



**Unit 12 Core Curriculum--ESV
God's People Live for Him
Volume 2**



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

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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

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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.**

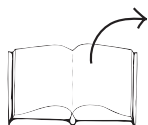
5. The Prontos are **designed to be the take home sheets for each lesson.** However, **some people like to teach from it.** It has the Bible Truth and Bible verse, the story text, a few questions, the lyrics to the songs, and an ACTS prayer. If you download a couple activities from the website, then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

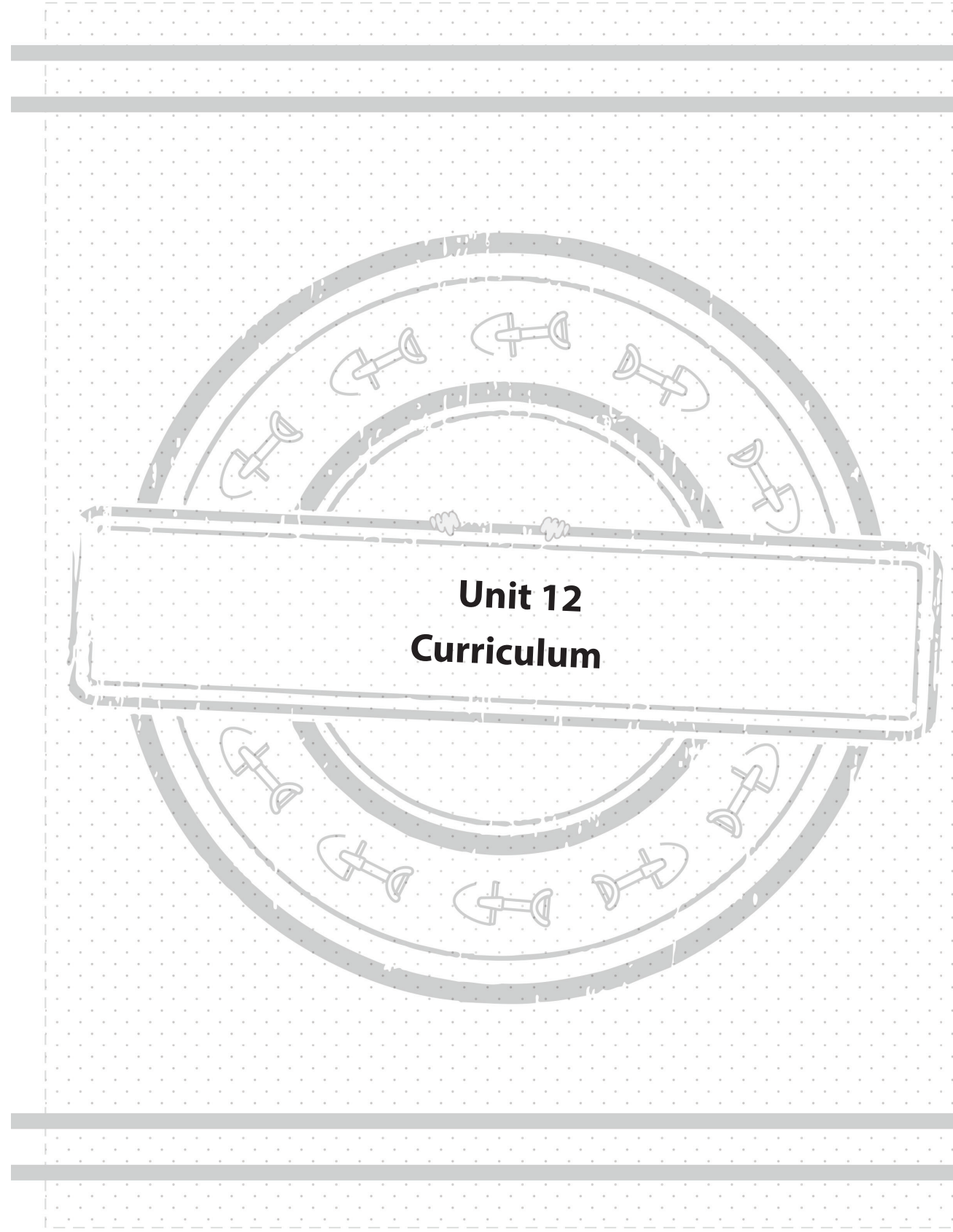
TAKING IT HOME: The PFI Pronto



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.

MAKING THE CURRICULUM WORK FOR YOU

Any curriculum is at best just a beginning for making a good fit with your teachers and children. The sooner you can think of its resources as tools in your toolbox and less like an immovable structure, the better. There are so many resources available with this curriculum that it leaves you with many options besides what is laid out in the lesson plans. Take the lesson plans and a big, red marker and start crossing out or shifting around activities. Think about what your children and teachers are used to already and what works well. If possible, you might want to try to make these resources fit into that format before you try to change everything. Some use the PFI curriculum just as Sunday School or children's church materials. Others use part of the resources during Sunday morning classes and use the other resources in the same lesson in the Sunday evening program. Still others use it for Vacation Bible School. No doubt you will come up with yet other uses.



Unit 12
Curriculum

UNIT 12: GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE FOR HIM

UNIT OVERVIEW

We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the end of the punishment for our sins that we deserved from God, but it's the beginning of a whole new way to live. God's people want to honor God with their whole lives like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.

UNIT BIBLE VERSE: Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION: How Should God's People Live?

ANSWER: They Should Live Like Jesus...

BIBLE TRUTH 1: God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave *The Book of Philemon NT*
The Case of the Drunken Soldier *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Boy Who Did What Men Did Not *1 Samuel 1-3 OT*
Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 2: God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

The Case of the Three Questions *Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21 NT*
The Case of the Lively Learning Lad *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Man Who Lived "No" *Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7; Daniel 1,6 OT*
Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 3: God's People Love Others

The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply *Matthew 18:21-35 NT*
The Case of the Needy Newborn *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail *1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9 OT*
Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH: God's People Trust Him

The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56 NT*
The Case of the Impossible Task *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Put-off Promise *Genesis 11:26-12:9; Joshua 24:2; Acts 7:2-5; Hebrews 11:8 OT*
Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 5: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

The Case of the People Who Wouldn't Stop *Exodus 3, 5, 11,12,15,19-40 OT*
The Case of the Bulging Box *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Treasure Seekers *Luke 11:13-34 NT*
Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 6: God's People Obey Him

The Case of the Wise Man's Writings *Deuteronomy 17; 1 Kings 1-12; 2 Chronicles 1-10 OT*
The Case of the Porcupine Roach *Story of the Saints*
The Case of the Lazy Listeners *Matthew 4-7 NT*
Bible Verse: John 14:23-24 ESV

UNIT 12: GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE FOR HIM

BIBLE TRUTH 7: God's People Work for Him

The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman *Ruth 1-4 OT*

The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream *Story of the Saints*

The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle *Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43 NT*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8 NIV 1984

BIBLE TRUTH 8: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Case of the Missing Words *Deuteronomy 6,9,31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10 OT*

The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers *Acts 17; 1 and 2 Thessalonians NT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16 ESV

BIBLE TRUTH 9: God's People Think about Him

The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook *Luke 10:25-42 NT*

The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Forgetful Fretters *Exodus 14-15 OT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:2-4 ESV

Bible Truth 70: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

The Case of the Handsome No-Man *Genesis 37,39,45,50 OT*

The Case of the Courageous Couple *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Tricky Givers *Acts 4:32-5:14 NT*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

Bible Truth 71: God's People Tell Others about Him

The Case of the Homecoming Heralds *Acts 13:1-12 NT*

The Case of the Never-Quitter *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Reluctant Messenger *Jonah 1-3 OT*

Bible Verse: Romans 10:13-15 ESV

Bible Truth 72: God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan

The Case of the Surprising Sufferer *The Book of Job OT*

The Case of the Atheist Under Attack *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Suffering Speaker *Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33 NT*

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV1984

Bible Truth 73: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

The Case of the Homebound Hero

Matthew 6:14-16; Luke 7, 23; John 6:1-15, 7:31, 40; Acts 7: 20-43; Hebrews 12:1-3 NT

The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Locked Out Leader

Exodus 2-3; Numbers 20,27:12-23; Deuteronomy 32:44-52, 34; Acts 7: 20-43; Hebrews 11:16,23-27 OT

Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20 ESV

Bible Truth 74: God's People Delight in God's Glory

The Case of the Rejected Riches *Genesis 12-14 OT*

The Case of the Bent-Bodied Boy *Story of the Saints*

The Case of the Slandered Servant *Acts 6-7 NT*

Bible Verse: Psalm 66:1-3,5,8,16 ESV

PFI ESV SONGS 12 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 12: GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE FOR HIM

- 3 Big Q & A 12 Song
- 4 Big Question 12 Song: How Should God's People Live?
- 5 Unit 12 Bible Verse: Walk in Love Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV
- 6 *Unit 12 Extra Bible Verse: Let Everyone Who Names the Name 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV*

Bible Truth 1: God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

- 7 Hymn: The Church's One Foundation, v.1
- 8 Bible Verse: We All With Unveiled Face 2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV

Bible Truth 2: God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

- 9 Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4
- 10 Bible Verse: Hear, O Hear Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

Bible Truth 3: God's People Love Others

- 11 Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4
- 12 Bible Verse: Love 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13, ESV
- 13 *Extra Bible Verse: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, ESV*

Bible Truth 4: God's People Trust Him

- 14 Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.2
- 15 Extra Song: Walk by Faith
- 16 Bible Verse: Trust Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV
- 17 *Extra Bible Verse: Trust in the LORD Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV*
- 18 *Extra Bible Verse: May the God of Hope Romans 15:13, NIV 1984*

Bible Truth 5: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

- 19 Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.2
- 20 Bible Verse: As Each Has Received a Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV
- 21 *Extra Bible Verse: Gift, Gift, Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV*

Bible Truth 6: God's People Obey Him

- 22 Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, v.4
- 23 Bible Verse: If Anyone Loves Me John 14:23, ESV
- 24 *Extra Bible Verse: Jesus Answered John 14:23-24, 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.

PFI ESV SONGS 12 TRACK NUMBERS

Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

- 25 Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1
- 26 Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.2
- 27 Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.3
- 28 Bible Verse: For We Are God's Workmanship Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 8: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

- 29 Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1
- 30 Bible Verse: I Have Stored Up Your Word Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

Bible Truth 9: God's People Think about Him

- 31 Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1
- 32 Bible Verse: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life Psalm 63:3-4, ESV
- 33 *Extra Bible Verse: Let the Morning Bring Me Psalm 143:5,8, NIV 1984*

Bible Truth 10: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

- 34 Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1
- 35 Bible Verse: No Temptation 1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV
- 36 *Extra Bible Verse: No Temptation Has Overtaken You 1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV*

Bible Truth 11: God's People Tell Others about Him

- 37 Hymn: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, v.1
- 38 *Extra Song: God's One Big Plan*
- 39 Bible Verse: How Beautiful Romans 10:13-15, ESV
- 40 *Extra Bible Verse: Be My Witnesses Acts 1:8, ESV*

Bible Truth 12: God's People Suffer According to His Plan

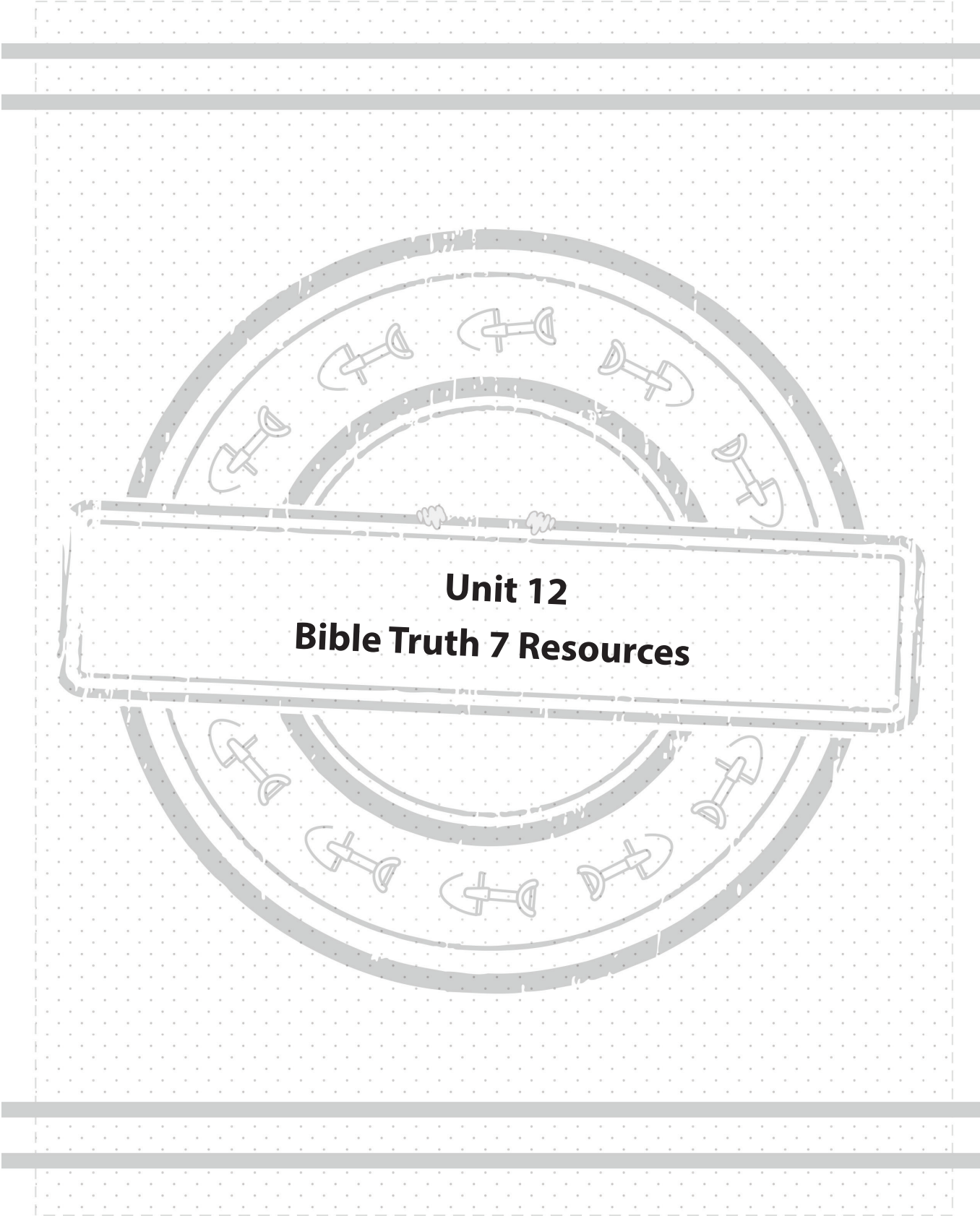
- 41 Hymn: How Firm a Foundation, v.3
- 42 Hymn: How Firm a Foundation, v.4
- 43 Bible Verse: For A Little While 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV 1984
- 44 *Extra Bible Verse: If God Is for Us Romans 8:31,32,35,37-39, ESV*
- 45 *Extra Bible Verse: Count It All Joy James 1:2-4, ESV*

Bible Truth 13: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

- 46 Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking, v.1
- 47 Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking, v.2
- 48 Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking, v.3
- 49 Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking, v.4
- 50 Bible Verse: Many Walk as Enemies Philippians 3:18,19,20, ESV
- 51 *Extra Bible Verse: You Were Publicly Exposed Hebrews 10:32-36, ESV*

Bible Truth 14: God's People Delight in God's Glory

- 52 Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.1
- 53 Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.3
- 54 Bible Verse: Shout with Joy to God Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16, ESV
- 55 *Extra Bible Verse: I Will Bless the LORD Psalm 34:1,3,8,10, ESV*



Unit 12
Bible Truth 7 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 7 OVERVIEW

Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Big Question and Answer: "How Should God's People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!"

Bible Verse: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV

Bible Truth 7 Concept: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Bible Truth 7 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.
- C** We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!
- T** Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.
- S** Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

Bible Truth 7 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman (Old Testament)

Ruth 1-4

Lesson 2: The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle (New Testament)

Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43

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 12, 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 12, 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: Big Question 12 and Songs	<p>"Now it's time to turn today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Should God's People Live?</p> <p>We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the end of the punishment for our sins that we deserved from God, but it's the beginning of a whole new way to live. God's people want to honor God with their whole lives like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Should God's People Live? is: They Should Live Like Jesus!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 12 Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")</i> How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>How Should God's People Live? <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 4</i></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How should God's people live? How should God's people live? How should God's people live? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>Verse 1: Jesus loved God most of all, He loved all people, too, In all that He did and said and thought, He loved them thru and thru. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: God's people should love God most of all, They should love others, too, And God the Holy Spirit, Will help them in all they do. <i>(Refrain)</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 12
Bible Verse**

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

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

**Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song
Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:1-2**

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
Let Everyone Who
Names the Name
2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us.
Ephesians Five, one and two.

God's people have been loved by God through Jesus Christ in the deepest way imaginable. What more could He have done than to offer up His life as the full payment for their sins so they could be God's people. The Bible tells us that He did this even while we were still His enemies. He loved us before we loved Him! But Jesus did this not just because of His love for God's people, but even more so, for His love for God, His Father. He always delighted to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do. God calls His people to live like Jesus, loving others and loving Him, in everything they do. God promises to help them to live this way.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 7**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FOURTEEN** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God's people live. We have learned some already. Can you remember any of them? (God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus; God's People Love Him with All of Themselves; God's People Love Others; God's People Trust Him; God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts; and God's People Obey Him.)

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

God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

Bible Truth 7 Hymn

“Long ago, a woman named Frances Havergal was thinking about this Bible truth, too. She wrote the words to a hymn called “Take My Life and Let It Be.” We’re going to learn some verses of it.”

Take My Life and Let It Be

PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my hands and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love,
 At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my moments and my days,
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
 Swift and beautiful for Thee;
 Take my voice and let me sing
 Always, only for my King,
 Always, only for my King.

To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him. God’s people ask God to use their whole lives for His good and perfect purposes. With their feet and hands, they want to serve Him. With all of their silver and gold (their money), they want to do whatever He wants them to do with it. Not a mite of it--not a bit of it--do they want to use for anything other than what He wants. They want every moment, every day of their lives to be lived for Him. And, because they know He has planned good works for them to do, they trust that He will help them do this, giving them the strength they need, by His Holy Spirit at work inside of them.

Bible Truth 7 Bible Verse and Song

“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:

Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...”

This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God’s people are God’s workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.”

We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!

For We Are God’s Workmanship

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28

Refrain

For we are, For we are,
 For we are God’s workmanship.
 Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
 Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,
 For we are God’s workmanship.
 Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
 Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,
 For we are God’s workmanship,
 Serve wholeheartedly,
 As if you were serving the Lord, not men,
 The Lord will reward ev’ryone for the good he does.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament
Story:****The Case of the
Barley
and the Bitter
Woman**
Ruth 1-4

"Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman.

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

- 1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?**
- 2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?**

(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 bitter woman? Why?

Naomi. She was bitter because she lost her husband and sons and thought God had turned against her.

2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

God planned to provide food for Ruth and Naomi as well as a husband/son-in-law to take care of them. Through this family, Jesus would even come many years later.

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

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the
Greene Girl's
Dream**

"Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream.

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

- 1. Who was the Greene girl?**
- 2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?**

(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 Greene girl? Betty Greene.

2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

Betty's dream was to use her flying skills to someone help spread the good news of Jesus to unreached peoples around the world. God used Betty to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, a group of pilots who helped missionaries who took the good news of Jesus to faraway, hard-to-reach places. He used her to fly on hundreds of expeditions, helping missionaries.

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

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****New Testament Story:****The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle**

Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43

"Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle.

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

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?

2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do?

(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 changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?

The Holy Spirit changed Peter's heart and gave him boldness. Peter spoke to huge crowds about Jesus; by God's power, he healed many sick people; he joyfully suffered persecution from Jesus' enemies.

2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do? Tabitha. Her name means gazelle. Tabitha served many in her quiet way. She especially helped widows by making food and clothes for them.

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.

(VIPP 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 7, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*

Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman *Ruth 1-4*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Ruth's Barley and Bread

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Help the Blind Man

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away

PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE

Bible Verse Review: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hand Ball

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Sticky Pad Search

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: Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets and Game: Mix and Match

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 7, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman Ruth 1-4

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?
2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

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

Naomi with her husband, Elimelech and her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, stood at the edge of the barley fields taking one last glance at the rows of dead, withered stalks standing lifelessly in the parched soil.

“Look at these crops!” Elimelech exclaimed. “The famine has taken our food for this year. We have no choice but to leave Bethlehem and find better land until the famine ends.”

Sadly, the little family said good-bye to their friends and set off across the eastern mountains for the land of Moab. It was risky to leave one’s land and people and settle in another country, but with Elimelech and his two sons to work hard for them, surely they would be able to grow all they needed.

They were right. Crops grew well in Moab. Elimelech and his family stayed there for ten years. Elimelech’s family enjoyed the good food of Moab, but other troubles struck. Elimelech died; then both of the sons! Poor Naomi was left with nothing but the two Moabite wives of her sons, Orpah and Ruth. What was she to do?! There were no jobs for women to earn money in those days. There were no banks to loan you money. Women relied upon their husbands and sons to provide for their needs. Now Naomi had neither!

But Naomi wasn’t all alone. the LORD was with her. He had provided for her all along through her husband and sons. He would go on providing for her. He had even prepared in advance the good work of providing for Naomi. And He would do it in His perfect way and in His perfect timing.

News soon reached Naomi that the famine in Judah had ended. She knew just what to do. “I will go back

home. It will be best for me to be back in my own land with my own people,” she decided.

Orpah and Ruth helped Naomi prepare for the long trip home over the mountains. “Go back, to live with your parents. They will provide for you and hopefully you will soon get married again,” Naomi told the two women, kissing them goodbye.

“No, We will go back with you to your people,” they replied.

But Naomi said, “I have no sons to give you as husbands. Go start a new, good life for yourselves. Don’t stay with me. The LORD is against me and my life is bitter,” and the three women wept together again.

Naomi was right to be sad. She had lost her husband and her sons. But Naomi was not right to be bitter or hopeless. Was not her God the LORD, the One who ruled over all, who worked out all things according to His marvelous plans? Wasn’t she one of His people? Didn’t He love her? The LORD was calling Naomi to the good work of joy. She was not be bitter but put her hope in Him. For even though she was acting like all was hopeless, it was not. The LORD had prepared in advance good works for others to do for Naomi so that she would be well taken care of, as He was soon to show her.

Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and started home, but Ruth wouldn’t leave.

“Orpah is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her,” Naomi told Ruth.

But Ruth replied, “Don’t make me leave. I will go where you go. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Nothing but death is going to separate you and me.”

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.

When Naomi saw that nothing she could say would change Ruth's mind, she and Ruth set off through the mountains of Moab for Bethlehem.

What a wonderful sight for Naomi's eyes were the golden stalks of barley swaying in the fields as they neared Bethlehem! News of Naomi's return spread quickly through the village.

"Can this be Naomi?" the women exclaimed as they looked at her. Naomi had left Bethlehem happy and full of life. Here she was sad and worn out.

"Yes, it is me," Naomi told them. But don't call me Naomi anymore. Naomi means "pleasant." Call me "Mara." It means bitter. "The Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. He has given me these hard times."

Naomi was acting like all was hopeless, but she was wrong. Hadn't the LORD already begun to show her that He had prepared in advance good works for others to do for her so that she would be provided for? Hadn't He given provided her with Ruth who promised to work and care for her all the days of her life? The LORD was calling Naomi to a good work, too. The good work of joy. She was to put her hope in Him.

Ruth set to work, caring for Naomi. Somehow she must get them food. With no money and no crops of their own, Ruth went down to gather up leftover grain in the fields of others. God's law commanded that farmers were to let the poor people do this, but many gave them a hard time. Ruth was not even an Israelite—she was from Moab, an enemy country! She would have to be brave and maybe even suffer to get food for them, but she was willing to do this for Naomi.

Things went much better than Ruth could have dreamed. For the same God who had prepared Ruth to do the good work of taking care of Naomi, had also prepared someone for good works to take care of Ruth. This someone was a godly, important man from Elimelech's own family. A man named Boaz. So, on the first day when Ruth courageously headed for the barley fields, the LORD led her straight to none other than then barley fields of Boaz.

All day under the hot, dry sun, Ruth looked for little barley grains among the dry stalks. Slowly her basket began to fill up. Ruth could have complained of the

heat and the ache in her back, but instead she was grateful for the food and happy to serve Naomi.

When Boaz came out to inspect the harvesters' work he noticed Ruth. "Who is that?" he asked the foreman.

"She's the Moabite woman who came with Naomi. She asked to gather grain in the field and has worked with hardly a break all day," he replied.

"Come here so I can talk with you," Boaz said to Ruth.

Ruth worried that Boaz was mad that she was gathering barley in his fields, but she was wrong. The LORD had sent Boaz to do the good work of caring for her.

"Stay and gather grain in my fields along with my servant girls. I won't let anyone harm you and when you are thirsty, drink from our water jars," Boaz told Ruth.

Ruth bowed with her face to the ground in thanks. "Why are you being so kind to me," Ruth asked Boaz.

"I've heard what you've done for Naomi. You left everything to serve her here, far away from your own country," Boaz replied. "The LORD bless you for all you have done and for choosing to trust in Him."

At mealtime Boaz gave Ruth bread dipped in wine vinegar and roasted grain to eat. Ruth couldn't believe Boaz's kindness to her!

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. She threshed the barley she had gathered and carried it home.

Naomi was amazed at how much Ruth had. "Who let you collect all this grain from their field?" she asked.

"It was the field of Boaz," Ruth replied. And for the first time in a very long time, Naomi praised God for His care of her. "The LORD has done this for us! Of all the fields you could have worked in, He led you to work in Boaz', my husband's relative!"

Each day, Ruth went out to work in Boaz' fields. Each night, she brought home all the grain they needed and more. Day after day Boaz made sure that Ruth was taken care of. How good the LORD was to Naomi! He prepared good works for Ruth to do to take care of her. How good He was to Ruth, too. He had prepared good works for Boaz to do to help her, too.

This would be only the first of many good works God prepared for Boaz to do for Naomi and Ruth. Boaz bought back Elimelech's fields with his own money and gave them to Naomi. He married Ruth and took

both her and Naomi into his house to live. He provided for all their needs the rest of their lives. And who should the LORD give Ruth for a child and to Naomi as a grandson? None other than Obed, the very grandfather of King David...and the great, great, great, great, great... etc. grandfather of Jesus. How richly the LORD honored Ruth for her good works in His service! How wonderfully He had provided for Naomi—to even become the great, great, great, etc. grandmother of Jesus, Himself!

Cracking the Case

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?

Naomi. She was bitter because she lost her husband and sons and thought God had turned against her.

2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

God planned to provide food for Ruth and Naomi as well as a husband/son-in-law to take care of them. Through this family, Jesus would even come many years later.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

The LORD had prepared in advance good works for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz to do. Naomi's good work was to trust and rejoice in the LORD even in her sadness. Ruth was to leave behind her family and country and serve Naomi. Boaz' was to graciously care for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz and Ruth did their work well, while Naomi struggled with hers. I wonder if Naomi ever looked back and regretted that she had chosen not to rejoice and trust in the LORD in her sadness? I wonder if she wished she had done better the works the LORD had given her to do?

What about you and me? Like Boaz, Naomi and Ruth, we can become God's people. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do this, not only will God forgive us our sins and make us His dear people, but He will have good works prepared for us, too. Let's praise God for offering us forgiveness of our sins. Let's praise Him for the good works He has prepared for His people. Let's ask Him to help us to trust in Jesus as our own Savior and give us good works to do that He has especially prepared for us to do in His service. Let's ask Him to help us know what those good works are each day and to help us to do them the best we can.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the provider for Your people even when it looks impossible.

C God, we confess that we, like Naomi, look at difficult situations and do not trust that You will be faithful. Instead, we become bitter or fearful. We all need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for Your great patience with Your people and Your great love for them, even when they doubt Your power and goodness.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Give us good works to do and to help us to take joy in You, even in the hardest times.

Special Words

Moab: A mountainous country that lay on the other side of the Dead Sea from Israel. The Moabites and the Israelites were long-standing enemies.

Barley: A grain, like wheat, used to make bread and other food.

Stalk: The main, upright stem of a plant, like barley.

Glean: To collect something. Ruth gleaned barley from its stalks at harvest time.

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 Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Ruth's Barley and Bread

Pita or Afghan Bread, similar to what they would have made, with optional wine vinegar for dipping. Also could skillet roast barley or pine nuts (or have them try soup with barley in it.)

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

Case Tie-in: God prepared many good works for Ruth to do to help Naomi, including collecting barley for them to eat as grains and as bread.

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 People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people to be busy at? *Work.*
2. What did God create our bodies, minds and hearts to do? *To be active, to create and to want to be at work.*
3. Did God create everyone to do the same things? *No. He created everyone with different talents and abilities.*
4. What does God want people to use all of their gifts to do? *To do good works.*
5. What are the good works that God wants us to do? *To better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.*
6. What did God plan for each of His people? When did He plan them? *Good works for them to do. He planned them in advance.*
7. What work does God have for children to do? *To obey their parents, love and serve others, learn about God and His world, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, take time to know God and His Word.*
8. What can God's people do that pleases Him? *Do well the work He has given them.*
9. Who are we also serving when we are at work? *God.*
10. What does God promise to reward? *Whatever good His people do.*
11. Can God's people do the good works God has prepared for them on their own? *No.*
12. Who helps God's people do the good works God has prepared for them to do? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the LORD have prepared for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz? *Naomi: to praise and trust Him to provide for her, even though she had lost her husband and sons. Ruth: to serve Naomi and be Boaz' wife. Boaz: to be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; to be Ruth's new husband.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Planner of Good Works for His People.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess ways that we have been lazy or not done a good job doing the work God has given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about God and His world.

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

Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people to help them do the good works God has prepared for them to do.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, helping us to know and to do the good works He wants us to do, the best we can.

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*

2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*

3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*

4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. Even the best of our good works will not save us from our sins? Is there hope for us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What does it mean to let your hands move at the impulse of God's love? *To do things that display God's love to others.*
3. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that display God's love? *Love to God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. Love to others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; make them encouraging cards; etc.*
4. What does it mean for God to make our feet swift and beautiful for God? *Swift: To obey quickly whatever God wants us to do; Beautiful: Not have good-looking feet, but to go places and do things that show our love for God and others. In the Bible, people who are willing to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus are said to have "beautiful feet" because they bring the news of salvation—what people need most of all.*
5. What does it mean to have your voice only sing for the King? *It doesn't just mean only sing Christian songs. It means whatever you sing—or even say—it something that pleases God by how it glorifies Him or is an encouragement to others.*
6. What does silver and gold mean? *Silver and gold means money and all the things that God has given you.*
7. What is a mite and why does the songwriter not want to withhold it from the Lord? *A mite is a very small amount of something. He is saying that he wants God to use all of his money and things to do good works that honor Him and serve others.*
8. What does "ceaseless" mean? *How does one let their moments and days "flow" in ceaseless praise? Ceaseless means never to stop. The songwriter is wanting everything he does with his life to be so pleasing to God with its good works and love for Him that it is like he is always praising God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?** *When we offer our lives, our wills, our voices, our hands, our feet, etc. to God's service, we are seeking for God to help us to do all the good works He has prepared for us.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Naomi struggled give her voice, her days to the Lord as a good work of ceaseless praise. But, God in his incredible kindness still prepared many good works of their hands, their lives, and their feet to provide for Naomi.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by this song? *They can praise God for preparing good works for them that they may praise Him with all of their lives. They can ask Him to help them to use every part of their lives to do these good works as best as they can so that they might result in ceaseless praise of Him.*
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: **Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the good King over all of heaven and earth.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't want to use our lips, our hands, our feet, our silver or gold to serve Him but to serve ourselves. 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 we do not have to do these good works on our own—that would be impossible anyway! But, that we can ask God to take our lives and work in our hearts and help us to do good works of our lips, hands, feet, silver and gold to His glory.*
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. We can ask God to take our lives and make everything we do be a good work to His glory.*

Gospel Question

1. What is the best first step God calls all people to take to consecrate their lives to the Lord? Why do they need to take this step? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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.

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

Meditation Version: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does "workmanship" mean? *Something that is made by someone.*
2. Whose workmanship are Christians? *God's.*
3. What does it mean that they are "created in Christ Jesus?" *Everything is created by God, but Christians are called new creations. They've been made into God's special people, with His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. This is because they have received forgiveness for their sins by trusting in Jesus' payment for sins when He died on the cross. It is only because Jesus died in their place that they have been made God's special people. That's why they are said to be created in Christ Jesus.*
4. What were Christians created to do? *Good works which God prepared in advance for them to do.*
5. What is a good work? *Any thoughts, words, actions done that please God and love and serve others.*
6. How are Christians to serve others? *Wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, Himself.*
7. What does "wholeheartedly" mean? *With your whole heart; in other words, doing your very, very best.*
8. What will the Lord reward His people for? *Whatever good they do.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?**

These verses tell us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *What good works did the Lord have prepared for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz? Naomi: to not be bitter, but have faith that God would take care of her (to display that faith that others might see God's glory through her faith); Ruth: serve her mother-in-law, even when it required doing hard work and possibly facing insults/harm; also, be cheerful in her work; Boaz: To be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; marry Ruth*

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*
4. 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 One who works in His people the good works He has prepared for them. They do not have to do them on their own.

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

That many times we do not want to do the good works that God calls us to do. We want to serve ourselves, not Him. Or, we might do them, but we don't do them wholeheartedly.

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

We can thank God preparing in advance good works for each of His people. He gives to each of them specific ways to serve Him and gives them the strength to them.

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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to know and do wholeheartedly the good works He has prepared..

The Gospel

1. We are sinners who on our own do not want to serve God wholeheartedly as He deserves. How can we receive God's forgiveness? How can we change? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!*

Game: Hand Ball

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.

For We Are God's Workmanship

Refrain

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,
For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly,
As if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28

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. Why did Elimelech decide to leave Bethlehem and go to Moab? *There was a severe famine and his family had no food. He decided to go there to try to raise crops there instead.*
2. How long did Elimelech plan to stay in Moab? *Only a little while.*
3. Why was Moab a better place to live than Bethlehem at the time? *The famine hadn't hit Moab. Crops could grow well there.*
4. What happened to Naomi in Moab that made her so sad? *Her husband and two sons died, leaving her with no men to care for her.*
5. Why was Naomi so worried about how she would survive? *There were not jobs for women to do to make money like there are today. Women were taken care of by their husbands and sons. With neither, Naomi had no one to provide for her.*
6. Why was it right for Naomi to be sad, but wrong for her to be bitter and hopeless? *It was very sad that she lost her husband and sons, but she should have chosen to do the good work of rejoicing and trusting in the Lord. She knew He could take care of her.*
7. How did the Lord first provide for Naomi? *Through hearing about Ruth's unwillingness to leave her and promise to take care of her all her life.*
8. Why were the people of Bethlehem shocked when they saw Naomi? *Because she had left happy and in plenty, with a husband and two sons. Now she returned sad, worn, empty-handed, and bitter with only her Moabitess daughter-in-law.*
9. Why good work that the Lord had prepared did Naomi chose to NOT do when she told everyone to call her Mara, instead of Naomi? *The chance to glorify God by trusting in Him and taking joy in Him, even though she did not know how she would be taken care of.*
10. What good works did Ruth do for Naomi? *Helped her go back to Bethlehem, promised to always take care of her, helped her set up house, willing to work long and hard in the fields of strangers (and maybe face insults or harm) so that she could have food, gave her a grandson.*
11. What good works did God prepare for Boaz to take care of Ruth? *Treated her kindly and even gave her extra grain from his fields, fed her food and gave her water with his workers, took care of Naomi, married her.*
12. Why was the good work that the Lord gave Naomi so difficult for her? *She had to trust that God really loved her and would take care of her, even though some very sad things had happened to her.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them? *The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very different good works to do.*

Life Application Questions

1. What kinds of good works of the heart, of the mouth, of our hands and feet has God already prepared for His people today? *Answers will vary. Help them think of who God has put around them and circumstances they are in that are opportunities for good works.*
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: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

The LORD prepared good works for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. For Naomi: to not be bitter, but have faith that God would take care of her (to display that faith that others might see God's glory through her faith); For Ruth: serve her mother-in-law, even when it required doing hard work and possibly facing insults/harm; also, be cheerful in her work; For Boaz: To be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; marry Ruth.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the provider of His people even when it looks impossible.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we, like Naomi, look at difficult situations and do not trust that God will be faithful. Instead, we become bitter or fearful. We deserve God's punishment. We all need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for His great patience with His people and His great love for them, even when they doubt His power and goodness.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us good works to do and to help us to take joy in Him, even in the hardest times.*

The Gospel

1. God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a child through whose family would one day come Jesus, the one whom God prepared to do the greatest good work for His people. What did Jesus do? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!*

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 Bitter Woman and the Barley.

Our story takes place in Bethlehem, in Israel and in the nearby country of Moab. It takes places during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons decide they must leave Bethlehem for Moab because of the famine that has killed all the crops. They say goodbye to friends and promise to return when the famine is over. Moab has no famine and plenty of food, while the famine in Bethlehem continues for 10 years. Elimelech dies and then both of the sons, leaving Naomi with only her sons wives, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi is so sad! She wonders how she will survive with no sons or husband to take care of her. She tells Orpah and Ruth to go back to their parents to be taken care of and to find new husbands. Naomi plans to go back to Bethlehem now that the famine is over. She is sad and bitter about what has happened to her. She had many reasons to be sad, but not bitter. God was giving her the good work of joyfully trusting Him.

Scene 2:

Orpah leaves Naomi, but Ruth clings to her, refusing to leave. She swears that she will take care of Naomi and follow the LORD all of her life. Naomi finally gives in and lets Ruth go with her. After a long journey through the Moab mountains, they come to Bethlehem. The fields are full of barley ready to be harvested. No one can believe that Naomi is the same person who left them 10 years earlier! She is so sad, worn-out and empty-handed. Naomi tells them to call her "Mara" because her life is bitter now. She refuses to see how God has been providing for her through Ruth and be joyful in Him.

Scene 3

Ruth works hard for Naomi. She joyfully goes out to pick up leftover barley grains in the fields, even though she may face unkind words and even harm from the field owners or workers. The LORD takes care of Ruth by guiding her to the fields of Boaz—an important, godly man who is a relative of Elimelech. When Boaz finds out who Ruth is and what she has done for Naomi, he helps her by letting her stay in his fields, giving her extra grain, giving her food. When Naomi hears about Boaz' kindnesses to Ruth, at last she praises God for how He has provided for her in the good works of others. Boaz does even more good things for the two women: He buys Elimelech's field for Naomi, marries Ruth and takes care of them in his house the rest of their lives. Ruth and Boaz' first son is the grandfather of David and great, great, etc. grandfather of Jesus.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very good works to do, just like He does for all His people. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we will be His people. He will have good works for each of us to do, too.

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 Bitter Woman and the Barley.

Our story takes place in Bethlehem, in Israel and in the nearby country of Moab. It takes places during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Elimelech, Naomi, Kilion, Mahlon, Orpah, Naomi, Boaz, and the people of Bethlehem.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons decide they must leave Bethlehem for Moab because of the famine that has killed all the crops. They say goodbye to friends and promise to return when the famine is over. Moab has no famine and plenty of food, while the famine in Bethlehem continues for 10 years. Elimelech dies and then both of the sons, leaving Naomi with only her sons wives, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi is so sad! She wonders how she will survive with no sons or husband to take care of her. She tells Orpah and Ruth to go back to their parents to be taken care of and to find new husbands. Naomi plans to go back to Bethlehem now that the famine is over. She is sad and bitter about what has happened to her. She had many reasons to be sad, but not bitter. God was giving her the good work of joyfully trusting Him.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Orpah leaves Naomi, but Ruth clings to her, refusing to leave. She swears that she will take care of Naomi and follow the LORD all of her life. Naomi finally gives in and lets Ruth go with her. After a long journey through the Moab mountains, they come to Bethlehem. The fields are full of barley ready to be harvested. No one can believe that Naomi is the same person who left them 10 years earlier! She is so sad, worn-out and empty-handed. Naomi tells them to call her "Mara" because her life is bitter now. She refuses to see how God has been providing for her through Ruth and be joyful in Him.

Scene 3: (End)

Ruth works hard for Naomi. She joyfully goes out to pick up leftover barley grains in the fields, even though she may face unkind words and even harm from the field owners or workers. The LORD takes care of Ruth by guiding her to the fields of Boaz—an important, godly man who is a relative of Elimelech. When Boaz finds out who Ruth is and what she has done for Naomi, he helps her by letting her stay in his fields, giving her extra grain, giving her food. When Naomi hears about Boaz' kindnesses to Ruth, at last she praises God for how He has provided for her in the good works of others. Boaz does even more good things for the two women: He buys Elimelech's field for Naomi, marries Ruth and takes care of them in his house the rest of their lives. Ruth and Boaz' first son is the grandfather of David and great, great, etc. grandfather of Jesus.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very good works to do, just like He does for all His people. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we will be His people. He will have good works for each of us to do, too.

Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest

Description

The children will use 2 paper plates, yarn and other decorating supplies to make a double-sided head of Ruth and Naomi that opens up and shows barley from the barley harvest.

Materials

2 paper plates per child, preferably the sturdy “Chinet” like variety
 Black and gray yarn
 Hole punch
 Markers, Crayons or colored pencils
 Jiggly eyes
 Scissors
 Two or three twisty ties per child
 Barley
 Craft glue
 Optional: Glue gun and glue sticks (teacher use only)

Preparing the Craft

1. Using hole punch, make a series of holes along the top rim of each paper plate. These will be used to tie the hair into. For older children, you may want to make more holes; for younger children, make less. The hair is the funnest part of this craft.
2. Cut yarn into 2' lengths (for hair). You will need as many pieces as you have holes in each plate.
3. Set out other supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children tie the hair into the holes along the top. Youngest children may just want to thread this through and tie it. Older children may want to do slip knots by folding each piece of yarn in half, pushing the loop through the hole, then threading the ends of the yarn through the loop and pulling tight. One plate will have gray yarn for Naomi's hair and one plate will have black yarn for Ruth's hair.
3. Using the markers, jiggly eyes, etc. have children make Naomi's face on the gray-haired plate and Ruth's face on the black hair plate on the **BACK SIDE OF THE PLATE**. That is, the part of the plate you eat on should be face down!) For Naomi and Ruth's faces, talk to the children about what expression they might have and why. If using jiggly eyes, you may want to wait and attach these as the last step.
4. Now turn the plates right side up. This will be the inside of the craft. Have the children glue barley to one or both of the plates. Or, if desired, you can glue this in place with the glue gun, for a faster and firmer hold.
5. Have the children now set the plates, barley sides together and faces facing outward. Using the twisty ties, twist them around two or three of the hair holes of both plates securely.
6. Children can now tell what happened with their plates like this:
 “God prepared in advance for Ruth (show the Ruth face) to care for her mother in law, Naomi, (show Naomi face) by picking barley for her food during the barley harvest (open the plates and show the barley).”

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 Ruth and Naomi live?

In Moab and in Bethlehem.

2. Who was with Naomi, making sure she would be cared for even after her husband and sons died?

Ruth; but most of all, God.

3. What did God use the barley harvest to do?

To provide for Naomi and Ruth.

4. What is Bible Truth 7 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

5. What do Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest have to do with the Bible Truth 7?

Naomi was bitter about all the sad things that happened to her. But God used the barley harvest to show her that He planned the good works of Ruth at the barley harvest to take care of her.

6. What can God help us remember through this craft of Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest?

God prepares good works for His people to do that glorify Him and care for others. He is always at work, even when they don't see it. He is always faithful, working out all this for His glory and their good.

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 Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest.

2. In Bethlehem, God provided for Naomi through Ruth and the barley harvest.

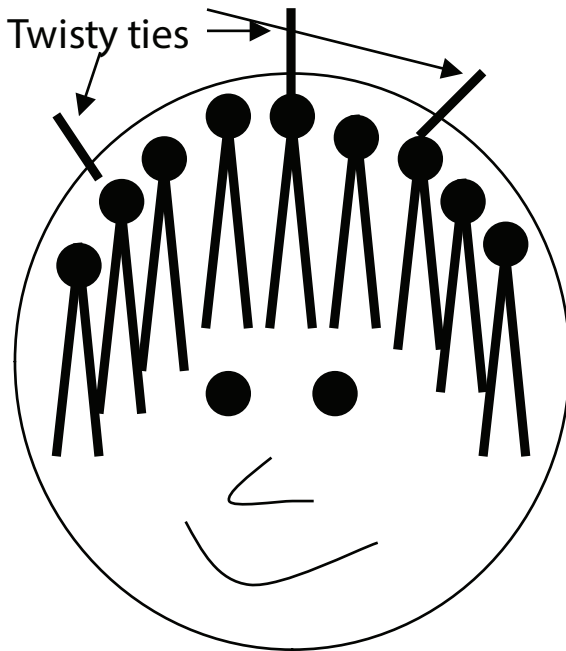
3. Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

4. Naomi was bitter about all the sad things that happened to her. But God used the barley harvest to show her that He planned the good works of Ruth at the barley harvest to take care of her.

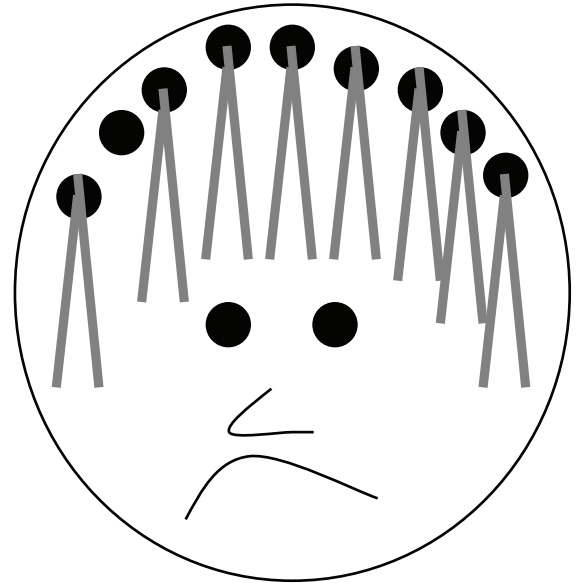
5. Our craft can help us remember that God prepares good works for His people to do that glorify Him and care for others. He is always at work, even when they don't see it. He is always faithful, working out all this for His glory and their good.

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.

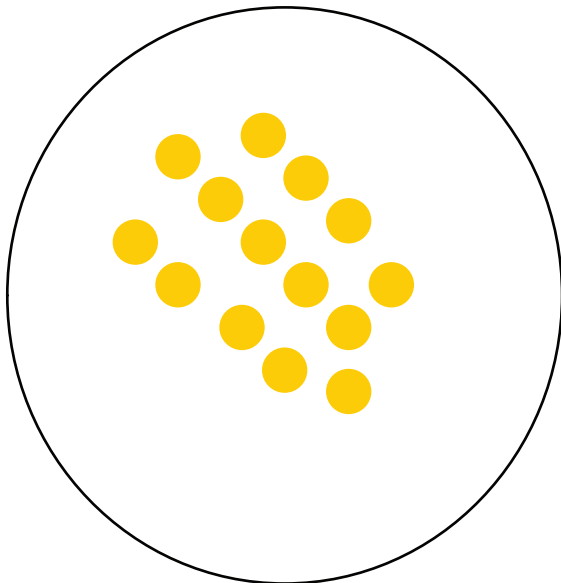
Ruth's face



Naomi's face



Barley glued to the inside of each plate



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. They are found in 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 7, 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 ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 NIV 1984

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Betty Greene's Green Airplane

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Squirrel and Nut

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: John 14:23-24 Discussion Sheet and Game: Forceball

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 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: A Mother and Newborn Baby in Betty Greene's Airplane

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 7, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**"The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream."****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Greene girl?
2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who was born in Seattle, Washington in America, but wound up traveling to many parts of Africa in the 1940's.

"I've got a birthday surprise for you, two," Albert Greene told Betty and Bill, his sixteen-year-old twin daughter and son, as they drove along beautiful Lake Washington. "How would you like to take an airplane ride?"

What an amazing birthday present this was! This was 1936 and airplanes were still something most people only dreamed to get to ride in. Betty almost burst with excitement as they parked their car at the little airstrip and headed towards the planes.. She had loved planes ever since she was a little girl. She learned all about them and the famous men and women who flew them: Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart—the first man and woman to fly across the Atlantic solo; Richard Byrd and Brent Balchen—the first men to fly to the South Pole, as well as many others. Now at last she would get to fly like these great men and women!

The experience was everything she dreamed it would be and more! What a feeling of freedom as they soared over the land and through the clouds! As the airplane touched back down on the runway, all Betty could think about was when she could go back up again. Fortunately for her, a generous uncle had given her enough birthday money to pay for flying lessons. Within days, Betty was back in that airplane for her first flying lesson and within two weeks she was flying completely solo. Betty's money ran out all too soon; and with it, her opportunity to fly. But whether in the air or just dreaming about being there, flying remained Betty's passion.

It would be years before Betty had another chance

to fly. Her parents encouraged her to go to college to be a nurse and Betty honored their wishes. But after two years of studying bones and muscles, bandaging wounds and taking temperatures, Betty knew she was never cut out to be a nurse. She wanted to serve people, but not this way. With her parents' approval she left nursing school and returned home to work for her father and figure out what work the Lord would have her do with her life.

"Betty, you seem unhappy. What's wrong?" asked Mrs. Bowman, a dear old family friend.

"I just don't know what to do with my life," Betty answered.

"Well, tell me, dear. What is it that you love to do?" Mrs. Bowman asked.

"I love to fly and I love to tell people about Jesus," Betty responded.

"Perhaps you could find some way to do both, like using your flying to help missionaries," Mrs. Bowman suggested.

"Why, of course!" exclaimed Betty. Why hadn't she thought of that before? Surely there must be a way to do that, but how? As Betty walked back home down the gravel road from Mrs. Bowman's house she prayed, "Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next."

The Lord was not slow to answer Betty's prayer. He had a big plan to use Betty's love of flying and desire to serve Him, but first she would need the skills of a fighter pilot to fulfill His plans. Within weeks, Betty began two

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.

years of intense pilot training that would put her in the U.S. Army in World War II, testing out the limits of the new B-17 Flying Fortress Bombers and pulling huge targets behind B-34 Bombers for soldiers to practice shooting from the ground. "Boom! Bang! Boom!" Betty cringed as the bullets exploded through the air on either side of her plane. She prayed that the men on the ground would remember to hit the target and not her plane!

As busy as Betty was with flying missions, her mind was still thinking about how the Lord could use her flying skills to serve Him, especially on the mission field.

"Lord, I've never heard of anyone who used flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, but if this is the work You have for me, please show me what to do next," she kept praying.

At last a wonderful idea came to her: why not use her expert skills in flying to transport missionaries in and out of remote parts of the world, where the good news of Jesus was being taken for the first time. Often missionaries spent weeks hiking through difficult and dangerous conditions to get to these unreached peoples. How much time could be saved and dangers avoided if they could simply be flown to their destination instead, Betty wondered. And what happened when a missionary had a medical emergency? Wouldn't an airplane be far faster and better to get a sick person to the urgent care they needed?

This idea excited Betty so much that she couldn't keep it to herself. She wrote an article about it and sent it into a Christian magazine. Perhaps others who read her article would want to help make it happen. Sure enough, her idea worked. Before long a letter came in the mail for her:

"Dear Miss Greene,

I read your article and am writing you to tell you that me and some other pilot friends of mine share your dream of using airplanes and pilots to spread the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Can you meet me in Washington, DC to talk about making this dream really happen?

Sincerely Yours,
Jim Truxton

Betty and Jim met in Washington, DC and began

to make plans to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, as they decided to call themselves.

Within a few years, Betty was making her first of what were to be hundreds of expeditions to aid missionaries all over the world. And oh, what work the Lord had for her to do! She needed every bit of training she had gotten in the army to do it! She was the first woman pilot to fly over the dangerous Andes Mountains. She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a river in Peru as its engines died and it tumbled out of the sky. In Africa, she once flew a new mother and her baby through a huge sandstorm. Another time, she sped to airlift a little girl choking to death to a hospital, hundreds of miles away. Far out in the Pacific Ocean in the untamed jungles of Irian Jaya, she trekked through thirty-five miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and snuck around fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway cut out of the side of the jungle.

After thirty some years of work with the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship (now called Mission Aviation Fellowship), Betty Greene retired from service. Long ago she had prayed that the Lord show her how to use flying to spread the good news of Jesus around the world, if that was the work He had planned for her. How marvelously the Lord had answered those prayers.

Even today, the wonderful work that began with the dream of one young woman is still going on, bigger and better than ever. Every four minutes, every day of the week, every day of the year, one of the eighty-four planes of Mission Aviation Fellowship is taking off or landing at some three thousand different little airstrips all over the world.

Cracking the Case

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. Who was the Greene girl? Betty Greene.

2. What was her dream? What good works did God plan for her to do because of the dream?

Betty's dream was to use her flying skills to someone help spread the good news of Jesus to unreached peoples around the world. God used Betty to start the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship, a group of pilots who helped missionaries who took the good news of Jesus to faraway, hard-to-reach places. He used her to fly on hundreds of expeditions, helping missionaries.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

What wonderful work the Lord had prepared in advance for Betty Greene to do! And just to think, it all began with a love for planes and a desire to serve God as a little girl. Who would have guessed that something so great could have started with someone so small!

What about you and me? What is it that we love to do? Could it be that the Lord has planted that love in our heart as the start of some great work He has for us? What is the best first step in becoming someone God will use? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's praise God for preparing good works for His people by placing special loves in our hearts. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to turn the special loves we have into good works that help others come to know and love Him.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Good Talents to Your people to be used for Your glory and their good.

C God, we confess that too many times we only think about how we can use the good gifts You have given us to use for our own good or so that others will praise us. We need Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You delight to give wisdom to Your people when they seek Your will.

S God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Please use the good talents You have given us to do good works for You.

Special Words

Passion: Having a great desire to do something.

Unreached Peoples: People who live in places that have not yet had a chance to hear the good news of Jesus.

Remote: Faraway, hard to get to.

Sandstorm: A storm caused by strong wind and sand or dust. These storms are especially dangerous to small airplanes from the strength of the wind, or the sand that clogs up the machinery.

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 Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Betty Greene's Green Airplane

1. Celery and Wheat thin "airplanes" with a little ranch dressing "cloud" Cut a 2.5" piece of celery per child. Using a sharp knife cut 2 horizontal slots (the length of the Wheat Thin) in the side of celery towards the front and insert Wheat Thin "wings". Cut one horizontal slot in the back of the celery and one in the top. Insert Wheat Thins in each slot to form tail section. This snack a bit more time but the kids LOVE it!!!! This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: Betty Greene flew her airplane to do many of the good works God gave her to do.

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 People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God created people to be busy at? *Work.*
2. What did God create our bodies, minds and hearts to do? *To be active, to create and to want to be at work.*
3. Did God create everyone to do the same things? *No. He created everyone with different talents and abilities.*
4. What does God want people to use all of their gifts to do? *To do good works.*
5. What are the good works that God wants us to do? *To better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.*
6. What did God plan for each of His people? When did He plan them? *Good works for them to do. He planned them in advance.*
7. What work does God have for children to do? *To obey their parents, love and serve others, learn about God and His world, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, take time to know God and His Word.*
8. What can God's people do that pleases Him? *Do well the work He has given them.*
9. Who are we also serving when we are at work? *God.*
10. What does God promise to reward? *Whatever good His people do.*
11. Can God's people do the good works God has prepared for them on their own? *No.*
12. Who helps God's people do the good works God has prepared for them to do? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Betty Greene? *To use her skills in flying airplanes to help missionaries to share the good news of Jesus, even risking her life many times to do so.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Planner of Good Works for His People.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess ways that we have been lazy or not done a good job doing the work God has given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about God and His world.

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

Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people to help them do the good works God has prepared for them to do.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, helping us to know and to do the good works He wants us to do, the best we can.

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*

2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*

3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*

4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. Even the best of our good works will not save us from our sins? Is there hope for us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What does it mean to let your hands move at the impulse of God's love? *To do things that display God's love to others.*
3. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that display God's love? *Love to God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. Love to others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; make them encouraging cards; etc.*
4. What does it mean for God to make our feet swift and beautiful for God? *Swift: To obey quickly whatever God wants us to do; Beautiful: Not have good-looking feet, but to go places and do things that show our love for God and others. In the Bible, people who are willing to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus are said to have "beautiful feet" because they bring the news of salvation—what people need most of all.*
5. What does it mean to have your voice only sing for the King? *It doesn't just mean only sing Christian songs. It means whatever you sing—or even say—it something that pleases God by how it glorifies Him or is an encouragement to others.*
6. What does silver and gold mean? *Silver and gold means money and all the things that God has given you.*
7. What is a mite and why does the songwriter not want to withhold it from the Lord? *A mite is a very small amount of something. He is saying that he wants God to use all of his money and things to do good works that honor Him and serve others.*
8. What does "ceaseless" mean? *How does one let their moments and days "flow" in ceaseless praise? Ceaseless means never to stop. The songwriter is wanting everything he does with his life to be so pleasing to God with its good works and love for Him that it is like he is always praising God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?** *When we offer our lives, our wills, our voices, our hands, our feet, etc. to God's service, we are seeking for God to help us to do all the good works He has prepared for us.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this song relate to the story? *Betty Greene gave her whole life to serve the Lord. She used her voice to tell others about Jesus, her body to fly missionaries to remote parts of the world, she gave all of her days to serve Him and His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by this song? *They can praise God for preparing good works for them that they may praise Him with all of their lives. They can ask Him to help them to use every part of their lives to do these good works as best as they can so that they might result in ceaseless praise of Him.*
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: **Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the good King over all of heaven and earth.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't want to use our lips, our hands, our feet, our silver or gold to serve Him but to serve ourselves. 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 we do not have to do these good works on our own—that would be impossible anyway! But, that we can ask God to take our lives and work in our hearts and help us to do good works of our lips, hands, feet, silver and gold to His glory.*
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. We can ask God to take our lives and make everything we do be a good work to His glory.*

Gospel Question

1. What is the best first step God calls all people to take to consecrate their lives to the Lord? Why do they need to take this step? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does "workmanship" mean? *Something that is made by someone.*
2. Whose workmanship are Christians? *God's.*
3. What does it mean that they are "created in Christ Jesus?" *Everything is created by God, but Christians are called new creations. They've been made into God's special people, with His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. This is because they have received forgiveness for their sins by trusting in Jesus' payment for sins when He died on the cross. It is only because Jesus died in their place that they have been made God's special people. That's why they are said to be created in Christ Jesus.*
4. What were Christians created to do? *Good works which God prepared in advance for them to do.*
5. What is a good work? *Any thoughts, words, actions done that please God and love and serve others.*
6. How are Christians to serve others? *Wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, Himself.*
7. What does "wholeheartedly" mean? *With your whole heart; in other words, doing your very, very best.*
8. What will the Lord reward His people for? *Whatever good they do.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?**

These verses tell us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Betty Greene? *To use her skills in flying airplanes to help missionaries to share the good news of Jesus, even risking her life many times to do so.*

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*
4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? What 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.*

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.

For We Are God's Workmanship

Refrain

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,
For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly,
As if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28

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 Betty Greene get to do for her birthday? *Get to take a ride in an airplane.*
2. What did Betty's uncle give her money to do? *To take flying lessons.*
3. What did Betty's parents want her to do with her life? *Be a nurse.*
4. What did Betty do to honor her parents about what they wanted her to do? *Studied nursing for 2 whole years before quitting, trying as hard as she could to like it.*
5. What did Mrs. Bowman ask Betty that helped her figure out what she should try to do? *Asked her what she really loved to do.*
6. What was Betty's answer to Mrs. Bowman's question? *Flying and telling others about Jesus.*
7. What did Mrs. Bowman suggest that Betty try to do? *Use airplanes to do mission work.*
8. What did Betty do after she talked to Mrs. Bowman? *Asked God to show her if this was what He wanted her to do.*
9. What training did Betty get in flying? *Betty began 2 years of training and became a pilot in the U.S. Army in World War II.*
10. What kinds of things did Betty do in the Army? *Betty tested the new B-17 Flying Fortress and pulled huge targets behind a B-34 Bomber for soldiers to practice shooting at from the ground. Her plane was often in danger of being hit from the gunfire.*
11. What did Betty keep thinking about doing while she was in the Army? *How to use flying to help missionaries tell others about Jesus.*
12. How did the Lord use Betty's magazine article to guide her in what she should do? *Connected Jim Truxton and his pilot friends with her, which led to them forming the CAMF.*
13. What was Betty the first woman to fly over? *The dangerous Andes Mountains.*
14. What happened to her in the Gruman Duck bi-plane? *She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a Peru river as its engines died & it tumbled out of the sky.*
15. How did she help the little girl who was choking? *Airlifted a little girl choking to death to a hospital, 100's of miles away.*
16. What did she have to fly through to get the new mother and her baby home? *A sandstorm.*
17. What happened to Betty in Irian Jaya? *In Irian Jaya, she trekked through 35 miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and avoided fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway.*
18. How did God use Betty's love for flying to do good works? *He gave her a heart that loved Him and desired to use her love of flying to serve Him. He prepared for her all those risky flights all over the world to help the missionaries share about Jesus. She delighted to do these good works b/c she loved flying and—even more—she loved to serve God.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them? *God prepared years of good works for Betty Greene to do through her love of flying and telling people about Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
4. Are all the works God calls His people to ones that they love to do? Why or why not?
5. What gifts or loves has God given you that He might use for you to do good works for Him? How might you use them?

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

The Lord prepared for Betty Greene getting to use her skills in flying airplanes to help missionaries to share the good news of Jesus, even risking her life many times to do so.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Giver of Good Talents to His people to be used for His glory and their good.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that too many times we only think about how we can use the good gifts God has given us to use for our own good or so that others will praise us. We need God's forgiveness! We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God giving wisdom to His people when they seek His will.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use the good talents He has given us to do good works for Him.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Betty Greene risked her life to tell? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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*

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 Greene Girl.

Our story takes in Seattle, Washington in America and in many other places around the world, back in the 1930's and 40's.

And now we present: "The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Even as a little girl, Betty Greene always loved planes and dreamed of getting to fly one. For her and her twin brother's 16th birthday, her father arranged for them to take their first ride in an airplane. Betty so enjoyed the experience that she used the money her uncle gave her for her birthday to begin flying lessons. Within a month, she was flying solo. Betty began nursing school at the urging of her parents. After two years, Betty knew she was never meant to be a nurse. She went home to work for her father and figure out what she should do. Betty visited Mrs. Bowman, to talk. She asked Betty what it is she most liked to do. Betty said flying and telling others about Jesus. Mrs. Bowman thought she should to find a way to use airplanes to do mission work. Betty was excited at this idea and asked God to show her what she should do next, if this is what He wanted her to do.

Scene 2:

Betty began 2 years of training and became a pilot in the U.S. Army in World War II. Betty tested the new B-17 Flying Fortress and pulled huge targets behind a B-34 Bomber for soldiers to practice shooting at from the ground. Her plane was often in danger of being hit from the gunfire. Betty kept thinking about how to use flying to help missionaries share the good news of Jesus. She wrote an article and sent it to a Christian magazine. Jim Truxton, a Navy pilot, read Betty's article and quickly wrote her that he and some other Christian pilot friends were interested, too. Jim & Betty met in Washington, DC to talk more about her ideas. They started up the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship.

Scene 3

Within a couple of years, Betty began flying hundreds of exciting missions all over the world. She was the first woman pilot to fly over the dangerous Andes Mountains. She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a Peru river as its engines died and it tumbled out of the sky. In Africa, she flew a new mother and baby through a terrible sandstorm and airlifted a little girl choking to death to a hospital, 100's of miles away. In Irian Jaya, she trekked through 35 miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and avoided fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway. Betty retired after over 30 years of flying. CAM now has 84 planes, landing on over 3000 little airstrips all over the world.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** God prepared years of good works for Betty Greene to do through her love of flying and telling people about Jesus. She helped missionaries who went to live in remote places so the people there could hear the good news of Jesus for the first time.

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 Greene Girl.

Our story takes in Seattle, Washington in America and in many other places around the world, back in the 1930's and 40's.

The characters in our story today are: Betty & Bill Greene

Albert, Bill and Betty Greene and their uncle; soldiers; Mrs. Bowman; Jim Truxton; a new mother and her baby; a young girl; and, two tribes of people at war.

And now we present: "The Case of the Greene Girl's Dream."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Even as a little girl, Betty Greene always loved planes and dreamed of getting to fly one. For her and her twin brother's 16th birthday, her father arranged for them to take their first ride in an airplane. Betty so enjoyed the experience that she used the money her uncle gave her for her birthday to begin flying lessons. Within a month, she was flying solo. Betty began nursing school at the urging of her parents. After two years, Betty knew she was never meant to be a nurse. She went home to work for her father and figure out what she should do. Betty visited Mrs. Bowman, to talk. She asked Betty what it is she most liked to do. Betty said flying and telling others about Jesus. Mrs. Bowman thought she should find a way to use airplanes to do mission work. Betty was excited at this idea and asked God to show her what she should do next, if this is what He wanted her to do.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Betty began 2 years of training and became a pilot in the U.S. Army in World War II. Betty tested the new B-17 Flying Fortress and pulled huge targets behind a B-34 Bomber for soldiers to practice shooting at from the ground. Her plane was often in danger of being hit from the gunfire. Betty kept thinking about how to use flying to help missionaries share the good news of Jesus. She wrote an article and sent it to a Christian magazine. Jim Truxton, a Navy pilot, read Betty's article and quickly wrote her that he and some other Christian pilot friends were interested, too. Jim & Betty met in Washington, DC to talk more about her ideas. They started up the Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship.

Scene 3: (End)

Within a couple of years, Betty began flying hundreds of exciting missions all over the world. She was the first woman pilot to fly over the dangerous Andes Mountains. She had to crash land a huge Grumman Duck bi-plane on a Peru river as its engines died and it tumbled out of the sky. In Africa, she flew a new mother and baby through a terrible sandstorm and airlifted a little girl choking to death to a hospital, 100's of miles away. In Irian Jaya, she trekked through 35 miles of rugged mountains, crossed huge chasms on vine bridges, and avoided fierce, warring tribes to inspect a new runway. Betty retired after over 30 years of flying. CAM now has 84 planes, landing on over 3000 little airstrips all over the world.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** God prepared years of good works for Betty Greene to do through her love of flying and telling people about Jesus. She helped missionaries who went to live in remote places so the people there could hear the good news of Jesus for the first time.

A Mother and Newborn Baby in Betty Greene's Airplane

Description

Children will make and decorate Betty Greene's little airplane out of card stock.

Materials

White Card stock

Markers or colored pencils, stickers, glitter glue, etc

Natural colored craft sand (or fine play sand)

Glue sticks

Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Make 1 copy onto card stock of each template per craft, cutting out the shapes for the youngest children. You may also want to cut the slit in the body of the plane, too, at this point.
2. Set out decorating supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children decorate the pieces of the plane, Betty Greene, the mother and the baby.
3. Glue Betty Greene, the mother and baby in place in the cockpit area of each side of the plane.
4. Assemble the plane.
5. Add a light dusting of sand over decorations by making a sticky glue layer then sprinkling sand on it

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 the mother and newborn baby who were rescued in our story?

In Africa.

2. Who rescued the mother and the baby?

Betty Greene in her airplane.

3. What made the flight so difficult and dangerous?

The terrible sandstorm.

4. What is Bible Truth 7 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

5. What does our craft have to do with the Bible Truth 7?

Betty Greene did this and many other things as some of the good works God prepared for her to do as a missionary pilot.

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

Many times God uses the skills that He gives His people to do good works He has prepared for them to do.

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 Mother and Newborn Baby in Betty Greene's Airplane.

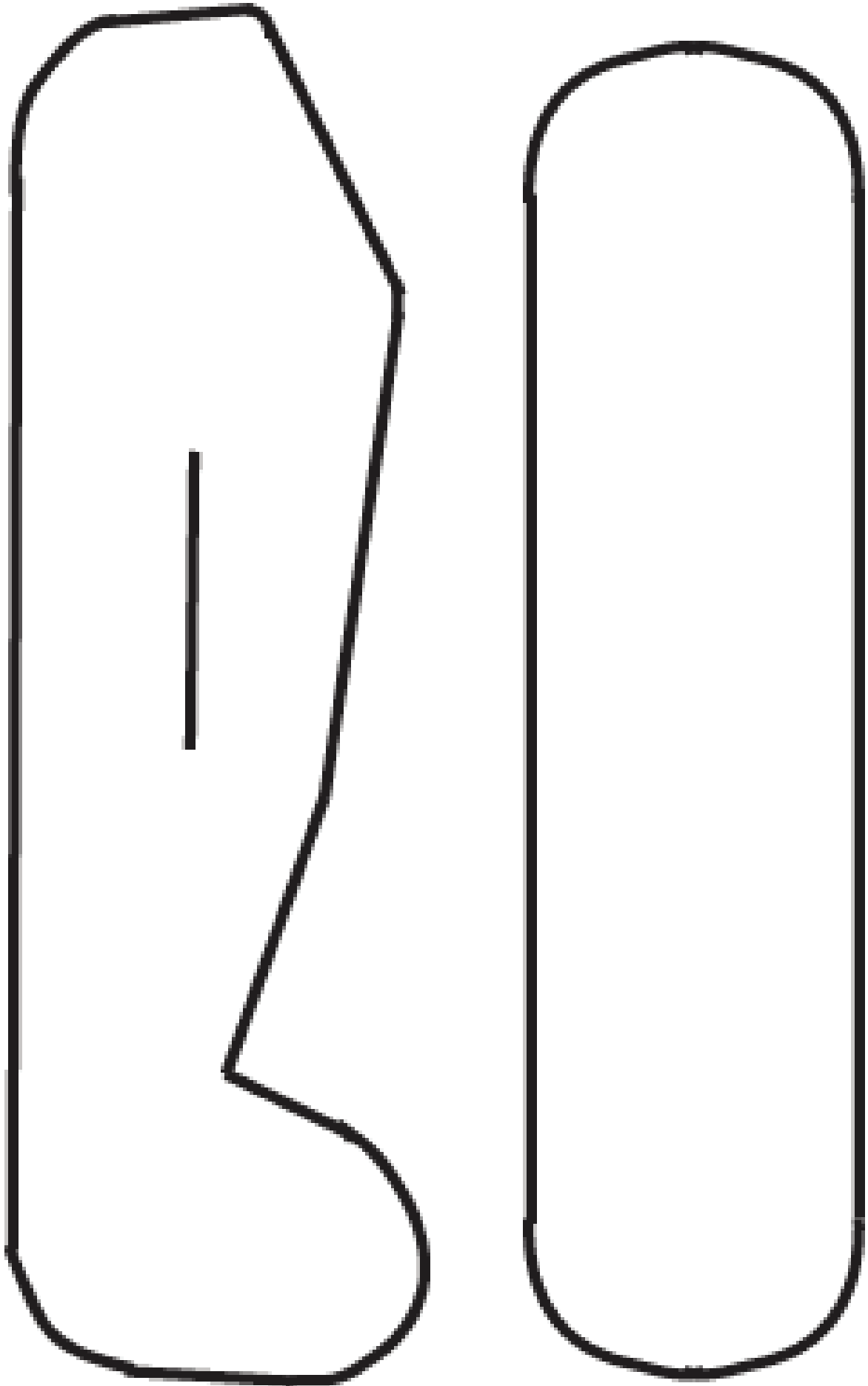
2. In Africa, Betty Greene flew a mother and her newborn baby to safety in her airplane because she was a missionary pilot.

3. Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

4. Betty Greene did this and many other things as some of the good works God prepared for her to do as a missionary pilot.

5. Our craft can help us remember that many times God uses the skills that He gives His people to do good works He has prepared for them to do.

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. They are found in 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 7, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle
Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Tabitha and Clothes She Made

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 Discussion Sheet and Game: Frisbee Toss

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 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: The Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows

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 7, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

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

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?
2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do?

This story takes place during New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

When Jesus died, Peter and the other disciples hid together in a secret room in Jerusalem, afraid for their very lives. Surely the Romans and Jews who had put Jesus to death on the cross would be soon after them!

But when Jesus rose from the dead, everything changed! Jesus appeared to His disciples and told them: "Now you are to be my witnesses. I will send the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts and give you power to do all I want you to do. Start in Jerusalem and then go into all the world, telling everyone how they can be forgiven of their sins through Me. I will give you mighty works to do in my name that the world may know that I am the Son of God who has conquered sin and death," He told them.

It wasn't long before the Holy Spirit came upon them, just as Jesus promised; and, perhaps no one was more changed than Peter when this happened. In the Temple courts in Jerusalem, over to the rolling hills of Samaria, then down to the town of Lydda, in the fertile, green plains of Sharon, Peter spread the good news of Jesus. He preached boldly to huge crowds of thousands of people. Sick people were brought to him and in the name of Jesus, they were all healed. When arrested and threatened by the Jewish leaders, Peter was no longer fearful. Now he counted it an honor to suffer for Jesus. Everywhere Peter went, many turned from their sins and believed on Jesus as their Savior. The Lord truly had prepared many mighty good works to be done through Peter, that many would be saved.

But mighty good works were not the only important good works the Lord was using to declare the greatness of Jesus' name. Only ten miles down the road from

Lydda where Peter was staying, was another equally powerful—though much quieter—witness to the great name of Jesus. There, in the town of Joppa, by the Mediterranean Sea, lived a woman who loved the Lord and served Him faithfully. Her parents named her "Tabitha", meaning "gazelle." And what a perfect name for her it was. For just like the beautiful, quick-footed animal she was named after, Tabitha was quick to selflessly, quietly serve the other believers in Joppa, just as soon as she heard of a need.

Tabitha especially loved to serve poor widows. These were women whose husbands had died, leaving them in need of food and clothes. Back in those days, women couldn't just go out and get jobs like they can today. There was no help from their government either. Many of these women were forced to rely on generosity of others or beg for their daily needs. If no one helped them, then they went hungry or cold. But the widows of Joppa had Tabitha to help them. And along with a tender heart filled with His love for these needy women, the Lord had given Tabitha skill with needle and thread. With her own money she bought cloth and with her willing, nimble hands, she made the coats and dresses they needed and gave them to them. While Peter had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, Tabitha had been busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs. How the believers in Joppa loved Tabitha for her generous, selfless service to them!

You can imagine how very sad all the believers in Joppa were when Tabitha suddenly became sick and

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.

died. "I can't believe that this is to be how Tabitha's life is to end! How many were her good works! What a wonderful servant she was to us! Now she is gone!" they exclaimed.

"It's true," someone else said. "Why, what would we have done without her selfless service? Think of all the clothes she made for our widows, as well as all the other things she did for us. She was always ready to serve!"

The believers Tabitha had served, now served her. They prepared her body for burial by washing it, as was the custom in those days; and then, they did something very surprising. Instead of burying her body as would usually happen, they took it and laid it in an upstairs room of a house. How odd? Why would they do this? Well, you see, these believers had great faith in God and they were up to something. Perhaps they were thinking they had not yet seen the last of this good friend, Tabitha after all.

"Peter is in Lydda, only ten miles away!" someone remembered. "The Lord has used him to display the mighty power of Jesus' name by healing the sick? Isn't the Jesus who heals the sick, also able to raise the dead? Perhaps the Lord might choose to display His mighty power to bring Tabitha back to life through Peter? Let's send for him!" they decided.

Two messengers went to Lydda and told Peter, and Tabitha and urged him to come quickly.

Now if you or I had been asked to hurry ten miles down the road to ask God to raise a dear friend back to life, we would have thought it was an impossible idea. But these were the early days after Jesus' resurrection. The Lord prepared special mighty works for His disciples to do in His name as signs that Jesus was indeed the risen Son of God. Peter knew that perhaps the Lord had allowed Tabitha to die for Him to raise her back to life as a great display of His name to the people of Joppa. So Peter quickly gathered his things and hurried with them to Joppa.

Peter climbed the stairs to the room where Tabitha's still body lay. As he looked down at Tabitha, the widows through sobs and tears, told him about Tabitha's many good works. "Look at these clothes, Tabitha made them for us," they exclaimed as they showed him all the things she had made for them.

"What a wonderful servant Tabitha had been!" Peter thought. While he had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, this single woman had been just as busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs.

"I would like everyone to leave the room," Peter told the believers gathered. When they had left, he knelt down and prayed to God. He knew that none of the mighty, good works he did were in his own strength. They were only the good works that God had prepared to do through him.

Tabitha would be raised from the dead, only if the Lord raised her. When he finished praying, Peter turned toward the dead woman, and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Peter watched as color returned to Tabitha's face and life returned to her body. Tabitha opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter offered her his hand and helped her to her feet.

"Come in, come in!" he called to all the Joppa believers and widows. With joy, Peter presented them with their dear friend, alive and well.

It did not take long for the news about Tabitha to spread throughout Joppa. Many new people came to believe in Jesus when they heard Tabitha's amazing story. Once more, the Lord had prepared a mighty good work for Peter as a display of the wonderful name of Jesus: powerful to heal, powerful to save.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?

The Holy Spirit changed Peter's heart and gave him boldness. Peter spoke to huge crowds about Jesus; by God's power, he healed many sick people; he joyfully suffered persecution from Jesus' enemies.

2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do? Tabitha. Her name means gazelle. Tabitha served many in her quiet way. She especially helped widows by making food and clothes for them.

Something for You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them****Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

The Lord has prepared good works for all of His people. Some might be mighty good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Peter. Others might be quiet good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Tabitha. But the important thing isn't really which kind of good works the Lord has prepared for each of His people. It's that He has specially prepared just the right good works for each of them, that they all can be used as a wonderful display of who He is.

What about you and me? Do we want to be God's people and do good works He has prepared? The first step is for us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we have done this, God will forgive our sins and make us His people. And we can know that He will have special, custom-made good works prepared for us each and every day—even today! Let's praise God for giving each of His people just the right good works to do for Him. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to give us good works to do and help us to do them.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Preparer of Mighty and Quiet Works for Your people.

C God, we confess that many times we do not want to do quiet works. Many times we like the thought of doing mighty works that others can see and think that we are a big deal.

T God, we thank You for working in Your people's hearts in such great ways that they would change from being scared to suffer and tell others about Jesus into people who boldly want to tell others about Jesus.

S God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might boldly do whatever You want us to do. Use us to do mighty or quiet good works for Your name's sake.

Special Words

Gazelle: A slender, quick-footed animal with horns, like a deer.

Disciple: Someone who learns from a teacher and follows his example. All Christians are disciples of Jesus, but disciple is also a special word that we use to talk about Jesus' first closest followers--the Twelve disciples.

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 Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Tabitha and the Clothes She Made

Using a gingerbread girl cookie cutter, cut a "Tabitha" out of bread. Cut simple cold cut clothes free hand with a knife or by using the gingerbread girl cookie cutter shape, without the head, arms, legs to symbolize the clothes she made for others; or simply spread Tabitha bread with peanut butter, jelly, butter, cream cheese, etc.

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

Case Tie-in: When Tabitha died, the widows looked at the many clothes Tabitha had made them, as some of the many good works God had given her to do and she had so faithfully done.

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 People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people to be busy at? *Work.*
2. What did God create our bodies, minds and hearts to do? *To be active, to create and to want to be at work.*
3. Did God create everyone to do the same things? *No. He created everyone with different talents and abilities.*
4. What does God want people to use all of their gifts to do? *To do good works.*
5. What are the good works that God wants us to do? *To better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.*
6. What did God plan for each of His people? When did He plan them? *Good works for them to do. He planned them in advance.*
7. What work does God have for children to do? *To obey their parents, love and serve others, learn about God and His world, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, take time to know God and His Word.*
8. What can God's people do that pleases Him? *Do well the work He has given them.*
9. Who are we also serving when we are at work? *God.*
10. What does God promise to reward? *Whatever good His people do.*
11. Can God's people do the good works God has prepared for them on their own? *No.*
12. Who helps God's people do the good works God has prepared for them to do? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Peter and Tabitha? *Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Planner of Good Works for His People.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess ways that we have been lazy or not done a good job doing the work God has given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about God and His world.

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

Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people to help them do the good works God has prepared for them to do.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, helping us to know and to do the good works He wants us to do, the best we can.

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*

2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*

3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*

4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. Even the best of our good works will not save us from our sins? Is there hope for us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What does it mean to let your hands move at the impulse of God's love? *To do things that display God's love to others.*
3. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that display God's love? *Love to God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. Love to others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; make them encouraging cards; etc.*
4. What does it mean for God to make our feet swift and beautiful for God? *Swift: To obey quickly whatever God wants us to do; Beautiful: Not have good-looking feet, but to go places and do things that show our love for God and others. In the Bible, people who are willing to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus are said to have "beautiful feet" because they bring the news of salvation—what people need most of all.*
5. What does it mean to have your voice only sing for the King? *It doesn't just mean only sing Christian songs. It means whatever you sing—or even say—it something that pleases God by how it glorifies Him or is an encouragement to others.*
6. What does silver and gold mean? *Silver and gold means money and all the things that God has given you.*
7. What is a mite and why does the songwriter not want to withhold it from the Lord? *A mite is a very small amount of something. He is saying that he wants God to use all of his money and things to do good works that honor Him and serve others.*
8. What does "ceaseless" mean? *How does one let their moments and days "flow" in ceaseless praise? Ceaseless means never to stop. The songwriter is wanting everything he does with his life to be so pleasing to God with its good works and love for Him that it is like he is always praising God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?** *When we offer our lives, our wills, our voices, our hands, our feet, etc. to God's service, we are seeking for God to help us to do all the good works He has prepared for us.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Peter and Tabitha gave their whole lives to serve the Lord. Peter served by preaching mightily, leading believers, and healing people in Jesus' name. Tabitha quietly worked to take care of poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by this song? *They can praise God for preparing good works for them that they may praise Him with all of their lives. They can ask Him to help them to use every part of their lives to do these good works as best as they can so that they might result in ceaseless praise of Him.*
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: **Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the good King over all of heaven and earth.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't want to use our lips, our hands, our feet, our silver or gold to serve Him but to serve ourselves. 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 we do not have to do these good works on our own—that would be impossible anyway! But, that we can ask God to take our lives and work in our hearts and help us to do good works of our lips, hands, feet, silver and gold to His glory.*
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. We can ask God to take our lives and make everything we do be a good work to His glory.*

Gospel Question

1. What is the best first step God calls all people to take to consecrate their lives to the Lord? Why do they need to take this step? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!

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: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does "workmanship" mean? *Something that is made by someone.*
2. Whose workmanship are Christians? *God's.*
3. What does it mean that they are "created in Christ Jesus?" *Everything is created by God, but Christians are called new creations. They've been made into God's special people, with His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. This is because they have received forgiveness for their sins by trusting in Jesus' payment for sins when He died on the cross. It is only because Jesus died in their place that they have been made God's special people. That's why they are said to be created in Christ Jesus.*
4. What were Christians created to do? *Good works which God prepared in advance for them to do.*
5. What is a good work? *Any thoughts, words, actions done that please God and love and serve others.*
6. How are Christians to serve others? *Wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, Himself.*
7. What does "wholeheartedly" mean? *With your whole heart; in other words, doing your very, very best.*
8. What will the Lord reward His people for? *Whatever good they do.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?**

These verses tell us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Peter and Tabitha? *Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*
4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? What 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.

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.

For We Are God's Workmanship

Refrain

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,
For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly,
As if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28

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 Peter and the other disciples do at first, after Jesus was crucified? *They hid together in a secret place so that they wouldn't be found by the Jews.*
2. What change came over Peter and the others after Jesus rose from the dead and the Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts? Why? *Because they could see that Jesus really was the Son of God AND because the Holy Spirit gave them the power of God to live boldly for Him.*
3. What did Peter do after the Holy Spirit came into his heart? *Preached boldly to large crowds, did mighty healings in Jesus' name; thought it was an honor to suffer for Jesus.*
4. Where did Peter go besides Jerusalem? Why? *All around the countryside; Samaria, Lydda, Joppa, etc. because that was Jesus' command to him and the others.*
5. What kind of good works did Tabitha do? *Made clothes and food for the believers that were widows.*
What did Tabitha's good works show others about God? *That He loved His people. He gave Tabitha a heart of tender care (like His) for His people who were in need, especially widows.*
6. What did the believers in Joppa do with Tabitha's body after she died? *Put it on a table in the upper room of a house.*
7. What was unusual about what the believers did with Tabitha's body? *Usually you would bury someone immediately.*
8. How did Peter find out about Tabitha? *Some believers from Joppa went to tell Peter about her and ask him to come quickly.*
9. Why didn't Peter think the two messengers were ridiculous for him to travel 10 miles to help a dead woman? *Because he knew that the Lord was doing mighty works through him in those early days of the church to be a display of the truth about Jesus. He knew that the Lord might intend to even raise Tabitha from the dead as just such a display.*
10. What did the widows do to show Peter what kind of person Tabitha had been? *The clothes she had made them.*
11. Why did Peter pray? *He knew that his mighty works were only done by God through him. It would have to be the Lord who raised Tabitha from the dead.*
12. What happened as a result of Tabitha being raised from the dead? *Many people in Joppa heard and came to believe in Jesus*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them? *Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why does God give some people great good works and others just quiet ones? *God has planned each person's good works perfectly for them and according to what He knows is best. The most important thing is not what kind of good works you are given to do, but doing whichever ones He gives you well!*
2. What kind of good works have you seen God do through His people? *Can you name some mighty ones? Some quiet ones? Mighty ones: Telling many people the good news of Jesus and seeing them become Christians; risk their lives to go to dangerous places to tell others about Jesus. Quiet ones: taking care of other believers who are sick or hungry. Sending someone an encouraging card to comfort them with God's love during a hard time; serving others in ways that few people notice; praying for others.*
3. 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: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

The Lord prepared many good works for Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. He also prepared many good works for Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.

sus.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Preparer of Mighty and Quiet Works for His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we do not want to do quiet works. Many times we like the thought of doing mighty works that others can see and think that we are a big deal.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for working in His people's hearts in such great ways that they would change from being scared to suffer and tell others about Jesus into people who boldly want to tell others 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, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit that we might boldly do whatever He wants us to do. We can ask God to use us to do mighty or quiet good works for His name sake.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Peter and Tabitha believed and shared with others? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!*

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 Peter and the Dead Gazelle.

Our story takes place mainly in Lydda and Joppa, two cities in Israel that were only about ten miles from each other. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle."

Actions:

Scene 1:

After Jesus died on the cross, Peter and the other disciples hid in fear that the Jews and the Romans would come arrest and punish them. After Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He told them to go into all the world and tell people about Him. He told them He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power they needed to obey Him. After the Holy Spirit came to live in them, Peter and the others became very bold. Peter bravely preached to large groups of people about Jesus. He was not scared when he was arrested by the Jews. By the Holy Spirit Peter did mighty good works. The paralyzed, the lame and people with other diseases were healed through him. Many people saw the great works the Lord did through Peter and became believers in Jesus. Peter preached not just in Jerusalem, but began to travel to other places so that the people there could hear about Jesus. He traveled to Samaria and to Lydda, preaching and healing in Jesus' name.

Scene 2:

While Peter was doing many great works for the Lord throughout the area, Tabitha was doing many quiet good works for believers in Joppa. She served people however she could, but was especially kind to the widows. She made them coats and clothes to wear. Tabitha got sick and died. The believers in Joppa was very sad. about Tabitha's death. After washing her body, the other believers did not bury her like usual. Instead, they lay her body in an upper room. They did not think that perhaps they had seen the last of Tabitha.

Scene 3

When they heard that Peter was only 10 miles away in Lydda, they decided to send two messengers to bring him to see Tabitha. Peter came with the two messengers. He was amazed at all the good things that Tabitha had done for others, esp. the widows. The widows showed him all the clothes she had made for them. Peter called for everyone to leave the room where Tabitha lie. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he went over to Tabitha and told her to get up. Tabitha opened her eyes and looked at Peter. Peter helped her to her feet and then called in the other believers and presented Tabitha to them. When others heard about what had happened with Tabitha, many came to believe in Jesus, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.** Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for 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 Peter and the Dead Gazelle.

Our story takes place mainly in Lydda and Joppa, two cities in Israel that were only about ten miles from each other. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story today 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 Peter and the Dead Gazelle."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

After Jesus died on the cross, Peter and the other disciples hid in fear that the Jews and the Romans would come arrest and punish them. After Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He told them to go into all the world and tell people about Him. He told them He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power they needed to obey Him. After the Holy Spirit came to live in them, Peter and the others became very bold. Peter bravely preached to large groups of people about Jesus. He was not scared when he was arrested by the Jews. By the Holy Spirit Peter did mighty good works. The paralyzed, the lame and people with other diseases were healed through him. Many people saw the great works the Lord did through Peter and became believers in Jesus. Peter preached not just in Jerusalem, but began to travel to other places so that the people there could hear about Jesus. He traveled to Samaria and to Lydda, preaching and healing in Jesus' name.

Scene 2: (Middle)

While Peter was doing many great works for the Lord throughout the area, Tabitha was doing many quiet good works for believers in Joppa. She served people however she could, but was especially kind to the widows. She made them coats and clothes to wear. Tabitha got sick and died. The believers in Joppa was very sad. about Tabitha's death. After washing her body, the other believers did not bury her like usual. Instead, they lay her body in an upper room. They did not think that perhaps they had seen the last of Tabitha.

Scene 3: (End)

When they heard that Peter was only 10 miles away in Lydda, they decided to send two messengers to bring him to see Tabitha. Peter came with the two messengers. He was amazed at all the good things that Tabitha had done for others, esp. the widows. The widows showed him all the clothes she had made for them. Peter called for everyone to leave the room where Tabitha lie. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he went over to Tabitha and told her to get up. Tabitha opened her eyes and looked at Peter. Peter helped her to her feet and then called in the other believers and presented Tabitha to them. When others heard about what had happened with Tabitha, many came to believe in Jesus, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.** Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for His people.

The Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows

Description

The children will make and decorate tunics made out of burlap and fabric pieces. Optional for older children: Decorating by sewing with yarn and blunt tapestry needles.

Materials

1 yard of 60" wide burlap per FOUR tunics
 Fabric scraps cut into various shapes about 1 ½ -2" diameter
 Craft glue
 Cereal box back or front per child
 Optional for older children: Blunt tapestry needles and yarn of various colors
 Markers or chalk
 Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. See diagram on next page. Cut out basic tunic shapes by: cutting each yard of 60" burlap into 4 15" (wide) by 36" (long) pieces.
2. Fold each piece of burlap in half along the long side (now is a double folded 15" (wide) by 18" (long) piece.
3. Fold burlap piece again, only this time along the short side (now it is a quadruple folded 7.5" wide by 18" long piece.
4. Cut a quarter circle out of the top side of the folded burlap. This makes a head opening. Unfold the tunic and it is ready to be decorated on the front and back. (Sides will be left open and child will slip tunic over head through head hole.)
5. Cut fabric scraps into pieces and set out along with craft glue.
6. If also sewing, thread the tapestry needles with a 1 yard length of yarn, doubled up and knotted at the end.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. If the children are decorating by sewing as well as fabric scraps, have them sew first. You can show children a basic stitch made by an over and under pattern. If desired, have the children sketch out a SIMPLE pattern to sew with markers or chalk before beginning to sew.
3. Then let the children glue fabric scraps in place, making various patchwork designs. Have the children put their piece of cereal box in the middle of their tunic before gluing. This will keep the back and front from sticking together as the glue dries.
4. If desired, the children can also fringe the edges of their burlap tunic by pulling out the horizontal thread. It is easy, fun, looks good and is often addictive!

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 Tabitha die?

In Joppa.

2. What did the widows show Peter ?

The clothes Tabitha made them.

3. What did Peter do after seeing all the clothes Tabitha made for the widows?

By God's power, he asked her to get up from the dead and she did!

4. What is Bible Truth 7 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

5. What does our craft--the clothes Tabitha made the widows--have to do with our Bible Truth?

Tabitha was known in Joppa for the many quiet good works that she had done among the poor widows as part of the good works that God had prepared in advance for her to do.

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

All the good works God plans for His people are important, even if they are quiet ones that few people see.

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 Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows.

2. In Joppa, many widows showed Peter the clothes Tabitha had made them because they were too poor to buy or make their own clothes.

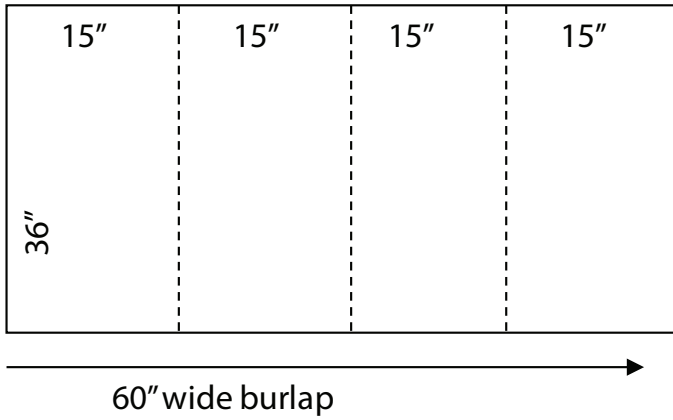
3. Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

4. Tabitha was known in Joppa for the many quiet good works that she had done among the poor widows as part of the good works that God had prepared in advance for her to do.

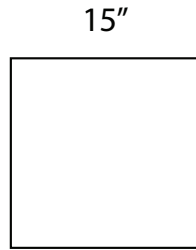
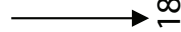
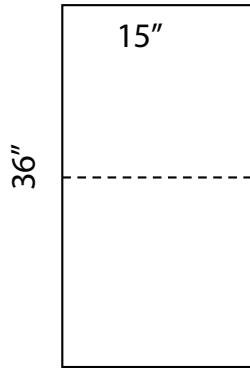
5. Our craft can help us remember that all the good works God plans for His people are important, even if they are quiet ones that few people see.

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.

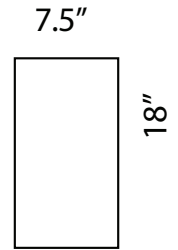
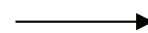
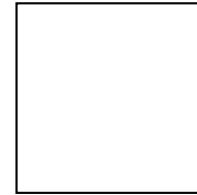
1. Cut each yard into four pieces



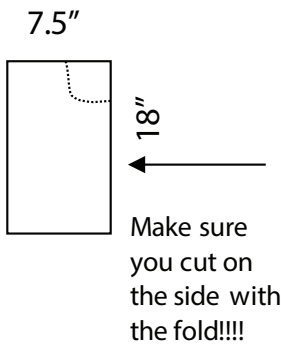
2. Fold each piece first across the middle of long side



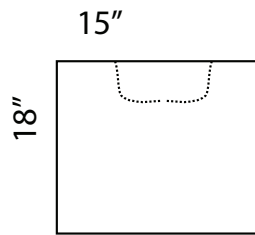
3. Then fold each piece across the middle of short side



4. Cut a quarter circle out of the top corner of the folded side.



4. Open it back up and you have a tunic with a neck hole and open sides



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. They are found in 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

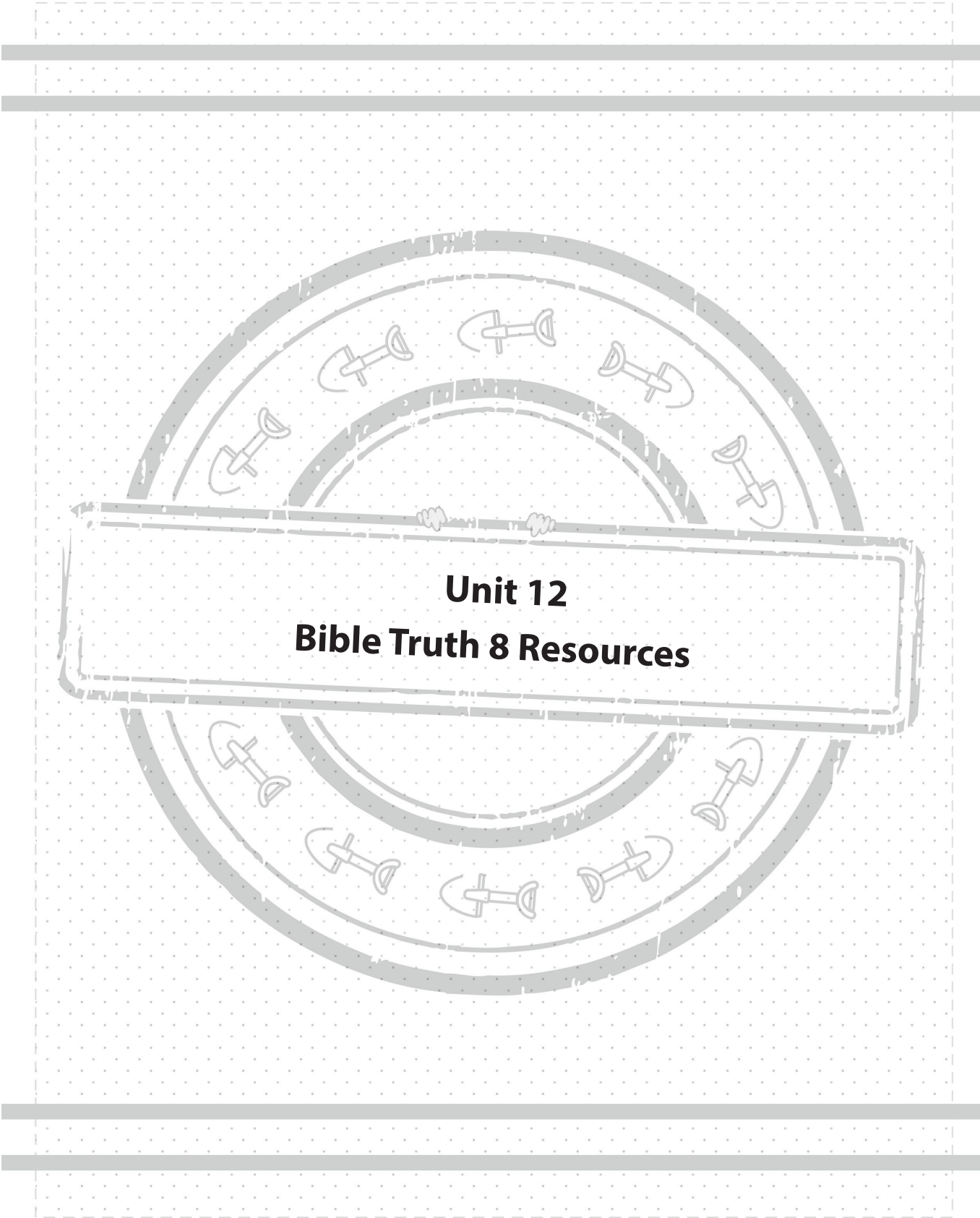
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**



Unit 12
Bible Truth 8 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 8 OVERVIEW

Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Big Question and Answer: "How Should God's People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!"

Bible Verse: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

Bible Truth 8 Concept: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:11,15-16

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:11

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Bible Truth 8 ACTS Prayer

- A** Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
- C** Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.
Confess that we don't love or follow His Word as we should. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!
- T** Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who helps us understand it and uses it to change us.
- S** Ask God to use His Word to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

Bible Truth 8 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Missing Words (Old Testament)

Deuteronomy 6,9,31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10

Lesson 2: The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers (New Testament)

Psalm 119:11,15-16

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 12, 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 12, 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

<p>Opening Prayer</p>	<p>"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></p>
<p>Big Question Under Investigation:</p> <p>Big Question 12 and Songs</p>	<p>"Now it's time to turn today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Should God's People Live?</p> <p>We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the end of the punishment for our sins that we deserved from God, but it's the beginning of a whole new way to live. God's people want to honor God with their whole lives like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Should God's People Live? is: They Should Live Like Jesus!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 12 Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")</i> How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>How Should God's People Live? <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 4</i></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How should God's people live? How should God's people live? How should God's people live? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p><i>Verse 1:</i> Jesus loved God most of all, He loved all people, too, In all that He did and said and thought, He loved them thru and thru. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p><i>Verse 2:</i> God's people should love God most of all, They should love others, too, And God the Holy Spirit, Will help them in all they do. <i>(Refrain)</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 12
Bible Verse**

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

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

**Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song
Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:1-2**

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
Let Everyone Who
Names the Name
2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us.
Ephesians Five, one and two.

God's people have been loved by God through Jesus Christ in the deepest way imaginable. What more could He have done than to offer up His life as the full payment for their sins so they could be God's people. The Bible tells us that He did this even while we were still His enemies. He loved us before we loved Him! But Jesus did this not just because of His love for God's people, but even more so, for His love for God, His Father. He always delighted to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do. God calls His people to live like Jesus, loving others and loving Him, in everything they do. God promises to help them to live this way.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 8**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FOURTEEN** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God's people live. We have learned some already. Can you remember any of them? (God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus; God's People Love Him with All of Themselves; God's People Love Others; God's People Trust Him; God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts; God's People Obey Him; and, God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.)

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

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong."

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

Bible Truth 8 Hymn	<p>“Long ago, a man named John Sammis was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to a hymn called “Trust and Obey.” We’re going to learn a verse from it.</p>
	<p>Trust and Obey <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29</i></p>
	<p>Verse 1</p>
	<p>When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word What a glory He sheds on our way! Let us do His good will; He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.</p>
	<p>Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.</p>
	<p>God’s people read the Bible so that they can “walk in the light of His Word”, living their life in loving obedience to Him. There are times when they may not understand completely why they should obey what God’s Word says, but they have known God long enough to trust Him, even when they don’t understand. They know that He is perfectly wise and good. He loves them and knows what is best. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way; and, that this is the happiest way to live.</p>
Bible Truth 8 Bible Verse and Song	<p>“The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:</p>
	<p>Psalms 119:11,15-16</p>
	<p>“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”</p>
	<p>These verses remind us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. It is full of God’s precepts and statutes (His good laws). It tells of His ways (what God is like). They meditate on God’s Word ((think about); and, even hide it in their hearts (memorize it) so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him more than anything else in life.</p>
	<p>We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!</p>
	<p>I Have Stored Up Your Word <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30</i></p>
	<p>Refrain: I have stored up your word in my heart, That I might not sin against you, I have hidden your word in my heart, That I might not sin against you.</p>
	<p>I’ll meditate on your precepts, And fix my eyes on your ways. I’ll delight in your statutes, I will not forget your word. <i>Refrain</i></p>
	<p>Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.</p>

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Missing Words**

Deuteronomy
6,9,31; Ezra;
Nehemiah 8-10

Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of the Missing Words.

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

- 1. What were the missing words? Why did they go missing?**
- 2. Why was it so important that these words be found?**

(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 were the missing words? Why did they go missing? God's Word. The Israelites chose to ignore and forget them. They didn't teach them to their children.

2. Why was it so important that these words be found? The Israelites needed God's Word to know who God is and how He wanted them to live. They needed to know God's Word if they were to be His people.

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

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers**

Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of the Sly Soap Makers.

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

- 1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?**
- 2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?**

(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 soap makers and why were they sly?

They were missionaries who had come to bring God's Word to the people of Madagascar that they might believe the good news of Jesus and be saved. They were sly because they were only making the soap so the queen wouldn't kick them out of the country and destroy the Bible they were printing.

2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

They were translating the Bible into Malagasy so the people of Madagascar could have it to read in their own language. This was so important because only the Bible is God's Word. And, it would mean the people could continue to learn about God even when the queen got rid of the missionaries.

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

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers**

Acts 17; 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Now it's time for today's story called: The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers.

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

- 1. Who were the Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?**
- 2. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?**

*(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 Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?**

Paul, Silas and Timothy were the Synagogue Stalkers. Their message was the good news of salvation through Jesus.

- 2. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?** The synagogues were usually the only place in a city where the Bible was read and explained. God would use His Word to give faith to those the good news of Jesus, as proclaimed in the Bible.

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 8, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*

Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 8: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

Bible Verse Song: I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Missing Words Deuteronomy 6,9,31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Feasty Fig Cakes and Fizzy Fruit of the Vine

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Rush to Safety

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV Discussion Sheet and Game: Memory Verse Limbo

Bible Verse Song: I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 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: Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

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 8, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Missing Words Deuteronomy 6,9,31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10

by Connie Dever

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

1. What were the missing words? Why did they go missing?
2. Why was it so important that these words be found?

This story takes place over many years in Old Testament times, in the years before Jesus came to live on earth.

For forty years Moses had led the Israelites through the wilderness, waiting to enter Canaan, the land the LORD had promised them. Now at last the time had come! At the LORD's command, Moses was handing the Israelites into Joshua's care. Moses was going to be with the LORD forever. But before he did, Moses gathered the Israelites together to speak the LORD's words to them one last time.

"Never forget the words I've given you to live by," the LORD urged the Israelites through Moses. "Teach them to your children, too, so they will know and obey them, too," He told them. "Don't follow other gods. Remember my commands and worship only Me. If you do, I will bless you and take care of you. If you don't, then I will discipline you by destroying Jerusalem and taking away from you all the beautiful land I have given you. Crash, bang, boom! It will all be in ruins. You will be taken away from it and will be the prisoners of people from another country for a long, long time--until at last your hearts turn back to obey and worship Me," the LORD warned them through Moses. "You are my treasured people whom I love. As a father disciplines the child he loves, so I will discipline you."

To the leaders the LORD gave special instructions about the big scroll of His words that Moses had written down for them: "Take good care of this copy of My word. Keep them right next to the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle.. Teach the people how to make the offerings to Me to stay in fellowship with Me. Teach them to hold the special celebrations to Me," the LORD told them.

"Teach the people all My words so that might know and obey Me. Every seven years, gather all the people. Have them make tabernacles for their families--tents

made out of branches and leaves. Have they all camp out together, like you used to do when you wandered in the wilderness for forty years. When all the children, the parents and even the foreigners (people from other countries) are all settled in their tabernacles, I want you to read this whole, big scroll of my words to them, even though it will take days to read the whole thing. It will never be enough for My people to have the beautiful land I am giving them or a place to make sacrifices and hold celebrations to Me. They must know My words, if they are to obey and worship Me."

Sometimes the Israelites obeyed and worshiped the LORD. How richly He blessed them when they did, just as He had promised!! He gave them bountiful crops of figs and olives, pomegranates, wheat and barley. Lots of sheep and goats, lots of children and happiness. He gave them victory over all their enemies. He gave them good kings, like David and Solomon, to lead them and to build Jerusalem. Jerusalem became a splendid, mighty, walled city. It was the home of the palace of the king and the magnificent Temple to the LORD—the center of all worship to the Lord and the resting place of the very Ark of the Covenant itself. How they loved Jerusalem—the city of the kings, the city of the LORD! Oh, how good things were when the kings and the people remembered the LORD and obeyed His words!

But all too often, the Israelites forgot God's words and they didn't teach them to their children, either. They turned away and worshiped other gods instead.

Even the leaders forgot the LORD. They didn't remind the people to hold celebrations to the LORD or offer worship sacrifices to Him. They even set up idols in the Temple and worshiped them instead. Worst of all, they

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.

didn't gather the people together to camp in tents and read His words aloud to them. Instead, they put the big scroll of His words away until finally almost everyone forgot about it.

The Israelites may have forgotten the LORD, but the LORD did not forget about them. They were His treasured people. He would discipline them like a good father disciplines His children, just as He had promised. Crash, Bang, Boom. Everything in the beautiful land the LORD gave His people was about to come down.

Far to the north and east a powerful people led by fierce, warrior kings had arisen. The LORD would use them to discipline His people. The kings eyed the land of Israel with interest. They told the Israelites to obey them; and, when the Israelites refused to, they sent their warriors in to attack.

Crash! Boom! Bang! Down went the walls of Jerusalem, the Temple and all the people's houses. Then the soldiers grabbed all the golden treasures of the Temple and many of the people, carrying them back to their capital city, Babylon and forced them to be their slaves.

At last in Babylon, the hearts of the Israelites began to soften: "How we miss the beautiful land the LORD gave us!" they cried. "How we miss Jerusalem and the Temple! We have sinned against the LORD! Didn't He warn us that this would happen to us, if we didn't obey Him and His words? We deserve this punishment and more," the people sadly admitted. "We have broken our solemn covenant promise with Him. We don't deserve to be rescued by Him. Yet, perhaps He will have mercy on us if we confess our sins and return to Him. Perhaps He will free us from slavery and bring us back home," they hoped.

The Israelites were right to hope. The LORD had promised to rescue them after 70 years in slavery and so He did. On the last day of the seventh year, the LORD worked in King Cyrus' heart to send the Israelites back home to rebuild Jerusalem.

Crash, bang, boom! What had once been the sound of destruction now is the sound of construction. First, the Temple and the houses were rebuilt. Then eighty years later, the mighty walls of Jerusalem rose high once more. How happy the Israelites were to be living

back in their beautiful land with their newly-built houses and plentiful crops! How wonderful it was to enjoy the Temple and to see Jerusalem's strong walls in place again!

Yet something was very wrong. Something was missing that they needed more than their land, houses, and fields. Something they needed more than the Temple and great walled city, "We need the word of the LORD!" they realized. "It will never be enough to just have our beautiful land and our beautiful Temple. How will we ever obey and worship the Lord if we do not know His Word?" they exclaimed. "Get Ezra the scribe. He has the book of the Words of the LORD. He must read them to us!"

Crash, bang, boom. Men cut down trees and built a high, wooden platform in the big, open square near the Jerusalem's Water Gate. When all was finished, Ezra and thirteen other readers climbed up the tall platform and stood before all the thousands of Israelites gathered below. When Ezra picked up God's Word and opened it, the whole, great crowd rose to their feet out of honor. "Praise the LORD, the great God!" Ezra exclaimed.

"Amen! Amen!" the people shouted back, and they all bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Then the people stood back up and listened as Ezra and the other readers took turns reading from the Word of God, They read it from start to finish, reading a section, then explaining it, so that everyone would understand what was read.

As the Israelites listened to God's Word, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. One person after another began weeping as they all came to realized how they had sinned against the LORD."

"Don't weep! This is a good day, one holy to the LORD!" Ezra told them. "You are wanting to please Him by hearing His Word and wanting to obey it. Go now, celebrate with rich food and sweet drinks and make sure to share with others who cannot provide for themselves. The joy of the LORD is your strength!"

Then all the people went away to eat and drink to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Ezra and the leaders of the people read on in God's

Word to find out what they should do next.

“Every seven years have all the people gather together and camp out in tabernacles of branches and leaves and listen to all of the words of the LORD. This is how they will know how to obey and worship Him,” they read in the Bible.

“This is what we must do,” the leaders exclaimed. “The people must go out and get branches to make their tabernacles, like in the old days then listen to all of God’s Word.

Crash, bang, boom. Out into the countryside the people went, gathering olive branches and leaves and dragging them back into the city. In streets, on the tops of houses, in the courts of the Temple, itself, all of the people built their tabernacles. Every day the people gathered to hear God’s Word; and every day, the LORD worked in their hearts. “Forgive us for sinning against You, O LORD,” the people prayed. “We want to serve You alone. Bless Your people, once more,” they prayed. And the LORD did just that!

Cracking the Case:

It’s time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. What were the missing words? Why did they go missing? God’s Word. The Israelites chose to ignore and forget them. They didn’t teach them to their children.

2. Why was it so important that these words be found? The Israelites needed God’s Word to know who God is and how He wanted them to live. They needed to know God’s Word if they were to be His people.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God’s People Read His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”

That was a great day that was when the Israelites repented of their sins and turned back to worshipping the LORD! At last the Israelites treasured the words of God as they always should have! They knew that it was

only His words that could show them how to live for Him and help them live them out. They hungered to know His Words and obey them.

What about you and me? Are we bored with God’s Word or try to ignore it like the Israelites did before they were slaves in Babylon? Or, are we hungry to know what it says so that we can please the Lord, like the Israelites who stood listening to the Word of God for long hours?

I’m afraid that too many times our hearts are as hard and bored with God’s Word as the Israelites had been. Yet God offers to forgive us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Let’s praise God for giving us His Word so that we can know, worship and obey Him. And let’s ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to give us a hunger and thirst to know His Word and a desire to obey it.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Word and the Keeper of All Your Promises.

C God, we confess that even though we have Your Word that we are often like the Israelites were: we do not read it like we should or could. Our love for You and for Your Word is often cold.

T God, we thank You for being so good to Your people! Even though they do not love you or your word as they should, you are patient with them and even discipline them so that they will turn and seek after You. Thank you for being faithful to Your promises even when they are so unfaithful to You!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to read, understand, love and obey You and Your wonderful Word, the Bible.

Special Words

Tabernacles: Tents made of wooden poles, leaves and branches that the Israelites slept in during the Feast of the Tabernacles, one of the special celebrations the LORD commanded them to hold each year. (Not to be confused with Tabernacle, the special worship tent of the LORD, used before the Temple was built.)

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:

Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things. Confess that we don't love or follow His Word as we should. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who helps us understand it and uses it to change us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to use His Word to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Feasty Fig Cakes and Fizzy Fruit of the Vine

Serve fig cookies (such as Fig Newtons) for fig cakes and white grape juice with sugar-free lemon lime soda for "wine."

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

Case Tie-in: Fig Cakes and wine would have been two celebration foods like what the Israelites would have enjoyed after hearing God's Word the first time after the exile.

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 People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God's Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God's Words different from our words? *They don't just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God's people when they read the Bible? How? *The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God's Word? What else should we do? *We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God's people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What happened when the Israelites didn't read God's Word? *They disobeyed God and turned to worship other idols. Many sad things happened to them because of their disobedience. Finally God had to punish them severely by taking them away from their land.*
2. What happened when the Israelites turned back to hear God's Word? *They wept over their sinfulness, confessed their sins and God forgave them. He restored them to their land once more.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.

Life Application Questions

1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*

2. What difference will it make if God's people read and memorize God's Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God's way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*

Gospel Question

1. We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? *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. and they. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. 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.

Trust and Obey

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will;
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner Public Domain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn't mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God's good will is? *God's good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible?**

God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Israelites were all too quick to NOT walk in the light of God's Word. They chose to worship idols and disobey His good laws. Only after being severely disciplined did they finally turn to Him and cry out to know His Word once more that they might live lives that glorify Him by their obedience.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.

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

That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!

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

We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).

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

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

Gospel Question

1. Each of us needs to trust and obey God, but we are sinners. What hope is there for us? What is this amazing good news of God's 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'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.

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 119:11, 15-16

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:11

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose word is this verse talking about? *God's Word.*
2. What does it mean to store up God's Word in our hearts? *It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.*
3. What good is it to memorize God's Word? *It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.*
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? *It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.*
5. What is a precept? *A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.*
6. What are God's precepts and where can we find them? *Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.*
7. What does it mean to meditate on God's precepts? *To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.*
8. What does it mean to "fix our eyes on God's ways"? *To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.*
9. What are God's decrees and how do we delight in them? *God's decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.*
10. What does it mean to not forget God's Word? *Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible?** *This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to forget it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *The LORD called the Israelites to meditate on His Word and hide it in their hearts that they might not sin against Him. He called them to hear it regularly and not neglect it so that they might live as He wanted them to live and receive His blessings.*
2. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to forget God's Word? *Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God's.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? *Because it is not just anyone's words. It is God's Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.*
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose not to delight in God's Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

The Gospel

1. This verse encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God's Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely... and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God's Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, 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 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. H

Preparing the Game

1. Choose Meditation or Alternate version of the verse to use.
2. 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.
3. 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, discuss 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.

If you do this closing activity, make sure you read the verse to the class before asking the 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.

I Have Stored Up Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

Refrain:

I have stored up your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

I'll meditate on your precepts,
And fix my eyes on your ways.
I'll delight in your statutes,
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30

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 the Lord tell the people they would need to remember for things to go well for them in the beautiful land He was giving them? *To know and obey His Word.*
2. Who were they supposed to make sure to teach? Why? *Their children. If they did not teach their children the Words of God, then they would not know how to obey Him. They would see what all the other peoples were doing and would follow their gods instead.*
3. What were the Israelites supposed to do every seven years? Why do you think they were supposed to stay in tabernacles? *Hear all of the Words of God read. All of them were supposed to gather in one place, but there was no city big enough for all the people. It would take many days to read all the Word of God, they would need places to stay. Perhaps staying outside like the Israelites had done in the Wilderness was a helpful reminder of all the Lord had done for them in the past.*
4. How did God bless the Israelites when they obeyed Him? *He gave them lots of good crops, children, protection from enemies, good Kings, Jerusalem, the Temple.*
5. Why did the Lord allow the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem? *Because the people kept forgetting God's Word and disobeyed God.*
6. What did the Israelites do that was especially terrible? *They worshiped other gods, even offering sacrifices to them in the Lord's Temple. They put the Word of God away and did not read it. For awhile it was completely lost and forgotten.*
7. How was the Lord's punishment for the Israelites kind? *He did it to soften their hearts so they would turn back to Him. They deserved to be forever cut off from His because of breaking their covenant with Him, but He punished them for only 70 years.*
8. What did the Israelites realize when they were in Babylon? *How they had turned away from the Lord and His good Words. How they deserved His punishment.*
9. What did the Israelites re-build when they went home? *Their houses, the Temple, and the walls of Jerusalem.*
10. What did the Israelites realize they needed more than their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem? *The Word of God.*
11. Who did they ask to read them God's Word and what did they do to prepare for him to read it? *Ezra the scribe. Built a huge platform for him to stand on and read.*
12. How long did Ezra read the Word of God? About how many hours do you think that was? *From dawn until noon—about six hours.*
13. Why did the people cry when they heard God's Word? *They realized their sins against Him.*
14. Why did Ezra tell them to celebrate instead of cry? *Because the Lord had shown them their sins through His Word and they wanted to obey Him. That made the day holy to the Lord.*
15. What did the people do to show their sorrow for their sins when the entire law was read? *Sackcloth, ashes, confession and worship.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible? *After many years of forgetting God's Word and disobeying the Lord, the Israelites gladly received His Words, confessed their sins and turned to obey Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why should we read the Word of God? *To know more about Him so we can love Him and obey Him more.*
2. How is it easier for us to know God's Word than it was for the Israelites? *We have our own Bibles at home.*
3. What does God's Word call all sinners to do as the best and necessary first step in knowing and obeying God? *To turn away from 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: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

The LORD called the Israelites to meditate on His Word and hide it in their hearts that they might not sin against Him. He called them to hear it regularly and not neglect it so that they might live as He wanted them to live and receive His blessings.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being so merciful to sinful people.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that like the Israelites, we are all sinners who deserve God's punishment. We do not love God or His Word as we should. We all need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for giving us His Word that we can know Him, obey Him and know the way to be saved.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us a love for His Word and help us to remember it and obey it.*

The Gospel

1. When Ezra read God's Word to the Israelites they heard about who God is, how all people have rebelled against Him and of His promises to send a Savior to save them. Who is the Savior that was to come? Why did He need to come? What did He do? 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?"

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

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 Missing Words.

Our story starts out in Jerusalem, in Israel, and in the country of Babylon. It takes over many years in Old Testament times, long before Jesus came to live on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Missing Words."

Scene 1:

Moses gathered all the Israelites together to speak the Lord's words to them one more time before they entered the Promised Land and he died. He urged them to never forget the Lord's words and to teach them to their children, too. Every seven years they were to camp in tabernacles and listen to all of God's Word read to them. This would help them remember to obey Him. How He would bless them and care for them always if they would keep obeying Him! But, if they forgot His Words and disobeyed Him, He would discipline them by destroying Jerusalem, their land, and sending them to be captives for 70 years. Sometimes the Israelites remembered His words and the Lord blessed them. He gave them good crops, lots of children, protection for enemies, great kings, and Jerusalem with the beautiful Temple. Usually, they forgot His words. They worshiped other gods, even in the Temple. They put away His words and didn't read them.

Actions:

Scene 2:

The Lord gave the Israelites many warnings to turn back and obey His word, but they didn't listen. Finally, He disciplined them as He had promised He would. The Babylonian soldiers came and took all the treasures out of the Temple. Then they destroyed it and the rest of Jerusalem. Even its walls came tumbling down. They took the people back to Babylon to be their slaves. In Babylon, the Israelites began to be sorry for their disobedience. They cried out to the Lord and hoped He would deliver them, though they didn't deserve it. He promised He would, at the end of seventy years.

Scene 3

Sure enough, the Israelites were freed at the end of the seventy years. They went back and re-built their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. But it wasn't enough to have Jerusalem and the Temple re-built, they realized they needed God's Word, too. They built a huge platform and asked Ezra the scribe to gather all the people and read them the words of God. Ezra and the people praised the Lord and then he read to them from dawn to noon, starting at the beginning with Genesis 1:1. The people wept when they heard God's Word because they now knew they had sinned against the Lord. Ezra and the other readers comforted the people. They told them to stop crying but to celebrate that they had heard God's Word. Everyone went home and celebrated. Ezra and the leaders read more of the Word to find out what next they should do. They read God's command to have the people build tabernacles and read all of His Word to them and decided that's what they should do. The people went out and got wood and leaves to build tabernacles. They stayed in them and listened to the whole Word of God. They repented of their sins by wearing sackcloth and ashes and by confessing their sins to the Lord and worshiping Him. And the Lord forgave the people their sins.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** After many years of forgetting God's Word and disobeying the Lord, the Israelites gladly received His Words, confessed their sins and turned to obey 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 Missing Words.

Our story starts out in Jerusalem, in Israel, and in the country of Babylon. It takes over many years in Old Testament times, many years before Jesus came to live on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Moses; the men, women and children of Israel; Joshua; soldiers and other people of Babylon; Ezra and the other readers of God's Word.

And now we present: "The Case of the Missing Words."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Moses gathered all the Israelites together to speak the Lord's words to them one more time before they entered the Promised Land and he died. He urged them to never forget the Lord's words and to teach them to their children, too. Every seven years they were to camp in tabernacles and listen to all of God's Word read to them. This would help them remember to obey Him. How He would bless them and care for them always if they would keep obeying Him! But, if they forgot His Words and disobeyed Him, He would discipline them by destroying Jerusalem, their land, and sending them to be captives for 70 years. Sometimes the Israelites remembered His words and the Lord blessed them. He gave them good crops, lots of children, protection for enemies, great kings, and Jerusalem with the beautiful Temple. Usually, they forgot His words. They worshiped other gods, even in the Temple. They put away His words and didn't read them.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The Lord gave the Israelites many warnings to turn back and obey His word, but they didn't listen. Finally, He disciplined them as He had promised He would. The Babylonian soldiers came and took all the treasures out of the Temple. Then they destroyed it and the rest of Jerusalem. Even its walls came tumbling down. They took the people back to Babylon to be their slaves. In Babylon, the Israelites began to be sorry for their disobedience. They cried out to the Lord and hoped He would deliver them, though they didn't deserve it. He promised He would, at the end of seventy years.

Scene 3: (End)

Sure enough, the Israelites were freed at the end of the seventy years. They went back and re-built their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. But it wasn't enough to have Jerusalem and the Temple re-built, they realized they needed God's Word, too. They built a huge platform and asked Ezra the scribe to gather all the people and read them the words of God. Ezra and the people praised the Lord and then he read to them from dawn to noon, starting at the beginning with Genesis 1:1. The people wept when they heard God's Word because they now knew they had sinned against the Lord. Ezra and the other readers comforted the people. They told them to stop crying but to celebrate that they had heard God's Word. Everyone went home and celebrated. Ezra and the leaders read more of the Word to find out what next they should do. They read God's command to have the people build tabernacles and read all of His Word to them and decided that's what they should do. The people went out and got wood and leaves to build tabernacles. They stayed in them and listened to the whole Word of God. They repented of their sins by wearing sackcloth and ashes and by confessing their sins to the Lord and worshiping Him. And the Lord forgave the people their sins.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** After many years of forgetting God's Word and disobeying the Lord, the Israelites gladly received His Words, confessed their sins and turned to obey Him.

Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

Description

The children will make a little tabernacle out of salt dough, popsicle sticks, and small twigs with leaves.

Materials

Salt

Flour

Water

Cereal box tops or poster board

28 popsicle sticks per craft

Small Twigs with leaves

If desired, 4 Teddy Graham bears (or similar figure) to be used for people

Preparing the Craft

1. Mix up salt, flour, oil and water using salt dough recipe below. You will need about 1/2 to 3/4 cup of salt dough per child.
2. Cut cereal box/poster board into 4" x 3" pieces, one needed per craft. This will be the base for the tabernacle.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

Recipe for the Salt Dough

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 cup water

Mix ingredients together and knead until it reaches an even consistency. Store in an airtight container until ready to use.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children flatten their salt dough onto the top of the cereal box base until it covers it completely.
3. Have the children stick the popsicle sticks in the salt dough around the edges so that they stand up. This makes the walls of the tabernacle.
4. Have the children place the teddy grahams in the middle of the salt dough, either standing up or laying down. (The Israelites were supposed to look up through the roof of their tabernacles and see the stars.)
5. Have the children lay twig pieces on top of the popsicle sticks, leaving gaps (in which to look up through the branches and see the stars. This was very important!)

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 the Israelites listen to the Word of God read to them?

Just outside the Promised Land and in Jerusalem.

2. Who read the Word of God to the Israelites?

Ezra and some other readers.

3. Why did the Israelites camp out in tabernacles when they had houses to live in?

Because God's Word told them to do this.

4. What is Bible Truth 8 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

5. What do the tabernacles made of wood and branches have to do with the Bible Truth 8?

Long ago, at the time of this story, people didn't have their own Bibles to read. God commanded the people to gather together every seven years to hear His Word read to them and explained to them. This was one way He provided for them to know all His Word that they might know and obey Him.

6. What can God help us remember through this craft of Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches?

God wants us all to regularly listen to His Word to help us know and obey Him better.

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 Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches.

2. In Jerusalem, the Israelites camped out in Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches So they could listen to the whole Word of God read to them and explained.

3. Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

4. Long ago, at the time of this story, people didn't have their own Bibles to read. God commanded the people to gather together every seven years to camp out in tabernacles and to hear His Word read to them and explained to them. This was one way He provided for them to know all His Word that they might know and obey Him.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us all to regularly listen to His Word to help us know and obey Him better.

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. They are found in 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: 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 8, 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 ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 8: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

Bible Verse Song: I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Printing Press Alphabet Soup

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circus Lions

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:11,15-16 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Bible Verse Song: Hear, I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Shoe Search and 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: Pages from Their Bibles in Rice Pits

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 8, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?
2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about some of God's people who worked in Antananarivo, Madagascar in the 1830's.

In their house, high above Antananarivo, a little group of missionaries worked furiously to finish translating the Bible into Malagasy--the language of Madagascar. Queen Ranavalona wanted to stop her people from becoming Christians and the best way to do this was to get rid of the missionaries and their Bible. They would have been thrown off the island already if it had not been for come very quick and very sly thinking.

The Queen had sent a messenger ordering them to stop teaching the people about Jesus and start teaching them something useful instead. She gave them one week to prove they had something of value to teach the people, such as soap-making.

Soap-making! How could these missionaries learn how to do that...and in just one week! (Remember, this was many, many years before telephones or the Internet, or television, or airplanes or even fast boats. They couldn't get soap-making supplies from other places. They would have to figure it out themselves, with what they had there on the island.) It seemed impossible, but they asked God to help them and they got to work. They would do whatever was needed to stay on the island and keep on translating the Bible. God was faithful. By the end of the week, they had figured out how to mix plant oils, animal fat and ashes to make soap. On the last day, they sent the Queen a large bar of soap, the first ever made in Madagascar. She was so delighted with it that she ordered a large quantity and allowed the missionaries to remain in Madagascar until they had completed her order.

The missionaries praised God! This gave them a few more weeks' to finish their Bible. So while one of them was made soap, the others printed the Bible. There were no computers, copy machines or even electricity

back then. They made each page of the Bible one at a time, by setting blocks of letters (backwards) in place in a flat wooden frame to form the words that would appear on the page.

Once all the words had been put in place, they dipped them in ink, then pressed the moistened letters down upon paper with a heavy printing press. When the frame was lifted from the paper, the words were left behind on the paper in ink. It was hard, slow work; and, they still had part of Job and all the books from Ezekiel to the end of the Old Testament to complete!

Everyone was given their own job. David Jones worked to finish off the translation and giving the final touches on each page, Cameron set the type, while Baker worked at the heavy hand-press. Their wives took their share too. They stitched the printed sheets together into book form as they came from the machine, then put on the book cover. Sometimes they relieved Baker from his work at the press by lending a hand at turning the great wheel. None of them hardly stopped for sleep or for meals. They knew they were running out of time. At last, Baker burst into his David Jones' room with the exciting announcement, "We have finished; here is the whole Bible in Malagasy!"

David Jones took the book and said, "Thank God it is done. Now Queen Ranavalona can do her worst. Even if she turns us all out of the island there will be a great witness for Jesus left behind. For the Bible isn't just any book. It's God's Word. It will keep telling the people what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him long after we are gone. The Holy Spirit will use it to work in their hearts and help them grow strong in their faith. None of the Queen's threats or tortures would make them give it up. They were determined not to let

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.

this go, too," he exclaimed.

Now that this first Bible was made, they began to make as many copies as they could until the Queen forced them to leave. In the end, these sly soap makers had printed hundreds of Bibles, most of which they buried in deep pits lest they should be destroyed by the Queen's order.

The missionaries had hardly left the island when the Queen called her councilors and told them, "Now that the missionaries are gone," she said, "we can crush the Christians. Issue a command in my name that no one may worship the Christian God. Anyone who gathers together for Christian meetings shall surely die," she vowed. "I will cast them off the great Rock of Hurling."

The Queen's orders were announced, but God gave His people comfort from His Word and gave them faith to keep on living for Him, even though it cost them their lives. The Queen was sure this would be the end of the Christians, but it was not! To her horror, she discovered that now even more people were becoming Christians as they saw the faith of those who died.

"Why is it that the Christians have not yet been crushed?" the Queen asked her advisers.

"The reason, your Majesty, is that they still have the Bible. They believe the Bible is God's Word. They read it daily in their homes, and they hand it round to their friends, so that many people are becoming Christians though reading its words. If your Majesty would stamp out Christianity, you must destroy all the Bibles."

"Issue a command in my name," replied the Queen, "that all Bibles must be handed over to me. Anyone who fails to turn over even a page of the Bible will be killed."

This was a terrible threat, but it wasn't enough to make the Christians hand over their Bibles! They depended upon God's Word and they would never let it go! They hid their books. Some buried them in the rice-pits underneath the floor, or hid them in holes of the earth; others concealed them in the thatch of their roofs, or in the hollow of trees. Some took their Bibles to pieces, page by page, and hid some of the portions in caves and gave other pages to their friends, who sewed them into their clothes.

Sometimes the message would be whispered round

the village, "Tonight we shall meet at John's Gospel," or, "You will find us where Romans is hidden this evening," or, "Let us gather at Psalm 53 after the evening meal."

One night a little group of Malagasy Christians crept out of the city and met in a small cave in the mountain. A tiny lamp was lighted and its flickering flame lit up the faces of the people gathered round. One man had a hunted look in his eyes, for he had been living in dens in the mountains and forests for five long years; another, who had once been an important man, was now wearing around his neck, hands, and ankles the chains of slavery; an old woman's head was bowed with grief, for both her children had been sold as slaves, and she did not know whether they were alive or dead; many bore scars from being punished for being a Christian. It did not matter to them who were rich and important and who were merely servants and country folk. They all had one thing in common: their love for God and His Word.

Together they whispered a hymn they had written:

Where can we find a place for rest?
 Save dens and caves, with hunger pressed?
 Yet Thy compassion is our bliss,
 Pilgrims amidst a wilderness.
 O God, our God, to Thee we cry,
 Jesus our Savior be Thou nigh:
 O Sacred Spirit, hear our prayer
 And save the afflicted from despair.

When they finished, one of the elders said, "Have you got it, Rehara? It is time for the reading."

"Yes, I have it here under my lamba, wrapped in leaves." Rehara handed over his Bible. It was torn and mildewed and rat-eaten through being buried in the rice-pit and hidden in the thatch. Holding it close to the lamp, he began to read: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident..."

After a short pause, the old man whispered, "it's your turn now, Ravelo. Have you got your with you?"

"Yes," replied the young man coming forward, "I have a

page sewn into my lamba.” He pulled out his page of the New Testament and read, “Aza kivy ny fonares” (Let not your heart be troubled.)

Then the old man spoke again. “My brothers and sisters,” he said, “these are bitter days, and none of us knows how long they will last. But our faith is firm, for God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Every week our numbers grow. New believers come to join us, and there are some here now who wish to become Christians.”

Then a few young Malagasy stood up and proclaimed themselves followers of Jesus. The others greeted them in whispered words, and then the little company knelt down on the floor of the cave to commend these new believers to God’s care, praying that if any of them were called to die for their faith, they might be made brave and loyal.

Queen Ranavalona’s terrible persecution of the Christians lasted for almost thirty years, until she died. And Despite the worst of her efforts, the number of believers only grew throughout all of those terrible days. God kept His people strong through the reading of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit through it, in their hearts.

Cracking the Case:

It’s time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?

They were missionaries who had come to bring God’s Word to the people of Madagascar that they might believe the good news of Jesus and be saved. They were sly because they were only making the soap so the queen wouldn’t kick them out of the country and destroy the Bible they were printing.

2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

They were translating the Bible into Malagasy so the people of Madagascar could have it to read in their own language. This was so important because only the Bible is God’s Word. And, it would mean the people could continue to learn about God even when the queen got rid of the missionaries.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God’s People Read His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”

The Malagasy Christians lived out their love and honor for the Bible. We talk about the Bible being God’s Word. We talk about it being the most important book of all, but they risked their lives for it. They knew they lived by the Word of God. If they could not have it, they would rather die. Why did risk their life for this book? That God might be glorified and sinners might be saved! That the world might know that by turning away from their sins and trusting Jesus as their Savior, they can be forgiven their sins and adopted as God’s dearly loved people. They longed to see the people of Madagascar do this!

Let’s praise God for giving us His Word so we can know Him and how to please Him with our lives. Let’s praise Him for sending the Holy Spirit to use the words of the Bible to change sinful people like you and me when we read them. Let’s ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to treasure His Word as much as the Christians of Madagascar and ask Him to help us to read it and grow from it every day.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the One Who Sends Out Your Word. Not even the most powerful enemy is strong enough to keep your Word from going out!

C God, we confess that even though we have Your Word that we don’t treasure it or read it like we should or could. Our love for You and for Your Word is often cold.

T God, we thank You for giving Your Word to Your people to give them courage and help them to know You and how to obey You.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to read, understand, love and obey You and Your wonderful Word, the Bible.

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:

Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things. Confess that we don't love or follow His Word as we should. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who helps us understand it and uses it to change us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to use His Word to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Printing Press Alphabet Soup

Printing Press alphabet soup Either can buy the soup in cans; or, if not available, buy the pasta letters and add them to chicken noodle or some other soup.

Case Tie-in: Davy Jones and the others used a printing press to print a copy of the Bible in secret to give to the people of Madagascar, even though the Queen didn't want them to have it.

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 People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God's Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God's Words different from our words? *They don't just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God's people when they read the Bible? How? *The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God's Word? What else should we do? *We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God's people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.

Life Application Questions

1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*

2. What difference will it make if God's people read and memorize God's Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God's way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*

Gospel Question

1. We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? *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.

Trust and Obey

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will;
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner Public Domain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn't mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God's good will is? *God's good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible?**

God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Madagascar Christians wanted to have the Bible to make sure that they lived lives in the light of His Word that they were willing to risk their very lives to keep them.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.

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

That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!

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

We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).

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

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

Gospel Question

1. Each of us needs to trust and obey God, but we are sinners. What hope is there for us? What is this amazing good news of God's 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'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.

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 119:11,15-16

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:11

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose word is this verse talking about? *God's Word.*
2. What does it mean to store up God's Word in our hearts? *It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.*
3. What good is it to memorize God's Word? *It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.*
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? *It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.*
5. What is a precept? *A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.*
6. What are God's precepts and where can we find them? *Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.*
7. What does it mean to meditate on God's precepts? *To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.*
8. What does it mean to "fix our eyes on God's ways"? *To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.*
9. What are God's decrees and how do we delight in them? *God's decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.*
10. What does it mean to not forget God's Word? *Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible?** *This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to forget it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did the Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word? *The missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? *Because it is not just anyone's words. It is God's Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.*
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose not to delight in God's Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

The Gospel

1. This verse encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God's Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely... and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God's Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, 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 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.
If you do this closing activity, make sure you read the verse to the class before asking the 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.

I Have Stored Up Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

Refrain:

I have stored up your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

I'll meditate on your precepts,
And fix my eyes on your ways.
I'll delight in your statutes,
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30

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 did the missionaries have to hurry with making their Bible for the Madagascar Christians? *The Queen would soon get rid of the missionaries b/c she wanted all teaching about Jesus to cease. They wanted to get the Madagascar Bible finished so that the people could read the good news of Jesus themselves, even though the missionaries had gone.*
2. What did the missionaries think it was so important to leave the Christians with a Bible? *They knew it was God's Word. The Holy Spirit would use it to save people and to strengthen the faith of the Christians even if they had to leave the island.*
3. What did the missionaries make to give them more time to work on their Bible? *Soap.*
4. Why did the Queen want soap? *Because they didn't have any on Madagascar yet.*
5. How did the missionaries keep working on the Bible and make soap? *They all had different jobs—some made soap while the rest worked on making copies of the Bible.*
6. Why did it take such a long time to make the Bible? *There were no copy machines or computers, etc. all the letters of each page had to be set in a frame by hand and then pressed one page at a time.*
7. What did the missionaries do with the copies of the Bible they made? *They gave some to the Christians and hide the rest from the Queen.*
8. What did the Queen do as soon as the missionaries left? *She tried to get rid of all the Christians by making it illegal to meet for worship, baptize people, take the Lord's Supper, etc.. They would be thrown off the Rock of Hurling if they did.*
9. What surprised the Queen about the Christians after she made her threat? *She did not stamp them out.*
10. What did her councilors say was the reason that there still were Christians? *Because of the Bibles.*
11. What did most of the Christians do when the Queen made it illegal to have a Bible? *Hide their Bibles or gave up their lives to keep them.*
12. Where did the Christians hide their Bibles? *Rice pits, sewn in clothes, torn and hid in different places, the small pox cave, etc.*
13. How did the Christians keep meeting? *In the middle of the night in secret places like caves.*
14. What did the Holy Spirit use to give the Christians courage to endure the terrible persecution? *Meeting together for prayer and fellowship; but most of all, hearing the Word of God.*
15. Why were the Christians more willing to give up anything else except the Bible? *Because they knew it was God's Word. Not only did it tell them how to live for God, but the Holy Spirit used it to give them to endure their hardships.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible? *The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? *Yes!*
2. Are there still peoples who do not have the Bible written in their own language? *Yes.*
3. Who will go to help these people today? *God's people.*
4. What can we do today to help God's Word be translated into these other languages? *We can pray and we can give money to help God's people go to those people and give them translations of the Bible to read.*
5. What is the most important message of the Bible that God calls all people, even you and me, needs to read and accept? *To turn away from 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: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

The Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not care much about God's Word. We don't think that it is a very big deal to be able to hear it and read it in our own language. We need God's forgiveness!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for giving His people courage through the Holy Spirit to risk even their lives to preserve the Bible. We can thank Him for sending His people to even dangerous places so that more may have God's Word, believe in Jesus as their Savior.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help missionaries living in hard or dangerous situations right now so that they can give new peoples their own translation of God's Word. We can ask God to give these new peoples faith in Jesus.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that the missionaries and Christians of Madagascar believed and risked their lives to tell others? ? 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

Game 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

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 Sly Soapmakers.

Our story takes in 1830's in Madagascar, a large island off the eastern coast of Africa.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sly Soapmakers."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country. Queen Ranavalona would only let them stay if they could do something useful, like make soap. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they made soap. The Queen let them stay a bit longer to make her soap. Some made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings & helped with the press. They finished the Bible just in time. They gave some of the Bibles to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn't find them.

Scene 2:

After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord's Supper stop or be thrown down the Rock of Hurling. Many Christians were hurt or killed, but this didn't stop even more people from becoming Christians. The Queen didn't understand why her plan wasn't working. Her councilors told her it was because of the Bibles. She must get rid of them. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hid theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

Scene 3

Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God's Word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God's Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** The Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey 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 Sly Soapmakers.

Our story takes in 1830's in Madagascar, a large island off the eastern coast of Africa.

The characters in our story today are: Cameron, David Jones, Baker and their wives; Queen Ranvalona, her messenger; her councilors; and the Christians of Madagascar.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sly Soapmakers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country. Queen Ranavalona would only let them stay if they could do something useful, like make soap. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they made soap. The Queen let them stay a bit longer to make her soap. Some made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings & helped with the press. They finished the Bible just in time. They gave some of the Bibles to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn't find them.

Scene 2: (Middle)

After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord's Supper stop or be thrown down the Rock of Hurling. Many Christians were hurt or killed, but this didn't stop even more people from becoming Christians. The Queen didn't understand why her plan wasn't working. Her councilors told her it was because of the Bibles. She must get rid of them. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hid theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

Scene 3: (End)

Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God's Word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God's Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** The Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

Pages from Their Bibles in the Rice Pits

Description

The children will write down and decorate a John 3:16 in Malagasy and hide in a little cup of rice.

Materials

Copies of John 3:16 in Malagasy. (Blank version for older children, written version for youngest children)

Markers, colored pencils, etc

Pencils

1 8 oz cup per child

½ to ¾ cup of rice per child

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out whichever version of the page you are using for your children. Younger children may do better with the version in which they trace over the letter. Older children will want to write in the words on the blank version of the page. For these children, you will also want to print out copies of the words to the verse so that can have them on hand to copy.

2. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Have the children write the letters to John 3:16 in Malagasy with pencil and then use the markers, colored pencils, etc to decorate around the outside of the page.

2. Have the children fold up their page and put it in their cup.

3. Cover the page with rice.

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 Madagascar, a large island off of the eastern coast of Africa.

2. What did the Queen's councilors tell her she must do stamp out the Christians?

Get rid of the Bibles the missionaries had given them.

3. What did the Christians do to keep the Queen from getting their Bibles?

They hid their Bibles in many places, including the rice pits.

4. What is Bible Truth 8 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

5. What does our craft have to do with the Bible Truth 8?

The Madagascar Christians loved God's Word and wanted to be able to read it. They had to hide their Bibles in sections to keep them from being taken away from their by the government.

6. What can this craft help us remember?

God's people know that there is no book like God's Word. It is worth protecting and even worth risking their lives to get to have 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: Pages from their Bibles in the Rice Pits.

2. In Madagascar, the Christians hid their Bibles in the rice pits to keep them safe from the Queen.

3. Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

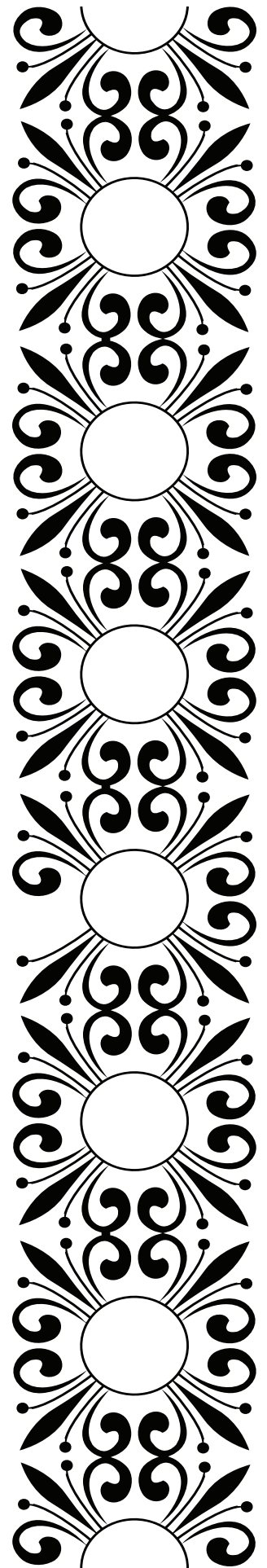
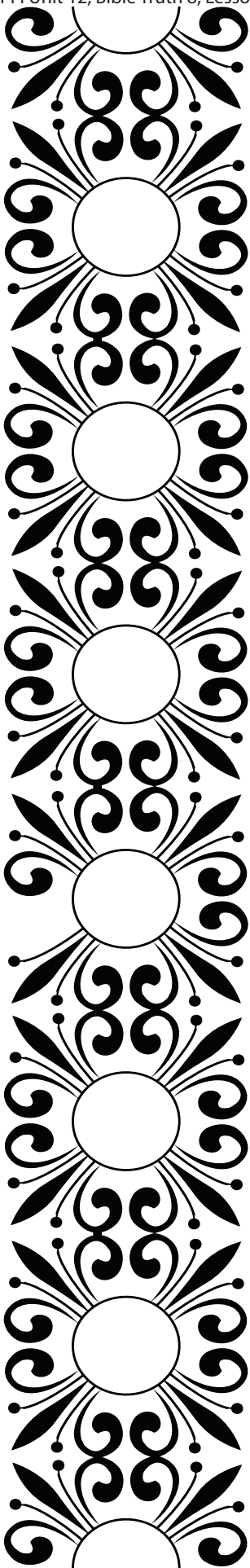
4. The Madagascar Christians loved God's Word and wanted to be able to read it. They had to hide their Bibles in sections to keep them from being taken away from their by the government.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people know that there is no book like God's Word. It is worth protecting and even worth risking their lives to get to have 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.

Jaona 3:16
a toy izao no
nitiavan'

Andriamanitra izao
tonotolo izao:
nomeny ny
anailahy Tokana,
mba tsy ho
very izay rehetra
mino Azy, fa
hanana fiainana
mandrakizay.



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. They are found in 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: 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 8, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*

Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 8: God's People Read His Word, the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

Bible Verse Song: I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers *Acts 17; 1 and 2 Thessalonians*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Scrumptious Scrolls

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:11,15-16 Discussion Sheet and Game: Balloon Find

Bible Verse Song: I Have Hidden Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV SONGS 12 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: Wounded and Beaten

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 8, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers Acts 9:32-43

by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers.**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?
2. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?

This story takes place during New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Timothy, Paul and Silas started the long journey from Philippi to Thessalonica. The hundred-mile walk along the Egnatian Way wouldn't be too bad for Timothy, but it would be a painful one for Paul and Silas! Sharing the gospel with the Philippians had led to the salvation of some, but to painful beatings for these two men. Jesus had once said that Paul would suffer much when he shared the gospel; and now, as they limped down the highway, Paul certainly felt the truth of what Jesus had said. This beating had not been Paul's first and he doubted that it would be his last. For Paul was not headed to the synagogue in Thessalonica to get away for some rest. He was headed to the synagogue in Thessalonica to tell more people the good news of Jesus, and that almost always led to more trouble. Yet off to Thessalonica Paul went, even with more beatings likely in his future.

Thirty miles down the road, the three men came to the beautiful city of Amphipolis, set high on a hill and surrounded on three sides by the breath-taking Strymon River. Wouldn't this be a wonderful place to heal their wounded bodies and rest their sore feet for a week or two? But, no. Paul and the others were determined to get to Thessalonica!

Another seventy miles later, Paul, Silas and Timothy passed through the gigantic Arch of Galerius and into the busy streets of Thessalonica. They passed through the agora--the marketplace--filled with buyers and sellers. Along each side of the market towered the huge temples to the Greek gods and to Caesar, the Roman king. These temples were magnificent, but Paul passed them up in search of the simple, stone building that was the Jewish king. These temples were magnificent,

but Paul passed them up. He wasn't searching for a fancy building, but a simple, stone one---the Jewish synagogue. It was there, and only there, that the people could gather to hear God's Word, the Bible.

You see, back in those days, only very rich people had their own Bibles. Everyone else had to come to the synagogue if they were to learn God's Word. Bibles weren't even books, like our Bibles are. They were long, paper scrolls, rolled up on wooden poles. And there weren't computers in those days either. Every word was hand-written. It took months and months to copy down a whole Bible; and the scribe had to check his work to make sure it was completely correct. When it was finished, the Bible was stored in a special wooden container and covered with protective cloth so no bugs, rodents, moisture could harm it. After all, this was God's Word--and often the only copy in town. They must take good care of it.

How excited Paul was when at last he found the synagogue! Here is where he would find the people who cared about what God's Word. and desired to live for God. Many might have hearts already softened by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, made ready to receive the gospel. Paul would read to them the prophecies about the Messiah that Jesus had all fulfilled with His life and death. When they saw how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, he hoped they would believe.

When Sabbath day came, many Jews and Greek people filled the synagogue's stone slab benches, ready to worship the Lord. They sang psalms and prayed; then, they were ready to hear from God's Word.

"Does anyone have something they would like 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.

say?" one of the rabbis asked.

Paul spoke up right away. "Friends, the Messiah has come," Paul told them. "His name is Jesus. He suffered, died and rose victorious over sin and death, just as the Scriptures told us He would. He now reigns in heaven and will one day return to judge all peoples and to establish His everlasting Kingdom. Repent of your sins and turn and trust in Him!" Paul urged them. "All who do will be saved!" Then Paul opened the scroll of God's Word and read many passages to them, proving that Jesus really was the Messiah promised by God.

The people were surprised by Paul's teaching. "Can this be? Could the Messiah really have come? Was He really this Jesus Paul was telling them about?" they wondered. No one had heard these things before.

But faith comes by hearing and hearing about Jesus by the Word of God. As Paul read the Bible to them, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of some of the Jews and many of the Greeks who listened. Their hearts were filled with faith, trusted in Jesus and were saved.

These new believers joined together as the first little church in Thessalonica. Eagerly they met together each week to hear Paul teach from the Bible. They began to do the good works that pleased the Lord: not only praying and worshiping the Lord, but also helping the poor and sharing the gospel. One of them—a man named Jason—gave Paul, Silas and Timothy a place to stay at his home. Paul, Silas and Timothy were overjoyed at the Lord's work done in these Thessalonians through the reading of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

But not everyone listening in the synagogue was pleased with Paul's new teaching—especially a lot of the Jews. Even when he read from the Bible the passages that showed that Jesus was the Messiah, they were hard-hearted. And when many people who had worshiped in the synagogue became Christians, they became very jealous.

"We must do something about Paul! We can't let him keep teaching like this!" they exclaimed. "Let's get him in trouble with the Romans. Surely we can think of something he's said to use against him," they decided.

Soon they came up with a evil plan. They went to the agora (market place) and offered money to some men

to help them. "We want you to spread lies about Paul. Tell everyone that he's trying to get people to follow a new king named Jesus, instead of Caesar, the Roman king. Make a big scene. We want a riot! Then go down to Jason's house, beat down the door and grab Paul and his friends. The crowd will take care of the rest!" they told these men. The men agreed to this evil plan.

Before long, these men had stirred up an angry mob, who went pushing, shoving and destroying their way down to Jason's house. They had come to kill Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

The new Christians acted quickly. They hid Paul and his friends, leaving only Jason and some other Christians in the house. When the angry mob burst in and found no Paul, Silas and Timothy, they grabbed Jason and the others instead. They dragged them down to the Thessalonica leaders for punishment. "Paul and his friends are telling people to follow a new king named Jesus instead of Caesar. These men have been taking care of them. Punish them!" they demanded.

Jason and the others were questioned. As punishment, they had to pay money to the leaders and promise to have nothing to do with Paul and his friends.

That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy came out of hiding and met with Jason and the other believers. "You must leave town now or the crowds will kill you," they warned Paul and his friends. "We will sneak you out with two of our men as protection. Where do you want to go?" they asked him.

"To Berea, in the mountains about fifty miles away," Paul answered. "We'll go to the synagogue there!" he told them. "Perhaps there will be more people gathered there with hearts softened by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. I will go to them and show them from the Bible that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah," Paul said.

So off they went: Paul, Silas, and Timothy along with their escorts. Slipping away from danger and death once more so that faith might come to others by hearing, and hearing about Jesus, by the Word of God.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the Synagogue Stalkers? What was their message?

Paul, Silas and Timothy were the Synagogue Stalkers. Their message was the good news of salvation through Jesus.

2. What was so special about the synagogues that they always told their message there first?

The synagogues were usually the only place in a city where the Bible was read and explained. God would use His Word to give faith to those the good news of Jesus, as proclaimed in the Bible.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Read His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

Paul knew that the Lord used His Word and the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of people and make them ready to receive the good news of Jesus. He loved to show these people from God's Word how Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. He was overjoyed as he saw them eagerly listen and believe.

What about you and me? Do we spend time reading the Bible? If we do, God can use it to work powerfully inside our hearts, just like He did in the people of Thessalonica, long ago.

Let's praise God for giving us His Word to read. Let's ask Him to use it in our lives, to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to use it to change us so that we might live to love God and others, like Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the One Who Saves Us by Your Word and by Your Holy Spirit.

C God, we confess that many times we do not appreciate that we get to hear Your Word so easily and that we can even own our own Bibles. Many times we are too lazy to read more about You or would rather do other things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for choosing to work so powerfully through Your Word. Thank You that through it, You bring us to know You and want to turn away from our sins and follow You. Thank You that You give your people courage to continue to tell others about You, even when they know that others may hurt them.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we would love and live for You, even when it is very hard. Give us a love for Your Word. Use it to save us and to love and serve You more and more.

Special Words

Thessalonica: The large, capitol city of Macedonia back in Paul's day.

Scroll: Someone who learns from a teacher and follows his example. All Christians are disciples of Jesus, but disciple is also a special word that we use to talk about Jesus' first closest followers--the Twelve disciples.

Messiah: The promised king foretold in the Bible that God would send to save His people and rule over God's kingdom forever.

Agora: Roman name for the marketplace where food and goods were bought and sold.

Mob: A group of angry people who are hard to control.

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:

Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things. Confess that we don't love or follow His Word as we should. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who helps us understand it and uses it to change us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to use His Word to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Scrumptious Scrolls

Macedonian-flavored scrolls. Take a tortilla “scroll”, cutting off top and bottom to make straight sides. Spread hummus—traditional to Macedonia—and spread a thin coat on the tortilla. Roll up each side until the two sides meet in middle, like a rolled up scroll. Can put a slice of lunch meat on top of hummus for a nice taste. Can secure with a red licorice lace tie, if necessary.

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

Case Tie-in: Paul preached to the people of Thessalonica from God’s Word, written down on scrolls.

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 People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God's Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God's Words different from our words? *They don't just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God's people when they read the Bible? How? *The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God's Word? What else should we do? *We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God's people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does our story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people's sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.

Life Application Questions

1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*

2. What difference will it make if God's people read and memorize God's Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God's way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*

Gospel Question

1. We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? *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.

Trust and Obey

Verse 1

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will;
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner Public Domain

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn't mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God's good will is? *God's good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible?**

God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Paul went to the synagogue with the message of Jesus first because he knew that they had been seeking to live their lives "in the light of His Word." They would be most likely to have hearts softened through the Word, by the Holy Spirit to receive the good news of Jesus.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.

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

That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!

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

We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).

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

That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

Gospel Question

1. Each of us needs to trust and obey God, but we are sinners. What hope is there for us? What is this amazing good news of God's 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'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.

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 119:11, 15-16

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:11

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose word is this verse talking about? *God's Word.*
2. What does it mean to store up God's Word in our hearts? *It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.*
3. What good is it to memorize God's Word? *It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.*
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? *It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.*
5. What is a precept? *A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.*
6. What are God's precepts and where can we find them? *Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.*
7. What does it mean to meditate on God's precepts? *To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.*
8. What does it mean to "fix our eyes on God's ways"? *To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.*
9. What are God's decrees and how do we delight in them? *God's decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.*
10. What does it mean to not forget God's Word? *Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible?** *This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to forget it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *How did Paul show that he loved God's Word and would not neglect it, no matter what? He did not rely on just his own words when speaking to others about Jesus. He went to the synagogue and read from the Bible to show the people that God's Word showed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? *Because it is not just anyone's words. It is God's Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.*
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose not to delight in God's Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

The Gospel

1. This verse encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God's Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely... and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God's Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, 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

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 Scripture 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. Game continues until all children get a turn, or as time and attention span allow.

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 verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

I Have Stored Up Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

Refrain:

I have stored up your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

I'll meditate on your precepts,
And fix my eyes on your ways.
I'll delight in your statutes,
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30

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. Why were Paul and Silas bruised up? *They had been beaten in Philippi for telling the good news of Jesus.*
2. Why would Paul, Silas and Timothy might have wanted to stop in Amphipolis? *It was a beautiful city and would have been a good place to heal and rest.*
3. What interesting things would Paul have seen when he got to Thessalonica? *The agora with its temples to the Greek gods and Caesar; all the stalls of food and goods for sale; all the people from faraway places.*
4. What was Paul most interested in finding in Thessalonica and why? *The synagogue because that was the one place where people gathered to worship God and hear His Word read.*
5. Why did Paul want to tell the people in the synagogue about Jesus first? *They already believed in the Lord and read His Word. They very well might have hearts softened by the Spirit through the reading of God's Word, ready to receive the good news about Jesus.*
6. What did the new believers do? *They formed a little church. They listened to more of Paul's teaching from the Word about Jesus. They gave hospitality to Paul.*
7. Why were many of the Jews at the synagogue jealous? *Because they had lost so many followers.*
8. What did the Jews decide to do to stop Paul? *Pay some bad men to spread lies about Paul and what he said about Jesus; stir up a mob; try to get Paul and hurt him.*
9. Why didn't the mob get Paul and Silas at Jason's house? *They weren't there. They were hiding.*
10. What did they do to Jason and the other believers? *Dragged them away and took them to the city leaders for punishment.*
11. What punishment did the city leaders give Jason and the others? *They were fined money and told to have nothing to do with Paul.*
12. What did they do with Paul, Silas and Timothy the night after the riot? *They gave them an escort and helped them escape to Berea.*
13. What did Paul hope to do in Berea? *Go to the synagogue and tell the people gathered there about Jesus, from the Scriptures.*
14. How did Paul show that he believed that the Lord used His Word to change people's hearts? *He chose to go to people who read God's Word first because their hearts would be most likely to be softened from God's Word; He chose to use Scripture to prove to others that Jesus was the Messiah, not just his own words.*
15. Why do you think it is important to read (or listen) to the Bible most every day? *Because God will use it to soften and change our hearts. We will be more likely to love and obey Him, if we do.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible? *Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people's sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?
Paul showed that he loved God's Word and would not neglect it, no matter what. He did not rely on just his own words when speaking to others about Jesus. He went to the synagogue and read from the Bible to show the people that God's Word showed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Life Application Questions

1. Why do you think it is important for God's people to read (or listen) to the Bible most every day? *Because God will use it to soften and change their hearts. They will be more likely to love and obey Him, if they do.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning 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 being the Sustainer of His people even through the hardest times.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we many times do not really care about God's Word. We would rather play or do other things than listen to it.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for giving us His Word so that we can know Him, how to be saved and how to live lives in obedience to Him. We can thank God for all the many people who risked their lives to give us the Bible to read in our own language and that people like us might hear the good news of Jesus.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to use His Word to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to use His Word to soften our hearts to Him and His good ways. We can ask Him to give Christians even today courage to risk their lives to tell others about Jesus and to bring God's Word to them.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Paul preached to others through the Bible, God's Word? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then 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!*

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**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 Synagogue Stalkers.

Our story takes place in Philippi and in Thessalonica. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers."

Actions:

Scene 1:

After a terrible beating in Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way from Philippi on their way to Thessalonica. They passed through the beautiful city of Amphipolis, a wonderful place to rest and heal their wounds; but they keep going towards Thessalonica. Paul and his friends go through the Arch of Galerius and into Thessalonica's busy streets. They see the agora, with its temples, its many stalls of food and goods, and people from many places.

Scene 2:

However, Paul is only interested in finding the synagogue, where the Word of God will be read to the Thessalonians who are seeking after God. They may have hearts softened by His Word and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. On the Sabbath, Paul goes to the synagogue. He tells them about Jesus and shows them from the Bible that He is the Messiah promised by God in the Bible to suffer and die to save His people from their sins. Some Jews and many Gentiles hear and believe. Paul keeps on teaching the new little group of believers.

Scene 3

Many of the Jews were hard-hearted and jealous. They didn't want more people to follow Jesus. They paid bad men in the agora to spread lies about Paul's message about Jesus and start a riot. The mob swarms into Jason's house in hopes of finding Paul and Silas and harming them. They are not there, but hiding. The mob drags out Jason and other believers and take them to the city leaders to have them punished for helping Paul. The city leaders make Jason and the others pay a fine for helping Paul and make them promise to have nothing to do with Paul again. That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy sneak out of town with two escorts and head for Berea in the mountains. Paul knows there is a synagogue there in which he can once more share about Jesus with people who have been softened from reading the Word of God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people's sins.

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 Synagogue Stalkers.

Our story takes place in Philippi and in Thessalonica. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story today are: Paul, Silas, Timothy; the people buying and selling in the Agora; the Gentiles and Jews in the synagogue; Jason and the other new believers; the bad men in the Agora; the rioting crowd; the Thessalonian leaders.

And now we present: "The Case of the Synagogue Stalkers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

After a terrible beating in Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way from Philippi on their way to Thessalonica. They passed through the beautiful city of Amphipolis, a wonderful place to rest and heal their wounds; but they keep going towards Thessalonica. Paul and his friends go through the Arch of Galerius and into Thessalonica's busy streets. They see the agora, with its temples, its many stalls of food and goods, and people from many places.

Scene 2: (Middle)

However, Paul is only interested in finding the synagogue, where the Word of God will be read to the Thessalonians who are seeking after God. They may have hearts softened by His Word and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. On the Sabbath, Paul goes to the synagogue. He tells them about Jesus and shows them from the Bible that He is the Messiah promised by God in the Bible to suffer and die to save His people from their sins. Some Jews and many Gentiles hear and believe. Paul keeps on teaching the new little group of believers.

Scene 3: (End)

Many of the Jews were hard-hearted and jealous. They didn't want more people to follow Jesus. They paid bad men in the agora to spread lies about Paul's message about Jesus and start a riot. The mob swarms into Jason's house in hopes of finding Paul and Silas and harming them. They are not there, but hiding. The mob drags out Jason and other believers and take them to the city leaders to have them punished for helping Paul. The city leaders make Jason and the others pay a fine for helping Paul and make them promise to have nothing to do with Paul again. That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy sneak out of town with two escorts and head for Berea in the mountains. Paul knows there is a synagogue there in which he can once more share about Jesus with people who have been softened from reading the Word of God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people's sins.

Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten

Description

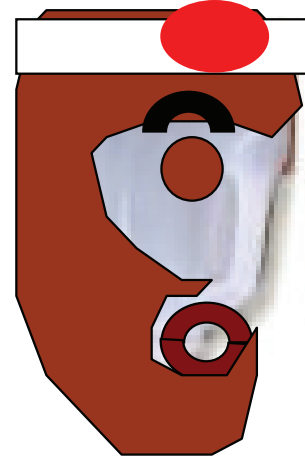
The children will make bandages to put on their milk jug head Paul/Silas...or just on themselves.

Materials

Gauze...and lots of it
Red WASHABLE markers
Safety pins

For the Milk Jug Version also:

Empty plastic gallon water/milk jug, one per child
White cardstock
Sticky back (or regular) Felt or paper in brown, black, red
Craft glue
Markers
Scissors



Milk Jug Version

Preparing the Craft

Basic Version:

1. Cut out long strips of gauze.
2. Set out markers.

For the Milk Jug Version also:

1. Make copies of the patterns out of paper or felt, as many as are specified on each template.
2. Turn the milk jug upside down with the handle facing you. The handle is the nose and eyebrows of the man, the eyes will be made in the space on either side of the handle.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have kids color in the gauze with red marker.
3. Have them wrap the gauze on their arms, legs, head, etc. and carefully add red marks (so as not to get on clothes) on the top layer of the gauze. Once more, fasten with safety pins.

Milk Jug Version:

1. Let the color in the eyes, mouth and beard and glue in place. (or stick the pieces in place, if using the sticky back felt)
2. Have the children put an ample amount of glue around the forehead of the milk jug man. Wrap a piece of gauze and secure with the safety pin.
3. Children can add red wounds to the gauze with the marker.

NOTE: There should be a serious air to this craft! Make sure you take time to talk about Christians suffering for the gospel and to pray for them.

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 cities were Paul and Silas beaten or threatened with beating in our story?

In Philippi and Thessalonica.

2. Why would the journey to Thessalonica been so hard for Paul and Silas?

They hurt so much from the beating they had just received in Philippi. It would have been hard to walk 100 miles in that condition.

3. Why was it so amazing that Paul and Silas were heading for the synagogue in Thessalonica after just being beaten up in Philippi?

Because they knew that very likely if they shared the good news of Jesus in the synagogue there that the Jews would probably want to hurt them again.

4. What is Bible Truth 8 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

5. What does our craft--the clothes Tabitha made the widows--have to do with our Bible Truth?

Paul was willing to suffer to show people from God's Word that Jesus was the Savior. He wanted them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus that much!

6. What can our craft help us remember?

That God's people know that God uses His Word soften people's hearts that they might turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Even today, in some parts of the world, Christians suffer for reading God's Word and telling the good news of Jesus to others.

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: Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten.

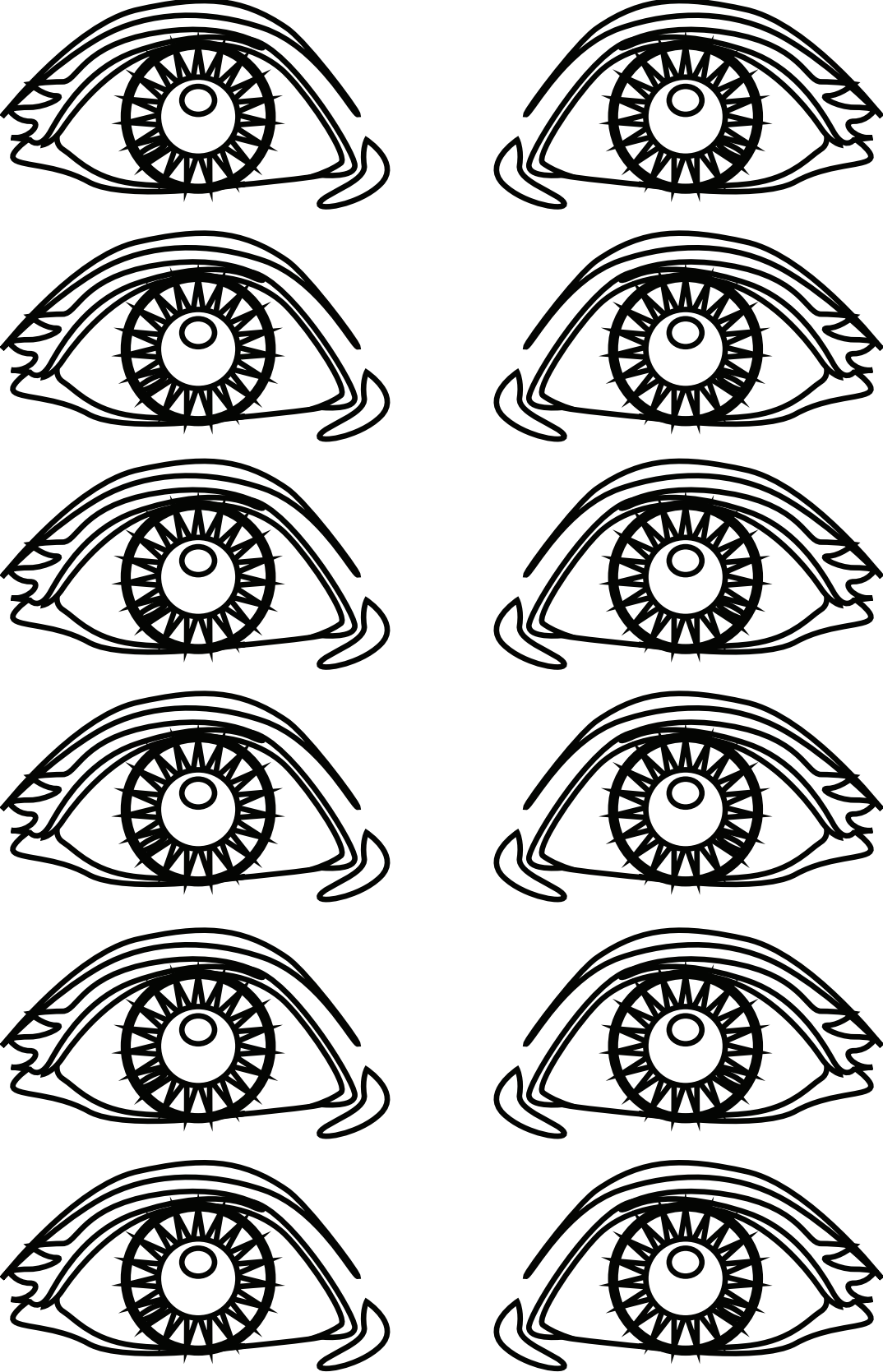
2. From Philippi, Paul and Silas headed towards the synagogue in Thessalonica, though wounded and beaten, because they wanted to go to read God's Word to the Jews there and show them that Jesus really was the Savior.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

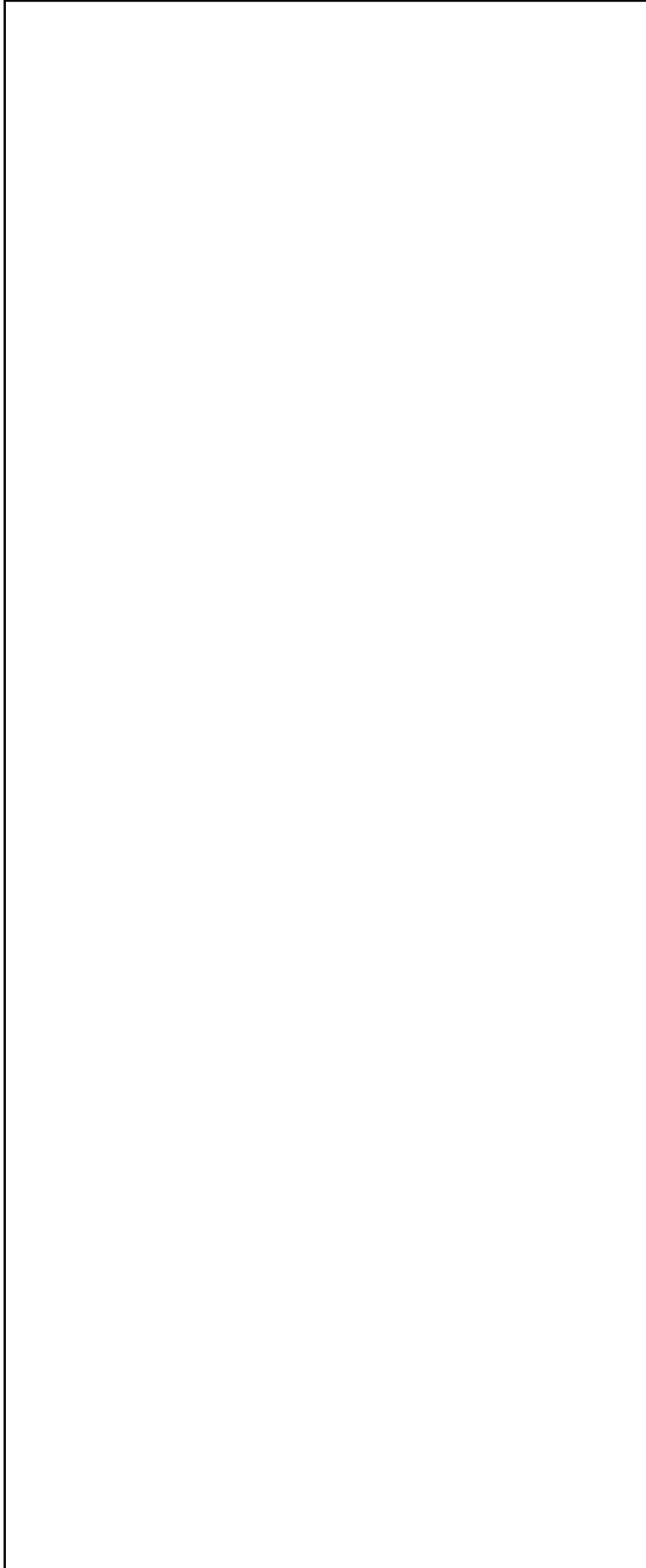
4. Paul was willing to suffer to show people from God's Word that Jesus was the Savior. He wanted them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus that much!

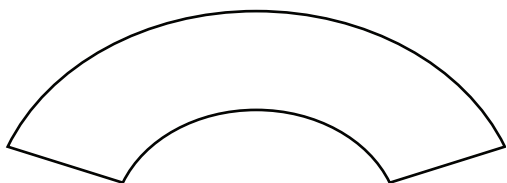
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people know that God uses His Word soften people's hearts that they might turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Even today, in some parts of the world, Christians suffer for reading God's Word and telling the good news of Jesus to others.

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.

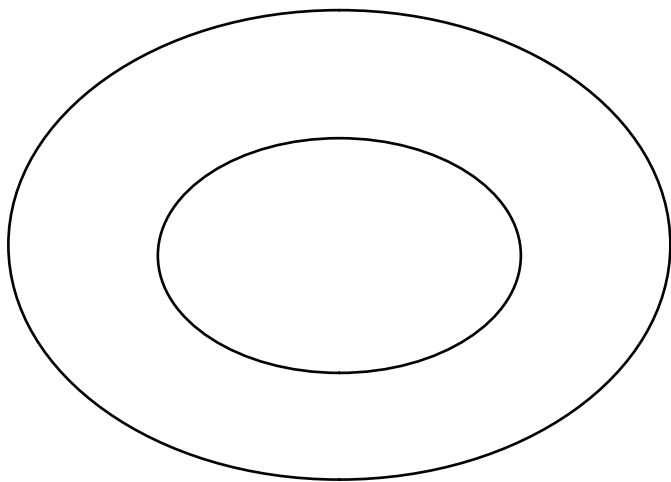


Hair for Milk Jug

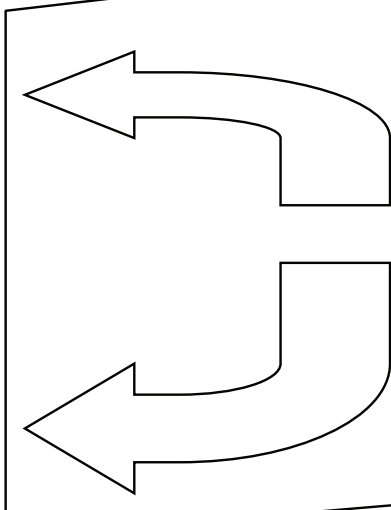




Craft Pattern #4 Eye brows



Craft Pattern #5 Mouth



Craft Pattern #6 Beard

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. They are found in 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: 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

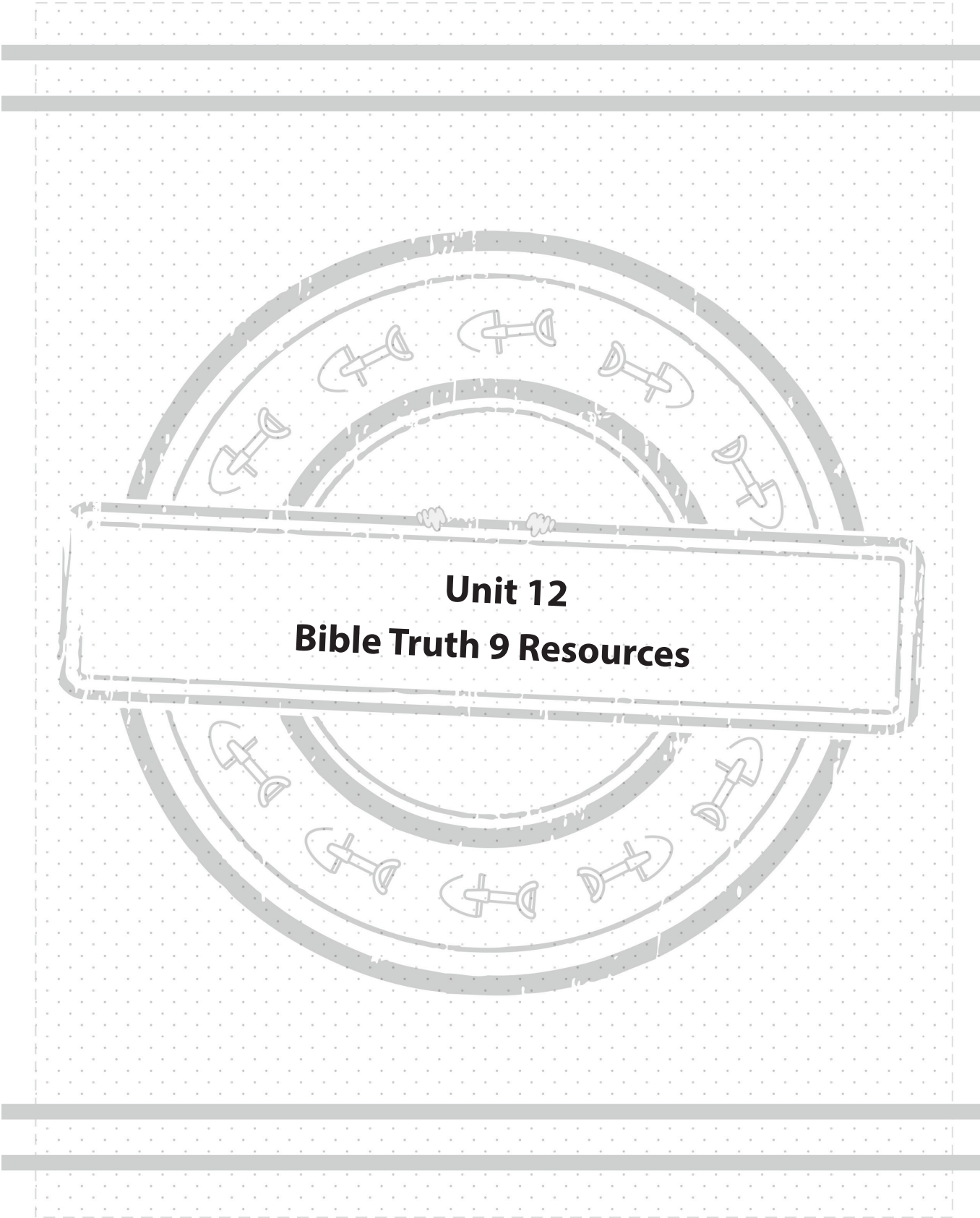
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**



Unit 12
Bible Truth 9 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 9 OVERVIEW

Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Big Question and Answer: "How Should God's People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!"

Bible Verse: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

Bible Truth 9 Concept: God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:3-6 ESV

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:5,6 ESV

"My mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Bible Truth 9 ACTS Prayer

- A** Praise God for being perfectly good. He is so worthy of all our thoughts.
- C** Confess that many times we choose to not think about God. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him. We just think about ourselves. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!
- T** Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank Him for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
- S** Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

Bible Truth 9 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook (New Testament)

Luke 10:25-42

Lesson 2: The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Forgetful Fretters (Old Testament)

Exodus 14-15

Lesson 3: The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail (Old Testament)

1 Samuel 1-3

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 12, 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 12, 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

<p>Opening Prayer</p>	<p>"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></p>
<p>Big Question Under Investigation:</p> <p>Big Question 12 and Songs</p>	<p>"Now it's time to turn today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Should God's People Live?</p> <p>We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the end of the punishment for our sins that we deserved from God, but it's the beginning of a whole new way to live. God's people want to honor God with their whole lives like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Should God's People Live? is: They Should Live Like Jesus!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 12 Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")</i> How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>How Should God's People Live? <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 4</i></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How should God's people live? How should God's people live? How should God's people live? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>Verse 1: Jesus loved God most of all, He loved all people, too, In all that He did and said and thought, He loved them thru and thru. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: God's people should love God most of all, They should love others, too, And God the Holy Spirit, Will help them in all they do. <i>(Refrain)</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 12
Bible Verse**

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
Let Everyone Who
Names the Name
2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

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

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

**Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song
Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:1-2**

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us.
Ephesians Five, one and two.

God's people have been loved by God through Jesus Christ in the deepest way imaginable. What more could He have done than to offer up His life as the full payment for their sins so they could be God's people. The Bible tells us that He did this even while we were still His enemies. He loved us before we loved Him! But Jesus did this not just because of His love for God's people, but even more so, for His love for God, His Father. He always delighted to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do. God calls His people to live like Jesus, loving others and loving Him, in everything they do. God promises to help them to live this way.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 9**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FOURTEEN** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God's people live. We have learned some already. Can you remember any of them? (God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus; God's People Love Him with All of Themselves; God's People Love Others; God's People Trust Him; God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts; God's People Obey Him; God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them; and, God's People Read His Word, the Bible.)

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

God's People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

LESSON PLAN: BIBLE TRUTH 9 (1 Lesson Plan for ALL 3 Lessons)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued

Bible Truth 9 Hymn

“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 a verse from it.

Be Thou My Vision

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32

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.

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.

Bible Truth 9 Bible Verse and Song

“The Bible verses we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth are:

Psalm 63:3-6

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

These verses remind us that God’s people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

We’ve said our Bible verse, now let’s sing it!

Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 33

Because your love is better than life,
 My lips will glorify you.
 I will praise you as long as I live,
 And in your name I will lift up my hands,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

*You might also enjoy listening to:
 Let the Morning Bring Me
 Psalm 143:5,8,
 NIV 1984
 PFI ESV Songs 12,
 Track 33*

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook**

Luke 10:25-42

Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook.**

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

- 1. Who was the eavesdropping cook?**
- 2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?**

(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 eavesdropping cook?** Mary.
- 2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?** Mary listened in on Jesus teaching His disciples. It was a good thing because it showed that she loved to think about God and wanted to know how to better love and live to please Him.

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

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker**

Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker.**

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

- 1. Who was the sneakiest sneaker?**
- 2. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?**

(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 sneakiest sneaker?**
Some would say Andy was. But perhaps it was the Lord. After all, he could make seeing eyes blind and sneak the Bibles past the border guards.

- 2. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?**

God used Andy's sneakiest to sneak Bibles and other Christian books past border guards to give them to the Christians in Eastern Europe. These books would help the Christians think about God and tell others the good news of Jesus, too.

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

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Forgetful Fretter**
Exodus 14-15

Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Forgetful Fretter.**

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

- 1. Who were the forgetful fretters?**
- 2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?**

(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 forgetful fretters?

The people of Israel.

2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget? They worried that they would die out in the wilderness because they had no food or water. They forget in just five days the amazing ways that the LORD had delivered them from the mighty Egyptians. If they had thought about the LORD and all He had done for them, they could have turned away from worrying and trusted that the LORD would take care of them.

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 9, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 9: God's People Think about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Extra Bible Verse: Let the Morning Bring Me Psalm 143:5,8 PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 33

Lesson 1 New Testament: The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook *Luke 10:25-42*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Martha's Big Deal Meal

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

Bible Truth Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 11*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:3-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Who's Got the Penny?

Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Frisbee Toss 'n' Quiz

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: Food for the Meal

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 9, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook Luke 10:25-42

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook?
2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

This story takes place when Jesus lived on earth. It takes place in Bethany, a village in the hills outside of Jerusalem.

Big Sister had a lot to do! Feeding an extra thirteen, hungry men who showed around meal time back in took a huge effort. She could rush out and buy some grilled lamb or fish freshly fried, but most everything had to be made from scratch.

Women would go to the outdoor market in the center of town to buy the fruit, vegetables, grains, and live animals they needed. Then they brought it home to kill, pluck, clean, chop, mix and cook it all up into a fresh meal. There were no modern ovens or microwaves or stoves. Usually there was just an outdoor, beehive-shaped clay oven in the courtyard, heated by fire to bake flatbread. And another fire to cook everything else. Even an ordinary, simple dinner of vegetable-lentil stew with some flatbread to scoop it out, could take quite some time to prepare.

But who said this was an ordinary meal? Big Sister was planning a meal as special as her guests--Jesus and His twelve disciples! The usual vegetable-lentil stew didn't seem good enough to honor Jesus. Only her very best would do. She would make lots of different dishes for Him. What herbs should she put with the vegetables? Should she have lentils, barley or Egyptian rice? She could serve cakes sweetened with figs and dates as well as the usual flatbread. Maybe she would even splurge and boil some dove or lamb along with fish.

Big Sister's head swam with the details of the meal, as she tried to figure out what to have and how she would work out cooking all the different dishes so they would all be hot and ready to serve at the same time.

"It was a good thing that I have Little Sister to help me," Big Sister surely thought. "There would be no way I could pull off this special meal without her help!"

As Big Sister and Little Sister busily prepared the meal in the courtyard, Jesus and His disciples made themselves comfortable in the main room of the house. Jesus reclined in one of the few chairs and began teaching His disciples, who sat at His feet, as serious disciples usually did. Perhaps some men would have spent this time in casual talk, but not Jesus. He was always thinking about His Father in heaven and doing what pleased Him. He knew how little time was left with His disciples. He would make the most of it by teaching them something important.

We don't know what Jesus taught His disciples that evening. But perhaps he reviewed the conversation He had had with the expert in the law that day.

"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" this man had asked Jesus.

"What does the Bible say?" Jesus had replied.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,'" the expert answered back.

Jesus had been pleased with this answer. "You have answered correctly," Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live." Here was a man who was hungry to please God. He was the kind who thought about God. Who prayed to Him and wanted to know His Word, the Bible. He lived to please God by serving Him and others.

Whether it was this or something else, Little Sister listened to what Jesus said as she chopped, plucked and kneaded the food to make her very curious. Before long, the little bits and pieces she caught from the other room just weren't enough to satisfy her. Little Sister had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry

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.

for food, her heart grew hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him. So, unknown to her big sister, Little Sister put down the food she was supposed to be preparing, slipped out of the courtyard, and joined the twelve disciples, sitting at Jesus' feet. Here, she could catch every crumb of what He had to say.

Big Sister was so distracted with the meal that at first that she didn't notice her sister had disappeared. Was it burnt vegetables left untended; the fish found still uncleaned of head, tail and bones; or the bread dough left unfinished that was her first clue that Little Sister was no longer doing her part? Maybe.

"Where has that girl gone?!" Big Sister wondered, a bit frustrated. "Here we are in the middle of making this fine meal for Jesus and His disciples, and she decides to get up to go who knows where! How unthinking she is being of our guests and of me! How will I ever get everything for this meal properly cooked without her help?" Big Sister worried. "I must find her!"

Big Sister didn't have to go far before she found Little Sister. She could hardly believe her eyes when she found her there sitting among Jesus' disciples. Not only had Little Sister left her to prepare this big meal alone, but she had even settled herself at Jesus' feet. Everyone knew that was no place for a woman! Only men disciples who were training to follow after their teacher were supposed to do that!

Big Sister blurted out to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that Little Sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Surely Jesus would see things her way, she thought. Little Sister's place was in the courtyard with her preparing dinner, not at His feet like a disciple! What was Little Sister thinking?

Jesus understood Big Sister completely: she was showing her love for Him by preparing a good meal for Him and His disciples' hungry bodies. She was thinking about who Jesus was and wanted to make a meal she thought would be worthy of Him.

But Jesus understood Little Sister, too. She was thinking about Jesus, too, as she left food preparations to listen at His feet...and in a far more important way

than making that fancy meal. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others. She longed to follow Jesus as much as any of His men disciples. Jesus wanted all of His disciples to think about Him like Little Sister did. He would not have this taken away from her.

"Big Sister, Big Sister," Jesus answered her, "you are worried and upset about your many things, but only one is needed. Little Sister has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Big Sister had a lot to think about as she turned to the courtyard and somehow finished the meal by herself. Perhaps she had been thinking about Jesus in her service to Him, but Little Sister was thinking about Jesus, too, by taking time to learn from Him.

How did the meal turn out that night? Were the vegetables burnt? Were there bones in the fish? Was the bread baked? Did all the dishes get prepared? The Bible doesn't tell us. But even if the meal didn't come out just right, Big Sister, Little Sister and Jesus' disciples all learned that feeding a hungry heart-- one that is eager to think about God, to know and love Him more was even more important than anything they ate at that dinner. For from hearts hungry for God, come lives that seek to keep pleasing Him throughout the day, with loving service to Him and to others.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook? Mary.

2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing? Mary listened in on Jesus teaching His disciples. It was a good thing because it showed that she loved to think about God and wanted to know how to better love and live to please Him.

Something for You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Think about Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6**

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Did you guess that this was the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus' good friends? I wouldn't be surprised if you did! Jesus helped these sisters see what is truly important in God's eyes: thinking on Him, that they might know Him and love Him.

What about you and me? Are our hearts hungry to know and love God like Mary? Do we long to think about Him so much that we even want to set down our work and the things we love to do to spend time with Him? Our Bible verse tells us that when we do spend time thinking about Him as we pray and read the Bible, that He satisfies our heart as much as the tastiest foods satisfy our stomach!

Let's praise God for being so wonderfully satisfying to our heart. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior—the great, first step in loving God and knowing God. And let's ask Him give us hearts hungry to spend special time each day thinking about Him and to help us to keep thinking about Him in everything we do, all throughout the day.
Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being better than anything we could enjoy in this life. No one or nothing is as wonderful or satisfying as You.

C God, we confess that many times we do not choose to seek to be with You and know You better. Many times we look for our happiness in far less important things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You love for us to think about You and spend time with You. Thank You that You promise to show Yourself to us when we seek after You.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to seek after You and find our greatest delight in knowing You and being with You.

Special Words

Eavesdropper: Someone who listens in on the conversation of other people.

Made from Scratch: Food that is made starting with basic ingredients, such as flour and butter, instead of bought already made.

Disciple: Someone who learns from another person or teacher and tries to obey their teachings.

Expert in the Law: A man who spent many hours in school to learn the Old Testament of the Bible.

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:

Praise God for being perfectly good. He is so worthy of all our thoughts.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we choose to not think about God. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him. We just think about ourselves. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank Him for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him 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: Martha's Big Deal Meal

Have a variety of foods, like what Martha would have wanted to serve: sliced cucumber; grapes or melon or dates or pomegranates; "goldfish" fish; and pita "flatbread", etc.

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

Case Tie-in: These are foods like what Martha would have served Jesus and his disciples.

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 People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? *Food, exercise, sleep.*
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? *Our bodies will stay strong.*
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? *Special time to pray and hear God's Word, the Bible.*
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? *Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.*
5. Why do God's people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? *They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don't feel like it.*
6. Who do God's people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? *They ask God to help them.*
7. Why do God's people want to spend time and think about God even when they don't feel like it? *Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did Mary show she cared about the needs of her heart? *She choose to listen to Jesus rather than work on the fancy dinner. She sat at Jesus' feet, like a serious disciple, showing that she wanted to learn how to be one of His disciples, who kept doing each day the things that He wanted His people to do.*
2. Usually Jesus encourages God's people to help and serve others. Why did He want Mary to listen to Him, even more than help her sister? *Because taking care of the needs of Mary's heart was of more importance-- even over making His dinner!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?
This verse reminds us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

Life Application Questions

1. What difference will it make if God's people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? *He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.*
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don't feel like it? Why? *Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don't feel like it.*
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust 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 perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who like to think more about ourselves and what we want than about God and what He wants. We deserve God's punishment, but He offers us hope and forgiveness. 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 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.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31

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 else that means as much to him as the Lord.*
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 his 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.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Think About Him?**

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. By day or by night, 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.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Mary left her preparations on the fancy dinner so that she could spend time just thinking about the Lord. As important as it was to help her sister, nothing was as important as thinking about Jesus that afternoon. She sat at His feet, showing that she was a serious disciple of His—she wanted to live her life, thinking about Him and trying to obey Him, both by day and by night.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night?"

God's love means more to God's people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life. That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about Him.*

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 hearts. 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 think of Him 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'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.

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 63:3-6

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:5,6

"My mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? *God's love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God's love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God's love.*
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? *To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God's name.*
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God's name? *The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.*
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? *Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.*
5. What else does he do with his lips? *He sings songs of praise to the Lord.*
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? *He thinks about God.*
7. What are "the watches of the night?" *In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him?**

The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Mary's heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important than thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.
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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.

Life Application Questions

1. When might God's people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? *Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.*
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 has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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: Who's Got the Penny?

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
A Penny or other small object

Preparing the Game

1. Choose Meditation or Alternate version of the verse to use.

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, discuss 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. Explain to them that you are the Penny Detective and you have come to find the missing penny. Have everyone say the verse together. Blindfold yourself, count to 10, while the children quietly and quickly pass the penny around the circle. At the count of 10, tell the child who has the penny to hold onto. Take off the blindfold and tell them that you have 2/3 guesses to guess who has the penny. If you guess correctly, then the child who has the penny says the verse, and you will stay the Penny Detective. If you did not guess correctly, then you have to say the verse and the person with the penny identifies himself and becomes the new Penny Detective. Everyone says the verse together, then repeat. (All players can have one other person help them say the verse, if desired.)

Game continues until all children get to be the Penny Detective, or as time and 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.

If you do this closing activity, make sure you read the verse to the class before asking the 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.

Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32

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. Why would it have been so hard to quickly make a meal for an extra 13 people, in Jesus' day? *Everything made from scratch, no grocery stores, no electric ovens or stoves, etc.*
2. Why did Martha want to make something better than the normal one dish meal for Jesus? *She thought about who He was and thought that only her best, fancy meal was good enough to properly honor Him.*
3. What kinds of things would Martha have thought about making? *Flatbread, melons, cucumbers, rice, lamb, dove, fish.*
4. Where did Martha and Mary prepare the dinner? Why there? *Out in the courtyard (in the center of the house) b/c they cooked over fires.*
5. What did Jesus and his disciples do while Martha and Mary prepared the meal? *Jesus reclined in a chair, teaching. His disciples sat at his feet, listening.*
6. Why did Mary stop helping Martha? *She heard Jesus' teaching and wanted to hear everything He had to say.*
7. How did Martha show she was thinking about Jesus? *She wanted to give Him only her best meal Because she knew He was so important.*
8. How did Mary show she was thinking about Jesus? *She wanted to hear what He had to say so much that she even gave up helping her sister just to listen. She sat at His feet, like a serious disciple, showing she hoped to understand and obey what He was teaching.*
9. Why was Martha so upset with Mary? *Because she needed help to make the big meal. It would be very difficult for it to come out right without her help.*
10. Why was Martha shocked that Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet? *Only men who were serious disciples of a teacher were supposed to sit there.*
11. Why did Jesus think what Mary was doing was even more important than what Martha wanted her to do? *Mary wanted to think about Jesus and learn how to follow Him. Martha had chosen to make a meal bigger than she needed to that would keep Mary from learning from Jesus. Growing hearts that love God is always the most important thing of all. If something is getting in the way of that, it would be better to not do it at all.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him**? *Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.*

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things that God's people can do today that will help them think about God? *Read the Bible, pray, learn in church and Sunday School, etc.; talk to our parents or others about how they are growing as Christians.*
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 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?
Mary's heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important than thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being worthy of all our thoughts!*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not choose to spend time with God. We would rather be busy doing other things and forget that He wants us to spend time with Him.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that He has given us Jesus not just to save His people from their sins, but saved them to be able to have wonderful fellowship (spend time) with Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to spend time with Him each day and to think about Him as we go about doing things all day.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of salvation that Mary and Martha both came to believe? 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 n' Quiz

Materials

Frisbee
Paper and Marker
Masking 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. Write point values to each question, such as 5, 10 and 25 points, depending upon how difficult they are.
2. Tape sections on the floor and designate each with a point value that you write on a piece of paper and tape to each section. Make the higher point sections smaller and more difficult to hit; the lower point sections easier. You may even decide to make a target shape.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members toss the Frisbee into the sectioned areas. A correct answer to a question wins the designated points for the team. If the person is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until all children get to toss the Frisbee, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point number for the group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have the children take turns tossing the Frisbee. 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 Eavesdropping Cook.

Our story takes place in Bethany, a village outside of Jerusalem in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook."

Scene 1:

Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary's house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best. She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc. Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven. Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do. Mary could hear bits of Jesus' teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus' feet.

Scene 3

Martha finally noticed Mary was gone and began to look for her. She knew she couldn't make the meal on her own. Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus' feet. She told Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner. Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him, it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching. Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

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 Eavesdropping Cook.

Our story takes place in Bethany, a village outside of Jerusalem in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Mary, Martha, Jesus, the twelve disciples, sellers at the market

And now we present: "The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary's house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best. She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc. Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven. Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do. Mary could hear bits of Jesus' teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus' feet.

Scene 3: (End)

Martha finally noticed Mary was gone and began to look for her. She knew she couldn't make the meal on her own. Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus' feet. She told Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner. Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him, it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching. Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

Food for the Meal

Description

The children will decorate fish with tissue paper as a very likely part of the meal that Martha would have served Jesus and His disciples.

Materials

Fish pattern

Tissue paper of various colors

Glue sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out fish patterns onto white cardstock, one per craft.
2. Cut tissue paper into scale-like circles of various sizes.
3. Set out the glue sticks.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children stick the tissue paper onto the fish in scale-like patterns.

NOTE: You may want to make several fish per child available for decoration.

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 the sisters working on their meal?
In the courtyard of their house, in the village of Bethany.
2. Who was sitting in the house?
Jesus and His disciples.
3. Why did Mary sneak away from preparing the meal?
Because she wanted to hear everything Jesus was teaching His disciples.
4. What is Bible Truth 9 that we are learning?
Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.
5. What does this meal have to do with the Bible Truth 9?
As important as it was for Mary to be a help to her big sister, it was even more important for her to think about God.
6. What can God help us remember through this craft?
God's people today are busy doing many things and that is good, but they should never be too busy to spend time with God.

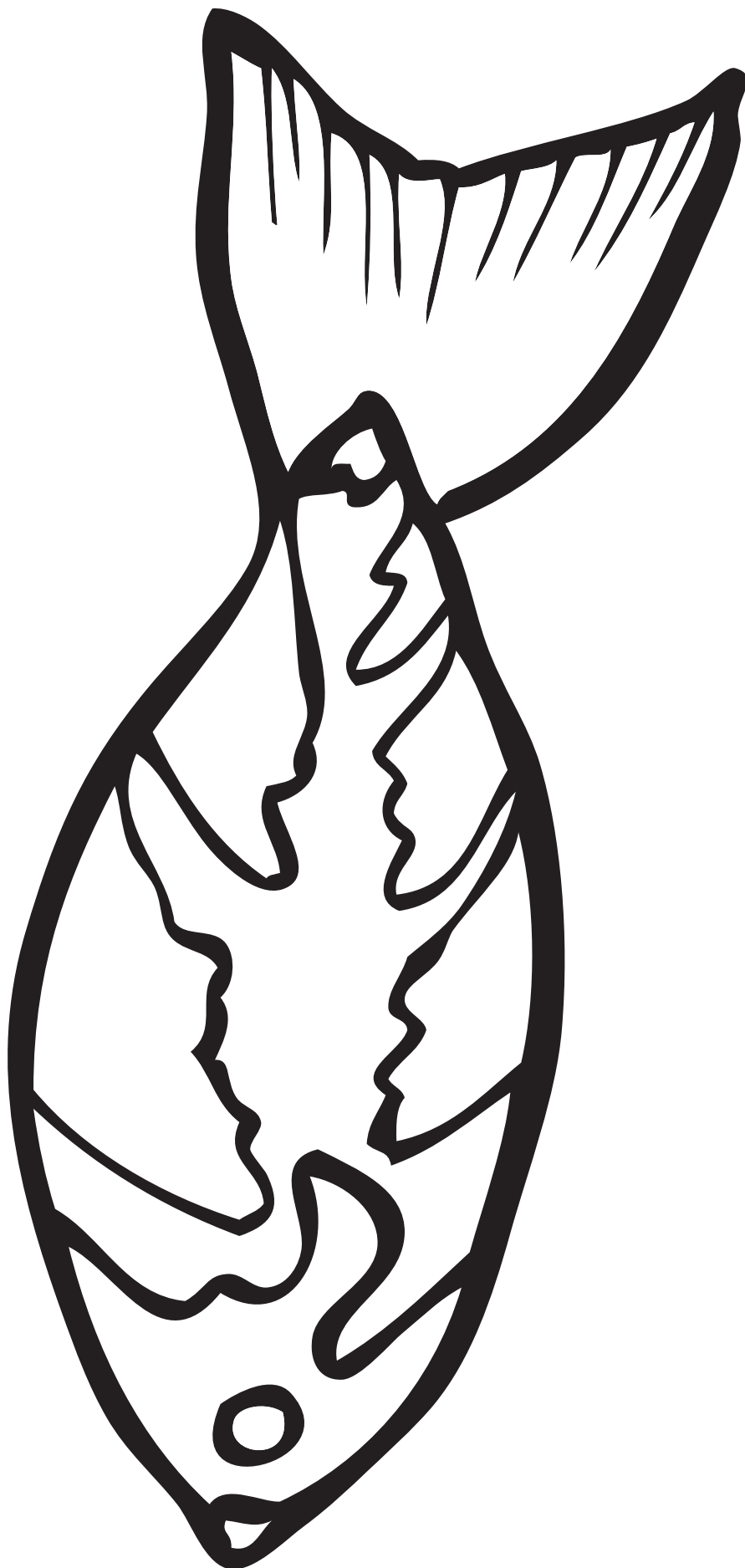
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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 Food for the Meal.
2. At their house in Bethany, Mary left Martha and the food they were preparing for Jesus' meal to sit at Jesus' feet and learn more about God.
3. Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.
4. As important as it was for Mary to be a help to her big sister, it was even more important for her to think about God.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people even today are busy doing many things and that is good, but they should never be too busy to spend time with God and thinking about 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.



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. They are found in 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.

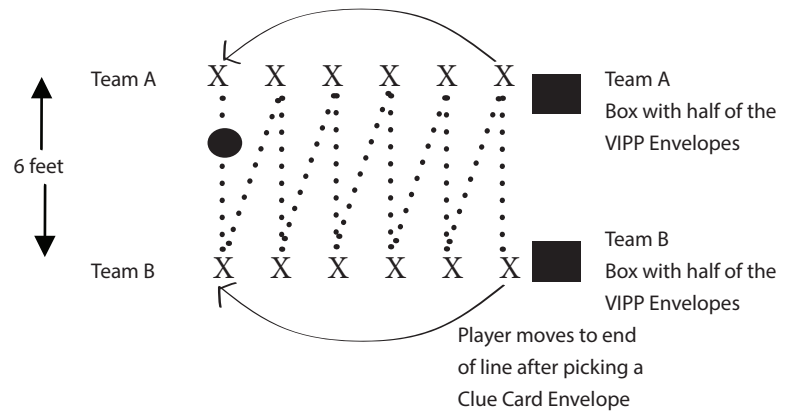
Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

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: 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

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 9, 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 ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 9: God's People Think about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Extra Bible Verse: Let the Morning Bring Me Psalm 143:5,8 PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 33

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Mrs. Whetstra's Gingerbread...Before It Burnt!

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:3-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Puzzling Wall Ball

Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Give These to Farmer Brown

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: Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books

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 9, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the sneakiest sneaker?
2. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about one of God's people who lived in the Sint Pancras, Holland, in the 1930's and 40's.

Young Andy van der Bijl laughed to himself as he hid outside the Whetstra's cottage. Andy was annoyed at how much this godly couple thought and talked about God. He decided to play a mean trick on them to try to make them react in an ungodly way. He had climbed up on their thatched roof and laid a glass pane over the chimney to trap the smoke in the house. Now he waited and watched.

"Help! Smoke! My fresh gingerbread is ruined!!" Mrs. Whetstra soon shrieked as she and her husband ran out of the smoky house.

Mr. Whetstra found the window pane on top of the chimney and guessed who was to blame. He looked for Andy, but never found him. Andy was long gone. If there was one thing Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could sneak away from all sorts of people and all sorts of places. He was the Sneakiest Sneaker.

And what did Andy want to sneak away from most of all? Any place or any person who had anything to do with God. Andy's family were Christians. They believed in Jesus and wanted to live for God; but, not Andy. He didn't want to think about God at all. Whenever God was brought up, he tried to sneak away. Even on Sundays, Andy found a way to sneak out of church at the beginning of the service and go wandering around the windmills and canals of his village. Then he sneaked back into church, unnoticed, at the very end of the service.

As Andy grew up, World War II swept through Europe. Adolph Hitler, the German leader sent troops of soldiers into every country in Europe, including Holland. Andy's town, like the rest of Europe, was soon occupied by German soldiers who began to take away freedoms

from the Dutch people. "No bikes! No radios! No Jewish people! Only as much food as we say you can have!" the Germans ordered.

Like most Dutch people, Andy thought this was wrong. He joined the Dutch Underground, a group of people who sneaked around doing everything they could to get rid of the Germans. Andy sneaked messages back and forth between Underground leaders. He sneaked food from the Germans to feed starving Dutch people. He even sneaked up to German army cars and ruined them by pouring sugar into their gas tanks. Andy was great in the Underground. After all, if there was one thing he was good at, it was sneaking.

The war gave Andy lots of chances to sneak for a good cause, but it also hardened his heart towards God even more. Andy hated the suffering he saw and blamed God for it. He wanted to think about God even less than before.

When the war ended, Andy decided to join the Dutch army. He was sent faraway to Bali, an island in the South Pacific, where he was a commando. Andy was trained to crawl through the thick, jungle underground on his belly, armed with knives, guns and hobnailed boots in search of enemy rebels who were trying to overthrow the Dutch government. As the greatest sneaker, Andy soon became the best commando, daring to do what no one else would do.

But there were some things that even Andy couldn't sneak away from. Sometimes the commandos did things they shouldn't do. Sometimes they hurt the village people who weren't fighting them. Andy felt terribly guilty about this. Soon, not only did he not want to think about God, he didn't even want to live anymore. So, instead of sneaking around like the other

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.

commandos, Andy put on a bright, yellow hat and would run out in front of the enemy, yelling, "Shoot me if you can!" His enemies happily tried to, but Andy always seem to escape unharmed.

But one day, Andy and his team were surrounded with no place to hide. Andy was shot in the ankle. At the hospital, the doctors said, "You're a lucky young man. We won't have to amputate (cut off) your leg, but you will walk with a limp the rest of your life. We're sending you home to Holland. Your sneaking days are over."

Something else in Andy's life changed while he was in the hospital. Some Christian nurses urged Andy to think about God and Andy began to listen for the first time in his life. On the long, sea voyage home, he began to read the Bible his mother had given him. When he got home, he went to church. God worked in Andy's heart and he turned from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. His life was completely changed.

Now, not only did Andy want to think about God and know Him better, but he wanted others to, as well. He began to share with everyone he could about the wonderful good news of Jesus. He got up early each morning for a special time of prayer and Bible reading. "I need to start each day by thinking about God and ask for His help, if I am to do and say what God wants me to today," Andy thought.

The Lord guided Andy to a special work, just right for a great sneaker, like him. The Lord was going to use this gift to help others think about Him. Andy learned about the thousands of Christians in Eastern Europe who were allowed few Bibles and Christian books. Many of them lived in constant fear of harm from the Communist officials who ruled in their countries. The Communist didn't want people to think about God or place their hope in Jesus anymore. They wanted them to think about their Communist ideas and place their hope in their Communist government instead.

"Perhaps their governments won't give them Bibles, but I am a good sneaker. I will find a way to sneak Bibles and Christian books into them," Andy thought.

Andy shared his plan with other Christians and asked for their help. When his old, godly neighbors, the Whetstras, heard his plan, they gave him their old, blue Volkswagen Beetle. Andy filled the little car with Bibles

and other small, Christian books that told the good news of Jesus.

Off Andy went. Through Holland, West Germany, Austria, and on towards Eastern Europe. At the border of Yugoslavia, Andy was stopped by border guards. They had orders to search every car entering their country and remove anything not allowed in by their government—including Bibles and Christian books.

As the two guards approached, Andy prayed, "Lord, in my luggage I have Bibles and books for Your people across this border. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Don't let the guards see those things You don't want them to see." Andy was a good sneaker, but he knew that he couldn't sneak his way around these guards. The Lord would have to do this sneaking for him.

"What do you have to declare?" the guards questioned.

"Camera, money, wristwatch," Andy answered them.

"Anything else?" they demanded.

"Only little things," Andy replied without lying. After all, the Bibles and the books were little.

"We will search your car," the soldiers told him.

The guards searched the whole car. Everywhere they looked was crammed full of Bibles and Christian books, yet they saw not a one! God had answered Andy's prayers! Their seeing eyes saw nothing! The guards opened the border gate and let Andy and his books right in. The Lord, Andy now knew, was a even better sneaker than he was.

Andy's little, blue Volkswagen Beetle was to sneak Bibles and Christian books across Eastern European borders many more times. Each time, the Lord made the seeing eyes of the border guards blind. Because of this sneakiest sneaker, Christians in Eastern Europe had Bibles and other books to help them think about God and how to live for Him...and to give to others so they might know the good news of Jesus, too.

Brother Andrew—as Andy became known as—began a ministry called Open Doors, International. Even to day, many other people are sent out through this ministry as sneakers to get Bibles to those who wouldn't have them otherwise, so that they can think about God, come to know Him and serve Him.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the sneakiest sneaker?

Some would say Andy was. But perhaps it was the Lord. After all, he could make seeing eyes blind and sneak the Bibles past the border guards.

2. How did God use his sneakiness to help others think about God?

God used Andy's sneakiest to sneak Bibles and other Christian books past border guards to give them to the Christians in Eastern Europe. These books would help the Christians think about God and tell others the good news of Jesus, too.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Think about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

How did Andy find courage to face those border guards each time? By spending special daily time with the Lord, reading His Word, thinking about Him and praying for guidance and courage.

What about you and me? Are we sneakers from God like Andy was? God calls us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too. He will forgive our sins. He will make us His dearly loved people, just like He did Andy. And when we become God's people we can know that God will have good plans for us to do.. and that as we spend time with Him in His Word and in prayer, He will give us everything we need to do whatever it is He wants us to do.

Let's praise God for giving us His Word to help us think about Him. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to spend time with Him each day that we might be ready to do and say all that He wants us to.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You being the Changer of Our Lives. And, the Giver and User of All Our Gifts....even sneaking!

C God, we confess that too many times we are like Andy. We look for ways to avoid You instead of think about You. We would rather be doing other things than seeking after You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for seeking after us and helping us to think about You and turn about You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for people like Andy and us!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to use all the good gifts You give us to do great things for You. Help us to trust You to take care of us, like Andy did.

Special Words

Thatched Roof: A roof made of straw.

Dutch: People who live in Holland.

Underground: A special group of people who secretly fight to overthrow an enemy who has taken over their country.

Commandos: A group of soldiers who are specially trained for secret or unusual jobs against an enemy.

Communism: A kind of government that believes that no one should have their own property, but everything should be shared in common. In practice, communist countries have been known for discouraging people from being Christians, by not allowing them to have Bibles and Christian books; or, gather in churches. Many times, Christians have been hurt, put in jail and even killed in these countries.

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:

Praise God for being perfectly good. He is so worthy of all our thoughts.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we choose to not think about God. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him. We just think about ourselves. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank Him for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Mrs. Whetstra's Gingerbread...Before It Burnt!

Gingerbread cookies, Ginger snaps, or Gingerbread (looks like Banana bread; can buy box mixes in the grocery store.)

Case Tie-in: Before Andy became a Christian and used his sneakiness to help others think about God, he used his sneakiness to play tricks on others, such as Mrs. Whetstra.

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 People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? *Food, exercise, sleep.*
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? *Our bodies will stay strong.*
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? *Special time to pray and hear God's Word, the Bible.*
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? *Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.*
5. Why do God's people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? *They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don't feel like it.*
6. Who do God's people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? *They ask God to help them.*
7. Why do God's people want to spend time and think about God even when they don't feel like it? *Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did Andy show she cared about the needs of his heart? *He got up early every morning to take time to pray and read God's Word. He kept thinking about the Lord and what would please Him throughout the day.*
2. What about Andy's work made him realize how important it was for him to think about God every day, all day? *Andy spent most of his life as a Christian in impossible situations in which he could easily be arrested, punished and die. He knew that there was no way that he could do things like sneak Bibles by the guards or get them to the Christians in Eastern Europe, if he did not depend on the Lord.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?
This verse reminds us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

Life Application Questions

1. What difference will it make if God's people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? *He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.*
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don't feel like it? Why? *Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don't feel like it.*
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust 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 perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who like to think more about ourselves and what we want than about God and what He wants. We deserve God's punishment, but He offers us hope and forgiveness. 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: 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.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31

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 else that means as much to him as the Lord.*
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 his 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.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Think About Him?**

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. By day or by night, 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.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *After years of not wanting to think about God, when Andy did become a Christian, thinking about the Lord became his "best thoughts." When Andy found out about Christians in Eastern Europe who had few if any Bibles, he wanted to risk his life so that they, too, could have Bibles to be able to think about the Lord. Just like he knew for himself, he knew that for them, thinking about the Lord, loving and obeying Him, would be the best thing they could think about, too.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?

God's love means more to God's people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life. That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about Him.*

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 hearts. 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 think of Him 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'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.

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 63:3-6

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:5,6

"My mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? *God's love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God's love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God's love.*
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? *To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God's name.*
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God's name? *The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.*
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? *Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.*
5. What else does he do with his lips? *He sings songs of praise to the Lord.*
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? *He thinks about God.*
7. What are "the watches of the night?" *In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him?**

The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *For years Andy did not want to think about God at all; but when finally he did turn to the Lord, it was what he wanted to do, most of all. He showed that God's love was better than life by risking his life, over and over, so that others might have Bible's so that they could think about God, praise His and have their hearts satisfied by Him, too.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.
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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.

Life Application Questions

1. When might God's people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? *Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.*
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 has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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: Puzzling Wall Ball

Materials

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

Three 11.5" x 17" pieces of construction paper, two pieces of one color for each team

Masking Tape

Small Nerf Ball or other soft ball

Marker

Use masking tape to lightly tape the pieces to a wall, mixing up colors

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:

Divide the children into teams. Explain to them that they are going to take turns trying to hit pieces of their team's colored puzzle pieces with the ball. Each time they hit one of their team's pieces, that piece is removed from the wall and fit into their puzzle. Have the entire group say the verse before each child takes a turn.

Game continues until one team has completed their puzzle, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Use only one copy of the verse and one puzzle to make. Have everyone work together on the puzzle until completed.

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.

If you do this closing activity, make sure you read the verse to the class before asking the 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.

Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32

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. Why did Andy especially want to play a prank on the Whetstra's? *They were godly Christians and he wanted to make them react sinfully, if he could. He didn't their godliness.*
2. What did Andy do each week to avoid thinking about God? *Snuck out of church until the end of the service.*
3. How did Andy use his sneaking ability in the war to fight against the Germans? *Snuck messages between Underground leaders; put sugar in the German's gas tanks so their cars wouldn't run.*
4. Why did Andy want to be a commando in Java? *He would get to use his sneaking around to fight against enemy soldiers.*
5. What did Andy do in Java that he felt guilty about? *Hurt villagers that he wasn't supposed to hurt, instead of just soldiers.*
6. Why did Andy start wearing a yellow hat and shouting to the enemy soldiers? *He felt so guilty that he didn't want to live anymore.*
7. What happened in the hospital that began to change Andy's life? *The Christian nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God.*
8. What happened on the ship that caused Andy to think more and more about God? *He read the Bible from beginning to end.*
9. What happened when Andy got home that caused Andy to think even more about God? *He went to church and listened to sermons from God's Word.*
10. What did Andy decide to do to help him think more about God when he became a Christian? *He got up early each morning and had a special time of prayer and Bible reading.*
11. What did Andy hear about the Eastern European Christians that made him want to help them? *They had few if any Bibles.*
12. What did Andy plan to do to help the Eastern European Christians? *Sneak Bibles across the border to give to them.*
13. Why did Andy pray before he would come to the border guards? *He knew that only the Lord would make it possible for him to sneak the Bibles in.*
14. What does Andy do today? *He runs Open Doors International, an organization that still works to get Bibles in the hands of people who would not have them otherwise.*
15. Why did Andy risk his life to get Bibles to the Eastern Europeans? *He knew they wanted to think about God, love Him and cheerfully obey Him. They needed God's Word to know what God was like, so they would think about Him the right way.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Think about Him**? *Andy changed from someone who never wanted to think about God to someone who risked his life many times so that others could have Bibles to help them think about God.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why do you think Andy felt it was so important to have a special time of praying and reading the Bible each day? *He knew that he would need all the courage and guidance the Lord could give him in order to be prepared for the dangerous work he did each day.*
2. What kinds of things do God's people today need courage and guidance from the Lord about? *(Answers vary)*
3. 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 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night?"

For years Andy did not want to think about God at all; but when finally he did turn to the Lord, it was what he wanted to do, most of all. He showed that God's love was better than life by risking his life, over and over again, so that others might have Bible's so that they could think about God, praise His and have their hearts satisfied by Him, too.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Protector and Sustainer of His people.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we, like Andy deserve God's punishment for our sinful rebellion against God and His good ways. Many times we have been sneakers who do not want to know God and obey His good ways.. 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 His great patience and mercy shown to sinners who choose to rebel against Him by working in their hearts and giving them the gift of faith in 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, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to think about Him and spend time with Him each day, that we might depend upon Him and obey Him in all we do.*

The Gospel

1. *What was the good news of Jesus that Andy risked their lives to tell? 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: Give These to Farmer Brown

Materials

Straw hat
 Small Plastic Shovel, gardening glove or other farming implement,
 Shoe box or equivalent...or play clay
 20 Drinking straws
 20 Scraps of Construction paper
 Tape
 Paper and Marker
 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 20 flowers, using construction paper to make blossoms and taping them to drinking straw stems. Write a number on each flower that will correspond to each Story Review Question. Cut small slits in the top of the shoe box and stick each flower stem into one (or, take small lumps of clay and stick on bottom of stems for free-standing flowers.) Place the flowers in what will be the center of your circle.
3. Number the Story Review questions from 1-20.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit in a circle. Put the straw hat on your head and turn to the child on your right in the circle and say, "Give this to Farmer Brown!" Take the hat off and place it on the child's head. Tell him to pass it on, repeating the same phrase and taking off the hat and placing it on the next child's head. Then, put the glove/hold the shovel and turn to the child to your LEFT as say, "Give this to Farmer Brown". Take off the glove(shovel) and pass it over to the child and tell them to pass it on. That child continues to pass the glove/shovel to the left. At some point, the hat going to the right and the glove/shovel going to the right will meet at the same child. That child is " leader reads the question with the same number for the child to answer. Allow children to choose someone to help them with the answer if they are having difficulty.

Game continues until all children get to pick a flower; or 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.

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 Sneakiest Sneaker.

Our story takes in 1930's and 40's in Holland and other countries in Europe.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Andy hid outside of the Whetstra's house waiting to see what they would do when their clogged chimney filled Mrs. Whetstra's kitchen with smoke. The Whetstra's were godly Christians and Andy did not like how they talked about Jesus so much. He was trying to get them to react sinfully to his prank, but they did not. Andy didn't like to think about God at all. He even snuck out of church until the end of the service so that he wouldn't have to hear about Him. During WWII, Andy joined the Dutch Underground to secretly help to get rid of the Germans. He used his skills in sneaking and in pranks. He would sneak messages to other people in the Underground and poured sugar into gas tanks so their cars wouldn't work.

Scene 2:

After the war, Andy became a commando in Bali for the Dutch army. He snuck around the jungles, trying to protect the Dutch government from enemies there. Andy and the other commandos many times hurt not just enemy soldiers, but village people. Andy felt so guilty about this that he wanted to die. He began to wear a yellow hat and yell to the enemies so they would see him and try to shoot him. When surrounded by enemies, Andy got shot in the ankle. When in the hospital, nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God. On the ship's voyage back home, Andy began reading his Bible and thinking about God. When he got home, he went to church.

Scene 3

The Holy Spirit worked in Andy's heart as he thought and read more and more about God. Andy became a Christian. Andy began having daily special times with God. He wanted to live his life for God. When Andy heard about the many Eastern European Christians with few or no Bibles, Andy believed the Lord was leading him to use his sneaking skills to get Bibles to them. The Whetstra's gave Andy their VW car. Andy filled the car with Bibles and Christian books. He drove hundreds of miles to the border of Yugoslavia. As he approached the border guards, Andy prayed that the Lord would make them blind to his literature. He knew that he could not sneak past the guards, only the Lord would make it possible. The Lord answered Andy's prayer. The guards did not see the books, even though they completely searched the car. Andy made many more trips to Eastern Europe, bringing Bible and Christian books. Today, he still works to get Bibles with others in Open Doors, International.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Andy changed from someone who never wanted to think about God to someone who risked his life many times so that others could have Bibles to help them think about 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 Sneakiest Sneaker.

Our story takes in 1930's and 40's in Holland and other countries.

The characters in our story today are: Andy and his family, the Whetstra's, Germans, Dutch underground people, commandos, enemy soldiers, villagers, nurses, Eastern Europeans, border guards

And now we present: "The Case of the Sneakiest Sneaker."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Andy hid outside of the Whetstra's house waiting to see what they would do when their clogged chimney filled Mrs. Whetstra's kitchen with smoke. The Whetstra's were godly Christians and Andy did not like how they talked about Jesus so much. He was trying to get them to react sinfully to his prank, but they did not. Andy didn't like to think about God at all. He even snuck out of church until the end of the service so that he wouldn't have to hear about Him. During WWII, Andy joined the Dutch Underground to secretly help to get rid of the Germans. He used his skills in sneaking and in pranks. He would sneak messages to other people in the Underground and poured sugar into gas tanks so their cars wouldn't work.

Scene 2: (Middle)

After the war, Andy became a commando in Bali for the Dutch army. He snuck around the jungles, trying to protect the Dutch government from enemies there. Andy and the other commandos many times hurt not just enemy soldiers, but village people. Andy felt so guilty about this that he wanted to die. He began to wear a yellow hat and yell to the enemies so they would see him and try to shoot him. When surrounded by enemies, Andy got shot in the ankle. When in the hospital, nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God. On the ship's voyage back home, Andy began reading his Bible and thinking about God. When he got home, he went to church.

Scene 3: (End)

The Holy Spirit worked in Andy's heart as he thought and read more and more about God. Andy became a Christian. Andy began having daily special times with God. He wanted to live his life for God. When Andy heard about the many Eastern European Christians with few or no Bibles, Andy believed the Lord was leading him to use his sneaking skills to get Bibles to them. The Whetstra's gave Andy their VW car. Andy filled the car with Bibles and Christian books. He drove hundreds of miles to the border of Yugoslavia. As he approached the border guards, Andy prayed that the Lord would make them blind to his literature. He knew that he could not sneak past the guards, only the Lord would make it possible. The Lord answered Andy's prayer. The guards did not see the books, even though they completely searched the car. Andy made many more trips to Eastern Europe, bringing Bible and Christian books. Today, he still works to get Bibles with others in Open Doors, International.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Andy changed from someone who never wanted to think about God to someone who risked his life many times so that others could have Bibles to help them think about God.

Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books

Description

The children will make a scene of border crossing guard and his car with a flap that lifts up and reveals Bibles.

Materials

- 1 picture of Guard and Andy's VW car per craft
- Book pictures
- Scissors
- Pencils, Markers and colored pencils
- 1 Lunch sized plastic bag per craft
- Clear tape

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out pictures of guard and car onto cardstock, 1 per craft.
2. Print out a page of rectangles per craft. Cut out around them, if desired, for youngest children. These will become books.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children use markers to decorate the picture and the books, adding details to the books, like the word "Bible" or pictures, etc. (probably best to use pencils to add words)
3. Fold the books in the middle to give a book-like appearance.
4. Cut out around dashed lines in the door panel. This will make a hinge to open the door. You may want to do this for the children, especially the younger children. If desired, you can even cut open the door as a preparation step ahead of time.
5. Turn the picture over and tape the edges of the plastic bag in place around the door opening you have made.
6. Have the children put their books in the pouch by opening the flap from the front side.

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 Eastern Europe.

2. Why was it such a big deal to cross the border with a car full of Bibles and Christian books?

Because Bibles and Christian books were not allowed in Eastern Europe during that time.

3. Why would Andy risk his life to get these books into Eastern Europe?

He knew that the people of Eastern Europe would be able to learn about God and be saved if they had these books. That was worth more than anything to Andy.

4. What is Bible Truth 9 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.

5. What does our craft have to do with the Bible Truth 9?

Andy thought about God in prayer and in reading the Bible every day. He loved God and he sought God's help to get the Bibles past the guard and into Eastern Europe.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants His people today to think about Him in prayer and in reading the Bible each day. He will help them do whatever He calls them to do.

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: Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books.

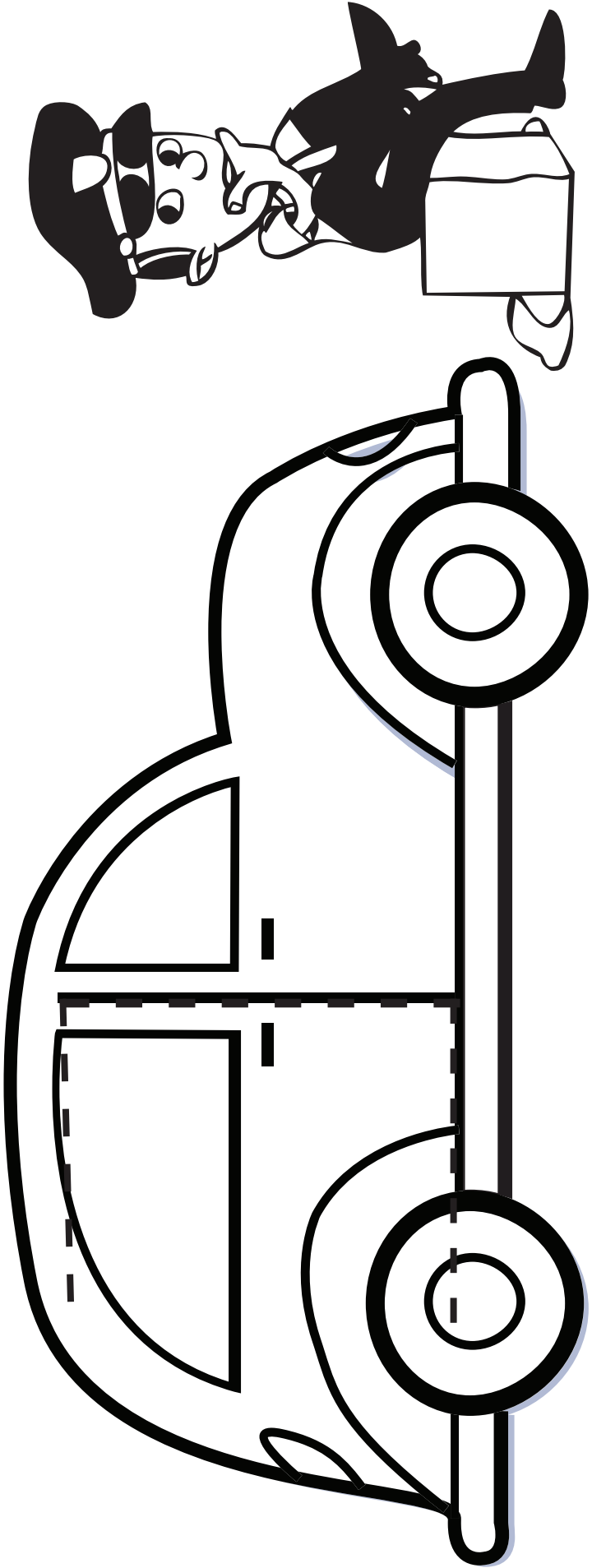
2. Andy risked his life to take Bibles and Christian books across the border into Eastern Europe so that the people might learn about God and be saved.

3. Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think about Him.

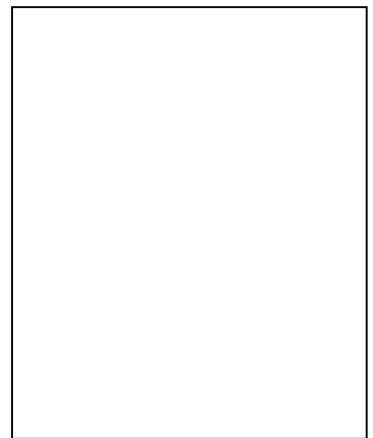
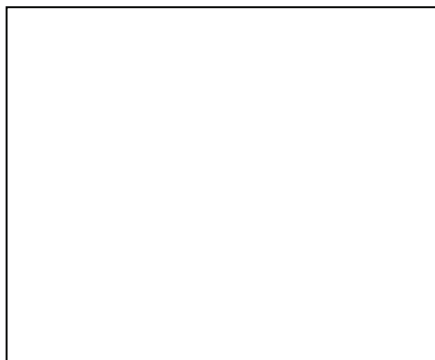
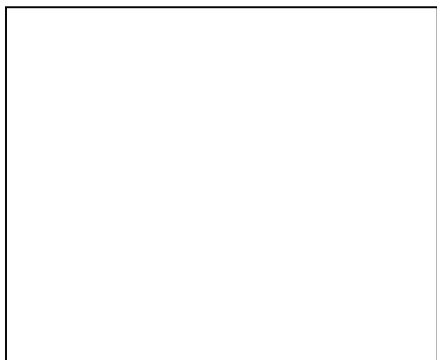
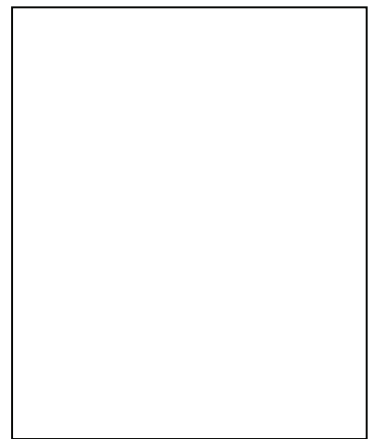
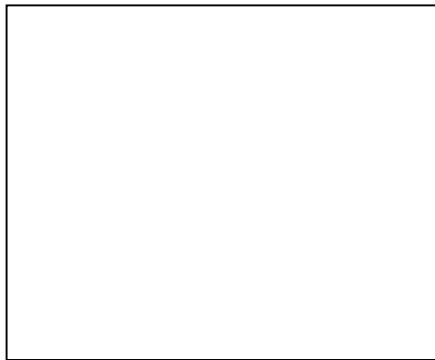
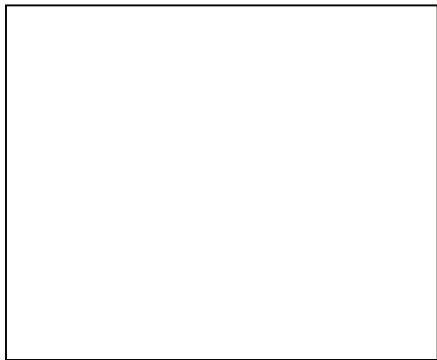
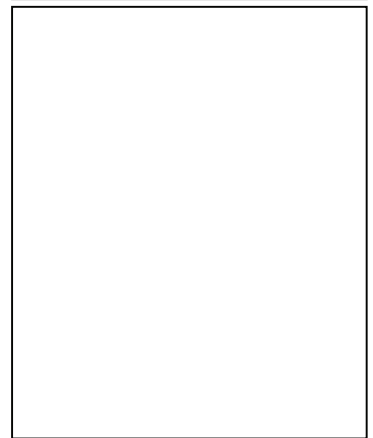
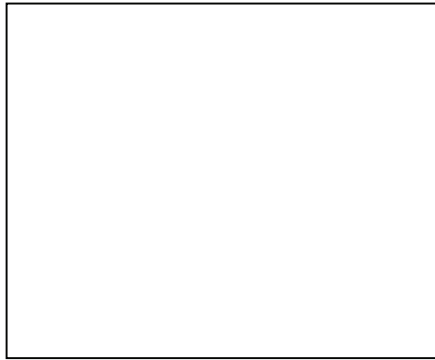
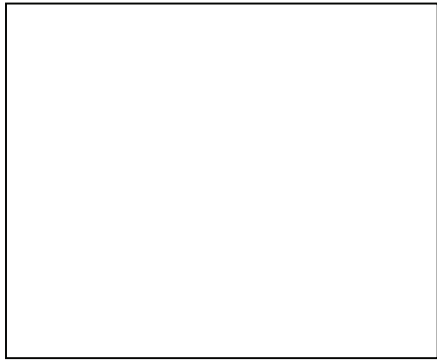
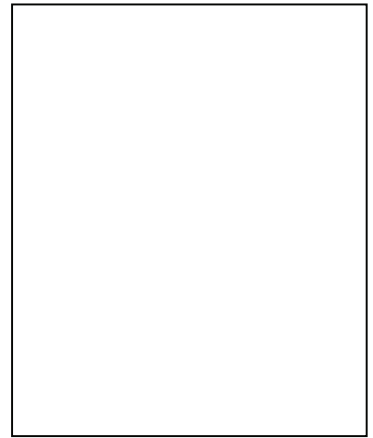
4. Andy thought about God in prayer and in reading the Bible every day. He loved God and he sought God's help to get the Bibles past the guard and into Eastern Europe.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants His people today to think about Him in prayer and in reading the Bible each day. He will help them do whatever He calls them to do.

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.



<http://vcteezy.com/> Free Vector Graphics by Vecteezy



Rectangles for books

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. They are found in 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: 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 9, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 9: God's People Think about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Extra Bible Verse: Let the Morning Bring Me Psalm 143:5,8 PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 33

Lesson 3 Old Testament: The Case of the Forgetful Fretters *Exodus 14-15*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Water of Marah with Sticks

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 31*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:3-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Which Way Did It Go?

Bible Verse Song: Love Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Bean Bag in the Hole

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: Crossing the Red Sea

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 9, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Forgetful Fretters Exodus 14-15

by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Forgetful Fretters.**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the forgetful fretters?
2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

This story takes place in Egypt, in Old Testament times, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

“What have we done?” exclaimed Pharaoh to his officials. “How could we have been so foolish as to let those Israelite slaves go? Who will build my grand buildings now? Prepare my army!” he ordered. “We must go after them and bring them back!”

Quickly the soldiers were gathered. “Forward, men!” Pharaoh ordered. “Off to the eastern wilderness to capture our slaves.” The air filled with clouds of dust and the thunder of galloping horses and marching soldiers.

While Pharaoh and his men marched out into the wilderness, the Israelites—a two days’ walk ahead—reached the shores of the Red Sea, near Pi Hahiroth and settled down for the night. What a wonderful couple of days it had been! At last they were free from their Egyptian taskmasters! No more bricks to make, no more buildings to build, no more whips to bear on their backs. The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. He had rescued them by one amazing miracle after another. Who had ever heard of a god who sent plagues upon His people’s enemies? Or who led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night? Or who promised to give a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? How sweet were their thoughts of the LORD that evening!

But how long would the people keep thinking about the LORD and His mighty miracles like this? Only two days, the Bible tells us. For as soon as the Israelites saw Pharaoh’s army heading towards them, they chose to fret and forget. Thoughts of who the LORD was and what He had done for them vanished.

The Israelites cried out to the LORD and to Moses. But not in a trusting faith for deliverance, but bitter anger: “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It

would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” they cried.

Moses urged the Israelites to think about the LORD as they should. “Don’t be afraid,” Moses told them. “Stand firm and you will see how the LORD will deliver you today. You will never see these Egyptians again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still,” he promised them.

Then the LORD told Moses: “Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” Then, the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel, like a great wall. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind until the waters were completely divided and left a path along the sea bed. Across the dry ground, the Israelites safely crossed the sea, with a towering wall of sea water on each side.

Pharaoh’s men followed after the Israelites along the dry sea bed, but the LORD threw the soldiers into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving.

“Let’s get away from the Israelites!” the Egyptians cried. “The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

But it was too late. “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters flow back over the Egyptians, their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

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.

When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, they exclaimed: “Who is like our God, who hurls both horse and rider into the sea? The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him...Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling...” (Exodus 15:11-13. NIV 1984)

Once more the Israelites were amazed at how the LORD had rescued them. But how long would they keep on thinking about Him and his mighty miracles? Only three days, the Bible tells us: until the next, big difficulty arose. Once more they would choose to fret and forget.

Drip, drip, drip. The last few drops of water trickled out of the sheep’s-bladder water bottles that the Israelites had carried with them from Egypt. This was terrible news! The last water they had seen was three days ago at the Red Sea. Now, out in the hard, sun-baked, barren wilderness, there seemed to be no water to be found.

“Hey, look over there, in the distance! Aren’t those palm trees and grasses?” someone shouted.

“Why, yes, those are! It must be an oasis!” someone else agreed.

Relieved, the people dashed towards the water of the little oasis. Some plunged their water bottles into the spring while others used their hands and brought overflowing handfuls of sparkling water to their dry mouths.

But halfway into the first swallow, the Israelites began coughing and choking. “Bleack! This water’s no good! It’s bitter!” they exclaimed. “We can’t drink it!”

Once more the Israelites were in big trouble with no way out. They needed water soon or they would die; yet, there was none to be found. What would they do?

The LORD had been their mighty deliverer. Hadn’t their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water fell back into place, swallowing up the Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

Hadn’t He rescued them again at the Red Sea just

three days earlier? They could have remembered these things, but they chose to fret and forget.

“What are we to drink?” they grumbled.

How terrible the Israelites were to the LORD! But oh, how merciful and patient He was to them! As soon as Moses cried out to Him about the water, the LORD showed Moses a tree with special bark that he could throw into the water and make it sweet. Once more the LORD had delivered them. What a shame that they could not keep thinking about Him as they should.

“Listen to me!” The LORD told the people through Moses, “Think about Me and do what is right. Keep all the good laws I am giving you. If you do, I will not bring on you any of the diseases you saw Me bring on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you,” He promised them. He was their mighty deliverer. They were His people. He wanted to bless them, but they would need to keep thinking about Him and obeying Him. This would be a hard, slow lesson for these stubborn-hearted people He loved.

Having made His point yet again with the bitter spring at Marah, now the Lord showed them also showed them once more how richly He would supply for their every need. He led them to the lush, palm-tree shaded oasis of Elim, where there was not just one spring of water, but twelve. And there He had them camp until they were refreshed.

Cracking the Case:

It’s time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the forgetful fretters?

The people of Israel.

2. What did they worry about? What did they forget? What difference would it had made if they had remembered what they chose to forget?

They worried that they would die out in the wilderness because they had no food or water. They forget in just five days the amazing ways that the LORD had delivered them from the mighty Egyptians. If they had thought about the LORD and all He had done for them, they could have turned away from worrying and trusted that the LORD would take care of them.

Something For You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Think about Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6**

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

How quick the Israelites were to forget who the LORD was! It only took five days! Perhaps it's easy to think that we would be different, if it had been us who saw the LORD mighty miracles. Perhaps we think we wouldn't fret and forget like they did.

But the hearts of God's people today really not so different from the Israelites long ago. Many times even today, they are all too quick to stop thinking about the Lord when hard things happen to them.

And in some ways, what they do is even worse than what the Israelites did. For while the Israelites forgot to remember the amazing way that the LORD delivered them from the Egyptians, God's people today are too quick to forget the even more amazing way that the LORD has delivered them from sin and death through Jesus' death on the cross.

What about you and me? We've heard about God's mighty faithful to His people long ago. We've heard how we can become God's people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus. What will we do? Will we fret and forget about God or will we think about Him? Will we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus? Will we ask Him to help us to think about Him as we go through every day of life He gives us?

Let's pray right now that He will. Let's praise God for His great mercy and patience with His stubborn, forgetful people. Let's pray that by His Holy Spirit, God would help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to help us to think about Him more and more. Let's pray that when we are faced with difficult—even seemingly impossible—situations that He would help us to remember His powerful deliverance and to cry out in faith that He would rescue us.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Great, Always-Faithful God. You will always take care of Your people, even when it looks impossible.

C God, we confess that we are like the Israelites, forgetting how faithful You have been to us in the past. How quickly we distrust You and Your goodness. How quickly we grumble. Please forgive us!. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for treating us with so much mercy and patience, even when we do forget and distrust You. Thank You for taking away all of our sins through Jesus. Thank You for continuing to be faithful, even when we do not trust You as we should..

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to always trust You, no matter how impossible it looks for You to rescue us and take care of us. Help us to rejoice and wait for You to act. Help us to remember how You have always been faithful in the past.

Special Words

Fret: To worry about something.

Chariot: A type of fast-moving carriage pulled by horses, often used in battles by soldiers.

Pharaoh: Title of the ancient, Egyptian kings.

Land flowing with milk and honey: A land that is filled with many good things (but doesn't really flow with milk and honey).

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:

Praise God for being perfectly good. He is so worthy of all our thoughts.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we choose to not think about God. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him. We just think about ourselves. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank Him for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him 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: Waters of Marah with Sticks

Blue sugar-free jello “bitter water” with pretzel or graham cracker stick “wood” like what the Lord gave Moses to make the waters sweet at Marah.

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

Case Tie-in: The people of Israel forgot to think about the Lord and all the amazing things He had done when they reached the bitter waters of Marah. Even so, the Lord showed mercy to them by making the water sweet when Moses through the stick in the water.

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 People Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? *Food, exercise, sleep.*
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? *Our bodies will stay strong.*
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? *Special time to pray and hear God's Word, the Bible.*
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? *Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.*
5. Why do God's people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? *They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don't feel like it.*
6. Who do God's people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? *They ask God to help them.*
7. Why do God's people want to spend time and think about God even when they don't feel like it? *Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How could thinking about God have helped the Israelites in their difficult situations? *They could have remembered all the plagues He sent upon the Egyptians to free them from slavery. They would have remembered His promises to make them His treasured people and bring them into the Promised Land.*
2. Why do you think the Israelites were so quick to forget the Lord? *Because they had sinful hearts—just like us. Sinful hearts always tend to forget God and not trust Him. That is why they—and we—need to keep thinking about God each day. That is how we remind ourselves what He is like and how we should always trust Him, even in seemingly impossible situations.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?
This verse reminds us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

Life Application Questions

1. What difference will it make if God's people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? *He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.*
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don't feel like it? Why? *Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don't feel like it.*
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust 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 perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who like to think more about ourselves and what we want than about God and what He wants. We deserve God's punishment, but He offers us hope and forgiveness. 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: 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 possible. 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 12, Track 31

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 else that means as much to him as the Lord.*
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 his 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.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Think About Him?**

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. By day or by night, 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.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Lord freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt in amazing ways. When they faced other troubles, they should have kept thinking about all the Lord had done for them. If they had loved Him above all other things, if they had kept thinking about Him as their best thought, by day or by night, then they would have had the strength to keep trusting Him, even in seemingly impossible situations.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night?"

God's love means more to God's people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life. That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about Him.*

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 hearts. 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 think of Him 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'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.

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 63:3-6

"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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:5,6

"My mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? *God's love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God's love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God's love.*
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? *To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God's name.*
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God's name? *The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.*
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? *Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.*
5. What else does he do with his lips? *He sings songs of praise to the Lord.*
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? *He thinks about God.*
7. What are "the watches of the night?" *In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him?**

The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection Questions

1. What do these verses have to do with our story? *Over and over again the Israelites chose to NOT think about God. When faced with dangers they chose NOT to glorify Him or think that His love was better than life, even though He had shown Himself to be their faithful, loving God through many amazing miracles.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.
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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.

Life Application Questions

1. When might God's people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? *Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.*
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 has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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: Verse Hi-Lo

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
A long pieces of rope

Preparing the Game

1. Make up some questions about the verse and/or story. Use the Bible Verse and Story Review Discussion questions, if desired..

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 they will recite the Bible Verse and then have a chance to see how high they can jump. After each round, the rope will be raised a little higher. jump across. For caution sake, don't raise it so high that most children will likely trip. One foot high is a good stopping height. Help younger children by holding one of their hands while they jump over. If a child can't make it over, he can answer one of the questions about the verse you prepared to get another chance to jump (Let him have a partner to help with answering their question, if desired.)

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 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.

Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.
Psalm Sixty-three, three and four.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 32

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.

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 the Pharaoh regret doing? *Releasing the Israelite slaves.*
2. What were the Israelites thinking about as they enjoyed their first two days of freedom? *They rejoiced in the Lord. They thought about the land He promised to them.*
3. Where did the Israelites camp on their second night? *Next to the Red Sea.*
4. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians coming towards them? *They did not remember the Lord's great works on their behalf. They got angry and accused Moses of bringing them out to the wilderness to die.*
5. What could the Israelites have done when they saw the Egyptian soldiers? *They could have remembered the Lord's great works on their behalf and cried out in faith to Him, believing that somehow He would rescue them.*
6. What did the Lord do to rescue the Israelites? *He had the angel of the Lord and the pillar of fire be between the Egyptians and them so they could not be found. He parted the Red Sea, into 2 great walls of water and sent a strong wind from the east to dry up the sea bed so they wouldn't even have to walk through mud!*
7. What happened to the Egyptian soldiers? *They were destroyed when the waters of the Red Sea came down upon them.*
8. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians were destroyed? *They rejoiced in the Lord again, proclaiming as the God unlike all others.*
9. What happened to the Israelites in the desert that worried them? *They had run out of water and had seen no water for 3 days, since the Red Sea.*
10. What did the Israelites do when they found out that the water of the first oasis were bitter and undrinkable? *They grumbled and did not trust the Lord.*
11. What should they have done? *They should have remembered the Lord's great deliverances on their behalf and His promises to take care of them, and cried out to Him in faith.*
12. What did the Lord do to make the water sweet? *Showed Moses wood to throw in the water.*
13. What did the Lord tell the Israelites He wanted them to do? *He wanted them to think about Him and remember His laws. He wanted them to obey Him. If they did, He would take care of them and not send plagues on them, like the Egyptians.*
14. Where did the Lord take the Israelites in the end? Why? *He took them to Elim, the wonderful oasis with 12 springs of water and lots of palm trees. He was showing them that they should keep thinking about Him. They should always trust Him. He would take care of them.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him**? *The Israelites had plenty things about the Lord to think about to give them hope in seemingly impossible situations, but each time they chose to forget the Lord, stop trusting Him and grumble.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "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, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night."?
Over and over again the Israelites chose to NOT think about God. When faced with dangers they chose NOT to glorify Him or think that His love was better than life, even though He had shown Himself to be their faithful, loving God through many amazing miracles.

Life Application Questions

1. How are God's people today like the Israelites? *They are sinners who all too quickly forget to think about the Lord and all He has done for them when they are in seemingly impossible situations.*
2. Who can help God's people today to help them think about God? *God can help them! He can work in their hearts by His Holy Spirit, that they would think about & trust Him, not forget Him and grumble.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Patient with His sinful people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we, like the Israelites forget God and do things our own way instead of His good way. We need Him to save us through Jesus!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for always being able to help His people, no matter what they go through. They can always count on Him to be able to do His good and perfect will for them. They never need to fear.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to think about and trust Him, even in impossible looking situations.*

The Gospel

1. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but He has provided a way to rescue us from slavery to sin and death. How has He done this? 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 in the Hole

Materials

Paper and pencil

Markers

Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

Beanbag

2' by 2' piece of cardboard

Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Bend back about 3" along two opposite sides of the cardboard. Cut 3 to 5 holes in the main part of the cardboard that are just large enough for the beanbag to be thrown in easily. Use the tape along the top and bottom to hold back in place the bend sides of the cardboard, making a stand for the target. Use the markers to write point values for each hole in the target.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns tossing the beanbag at the target board. Each child gets three chances to get the beanbag in a hole. If he does, the leader reads a question to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the target hole. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team who can get half the point value for a correct answer.

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. Set a target point number for the group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have the children take turns tossing the beanbag (three tries each). 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 Forgetful Fretters.

Our story takes place in the desert wilderness outside of Egypt, in Old Testament times, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Forgetful Fretters."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Pharaoh re-thinks freeing the Israelite slaves. He orders his officials to get his army ready to go after them. The Israelites are two days ahead, out in the wilderness. They are rejoicing in the freedom the LORD has given them. They set up camp next to the Red Sea.

Scene 2:

As they see the Egyptians coming after them, the Israelites quickly fret and forget the LORD. They cry out in anger. The Lord has Moses to stretch out his hand over the Sea. The angel of the LORD and the pillar of fire keep the Egyptians away, while the LORD pushes back the Red Sea and sends a east wind to dry the ground. The Israelites pass through the Red Sea safely. The Egyptians follow them into the dry, sea bed, but the LORD destroys them in the Red Sea after the Israelites has passed through safely. The Israelites rejoice in the LORD again.

Scene 3

Three days later, the Israelites are thirsty in the desert and out of water. They come to an oasis, hopeful that they have found water at last. When the water is bitter and undrinkable, the Israelites once more fret and forget the LORD. They grumble against Him and Moses. The LORD once more has mercy on them. He shows Moses wood of a tree that he can throw in and make the water sweet. The LORD tells the Israelites to keep thinking about Him and His commands. If they do, they can be assured He will take care of them and not bring the plagues on them that He brought on the Egyptians. He then leads them to Elim, where there are twelve springs of good water and lots of palm trees.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** The Israelites had plenty things about the Lord to think about to give them hope in seemingly impossible situations, but each time they chose to forget the Lord, stop trusting Him and grumble.

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 Forgetful Fretters.

Our story takes place in the desert wilderness outside of Egypt, in Old Testament times, about 1500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Paul, Silas, Timothy; the people buying and selling in the Agora; the Gentiles and Jews in the synagogue; Jason and the other new believers; the bad men in the Agora; the rioting crowd; the Thessalonian leaders.

And now we present: "The Case of the Forgetful Fretters."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Pharaoh re-thinks freeing the Israelite slaves. He orders his officials to get his army ready to go after them. The Israelites are two days ahead, out in the wilderness. They are rejoicing in the freedom the LORD has given them. They set up camp next to the Red Sea.

Scene 2: (Middle)

As they see the Egyptians coming after them, the Israelites quickly fret and forget the LORD. They cry out in anger. The Lord has Moses to stretch out his hand over the Sea. The angel of the LORD and the pillar of fire keep the Egyptians away, while the LORD pushes back the Red Sea and sends a east wind to dry the ground. The Israelites pass through the Red Sea safely. The Egyptians follow them into the dry, sea bed, but the LORD destroys them in the Red Sea after the Israelites has passed through safely. The Israelites rejoice in the LORD again.

Scene 3: (End)

Three days later, the Israelites are thirsty in the desert and out of water. They come to an oasis, hopeful that they have found water at last. When the water is bitter and undrinkable, the Israelites once more fret and forget the LORD. They grumble against Him and Moses. The LORD once more has mercy on them. He shows Moses wood of a tree that he can throw in and make the water sweet. The LORD tells the Israelites to keep thinking about Him and His commands. If they do, they can be assured He will take care of them and not bring the plagues on them that He brought on the Egyptians. He then leads them to Elim, where there are twelve springs of good water and lots of palm trees.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** The Israelites had plenty things about the Lord to think about to give them hope in seemingly impossible situations, but each time they chose to forget the Lord, stop trusting Him and grumble.

Parting the Red Sea

Description

The children will make a picture of the Israelites crossing the parted Red Sea using craft sand, markers and little stand up people.

Materials

Cardstock
Natural colored craft sand
Craft Glue
Markers or colored pencils
Scissors
Empty paper towel/toilet paper rolls
Cookie sheets or plates, if desired

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out 1 copy of the Red Sea backdrop and the stand-up people per child onto cardstock.
2. For youngest children, cut out around each pair of stand up figures, using the rectangle edges as a guide.
3. Set out markers.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color with blue markers the outer two areas of the Red Sea background and color in the figures as desired.
3. Have them cut along the dashed lines on both sides. These sides will resemble fringe when finished.
4. Using the paper towel/toilet paper roll, curl up the fringed sides until they stand up in a curl like waves.
5. Have the children add glue to the middle, uncurled section of the background. Sprinkle sand on top of glue, letting excess fall off onto a plate or cookie sheet.
6. Fold the figures in the middle and stand up in place on the sand.

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. What was the land like where Moses led the Israelites as they left Egypt?

A desert wilderness.

2. What did the Israelites run out of, just five days into their journey?

Water.

3. What did the Israelites do when they realized the waters at Marah were bitter? What should they have done?

They fretted and grumbled against the LORD. They should have remembered who the LORD was and all the amazing things He had done for them, even in just the past five days.

4. What is Bible Truth 9 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.

5. What does our craft--Parting the Red Sea--have to do with our Bible Truth?

The Israelites had every reason to trust that God could take care of their need for water if they would only think about all that He had already done to deliver them.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants His people today to think about how He has taken care of them in the past and trust Him instead of worry or grumble about whatever hard things they are going through. He took care of them before. He can take care of them now.

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: Parting the Red Sea.

2. In the wilderness, the thirsty Israelites grumbled about the bitter water instead of remembering how God delivered them by parting the Red Sea because they stopped thinking about who the LORD was and chose to fret about how impossible the situation looked instead.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Think About Him.

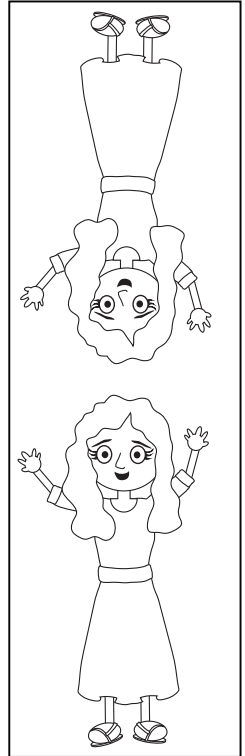
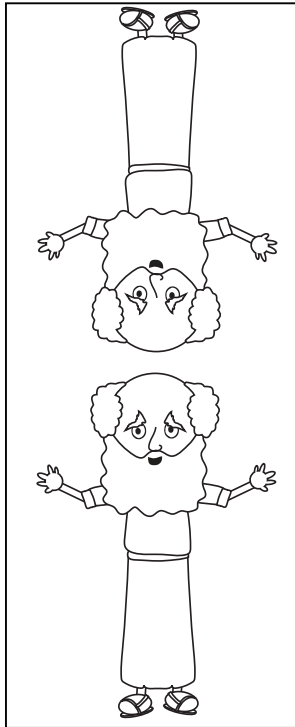
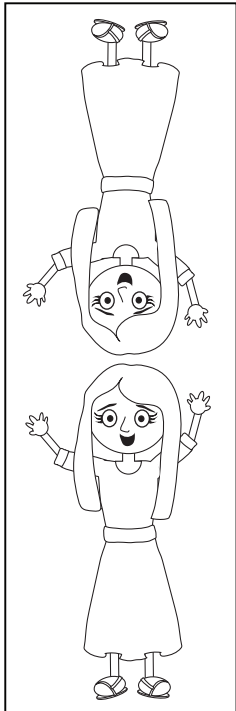
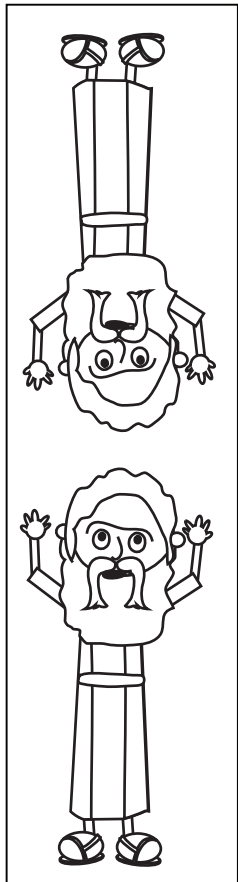
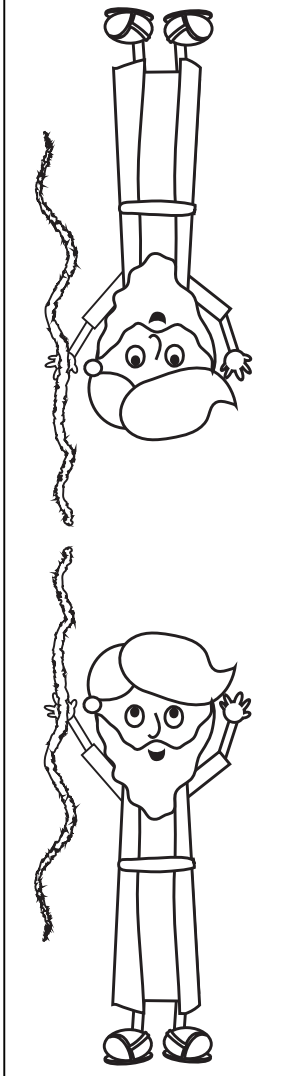
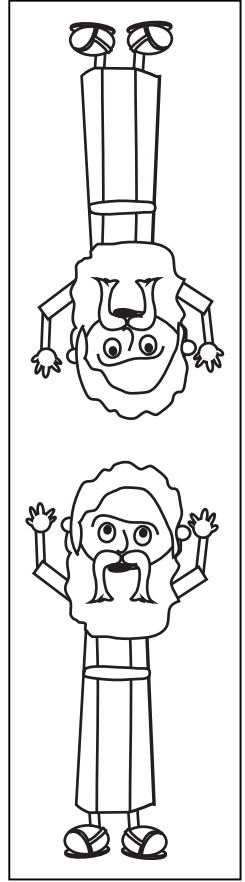
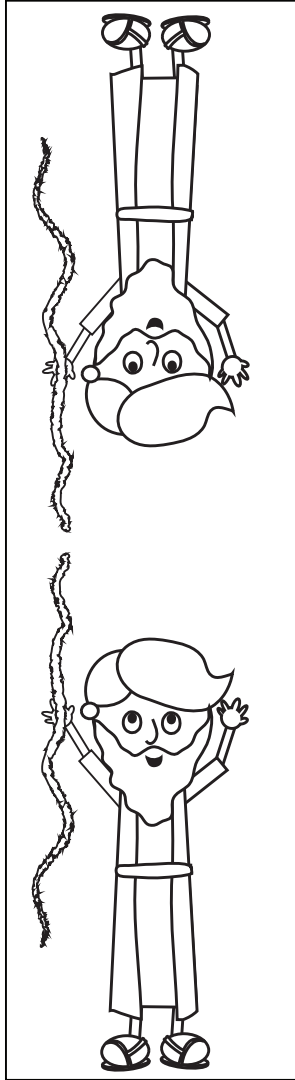
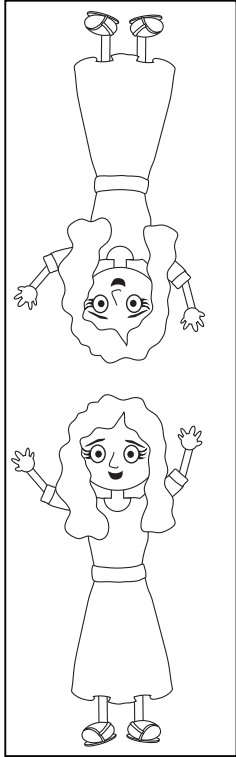
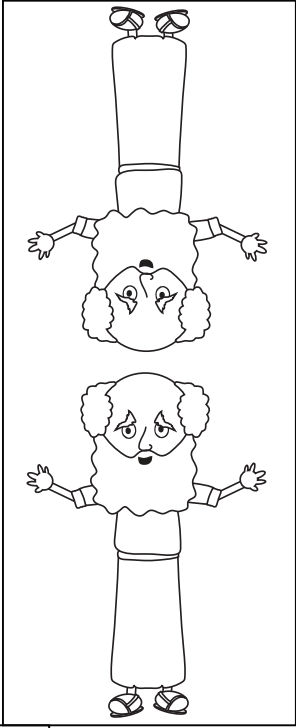
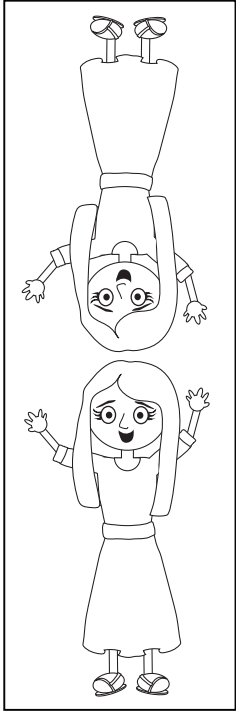
4. The Israelites had every reason to trust that God could take care of their need for water if they would only think about all that He had already done to deliver them.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants His people today to think about how He has taken care of them in the past and trust Him instead of worry or grumble about whatever hard things they are going through. He took care of them before. He can take care of them now.

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.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 vertical dashed lines and a horizontal dotted line at the bottom.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 vertical dashed lines and a horizontal dotted line at the top.



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. They are found in 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: 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

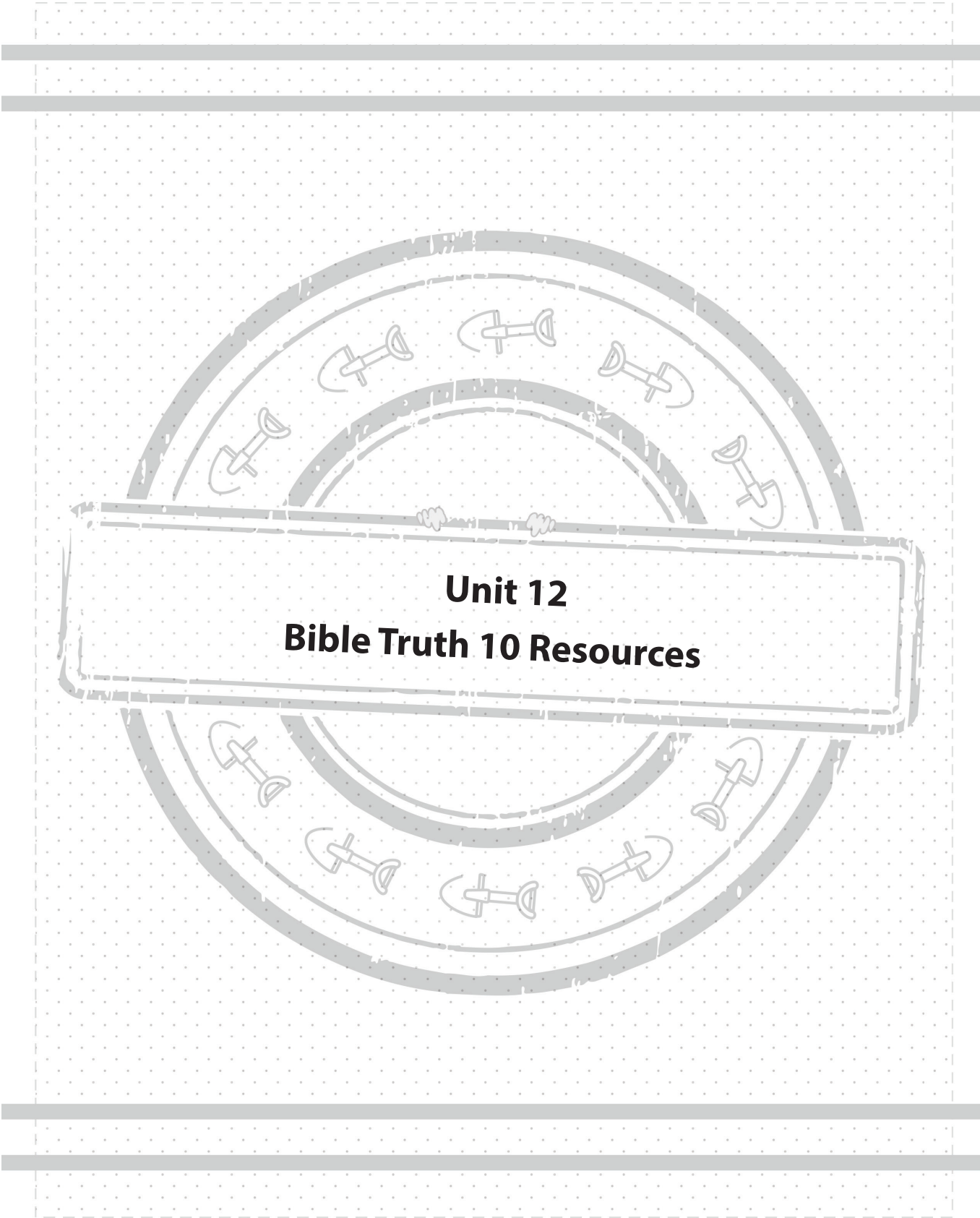
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



Unit 12
Bible Truth 10 Resources

BIBLE TRUTH 10 OVERVIEW

Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Big Question and Answer: "How Should God's People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!"

Bible Verse: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

Bible Truth 10 Concept: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

Bible Truth 10 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Alternate Memory Version: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Bible Truth 10 ACTS Prayer

- A** Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.
- C** Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of asking for God's help and looking for His way out of it. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!
- T** Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.
- S** Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we wouldn't sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

Bible Truth 10 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Handsome No Man (Old Testament)

Genesis 37,39,45,50

Lesson 2: The Case of the Courageous Couple (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Tricky Givers (New Testament)

Acts 4:32-5:14

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 12, 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 12, 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: Big Question 12 and Songs	<p>"Now it's time to turn today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: How Should God's People Live?</p> <p>We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is the end of the punishment for our sins that we deserved from God, but it's the beginning of a whole new way to live. God's people want to honor God with their whole lives like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'How Should God's People Live? is: They Should Live Like Jesus!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 12 Song <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")</i> How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>How Should God's People Live? <i>PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 4</i></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i> How should God's people live? How should God's people live? How should God's people live? They should live like Jesus!</p> <p>Verse 1: Jesus loved God most of all, He loved all people, too, In all that He did and said and thought, He loved them thru and thru. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>Verse 2: God's people should love God most of all, They should love others, too, And God the Holy Spirit, Will help them in all they do. <i>(Refrain)</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 12
Bible Verse**

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

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

**Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song
Walk in Love: Ephesians 5:1-2**

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
Let Everyone Who
Names the Name
2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,
And walk in love, as Christ love us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us,
Walk, walk, walk in love, walk in love as Christ loved us.
Ephesians Five, one and two.

God's people have been loved by God through Jesus Christ in the deepest way imaginable. What more could He have done than to offer up His life as the full payment for their sins so they could be God's people. The Bible tells us that He did this even while we were still His enemies. He loved us before we loved Him! But Jesus did this not just because of His love for God's people, but even more so, for His love for God, His Father. He always delighted to do whatever His Father wanted Him to do. God calls His people to live like Jesus, loving others and loving Him, in everything they do. God promises to help them to live this way.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)**Bible Truth 10**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FOURTEEN** Bible Truths that all tell us something about how God's people live. We have learned some already. Can you remember any of them? (God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus; God's People Love Him with All of Themselves; God's People Love Others; God's People Trust Him; God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts; God's People Obey Him; God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them; God's People Read His Word, the Bible; and, God's People Think about Him.)

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

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**Bible Truth 10
Hymn**

"Long ago, a man named Daniel B. Towner was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to a hymn called "Trust and Obey." We're going to learn a verse from it.

Trust and Obey

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34

Verse 2

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

This song is about how we can trust God all the time, even when very hard things happen that we don't understand. It reminds us that those who trust in Jesus can be happy, even in times when it's hard to understand, because God is that good. He will always bless His people--those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! They can count on that. They can just go ahead and obey Him. They can trust that it will all turn out for our good and His glory. We can be happy in Jesus, trusting and obeying Him, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, too.

**Bible Truth 10
Bible Verse
and Song**

"The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

This verse reminds us that while God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say "no" to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

No Temptation

PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35

No temptation has overtaken you,
That is not,
Common to man,
God is faithful,
He will not let you be,
Tempted beyond,
Your ability,
But with the temptation
He will also provide,
The way of escape,
So that you might be able to endure it.
First Corinthians Chapter Ten, verse thirteen.

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
No Temptation Has
Overtaken You,
1 Corinthians 10:13,
ESV
PFI ESV Songs 12,
Track 36*

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Handsome "No" Man**

Genesis 37,39,45,50

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Handsome "No" Man.**

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

- 1. Who was the handsome "no" man?**
- 2. What made him a "no" man? Who helped him be a "no" man?**

(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 handsome "no" man?** Joseph.
- 2. What made him a "no" man? Who helped him be a "no" man?** He always tried to say "no" to temptation. The LORD helped Joseph be a "no" man by giving him strength and providing a way out of each temptation so he could stand up under it.

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

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Courageous Couple**

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

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

Case Questions

- 1. Who were the courageous couple?**
- 2. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight?**

(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.

Case Questions

- 1. Who were the courageous couple?**

John and Betty Stam.

- 2. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight?**

God helped them, by His Holy Spirit, to be courageous. They had to fight the temptation to be afraid of what might happen to them if they went to China...and while they lived in China.

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

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****New Testament Story:**

The Case of the Tricky Givers
Acts 4:32-5:14

Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Tricky Givers.**

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

1. Who were the Tricky Givers?

2. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it? Why did God punish them the way that He did?

*(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 Tricky Givers? Ananias and Sapphira.

2. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it? Why did God punish them the way that He did? They were tricky because they acted like they gave the church all the money they made on the sale of their land, instead of just part of it. They gave into the temptation of wanting the honor of others more than being honest before God. They could have cried out to God and asked for Him to show them the way out of their temptation. In the early days of the church, God many times acted in big ways of blessing and of punishment that He rarely chooses to act in today. One reason He did this was to provide special encouragement to grow and to discipline His church in the especially early days as it was being formed.

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 10, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 10: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Extra Bible Verse: No Temptation Has Overtaken You, 1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 36

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Handsome No Man *Genesis 37,39,45,50*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Brother in the Cistern

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Corinthians 10:13 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hoop & Holler

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Keep It Under Your Hat

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: Joseph As a Slave

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 10, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Handsome No Man: Genesis 37,39,45,50

by Connie Dever

Our story is called: The Case of the Handsome “No” Man.

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

1. Who was the handsome “no” man?
2. What made him a “no” man? Who helped him be a “no” man?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1900 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Nine, young men sat eating their lunch and watching their sheep and goats on the green hills of Dothan. Suddenly, they stood up and began waving and yelling. A caravan of merchants with their camels was passing by, headed to Egypt with their goods.

“Stop! We have something to sell you!” the young men shouted. “A fine, young, man slave! Only seventeen years old! We have him trapped in this cistern. Come, let us show you what we have!” they urged.

The Ishmaelite merchants, with their turbans and glittering earrings, got down off their camels and came to hear more. There was always a market for a fine slave in Egypt. “Show us what you have and we’ll consider making you an offer,” they replied to the young men.

The young men grabbed their struggling prisoner, lifting him out of the muck at the bottom of the cistern, and forcing him to stand before the merchants.

“He’s good,” the merchants admitted. “We’ll give you twenty shekels of silver for him. That’s the going price for slaves these days—more money than most men make in two years. Take it or leave it,” they offered.

“We’ll take it!” the young men agreed.

One of the merchants weighed out the twenty shekels of silver and handed it over to the young men. A neck iron and shackles were clamped around the young man’s neck and feet. He was their slave now.

“Stop! You can’t do this!” the young boy insisted. “I’m no slave! I’m their brother! Judah, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Levi, Simeon, Naphtali, Asher, Zebulun! Please, don’t do this to me! Don’t let them take me away!” he begged. But it was no use. For years these brothers had watched their father Jacob spoil little brother Joseph. Special praise, special attention, even a special royal robe. All these were Joseph’s. Now the brothers were getting their revenge. As the caravan of camels disappeared in

the distant south, they planned how to cover up their evil deed. “Joseph is gone for good! We will dip his coat in blood and tell father that some ferocious animal ate him. And that will be the end of our problems with this brother of ours!”

There was very little Joseph could do but cough through the clouds of dust kicked up by the camels’ feet and think, as he walked the three hundred miles to Egypt. Think about his home and his father: would he never see them again? Think about the life of a slave that lay before him: would he wind up in the terrible copper mines like many did? Think about the terrible things his very own brothers had done to him: how could they hate him so much?

Hard times bring great temptation. Joseph was tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope. But the LORD is greater than the hardest times and the greatest temptations. He will always provide a way for His people to stand up under them and keep on trusting in Him. The LORD was with Joseph. Instead of allowing him to become bitter or worry or give up, He helped Joseph to trust Him. Instead of being sent to the terrible copper mines to work, like most Egyptians slaves, the LORD directed Potiphar, the very captain of Pharaoh’s guards, to buy Joseph.

Potiphar made Joseph one of his household slaves. The LORD blessed everything Joseph did and Potiphar noticed. Soon, he put Joseph in charge of everything he owned and watched the LORD begin to bless everything he owned. Potiphar relaxed with Joseph in the only thing he worried about is what was for dinner!

Hard times can bring great temptations, but so can good times, as Joseph soon found out. Potiphar’s wife

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.

noticed how strong and handsome Joseph and she became attracted to him.

“Be my special boyfriend,” she began to ask him, day after day.

Perhaps Potiphar’s wife was beautiful. Perhaps Joseph was only there in Egypt, far from family and home. It might have been very tempting to have her for his special girlfriend. But God was with Joseph. He helped Joseph remember His laws and how He wanted His people to live. He gave him strength to say “no.”

“No, I won’t be your special boyfriend!” he told her. “Potiphar, your husband, trusts me with everything he owns. Only you has he kept from me because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against him and God?” he told her.

But Potiphar’s wife refused to leave Joseph alone. One day, when only Joseph and her were at home, she caught him by the cloak and said, “Come be my special boyfriend right now!”

With no one else at home to see what they did, perhaps Joseph could be tempted to sin. But no! Maybe no humans could see what they did, but Joseph knew that the LORD was there and He saw all things. Joseph wanted to please Him most of all and to say “no” again. He ran straight out the door and away from her.

Joseph had fled temptation, but not trouble. Potiphar’s wife had grabbed his cloak and kept it. When her husband came home she held it up and told him, “That Hebrew slave Joseph tried to make me his special girlfriend while you were away! When I screamed for help, he ran away but left his cloak!” she lied.

Potiphar believed her and turned on Joseph. Hard times had come to Joseph once more, yet God was with him, helping him and giving him strength. Egyptian law gave Potiphar the right to kill Joseph, but instead he chose to have him thrown in jail. And Joseph, who could have been tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope, kept trusting in the LORD, even in jail.

Joseph kept saying “no” to temptation and kept trusting the LORD all seven years he sat in that prison. The LORD proved worthy of Joseph’s trust, as He always does. Pharaoh learned of Joseph and the great ways that the LORD was with him. He had Joseph released from prison and made him the prime minister over

everything in all of Egypt.

As Pharaoh’s most important helper, Joseph was blessed with great power and many riches. He would have anything he wanted and do anything he wanted. Great temptations come with great blessings. Would Joseph become proud and forget the LORD with his new life? No, he would not. Joseph kept on loving and living for the LORD. He kept on trying to be a “no” man-- saying “no” to the temptation to sin.

Of all the temptations Joseph had to say “no” to, none was more tempting than when, many years later, he met his brothers again. A terrible famine had come upon Canaan, back at home. There was nothing to eat and so they had come to Egypt to buy food there. Joseph’s brothers didn’t recognize their brother in his splendid Egyptian clothes, but he knew them. After all they had done to him; surely it would have been tempting for Joseph to get back at them now. With only a snap of his fingers, Joseph could have had guards kill them.

But God was with Joseph, giving him a way out of even his greatest temptation. He gave Joseph a merciful heart. He gave Joseph wisdom to understand that He had allowed this to happen to him that he might go ahead of his people and prepare a place for them during the years of the famine.

How terrified his brothers were when this great Prime Minister of Egyptian revealed who he really was: “I am Joseph, your brother you sold into slavery.”

They trembled before him, expecting Joseph to give into the temptation to take revenge. How shocked they were when he showed them mercy instead: “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your families,” he reassured them.

And Joseph was as good as his word. He took the care of them all until the day he died.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the handsome "no" man? Joseph.

2. What made him a "no" man? Who helped him be a "no" man? He always tried to say "no" to temptation. The LORD helped Joseph be a "no" man by giving him strength and providing a way out of each temptation so he could stand up under it.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Hard times and good times both brought great temptations to Joseph. But the LORD was with Joseph and helped him stand up under each temptation.

What about you and me? Perhaps we don't face things as hard or as good as what Joseph faced, but each day we are tempted to sin, just like he was. Like Joseph, God's people today can trust in the LORD. They can depend on Him to be with them and provide them a way out of every temptation.

How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for promising to always be with His people, helping them in every temptation. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to be with us as He was with Joseph, helping us to remember the truth of His good ways, showing us the way to stand up under every temptation, and giving us hearts that desire to please Him most of all.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Perfect Planner of Everything in the Lives of Your People. We praise You for being the Provider of All We Need to Say No to Temptation.

C God, we confess that often we do not ask You to show us a way out of sin. Too many times we choose to sin because we want to do something even more than to love and obey You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for Your promises to always provide a way out for us when we face temptation. We thank You that You never give us more than we can bear.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to say "no" to sin. Help us to love You most of all.

Special Words

Caravan: A group of carts or wagons filled with goods.

Merchant: Someone who buys and sells things, often travelling from place to place.

Cistern: An underground container made to hold water.

Shackles: A man who spent many hours in school to learn the Old Testament of the Bible.

Pharaoh: The title of the ancient Egyptian kings.

Prime Minister: Someone who is in charge of running the country, under the king.

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:

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of asking for God's help and looking for His way out of it. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we wouldn't sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Brother in the Cistern

Dixie cup "cistern" filled with sugar-free chocolate pudding "muck" and teddy graham "Joseph" standing at the bottom.

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

Case Tie-in: Joseph's brothers put Joseph in a cistern, then sold him to merchants who were heading to Egypt.

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 People Trust Him

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is temptation? *Thinking about doing something wrong.*
2. What is the difference between being tempted and sinning? Why is being tempted not sinful? *Being tempted is thinking about doing something wrong, while sinning is going ahead and doing it. Being tempted isn't wrong because it isn't actually doing the sinful thing.*
3. What different ways do temptations come to us? *Sin in our hearts whispers to us to disobey God; sin in the world around us/other people tempts us to sin, too; and, even Satan, himself, can tempt us to sin.*
4. Who was tempted in every way, yet without ever sinning? *Jesus.*
5. How does God promise to help His people as they face temptation? *To never allow them to be tempted more than they can bear; to always provide a way out so they do not have to sin.*
6. How does God use the Bible to help His people not give into temptation? *He uses it to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them.*
7. How can the Holy Spirit help God's people when they face temptation? *He can work in their hearts and helps them to turn away from tempting sin.*
8. What should God's people do when they do give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness and help to turn away from sinning. He promises to forgive them their sins.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did Joseph probably face? *The temptation to hate and to seek revenge on his brothers for what they did to him. The temptation to despair in his seemingly hopeless situation as a slave in prison in Egypt. The temptation to be proud and forget God as Prime Minister of Egypt.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.?"
God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say "no" to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things God's people today can do to fight giving into temptation? *Read their Bibles so they know what is sin and what is not. Pray each day, asking God to give them strength to say "no" to temptations that will come their way. Confess their sins and temptations to others so they can be praying for them and ask them how they are doing; remember to ask God to show them the way out when they are faced with a temptation.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE TRUTH 10 REVIEW

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of looking for God's way out of it.

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

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior..

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we would not sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation and sinned...many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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.

BIBLE TRUTH 10 REVIEW

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.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Verse 1

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34

Understanding the Song

1. What does prayer time call God's people from and bids them to; and what does that mean? *It calls them from "a world of care" and bids them to their "Father's throne." That means that they take time to stop thinking about all the worries of the world and think about. It doesn't mean actually standing in front of a real throne, but remembering who God is: the sovereign, all-powerful King, who loves His people as their heavenly Father.*
2. What can God's people make known to God? *All their wants and wishes.*
3. What are seasons of distress and grief? *Not a season like spring, summer, fall, winter; but times of worry, fear and sadness.*
4. What does God give to His people's souls when they pray to Him in times of distress and grief? How? *Relief. He comforts them by His Spirit & by bringing the truth of His Word to mind as they pray.*
5. What does escaping the tempter's snare mean? *Satan is called the tempter because he tempts people to sin. A snare is like a trap set for a wild animal. The tempter's snare would be any situation that Satan hopes to use to tempt us to sin.*
6. What often is a help in escaping the tempter's snare? *By returning to pray, over and over.*
7. Do God's people have to spend an hour of prayer for God to help them? *No. Hour doesn't always mean sixty minutes. It also means a time set aside to do something. The song is saying that regular times in prayer are what help God's people in difficult times, such as when they are sad, worried or being tempted.*
8. Why does the song call the hour of prayer "sweet"? *Not because it is sugary, but because God's people come to love prayer time for what a delight it is to their soul's in hard times, just as dessert is a delight to our mouths. It becomes one of the best part of the day because they spend time with God who loves them most of all and who will help them in every situation they are in.*
9. How can we become God's people, for whom the words of this song are true? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation?**
God's people receive the strength to escape temptation through taking time each day to pray.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Although the Bible does not specifically say that Joseph prayed to the Lord as he faced his temptations, it does tell us that the Lord was with him. When Joseph faced temptations, he cited the Lord's will as his reason for doing something or not doing something. This wisdom to know the right thing to do would have come from times of dwelling upon God's Word and praying to the Lord for wisdom. Like other godly men, it was only by prayer that Joseph could have received the strength to say "no" to the big temptations he faced.*

Bible Verse Connection

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."?

God helps His people escape temptation through prayer. By the Holy Spirit and through His Word, He shows them a way out of the temptation. He shows them His promises to help them. He reminds them of Himself and His good commands. He reminds them of the terrible things that happen as a result of sin. All these things help God's people fight temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song?

They can be encouraged to pray to God for help in times of temptation, to give them what they need, and for comfort in hard or sad times. They can remember that God their Father bids them to come to Him in prayer. He delights to hear their prayers and answer them according to His good and perfect will.

2. What is the prayer and life change that God desires all people to make? *To turn away from their sins, confess them to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the God who Answers the Prayers of His People..

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

That many times we choose not to pray to God and ask for help against temptation. 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 answering His people's prayers to escape temptation, as well as their prayers for the things they need or for comfort during hard or sad times.

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. We can ask Him to help us to pray to Him about all our temptations as well as our needs and other concerns.

Gospel Question

1. How can we know God as our Heavenly Father since we are all sinners? What has He done to make this possible? 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.

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: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Alternate Memory Version: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is a temptation? *Something wrong that you think about doing, usually because you think you will get something you want by doing it.*
2. Is it a sin to be tempted? *No. We sin when we give in to the temptation and actually do something sinful.*
3. What kind of temptations overtake us? *Ones that are common to man; that is, ones that lots of people experience.*
4. How does God show His faithfulness to His people when they are tempted? *He doesn't let them be tempted beyond what they can bear. He will provide a way out so we can resist it without sinning.*
5. How is God able to not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear? *He is omnipotent—all powerful. He is control over all things, even how much we are allowed to be tempted.*
6. What does it mean to be able to stand up under a temptation? *To feel the desire to do what you are tempted to do and to not do it.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Say “No” to Temptation?**

While God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say “no” to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did Joseph face? *Temptation to hate and want revenge on his brothers; temptation to worry and despair over the seemingly hopeless situations he was in.*
2. How did the Lord help Joseph stand up under the temptations he faced? *He prospered him in his difficult situations; He gave him wisdom to understand why the trials had happened to him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose to sin when we are tempted, instead of looking to God to show us a way out. We need a Savior to sin us from our sins!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for always making a way out of temptation for His people.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to see and take the way out of temptation each time we face temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people today glorify God by standing up under temptation? *They show others that loving God and doing what pleases Him is even more satisfying than whatever pleasure they would get from giving into the temptation. They show that God is faithful and can be trusted to help them to not sin.*
2. What should God's people today do if they give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sin to God, ask forgiveness and try to not keep doing it. They can pray that God would help them and ask someone else to pray for them, too.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation to sin, many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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: Hoop n' Holler

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 hula hoop for every 2 children

Preparing the Game

1. Make up some questions about the verse and/or story. Use the Bible verse and Story Review Discussion questions, if desired.

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 pair up. Give each pair a hula hoop and tell them that you are going to tell them different things that they will do with the hula-hoop after they say the verse all together. Three activities might be: having the children hold hands and jump in and out of the hula hoop, for each word the group recites, rolling it back and forth on each word the group recites;; or having buddies take turn while one person from each group sees how far through the verse he can keep the hula hoop going. Allow the children to think up other activities. Repeat the verse again after each activity.

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 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.

No Temptation

No temptation has overtaken you,
That is not,
Common to man,
God is faithful,
He will not let you be,
Tempted beyond,
Your ability,
But with the temptation
He will also provide,
The way of escape,
So that you might be able to endure it.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35

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 were Joseph's brothers so jealous of him? *He was treated as the favorite of their father.*
2. What did Joseph's brothers do to get rid of him? *Sold him to Ishmaelite merchants going to Egypt.*
3. What was the journey to Egypt like for Joseph? *Long 300-mile walk, neck and feet would have been bruised and painful from the chains and shackles.*
4. What tempting thoughts did Joseph probably have to deal with on his way to Egypt? *Hate and desire for revenge towards his brothers; worry about where he would have to work as a slave.*
5. How was the Lord with Joseph when he got to Egypt? *Had him sold to be a house servant, not a worker in the copper mines. Prospered everything he did so Potiphar put him in charge of everything.*
6. What temptation did Joseph face at Potiphar's house? *Potiphar's wife wanting him to be her special boyfriend, even though she was married. Also, perhaps pride at all the prosperity of Potiphar's house under his leadership.*
7. What did Joseph do to keep from sinning with Potiphar's wife? *Said "no" to her and then finally ran out of the house.*
8. How did the Lord show Joseph he was with him, after what happened with Potiphar's wife? *He did not let him be killed, but put in the king's prison. He prospered everything he did in the prison for the warden.*
9. What temptations might have Joseph faced as the Prime Minister of Egypt? *Pride at his important position, second only to the Pharaoh, himself.*
10. What temptations did Joseph face when he saw his brothers in Egypt? *To take revenge on them and have them killed.*
11. How was the Lord with Joseph when he saw his brothers? *He gave him wisdom to see that all the things that they had done for evil, the Lord had used them for the good. He had sent Joseph ahead of them to Egypt so that they would be saved during the famine.*
12. What did Joseph promise his brothers he would do? *Always take care of them and their families.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Say "No" to Temptation? *Joseph faced many different and very big temptations in his life. The Lord helped Joseph to say "no" to temptation and do the right thing, time after time.*

Life Application Questions

1. What is a temptation that God's people face today and how might God provide a way out of it? *Answers will vary.*
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

What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."?

1. What temptations did Joseph face? *Temptation to hate and want revenge on his brothers; temptation to worry and despair over the seemingly hopeless situations he was in.*
2. How did the Lord help Joseph stand up under the temptations he faced? *He prospered him in his difficult situations; He gave him wisdom to understand why the trials had happened to him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Worker of Good in even the worst things that happen to His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that sometimes we are jealous and even hateful towards others because of something they have. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us, by His Word and through the Holy Spirit, to say "no" to temptations to sin.*

The Gospel

1. Joseph forgave his brothers for the terrible things they had done to him, but God offers forgiveness to people like you and me for the far worse things they have done against Him. What have people done against God? What has He done to forgive them? 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: Keep It Under Your Hat

Materials

Paper and pencil
5+ hats
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 each question on a separate, small piece of paper. Assign a point value to each question, based on difficulty. Pin a question to the underside of each hat, except one. Save the unused questions to pin to the hats when the first set have all been selected.
3. Place all the hats on the floor or on the table.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing one of the hats and answering the question pinned to the hat. Each question is worth the number of points indicated on the question. If the first team does not get the right answer, then the question goes to the other team who can win half the points for a correct answer.

When the blank hat is chosen, the team who chooses gets to come up with their very own question to try to stump the other team. If they can, then they get the highest point value worth on the question AND another turn. If the other team gets the right answer, then play continues as normal. When all the questions on the hats have been answered, pin a new set in, changing the empty hat.

Game continues until all children get to choose a hat, or as number of questions, 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 hat wearers and the other set be the hat pickers. Once one set of children have had a turn, switch out hat wearers and the hat pickers. If someone chooses the blank hat, they make up a question to ask the rest of the children. 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 Handsome No Man.

Our story takes place in Dothan, Canaan and in Egypt.

And now we present: "The Case of the Handsome No Man."

Scene 1:

Joseph's brothers wave down a passing Ishmaelite caravan headed for Egypt. The Ishmaelites pay them twenty shekels for him, lift him from the cistern he is kept in, refuse to hear his protests, put him in shackles and carry him away. They show their father Joseph's special robe with goat's blood on it and tell their father that he was eaten by a wild animal.

Actions:

Scene 2:

The 300-mile walk gives Joseph plenty of time for tempting thoughts, such as worry, bitterness and even hate; but the LORD is with him, helping him. Joseph is bought by Potiphar to be a house servant. He quickly sees that the Lord blesses everything Joseph does and puts him in charge of everything he owns. Potiphar's wife notices Joseph and tempts him to be her special boyfriend, over and over. Each time Joseph says to "no" to temptation and "no" to her. One day, when they are alone in the house, she tempts him again, but he still says "no." He runs away from her, leaving his cloak behind. She is furious and decides to get him in trouble. She screams to the servants and then tells her husband that Joseph tried to force her to be his special girlfriend. Everyone believes her. Joseph could be killed for this accused crime, but Potiphar only has him put in Pharaoh's prison.

Scene 3

In prison, Joseph had plenty of time for tempting thoughts, such as worry, bitterness and even hate for how he's been treated; but the LORD is with him, helping him. The LORD rescues Joseph from prison and has him made the prime minister of Egypt-in charge of all the Pharaoh's people and lands. The LORD continued to be with Joseph, helping him fight the temptation to be proud. When a famine brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain, he recognizes them. He could have them killed with only a word to his guards in revenge for what they did to him; but he does not give into that temptation. The LORD is with him, helping him. He gives Joseph wisdom to see that it was part of His plan that he come to Egypt and prepare a place during the time of famine. Joseph promises his brothers that he will always take care of them and their families.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** The terrible treatment of Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife were tempting times for Joseph to become hateful and full of revenge, but the Lord was with him, helping him to say "no" to temptations.

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 Handsome No Man.

Our story takes place in Dothan, Canaan and in Egypt.

The characters in our story today are: Joseph's brothers, Joseph, Jacob, the Ismaelite merchants, Potiphar and his wife, other servants at Potiphar's house, Pharaoh, Egyptian guards, and the families of Joseph's brothers.

And now we present: "The Case of the Handsome No Man."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Joseph's brothers wave down a passing Ishmaelite caravan headed for Egypt. The Ishmaelites pay them twenty shekels for him, lift him from the cistern he is kept in, refuse to hear his protests, put him in shackles and carry him away. They show their father Joseph's special robe with goat's blood on it and tell their father that he was eaten by a wild animal.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The 300-mile walk gives Joseph plenty of time for tempting thoughts, such as worry, bitterness and even hate; but the LORD is with him, helping him. Joseph is bought by Potiphar to be a house servant. He quickly sees that the Lord blesses everything Joseph does and puts him in charge of everything he owns. Potiphar's wife notices Joseph and tempts him to be her special boyfriend, over and over. Each time Joseph says to "no" to temptation and "no" to her. One day, when they are alone in the house, she tempts him again, but he still says "no." He runs away from her, leaving his cloak behind. She is furious and decides to get him in trouble. She screams to the servants and then tells her husband that Joseph tried to force her to be his special girlfriend. Everyone believes her. Joseph could be killed for this accused crime, but Potiphar only has him put in Pharaoh's prison.

Scene 3: (End)

In prison, Joseph had plenty of time for tempting thoughts, such as worry, bitterness and even hate for how he's been treated; but the LORD is with him, helping him. The LORD rescues Joseph from prison and has him made the prime minister of Egypt--in charge of all the Pharaoh's people and lands. The LORD continued to be with Joseph, helping him fight the temptation to be proud. When a famine brings Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain, he recognizes them. He could have them killed with only a word to his guards in revenge for what they did to him; but he does not give into that temptation. The LORD is with him, helping him. He gives Joseph wisdom to see that it was part of His plan that he come to Egypt and prepare a place during the time of famine. Joseph promises his brothers that he will always take care of them and their families.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** The terrible treatment of Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife were tempting times for Joseph to become hateful and full of revenge, but the Lord was with him, helping him to say "no" to temptations.

Joseph Sold As a Slave

Description

The children will make a chains for their feet and hands like what the Ishmaelites might have done to him.

Materials

Template for chain links

4 ½" pieces of sticky backed velcro per craft

Black construction paper

Tape

Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out templates for chain links and cut out.
2. Use the template for the chain links to cut out at least 20 links per craft onto the construction paper. If desired, older children can cut out their own chain links. You will need to make a template pattern for each child if you do this.
3. Set out other supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have them color in every other stripe on the hat brim with the black markers.
3. Have the children form two sets of 8 interlocking chains (one set for arms, one set for legs). Make the first chain, fastening with a piece of tape. Then slip the end of the next piece of paper through the first loop and fasten the ends of this second link with tape. Continue until you have 8 links.
4. Form the hand cuffs and leg cuffs for each wrist using the same linking technique, but instead of using tape, attach a piece of the velcro to these links so that they can be taken on and off.

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 Joseph's brothers put him and where was Joseph taken?

In a cistern in Dothan (in Canaan) to Egypt.

2. Who took Joseph to Egypt? To do what?

Ishmaelite merchants bought Joseph from his brothers and they took him to Egypt to be sold as a slave.

3. Why would Joseph have been tempted to hurt or kill his brothers? Why didn't he?

Because they sold him as a slave even though he was their brother. God helped Joseph to forgive his brothers and to see that He had used even the evil thing they did to him for His (God's) good purposes.

4. What is Bible Truth 10 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 10 is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

5. What does this meal have to do with the Bible Truth 10?

It would have been very tempting for Joseph to want to punish or even kill his brothers for what they had done to him. But God did not want him to hurt or kill them. He made Joseph a way out of temptation by showing him His good purposes and helping him not to give into temptation.

6. What can God help us remember through this craft?

God can help His people fight against temptation in even the hardest times.

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 Joseph As a Slave.

2. Joseph's brothers put him in a cistern, then sold him to Ishmaelite merchants to be a slave.

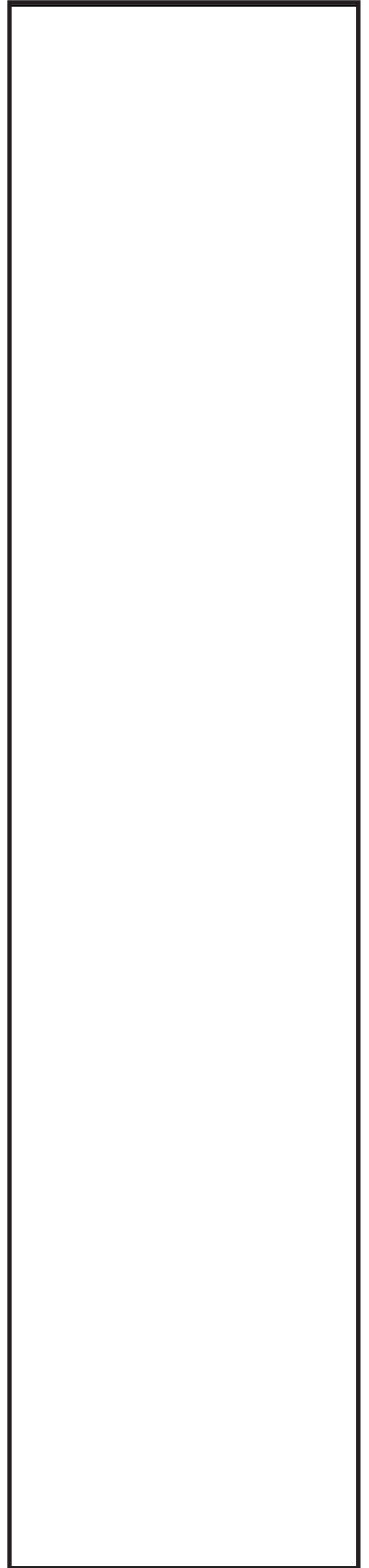
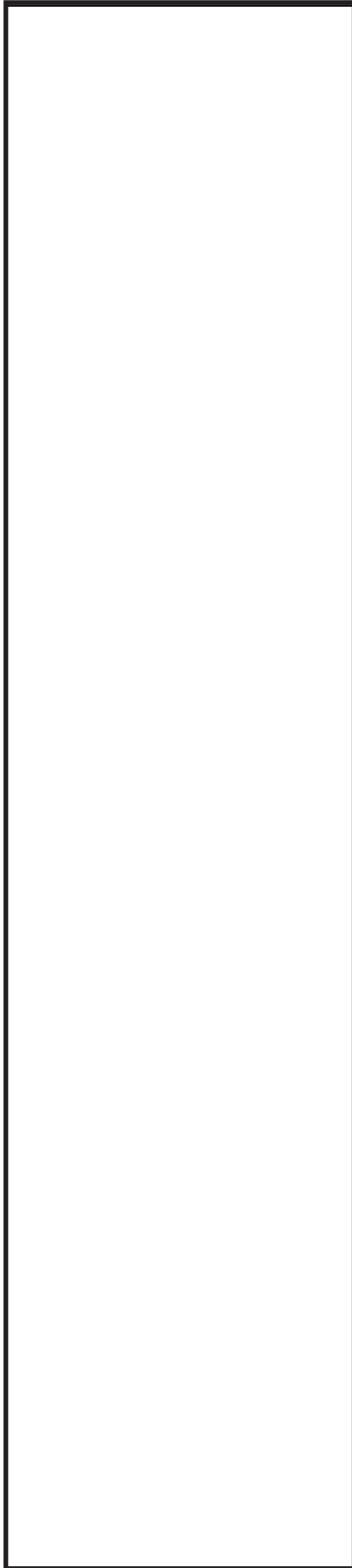
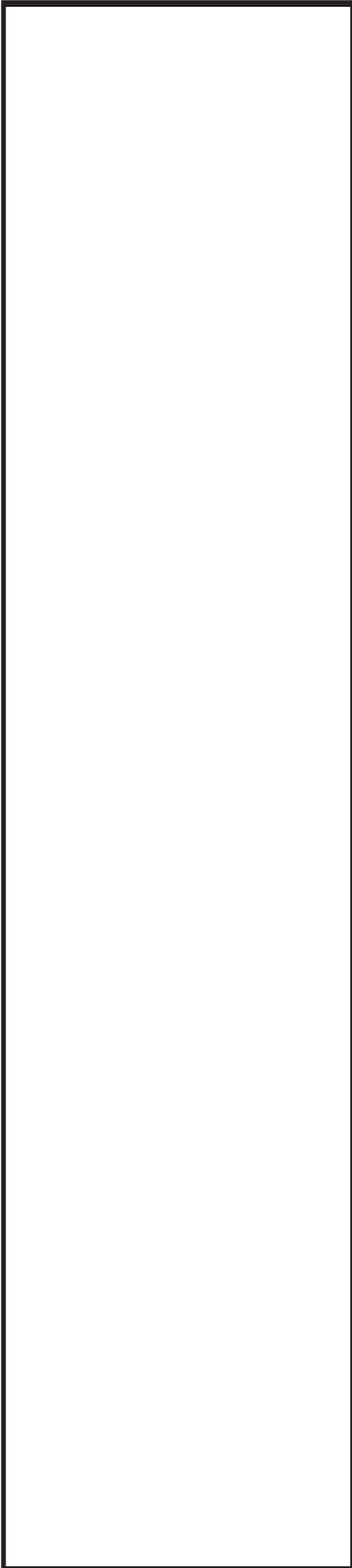
3. Bible Truth 10 is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

4. It would have been very tempting for Joseph to want to punish or even kill his brothers for what they had done to him. But God did not want him to hurt or kill them. He made Joseph a way out of temptation by showing him His good purposes and helping him not to give into temptation.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God can help His people fight against temptation in even the hardest times.

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.

chain link pattern



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. They are found in 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 10, 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 ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 10: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Extra Bible Verse: No Temptation Has Overtaken You, 1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 36

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Courageous Couple

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Chinese Food and American Baby

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Inspecting the Troops

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Corinthians 10:13 Discussion Sheet and Game: Take a Step Back

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Triple Play Baseball

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: John and Betty Stam, Comfortably at Home in America

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 10, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Courageous Couple

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who were the courageous couple?
2. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people and it starts out long ago in 1293, in Venice, Italy.

Excited and relieved, Marco Polo, his uncle Niccolo, and his father, Maffeo returned home to Venice. Marco had been only seventeen when they left. Now, after twenty-four years of exploring Central Asia and China, he returned home a middle-aged man of forty-one. Oh, what stories he have to tell!

"We saw tall, rugged, snow capped mountains, deep gorges, powerful rivers. Peoples with jet black hair, yellow-toned skin and beautiful, slanted eyelids. And oh, what amazing things they made: gunpowder and firecrackers; coal; shiny silk clothes; fans; umbrellas; and even ice cream! They flavor their foods with the most wonderful spices: ginger, cinnamon, and pepper," Marco told the people of Venice.

"These Chinese may have wonderful things that we don't have, but they don't have the Bible or know the good news of Jesus," Marco continued. "Kubla Khan, the Chinese Emperor, and asked us to send one hundred trained men each them about Jesus."

How wonderful! Surely one hundred Christians would leap at the idea of telling the people of China about Jesus! But it wasn't the case. "We won't survive the long journey! What if the Polos are lying? What if Kublai Khan decides he doesn't like the good news of Jesus, he might kill us?" most men thought.

Instead of saying "no" to their tempting fears and trusting that the Lord could and would take care of them, they refused to go. In the end, only two men went. Soon, even these men gave into fear and returned home without sharing the good news of Jesus with anyone.

The Chinese people had to wait hundreds of years for someone else to come to their country and tell them

about Jesus and the Bible. Who were these brave people? The men and women of the China Inland Mission.

"We want two hundred people who will risk their lives for China. Who will go?" asked the China Inland Mission in 1930.

Once more there were great opportunities in China, like in Marco Polo's day. But once more, there were also great dangers that caused many to fear.

"It's too dangerous to go to China now," many said. "The Communists are taking over the country. They want to stamp out all religion, especially Christianity. They are killing Chinese believers as well as missionaries. They will probably kill us if we go," they feared.

These people were right. They would have to risk their lives to go to China. But they were wrong, too: Wrong to give into their temptation to fear. If God wanted them to go, He would take care of them according to His perfect will.

While many refused to go to China, Betty Scott and John Stam chose to go. Why? Betty, herself, said it well: "I want to use this one life of mine however it will produce the most good for God. Where it is, I want it to be God's choice for me and not my own." Betty and John were certain God wanted them to go China. No temptation to fear would keep them away.

Not long after John and Betty were in China, they were married and had a baby girl named Helen. When Helen was just eight weeks old, the Stams prepared to travel to the mountain town of Tsingteh. They would travel there on foot, with little more than Bibles, and whatever food, bedding and clothes they needed for the long, hard journey. They were going there to help the few Chinese Christians who already lived there and

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.

share the good news of Jesus with the many who had never heard.

“Don’t go there!” they were warned by some. “The Communists are coming! They will kill you.”

John and Betty had heard the same frightening rumors, but that did not stop them from going. “We won’t give into the temptation to fear,” they said. “God has brought us here and wants us to go to Tsingteh. We will trust Him!”

As they traveled to Tsingteh, John and Betty told everyone the wonderful good news of Jesus. Many listened and believed. They eagerly accepted the Chinese Bibles the Stams offered them. How glad Betty and John were that they had not been tempted to give into fear, but had trusted the Lord and had come to China! These new Chinese believers were the very people Betty had longed to give her life to help!

At last, the Stams arrived at Tsingteh—a walled town with many ancient, crumbling stone palaces, set among towering mountains. There, Betty and John settled happily into encouraging the Chinese Christians and sharing the gospel with many others. They eagerly looked forward to serving the people of Tsingteh for many years to come.

But that was not to be. Just two weeks after the Stams arrived in Tsingteh, Communist soldiers invaded the city in a surprise attack. There was no time to escape. All the fearful things that had kept others from coming to China, began to happen to the Stams.

The soldiers arrested the Stams and said, “Give us \$20,000 or we will kill you!”

John and Betty did not have \$20,000 to give. They were only poor missionaries. Even if they had the money to give, they knew there was little hope that soldiers would really release them. They knew the Stams were Christians. They surely planned to kill them.

What would the Stams do now? It would be easy to be overwhelmed with fear for themselves and for their baby girl. Would they give into the temptation to fear? No, they would not. The Lord gave them courage instead to face the situation with peace and kindness, not with fear. With great calmness, John and Betty offered tea and cakes to the soldiers, and tried to talk with them. The soldiers refused to listen and began to

plan what to do with the Stams.

“Please, before you take us away,” John Stam pleaded, “can I write to my boss?” Reluctantly the soldiers agreed to his request. John Stam wrote:

By Life or By Death

Tsingteh, An. Dec. 6, 1934

To the China Inland Mission in Shanghai

Dear Brethren (Brothers),

My wife, baby and myself are today in the hands of the Communists in the city of Tsingteh. Their demand is twenty thousand dollars for our release.

The soldiers have taken everything we have, but we praise God for peace in our hearts and a meal tonight. May God give you wisdom in what you do, and us strength, courage and peace of heart. He is able—and a wonderful Friend in such a time.

Things happened so quickly this morning. They were in the city just a few hours. There was no time to prepare to leave. We were just too late.

The Lord bless and guide you, and as for us, may God be glorified whether by life or by death.

In Him, John C. Stam

Then the soldiers marched the Stams to Miaosheo, another mountain town twelve miles away. There, they planned to kill them. The next day, the soldiers came for the Stams. Betty quickly hid little Helen along with John’s letter underneath a blanket, hoping that someone would rescue her before the soldiers found her.

“Come with us,” the soldiers commanded John and Betty, never noticing the hidden baby.

The soldiers led the Stams down the street and to a hill outside of town to be killed. The town’s people shouted insults at them as they passed by. Surely now the Stams would give in to the temptation to panic! There was so much to fear: How would they die? What would happen to baby Helen Priscilla when they were gone? But no. Not even then did the Stams give in to fear. They trusted the Lord, instead; and, He gave them His peace. They knelt down on that hill and with one swing of a sword, each gave up their lives.

“What peace these Christians have! How mighty must their God be!” thought many of the townspeople who watched the Stams die.

John and Betty Stam exchanged their short, earthly lives that day for marvelous, everlasting ones in heaven with Jesus. God cared for baby Helen, too. She was rescued by Chinese Christians who had been hiding in the hills around Miaosheo, then taken to her grandparents to be cared for. She grew up to be a follower of Jesus, too.

And what of Betty's desire for her life to be used for the most good for God? The Lord answered it in a big way. When the story of how the Stams had said "no" to fearful temptations, but trusted the Lord reached America, many more Christians volunteered to go, serve and even die in China, so that the Chinese people might hear the good news of Jesus.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the courageous couple?

John and Betty Stam.

2. Who helped them be courageous? What temptations did they have to fight?

God helped them, by His Holy Spirit, to be courageous. They had to fight the temptation to be afraid of what might happen to them if they went to China...and while they lived in China.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

John and Betty Stam faced great temptations to fear, but they chose to trust the Lord and obey Him instead. Nothing meant more to them than to serve Him and let others know about Him--not even their earthly lives, themselves. With joy they endured suffering, know that the Lord was with them through it all and would soon welcome them into His heavenly kingdom forever.

What about God's people today? What should they think about when faced with temptation? Will they give into it? They don't have to. Instead, they can ask God to

provide a way out of it so they can stand up under it. He will help them, just like He helped the Stams.

How can we become God's people and know His help in temptation? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for being great enough to help the Stams keep trusting Him, even in death...and for being great enough to do that for His people today, too. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to think of Him when faced with temptation. Let's ask Him to help us stand up under every temptation and trial we face, even death itself. Let's ask Him to give us willing hearts to be used wherever and however we can be of the most heavenly good to this world, without giving into fear.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Strength to Fight Temptation, even when we face death!

C God, we confess that often we choose to fear instead of trust You to help us do whatever You want us to do. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for always being worthy of our trust. Thank You that You are always with us. Thank You that we can always cry out to You and ask for Your help.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us not to let fear keep us from doing whatever You want us to do. Use us to tell others about Jesus that they might come to know Him as their Savior.

Special Words

Temptation: Something we want to do, even though we know it is wrong.

Communism: A kind of government that believes that no one should have their own property, but everything should be shared in common. In practice, communist countries have been known for discouraging people from being Christians, by not allowing them to have Bibles and Christian books; or, gather in churches. Many times, Christians have been hurt, put in jail and even killed in these countries.

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:

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of asking for God's help and looking for His way out of it. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we wouldn't sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Chinese Food and American Baby

Simple Chinese food, such as Ramen noodles—can even try it with chop sticks! Or, baby under the blankets: Refrigerator crescent rolls with hot dog wrapped in it.

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

Case Tie-in: The Stams chose not to give into fear and go to China to tell the people there the good news of Jesus. While there, they had a baby girl named Helen. Helen was rescued by the Chinese Christians and taken to her grandparents to be raised.

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 People Trust Him

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is temptation? *Thinking about doing something wrong.*
2. What is the difference between being tempted and sinning? Why is being tempted not sinful? *Being tempted is thinking about doing something wrong, while sinning is going ahead and doing it. Being tempted isn't wrong because it isn't actually doing the sinful thing.*
3. What different ways do temptations come to us? *Sin in our hearts whispers to us to disobey God; sin in the world around us/other people tempts us to sin, too; and, even Satan, himself, can tempt us to sin.*
4. Who was tempted in every way, yet without ever sinning? *Jesus.*
5. How does God promise to help His people as they face temptation? *To never allow them to be tempted more than they can bear; to always provide a way out so they do not have to sin.*
6. How does God use the Bible to help His people not give into temptation? *He uses it to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them.*
7. How can the Holy Spirit help God's people when they face temptation? *He can work in their hearts and helps them to turn away from tempting sin.*
8. What should God's people do when they do give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness and help to turn away from sinning. He promises to forgive them their sins.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did the Stams face? *Temptation to fear about what would happen to them and their baby. Temptation to fear death.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."?
God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say "no" to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things God's people today can do to fight giving into temptation? *Read their Bibles so they know what is sin and what is not. Pray each day, asking God to give them strength to say "no" to temptations that will come their way. Confess their sins and temptations to others so they can be praying for them and ask them how they are doing; remember to ask God to show them the way out when they are faced with a temptation.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE TRUTH 10 REVIEW

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of looking for God's way out of it.

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

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior..

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we would not sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation and sinned...many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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: 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.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Verse 1

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34

Understanding the Song

1. What does prayer time call God's people from and bids them to; and what does that mean? *It calls them from "a world of care" and bids them to their "Father's throne." That means that they take time to stop thinking about all the worries of the world and think about. It doesn't mean actually standing in front of a real throne, but remembering who God is: the sovereign, all-powerful King, who loves His people as their heavenly Father.*
2. What can God's people make known to God? *All their wants and wishes.*
3. What are seasons of distress and grief? *Not a season like spring, summer, fall, winter; but times of worry, fear and sadness.*
4. What does God give to His people's souls when they pray to Him in times of distress and grief? How? *Relief. He comforts them by His Spirit & by bringing the truth of His Word to mind as they pray.*
5. What does escaping the tempter's snare mean? *Satan is called the tempter because he tempts people to sin. A snare is like a trap set for a wild animal. The tempter's snare would be any situation that Satan hopes to use to tempt us to sin.*
6. What often is a help in escaping the tempter's snare? *By returning to pray, over and over.*
7. Do God's people have to spend an hour of prayer for God to help them? *No. Hour doesn't always mean sixty minutes. It also means a time set aside to do something. The song is saying that regular times in prayer are what help God's people in difficult times, such as when they are sad, worried or being tempted.*
8. Why does the song call the hour of prayer "sweet"? *Not because it is sugary, but because God's people come to love prayer time for what a delight it is to their soul's in hard times, just as dessert is a delight to our mouths. It becomes one of the best part of the day because they spend time with God who loves them most of all and who will help them in every situation they are in.*
9. How can we become God's people, for whom the words of this song are true? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation?**
God's people receive the strength to escape temptation through taking time each day to pray.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *From the beginning, Betty and John Stam prayed to God that He would use them where they would be of greatest heavenly use and not give into any temptation to fear about where He might send them or what He might use them to do. After being arrested, the Stams faced the "tempter's snares" to fear the soldiers and what they would do to themselves and to their baby. Both they and the Chinese Christians around them prayed to God to give them strength. He answered their prayers by giving them courage and peace even to death.*

Bible Verse Connection

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.?"

God helps His people escape temptation through prayer. By the Holy Spirit and through His Word, He shows them a way out of the temptation. He shows them His promises to help them. He reminds them of Himself and His good commands. He reminds them of the terrible things that happen as a result of sin. All these things help God's people fight temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song?

They can be encouraged to pray to God for help in times of temptation, to give them what they need, and for comfort in hard or sad times. They can remember that God their Father bids them to come to Him in prayer. He delights to hear their prayers and answer them according to His good and perfect will.

2. What is the prayer and life change that God desires all people to make? *To turn away from their sins, confess them to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the God who Answers the Prayers of His People..

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

That many times we choose not to pray to God and ask for help against temptation. 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 answering His people's prayers to escape temptation, as well as their prayers for the things they need or for comfort during hard or sad times.

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. We can ask Him to help us to pray to Him about all our temptations as well as our needs and other concerns.

Gospel Question

1. How can we know God as our Heavenly Father since we are all sinners? What has He done to make this possible? 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.

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: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Alternate Memory Version: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is a temptation? *Something wrong that you think about doing, usually because you think you will get something you want by doing it.*
2. Is it a sin to be tempted? *No. We sin when we give in to the temptation and actually do something sinful.*
3. What kind of temptations overtake us? *Ones that are common to man; that is, ones that lots of people experience.*
4. How does God show His faithfulness to His people when they are tempted? *He doesn't let them be tempted beyond what they can bear. He will provide a way out so we can resist it without sinning.*
5. How is God able to not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear? *He is omnipotent—all powerful. He is control over all things, even how much we are allowed to be tempted.*
6. What does it mean to be able to stand up under a temptation? *To feel the desire to do what you are tempted to do and to not do it.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Say “No” to Temptation?**

While God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say “no” to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did the Stams face? *Temptation to fear what would happen to themselves and their baby. Temptation to fear death.*
2. How did the Lord help the Stams stand up under the temptations they faced? *He gave them strength to trust in Him, courageously and peacefully, even as they died.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose to sin when we are tempted, instead of looking to God to show us a way out. We need a Savior to sin us from our sins!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for always making a way out of temptation for His people.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to see and take the way out of temptation each time we face temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people today glorify God by standing up under temptation? *They show others that loving God and doing what pleases Him is even more satisfying than whatever pleasure they would get from giving into the temptation. They show that God is faithful and can be trusted to help them to not sin.*
2. What should God's people today do if they give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sin to God, ask forgiveness and try to not keep doing it. They can pray that God would help them and ask someone else to pray for them, too.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation to sin, many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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: Take a Step Back

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 beanbag for every 2 children

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:
Pair up the children, giving a beanbag to each pair. Line up one child from each team, then have the partners face their team partner, about one foot apart from each other, forming a second line. Have all the children say the verse together, then have the partner throw the beanbag to the other partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round. Have each child take a step back. Lead the children in saying the verse again, then have them throw the beanbag to their partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round. Have the children take another step back, and so on. Continue until only one team remains.

Alternate Play: Continue to allow all children to play the game, even if they drop their beanbag, but keep track of how many successful catches each team makes. The team with the most successful catches, wins.

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 **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.

No Temptation

No temptation has overtaken you,
That is not,
Common to man,
God is faithful,
He will not let you be,
Tempted beyond,
Your ability,
But with the temptation
He will also provide,
The way of escape,
So that you might be able to endure it.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35

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 had the Polos been for 24 years? *Exploring the Far East, including China.*
2. What did they tell the people of Venice about China? *What the lands and peoples were like; about their inventions, their spices. About Kublai Khan.*
3. What inventions did they see? *Ice cream, umbrellas, fans, etc.*
4. What did Kublai Khan want them to send back to him and his people? Why? *100 men to tell them about Jesus and the Bible because they had never heard about them before the Polos came. They wanted to understand and believe.*
5. How many men went back to China? Why so few? *Only two went back. Everyone else gave into temptations about the dangers of the journey.*
6. How many years did the Chinese have to wait before someone came to tell them about Jesus? *Hundreds of years.*
7. How many people did CIM want to go to China? Why didn't they get that many? *Two hundred. Many gave into the temptation to fear the Communists who were taking over the country and killing many people, including the Christians.*
8. Why did the Stams go to China anyway? *They wanted to go wherever the Lord wanted them to go so that their lives might be of the most heavenly good to the world. They would listen to God, not give into the temptation to fear being killed.*
9. What was the journey up to Tsingteh like? *Through the mountains, on foot, carrying their things. Very difficult.*
10. Who did the Stams talk to on there way to Tsingteh? About what? *They talked the Chinese people along the way about Jesus and the Bible.*
11. How did the Chinese in Tsingteh and on the way to Tsingteh react to the good news of Jesus? *They were eager to hear and believe. They wanted Bibles to read.*
12. Why didn't the Stams get to stay in Tsingteh long? *Communist soldiers snuck in and arrested them.*
13. What temptations did the Stams face when the Communists arrested them? *Fearing for their lives and what would happen to their daughter.*
14. How did the Stams keep their baby save? *They hid her under a blanket.*
15. Why did the people who watched the Stams as they went to die think their God was mighty? *Because they never gave into fear, but kept trusting in Him, even with their lives and deaths.*
16. What happened to Helen Priscilla? *She was rescued by Chinese Christians and taken to her grandparents.*
17. What did people do when they heard about the Stams' death? *They decided to say "no" to the temptation to fear and wanted to go to China, too.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Say "No" to Temptation? *Even when they knew they were to die, never did the Stams give into the temptation to fear. They kept trusting the Lord.*

Life Application Questions

1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? *Yes!*
2. Why is it so important that Christians tell others about Jesus? *Because Jesus commanded His people to go into every part of the world and tell them about salvation through Him. This is the only way for people to be saved from their sins. Also, because God has planned for His people to be from every people on earth. Spreading the good news of Jesus brings honor and glory to God's great name.*
3. What does God call us to do in response to the good news of salvation through Jesus, the same message the Stams took to China? *To turn away from 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: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it?"

The Stams faced the temptation to fear about many things, even losing their lives. But God helped them with them all. Even as they did face death, He gave them courage to trust Him to help them and to use it for great good.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Giver of Strength to Trust Him even during a great temptation to fear.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we are not like the Stams who trusted God, but like the others who heard of the dangers and chose to give in to fear. We would rather keep ourselves safe than trust God with our lives. 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 giving many of His people courage to go to dangerous places to tell others about Jesus. We can thank Him for using the Stams to bring many people to know God and trust Jesus as their Savior.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to trust in Him and to turn away from fear. We can ask Him to help us, by His Holy Spirit, to do whatever it is that He wants us to do with our lives.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of salvation through Jesus that the Stams lived and died to tell the people of China? 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: Triple Play Baseball

Materials

- 4 carpet squares or construction paper for bases
- 3 balls of different sizes, such as a foam ball, tennis ball, and soccer ball.
- A basket or cardboard box
- Masking tape
- Paper and pencil
- 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. Place the carpet squares at the four corners of a diamond, like for baseball, approximately 10 feet apart.
3. Place the basket with the balls in it next to "home" base.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Team A will be up to bat, Team B will be out in the field. One player from Team B stands behind the batter as catcher. The leader will read a question to the batter. If the batter answers it correctly, he then picks up all three balls from the basket and tosses them out into the "field" in rapid succession. He then tries to run as many bases as possible around the diamond, touching each base before the Team B players in the field return all three objects to the catcher who puts the balls into the box. The batter scores as many points as bases he was able to get to: 1 point for first base, 2 points for 2nd base, etc.. The next person on Team A becomes batter now, and repeats the process. A team incurs an "out" if a batter is unable to answer a question; or, if a batter is caught in between 2 bases when all the items are back in the box, then they are out. Teams switch positions after 2 outs.

Game continues until all children get to bat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

WARNING: You may want to have the children only walk (rapidly) around the bases if you have slick floors. If you do this, you can also have the catchers have to crawl on all fours/do a crab walk to slow them down.

Non-competitive Option

This game is difficult to play in a completely non-competitive way. You can take the "edge" off of the competitive nature of it by not assigning point values and simply letting each child have a chance to see how far around the bases they get on their turn. When all the children on Team A have a turn, switch batters and catchers and let the Team B children become the batters.

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 Courageous Couple.

Our story takes in 1253 and in the 1930's.

And now we present: "The Case of the Courageous Couple."

Scene 1:

Actions:

The Polos return to Venice, having been away for twenty-four years, exploring the Far East. Marco tells the people stories of the lands and peoples they saw. He brings back different inventions that the Chinese had made that people in the "West" had not seen before. He brings back spices for food. He gives them Kublai Khan's request for 100 men to teach them about the Bible and Jesus, since they do not know anything about them. People gave into temptation to fear risking their lives to tell the Chinese about Jesus. Only two men go and even they soon come back without telling anyone about Jesus.

Scene 2:

Hundreds of years later, the China Inland Mission begins to send people to China to tell them about Jesus and the Bible. They want 200 people to go to China, but many people are too frightened of the Communists taking over China to go. They don't want to die. Betty Scott and John Stam did not give into the temptation to fear, they went to China. They got married soon after arriving there and had a little baby, Helen Priscilla. They were to go to Tsingteh to work at a mission station started by CIM and then left a couple of years earlier. Some warned them not to go because of the Communists. The Stams knew this was what the Lord wanted them to do, so they did not give into the temptation to fear. They journeyed 200 miles on foot with their belongings through the mountains to Tsingteh. As they went they told many about Jesus and gave them Bibles. They were glad they had made the trip. The Chinese people were so eager to hear and believe in Jesus. They began to settle in Tsingteh. They found the Chinese very eager to hear more about Jesus. The Christians there were eager to grow.

Scene 3

Only two weeks after getting there, Communist soldiers snuck into the town and arrested the Stams. The soldiers let John Stam write a letter to his boss, telling him that the Communists wanted \$20,000 or they would kill them. They did not have the money, but they would not give into the temptation to fear. They were trusting God with their lives and even with their deaths. The soldiers forced them to walk to another mountain town, named Miaosheo. Betty Stam hid Helen Priscilla under a blanket along with the letter John had written. The soldiers paraded the Stams through town, forcing the townspeople to say mean things to them. The townspeople were amazed that the Stams did not fear, but have great peace. They marveled at how great their God must be. The soldiers killed the Stams with a sword. Even as they died, the Stams did not give into the temptation to fear. They trusted God. Baby Helen Priscilla and the letter were rescued by Chinese Christians hiding around Miaosheo. Many others heard about what happened to the Stams and decided to say "no" to the temptation to fear the Communists and volunteered to go to China, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** The Stams faced the temptation to fear many times, but even facing death, itself, they said "no" and instead chose to trust 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 Courageous Couple.

Our story takes in 1253 and in the 1930's.

The characters in our story today are: The Polos, Chinese people, Kublai Khan, John, Betty and Helen Stam, Communists, Chinese Christians, Volunteers

And now we present: "The Case of the Courageous Couple."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Polos return to Venice, having been away for twenty-four years, exploring the Far East. Marco tells the people stories of the lands and peoples they saw. He brings back different inventions that the Chinese had made that people in the "West" had not seen before. He brings back spices for food. He gives them Kublai Khan's request for 100 men to teach them about the Bible and Jesus, since they do not know anything about them. People gave into temptation to fear risking their lives to tell the Chinese about Jesus. Only two men go and even they soon come back without telling anyone about Jesus.

Scene 2:

Hundreds of years later, the China Inland Mission begins to send people to China to tell them about Jesus and the Bible. They want 200 people to go to China, but many people are too frightened of the Communists taking over China to go. They don't want to die. Betty Scott and John Stam did not give into the temptation to fear, they went to China. They got married soon after arriving there and had a little baby, Helen Priscilla. They were to go to Tsingteh to work at a mission station started by CIM and then left a couple of years earlier. Some warned them not to go because of the Communists. The Stams knew this was what the Lord wanted them to do, so they did not give into the temptation to fear. They journeyed 200 miles on foot with their belongings through the mountains to Tsingteh. As they went they told many about Jesus and gave them Bibles. They were glad they had made the trip. The Chinese people were so eager to hear and believe in Jesus. They began to settle in Tsingteh. They found the Chinese very eager to hear more about Jesus. The Christians there were eager to grow.

Scene 3

Only two weeks after getting there, Communist soldiers snuck into the town and arrested the Stams. The soldiers let John Stam write a letter to his boss, telling him that the Communists wanted \$20,000 or they would kill them. They did not have the money, but they would not give into the temptation to fear. They were trusting God with their lives and even with their deaths. The soldiers forced them to walk to another mountain town, named Miaosheo. Betty Stam hid Helen Priscilla under a blanket along with the letter John had written. The soldiers paraded the Stams through town, forcing the townspeople to say mean things to them. The townspeople were amazed that the Stams did not fear, but have great peace. They marveled at how great their God must be. The soldiers killed the Stams with a sword. Even as they died, the Stams did not give into the temptation to fear. They trusted God. Baby Helen Priscilla and the letter were rescued by Chinese Christians hiding around Miaosheo. Many others heard about what happened to the Stams and decided to say "no" to the temptation to fear the Communists and volunteered to go to China, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** The Stams faced the temptation to fear many times, but even facing death, itself, they said "no" and instead chose to trust God.

John and Betty Stam, Comfortably at Home in America

Description

The children will make a scene of John and Betty Stam comfortably at home in America with pop open windows and doors that reveal things in their house.

Materials

2 pieces of cardstock per child
Templates of the house and the pictures
Scissors
Markers, colored pencils, etc
Glue Sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out each template onto a piece of cardstock, one per craft.
2. Cut out the windows and doors on the house piece, leaving the left side intact. Fold this side back. You will want to do this for at least your youngest children and you may want to do this for all the children)
3. Glue with glue sticks the front house piece to the back plain piece of cardstock, leaving the windows and doors free.
4. Set out other supplies.
5. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color in the house and the various pictures (or make their own pictures), cut them out and stick them in whichever window/door frame they want.
3. Children can also choose to draw their own pictures in the windows instead of use the cut-outs provided.

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?

Mainly in America and in China.

2. Why was it such a hard decision for the Stams and other American Christians to decide to go to China?

Because life in America was comfortable and they wouldn't risk their lives to be Christians there; but in China, life would be much harder and they might lose their lives if they lived as Christians there.

3. Why did the Stams chose to leave their comfortable homes in America for China?

They would rather give up their lives so that the Chinese people could hear the good news of Jesus, than to stay safely at home.

4. What is Bible Truth 10 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 10 is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

5. What does our craft have to do with the Bible Truth 10?

The Stams knew it was very dangerous to go to China, but they felt sure they were supposed to go. God helped them not give into fear about the situation but gave them courage to trust Him with their lives that the people of China might hear about Jesus.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God can help His people say "no" to temptation in even the most difficult and dangerous situations.

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: John and Betty Stam, Comfortably at Home in America.

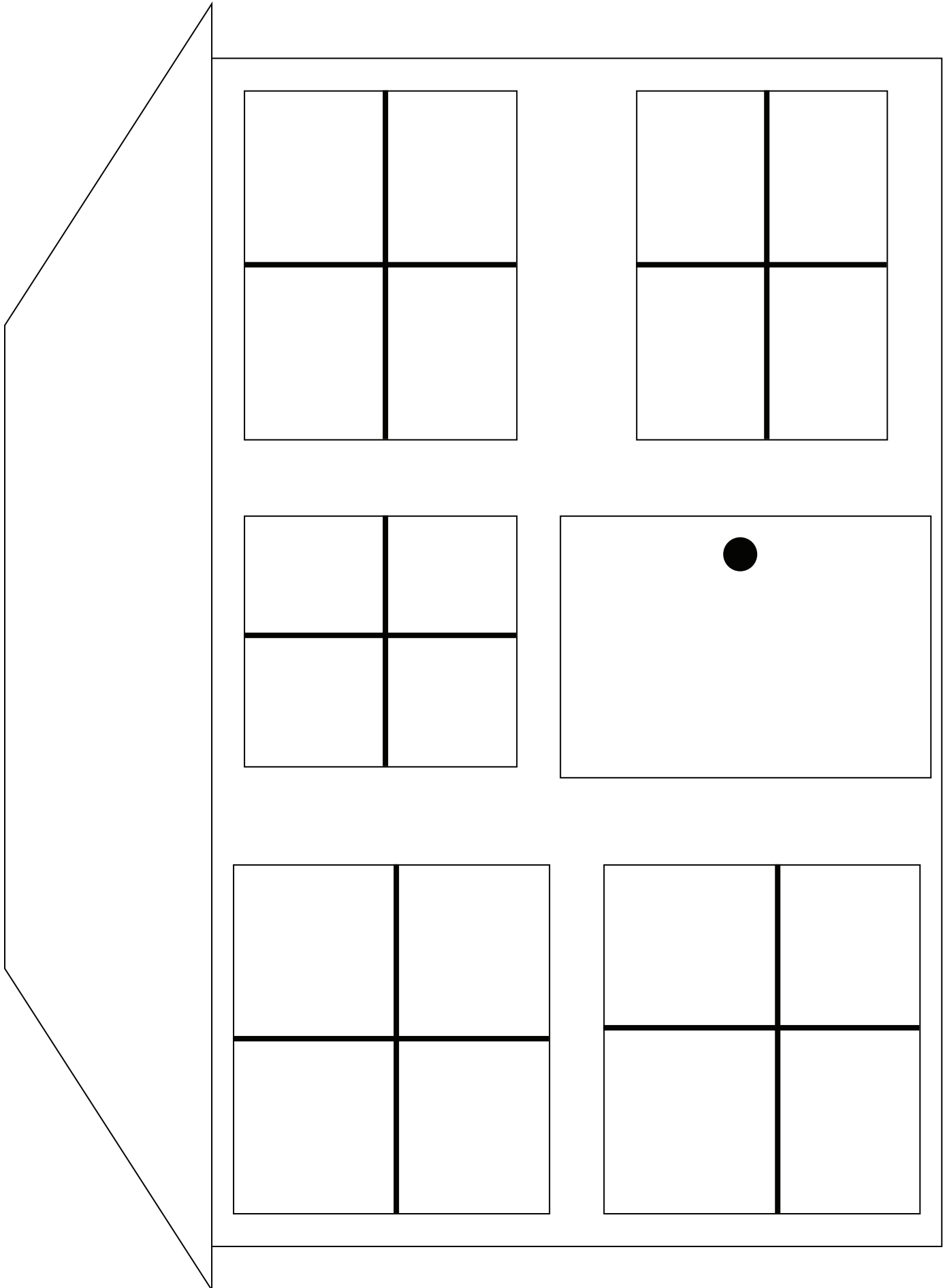
2. The Stams would rather give up their lives so that the Chinese people could hear the good news of Jesus, than to stay safely at home.

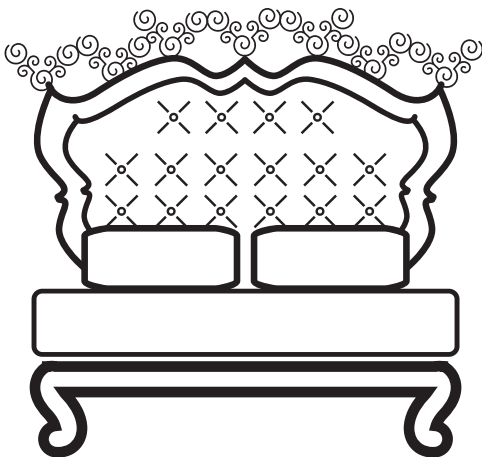
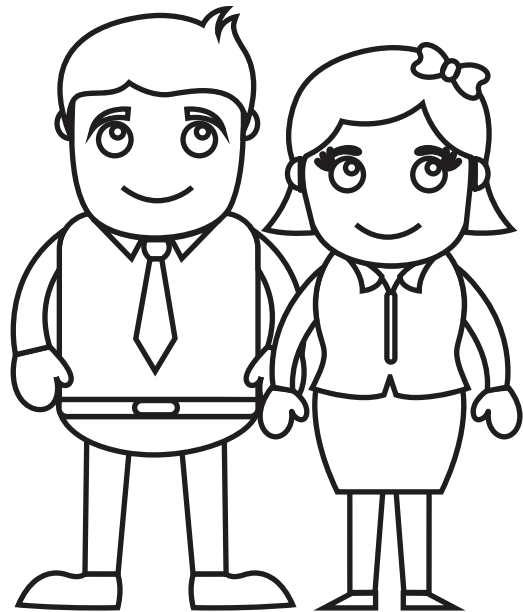
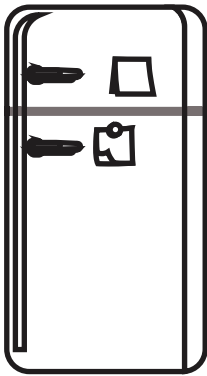
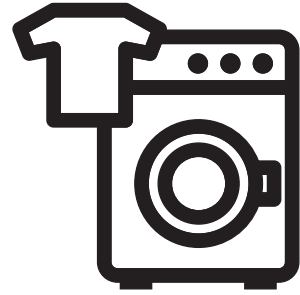
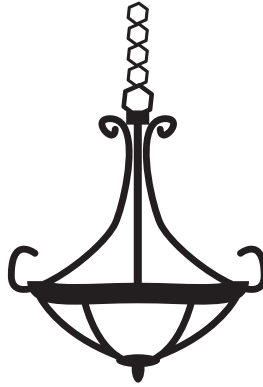
3. Bible Truth 10 is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

4. The Stams knew it was very dangerous to go to China, but they felt sure they were supposed to go. God helped them not give into fear about the situation but gave them courage to trust Him with their lives that the people of China might hear about Jesus.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God can help His people say "no" to temptation in even the most difficult and dangerous situations.

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. They are found in 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 10, 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 ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 10: God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Extra Bible Verse: No Temptation Has Overtaken You, 1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 36

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the Tricky Givers *Acts 4:32-5:14*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Funds in Food

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Enemy Invaders

Bible Truth Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Corinthians 10:13 Discussion Sheet and Game: Verse Tag

Bible Verse Song: No Temptation *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Chair Pile-Up

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: Lying About the Money Ananias and Sapphira Received

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 10, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Tricky Givers Acts 4:32-5:14

by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Tricky Givers.**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the Tricky Givers?
2. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it?

This story takes place in New Testament times, not long after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

Things would never be the same in Jerusalem after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead! The Holy Spirit had filled the hearts of Jesus' disciples and helped them to act powerfully and boldly in Jesus' name. What amazing works they did! How powerfully they preached! What miraculous healings and amazing works they did! What suffering they joyfully endured for Jesus' sake! And how wonderful the love the Christians showed to God and to each other!

"The things these followers of Jesus do are amazing," many in Jerusalem exclaimed. "Only God could do things like this!" So many repented of their sins and put their trust in Jesus, too.

One man who became a Christian was a rich Levite named Joseph of Cyprus. The Lord gave Joseph the gifts of preaching and generosity. He was such a blessing to the young church in Jerusalem, that the apostles nicknamed Joseph "Barnabas," meaning "Encouraging Son."

As our story opens, we find Joseph in the marketplace, selling some land to a businessman.

"It's a deal," Joseph said to the man. "This silver is a fair price for my field. Thank you," Joseph told him.

Joseph carried off the bag of silver with joy. This money would take care of the widows and other poor people in the church. He was thankful that he had a field to sell to help them out.

Joseph entered the place where the church was meeting, took the bag of silver and laid it at the apostles' feet. "I sold a field today. Here's the money I received for it. I'm giving it to you to use to care for the needy," he told them.

The apostles took it gratefully and all whole church was encouraged by Joseph's gift. Other rich believers saw what Joseph did and wanted to sell their fields and houses to help others, too. No one in the church would

be in need because of the generous gifts the Holy Spirit prompted the richer believers to give.

Word of how the Christians treated each other spread throughout Jerusalem. Once more, people were amazed. "Only God could work in people to do things like this!" many thought. And many repented of their sins and put their trust in Jesus, too.

But generous gifts like Joseph's didn't only encourage others to want to do good deeds. Sometimes they became temptations to do bad things, as a rich couple named Ananias and Sapphira were to find out.

"Next time there is a need among the poor and widows, let's sell one of our fields and give the money to the apostles," Ananias and Sapphira agreed. They had watched how Joseph and other rich Christians had sold houses and fields and laid the money at the apostles' feet. They had seen the honor and gratefulness that the apostles as well as the poor had shown the rich believers for their kind gifts and they decided they wanted to be part of that, too.

It was not long before new needs requiring more money were shared with the believers. "This is our chance," Ananias Sapphira decided. Down to the market place they went. Before long they had found a buyer. With a quick exchange of silver shekels for property, the deal was done.

"What a lot of money we got for our field!" Ananias and Sapphira exclaimed, looking at the bulging bag of coins. "This will more than meet the needs of the widows and poor," they said. "Perhaps we don't need to give it all away to the poor of the church," they began to think. "After all, it really is such a lot of money."

The more they thought about all that money, the more hesitant they were to give it all away. Satan used

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.

their thoughts about the money to begin to tempt them to sin: "But think how much grander it would be to say to the apostles in front of everyone else that we are giving all of the money we got, just like Joseph of Cyprus did? Isn't that the kind of honor and respect you are hungry for?" they began to think.

"What harm would it do to keep some of this money for ourselves?" The apostles and other believers don't have to know we didn't give the church all of it," they persuaded themselves. They were being tempted to lie to the Christians so that they might enjoy the honor of giving all money without really doing it. They could have cried out to God to provide a way out the temptation, but they didn't. Ananias gave into the temptation, removed some of the silver from the pouch and left for the church meeting.

Sapphira had stood by her husband, watching what he was doing. She could have chosen to warn him, but she did not. She gave into temptation, too, as she watched him leave.

Ananias took his money and presented in to the apostles just as he had seen Joseph and the others do. How he must have been looking forward to their words' of praise. But instead of praise, Ananias received a rebuke. The Lord, through His Holy Spirit, had told Peter the truth about Ananias' gift and the sin in his heart: "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" Peter asked him. 'Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God.' When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died." (Acts 3-5, NIV 1984) One thing was clear: sin was a very big deal to God! Especially in these first days of the church, God was making that very clear. He hated it and you can't hide it from Him. He wanted His people to say "no him" to temptation and stay pure from sin. He promised to always make a way out of temptation for them, if they would but ask Him.

Young men wrapped up Ananias' body, carried him out and buried him. The church was in shock at what had happened, but this wasn't the end! Three hours

later, Sapphira joined the church meeting, not knowing what had happened to Ananias.

"Tell me, Sapphira, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" Peter asked her.

Would she say "no" to temptation or give in to it? Would she ask God to show her the way to stand up under it? No. she would not. Sapphira hardened her heart to what was right, just like Ananias had.

"Yes," she lied to Peter, "that's the price."

Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

Sapphira fell down and died at Peter's feet. Then the young men carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened. It was clear to those who heard about Ananias and Sapphira's death that Jesus was indeed alive and at work in His Church. Ananias and Sapphira had thought they could fool the believers and even God the Holy Spirit, Himself, by gathering with them and mimicking their good works. They—and all of Jerusalem with them—knew without a doubt that nothing could be hidden from God. He knew the sin that Ananias and Sapphira had given into. They were really just hungry for the honor of men.

Some saw what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira and were too scared to join the Christians. But God uses everything for the good of His people, even this terrible judgment on Ananias and Sapphira! Many others repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. In Jesus, the perfect Savior, there was forgiveness of sins for the worst of sinners.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who were the Tricky Givers?

Ananias and Sapphira.

2. How were they tricky? What temptation did they give in to that made them tricky...and how could they have avoided giving into it? Why did God punish them the way that He did?

They were tricky because they acted like they gave the church all the money they made on the sale of their land, instead of just part of it. They gave into the temptation of wanting the honor of others more than being honest before God. They could have cried out to God and asked for Him to show them the way out of their temptation. In the early days of the church, God many times acted in big ways of blessing and of punishment that He rarely chooses to act in today. One reason He did this was to provide special encouragement to grow and to discipline His church in the especially early days as it was being formed.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

How swift the Lord was to punish Ananias for his sinful plan to get honor from others by lying to them and to God! We certainly can understand why the church and the people of Jerusalem were afraid when they saw what happened to Ananias and Sapphira.

There is much we don't understand about God and His ways. But we know that God hates sin. And, since Adam and Eve first rebelled against God, we have all been sinners deserving His punishment for our sins. Yet God is so merciful and patient that rarely do we ever see Him immediately punish humans so quickly for their sins as with Ananias and Sapphira. We could fear God like some did in Jerusalem that day, for His quick and mighty judgment of them. Or, like so many others did when they heard, we can confess our sins to Him, turn and trust in His forgiveness and salvation.

Let's praise our holy God who hates sin. We can praise Him for His promises to never allow any of His people to

face more temptation than they can bear, and to always provide a way out of temptation so they can stand up under it.

Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to remember what a big deal sin is to Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts when we face temptation that we would not harden them and give in to sin, but would turn to Him for help to stand up under it.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Holy God who is perfectly good and hates sin.

C God, we confess that many times we, like Ananias and Sapphira are tempted to sin. We need Your help to fight sin! We need Your forgiveness! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising to help Your people out of temptation when they face it.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to us to confess our sins—even our secret sins-- turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to turn away from temptation. Show us a way out of it that we might glorify You and do the good things You want us to do.

Special Words

Apostles: Twelve men who were Jesus' closest disciples while He lived on earth. They were the special leaders of the church in its earliest days.

Marketplace: An outdoor area where people bought and sold food, animals, clothing and other goods.

Widow: A woman whose husband has died (and hasn't remarried).

Temptation: Something we want to do, even though we know it is wrong.

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:

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of asking for God's help and looking for His way out of it. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we wouldn't sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Funds in Food

Round fruit, vegetable, and cracker "shekels" (banana, cucumber, carrot, Ritz crackers, etc.)

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

Case Tie-in: Joseph and other rich believers chose to sell their land and houses for money to give to the church to help the widows and other needy people among them. Ananias and Sapphira also sold land for money. They gave only part of the money to the church, but let everyone think they gave it all. They gave into the temptation to lie to others so that they would receive honor from the church, but still keep some of the money for themselves.

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 People Trust Him

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is temptation? *Thinking about doing something wrong.*
2. What is the difference between being tempted and sinning? Why is being tempted not sinful? *Being tempted is thinking about doing something wrong, while sinning is going ahead and doing it. Being tempted isn't wrong because it isn't actually doing the sinful thing.*
3. What different ways do temptations come to us? *Sin in our hearts whispers to us to disobey God; sin in the world around us/other people tempts us to sin, too; and, even Satan, himself, can tempt us to sin.*
4. Who was tempted in every way, yet without ever sinning? *Jesus.*
5. How does God promise to help His people as they face temptation? *To never allow them to be tempted more than they can bear; to always provide a way out so they do not have to sin.*
6. How does God use the Bible to help His people not give into temptation? *He uses it to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them.*
7. How can the Holy Spirit help God's people when they face temptation? *He can work in their hearts and helps them to turn away from tempting sin.*
8. What should God's people do when they do give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness and help to turn away from sinning. He promises to forgive them their sins.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did Ananias and Sapphira face? *Temptation to desire the honor of people more than obeying God. Temptation to lie to the apostles and the believers.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."?
God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say "no" to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things God's people today can do to fight giving into temptation? *Read their Bibles so they know what is sin and what is not. Pray each day, asking God to give them strength to say "no" to temptations that will come their way. Confess their sins and temptations to others so they can be praying for them and ask them how they are doing; remember to ask God to show them the way out when they are faced with a temptation.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE TRUTH 10 REVIEW

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so Merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

Confess that many times we give into temptation instead of looking for God's way out of it.

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

Thank God for His promise to always show His people a way out of the temptation to sin. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins of His people, all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior..

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from sin and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to understand how much He hates sin and help us to resist temptations that we would not sin against Him. Ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit who can help us say "no" to sin.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation and sinned...many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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: 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.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Verse 1

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 34

Understanding the Song

1. What does prayer time call God's people from and bids them to; and what does that mean? *It calls them from "a world of care" and bids them to their "Father's throne." That means that they take time to stop thinking about all the worries of the world and think about. It doesn't mean actually standing in front of a real throne, but remembering who God is: the sovereign, all-powerful King, who loves His people as their heavenly Father.*
2. What can God's people make known to God? *All their wants and wishes.*
3. What are seasons of distress and grief? *Not a season like spring, summer, fall, winter; but times of worry, fear and sadness.*
4. What does God give to His people's souls when they pray to Him in times of distress and grief? How? *Relief. He comforts them by His Spirit & by bringing the truth of His Word to mind as they pray.*
5. What does escaping the tempter's snare mean? *Satan is called the tempter because he tempts people to sin. A snare is like a trap set for a wild animal. The tempter's snare would be any situation that Satan hopes to use to tempt us to sin.*
6. What often is a help in escaping the tempter's snare? *By returning to pray, over and over.*
7. Do God's people have to spend an hour of prayer for God to help them? *No. Hour doesn't always mean sixty minutes. It also means a time set aside to do something. The song is saying that regular times in prayer are what help God's people in difficult times, such as when they are sad, worried or being tempted.*
8. Why does the song call the hour of prayer "sweet"? *Not because it is sugary, but because God's people come to love prayer time for what a delight it is to their soul's in hard times, just as dessert is a delight to our mouths. It becomes one of the best part of the day because they spend time with God who loves them most of all and who will help them in every situation they are in.*
9. How can we become God's people, for whom the words of this song are true? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation?**
God's people receive the strength to escape temptation through taking time each day to pray.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *When faced with the "tempter's snare" of keeping back some of the money, yet letting the believers honor them as if they gave all of it, Ananias and Sapphira both gave into temptation and sinned. Perhaps this was because Ananias and Sapphira were not truly believers who loved the Lord and spent time in prayer to Him, but only people who acted like believers but were interested in receiving the honor of other people by their "good deeds."*

Bible Verse Connection

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.?"

God helps His people escape temptation through prayer. By the Holy Spirit and through His Word, He shows them a way out of the temptation. He shows them His promises to help them. He reminds them of Himself and His good commands. He reminds them of the terrible things that happen as a result of sin. All these things help God's people fight temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song?

They can be encouraged to pray to God for help in times of temptation, to give them what they need, and for comfort in hard or sad times. They can remember that God their Father bids them to come to Him in prayer. He delights to hear their prayers and answer them according to His good and perfect will.

2. What is the prayer and life change that God desires all people to make? *To turn away from their sins, confess them to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the God who Answers the Prayers of His People..

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

That many times we choose not to pray to God and ask for help against temptation. 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 answering His people's prayers to escape temptation, as well as their prayers for the things they need or for comfort during hard or sad times.

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. We can ask Him to help us to pray to Him about all our temptations as well as our needs and other concerns.

Gospel Question

1. How can we know God as our Heavenly Father since we are all sinners? What has He done to make this possible? 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.

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: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Alternate Memory Version: 1 Corinthians 10:13

“He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is a temptation? *Something wrong that you think about doing, usually because you think you will get something you want by doing it.*
2. Is it a sin to be tempted? *No. We sin when we give in to the temptation and actually do something sinful.*
3. What kind of temptations overtake us? *Ones that are common to man; that is, ones that lots of people experience.*
4. How does God show His faithfulness to His people when they are tempted? *He doesn't let them be tempted beyond what they can bear. He will provide a way out so we can resist it without sinning.*
5. How is God able to not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear? *He is omnipotent—all powerful. He is control over all things, even how much we are allowed to be tempted.*
6. What does it mean to be able to stand up under a temptation? *To feel the desire to do what you are tempted to do and to not do it.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Say “No” to Temptation?**

While God's people will face temptations every day, but they can be encouraged that they can always say “no” to them, because He will never let them be tempted more than they can bear; and, He promises to provide a way out, so they can stand up under them.

Story Connection Questions

1. What temptations did Ananias and Sapphira face? *Temptation to keep back some of the money for themselves yet lie to the apostles and the believers about how much they gave (so that they would get more honor from them).*
2. Why didn't Ananias and Sapphira stand up the temptations they faced? *They had sinful hearts—like us all—who desire to do sinful things. Also, they probably were not really believers, but only people who had begun to gather with the Christians and looked and acted like them for their own selfish reasons.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so merciful that He never allows His people to be tempted more than they can bear.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we choose to sin when we are tempted, instead of looking to God to show us a way out. We need a Savior to sin us from our sins!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for always making a way out of temptation for His people.
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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to see and take the way out of temptation each time we face temptation.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people today glorify God by standing up under temptation? *They show others that loving God and doing what pleases Him is even more satisfying than whatever pleasure they would get from giving into the temptation. They show that God is faithful and can be trusted to help them to not sin.*
2. What should God's people today do if they give into temptation and sin? *They should confess their sin to God, ask forgiveness and try to not keep doing it. They can pray that God would help them and ask someone else to pray for them, too.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who have given into temptation to sin, many, many times. We all deserve God's punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is it? 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: Horse Play Verse Tag

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 spread out around the playing area. Explain to the children that they will say the verse together, then the person who is "It" (start with you) will try to tag another child while walking on all fours like a horse. The tagged child and "It" say the verse together, then the tagged child becomes the new "It." Everyone says the verse together, then the new "It" tries to tag someone else. Other options: do a crab walk (hands and feet, belly-up) or slither like snakes.

Game continues until all children get to be It 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.

No Temptation

No temptation has overtaken you,
That is not,
Common to man,
God is faithful,
He will not let you be,
Tempted beyond,
Your ability,
But with the temptation
He will also provide,
The way of escape,
So that you might be able to endure it.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 35

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. Why was Joseph called "Barnabas" by the apostles? *Because of his gifts of preaching and generosity.*
2. Why did Joseph sell his field? *To help meet the needs of other believers in the church.*
3. Why did Joseph lay the money at the apostles' feet? **That was how he showed that he wanted them to decide how best to distribute it among the needy, not him.**
4. Who are the apostles? *They were twelve of Jesus' closest disciples.*
5. What did other rich Christians do? *They wanted to sell their fields to meet the needs of the other believers, too.*
6. What did Ananias and Sapphira want to do when they received the money for their field? *They wanted to keep some for themselves.*
7. What were they tempted to do that was wrong? *To keep some of the money, but let everyone else think they gave it all for the believers.*
8. What did Ananias think they would get more of if they gave all the money to the church? *More honor.*
9. What could Ananias and Sapphira do to stand up under their temptation? *They could have not let each other sin. They could have confessed their sins to the other believers. They could have told the others they were giving just part of the money. They could have asked God to help them not give into the temptation.*
10. What happened to Ananias after he put the money at the apostles' feet? *Peter rebuked him and he fell down dead.*
11. What did Peter say had happened in Ananias' heart? *Ananias had allowed Satan to fill his heart so that he would try to lie to the Holy Spirit (by trying to deceive himself into thinking what he was doing was ok...and the other believers into thinking he was giving all the money.*
12. What did Peter ask Sapphira when she came to the meeting place a few hours later? *If they had given all the money to the apostles.*
13. What happened to Sapphira when she lied? *The same thing as what happened to her husband.*
14. Why did the Lord punish Ananias and Sapphira in this dramatic way? *The amazing thing is why God has so much patience with all of us, sinners as He does. We all deserve punishment for our sins, but God is very, very patient and merciful with sinners. God, in His perfect wisdom, chose this time for Ananias and Sapphira to die and used it as a display of His holiness, His hatred of sin, and as a sign to many of their need to confess their sins and turn and trust Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.*
15. How did people react to what happened to Ananias and Sapphira? *Some became scared to become Christians; yet, many more confessed their sins and turned to Him for forgiveness.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Say "No" to Temptation? *Ananias & Sapphira gave in to temptations they faced instead of having God show them the way out so they could stand up under them.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."?

1. What temptations did Ananias and Sapphira face? *Temptation to keep back some of the money for themselves yet lie to the apostles and the believers about how much they gave (so that they would get more honor from them.*
2. Why didn't Ananias and Sapphira stand up the temptations they faced? *They had sinful hearts—like us all—who desired to do sinful things. They knew what they should do, but chose not to do it. Also, they probably were not really believers, but only people who had begun to gather with the Christians and looked and acted like them for their own selfish reasons.*

Life Application Questions

1. What's something we can learn about temptation from this story? *Temptations are hard for us all to face. It is very hard to stand up under them. But we can remember what a big deal sin is to God from seeing how He dealt with Ananias and Sapphira. We should be alert when tempted and ask God to show us the way out so we can stand up under them.*
2. This story shows us how serious God is about sin. What does He call all of us to do to receive His forgiveness for our sins? *To turn away from our sins and trust 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 being the Holy God who hates sins.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?
Confess that we, like Ananias and Sapphira are tempted to sin. We need God's 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 promising to help His people out of temptation when they face it.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins—even our secret sins-- turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us, by His Holy Spirit, to turn away from temptation and show us a way out of it that we might glorify Him and do the good things He wants us to do.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that those first believers knew 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: Chair Pile-Up

Materials

A Chair for every two players

Index Cards

Paper and Marker

Tape

Story Review Questions

Optional: Game "Pennies" for easy recognition for members of each team

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Form a circle with the chairs. On the index cards, make identical two sets of numbers corresponding to the number of chairs. Use one set to tape a number onto the back of each chair.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into teams. Have all players select a seat and share it with one other person. (No special ordering of players needed.) The players from both team will move from chair to chair according to the directions you give. ("If you have shoes that have Velcro, move 1 chair to your left," "If you came to church in a mini van, move four chairs to your right," "If you have a sister, stay where you are, but everyone else move 1 chair to the left", etc.) If there are too many students to sit on one chair, have them at least put their hands on the chair. After giving several direction, choose a number from the 2nd set of index cards. All the children at that particular numbered chair will answer a Story Review question. If they answer it correctly, they earn as many point for their team as team members at that particular chair, (i.e., if 2 people from Team A and 1 people from Team B are on the same chair, then Team A gets 2 points and Team B gets 1) If they do NOT answer it correctly, then their teams are DOCKED the same number points as team members at that chair. The team with the most points at the end of play, wins.

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Simply play the game and have the children at whatever numbered chair is chosen answer 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 Tricky Givers.

Our story takes place in Jerusalem, in New Testament times, soon after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

And now we present: "The Case of the Tricky Givers."

Scene 1:

Joseph of Cyprus was a rich believer who had great gifts of preaching God's Word and of generosity. The apostles gave him the name of "Barnabas" meaning "Son of Encouragement" because of these gifts. When a need arose among other believers in Jerusalem, Barnabas went down to the marketplace and sold a field to a businessman. He took the money and placed it at the apostles' feet, that they may use it as they thought best for the needs of the Christians who were poor or widows. Other rich Christians saw what Barnabas did and they did the same. When another need arose, a rich man named Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, decided they would sell a field to meet the need. They went down to the marketplace and sold their field to a businessman, just as Barnabas had done.

Actions:

Scene 2:

But, when they received the money for it, they were tempted to keep back some of the money for themselves, but make others think they gave it all to the church. They were hungry for the same kind of honor that Barnabas had received, but did not want to really sacrifice as much as he did. Ananias took the money to where the believers were gathered and laid it at the apostles' feet for everyone to see. He made it seem like it was all the money. He looked forward to the honor he would get. But, the Holy Spirit told Peter what Ananias had done. Peter rebuked Ananias for allowing Satan to tempt him into trying to lie to the Holy Spirit like this. When Ananias heard this, he fell to the ground dead. Everyone was terrified when they saw what happened to Ananias. They saw that just as the Lord confirmed the good news about Jesus with great signs and wonders in these first days of the church, He was using great signs and wonders to confirm to those first believers that sinning was a very big deal to Him. They should say "no" to temptation and not sin.. Some young men picked up Ananias' body and took it out to be buried.

Scene 3

Sapphira came to the believers' meeting place. Peter asked her if they had given all the money from the sale of the property to the church. She told him that they did, lying just like her husband had. Peter rebuked her for lying to the Holy Spirit, too. She fell down dead. The young men took her body and buried it, too. The believers and others heard about this and were terrified. While some were too scared to turn to believe in Jesus, many more saw the greatness of the Lord in this, confessed their sins and turned to trust in Him.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** Ananias and Sapphira did not say "no" to the temptation to lie to the Holy Spirit. The Lord's punishment of them was a terrifying reminder at how much He hates sin.

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 Tricky Givers.

Our story takes place in Jerusalem, in New Testament times, soon after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

The characters in our story today are: Joseph of Cyprus, businessman buying field in marketplace, the apostles, poor and widows who are Christians, rich Christians, Ananias, Sapphira, young men who are Christians, other people of Jerusalem.

And now we present: "The Case of the Tricky Givers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Joseph of Cyprus was a rich believer who had great gifts of preaching God's Word and of generosity. The apostles gave him the name of "Barnabas" meaning "Son of Encouragement" because of these gifts. When a need arose among other believers in Jerusalem, Barnabas went down to the marketplace and sold a field to a businessman. He took the money and placed it at the apostles' feet, that they may use it as they thought best for the needs of the Christians who were poor or widows. Other rich Christians saw what Barnabas did and they did the same. When another need arose, a rich man named Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, decided they would sell a field to meet the need. They went down to the marketplace and sold their field to a businessman, just as Barnabas had done.

Scene 2:

But, when they received the money for it, they were tempted to keep back some of the money for themselves, but make others think they gave it all to the church. They were hungry for the same kind of honor that Barnabas had received, but did not want to really sacrifice as much as he did. Ananias took the money to where the believers were gathered and laid it at the apostles' feet for everyone to see. He made it seem like it was all the money. He looked forward to the honor he would get. But, the Holy Spirit told Peter what Ananias had done. Peter rebuked Ananias for allowing Satan to tempt him into trying to lie to the Holy Spirit like this. When Ananias heard this, he fell to the ground dead. Everyone was terrified when they saw what happened to Ananias. They saw that just as the Lord confirmed the good news about Jesus with great signs and wonders in these first days of the church, He was using great signs and wonders to confirm to those first believers that sinning was a very big deal to Him. They should say "no" to temptation and not sin.. Some young men picked up Ananias' body and took it out to be buried.

Scene 3

Sapphira came to the believers' meeting place. Peter asked her if they had given all the money from the sale of the property to the church. She told him that they did, lying just like her husband had. Peter rebuked her for lying to the Holy Spirit, too. She fell down dead. The young men took her body and buried it, too. The believers and others heard about this and were terrified. While some were too scared to turn to believe in Jesus, many more saw the greatness of the Lord in this, confessed their sins and turned to trust in Him.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Say "No" to Temptation.** Ananias and Sapphira did not say "no" to the temptation to lie to the Holy Spirit. The Lord's punishment of them was a terrifying reminder at how much He hates sin.

Lying about the Money Ananias and Sapphira Received

Description

The children will make a turning picture that first reveals all the money they received, then turns to hide some of the money and show part of the money.

Materials

Paper Fastener, one per craft
 2 dinner-sized paper plates per craft
 Paper circles of coins
 Glue sticks
 Scissors
 Colored pencils and/or thin tips markers

Preparing the Craft

1. On one of each set of paper plates, mark the center then draw a line from the outside of the circle to that center (i.e., draw a radius, for all you geometry fans).
2. Make 1 set of coins per child. You may want to cut these out for the youngest children. Older children can do this themselves.
3. Set out other supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children color in the coins and if them have not cut them out yet, then cut them out.
3. Glue 5 coins onto the paper plate WITHOUT the line. Make sure to glue these down very well so that they don't lift off the paper when the circle is turned.
4. Glue 10 coins onto the other plate (the one WITH the line), making sure not to glue a coin over the line. Again, make sure to glue these down very well.
5. Cut along the line.
6. Lay the plate with the 10 coins and the slit on top of plate with the 5 coins and no slit. Make sure they are centered over each other.
7. Poke paper fastener through center in middle of both and fasten down securely in back.
8. Pull one side of bottom plate with the 5 coins through slit in top plate with the 10 coins and slide around to cover and then reveal the 5 coin plate.
9. Children can tell show all the coins Ananias and Sapphira were paid, then turn the circle to reveal how many they offered.

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 this story take place?

A desert wilderness.

2. How were Joseph of Cyprus and Ananias and Sapphira alike?

They were all rich. They all chose to sell their own property to give money to the apostles to help those in need.

3. What did Ananias and Sapphira want? What did they do that was sinful?

They wanted the honor of the Christians, but also wanted to keep back some of the money from the field. They chose to keep back some of the money, but let others think they gave it all.

4. What is Bible Truth 10 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 10 is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth?

Sometimes it is very hard to say "no" to temptation. Ananias and Sapphira gave into the temptation to lie rather than trusting in God, asking for His help and turning away from the temptation.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

The temptation to sin is very strong in us all. We all need God's help to say "no" to temptation.

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: Lying about the Money Ananias and Sapphira Received.

2. Ananias and Sapphira *wanted the honor of the Christians, but also wanted to keep back some of the money from the field. They chose to keep back some of the money, but let others think they gave it all.*

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Say "No" to Temptation.

4. Sometimes it is very hard to say "no" to temptation. Ananias and Sapphira gave into the temptation to lie rather than trusting in God, asking for His help and turning away from the temptation.

5. Our craft can help us remember that the temptation to sin is very strong in us all. We all need God's help to say "no" to temptation.

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. They are found in 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

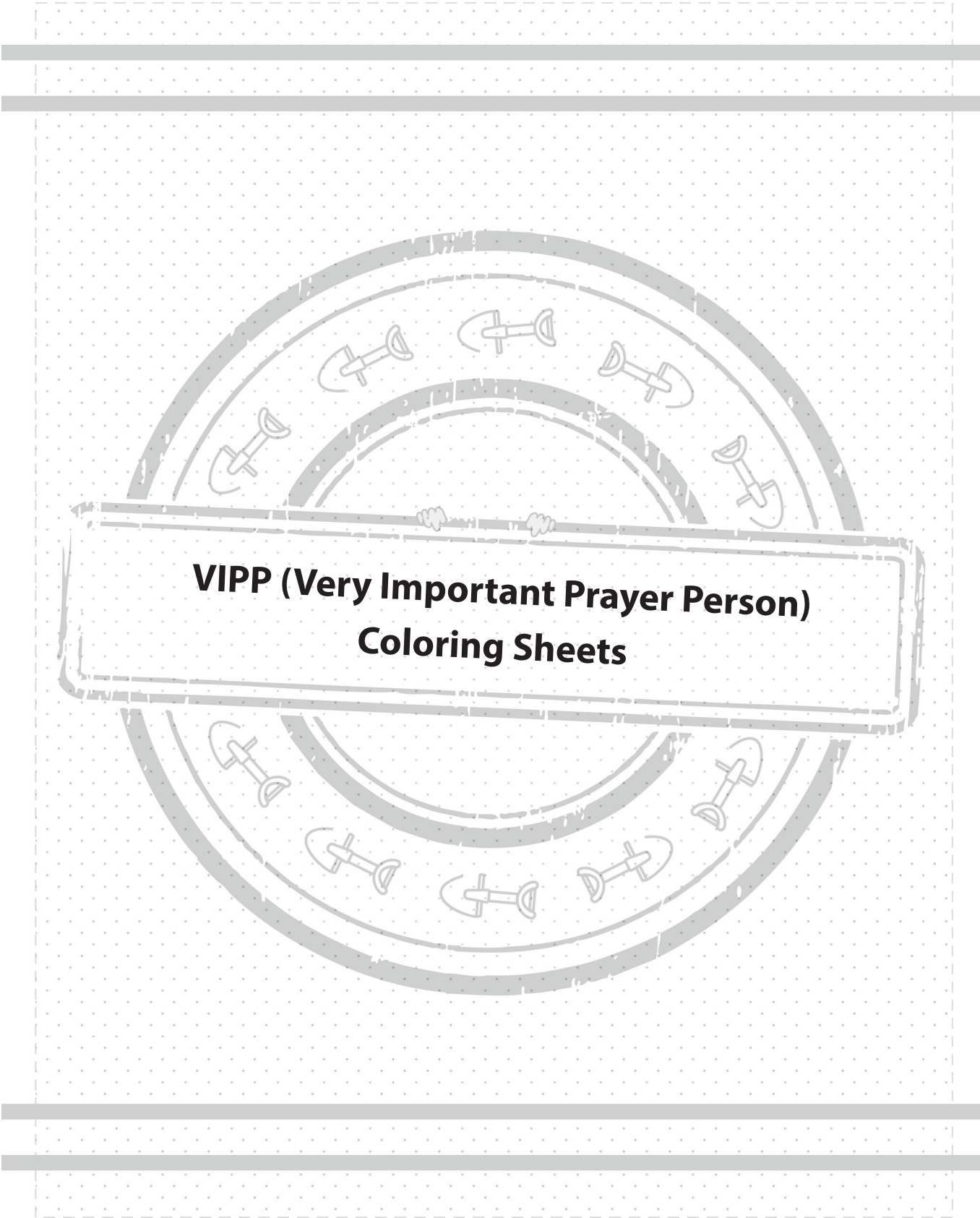
Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP



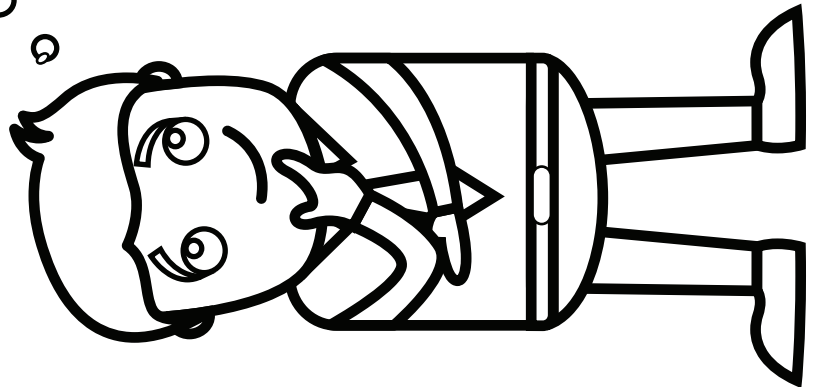
**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person)
Coloring Sheets**



VIPP CLUE GUESS WHO

Can you guess who the
Very Important Prayer Person
is that we learned about and prayed for today?

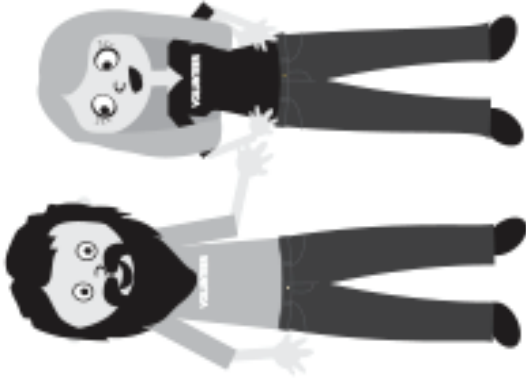
Look at my clues
and see if you know who it is!



What VIPP group am I in? Circle the right group.



Church Staff



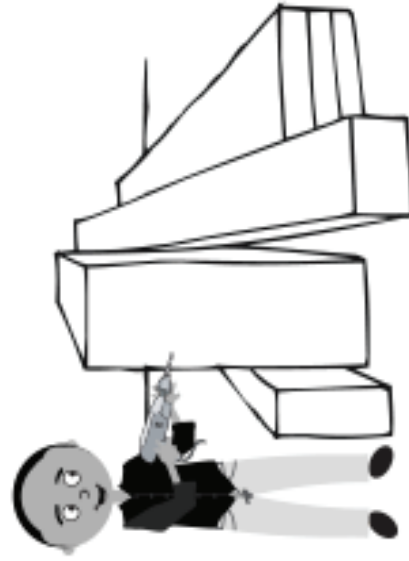
Special Volunteers



Supported Workers



Church Member

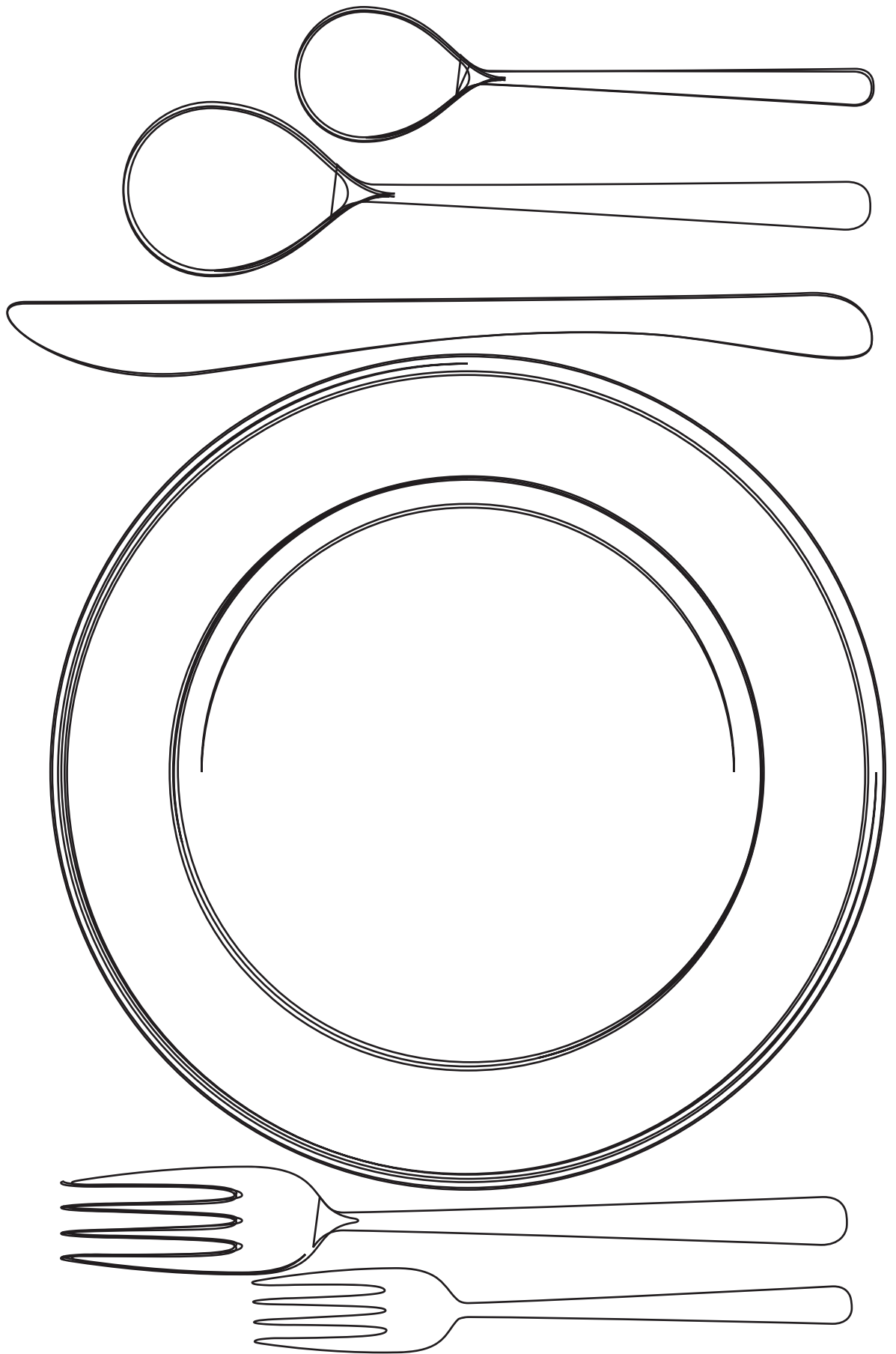


Deacons (Serve the physical needs of the church building and the church members)



Elders (Spiritual Teachers and Overseers of the Church)

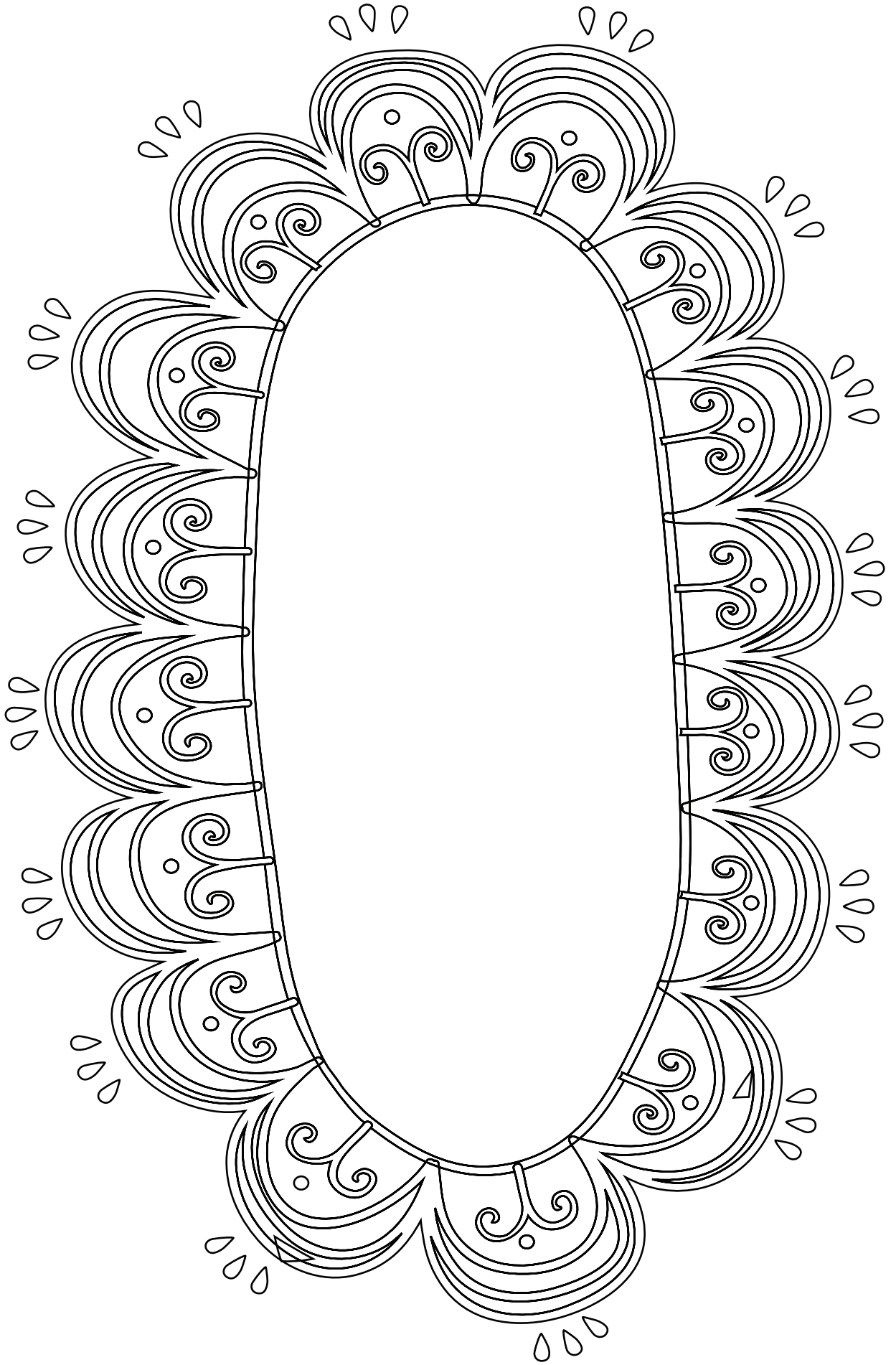
Our VIPP's Favorite Food



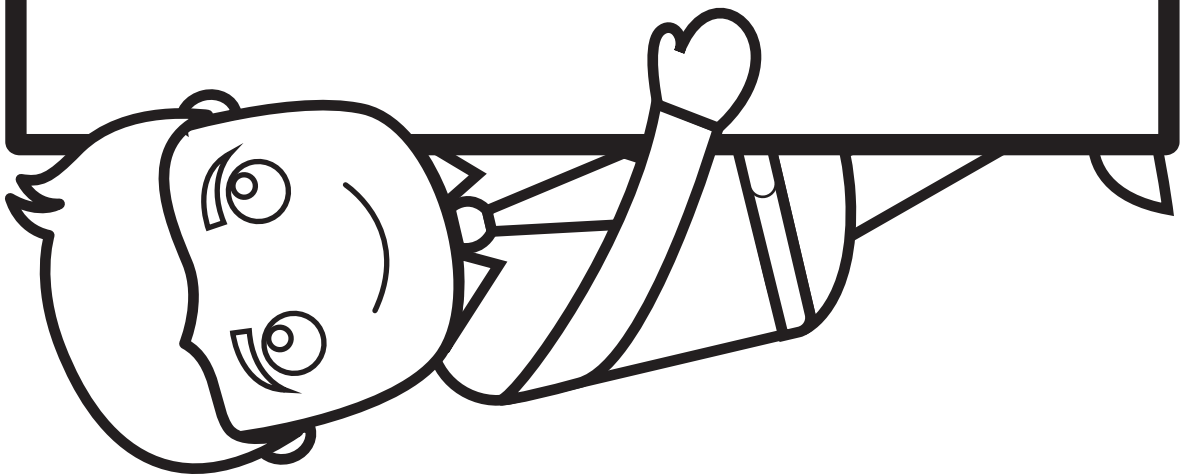
Our VIPP's Favorite Animal



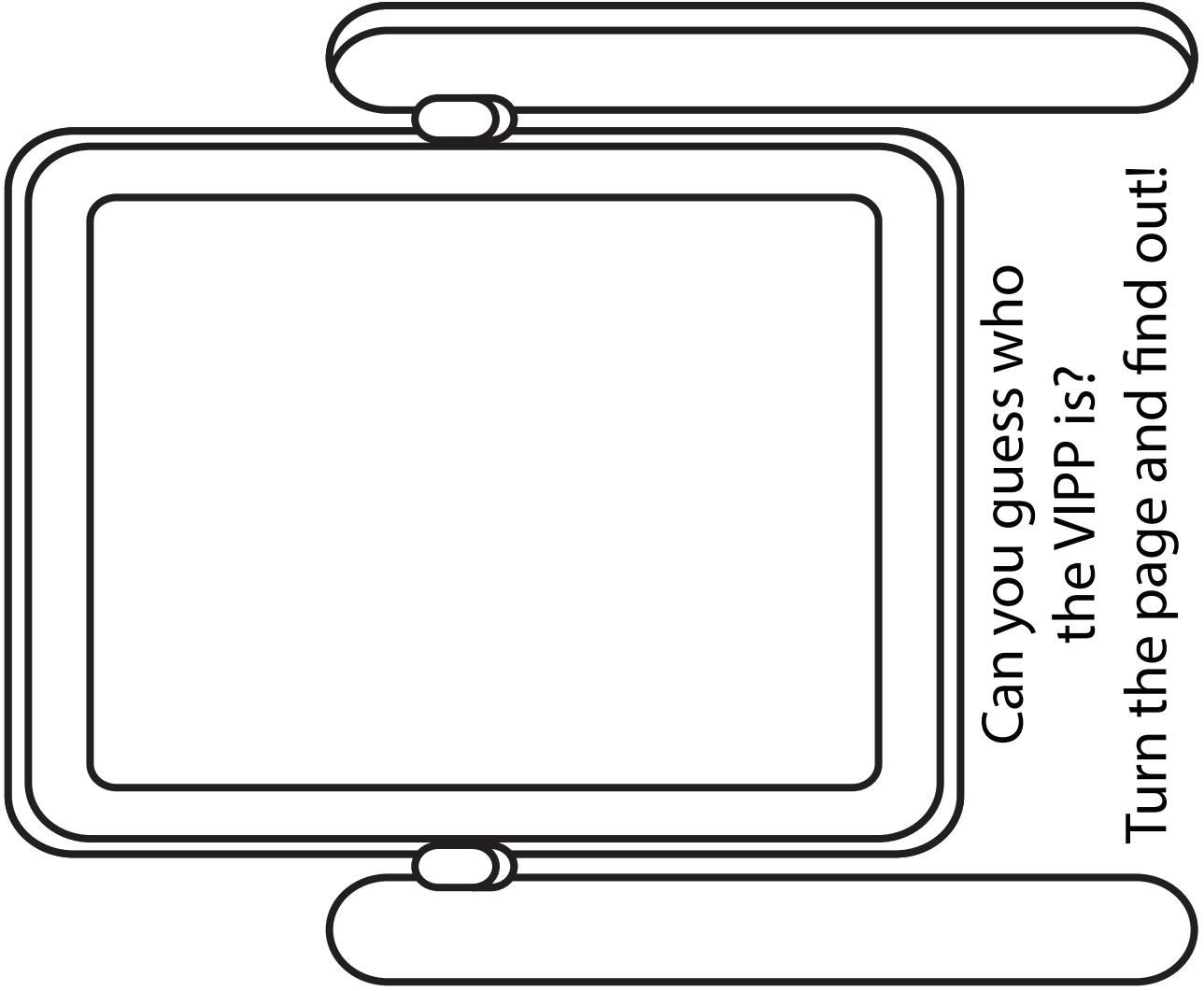
What our VIPP likes to do for fun



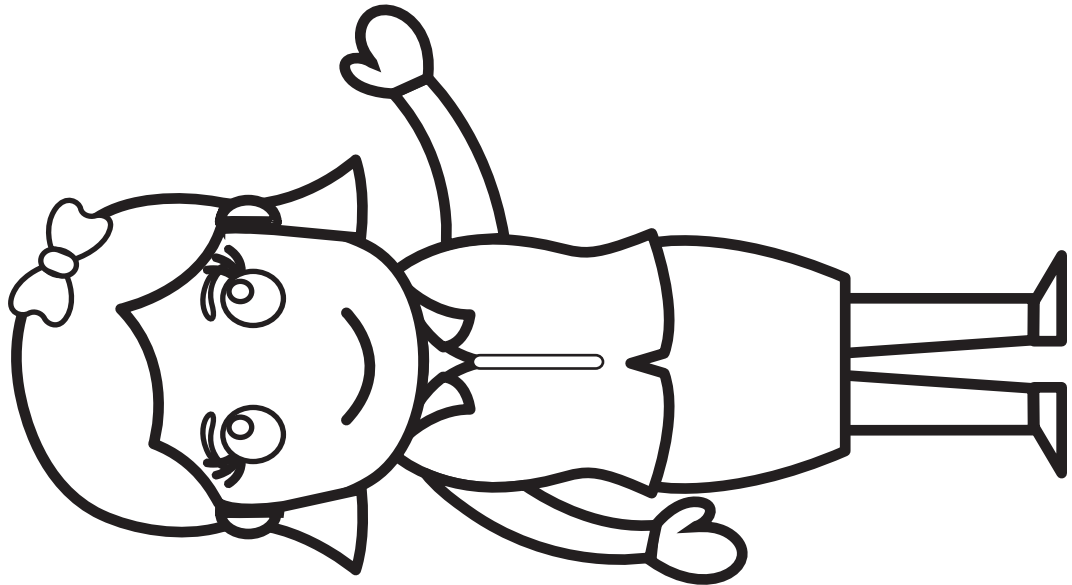
This VIPP's Job During the Week

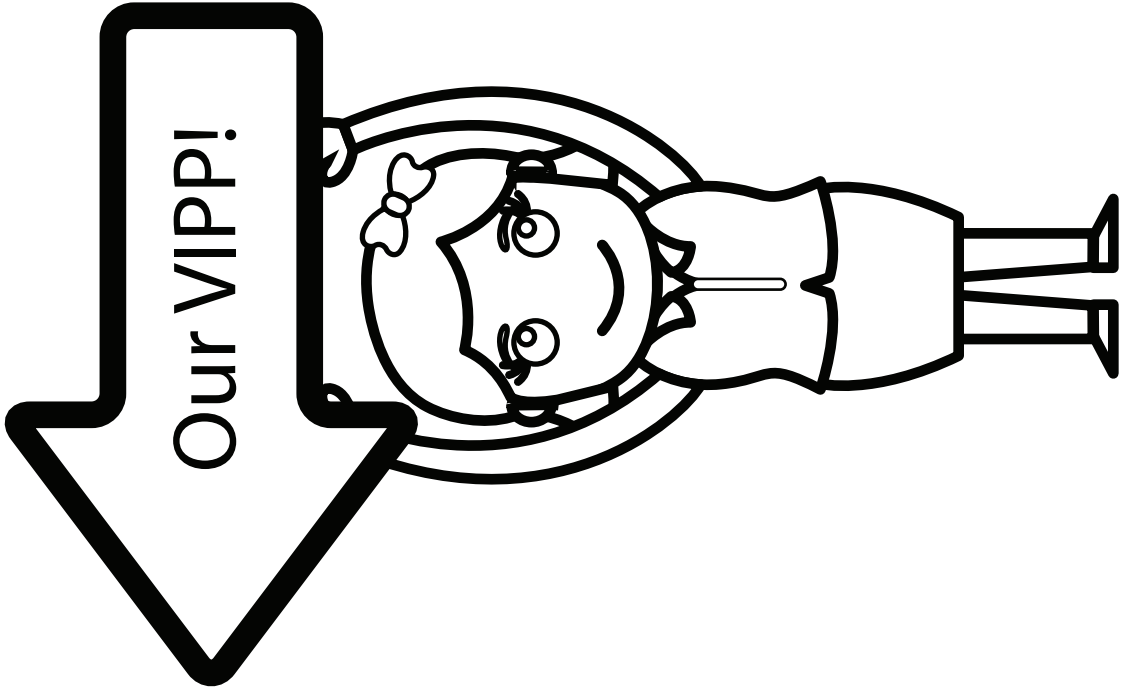


What Our VIPP Looks Like



Can you guess who
the VIPP is?
Turn the page and find out!





(Name)

(Serves the church as)

Let's Pray for Our VIPPI!

