
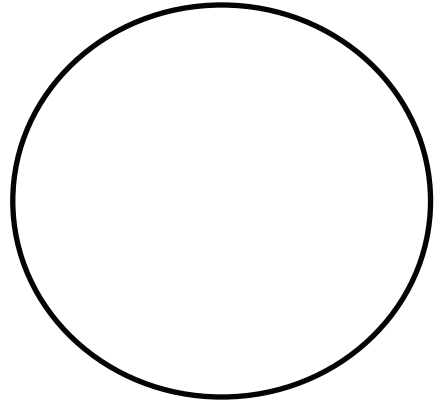
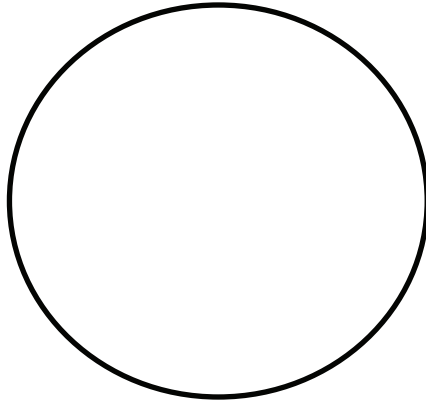
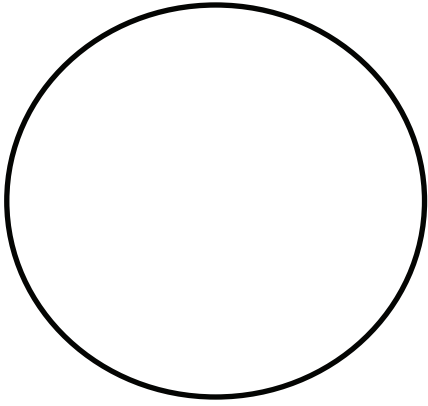
Coin Bag

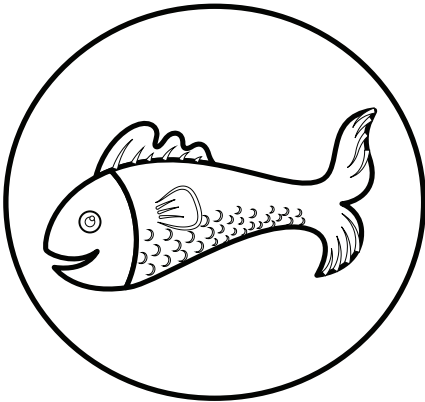
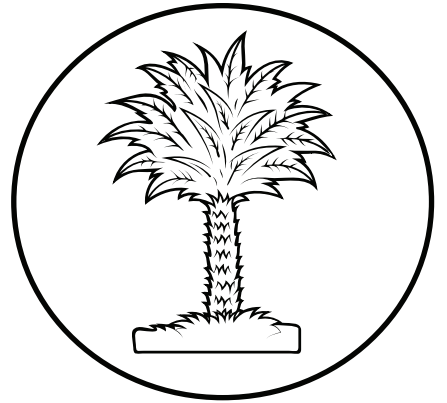
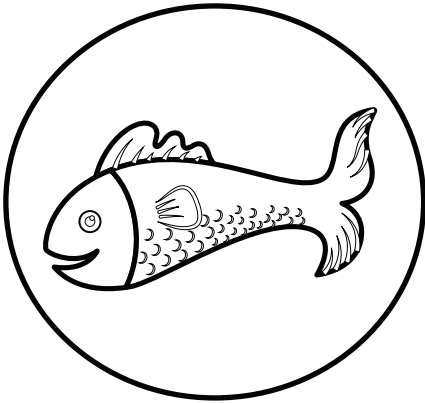
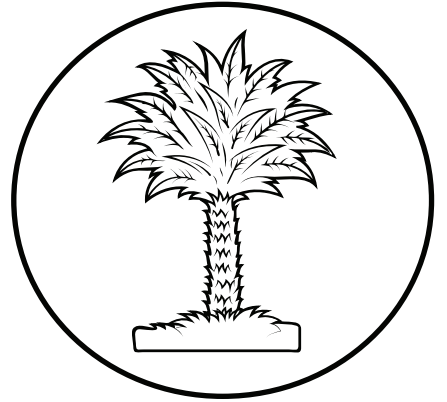
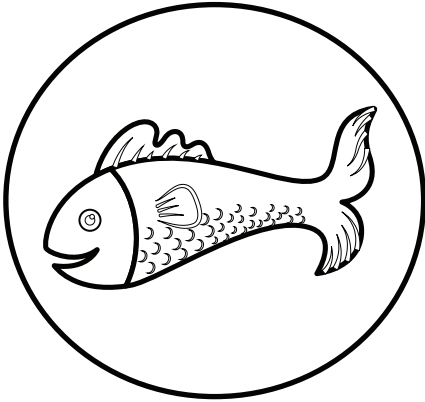
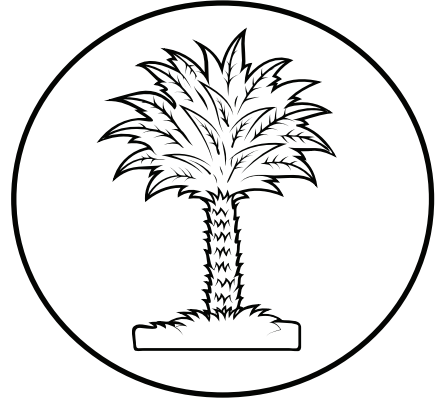
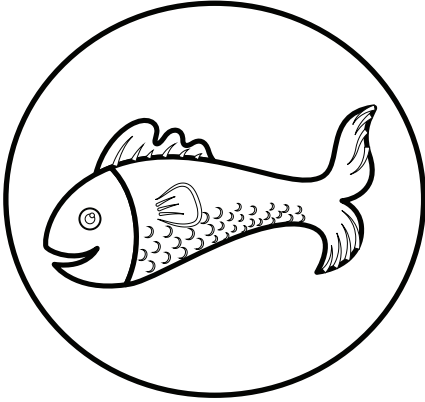


Templates #2-4

Plastic piece templates (use only outlines)







BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (a.k.a. missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are 9 coloring sheets in which children fill in the 9 things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Picture Run

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPPs, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 4: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Lesson 3 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Forgotten Book
Deuteronomy 4,5,27-30,34; Jeremiah 1-2,4,11,25,36

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Pieces of Scroll on Fire

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Grand March

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:18, 72-73: Discussion Sheet and Game: Frisbee Toss

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Balloon Volleyball

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: King Jehoiakim's Fire

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Crabbin' Around

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Forgotten Book Deuteronomy 4,5,27-30,34; Jeremiah 1-2,4,11,25,36

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the Forgotten Book.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was the Forgotten Book?
2. Who should have remembered it? What happened because they forgot it?

This story takes place not far from the eastern border of Israel, in Old Testament times, beginning about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

An old man (about one hundred and twenty years old!) sat in his tent, crouched over a papyrus scroll with ink reed in hand. It was Moses, hard at work writing down all the words the LORD had spoken to him. How his hand must have ached from day after day of writing, for it was Moses who wrote down the first, five books of the Bible! Now that's a lot of words!

Why would Moses go to all that effort? Because these words were God's words. God commanded him to write them all done. Through them, God would keep speaking the people, long after Moses had died.

But what would the people do with the Word of God? Would they listen and obey it...or not? The answer was a matter of life or death for the Israelites. They had made a solemn covenant with God. God promised to always bless them and protect them. The people promised to obey God's good laws. But along with the promises of blessings and protection, came a promise of punishment, too, if the people didn't obey God's laws as they had promised.

"Worship the LORD only. Do not make any idols. Keep the Sabbath day holy," God had told them. "Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not crave to have anything that someone else has." Moses wrote down these good laws and many more that the Israelites were to follow.

But Moses didn't just write down God's good laws for the people. He taught them what they should do with them. "You, parents: each and every day, teach God's words to your children, as you rise and sit, as you work, as you walk...no matter what you're so that

they will remember to obey the LORD and keep His covenant. You priests! Gather the people and read the Bible to them every seven years. They will help them obey the LORD and keep His covenant," Moses instructed.

"Obey the LORD and His Word and He will protect you and bless you. You will be His special people. But if you choose to go your own way and not live according to God's good Word, then He will discipline you severely. There will be curses upon your food and your families. Your enemies will overtake you and finally the LORD will remove you from the Promised Land He is giving you, scatter you to other lands and destroy you," Moses warned them.

What a big decision the Israelites were making! It would to be God's special people, but how scary was the punishments He warned them about!

The Israelites chose to make the covenant with the LORD. "We want to be Your people. We promise to obey Your Word," they said. So together, the LORD and the people of Israel made their promises to each other.

How wonderful life would have been, if the Israelites had kept their promises. But unfortunately, they were sinners, just like us. All too soon they chose not to live God's good way. They began to worship idols and to break God's good laws. How long would it be before the LORD sent down the curses He promised them?

The LORD certainly had every right to send all those terrible curses on them, just as soon as they started breaking His laws, but He did not. You see, God is holy: He hates it when His good laws are broken! But, He is also very merciful and compassionate. His heart is filled with love for His people. He did not want to destroy them! So the LORD patiently wanted the Israelites to

Story-telling Tips**Ahead of time:**

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

repent. He sent prophets to tell them to turn back to Him. He gave them smaller punishments than they deserved. But they kept worshiping idols and breaking the LORD's laws. So at last, after 800 years, it was time to punish them fully. He would remove from the Promised Land and scattered to other lands.

Another man sat crouched in his room over a scroll. This wasn't Moses. This was Baruch, the secretary of the prophet Jeremiah. Baruch furiously wrote down the words his master gave him to write: "The LORD says: 'The time for judgment has come. For eight hundred years I have waited for my stiff-necked people to turn from their idol worship and back to Me. As I promised through the covenant I made with them through Moses, I will now punish My people. I will send in the mighty Babylonian army to destroy all the cities and scatter and destroy all the people. Many will die and the rest will serve as slaves in Babylon. But I will show mercy, too. I won't punish them forever, as the covenant allows me to. After seventy, hard years in Babylon, I bring them back to the Promised Land.'"

Jeremiah wept at the words the LORD gave him. What terrible things were about to happen!

"Yet before I do this," the LORD continued through Jeremiah, "I want to give them one more chance to turn from their sins. Jeremiah, take this scroll with My words written upon it and have it read before all the people next time they gather at the Temple for a fast. If they hear My words and turn back to Me, then I will forgive them and I will not send the Babylonians to destroy them." How merciful and patient is the LORD!

Yet there was a problem. Jeremiah had to figure out how to get the LORD's message to the people.

"How will we do this, Baruch?" Jeremiah asked his scribe. "You know that the king hates me and my 'messages of doom,' as the people call them. I have been forbidden to enter the Temple at all. You will have to be the one to read the scroll. But from where can you read them the message so that they can all hear? We must make a plan," he said.

Jeremiah and Baruch shared with their friend, Gemariah, what the Lord commanded them to do. Gemariah was a high official of King Jehoiakim. It would be risky

for him to help Jeremiah, but Gemariah had a third story room that faced out into the Temple courts. It would be the perfect place to read God's Word to all the people. What would Gemariah do with the Word of God? He would risk his job and life and let Baruch read it from his room? Yes, he would!

The day of fasting finally came and all of the people of Jerusalem and the rest of the country gathered in the temple courts. Baruch snuck up to Gemariah's third floor room, faced the people and began reading in a loud voice all of God's words:

"Turn back to the LORD!" Baruch told them. "This is your last chance. If you refuse, I will send the Babylonians to destroy your land and you will serve them as their slaves. But even so, He will show you mercy. After seventy years of punishment, He will send you back home."

What would the people do with the God's Word? Would they accept it? No, they would not.

News of Baruch's stunt made it to the ears of King Jehoiakim's officials. When they heard what was on the scroll, they were afraid.

"The King needs to know about this. Give us the scroll!" the officials demanded. "And as for you, I'd advise you and Jeremiah to go and hide before the King finds out about it. You know what he will do to you!"

Jeremiah and Baruch went to hide and Jehudi, the King's servant, was sent to take Jeremiah's scroll to the King and report what had happened.

"Read me that scroll!" ordered King Jehoiakim.

So Jehudi began to read: "The time for judgment has come. For eight hundred years I have waited for My stiff-necked people to turn from their idol worship and back to Me. I am giving you one more chance before I send the Babylonian army to destroy your cities and scatter the people. Turn back to Me!"

King Jehoiakim listened as Jehudi read. What would he do with the Word of God? King Jehoiakim did not believe it! He took the scroll of the Word of God and he cut it up piece by piece and threw it into his fire until it was all burned up!

There would be no turning back from God's judgment now. Word reached Baruch and Jeremiah of what the king had done. Six years later, the Babylonian army

swept into Jerusalem, burning it down, killing many and taking the rest to be slaves in Babylon for seventy years, just as the LORD had promised.

But the LORD said to Jeremiah, "Write my words down again." So that's exactly what Jeremiah did. Why did God want Jeremiah to write down all those words again? Because God's Word was not just for King Jehoiakim and the people who heard it and rejected it that day in the Temple. It was also for many others who would come. These others would hear those words and believe. They would turn from their sinful ways and trust in the LORD.

And would you believe that God even had Jeremiah write those words down for us to hear today? Yes, He wants to know what will WE do with the Word of God? Will we reject it, like King Jehoiakim and the people did long ago? Or, will we turn away from our sins and ask Him for forgiveness? God is just holy and just as merciful now as He was then! We face His punishment for our sins, but He promises to forgive us and make us His very, own special people forever, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Close in prayer.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. What was the Forgotten Book?

God's Word, the Bible.

2. Who should have remembered it? What happened because they forgot it?

The people of Israel and their kings forgot it. They turned away from God and worshiped other fake gods. When they would not turn back, the LORD disciplined them by sending them to Babylon. In the end, they turned back to the LORD.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:18,72-73 ESV

"Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."

Who are some of those who would hear and believe? Some were the people who the Babylonians captured to work as slaves. These people would remember God's promises to rescue them after seventy years and take comfort. But, you know, those people in Babylon weren't the only people those words were written for. Many people, in the hundreds of years since Jeremiah wrote them down have read them and been warned to turn from their sins and seek God's forgiveness.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so patient with sinners, wanting them to repent of their sins and turn to You.

C God, we confess that many times we don't love God's Word and don't want to read it or obey it. We deserve Your punishment, too! We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You for how wonderful Your Word is! Thank You for all that it tells us about You. Thank You for how You warn us about our sins and tell us how we can be saved through it.

S God, work in our hearts! By Your Holy Spirit, help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to understand, love and obey Your Word, the Bible.

Special Words

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of a god.

Covenant: A very serious promise made between two persons.

Babylon: An city that was east of Israel that conquered many lands and peoples and became one of the greatest empires in the world, thousands of years ago.

Idol: An image of a (fake) god used as an object of worship.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through Your Word, the Bible.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to learn from Your Word, the Bible. Many times we don't want to obey what it tells us to do. We would rather think about ourselves or do something else that seems more fun. We need a Savior to save us!

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving us the Bible so we can know more about You, more about why You made us, and how to be saved through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better as we read the Bible, Your Word. Help us to live out what the Bible tells us to do. Use it to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Pieces of Scroll on Fire

Square cracker “pieces of scroll” in fruit roll up or cream cheese “fire” (colored red with red food coloring).

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: Jeremiah urged the people and King Jehoiachim to love and obey the LORD by turning back and worshiping Him and obeying His laws. They refused and King Jehoiachim even burned up the scroll of God’s Word.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.

When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, about who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible, but He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who did God use to write down His words in the Bible? *Many people.*
2. How did God give men the words to write down? *The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds so they would write down exactly what God wanted written.*
3. Why is the Bible called God's Word? *Because it's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.*
4. What sorts of things does God tell us about in the Bible? *He tells to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him.*
5. How does God speak to us in the Bible? *When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to help us understand it and apply it to our lives. He also speaks to us through the Bible when the pastor preaches on it in church or Christians discuss what it means.*
6. Does God tell us everything there is to know in the Bible? *No. There are many things He has chosen not to tell us.*
7. What do we know God has put in the Bible? *Everything we need to know to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him, and to look forward to life with Him forever.*
8. What can God's Holy Spirit use God's Word to do? *Use His Word to help us to save us, know Him, live for Him and enjoy life with Him forever.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? *The Israelites heard God's Word, but chose to reject it and serve idols instead. He was merciful and patient for 800 years!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments."? *There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why is it so important that we read the Bible? *Because it is the only book that God has given us that is His Word. If we don't read it, how will we know what He is like, who we are, and why He made us. How will we know how to be saved and live to please Him?*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being the Giver of His perfect Word, the Bible.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's Word that we choose to rebel against it. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for giving us His Bible so we can know about Him and how we can be saved.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, written down in the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Beanbag Grand March

Materials

Small bowl or bag
1 Bean Bag per child
CD and CD player
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have the children who are "out" help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

Non-competitive Option

Let all the children whose beanbag fell join back into the march, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Amazing Grace**Verse 4**

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word, my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 20

Understanding the Song

1. What has the Lord promised to the person who believes in Him? *He has promised good.*
2. Where has He promised good to His people? *In the Bible.*
3. What kind of good does the Lord promise? *He does not promise that nothing bad will happen to us; but, that in all things—bad or good—that He will work to make us like Jesus. That is the greatest good of all.*
4. What is "His word?" *The Bible.*
5. What does the Bible secure? *The believer's hope that he will be forgiven his sins and get to live forever with God in heaven.*
6. What does a shield do? *A shield protects someone in a battle from being struck down by the enemy's arrows.*
7. How is God like a shield to His people? *He protects them from all sorts of evil and only allows things in their lives that He knows will work for their good and His glory.*
8. What does it mean for God to be your portion? *To be satisfied that He will take care of absolutely everything you need.*
9. How long will God be the shield and portion for the believer in Jesus? *All his life*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *God's people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs, for all of their lives, because He always does what He promises to do.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Lord promised the Israelites that He would always keep His promises that He gave them in the Bible. He would always be their shield and portion as long as they lived, if they would trust Him and keep His laws. But the Israelites turned from the Lord and would not trust Him or keep His laws.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law... The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments." *God's Word is where God's people learn that God promises to do good to His people and that their hopes for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him are secure through Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can thank God for giving them a secure hope in His promised salvation They can praise God for being so kind to them as to promise to always protect and provide for them, even when it was at the cost of sacrificing His only Son, Jesus.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, that tells us of His promises for His people and that their hope in Him is secure.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we chose to not believe the promises of God's Word or don't care about them. We need God's forgiveness.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for giving His people promises that He will never break. They know that their whole lives they can always trust what God's Word promises. Their hope is secure in Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose hope is always secure and can always trust His promises to them in the Bible.

Gospel Question

1. How greatest hope that the Bible gives us is the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law...The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding to learn your commandments.”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous thing out of your law.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What kind of eyes do we need God to open for us to see wonderful things in God's law? *Not our actual eyeballs, but the “eyes” of our spirit, our heart. Our spirit—or heart—doesn't really have eyes, like the ones we look around the room with. No! It's just a way of saying, help us to understand God's Word.*
2. Why do we need God's help to “see” wonderful things in God's law? *Because we are sinners, our hearts do not understand God's Word without God's help. God sends His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and helps us to understand His law.*
3. What is God's law? Is it just a bunch of rules? *God's law is another way of meaning the whole Bible. (Unless you are reading a part of the Bible that is talking just about laws God gave—then it is talking about God's actual laws).*
4. What kind of wonderful things are in God's law? *God shows us what He's like; His plans for this world and His people; the way to be saved; how He wants His people to live; and so much more.*
5. How is the Bible God's Word from His mouth? *God gave His words for men to write down just right. Sometimes He did speak aloud to men, like Moses. Many times, He spoke to them by His Holy Spirit, whispering in their hearts.*
6. What makes God's law worth more than a thousand pieces of silver or gold? *It alone is the perfect Word of God. Without it, we would not know so many things about God. Without it, we would not have the stories of Jesus and how to be saved.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?**

There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.

Story Connection Questions

1. How does our story tie in with this Bible Verse? *The people of Israel did NOT think much of God's Word. They did not want to obey it when they heard it. They had eyes that could not “see” wonderful things in God's law and they did not want to ask for them. Worse of all was King Jehoikim who even had God's laws cut up and burned in the fire.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who made us and formed us? Why does this make God the one to give us understanding of His commands? *Since God made us, He knows exactly how to teach us how to understand His Word.*
2. What is the best first step God calls us to make to know Him, obey Him and understand His Word, as He made us to? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit. He can help us to know God and obey God and to understand God's Word.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His laws and for being the One who made us.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse *That many times we don't want to hear God's law and we don't love it. Many times we just want to do things our own way. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?

We can thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to help us understand it.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

Ask God to help us to "see" and understand His laws. Ask Him to help us obey His commands that we might honor Him in the way we live.

Gospel Question

1. What is the most precious good news the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Frisbee Toss

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 or more Frisbees (or bean bag)
Masking tape
marker and paper
small container

Preparing the Game

1. Divide the verse into 5 to 10 sections and place a word/verse section in each section. Write point values on the word/verse section, higher points for a word near the beginning of the verse; lower points for a word closer to the end. Tape these down.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Divide the children into two teams and sit down in line. Explain that everyone will say the verse together. Then a child from one team will come up and toss the Frisbee into a word section. The leader/group will say the verse up to that word. The child can then win total point values by completing the verse on his own, or have point values by asking a team member to help him. If they are unsuccessful, the other team will have a chance to complete it for the half point amount. Have whole group say verse together again, then choose a child from the other team to toss the Frisbee.

Game continues until all children get a turn, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the Frisbee, letting the child or a child with a partner, say the rest of the verse on their own.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Open My Eyes

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 21

Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
The law of your mouth is better to me,
Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
Your hands they made me and fashioned me.
Give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Open my eyes that I may behold,
Wondrous things out of your law.
Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, "It" who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When "It" says "Pass the Secret Sign", the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When "It" says "Stop the Passing!" the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of "It", watch the child with the card do the sign, then have "It" guess the name of the sign. (If desired, "It" can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes "It." Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What did Moses write down? *The first five books of the Bible.*
2. What did the Israelites do instead of following God's Word? *They disobeyed it; they didn't read it; they forget it.*
3. What did the LORD promise would happen if they kept disobeying Him? *He would send curses upon them: curses upon their food, their families. Their enemies would overtake them and finally He would remove them from the Promised Land He was giving them, scatter them to other lands and destroy them.*
4. How many years did the LORD wait before promising them great punishment? *800 years.*
5. Who wrote down Jeremiah's words from the LORD? *Baruch.*
6. What did the LORD promise would happen to Israel if they did not repent? *The Babylonians would come and destroy their land. They would kill many Israelites and the rest be taken as slaves back to Babylon.*
7. Why did the LORD want Jeremiah to have His words read to all the people? *He wanted them to have another chance to repent before He sent punishment.*
8. From whom did Baruch get a room off the Temple courts? *Gemariah.*
9. What did the people do when they heard Jeremiah's words of the LORD? *They did not repent.*
10. What did the officials do when they heard Jeremiah's words of the LORD? *They told the king.*
11. What did the king do when he heard Jeremiah's words of the LORD? *He had God's Word torn up and burned in the fire.*
12. How did the LORD show mercy to the people even in His punishment of them? *He promised that they would return back to their land after 70 years in slavery.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *The Israelites heard God's Word, but chose to reject it and serve idols instead. He was merciful and patient for 800 years!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands."? *The people of Israel did NOT think much of God's Word. They did not want to obey it when they heard it. They had eyes that could not "see" wonderful things in God's law and they did not want to ask for them. Worse of all was King Jehoiakim who even had God's laws cut up and burned in the fire.*

Life Application Questions

1. What should we do when we hear God's Word? *We should hear and believe. We should repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
2. Who can help us to hear and believe God's Word? Who can help us to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? *God can and will if we ask Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being so patient with sinners, wanting them to repent of their sins and turn to Him.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we don't love God's Word and don't want to read it or listen to it. Many times we don't obey it. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for how wonderful His Word is. How much it tells us about Him, warns us about God's eternal punishment we deserve, and tells us how we can be saved through Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to understand, love and believe His Word, the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news about Jesus that the disciples learned from the Bible? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Balloon Volleyball

Materials

20+balloons
small strips of paper
pen
Masking Tape
20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write out each Story Review question on a small strip of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Roll it up and place it inside of the balloon. Inflate the balloon. Continue this process for each Story Review question. Make a line with masking tape across the middle of the playing area.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them spread out on each side of the masking tape line. Take one of the balloons and bat it out into the field of play. The children will bat it back and forth without letting it hit the floor. When it hits the floor, play stops and the team on the opposite side scores a point. The balloon is popped, the question is unrolled and read. The team who scored the point gets first try at answering the question. If they get it correctly, they get another point. If not, then the other team can try for a point. Play resumes by the leader batting another balloon out into the court.

Play continues as balloons last, or as time and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't keep track of points. Encourage the children to see how many times they bat the balloon back and forth, counting out loud with each hit. When the balloon hits the floor, the leader pops the balloon and reads question for all to answer.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Forgotten Book.

Our story takes place just outside of Israel, in Old Testament times, beginning about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Forgotten Book."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Moses wrote down the laws of the LORD for the people of Israel to follow. The LORD promised to bless them if they followed His laws, but curse them if they did not. For eight hundred years the Israelites kept turning to other gods and the LORD kept warning them to turn back to Him or He would have to punish them as He had promised.

Scene 2:

The people of Israel still did not turn back to the LORD. despite His great patience and many warnings. It is almost time for Him to discipline them for their disobedience. The LORD sent the prophet Jeremiah to write down His words and warn the people one last time. Jeremiah had his secretary Baruch sneak up into Gemariah's room overlooking the courts of the Temple. From there, he read the words of the LORD to all the people gathered for a special day of fasting. Would the people repent? No! They still would not! Baruch is found by the king's officials. They take the scroll of God's words to the king to be read.

Scene 3

King Jehoiakim listened to God's words of warning, but he refused to repent, just like the people of Israel. He didn't care about God's Word at all. He took a knife and cut the scroll of God's Word, piece by piece and threw it in the fire to be burnt up. No one would repent, so the LORD fulfilled His warnings of punishment. The Babylonian soldiers swoop into Jerusalem. They capture all the people and take them back to Babylon to be their slaves. How sad! Yet even in His punishment, the LORD was merciful. He did not destroy the people completely as they deserved. He gave them a promise that their punishment would last seventy years and then they would return to Jerusalem. The LORD told Jeremiah to write down the words on a scroll again. The LORD would use His Words to warn and to comfort God's people throughout all time, even today.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** The Israelites heard God's Word, but chose to reject it and serve idols instead. He was merciful and patient for eight hundred years!

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Forgotten Book.

Our story takes place just outside of Israel, in Old Testament times, beginning about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Moses, the Israelites, Jeremiah, King Jehoiakim, Baruch, Gemariah, King's officials, Babylonians

And now we present: "The Case of the Forgotten Book."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Moses wrote down the laws of the LORD for the people of Israel to follow. The LORD promised to bless them if they followed His laws, but curse them if they did not. For eight hundred years the Israelites kept turning to other gods and the LORD kept warning them to turn back to Him or He would have to punish them as He had promised.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The people of Israel still did not turn back to the LORD. despite His great patience and many warnings. It is almost time for Him to discipline them for their disobedience. The LORD sent the prophet Jeremiah to write down His words and warn the people one last time. Jeremiah had his secretary Baruch sneak up into Gemariah's room overlooking the courts of the Temple. From there, he read the words of the LORD to all the people gathered for a special day of fasting. Would the people repent? No! They still would not! Baruch is found by the king's officials. They take the scroll of God's words to the king to be read.

Scene 3: (End)

King Jehoiakim listened to God's words of warning, but he refused to repent, just like the people of Israel. He didn't care about God's Word at all. He took a knife and cut the scroll of God's Word, piece by piece and threw it in the fire to be burnt up. No one would repent, so the LORD fulfilled His warnings of punishment. The Babylonian soldiers swoop into Jerusalem. They capture all the people and take them back to Babylon to be their slaves. How sad! Yet even in His punishment, the LORD was merciful. He did not destroy the people completely as they deserved. He gave them a promise that their punishment would last seventy years and then they would return to Jerusalem. The LORD told Jeremiah to write down the words on a scroll again. The LORD would use His Words to warn and to comfort God's people throughout all time, even today.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** The Israelites heard God's Word, but chose to reject it and serve idols instead. He was merciful and patient for eight hundred years!

King Jehoikim's Fire

Description

Children will make a paper bag fire with a leaping felt glove flame that "burns up" paper.

Materials

Fire:

White cardstock

Yellow, red, orange, and brown markers

OR brown, yellow and orange wax crayons, red tempera paint and sponge pieces

Larger size lunch paper bags, 1 per child

Special Flame Glove:

Craft glue, stapler

Red, orange, and yellow felt

Orange and yellow glitter glue (optional)

Hot glue gun and sticks

Scroll of God's Word:

White or cream tissue or regular unlined paper.

Preparing the Craft

1. Make 2 of Template #1 out of the Yellow Felt, per child
2. Glue two pieces together along edges with hot glue gun to make a glove.
3. Cut 6 of Template #2 out of orange felt, 6 of Template #3 out of red felt, per child.
4. Copy and cut one of Template #4 out of cardstock, per child
5. If using wax crayons and paint, set out crayons and mix paint slightly thickly.
6. Set out glue, glitter glue and other supplies.
7. Cut the bottom out of the lunch bags, leaving about an 1" around the edges.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample of the craft.

Fire:

Paper and markers method: Have children color the bottom of Template #1 like wood and the rest of it, like a leaping flame, using the markers.

Wax Resist Method: Have the children FIRMLY PRESS DOWN as they color the bottom of Template #1 like wood with brown crayons and the rest of it, like a leaping flame, leaving some spaces between colors. Lightly sponge red tempera paint over whole picture. Dab off excess paint to keep from getting too wet. Glue or staple (is better for wet paint) to one side of the lunch bag, the top of the flames pointing up and hanging over the edge of the BOTTOM OF THE LUNCH BAG.

(Bag will be used upside down.)

Leaping Flame: Have children glue the red and orange little felt "flames" to each other and then to each finger of the yellow felt "glove." And one on back of glove. They can add glitter glue details to the glove or the little flames.

Word of God: Cut some 3"x3" pieces of tissue paper or paper. Can write words of warning on it, if desired.

How It Works: Child puts on glove and sticks hand in bag, that they hold with their other hand.

Another child sticks a piece of "the Word of God." up to the flame of the bag, the hand "leaps up", grabs it and goes back down into fire "bag." By moving hand in bag, can make noise of fire crackling.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Who wrote down and brought God's Word to King Jehoiakim and the people of Israel?

Jeremiah.

2. When the king was given God's Word in his palace, what did Jeremiah hope he would do? Hear it and lead the people in repenting of their sins and turning back to obeying the LORD.

3. What did the king do? Why did he do this?

He cut it up into pieces and through them in the fire. He refused to believe or obey it.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?

The LORD had Jeremiah write down His words of warning to the Israelites and King Jehoiakim that they might repent of their sins. The people and the King heard the LORD's words, but they refused to obey them. The King even had them burned!

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God has given us His words in the Bible that we would love and obey Him, and know His blessings.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: King Jehoiakim's Fire.

2. In his palace in Jerusalem, King Jehoiakim threw Jeremiah's scroll of the LORD's Word into the fire to burn up because he refused to believe them or obey them.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.

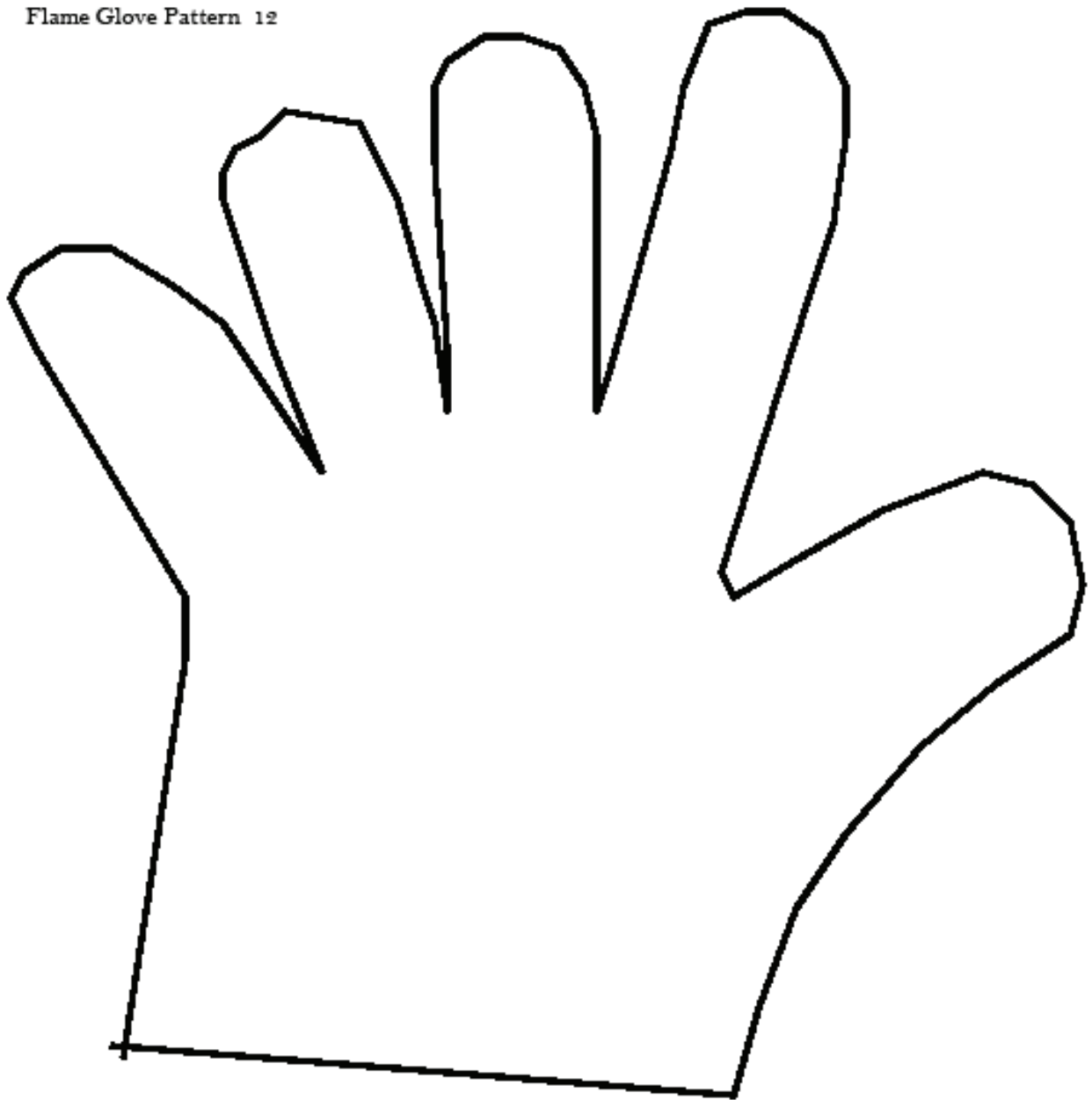
4. The LORD had Jeremiah write down His words of warning to the Israelites and King Jehoiakim that they might repent of their sins. The people and the King heard the LORD's words, but they refused to obey them. The King even had them burned!

5. Our craft can help us remember that God has given us His words in the Bible that we would love and obey Him, and know His blessings.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Template #1

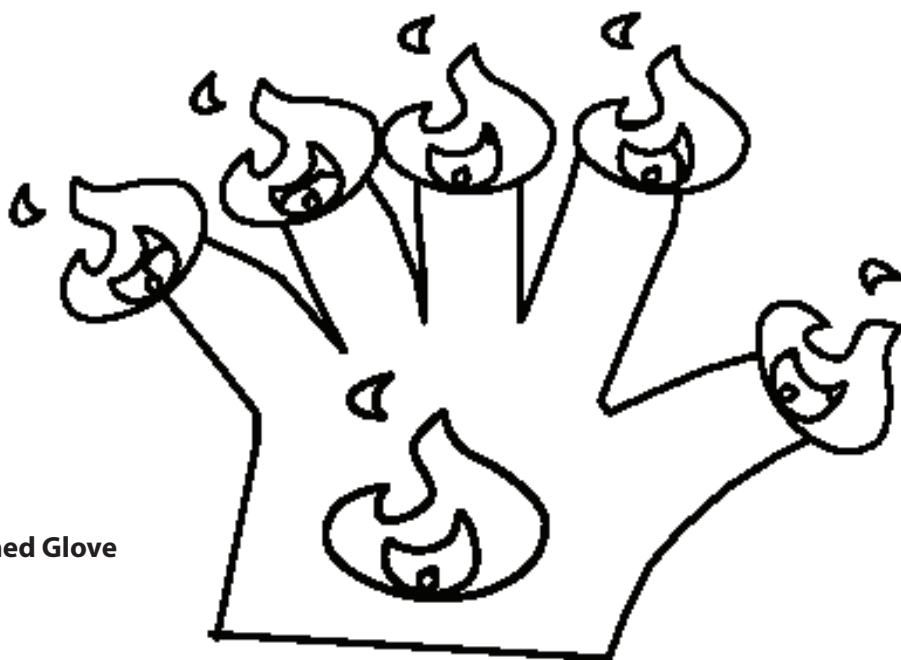
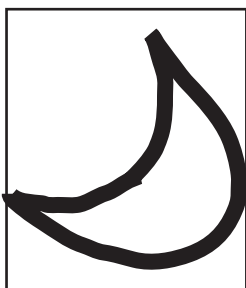
Flame Glove Pattern 12



Template #2
Red Flame



Template #3
Orange Flame



Picture of Finished Glove

Template #4
Fire Template for Bag



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Tape the picture and name of each VIPP to the wall, about 3 feet from the ground.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPPs, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Put the Clue Cards for both VIPPS put in one bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

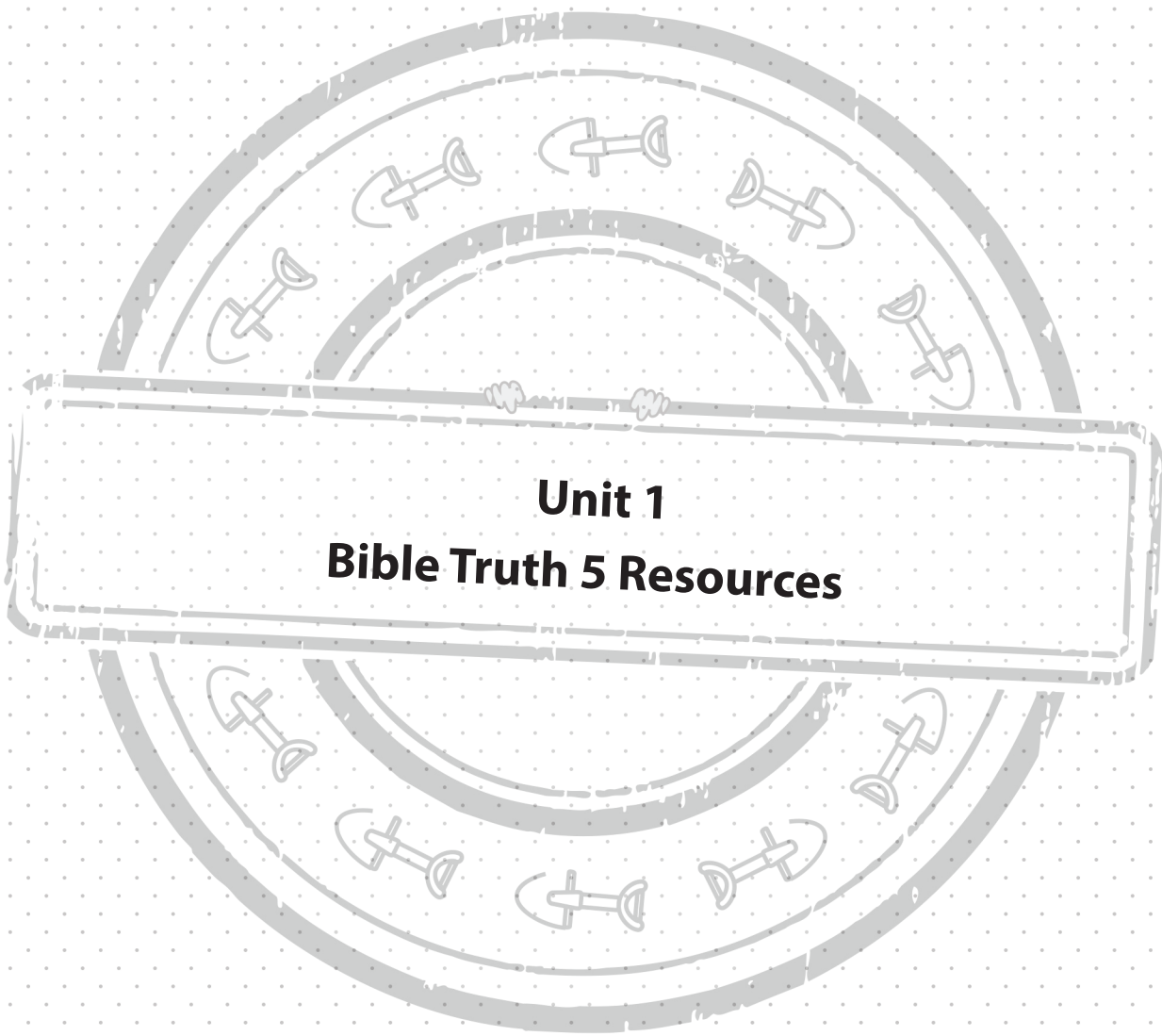
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



Unit 1
Bible Truth 5 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 5 OVERVIEW

UNIT 1: The God Who Reveals Himself

Big Question and Answer: "How Can I Know What God Is Like? He Shows Me What He's Like!"

Bible Verse: "For behold, He who formed the mountains, creates the winds, and declares to man what is His thought. The LORD, the God of hosts, is His name." Amos 4:13 ESV

Bible Truth 5 Concept: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Hebrews 1:1-3

"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Alternate Memory Version: Hebrews 1:3

"The Son is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Bible Truth 5 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for showing us so much of what You are like through Jesus. Thank You for showing us how holy and just You are, as well as so loving and merciful to sinners.
- C** We confess that many times we don't want to take time to learn more about You by learning about Jesus. We confess that even when we know more about You, as we look at Jesus, that we still do not love You or trust You as we should. We need Jesus to save us!
- T** Thank You, God for sending Your Son, Jesus, to come live on earth and show us what You are like.
- S** God, help us to understand who You are better as we learn about Jesus. Work in our hearts. Help us not just know about You, but come to know You, ourselves, as we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 5 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Lips of Life or Death (New Testament)

Matthew 3,14; Mark 1,6; John 1

Lesson 2: The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Great Revealing (Old Testament)

Daniel 9; Matthew 2:1-12

1. GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>	
Big Question Under Investigation:	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Can I Know What God Is Like?</p> <p>"God made us. He wants us to know what He's like so we can know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him. We don't have to figure out what God is like by ourselves. We couldn't do that. So God shows us what He's like.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Can I Know What God Is Like?' is: God Shows Me What He's Like!</p>	
Big Question 1 and Songs	<p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s):</p> <p>Big Q & A 1 Song <i>(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")</i> How can I know what God is like, God is like, God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Big Question 1 Song: How Can I Know What God Is Like? I have a very big question, A big question 'bout God. I have a very big question, It's Big Question Number One, I wanna know...</p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? How can I know what God is like? He shows me what He's like!</p> <p>Verse 1: He gave me a heart to know God, He made everything I see. Big tall mountains, galloping horses, Every little bird and bee. Everybody sing... <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: He gave us the Bible, His Word, To learn of His mighty deeds, But most of all, through Jesus, His Son, God shows Himself to me. Everybody sing.... <i>(Refrain)</i></p>	<p><i>choose one or both</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 3</i></p> <p><i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 4</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 1****Bible Verse**

You may also enjoy some other versions this verse:
 He Who Declares His Thought
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6
 He Who Forms the Mountains
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7
 Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8
 For Behold,
 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Amos 4:13 tells us: "For behold, He who forms the mountains, creates the wind and declares to man what is His thought...the LORD, the God of hosts, is His name."

Big Question 1 Bible Verse Song
The LORD Declares: Amos 4:13 ESV

PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5

The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 The LORD declares to man his thought,
 Amos Four, thirteen.

"The LORD created everything--even us! He's the one to declares to us what His thoughts are. That means He shows us what He's like."

It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FIVE** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God is like. We've already learned some already. Can you remember them? (God Made Our Hearts

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 5**

(through prophets, and God speaks through His word, the Bible)

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

<p>Bible Truth 5 Hymn</p>	<p>“Long ago, a man named Charles Wesley was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to this hymn. He called it “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing.” We’re going to learn a verse from it.”</p> <p>O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22</i></p> <p>Verse 1 O, for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer’s praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!</p> <p>“This hymn reminds us that Jesus is the great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.”</p>
<p>Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse and Song</p> <p><i>You might also enjoy listening to: Whoever Has Seen Me: John 14:9, ESV PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 24</i></p>	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p> <p>Hebrews 1:1-3: “Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”</p> <p>The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That’s because Jesus is God!</p> <p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p> <p>The Son Is the Radiance <i>PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23</i></p> <p>The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God’s glory, The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God’s glory, And the exact imprint of His nature, And the exact imprint of His nature, The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God’s glory, The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God’s glory, Hebrews Chapter One, verse three</p>

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Lips of Life or Death**

John 10:22-42

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Lips of Life or Death.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who thought they had life or death on his lips? Why was he wrong?**
- 2. Who really had life or death on his lips?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who thought they had life or death on his lips? Why was he wrong? The proconsul thought he had the power to preserve life or bring death to someone. He was wrong because God was more powerful than him. He could do whatever He wanted to do. Philip would not die that day unless it was within His good will. And, because the proconsul didn't understand that while Philip's body might die that day, Jesus had given Philip eternal life...and that is real life!

2. Who really had life or death on his lips? Philip spoke the words of life to the proconsul, so he had the words of true life or death on his lips. But ultimately, Jesus was the one who had life or death on his lips. It is through Him only that we can be saved from the death we deserve and receive God's eternal life.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. Who was the Not-Good-Enough Man? What was he trying to be good enough for? How did he try to make himself good enough?**
- 2. Who did he come to know that was good enough? Why was this person good enough?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was the Not-Good-Enough Man? What was he trying to be good enough for? How did he try to make himself good enough? Martin Luther. He tried to do lots of good works and keep all of God's laws so God would accept him and save him from his sins.

2. Who did he come to know that was good enough? Why was this person good enough? Jesus. Jesus was the perfect Son of God. He was perfectly pleasing to His Father. He gives His righteousness to us when we repent of our sins and believe in Him. Martin Luther learned that it was by faith in Jesus rather than his own good works that he could be accepted by God.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Great Revealing**

Daniel 9;

Matthew 2:1-12

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Great Revealing.**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

- 1. What was revealed? Who revealed it?**
- 2. What was so great about it?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. What was revealed? Who revealed it? God was sending His Son, Jesus into the world to save God's people and show us more of what He's like. The LORD revealed it to God's people through Daniel, as well as many other prophets.

2. What was so great about it? Before the time of Jesus, people could know God in their heart, could see His creations, could hear His words through the prophets and through the Bible; but now, with Jesus, God revealed what He is like more completely than ever before.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)***Response Activities**

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.

BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 5: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Extra Song: Whosoever's Seen Me: John 14:9 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 24

Lesson 1 New Testament Story: The Case of the Lips of Life or Death

John 10:22-33, 39-42

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Remembering Jesus, the Son of God

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Omit! Obey!

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Hebrews 1:1-3: Discussion Sheet and Game: Memory Verse Limbo

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Spoon and Ball Relay

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: The Cross and the Crown

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Hit the Wall

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Lips of Life or Death John 10:22-42

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Lips of Life or Death.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who thought he had life or death on his lips?
2. Why was he wrong?

This story is a New Testament story. It takes place in Hierapolis, Turkey, about 70 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

In the middle of a magnificent room with towering arches and gleaming tile floors, stood an elderly, eighty-seven-year-old man. Soldiers had brought him to this great hall to appear before none other than the Roman proconsul of Turkey. Now the proconsul was an extremely powerful man. No one except Caesar, the Roman king, had more power than him. He could do whatever he wanted. He didn't even have to keep his own laws! You could say that he held the life or death of others on his lips, because if he said they were to live, they lived. But if he said they were to die, then they died. And today, it was the life or death of this old man that the proconsul held on his lips.

Who was the old man? It was Philip, one of Jesus' first, twelve disciples. And what had he done to deserve death? Philip, his sister Miriamme, and another Christian named Bartholomew had come to Hierapolis to tell the people there about Jesus. Few in the city knew the good news of Jesus and many were curious to hear. Among them was the proconsul's sick wife, Nicanora. Nicanora had suffered one illness after another. Too sick even to leave her bed, she invited the three Christians to come to her and tell her about Jesus. They did and not only did Nicanora become a Christian, but God healed her sickness as well!

You might think the proconsul would be grateful for his wife to be healed at last, but far from it! He was furious! And that's why he had ordered Philip be arrested and brought before him, on trial for his life!

"Look what you've done, old man!" the proconsul said to Philip. "By some magic you have healed my wife, Nicanora and put her under a spell that she would reject our great god Apollo for this dead man Jesus you worship as God. I command you to stop your lies about

Jesus. Turn away from worshipping Him as God now, and you will go free and live. If you do not, you will die today!" the proconsul threatened.

The words of life or death rang in Philip's ears. Which would he choose? Was he really so certain that Jesus was God? So certain that he even would die for Him?

Once, fifty years earlier, Philip had asked Jesus, "Show us the Father, that will be enough." Philip had been Jesus' disciple for three years, yet he still didn't completely understand that Jesus was God.

"Philip," Jesus had answered him, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. (John 14:9-11, NIV 1984)

Yes, of course, the miracles! He been with Jesus when the terrible storm came upon them all on the Sea of Galilee. He seen Jesus stand up and say, "Peace be still!" and the wind and the waves stopped immediately. "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over all of nature. Yes, Jesus was God!

He been with Jesus when four men lowered their paralyzed friend through a roof on a mat to be healed by Jesus? He seen watched Jesus as He turned to the man and said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven. Take up your mat and walk." And the man did.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over sin and sickness. Yes, Jesus was God!

He had been with Jesus as He stood outside of the tomb of a man dead three days and shouted, "Lazarus, come forth!" He had seen the dead man come out with his burial clothes still wrapped around his body?

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete control over death. Yes, Jesus was God!

He been there to watch Jesus die on that awful cross and buried in a cold, dark tomb to be the only perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's amazing love that would offer up His perfect holiness in payment for His people's sins. Yes, Jesus was God!

And most amazing of all, he had been there when on the third day Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to them the first time, then many more times in the next month. Then he had seen Jesus rise up into the sky to rule in heaven.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus had said. Jesus revealed God's complete victory over death and His splendid glory as ruler over all things. Yes, Jesus was God!

Whatever doubt or confusion Philip might have had fifty years early was certainly gone now! Jesus was truly God! And Philip would not deny Jesus, even if it meant he were to die!

"I see you are an old man. Perhaps you are slow of hearing, the proconsul jeered. "I'll say it again. You have a choice: give up Jesus as God and live! Or, keep confessing Him as God and die!"

The old man simply looked at the proconsul straight in the eyes and said, "You ask me to give up my God and live. I cannot. Jesus is God! And I say to you, proconsul, as I say to all: 'Accept Jesus and save your soul!'"

"Have this man beaten...and crucified like His "God"... only crucify him upside down!" ordered the proconsul in fury. And so it was done.

Philip endured terrible punishment that day and died. But Philip suffered with joy. He knew Jesus was God; his death that day was but a beginning. The proconsul had said, "Confess Jesus as your God and die!" but he was

wrong. Philip confessed his God and lived! For that very day, Philip entered heaven, the land of eternal life. There, he would see His God, face to face, and worship Him and enjoy Him forever!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who thought they had life or death on his lips?

Why was he wrong? The proconsul thought he had the power to preserve life or bring death to someone. He was wrong because God was more powerful than him. He could do whatever He wanted to do. Philip would not die that day unless it was within His good will. And, because the proconsul didn't understand that while Philip's body might die that day, Jesus had given Philip eternal life...and that is real life!

2. Who really had life or death on his lips?

Philip spoke the words of life to the proconsul, so he had the words of true life or death on his lips. But ultimately, Jesus was the one who had life or death on his lips. It is through Him only that we can be saved from the death we deserve and receive God's eternal life.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Our Bible Verse is: Hebrews 1:1-3

"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Jesus shows us what God is like more than anything or anyone else. Why? Because Jesus is God! Philip knew this better than most. In just three short years as Jesus' disciple, Philip had seen so much of God in Jesus! So much, that not even the threat of a terrible death could change his mind--Jesus is God! Philip was certain of that!

What about you and me? How will we respond to this great God who has revealed Himself so completely through Jesus? When we are sick, will we remember that He has power over sickness—to sustain us and, if it is His will, to heal us? As sinners who have rebelled against God and His good ways, will we remember that

He will forgive those who humbly turn away from their sins and trust Him as their Savior? When we are faced with death, will we remember that He conquered death and reigns in heaven?

Let's praise God for revealing Himself in Jesus so that we might know Him. Let's ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to help us remember who He is and to trust Him with everything we are faced with-- in life, and in death.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for revealing Yourself so completely through Your Son, Jesus.

C God, we confess that many times we forget what we don't live by what we know about You because we forget what You've taught us about Yourself through Jesus.

T God, we thank You for wanting to show us what You are like! Thank You for all we can better understand about You because of Jesus. Thank You for helping Your people bravely endure suffering for the honor of Your name, like You helped Philip.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, like Nicanora. God, make us brave and help us to keep on trusting in You, even when it is very hard, like Philip did.

Special Words

Proconsul: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of God.

Caesar: The title of the king of the ancient Roman Empire.

Disciple: Someone who learns and lives by a particular teacher's teaching.

Crucified: A terrible kind of death the Romans used to punish their worst criminals. A person is hung by nails on a wooden cross and left to die.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for showing us so much of what You are like through Jesus. Thank You for showing us how holy and just You are, as well as so loving and merciful to sinners.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to take time to learn more about You by learning about Jesus. We confess that even when we know more about You, as we look at Jesus, that we still do not love You or trust You as we should. We need a Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Your Son, Jesus, to come live on earth and show us what You are like.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to understand who You are better as we learn about Jesus. Work in our hearts. Help us not just know about You, but come to know You, ourselves, as we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Remembering Jesus, the Son of God

Rectangular cracker bed with cheese mat, and teddy graham paralyzed man AND large round cracker tomb with teddy graham Lazarus and covered by cheese stone enclosing him. To represent two of the miracles Philip had seen Jesus do that helped confirm that Jesus was the Son of God.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: As Philip chose to stand firm to the death in his belief in Jesus as the Son of God. He only had to remember back to the things that Jesus did, such as heal the paralyzed man and raise Lazarus from the dead to remind him that of who Jesus was.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God send Jesus to do? *To be our Savior.*
2. Where was Jesus' home? *Heaven.*
3. What did Jesus do when He left heaven? *He came to earth to be born as a baby.*
4. How was Jesus like us and how was He different? *Jesus was fully human just like us, but He was also fully God.*
5. What kind of life did Jesus live? Who did that please? *He lived a perfect life that pleased God. He never did anything wrong.*
6. What did He do that showed us about God? *He taught about God. He did amazing miracles with God's power.*
7. What was the most amazing thing that Jesus did and what did that show us? *He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead in victory on the third day.*
8. How long did Jesus live on earth? *How many years did Jesus teach? He lived here about thirty years and taught about three years.*
9. What did Jesus do in those few years? *Showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.*
10. What does the Bible call Jesus? What does that mean? *The radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. It means that Jesus is a perfect reflection of God. When we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing exactly what God is like.*
11. What is God like? *Completely holy, powerful, loving and good.*
12. How did Jesus show what God is like in His life? *He showed His complete control over nature in the stilling of the storm; His ability to heal and forgive sins, His complete control even over life and death in His death and resurrection. He even displayed some of God's glory, itself, when He at the transfiguration.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? How did Philip see that Jesus was the exact representation of God? *Philip had seen that Jesus had complete control over nature, sin, sickness, even life and death, just as God did.*
2. How did having seen what Jesus was like, help Philip to so willingly give up his life confessing Him? *What Philip had seen about Jesus confirmed in his heart that Jesus really was God. He could die in complete confidence.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3**: "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?

The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!

Life Application Questions

1. How can we know what God is like through Jesus today? *By reading about Jesus in the Bible. When we see what Jesus did and taught, we can know what God is like.*

2. How can we not just know about God, but actually know Him? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us our sins and send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts that we can know God.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. God showed His holiness and His mercy in the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Omit! Obey!

Materials

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, having them line up in straight lines, arms' length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying "Obey" or "Omit" right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says "Obey", but NOT do it if they say "Omit" first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said "Omit" is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

NOTE: Have children who are "Out" help give you ideas for actions.

Non-competitive Option

Let the Question Chooser immediately back into the game, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verse 1

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22

Understanding the Song

1. What does "O for a thousand tongues to sing" mean? *It means "I want to sing about this so loudly that one tongue (one voice) to praise God is not nearly enough. I wish I had the voice of 1000 tongues so I could be that loud in my praises!"*
2. What does he want to sing so loudly about? *His great Redeemer's praise.*
3. What is redeemer? *A redeemer is someone who frees someone from being a slave by buying them and setting them free.*
4. Who is the "Great Redeemer" and who did He redeem from what? *Jesus is the great Redeemer who paid the price for the sins of all His people (all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him) so that they might know God.*
5. What makes Jesus a great redeemer? *He is great because He alone was the one who could pay the price for His people's sins. He didn't just redeem one person, but so many people that the Bible calls them uncountable!*
6. What glories and triumphs would he sing about? *The amazing display of God's mercy and power on behalf of undeserving sinners and His triumph over sin and death for all His people.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Even as Philip faced beating and death, he would not deny that Jesus is God. He had seen Jesus' miracles and seen Him die and rise from the dead. He knew that Jesus was His Redeemer and would rather die praising His name than live and deny Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3:** "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
God's people wish they had a thousand tongues to sing of Jesus' praise because when they look at Him and what He's done for them, they see how great God's mercy and love towards them, even though they are sinners.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them remember each day what a very, very great thing Jesus did for His people when He chose to die for them on the cross. They can ask Him to be so grateful that they would truly wish to have a 1000 tongues.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the gracious God, full of mercy to sinners who don't deserve i
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we don't think about God and how merciful He has been to us sinners by sending His Son Jesus to suffer and die as the payment for sins. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for the triumph of His grace through Jesus saving His sinful people that they might get to know Him, love Him and obey Him forever.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose desire a thousand tongues to sing His praise.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that is the triumph of God's grace? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me

Materials

Sign Language
Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Hebrews 1:1-3

“Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”

Alternate Memory Version: Hebrews 1:3

“The Son is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What are forefathers? *Forefathers are our family members that lived many years—even hundreds and thousands of years—before us.*
2. How did God speak to the forefathers (especially of Israel)? *Through the prophets.*
3. Can you name some of the prophets? *Daniel, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.*
4. How did God speak through the prophets? *He gave them His words to tell the people; and, He had them write down their words in the Bible.*
5. What are “these last days”? *The time since Jesus came to earth.*
6. How has God spoken to us in these last days? *By His Son, Jesus.*
7. What is radiance? *The light and power that come out from something like the sun.*
8. What is Jesus the radiance of? What does that mean? *Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory. That means that when we learn about Jesus’ life and know and follow Him that He shows us the magnificent greatest of God—His great power, love, mercy, holiness, wisdom and faithfulness.*
9. What is an exact representation? *A perfect reflection of something.*
10. What is Jesus the exact representation of? *Of God’s being. Jesus always perfectly reflected to people what God is like (His character, not His appearance which is invisible).*
11. How could Jesus be the exact representation of God? *Because Jesus is God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That’s because Jesus is God!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did Philip see that Jesus was the exact representation of God? *Philip had seen that Jesus had complete control over nature, sin, sickness, even life and death, just as God did.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can God’s people today know about God because of what they know about Jesus? *They can know that He is good and holy. That he hates sin, but has loved them, His sinful people, so much that He was willing to take the terrible punishment for their sins upon Himself so that they could be His dearly loved people forever.*
2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That God would help us to understand more of what He is like as we learn about Jesus.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects God's holiness and His merciful love? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Memory Verse Limbo

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
A broom or other long pole

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children line up. Have everyone say the verse together. Start with the pole at head height and have each child say the verse before "limbo-ing" (bend backwards without touching the pole) under the pole. Feel free to help the children say the verse. After everyone has gone through at the first height, lower a few inches and repeat the process. (Say verse and have children go through). A child is "out" when he/she can no longer limbo without falling down or touching the pole.

Give children who have a failed limbo attempt the option of being restored to the limbo line again by saying the verse a second time (on their own, with a partner or with you); or, allow them sit quietly in a line in front of the limbo line so that they can help others still "limbo-ing" saying the verse (if needed) or simply watch.

Game continue as time or attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Let the children continue to limbo at each height, even if they have a failed attempt at a particular height.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The Son Is the Radiance

The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 Hebrews Chapter One, verse three.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23

Song Game: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song
 White board and marker
 Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What was Nicanora's illness? *Nicanora suffered from one illness after another.*
2. What did Philip do for Nicanora? *Healed her in the name of Jesus.*
3. Why was the proconsul so upset with Philip? *Because Nicanora stopped worshiping Apollo and started worship Jesus instead.*
4. What did the proconsul tell Philip to do or else he would have him killed? *To renounce Jesus as Lord and God.*
5. Why wouldn't Philip deny Jesus is God? *He had seen that Jesus was the Son of God.*
6. What miracles of Jesus might Philip had remembered? *The paralyzed man on the mat; Lazarus raised from the dead; Jesus rising from the dead, etc.*
7. What attribute of God did Jesus show when He stilled the storm? *That He had power over all creation.*
8. What attribute of God did Jesus show when He healed and forgave the paralyzed man? *That He could forgive sins—something only God can do.*
9. What attribute of God did Jesus show when He raised Lazarus from the dead? *That He had power over life and death.*
10. What attribute of God did Jesus show when He rose from the dead? *God's complete victory over death.*
11. What did Philip challenge the proconsul to do? *To believe in Jesus and save his soul.*
12. How did the proconsul have Philip killed? *Upside down on a cross.*
13. How did Philip both die and live on the day he was crucified? *His body died, but he went to heaven to live eternally with Jesus.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? *Philip remembered things that Jesus did that showed what God is like; and, that showed that Jesus is God.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3**: "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
Philip could see that Jesus was the exact representation of God in the things He did. Phillip had seen that Jesus had complete control over nature, sin, sickness, even life and death, just as God did.

Life Application Questions

1. What kinds of things might God's people today remember that helps them know that He is God? *That He lived a perfect life, taught about God and did amazing miracles that only God could do. He died on the cross, just as He said He would, then rose from the dead, just as He said He would, winning victory over sin and death for God's people.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise Jesus for being the true Son of God.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times we forget all the things we have learned about Jesus in the Bible that show us that He is the Son of God. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for working in His people and helping them bravely endure, even in very, very hard times like Philip faced.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior, like Nicanora. We can ask Him to make us brave and keep trusting in Him, even when it is very hard, like Philip did.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Nicanora heard and believed? ? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Spoon and Ball Relay

Materials

Spoons, one per each team

Ping-pong Balls, one per each team

Masking Tape

Baskets: one small one per team; plus, one large one to be shared by all teams.

Story Review Questions, one per child

Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own. Write point values to each question, such as 5, 10 and 25 points, depending upon how difficult they are.

5 point questions: What does it say? Simple fact questions, such as “How did Satan tempt Jesus to disobey God, His Father?”

10 point questions: What does it mean? Meaning questions, such as “Why was it important that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?”

25 point questions: What does it mean to me? Life application questions, such as “What is something God wants you to do that you find especially difficult to obey?”

2. Fold up all the questions and place them in the large basket. Place all of the questions in the larger basket at a central point in the room. Use the tape to mark starting points for each team and place the smaller baskets next to the start line. Have a spoon and ping pong ball ready for each team.

Playing the Game

Part 1: Getting the Questions: Split the children into two teams. Have them line up behind the taped lines on the floor. Give the first person in each line a spoon and a ping pong ball. Tell the children that at your signal the first person will walk with the ball balanced in the spoon down to where the basket is. They are to drop the ball into the basket, pick up the ball again as well as a question from the basket and run back with the spoon, ball, and question to their team. They hand the spoon and ping pong ball to the next person in line and deposit their question in their smaller team basket located next to the start line. The relay continues until all children have had a turn.

Part 2: Asking the Questions

After the relay is finished, the children sit down in their groups. The leader will take a question from a team's basket, tell them how many points it is worth and ask them the question. If the team gets it right, then they get the points. If not, then any other team has a chance to win the points. The teacher then proceeds to the next team's basket and continues the process. At the end, add up the points and see who wins.

Non-competitive Option

Split the children into two groups and retrieve the questions as above until all the questions have been retrieved. Have the children of the two groups take turns pulling a question out of their basket for all the children to answer. Tally how many questions the children were able to get right. If desired, can play the game again, using only the questions they did not correctly answer. Ask them these again and see how many they get right the second time. Repeat as long as attention span allows or until all the questions have been correctly answered.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Lips of Life or Death.

Our story is a New Testament story. It takes place in Hierapolis, Turkey, about 70 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Lips of Life or Death."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Philip, Miriamme, and Bartholmew travel to Hierapolis to share the good news of Jesus. The Lord uses them to save as well as heal many who are sick. Nicanora, the wife of the Roman proconsul of Hierapolis, lay sick in bed. She hears how Philip and his friends are teaching about Jesus and healing people, she asks for them to come speak to her. Nicanora hears the gospel and is saved. God also heals her illness. She refuses to worship any god but the Lord. The proconsul is furious when he hears that his wife is healed in the name of Jesus and no longer follows the Roman god, Apollo. He orders Philip brought before him.

Scene 2:

The proconsul threatens to put Philip to death unless he will deny that Jesus is God. Philip has many things about Jesus he can remember as he chooses what to do. He could remember back to the time he asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus told him that to see Him is to see the Father and to remember His miracles. Jesus stilling the storm showed He was God. Jesus healing and forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man showed He was God. Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead showed that He was God. Jesus raised from the dead and then rising from the dead showed that He was God.

Scene 3

Philip knows Jesus is God and refuses to deny Him. He urges the proconsul to accept Jesus and save his soul. The proconsul refuses. He has Philip beaten and crucified—upside down! Philip leaves this side of life to enjoy life with Jesus in heaven that day. There, he would get to worship and enjoy Him forever. This was best of all!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** Philip chose not to avoid death by denying that Jesus was God. He only had to think back on the miracles he had seen Jesus do, the wonderful things Jesus had taught, and most of all, that he had watched Jesus die on the cross and seen Him risen from the dead. How could Philip deny Jesus when He so clearly showed what God was like because He was God!

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Lips of Life or Death.

Our story is a New Testament story. It takes place in Hierapolis, Turkey, about 70 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: Nicanora, the Proconsul, Philip, Miriamme, Bartholomew, the People of Hierapolis, Jesus, Disciples, Paralyzed man and friends, Lazarus, Jesus buried and risen, Roman soldiers

And now we present: "The Case of the Lips of Life or Death."

Scene 1: Beginning)

Philip, Miriamme, and Bartholmew travel to Hierapolis to share the good news of Jesus. The Lord uses them to save as well as heal many who are sick. Nicanora, the wife of the Roman proconsul of Hierapolis, lay sick in bed. She hears how Philip and his friends are teaching about Jesus and healing people, she asks for them to come speak to her. Nicanora hears the gospel and is saved. God also heals her illness. She refuses to worship any god but the Lord. The proconsul is furious when he hears that his wife is healed in the name of Jesus and no longer follows the Roman god, Apollo. He orders Philip brought before him.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The proconsul threatens to put Philip to death unless he will deny that Jesus is God. Philip has many things about Jesus he can remember as he chooses what to do. He could remember back to the time he asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus told him that to see Him is to see the Father and to remember His miracles. Jesus stilling the storm showed He was God. Jesus healing and forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man showed He was God. Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead showed that He was God. Jesus raised from the dead and then rising from the dead showed that He was God.

Scene 3: (End)

Philip knows Jesus is God and refuses to deny Him. He urges the proconsul to accept Jesus and save his soul. The proconsul refuses. He has Philip beaten and crucified—upside down! Philip leaves this side of life to enjoy life with Jesus in heaven that day. There, he would get to worship and enjoy Him forever. This was best of all!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** Philip chose not to avoid death by denying that Jesus was God. He only had to think back on the miracles he had seen Jesus do, the wonderful things Jesus had taught, and most of all, that he had watched Jesus die on the cross and seen Him risen from the dead. How could Philip deny Jesus when He so clearly showed what God was like because He was God!

The Cross and the Crown

Description

Children will make a paper mosaic of a cross and a crown.

Materials

Construction paper: different hues of gray, brown, black (cross)

Metallic-look gift wrap paper: Gold, silver, jewel tones (crown)

Flat-backed craft jewels (optional)

White poster board

Craft glue and sponge pieces/brushes

Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut lots of little squares (1/4-1/2") out of the papers. Put each color in different bowls.
2. Cut Templates #1 and 2 out of poster board, one for each child.
3. Set out glue and jewels.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children spread glue all over their cross shape and decorate them with the dark construction paper squares.
3. Then have them spread glue all over the crown shape and decorate them in the metallic colored squares.
4. If desired, they can glue craft jewels on the crown when they are finished.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Who was on trial before the proconsul and why was he in trouble? *Philip. The proconsul was furious that his wife had been healed by the power of Jesus' name; had denied Apollo and believed in Jesus instead.*
2. What did the proconsul tell Philip to do if he wanted to spare his life? *Deny that Jesus is Lord and God.*
3. Why did Philip chose to die on a cross rather than deny Jesus? *Because he had seen himself that Jesus really was God. Only God could do the things that Jesus had done.*
4. What is Bible Truth 5, that we are learning? *God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?
Philip was one of Jesus' disciples. He had seen the mighty things He had done and said. He saw Him raised from the dead. He knew Jesus was God. He was willing to suffer and die on a cross than to deny Jesus. He knew that day he would be with Jesus in heaven.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
Jesus really is God. He rules over heaven and earth. We might have to suffer for Him now, but we will live with Him in perfect wonderfulness forever and ever.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

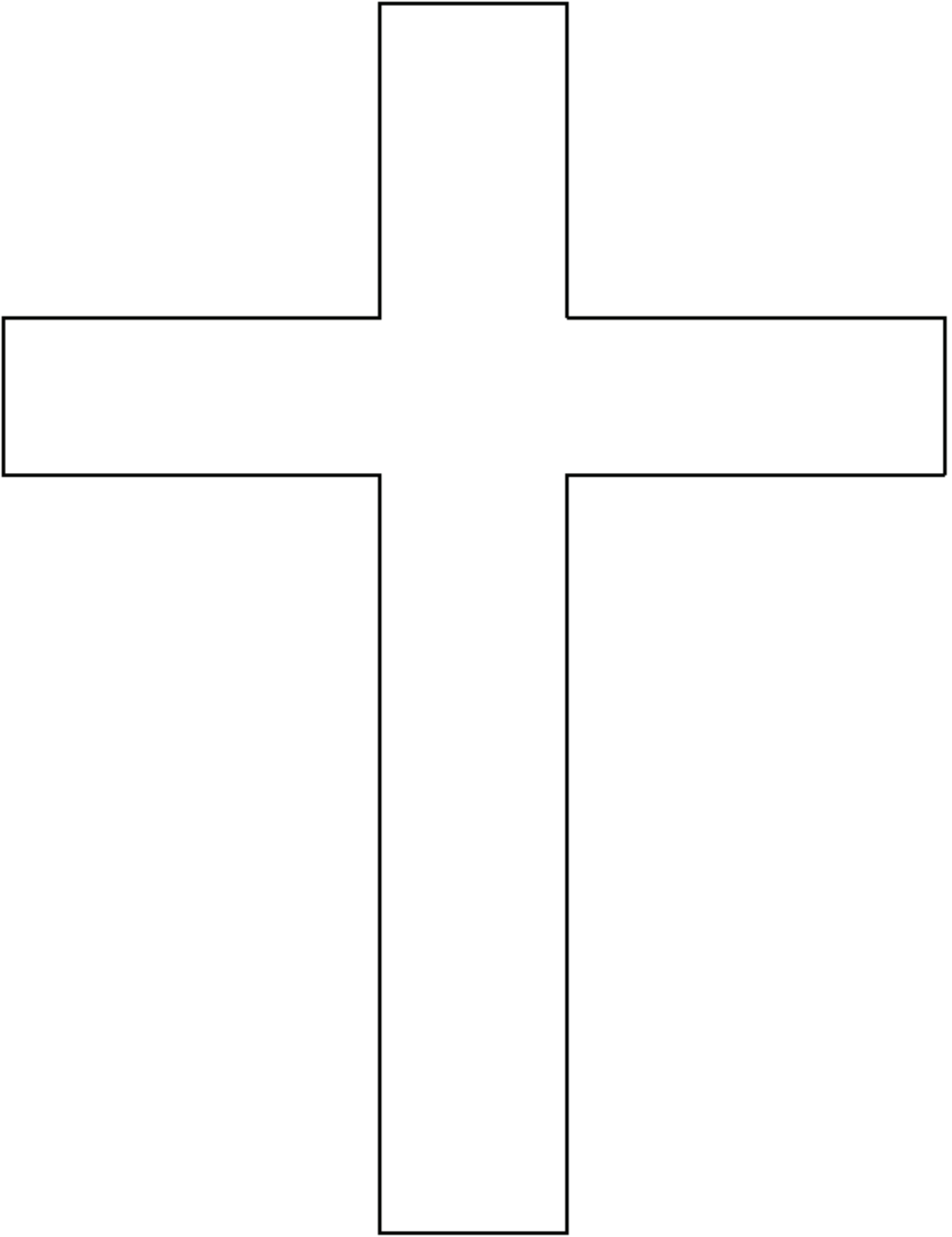
Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

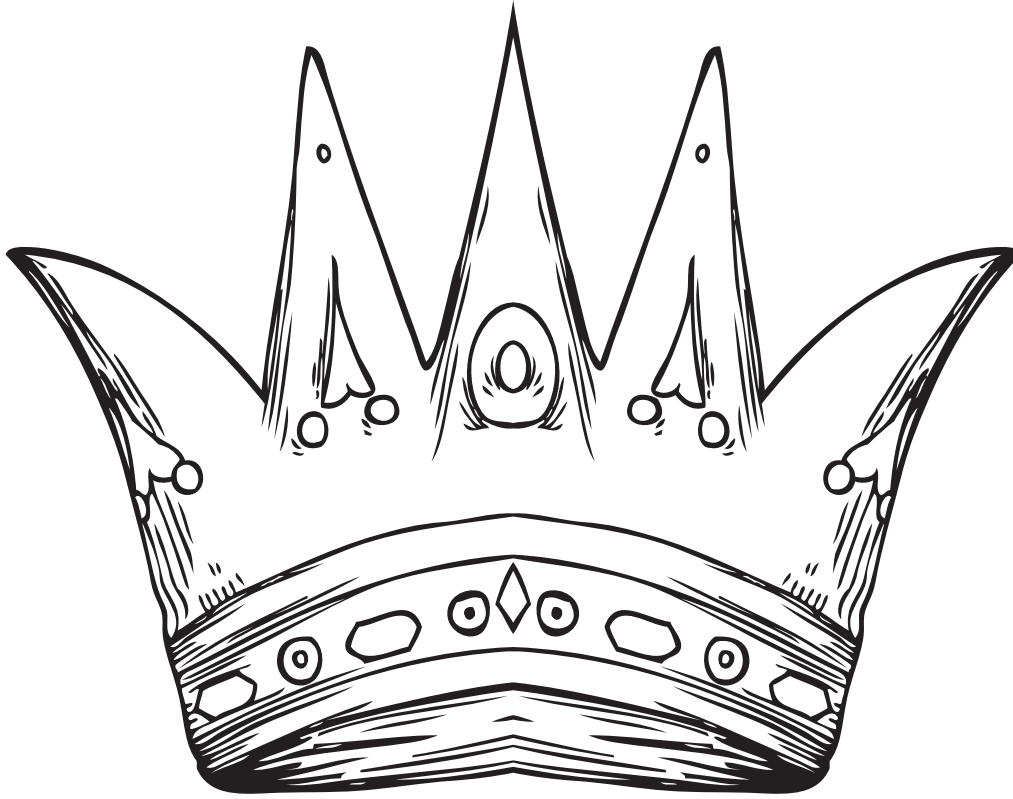
1. Our craft is the Cross and the Crown.
2. In Hierapolis, Philip chose to die on a cross rather than deny Jesus' crown as Lord because he had seen himself that Jesus really was God.
3. Bible Truth 5 is: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.
4. Philip was one of Jesus' disciples. He had seen the mighty things He had done and said. He saw Him raised from the dead. He knew Jesus was God. He was willing to suffer and die on a cross than to deny Jesus. He knew that day he would be with Jesus in heaven.
5. Our craft can help us remember that Jesus really is God. He rules over heaven and earth. We might have to suffer for Him now, but we will live with Him in perfect wonderfulness forever and ever.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Template #1: Cross



Template #2: Crown



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Hit the Wall

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape the envelopes to the wall.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be aimed at.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

P.3

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 5: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Extra Song: Whosoever's Seen Me: John 14:9 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 24

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Martin Luther's Feast to Famine

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Sit Ball

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Hebrews 1:1-3: Discussion Sheet and Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Shoe Search and Ransom

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: A Lightning Bolt in a Storm

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) & Game: Beanbag Toss In

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Not-Good-Enough Man? What was he trying to be good enough for? How did he try to make himself good enough?
2. Who did he come to know that was good enough? Why was this person good enough?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the early 1500's in the country of Germany.

One summer day, a young man named Martin was riding from home back to school at the University of Erfurt. What a nice visit it had been! His proud parents loved to hear how well their smart son was doing in law school. Martin's dad especially enjoyed thinking of how rich and respected Martin would make the family one day.

Suddenly, a deadly thunderstorm crashed down around Martin. Crack! Boom! Bang! A bolt of lightning hit the ground right next to Martin, jolting him from his horse.

Martin realized how close he had been to dying. "If I had died, I would have had to appear before God's righteous throne? He is perfectly righteous and I am a sinner. Surely I would face His judgement! I must find away to please God and be saved. But how?" Martin wondered.

As the storm raged on, Martin cried out to God, "God, if You save me from this storm, I will become a monk and spend the rest of my life serving you in church!" Martin promised.

God had kept Martin safe through the storm; and Martin kept his promise to become a monk. (A man who belongs to the Catholic Church and makes a solemn promise to live a special way for God and the Catholic Church).

Martin knew a monk's life was hard. He wouldn't be allowed own anything. He must leave his family and must never marry. Martin's dad would be furious when he found out, but Martin kept his promise to God. He sold all of his things, said good bye to his friends, and went to one of the big monasteries (places where monks live together) in Erfurt.

"Bang, Bang, Bang!" Martin knocked on the door to the monastery. A monk with a long black robe came to the door and let Martin in. Martin spent the next three weeks to convince the monks that he should become a monk, but at last he did. They gave him a small room with no heat and only boards for a bed, just like the other monks. Martin had to get up long before sunrise every morning and say prayers for hours. He went and confessed to older monks as many sins as he could, in hopes that God might forgive all of them. He was given very little food and had to beg on the streets for one of his meals each day. Yes, life as a monk was very hard!

Martin worked very hard at being a good monk, but still he had no peace with God. No matter how many sacrifices he made, or sins he confessed, or good works he did, Martin knew it never was enough to please God. "I know that God is the perfectly righteous and I am an unrighteous sinner. There will never be enough good works that I can do to please Him on my own," he despaired. Martin began to think God was unfair for punishing sinners who could never please Him with their good works. He even began to hate God!

But there was something about God that Martin didn't understand. God, Himself, had made the way for sinners to come to Him, as Martin was soon to learn.

"Martin Luther, you are a troubled man and a fine student, his teacher told him one day. "So I am taking you off of kitchen and sweeping duty that the other monks must take part in and I want you to use that time to memorize the whole Bible instead. It will help you solve your troubles and make you an even better student."

As Martin read his Bible, he was surprised at what he

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

STORY OF THE SAINTS**P.2**

read. There were many things the monks were teaching that were wrong, such as saying that people could buy God's forgiveness with money.

"That's not true!" Martin told them. "The Bible doesn't say that!" he insisted.

But the other priests said, "The Pope and church leaders says it's true, so it must be," they told him. But Martin knew they were wrong and was very upset at how they were leading people astray.

After five years, Martin was sent to the monastery at Wittenberg to be a teacher. One day as he was preparing his lessons, he read the Bible passage that was to change his life. It was Romans 1:16-17: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith""

Martin noticed a word in this passage he hadn't noticed before: "It says by faith—the free gift of God—the righteous shall live!" Martin exclaimed. "It's by the faith we are saved. God freely saves sinners who trust in Jesus' righteousness. Christ gave His righteousness as the perfect payment for our sins when He died on the cross. This is how sinful people please God! Through Christ alone! This is how I can be saved!"

God flooded Martin's heart with peace. "Yes, God is perfectly righteous. But oh, how loving and merciful He is, too! In Christ, He has provided us with the righteousness we cannot earn ourselves," he realized.

"Oh God, I love you! Jesus, I love you!" Martin exclaimed. "Thank You for forgiving my unrighteousness, my sins! I see now that it is through believing in Jesus' death for me that I can please You! His life given up on the cross paid for all of my sins, once and for all!"

Martin was so excited. He wanted to tell everyone. this good news. "Stop giving those priests money to pay for your sins!" Martin told the people. "Your money will never take away your sins. Turn from your sins! Put your faith in Jesus Christ. He's the one who can make you pleasing to God."

Many people were overjoyed to hear Martin's good news, but others were not—including the Pope and the king! They had his books burned and him arrested.

They hoped to kill Martin, but an important man rescued him and hid him away in his castle for two years. God protected Luther from his enemies and gave him twenty-four more years to write and preach. Many thousands of people were saved. And, like Martin Luther, they had peace with God. He had forgiven their sins because of their faith in Jesus and His righteousness.

Finally at the age of sixty-two, Martin Luther died. As he died, he prayed one last prayer to God. "O my heavenly Father, God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God of all comfort, I thank You, that You have revealed to me Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, in whom I believe, whom I have preached and confessed, and whom I have loved and praised. I pray You, dear Lord Jesus Christ that my soul may be [put in your care]. O heavenly Father, though I must leave this body and this life, I know for certain that I will be with You for eternity and that no one can tear me out of Your hands," he prayed.

Gone was the fear of God as the Righteous Judge who would not accept an unrighteous sinner like him. God had revealed Himself as not just the Righteous Judge, but as the loving, merciful God through Jesus Christ. By faith in Jesus that God gave him, Martin knew that He was pleased with him...and he left this world for the next in complete peace.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Not-Good-Enough Man? What was he trying to be good enough for? How did he try to make himself good enough? Martin Luther. He tried to do lots of good works and keep all of God's laws so God would accept him and save him from his sins.

2. Who did he come to know that was good enough? Why was this person good enough? Jesus. Jesus was the perfect Son of God. He was perfectly pleasing to His Father. He gives His righteousness to us when we repent of our sins and believe in Him. Martin Luther learned that it was by faith in Jesus rather than his own good works that he could be accepted by God.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:
God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Our Bible Verse is: Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

“Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”

God sent His Son, Jesus, to show us what He is like and to save His people. The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of His nature. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good.

It took Martin Luther ten years of studying and crying out to the Lord before he could see this truth, but it is different for us! We know about the love and mercy God shows to all who turn from their sins and turn to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. We know that all who do this are completely forgiven of their sins, now and forever. If we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, He will do this for us, too.

Let’s praise this God who though perfectly righteous, has shown us such love and mercy. And let’s ask Him to give each of us the gift of faith to believe in Jesus so that we can be saved and know Him and the pleasure of His love and forgiveness, just like Martin Luther.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Provider of Your people’s righteousness through Jesus.

C God, we confess that we are all sinners who can never do enough good works to please You. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to pay for the sins of Your people! Thank You that no one is too sinful to find forgiveness in Jesus.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Please help us to be more grateful for all You do for us through Jesus!

Special Words

Monk: A man who belongs to the Catholic Church and makes a solemn promise to live a special way for God and the Catholic Church.

Monastery: A place where monks live and learn. It is attached to a Catholic Church.

Righteousness: Someone’s actions are judged to be pleasing to God.

Pope: The leader of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Church: The leader of the Catholic Church.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for showing us so much of what You are like through Jesus. Thank You for showing us how holy and just You are, as well as so loving and merciful to sinners.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to take time to learn more about You by learning about Jesus. We confess that even when we know more about You, as we look at Jesus, that we still do not love You or trust You as we should. We need a Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Your Son, Jesus, to come live on earth and show us what You are like.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to understand who You are better as we learn about Jesus. Work in our hearts. Help us not just know about You, but come to know You, ourselves, as we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: Martin Luther's Feast to Famine

German sausage or hot dogs ...and sauerkraut (if you dare!) OR bread and water to stand for plain food of monastery

Case Tie-in: Martin Luther was a young man from Germany who left behind his promising life as a lawyer to live a very meager life as a monk, in search of finding peace with God. He found it not in his good works, but through faith in Jesus' work on the cross for him.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God send Jesus to do? *To be our Savior.*
2. Where was Jesus' home? *Heaven.*
3. What did Jesus do when He left heaven? *He came to earth to be born as a baby.*
4. How was Jesus like us and how was He different? *Jesus was fully human just like us, but He was also fully God.*
5. What kind of life did Jesus live? Who did that please? *He lived a perfect life that pleased God. He never did anything wrong.*
6. What did He do that showed us about God? *He taught about God. He did amazing miracles with God's power.*
7. What was the most amazing thing that Jesus did and what did that show us? *He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead in victory on the third day.*
8. How long did Jesus live on earth? *How many years did Jesus teach? He lived here about thirty years and taught about three years.*
9. What did Jesus do in those few years? *Showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.*
10. What does the Bible call Jesus? What does that mean? *The radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature. It means that Jesus is a perfect reflection of God. When we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing exactly what God is like.*
11. What is God like? *Completely holy, powerful, loving and good.*
12. How did Jesus show what God is like in His life? *He showed His complete control over nature in the stilling of the storm; His ability to heal and forgive sins, His complete control even over life and death in His death and resurrection. He even displayed some of God's glory, itself, when He at the transfiguration.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? What of God's character did Martin Luther come to see more clearly through Jesus? *His mercy, love and forgiveness by giving to sinful people who come to Him in faith, His righteousness in the place of their sinfulness.*
2. Why did reading the Bible change Martin Luther's view of God from what he had learned from his teachers and the church leaders? *When Martin started reading the Bible for himself, he could see how God had revealed Himself in Jesus. He didn't just rely on what others told him God was like.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3**: "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?

The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!

Life Application Questions

1. How can we know what God is like through Jesus today? *By reading about Jesus in the Bible. When we see what Jesus did and taught, we can know what God is like.*

2. How can we not just know about God, but actually know Him? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us our sins and send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts that we can know God.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. God showed His holiness and His mercy in the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Sit Ball

Materials

Two or Three soft baseball sized balls. Or, could use beach balls

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

Have children sit in a circle on the ground, with about 2' spacing. Give them two or three soft indoor baseballs and are to throw them from one to another, avoiding "It" who is moving around trying to catch one. When a ball is caught, the child who threw the ball chooses a question for the class to answer. If correctly answered, the player becomes the new "It". If not, then the old "It" remains in place.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verse 1

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22

Understanding the Song

1. What does "O for a thousand tongues to sing" mean? *It means "I want to sing about this so loudly that one tongue (one voice) to praise God is not nearly enough. I wish I had the voice of 1000 tongues so I could be that loud in my praises!"*
2. What does he want to sing so loudly about? *His great Redeemer's praise.*
3. What is redeemer? *A redeemer is someone who frees someone from being a slave by buying them and setting them free.*
4. Who is the "Great Redeemer" and who did He redeem from what? *Jesus is the great Redeemer who paid the price for the sins of all His people (all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him) so that they might know God.*
5. What makes Jesus a great redeemer? *He is great because He alone was the one who could pay the price for His people's sins. He didn't just redeem one person, but so many people that the Bible calls them uncountable!*
6. What glories and triumphs would he sing about? *The amazing display of God's mercy and power on behalf of undeserving sinners and His triumph over sin and death for all His people.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *When Martin Luther finally understood that it was by faith in Jesus' redeeming death on the cross that we are made pleasing to God, he was freed from the guilt of his sin and found peace with God. He rejoiced in the mercy and love of the righteous God who would provide His people with everything they needed to please Him, even though they could never deserve it.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3:** "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
God's people wish they had a thousand tongues to sing of Jesus' praise because when they look at Him and what He's done for them, they see how great God's mercy and love towards them, even though they are sinners.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them remember each day what a very, very great thing Jesus did for His people when He chose to die for them on the cross. They can ask Him to be so grateful that they would truly wish to have a 1000 tongues.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the gracious God, full of mercy to sinners who don't deserve i
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we don't think about God and how merciful He has been to us sinners by sending His Son Jesus to suffer and die as the payment for sins. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for the triumph of His grace through Jesus saving His sinful people that they might get to know Him, love Him and obey Him forever.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose desire a thousand tongues to sing His praise.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that is the triumph of God's grace? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Hebrews 1:1-3

"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Alternate Memory Version: Hebrews 1:3

"The Son is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What are forefathers? *Forefathers are our family members that lived many years—even hundreds and thousands of years—before us.*
2. How did God speak to the forefathers (especially of Israel)? *Through the prophets.*
3. Can you name some of the prophets? *Daniel, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.*
4. How did God speak through the prophets? *He gave them His words to tell the people; and, He had them write down their words in the Bible.*
5. What are "these last days"? *The time since Jesus came to earth.*
6. How has God spoken to us in these last days? *By His Son, Jesus.*
7. What is radiance? *The light and power that come out from something like the sun.*
8. What is Jesus the radiance of? What does that mean? *Jesus is the radiance of God's glory. That means that when we learn about Jesus' life and know and follow Him that He shows us the magnificent greatest of God—His great power, love, mercy, holiness, wisdom and faithfulness.*
9. What is an exact representation? *A perfect reflection of something.*
10. What is Jesus the exact representation of? *Of God's being. Jesus always perfectly reflected to people what God is like (His character, not His appearance which is invisible).*
11. How could Jesus be the exact representation of God? *Because Jesus is God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!*

Story Connection Questions

1. What did Martin Luther finally understand about God when he looked at Jesus that he hadn't understood before?
That God was not just the righteous judge, but through Jesus He displayed His great love, mercy and forgiveness.

Life Application Questions

1. What can God's people today know about God because of what they know about Jesus? *They can know that He is good and holy. That he hates sin, but has loved them, His sinful people, so much that He was willing to take the terrible punishment for their sins upon Himself so that they could be His dearly loved people forever.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects God's holiness and His merciful love? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
An object to hide

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, led by the teacher, will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

Game continues as time or attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The Son Is the Radiance

The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 Hebrews Chapter One, verse three.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What was Martin Luther studying to be at Erfurt? *A lawyer.*
2. What happened to Martin on his way back from visiting his parents in Mansfield? *He was caught in a thunderstorm and almost struck by lightning and killed.*
3. What did Martin start thinking about after he almost got killed? *That he would have had to face God and would not be prepared to stand before Him, as a sinner.*
4. What did Martin promise to God if He would protect him in the storm? *He would become a monk.*
5. What did Martin have to do before he went into the monastery? *He sold all of his things; he had to convince the monks that he should be a monk.*
6. What was life like as a monk? *Very hard. Bed for a board; no heat in his room; get up very early and say hours of prayers; can't get married, etc.*
7. What did Martin do as a monk to try to please God? *Confessed as many sins as he could think of; worked as hard as he could at any task they gave him.*
8. Why didn't being a really good monk give Martin peace with God? *Because we can never have peace with God based on the good things we do or try to do. Peace with God comes only through faith in Jesus, whose life paid fully for the sins of God's people.*
9. What did Martin get to do instead of kitchen duty? Why? *Memorize the whole Bible. His teacher could see that Martin was troubled over all his sins and he thought that Martin would be helped by memorizing the Bible.*
10. Why did Martin start to hate God? *He felt he could never please God. God was always the perfectly righteous Judge and Martin was an unrighteous sinner, no matter what he did.*
11. What did the church leaders tell the people to do to have their sins forgiven? *They had to earn God's grace by doing different good things, such as give money to the church. Each thing they did—supposedly—earned them more grace to pay for some of their sins.*
12. Where did Martin move to teach? *Wittenburg.*
13. What did Martin discover as he was preparing to teach? *That God gives a righteousness through faith in Christ as His gracious gift.*
14. What did Martin see about God in Christ that he had not seen before? *How loving and merciful He is.*
15. Why did the church leaders, the Pope and the king try to have Luther killed? *They did not want him teaching that salvation came through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone.*
16. Who protected Luther for two years? *An important man.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *When Martin Luther stopped relying on what the Pope and other church leaders said about God and instead went to the Bible and saw what Jesus revealed about God, his thoughts about God completely changed. Before he had thought of God as only an angry, never-to-be please judge. Through Jesus, Martin could see His mercy, love and forgiveness by giving to sinful people who come to Him in faith, His righteousness in the place of their sinfulness.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3:** "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
When Martin Luther stopped relying on what the Pope and other church leaders said about God and instead went to the Bible and saw what Jesus revealed about God, his thoughts about God completely changed. Before he had thought of God as only an angry, never-to-be please judge. Through Jesus, Martin could see God's exact representation: the perfectly holy God, who hates sins, yes! But full of mercy, love and forgiveness by giving to sinful people who come to Him in faith, His righteousness in the place of their sinfulness. Oh, how beautiful, how wonderful was God, Martin could now see, as he learned about Jesus!

Life Application Questions

1. How can a person please God? *Not by their own good works! Only through Jesus' perfect life. We do this by repenting of our sins—saying no to disobeying God—and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for His mercy, forgiveness, love, and goodness, as seen in and through Jesus.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *That we are all sinners who can never pay for our own sins. We cannot do enough good works to please God. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sending Jesus to pay for the sins of all who repent and trust in His as their own Savior. Jesus satisfies God's holiness for God's people. They don't have to try to please Him with their own good works—which is impossible.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to show us His love and mercy as we learn about His Son Jesus.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Martin Luther learned and wanted people to know? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

Game: Shoe Search and Ransom

Materials

The children's shoes
Masking Tape
Story Review Questions, one per child
Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Hide the questions around the room. Make a line out of tape for each team, approximately long enough to place one shoe per child per team on it.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Have them take off one of their shoes and give them to you to place along the taped line in front of their team and then sit back down in their groups. Tell them that in order for them to get back their shoes, they will have to do a little searching and ransoming. Explain that questions on small pieces of paper are hidden around the room. You will alternate between the two teams asking the first person in each line to get up and find a question for their team to answer. (The person hunting can ask for suggestions, if desired, from his/her seated teammates.) If the team answers it correctly, then that child's shoe is "ransomed". If not, then the question goes to the other team to answer. If they answer it correctly, then the first team member's shoe is ransomed.

Continue until all shoes are ransomed. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children sit down in a circle around the pile of shoes. Let one or two children at a time search for a question for the teacher to ask the group. If the group gets it right, then the child/children can ransom one of their shoes. Continue until everyone has their shoes ransomed.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**P.1**

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man.

Our story takes place in the early 1500's in the country of Germany.

And now we present: "The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Martin Luther was riding back to Erfurt University after visiting his parents in Mansfield. They were so proud of the good student he was and the important lawyer he would become. Suddenly, there was a terrible thunderstorm. Martin was almost struck by lightning and falls off his horse. Martin starts thinking about facing God as the Rlghteous Judge of his life and is sure his good works are not enough to please Him. He knows he does not deserve to go to heaven, if he dies. Right there, in the middle of the storm, Martin promises God to stop studying to be a lawyer and become a monk, if God will protect him from dying in the storm. Martin makes it back to Erfurt safely. He keeps his promise to God. He sells all his things and goes to the monastery to become a monk. Martin hopes that at last he will be freed from the guilt of his sins.

Scene 2:

But Martin is not freed from his sins! He tries so hard to please God by praying, confessing his sins, working hard, and doing everything else that monks do; but, he still feels the guilt of his sin. Martin tries even harder to please God, doing even more of all the things monks do, to try to find peace with God. Still he feels the guilt of his sin and he gets mad at God. Martin's teacher gives Martin a Bible. He takes him off of kitchen duty and tells him to learn it and find answers to his questions. Martin studies and studies. He begins to think it is wrong to buy God's forgiveness with indulgences. Martin Luther moves to Wittenberg to teach monks. While studying the Bible he notices a verse in the Bible that says the righteous live by faith. He sees that faith is God's gift to us and that it is by faith in Jesus that we please God. At last Martin is truly freed from the guilt of his sins!

Scene 3

Martin begins to tell everyone to have faith in Christ for forgiveness of sins, instead of trying to buy it with money. The Pope and the church leaders, and even the king, does not like this teaching and try to have him killed. Martin is rescued by Frederick III of Saxony and hidden in his castle for two years. Martin Luther lived for twenty-four more years. He taught and wrote about faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. He died in peace.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** Martin Luther saw in Jesus that God was not just the perfectly righteous Judge, but He was also the Merciful and Loving God who gives faith and Himself pays for the sins of His people.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man.

Our story takes place in the early 1500's in the country of Germany.

The characters in our story are: Martin Luther, Martin's parents, university friends, monks, Martin's teacher, people buying indulgences, Pope and other leaders in the Catholic church, the King, Frederick III of Saxony

And now we present: "The Case of the Not-Good-Enough Man."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Martin Luther was riding back to Erfurt University after visiting his parents in Mansfield. They were so proud of the good student he was and the important lawyer he would become. Suddenly, there was a terrible thunderstorm. Martin was almost struck by lightning and falls off his horse. Martin starts thinking about facing God as the Righteous Judge of his life and is sure his good works are not enough to please Him. He knows he does not deserve to go to heaven, if he dies. Right there, in the middle of the storm, Martin promises God to stop studying to be a lawyer and become a monk, if God will protect him from dying in the storm. Martin makes it back to Erfurt safely. He keeps his promise to God. He sells all his things and goes to the monastery to become a monk. Martin hopes that at last he will be freed from the guilt of his sins.

Scene 2: (Middle)

But Martin is not freed from his sins! He tries so hard to please God by praying, confessing his sins, working hard, and doing everything else that monks do; but, he still feels the guilt of his sin. Martin tries even harder to please God, doing even more of all the things monks do, to try to find peace with God. Still he feels the guilt of his sin and he gets mad at God. Martin's teacher gives Martin a Bible. He takes him off of kitchen duty and tells him to learn it and find answers to his questions. Martin studies and studies. He begins to think it is wrong to buy God's forgiveness with indulgences. Martin Luther moves to Wittenberg to teach monks. While studying the Bible he notices a verse in the Bible that says the righteous live by faith. He sees that faith is God's gift to us and that it is by faith in Jesus that we please God. At last Martin is truly freed from the guilt of his sins!

Scene 3: (End)

Martin begins to tell everyone to have faith in Christ for forgiveness of sins, instead of trying to buy it with money. The Pope and the church leaders, and even the king, does not like this teaching and try to have him killed. Martin is rescued by Frederick III of Saxony and hidden in his castle for two years. Martin Luther lived for twenty-four more years. He taught and wrote about faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. He died in peace.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** Martin Luther saw in Jesus that God was not just the perfectly righteous Judge, but He was also the Merciful and Loving God who gives faith and Himself pays for the sins of His people.

A Lightning Bolt in a Storm

Description

Children will make a mobile of Martin Luther, his horse, the storm and a moving lightning bolt.

Materials

Egg cartons
 White Cardstock
 Glitter and other colored glue
 Markers
 String or yarn
 Tape
 Hole puncher(s)
 1 Long Skewer per child

Preparing the Craft

1. Make copies of Templates #1-5 onto cardstock for each child. Cut out, making sure to cut slot in Martin Luther (this enables him to ride his horse).
2. Tape the skewer to back of the lightning bolt.
3. Cut divide egg cartons in groups of six (3 holes by 2 holes), one for each child.
4. Punch holes in the top of each mobile figure.
5. Cut three shorter pieces of string (about 6" long) and two longer pieces of string (about 12" long).
6. Use skewer to poke a hole for the string to pass through the middle of each of the egg cup. Also make one hole in the middle of the egg carton where the handle will go. (optional)
7. Put out markers, glue and string.
8. For younger children, you may want to go ahead and put the string handle through the carton hole. (optional)

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children decorate their mobile figures with markers and then highlight with the glue.
3. If making a handle, have the children take one piece of string, double it over and make a knot with the ends to make a loop. With egg cups facing down, insert this string, loop side up, through the handle hole.
4. Knot one end of each string and thread them through 5 of the egg cup holes, hanging down out of the egg cups. These will be the strings for the hanging figures.
5. Have them attach string to all the figures, but the lightning bolt. Use the longer strings for Martin Luther and his horse; the short ones for the clouds. Adjust strings to desired heights.
6. Place Martin Luther on his horse by using the slot.
7. Insert the lightning bolt through the sixth hole in the egg cups, with skewer sticking up through the egg carton. Children can push the skewer down, striking near Martin and having him fall off his horse.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where was Martin Luther when the storm struck?

In a forest in his country of Germany.

2. What was Martin Luther first studying to become? Why were his parents so proud of him? A lawyer. It would be a real step up for his family if he became a lawyer.

3. What did the lightning strike make Luther think about? Why did he decide to become a monk? *It made him think about how he was not prepared to face God. He hoped if he became a monk he could please God and would be prepared to face Him when he died.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?

Martin Luther hated God for only being pleased with perfect righteousness. He knew that all people are sinners who could never please God by their good works. But then Martin loved God when he read in the Bible that He had sent His Son Jesus to be the perfect righteousness for sinners who believe in Him.

6. What can our craft help us remember?
By faith in Jesus, we can please God, even though we are sinners.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Lightning Bolt in a Storm.

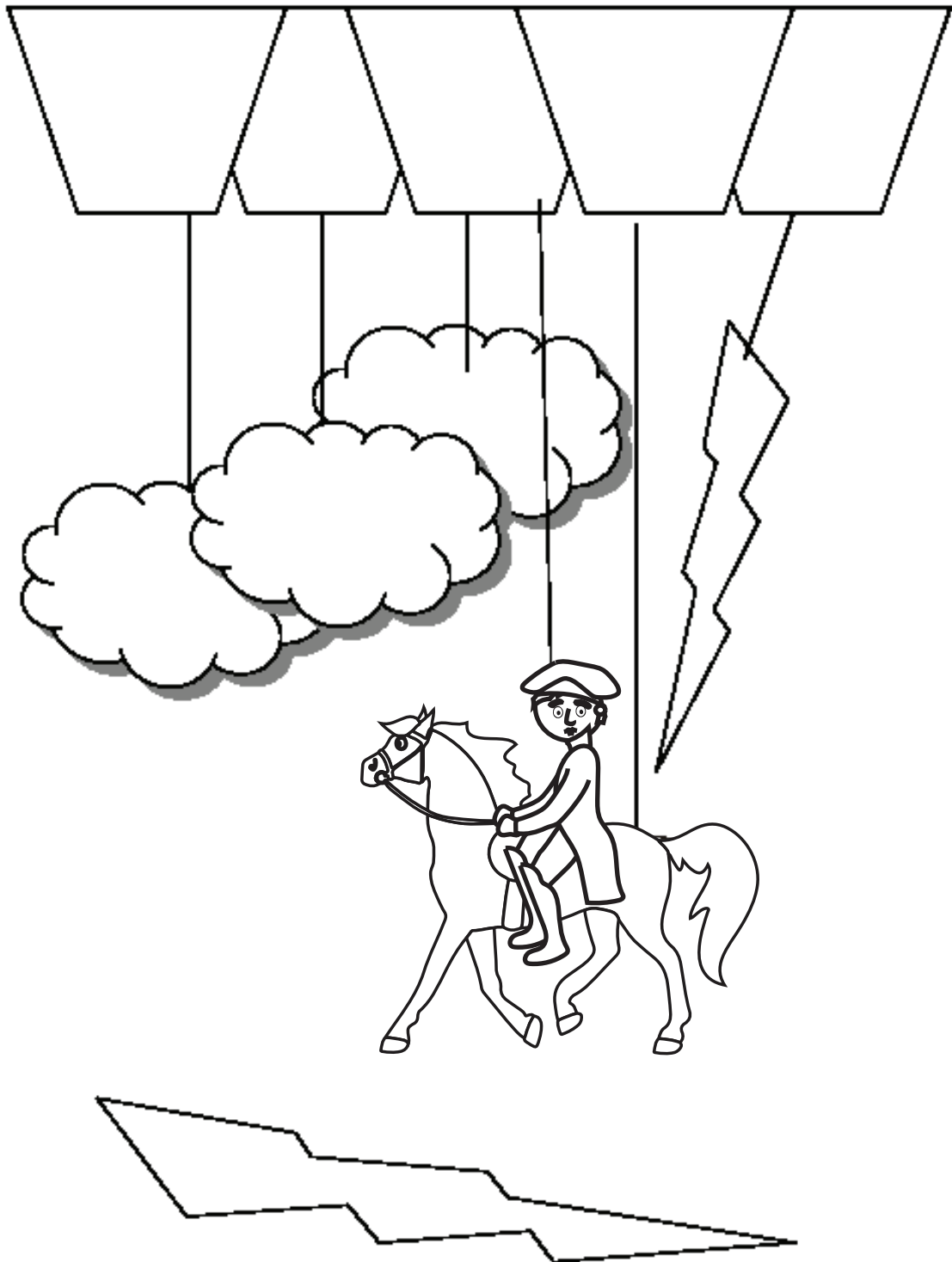
2. In a forest in Germany, Martin Luther changed from being a lawyer to being a monk when a lightning bolt in a storm almost killed him because he thought becoming a monk would please God.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

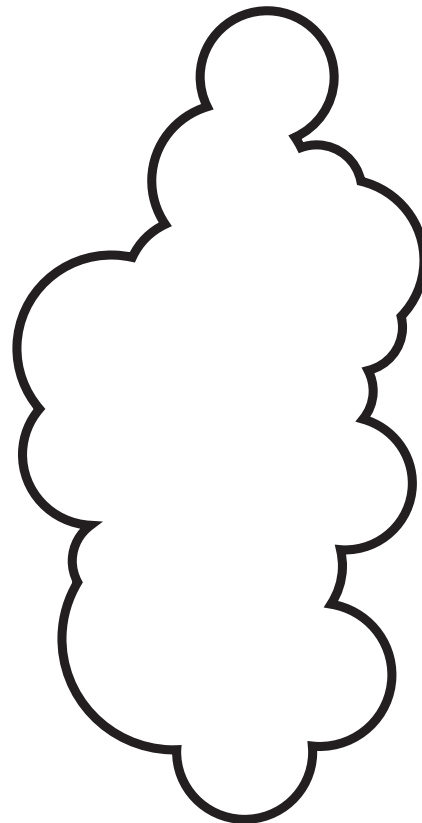
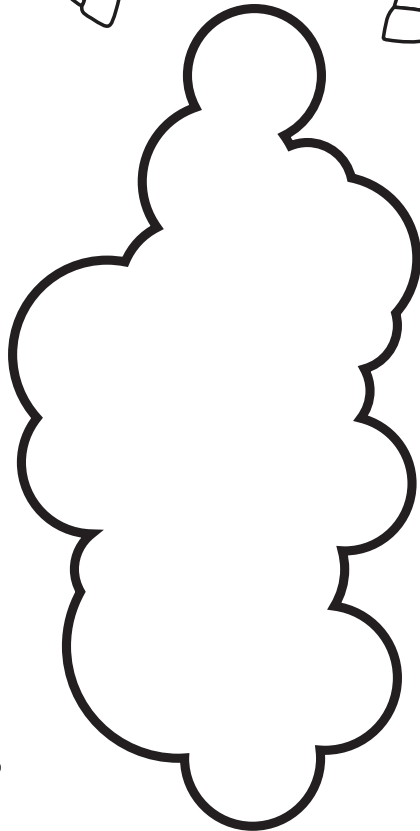
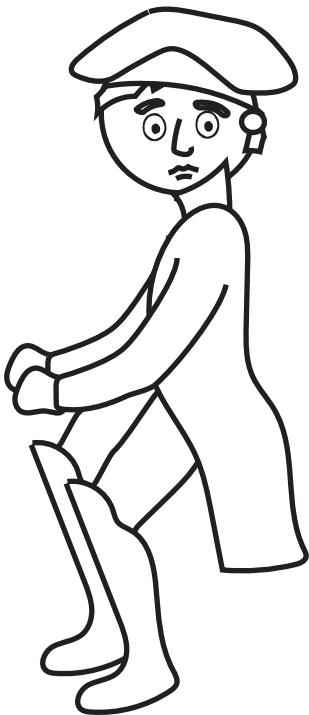
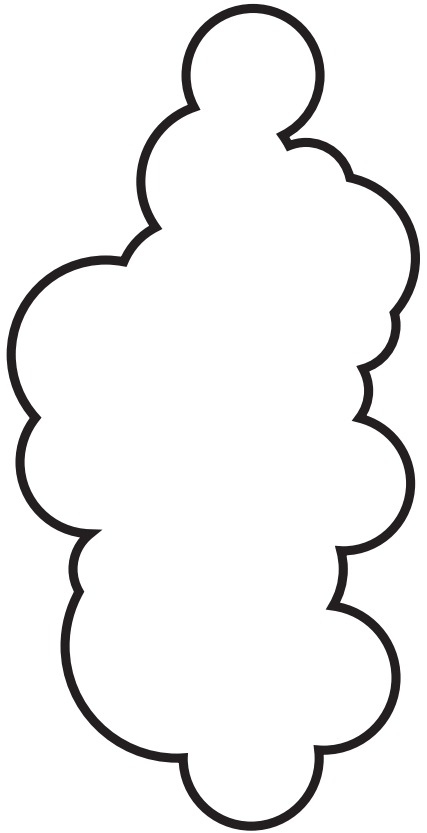
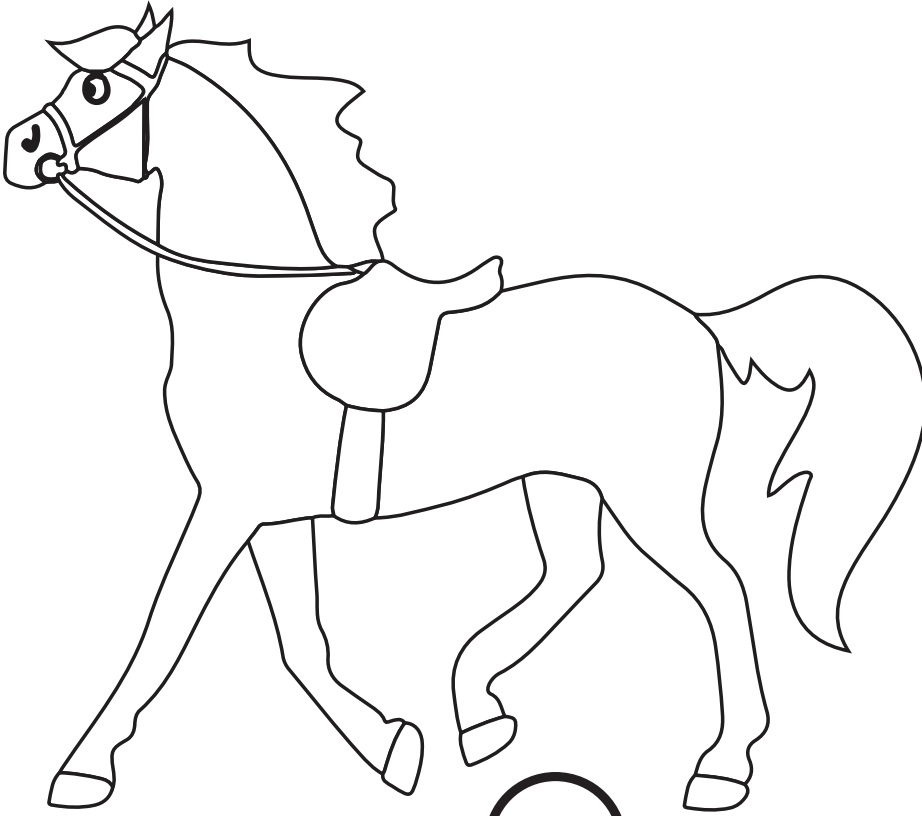
4. Martin Luther became a monk to please God, but became mad God for only being pleased with perfect righteousness--something sinful people could never have on their own. But then Martin loved God and found peace when he read in the Bible that He had sent His Son Jesus to be the perfect righteousness for sinners who believe in Him.

5. Our craft can help us remember that by faith in Jesus, we can please God, even though we are sinners.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.



Template #1



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (a.k.a. missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are 9 coloring sheets in which children fill in the 9 things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Beanbag Toss In

Materials

Information for one VIPP

2 Sets of Clue Cards

8 Letter-sized Envelopes or folders

Bean Bag(s), one per child

Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape each down to the floor, fairly close together.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be tossed at.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI Songs ESV 1, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 1 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 1, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song: The LORD Declares *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 5*

Extra Song: He Who Declares His Thought PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 6

Extra Song: He Who Forms the Mountains PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 7

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 8

Extra Song: For Behold PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 9

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 5: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Extra Song: Whosoever's Seen Me: John 14:9 PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 24

Lesson 3 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Great Revealing
Daniel 9; Matthew 2:1-12

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Star and the Savior

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Hebrews 1:1-3: Discussion Sheet and Game: Balloon Find

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: The Answer's in the Tent

Case RePlay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case RePlay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: A Bright, New Star

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Hot and Cold Hide

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Great Revealing Daniel 9; Matthew 2:1-12

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the Great Revealing.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was revealed? Who revealed it?
2. What was so great about it?

This story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Babylon was an amazing city. It was surrounded by ten miles of walls over one hundred feet thick! Inside the walls were huge buildings and temples with tall, golden statues. That's because this city was the home of the king of the huge Babylonian empire. And, home to the finest temples to the Babylonian gods.

Inside those huge city walls, inside one of those beautiful buildings, the great Raj Maj--the chief adviser to the king-- was doing something peculiar. He took off his fine, linen robes. He rubbed his body in ashes and put on a simple sackcloth tunic made of coarse, scratchy black goat's hair. Deeply troubled, he cried out to God. And not to any of the gods of the Babylonians, like you might think. But to the LORD. For this most important of all the king's advisers was not from Babylon at all. His name was Daniel and he was from Israel. He had been brought to Babylon to serve the king as a slave, but he loved Israel and was a believer in the one, true God.

"O LORD, Your people, the Israelites, have sinned against You and Your commands. You warned us, but we refused to obey You again and again. O LORD, You were right to punish us by letting the Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Your Temple where we worshiped You. You were right to let them capture us and serve them as slaves here in Babylon for seventy years, as You warned would be our punishment. But LORD, You are merciful and forgiving. Hear my prayer and forgive us. Please don't wait seventy years! Restore us to our land and rebuild Your city and Your Temple!" Daniel pleaded.

As Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel appeared before him and said: "Daniel, I have a message from the LORD for you. The LORD says: 'I have heard your prayers and I have sent Gabriel to answer them. The

Israelites will have to stay in Babylon all seventy years, but after that they will be freed to go back to their country and re-build Jerusalem and the Temple. Then, 483 years after they rebuild the Temple, I will send the Messiah, the Anointed One, to save them," He promised.

What an incredible message! It was sad that the Israelites would have to finish out their years as captives in Babylon before God would take them home. But, how wonderful it was to hear when the Messiah would come! Oh, how they looked forward to that day when God would reveal Himself more completely than He ever had before!

The Israelites were right to be excited. For while God had revealed Himself through His creations, and through the words of the prophets, and through the Bible, this Messiah would be the greatest revealing of all! Why? Because the Messiah was Jesus! He would be like no other man the world had ever known!

Gabriel's message to Daniel certainly wasn't the first time the LORD had told the Israelites about the coming Messiah. God had spoken to them many times about Him through the prophets. He had told them where this Messiah was to be from and what He would be like. Almost 150 years earlier the LORD had told them, through the prophet Micah: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old". (Micah 5:2)

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; yet, He would not be like other men whose lives begin when they are born. No. His origins were from of old, long before He was born. This didn't sound like any regular man, this Messiah. Could it be that He was more than just a man?

Story-telling Tips**Ahead of time:**

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

Through the prophet Isaiah, the LORD gave them the answer: "Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, [God with us]... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 7:13; 9:6)

Did you hear that?! Yes, it was true. The Messiah would be God, Himself! Yet He would also be a child that would be born. Both man and God? How could this be? Only time would tell.

And time did tell! The years passed just as the LORD said they would. At the end of seventy years, the Babylonians freed the Israelites to go home. The Jews went back and built Jerusalem and the Temple. The 483 years went by; and then at last, it was time for the revealing of the Messiah--Jesus!

Once again there was a stirring scene among the Magi living in the lands east of Israel. A spectacular new star had appeared in the sky. To them, that meant only one thing: the rise of a great, new king.

By ways and means that no one but God knows, the Magi decided that this star that rose in the east was the sign of the birth of a great king in the land of Jews, which lay to their west. Perhaps they had known the promise of the coming Messiah that Gabriel had told Daniel, the great Raj Maj, hundreds of years earlier. Or perhaps in His infinite wisdom and power, the LORD had given this star to the magi as part of His plan to make great His name throughout all the world. Only the LORD knows the real answer.

Either way, the Magi decided they would go find this new king and honor him. They packed rich, kingly presents-- gold, frankincense and myrrh-- and followed the star to find him.

The Magi traveled many long miles over dry, desert lands; then into Israel, and straight to the king's palace in Jerusalem. Surely that would be where the great, new king would be found.

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him," the Magi asked throughout Jerusalem. Yet no one seemed to know of him. When King Herod heard

this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

"What does this mean? Is there a king I don't know about? I am not even a Jew!" thought King Herod. The Romans gave me this land to rule when they conquered it. Is there someone else who has come to take the throne away from me? The Jews murmur about promises of God sending a great Messiah—or Christ—one day to smash the Romans. Could this be about him? I had better find out! This could be serious!"

Herod called together the chief priests and teachers of the law, asking them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" (Matthew 2:2-6)

So it was in Bethlehem--only five miles away from Jerusalem--that the Messiah would be found! The Magi were thrilled. The great king they were looking for was only a short journey away.

How much more excited they would have been if they knew this King was God, Himself, come to reveal Himself more completely than He ever had before.

Before the Magi set off for Bethlehem, Herod called them back to his palace for a secret meeting. "This is wonderful news!" King Herod lied to the Magi. "To think! The Messiah has come! Please, go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him," he urged them.

The Magi agreed went on their way. The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense and of myrrh.

It was true. God's Messiah had come, as He had promised long ago through Daniel, and the prophets, Isaiah and Micah. And these men who were not even Jews had been some of the first to come worship Him.

King Herod never heard again from the Magi. The

LORD protected His Son, telling the Magi in a dream to not go back to him. They left Jesus and returned to their home country another way.

What did the Magi think as they went home? Did they understand that the Messiah was more than just a mighty king sent by God? Did they realize that He was God, Himself, come to reveal Himself to us more completely than He ever had through creation or the prophets' words or the Bible? What could they know by just looking at the little child, Jesus?

We don't know the answers to these questions. But we do know that when that little child grew up, He revealed what God was like to many people in everything He said and did. They saw God's wisdom in the way Jesus taught. They saw God's power, in the way Jesus controlled nature and healed sicknesses. They saw God's justice and mercy, in the way Jesus exposed the hidden sins of proud people, but welcomed humble sinners. And most of all, they saw how God's amazing love in Jesus' death on the cross for all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness. Yes. Here was Immanuel, God with Us, come to reveal Himself as never before.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. What was revealed? Who revealed it? God was sending His Son, Jesus into the world to save God's people and show us more of what He's like. The LORD revealed it to God's people through Daniel, as well as many other prophets.

2. What was so great about it? Before the time of Jesus, people could know God in their heart, could see His creations, could hear His words through the prophets and through the Bible; but now, with Jesus, God revealed what He is like more completely than ever before.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Our Bible Verse is: Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

And what about you and me? What will we do with this wonderful God who has revealed Himself most completely in His Son, Jesus? Will we act like we don't see and live for ourselves? Will we continue to live with our sins unforgiven and separated from wonderful fellowship with God, the most wonderful Person there is to know?

Or, will we see the way He is and turn to live our lives for Him? Will we turn from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior for the forgiveness of our sins?

Let's praise God for showing us what He is like so completely in Jesus. Let's ask Him to help us turn from our sins and live our lives for Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts right now, giving us faith to trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so wise and powerful to know, plan and perfectly bring about the Messiah, Jesus, His Son.

C God, we confess that we are all sinners who need the Messiah to save us from our sins! We need Jesus!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to save us! Thank You for Your promises in the Bible that let us see how He came and did everything exactly according to Your plan.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to remember how everything works according to Your plan in Your people's lives, just like it did with the coming of Jesus.

Special Words

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of a god.

Magi: A very serious promise made between two persons.

Babylon: A city that was east of Israel that conquered many lands and peoples and became one of the greatest empires in the world, thousands of years ago.

Messiah: The Special person God promised to send to save His people and establish His kingdom forever.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for showing us so much of what You are like through Jesus. Thank You for showing us how holy and just You are, as well as so loving and merciful to sinners.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to take time to learn more about You by learning about Jesus. We confess that even when we know more about You, as we look at Jesus, that we still do not love You or trust You as we should. We need a Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Your Son, Jesus, to come live on earth and show us what You are like.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to understand who You are better as we learn about Jesus. Work in our hearts. Help us not just know about You, but come to know You, ourselves, as we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: The Star and the Savior

Star sugar cookies made from sugar cookie dough in refrigerator section of grocery and Teddy Graham "Jesus" underneath. If desired, crumble up some Trisket and use as straw to lay baby Jesus on.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: The Magi followed the bright, new star to Israel to worship the great king born there. They found Him and worshiped Him in Bethlehem, just where the Bible foretold He would be born. This was the beginning of the greatest revealing. God had come to live with us!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God send Jesus to do? *To be our Savior.*
2. Where was Jesus' home? *Heaven.*
3. What did Jesus do when He left heaven? *He came to earth to be born as a baby.*
4. How was Jesus like us and how was He different? *Jesus was fully human just like us, but He was also fully God.*
5. What kind of life did Jesus live? Who did that please? *He lived a perfect life that pleased God. He never did anything wrong.*
6. What did He do that showed us about God? *He taught about God. He did amazing miracles with God's power.*
7. What was the most amazing thing that Jesus did and what did that show us? *He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead in victory on the third day.*
8. How long did Jesus live on earth? *How many years did Jesus teach? He lived here about thirty years and taught about three years.*
9. What did Jesus do in those few years? *Showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.*
10. What does the Bible call Jesus? What does that mean? *The radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature. It means that Jesus is a perfect reflection of God. When we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing exactly what God is like.*
11. What is God like? *Completely holy, powerful, loving and good.*
12. How did Jesus show what God is like in His life? *He showed His complete control over nature in the stilling of the storm; His ability to heal and forgive sins, His complete control even over life and death in His death and resurrection. He even displayed some of God's glory, itself, when He at the transfiguration.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? How did God display to the Magi that He was sending His Son, the Messiah? *The star appearing and hearing the prophecies about the Messiah.*
2. How did God show the Jewish leaders and Herod that the time had come for Him to reveal Himself through the Messiah, His Son? *The beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.*
3. When would Jesus reveal much more fully what God is like? *When He grew up and began to teach and heal, and especially, when He died on the cross for sinners and then rose from the dead in victory.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3**: "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?

The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!

Life Application Questions

1. How can we know what God is like through Jesus today? *By reading about Jesus in the Bible. When we see what Jesus did and taught, we can know what God is like.*

2. How can we not just know about God, but actually know Him? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us our sins and send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts that we can know God.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. God showed His holiness and His mercy in the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

Materials

Tape

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Tape a starting line and finish line at each end of the room.

Playing the Game

Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say "Green light" they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say "Red light" they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verse 1

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 22

Understanding the Song

1. What does "O for a thousand tongues to sing" mean? *It means "I want to sing about this so loudly that one tongue (one voice) to praise God is not nearly enough. I wish I had the voice of 1000 tongues so I could be that loud in my praises!"*
2. What does he want to sing so loudly about? *His great Redeemer's praise.*
3. What is redeemer? *A redeemer is someone who frees someone from being a slave by buying them and setting them free.*
4. Who is the "Great Redeemer" and who did He redeem from what? *Jesus is the great Redeemer who paid the price for the sins of all His people (all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him) so that they might know God.*
5. What makes Jesus a great redeemer? *He is great because He alone was the one who could pay the price for His people's sins. He didn't just redeem one person, but so many people that the Bible calls them uncountable!*
6. What glories and triumphs would he sing about? *The amazing display of God's mercy and power on behalf of undeserving sinners and His triumph over sin and death for all His people.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3:** "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
God's people wish they had a thousand tongues to sing of Jesus' praise because when they look at Him and what He's done for them, they see how great God's mercy and love towards them, even though they are sinners.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them remember each day what a very, very great thing Jesus did for His people when He chose to die for them on the cross. They can ask Him to be so grateful that they would truly wish to have a 1000 tongues.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the gracious God, full of mercy to sinners who don't deserve i
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we don't think about God and how merciful He has been to us sinners by sending His Son Jesus to suffer and die as the payment for sins. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for the triumph of His grace through Jesus saving His sinful people that they might get to know Him, love Him and obey Him forever.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose desire a thousand tongues to sing His praise.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that is the triumph of God's grace? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, "It," who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When "It" says "Pass the Secret Sign", the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When "It" says "Stop the Passing!" the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of "It", watch the child with the card do the sign, then have "It" guess the name of the sign. (If desired, "It" can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes "It." Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Hebrews 1:1-3

"Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Alternate Memory Version: Hebrews 1:3

"The Son is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What are forefathers? *Forefathers are our family members that lived many years—even hundreds and thousands of years—before us.*
2. How did God speak to the forefathers (especially of Israel)? *Through the prophets.*
3. Can you name some of the prophets? *Daniel, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.*
4. How did God speak through the prophets? *He gave them His words to tell the people; and, He had them write down their words in the Bible.*
5. What are "these last days"? *The time since Jesus came to earth.*
6. How has God spoken to us in these last days? *By His Son, Jesus.*
7. What is radiance? *The light and power that come out from something like the sun.*
8. What is Jesus the radiance of? What does that mean? *Jesus is the radiance of God's glory. That means that when we learn about Jesus' life and know and follow Him that He shows us the magnificent greatest of God—His great power, love, mercy, holiness, wisdom and faithfulness.*
9. What is an exact representation? *A perfect reflection of something.*
10. What is Jesus the exact representation of? *Of God's being. Jesus always perfectly reflected to people what God is like (His character, not His appearance which is invisible).*
11. How could Jesus be the exact representation of God? *Because Jesus is God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did God use the words of the prophets spoken in the past to tell the Magi, the Jewish leaders and King Herod, the time had come to send His Son, the Messiah? *The Magi possibly had heard of Him from the prophecies of the Raj Mag Daniel passed down. They all definitely heard about Him from the prophecies the Jewish leaders read when the Magi went to Jerusalem.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can God's people today know about God because of what they know about Jesus? *They can know that He is good and holy. That he hates sin, but has loved them, His sinful people, so much that He was willing to take the terrible punishment for their sins upon Himself so that they could be His dearly loved people forever.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That God would help us to understand more of what He is like as we learn about Jesus.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects God's holiness and His merciful love? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Balloon Find

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 2 large pieces of paper or poster board
 Paper, pencil, permanent marker
 Balloons, at least one per child and up to one per word of verse per team.
 2 Baskets or garbage bags
 Masking Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as there are balloons per team. Number these verse pieces in order. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar. Designate particular colors /shapes of balloons for each team. You can choose to have only one color per team (i.e., Team 1 has only blue balloons); Team 2 has only red ones) or multiple colors/shapes per team (i.e., Team 1 has orange and blue balloons, Team 2 has red and blue balloons). Roll up the pieces of paper and insert each one into each of the balloons. Write the corresponding number on the outside of the balloon with the permanent marker. Make sure to have a complete set of the verse for each team. Store each set of balloons in baskets or garbage bags until game time. Make a circle of masking tape: one larger one in the middle, where all the balloons will be released. Make two starting lines, one for each team.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
 2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Split the children into two teams and have them stand/sit in line. Tell them that all the words to the Bible verse are inside of the balloons. Let them know what color balloons their team will be looking for. Release all the balloons into the middle circle. Say the verse together as a group. Draw a number out of the bag and tell it the group. Then, at your word, let the first child in each team go find the correctly numbered balloon from the pile of balloons. They will each bring back their balloon and sit on it to pop it (or let you or someone else pop it. Remove the piece of verse and put them in a pile. Everyone one then says the verse again, the teacher pulls another number out and the next two children go to find the new number. Continue until all the numbers are found. Have each team stick their verse pieces up on their poster board, then say the verse together. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins. The first team who does, wins.

Non-competitive Option: Have the teams add each piece of verse to their poster board as it is retrieved from the balloon. At the end, have everyone say the verse together again.

Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The Son Is the Radiance

The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 And the exact imprint of His nature,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 Hebrews Chapter One, verse three.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 23

Song Game: Mimic Me!**Materials**

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What was Daniel's title in Babylon? What did it mean he was? *Raj Mag, the chief of the king's advisors.*
2. What is sackcloth and ashes and why did Daniel put them on? *Sackcloth is a scratchly kind of fabric and ashes are ashes from a fire. Daniel put them on as a sign of how sad he was and how much he wanted the LORD to answer his prayer.*
3. What did the angel tell Daniel would happen to the Israelites in captivity in Babylon? *They would have to stay in Babylon for seventy years before they would be released to go home.*
4. When did the angel tell Daniel that the Messiah would come? *483 years after the people of Israel rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem.*
5. What did the Magi think was the meaning of the star? *That a great king had been born and was coming to power in Israel.*
6. How could they possibly have known about the Messiah besides the star? *Through Daniel's words written down, hundreds of years earlier while he was in Babylon.*
7. Why did they go to Jerusalem? *They assumed that a king would be born in the royal palace in Jerusalem, son to the current king, King Herod.*
8. Who told them where the Messiah would be born? *The chief priests and teachers of the law read it from the Bible.*
9. Why did the Magi want to see the Messiah? *They had come to worship him, as the great king they knew he would be.*
10. Why did they bring Jesus presents? Why those particular presents? *It was proper to bring presents to a king. Gold, frankincense and myrrh are the kinds of rich presents fitting for a king.*
11. Why didn't they go back and tell Herod where Jesus was? *They were warned in a dream that Herod wanted to harm Jesus.*
12. Did the Magi understand who Jesus really was? *We don't know.*
13. How did Jesus reveal God when He grew up? *In many ways! People saw God's wisdom in the way Jesus taught. They saw God's power, in the way Jesus controlled nature and healed sicknesses. They saw God's justice and mercy, in the way Jesus exposed the hidden sins of proud people, but welcomed humble sinners. And most of all, they saw how God's amazing love in Jesus' death on the cross for all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? How did God display to the Magi that He was sending His Son, the Messiah? *The star appearing and hearing the prophecies about the Messiah.*
2. How did God show the Jewish leaders and Herod that the time had come for Him to reveal Himself through the Messiah, His Son? *The beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.*
3. When would Jesus reveal much more fully what God is like? *When He grew up and began to teach and heal, and especially, die and rise from the dead.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3**: "Long ago...God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."?
The Magi possibly had heard of Him from the prophecies of the Raj Mag Daniel passed down. They all definitely heard about Him from the prophecies the Jewish leaders read when the Magi went to Jerusalem.

Life Application Questions

1. Where are there still people who do not know about Jesus? *Everywhere!*
2. How will people today see how Jesus reveals God? *By Christians going to them and telling them about Jesus and His invitation of salvation to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for His Wisdom and Power to know, plan and perfectly bring about His amazing plans to send the Messiah Jesus, hundreds of years before they were to happen.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *That we are all sinners who need the Messiah Jesus to save them We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sending Jesus to pay for the sins of all who repent and trust in His as their own Savior. We can thank Him for wanting people from every part of the world to know Him that they might be saved, too.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us want to live for Him, not for ourselves.

The Gospel

1. Jesus was the promised Messiah, come to save God's people. Why did God's people need to be saved? How did Jesus save them?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: The Answer's in the Tent

Materials

Various props, objects, costumes, or even pictures from the story, enough for one idea per child at least.

A small pup tent or blanket and chairs made into a tent

Paper and pencil/pen to write down questions

Jar or bag

Preparing the Game

1. Make a list of main characters, objects, elements from the story. For example in the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness you could have rocks, bread, blocks (like from the Temple), a globe, a red robe/shirt, etc. (for Satan), white robe for angels who came to comfort Jesus at the end, a Bible (the word of God that Jesus used to refute Satan), a picture of a desert or the sun, the number 40 (for 40 days and nights without food). The Plan-a-Play story sheet is a good source of ideas. If desired, you can write different point values--such as 5, 10, 25 points--on questions, depending upon how hard they are. Place these objects in the tent.

2. Make up questions that have these props as their answers, such as: What did Satan tempt Jesus to turn the rocks into when He was so hungry? (bread)

3. Place the questions in a jar or bag.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Tell them that in the tent are answers to the questions that you have folded up in the bag. They will take turns listening to a question and having the first person in line go into the tent and find the prop/costume piece/etc. that answers the question. If a team doesn't get the right prop, then the first person from the other team gets to go up and see if they can find it for a point.

Continue until all have had a chance to play or all questions have been answered. Tally points. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't put points on the questions. Don't split into teams, but instead sit in a circle around the tent. Have the children take turns going into the tent to retrieve the prop that fits the answer to the question.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Greatest Revealing.

Our story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Greatest Revealing."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Daniel, Raj Mag of Babylon, rubbed his body with ashes_and put on sackcloth to ask God's mercy upon the Israelites who were slaves in Babylon. He asked that the LORD would restore Jerusalem and the Temple and bring them out of captivity. The LORD answered Daniel by sending the Angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that the people will have to stay in Babylon for seventy years and then He would bring them back to Jerusalem. He would send the Messiah to Israel 483 years after they rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem. Through the prophets Micah and Isaiah, the LORD had already told them the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would be God, Himself.

Scene 2:

Seventy years pass and the Israelites return to Jerusalem and rebuild it and the Temple. Four hundred-eighty-three more years pass and it is time for the Messiah. Magi from Babylon notice a new star in the sky which they believe in the sign of a great leader who is born, King of the Jews. A group of Magi travel to Jerusalem to honor and bring rich presents to the new king. They ask Herod where is new-born King of the Jews. Herod and Jerusalem panic. The Jewish leaders tell them that the prophecies say He is to be born in Bethlehem. Herod tells the Magi to go find Him so he can worship Him, too.

Scene 3

The Magi follow the star to Bethlehem and find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him their presents. They return home without telling King Herod about Jesus because the LORD warned the Magi in a dream not to report back to him. Jesus grew up and showed us what God is like, by what He did and what He taught.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** God used a star and words He spoke through the prophets to announce to the Magi the coming of His Son, who would most completely reveal to us who God is.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Greatest Revealing.

Our story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Raj Mag Daniel, Angel Gabriel, People of Israel,, Magi, King Herod, People of Jerusalem, Jewish leaders, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Jesus grown up

And now we present: "The Case of the Greatest Revealing."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Daniel, Raj Mag of Babylon, rubbed his body with ashes and put on sackcloth to ask God's mercy upon the Israelites who were slaves in Babylon. He asked that the LORD would restore Jerusalem and the Temple and bring them out of captivity. The LORD answered Daniel by sending the Angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that the people will have to stay in Babylon for seventy years and then He would bring them back to Jerusalem. He would send the Messiah to Israel 483 years after they rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem. Through the prophets Micah and Isaiah, the LORD had already told them the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would be God, Himself.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Seventy years pass and the Israelites return to Jerusalem and rebuild it and the Temple. Four hundred-eighty-three more years pass and it is time for the Messiah. Magi from Babylon notice a new star in the sky which they believe in the sign of a great leader who is born, King of the Jews. A group of Magi travel to Jerusalem to honor and bring rich presents to the new king. They ask Herod where is new-born King of the Jews. Herod and Jerusalem panic. The Jewish leaders tell them that the prophecies say He is to be born in Bethlehem. Herod tells the Magi to go find Him so he can worship Him, too.

Scene 3: (End)

The Magi follow the star to Bethlehem and find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him their presents. They return home without telling King Herod about Jesus because the LORD warned the Magi in a dream not to report back to him. Jesus grew up and showed us what God is like, by what He did and what He taught.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** God used a star and words He spoke through the prophets to announce to the Magi the coming of His Son, who would most completely reveal to us who God is.

A Bright, New Star

Description

Children will make a crayon resist picture of stars with one particularly dazzling one.

Materials

White drawing paper, legal size preferred

Wax crayons of all colors

Dark Blue watercolor or tempera paint, not too thin and watery

Paint brushes

Preparing the Craft

1. Prepare dark blue paint and put in containers. This will be the sky.
2. Set out rest of supplies.

Making the Craft

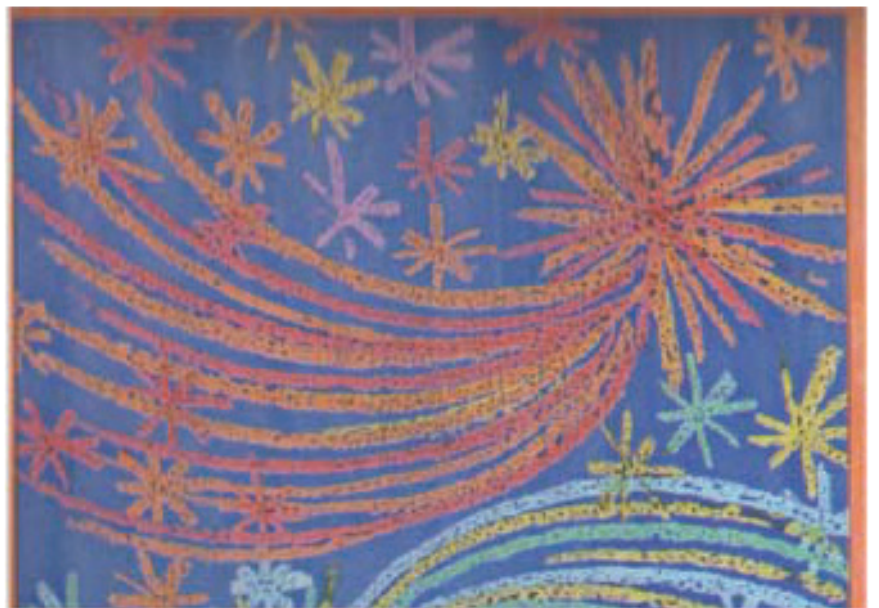
1. Show the children your sample of the craft.
2. Have the children draw a big star with lots of tail as shown in Picture #1. Have them use a couple of different colors of crayon on the same star, like yellow, orange and pink/red; or blue, yellow, green, etc. Add lots of smaller stars all over the rest of the paper. **MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILDREN PRESS FIRMLY ON CRAYONS FOR THE BEST EFFECT!**
3. When finished making stars, have them brush paint across the paper, covering their drawings. The crayon will still show through.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.



CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Who saw the star? Where were they from?

The Magi who lived in Babylon.

2. What did the star mean to them? *They felt certain that it was a sign of the birth of a great, new king.*

3. Who put the star there for the Magi to see? Who was the king He was telling them had come?

The LORD. He was telling them that the Messiah that He had told them would come, through Daniel, the Raj Maj.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?

Magi bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him as the Messiah, the mighty king foretold by God, through Daniel the Raj Maj, Micah and Isaiah years earlier. Here at last was God's greatest revealing of Himself.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God gave the Magi a star to lead them to worship His Son when He was just a baby. How much more should we worship Jesus since we know how He chose to suffer and die for sinners.

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Bright, New Star.

2. In Babylon, the Magi saw a bright, new star because God was using it to lead them to Jesus, the Messiah foretold by God through Daniel, the Raj Maj.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

4. Magi bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him as the Messiah, the mighty king foretold by God, through Daniel the Raj Maj, Micah and Isaiah years earlier. Here at last was God's greatest revealing of Himself.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God gave the Magi a star to lead them to worship His Son when He was just a baby. How much more should we worship Jesus since we know how He chose to suffer and die for sinners.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
2 Set of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Choose one child to be "The Finder" and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the Clue Card envelopes. Choose another child to be "The Hider". This child will hide the envelope somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope. The other children say "hot, cold, etc" as the child gets closer or further from the envelope to help the child find it. When the folder is found, the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be hidden.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

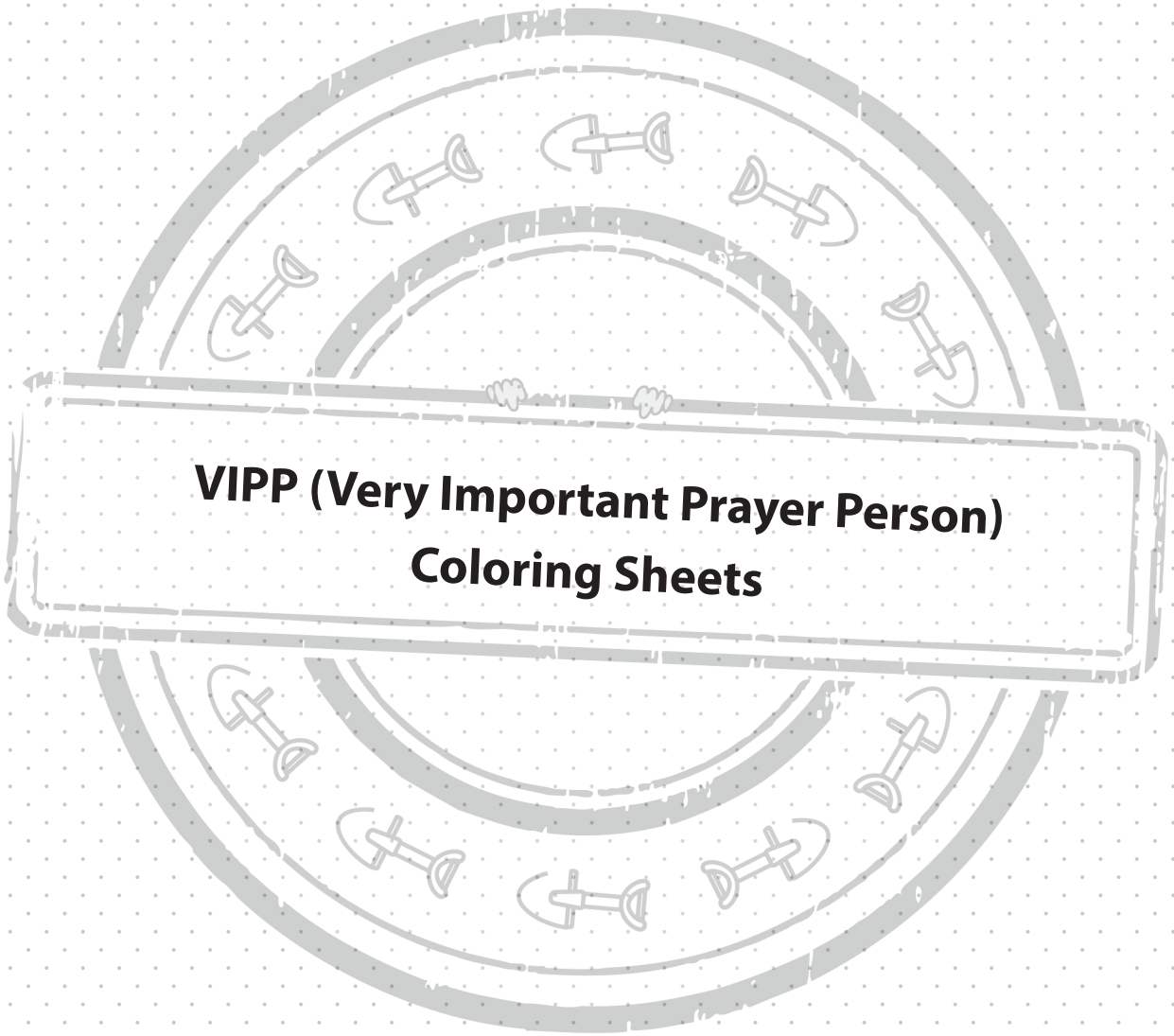
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**

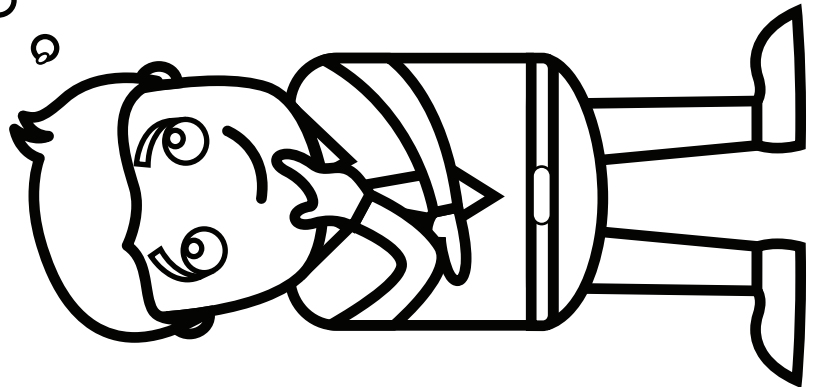




VIPP CLUE GUESS WHO

Can you guess who the
Very Important Prayer Person
is that we learned about and prayed for today?

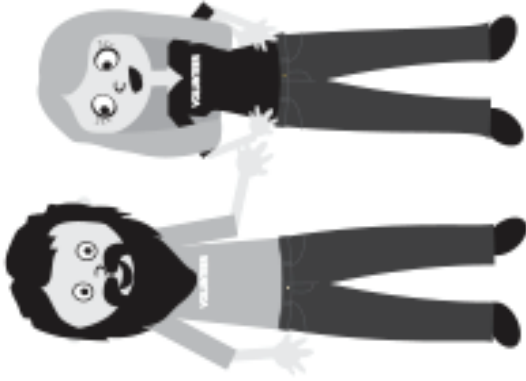
Look at my clues
and see if you know who it is!



What VIPP group am I in? Circle the right group.



Church Staff



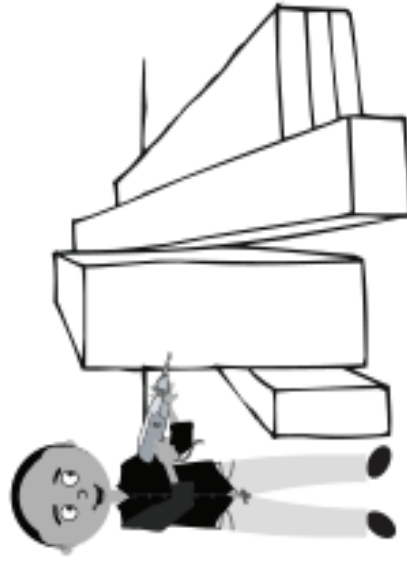
Special Volunteers



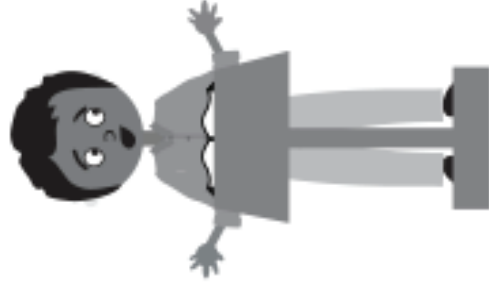
Supported Workers



Church Member

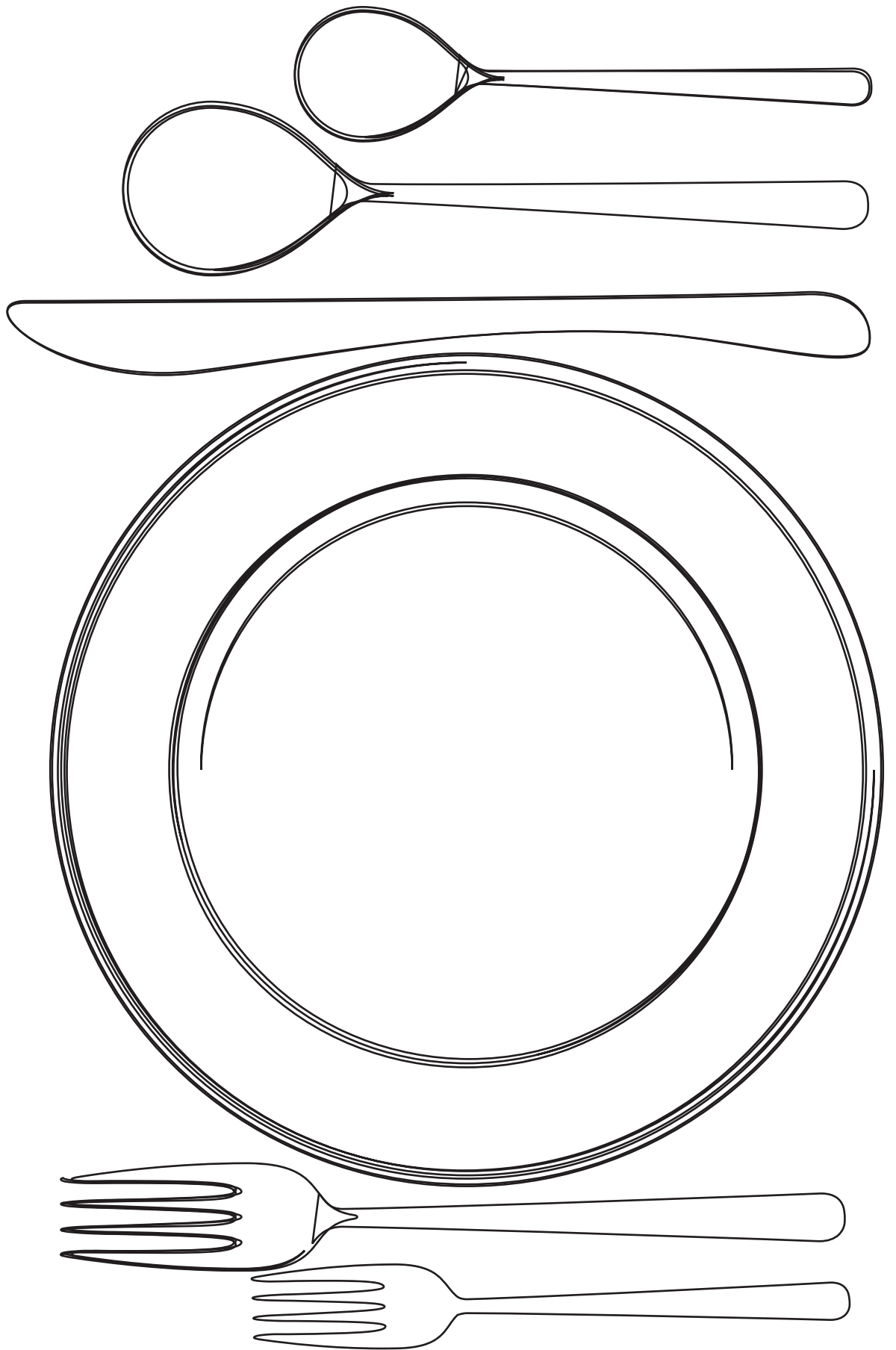


Deacons (Serve the physical needs of the church building and the church members)



Elders (Spiritual Teachers and Overseers of the Church)

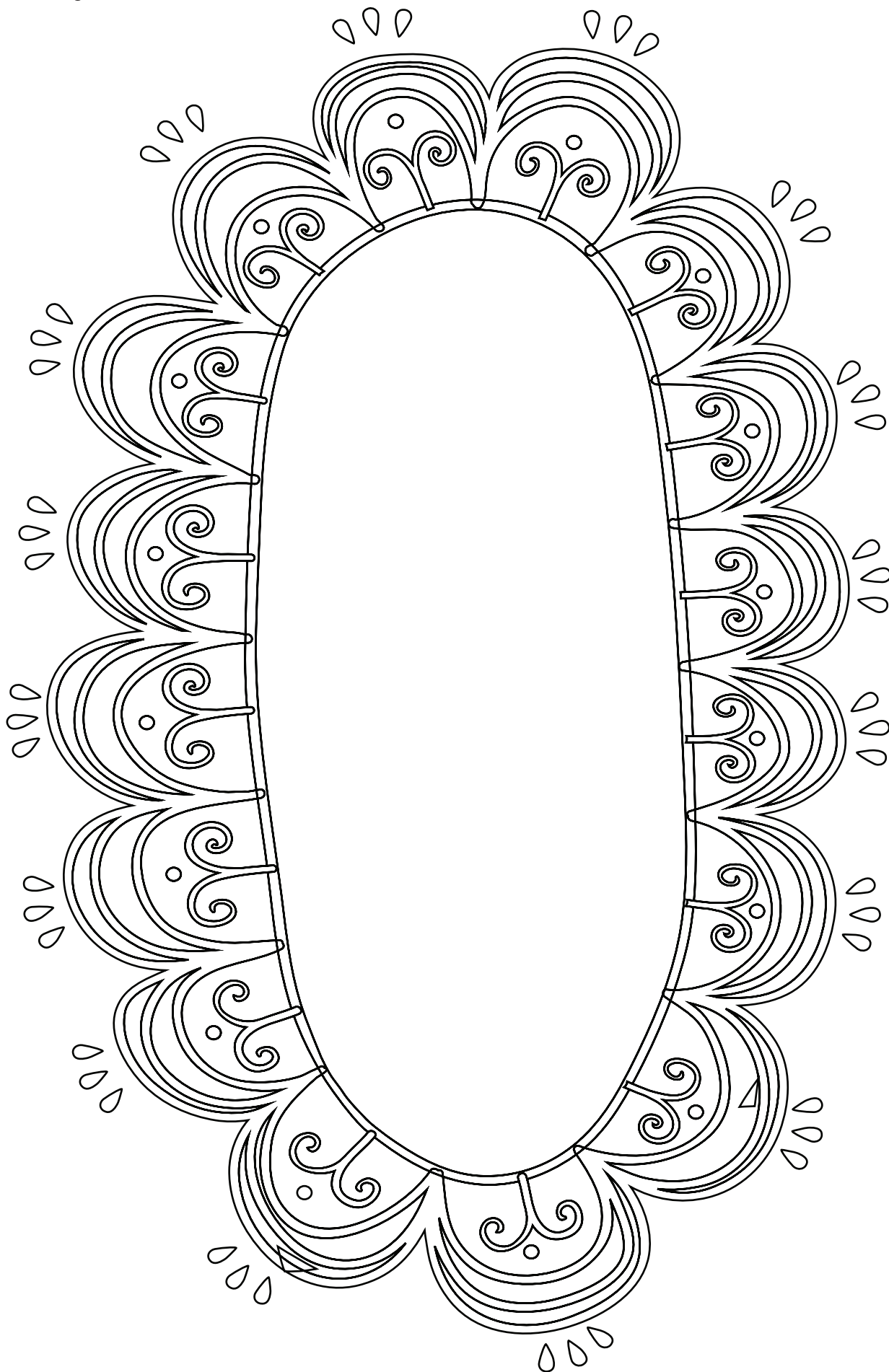
Our VIPP's Favorite Food



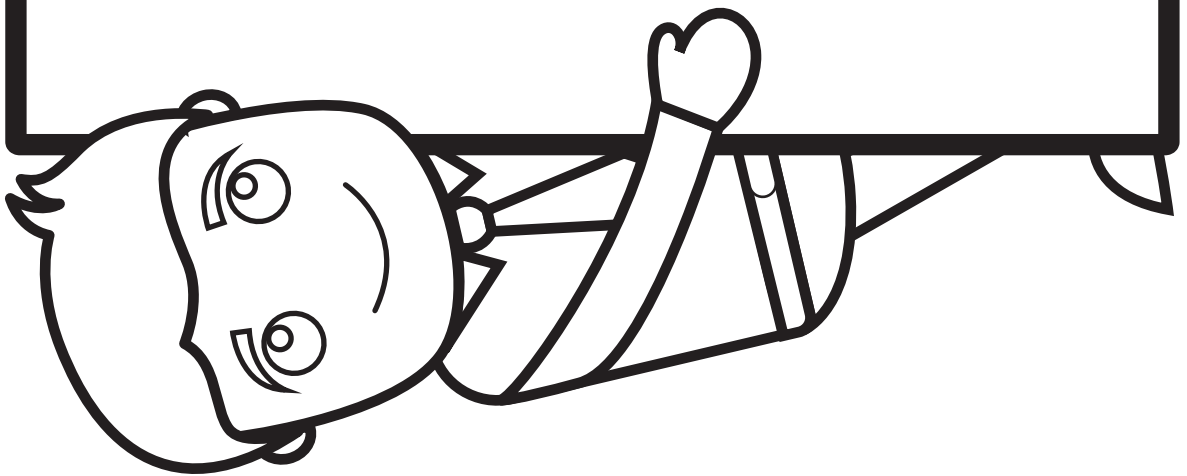
Our VIPP's Favorite Animal



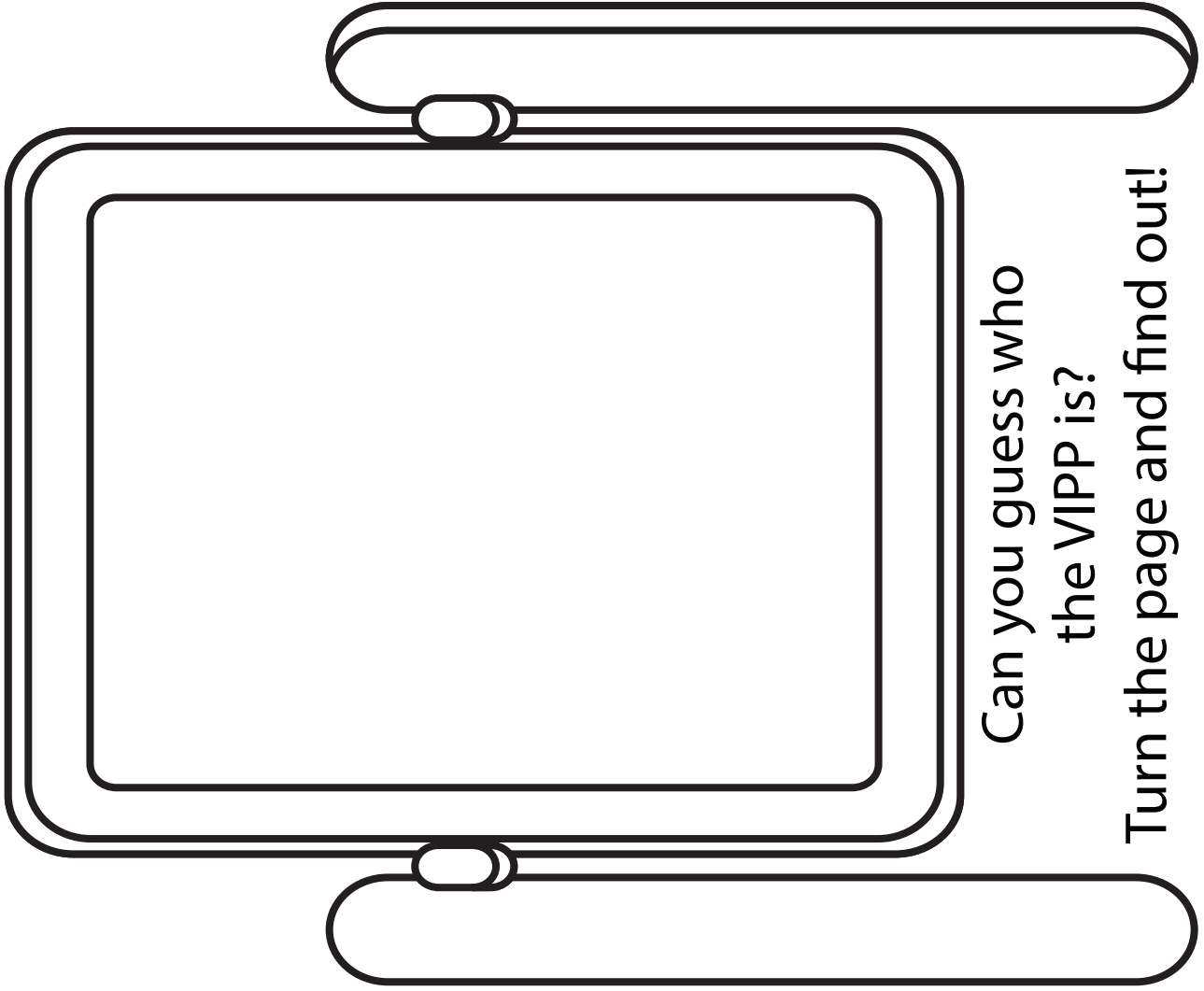
What our VIPP likes to do for fun



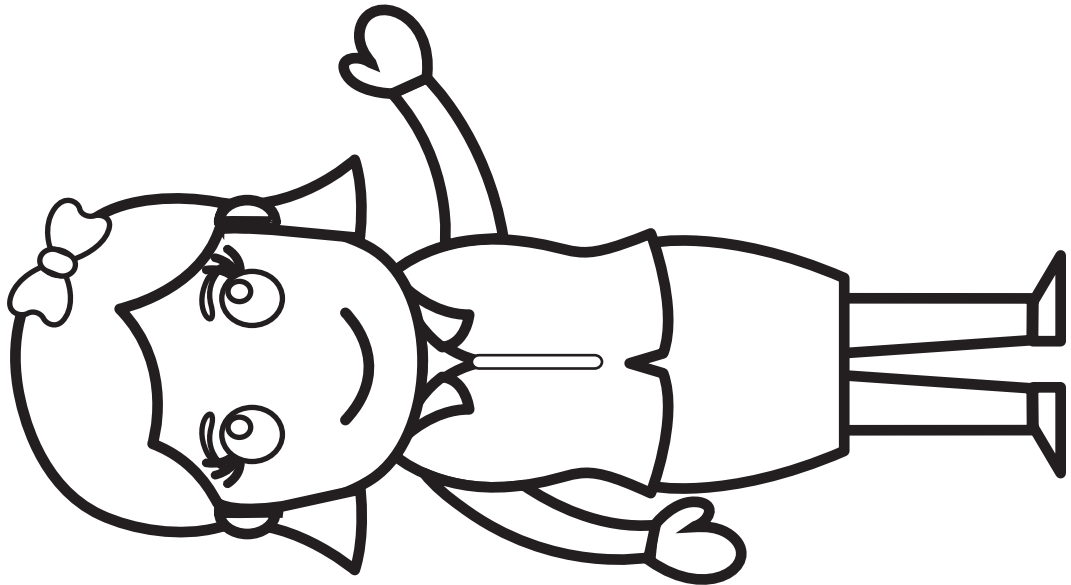
This VIPP's Job During the Week

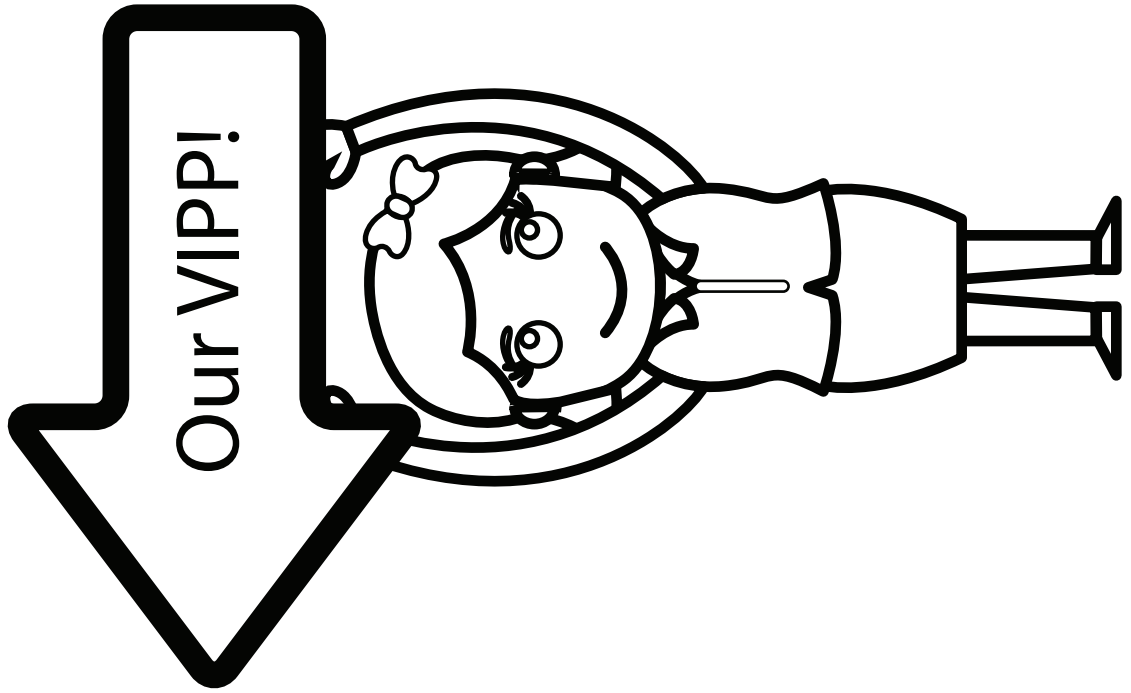


What Our VIPP Looks Like



Can you guess who
the VIPP is?
Turn the page and find out!





(Name)

(Serves the church as)

Let's Pray for Our VIPPI!

