

## **BIBLE TRUTH 6, 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 4, Track 1*

**Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:** WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song  
*PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 2*

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 4 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4*  
*Extra Song: Inspector Graff's Rap: The ABC's of God PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 5*

**Big Question Bible Verse:** 1 Kings 8:23 In Heaven Above Song *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 6*  
*Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: In Heaven Above 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (short version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 7*  
*Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: In Heaven Above or Earth Beneath 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (other version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 8*  
*Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: O, O LORD 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (other version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 9*  
*Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: I Am God Deuteronomy 32:3-4, HSCB, PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 10*

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

**Bible Truth 6:** The LORD Is Holy

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy *PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 26,27*

**Bible Verse:** Isaiah 6:1-3

**Bible Verse Song:** I Saw the LORD *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 28*

**Lesson 3 New Testament Story:** The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision  
Revelation 1-7

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Heaven and Earth Praise the Lord

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy *PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 26,27*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Isaiah 6:1-3 Discussion Sheet and Game: Ball Circle Toss

**Bible Verse Song:** I Saw the LORD: Isaiah 6:1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 28*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

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

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

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

**Craft:** Letter to the Seven Churches

**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 6, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision** Revelation 1-7

by Connie Dever

**Our story is:****The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who got to see the vision? Who was he supposed to share the vision with?
2. Why did these people need encouraging? What about God did they find encouraging?

This story takes place in New Testament times, about sixty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

An old man named John sat writing a letter on a scroll on the lonely island of Patmos. The Romans had put him here, trying to stop him from telling more people about Jesus and from encouraging the Christians who were part of the seven churches of Turkey. It was true, John certainly couldn't share about Jesus in person anymore, but he could still write. So that he did.

"How are you, believers in Philadelphia, in Ephesus, Laodicea; Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira and Sardis?" John wanted to know. "Are you being persecuted? Are you holding onto your faith in Jesus?" he asked them.

John was saddened, but not surprised by the news he received from them: the Romans had increased their persecution of the Christians again. The emperor Domitian was requiring everyone to confess Him as Lord and God. Whoever refused would be punished. The Christians were being arrested, hurt and killed. Their houses and their belongings were being taken.

Many believers were scared and discouraged, but they held on to their faith. Domitian was nothing like God! They knew that! The LORD was holy and good. Domitian was only a wicked, proud man. How could they dream of worshiping Him instead of Jesus! But the persecutions were terrible! The believers worried that they would not have strength to endure their sufferings to the end.

John cared for these seven little churches of Turkey and longed to encourage them. He did all that he could do: he prayed long hours for them and wrote them words of wisdom and encouragement.

But John was not the only one who cared for these poor, suffering, scared believers. The greatest

Someone of all--the Lord Jesus, Himself--knew what they were enduring; and He, Himself, wanted to give them special encouragement. So one Sunday, Jesus came to John in a vision and gave him a special message in words and pictures for the seven churches of Turkey. It was this very vision that John was busy writing down on his scroll just then. A vision of things far more beautiful and wonderful than anything that could ever be seen on earth.

John wrote: "One Sunday, while here on Patmos, I heard behind me a very loud voice say, 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'

"When I turned around to see who was speaking to me, I saw a glorious-looking person standing among seven lampstands. He was dressed in a long robe with a golden sash around his chest. He was prepared for battle. His head and hair were snowy white. His eyes, feet and face shone bright with God's glory. And when he spoke, his voice was loud and powerful like a crashing waterfall. His words were powerful like a sword sharp on both sides. They could protect God's people and they could punish their enemies," John wrote.

Who was this glorious, powerful Person? It was Jesus, the Holy Son of God, in all His glory! To each of the seven churches of Turkey, Jesus gave special instructions. Some He warned: "Remember your Holy God. Stop sinning!" Others He praised: "You have lived holy lives that please your holy God, Well done!" He encouraged all: "Keep going, even though it's very hard. The holy Lord reigns! He won't leave the sins of rebellious people unpunished forever. He won't let His people endure

**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.

these hard times forever. Don't be scared. Don't be discouraged. Keep going! He who overcomes all these terrible days will live and reign with Me forever just as I overcame when I suffered and died on the cross, but now have sat down with my Father on His throne," Jesus said.

What wonderful words! What wonderful promises the Lord had for those seven churches of Turkey! But there was more. In his vision, John looked up and there before him was a door standing open to heaven, itself! "Come up here," Jesus said to John, "and I will show you what must take place after this."

As John entered the door, he saw the most unbelievably beautiful things. There was a magnificent throne and on it sat God the Father Himself, in inapproachable, glorious light that kept you from seeing Him, yet shown out from Him in beautiful, jewel-like colors. Completely surrounding the throne was what looked like a rainbow of emerald green. And right in front of the throne was a huge lampstand with seven flames that stood for the full, powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Then spreading out from the lampstand was a huge circle of made of spotless, priceless, sparkling crystal. Four cherubim were perched on each of the four corners of the throne: one with the face of a lion, another with the face of an ox, the third with the face of a man and the fourth with a face of an eagle. They all had six, magnificent wings and many eyes with which to see everything in every direction. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." John was overwhelmed with this picture of God's perfect, majestic holiness.

John was not the only one to be hearing and seeing these glorious things. There were twenty-four elders there, too. Each sat upon a golden throne that together formed a circle all the way around God's throne. They were dressed in white and they had crowns of gold on their heads. Whenever the cherubim sang out their words of glory, honor and thanks to the Lord who reigns and lives forever, the twenty-four elders would fall down before the Lord, laying their crowns before Him and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor and power, for by Your will You created all things and cause them to live."

John saw picture after picture of the wonderful things to come. He saw Jesus approach His Father's throne and receive the loud shouts of praise from millions of angels and creatures.

But John also learned about the terrible sufferings that the world would face as judgments for their sins against the holy God. He learned about the hard times that God's people would endure as people persecuted them for their faith. John listened as some of God's people who had been killed, cry out: "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the earth for how people have treated us?"

"The holy Lord reigns!" they were told. "He won't leave the sins of rebellious people unpunished forever. Keep going! You must wait a little longer. Still more of God's people will first suffer and die for their faith."

More who must suffer and die?! The believers in the seven churches of Turkey knew all about that. They were those who were suffering and dying right then. Oh, how they longed for it to be over! Jesus knew how hard it would be to hear these words and so He gave John a peek into of what they would enjoy when their sufferings were over. John looked and he saw that now there before the throne with the cherubim and the twenty-four elders and the ten thousands of ten thousands angels, a great multitude of people that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of Jesus had come. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They shouted: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to Jesus." Again, all the angels and the twenty-four godly men fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped, saying: "Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and strength be to our God forever. Amen!"

"These people are those who suffered and died for their faith in Jesus," John was told. "They will get to come before God's throne and serve Him day and night in his temple and God will, Himself, take care of them forever. Never again will they hunger or thirst or suffer at all. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. They will have eternal life through Jesus."

How loving of God to give the believers in Turkey this

heavenly hope! The holy Lord reigned! They didn't need to be scared or discouraged. He wouldn't let His people endure suffering forever. He would bring an end to those terrible times at just the right time.

### Cracking the Case:

**It's time to answer our Case Questions.**

**1. Who got to see the vision? Who was he supposed to share the vision with?**

The apostle John. The Christians in the seven churches of Turkey.

**2. Why did these people need encouraging? What about God did they find encouraging?** They were being terribly persecuted by the Romans for their faith in Jesus. That He was holy and one day would bring justice. He would take them home to live with Him in heaven. He would do away with sin, suffering and death forever.

### Something For You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:  
The LORD Is Holy**

**Our Bible Verse is: Isaiah 6:1-3**

"I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings...And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

John saw a picture of the Lord on His throne. He understood that the Lord is the holy God. He won't always leave sin unpunished. One day it will be gone forever and God's people will live in heaven with Him, where there will be nothing but perfect holiness. How happy John must have been to bring these words of encouragement to those suffering believers!

But what about you and me? What does this story mean for us? It is a warning and an encouragement. It is a warning to take our sins as seriously as God does. He is holy and He hates sins. We should turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, we will receive God's forgiveness instead of facing His judgment.

But it's also an encouragement. For not only does God offer full forgiveness through Jesus, but He also promises to help us endure any sufferings we may face as His people. And best yet, He will make us among

those whose tears He will wipe away and welcome to live in His glorious presence forever....if we will repent of our sins and put our trust in Him as our Savior.

Let's praise God for not only being perfectly holy and promising one day to bring the end to all sin and suffering. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might confess our sins and turn to Him for forgiveness. Let's ask Him to help us to brave when facing suffering and to remember the wonderful blessings of His presence He promises us in heaven.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the Overcomer of all evil and the Savior of His people.

**C** God, we confess that many times we choose not to trust God in hard times, afraid that He won't take care of us.

**T** God, we thank You for offering salvation through Jesus. Thank You for the wonderful home that all Your people will enjoy with You forever.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to trust You and help us to endure any suffer we might face because we believe in You. Please help the Christians facing terrible suffering from enemies even today. Give them relief. Help them to endure them with joy and peace.

### Special Words

**Scroll:** A rolled up piece of writing paper.

**Vision:** A special dream, often of the future or heavenly things.

**Emperor Domitian:** A Roman king who ruled over many lands and was known for his cruelty to Jews and Christians.

**Persecute:** To harm or make trouble for someone because of something they believe.

# **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:**

God, we praise You for being holy: perfectly good and so very great! You are without sin!

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we are not holy. We choose to rebel against You in so many ways. We like to do things our way, doubting that Your way is best. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever repent and trust in Him as their Savior. He made the way for sinful people to become God's holy people.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to be holy --knowing You, loving You and obeying You with our whole life.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: Heaven and Earth Praise the Holy Lord**

Angel sugar cookies made from sugar cookie dough in the refrigerator section of the grocery store, to remind them of all the thousands of angels praising the Lord. Could also add teddy graham "people" and animal crackers and gold fish to represent the creatures in heaven, in earth and in the sea who join in the praises of the Lord.

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

**Case Tie-in:** In John's dream, he saw all the creatures of heaven and earth join together and praise the Lord in all His glorious holiness.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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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.

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

### **The LORD Is Holy**

God is holy. He set apart from everything and everyone else. He is good and He is great. He never sins in anything He thinks, says, does or plans. Because He is holy, He hates sin. Sin is rebelling against God and His good ways. God is so holy that nothing sinful can come into His presence.

We are all sinners, so how can we ever become God's people? It is only because of Jesus, the holy Son of God. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He chose to die on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. He suffered the full punishment for their sins, exchanging their un-holiness (sinfulness) for His perfect holiness. Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are saved. They get to know God and will one day live in His holy presence forever.

God calls His people to live for Him by being holy as He is holy. He wants them to reflect the way He is. God's Holy Spirit helps them do this. He lives in their hearts and helps them to love God and obey Him. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth. But one day, they will live with their wonderful God in heaven, perfectly good and holy, changed by Him to never sin again! How wonderful that will be!

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What does it mean that God is "set apart"? *It means that He is like nothing else in His pure holiness. He alone is perfectly good and so very great. He alone never sins.*
2. How is it comforting to know that God never sins in anything He does, thinks, feels or plans, when something happens to us that we don't understand? *Even though we can't know why the thing has happened to us, we can trust that God has only good intended to work through it. He never sins. He never intends evil.*
3. What does God hate? Why does He hate this? *God hates sin because He is perfectly holy and it is always right to obey Him.*
4. Why can't anything sinful come into His presence? *God hates sin. His holiness demands that He punish sin. Anything sinful will be destroyed. God will not tolerate it.*
5. Since God's people are sinners, how is it that they will be able to come into God's holy presence in heaven? *Because Jesus paid for their sins. There is no punishment left for their sins. God treats them as if they were perfectly holy.*
6. How does God call His people to live? *Holy lives, like Jesus.*
7. Who helps God's people live holy lives? *God's Holy Spirit, at work in their hearts.*
8. Can God's people live perfectly holy lives here on earth? *No. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth.*
9. When will God change His people so that they sin no more? *In heaven.*

### **Story Connection Questions**

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy**? How would John's vision of the holiness of God be a comfort to the churches in Turkey? *They would know that the holy LORD would one day bring just punishment to their enemies who were treated them so terribly; and that the LORD, Himself, would welcome them into heaven never to know pain or suffering again, and to forever delight in the beauty and perfect delight of His holy presence.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Isaiah 6:1-3**: "I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings... And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"? *It is a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is set apart from everything else, high and exalted because of His perfect holiness. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What should God's people do to live holy lives? *Pray that by the Holy Spirit the Lord would work in their hearts so that they hate sin; so that they honor the LORD; so that they try to do only what is good and loving in everything they think, do, feel or plan.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Praise God for being holy: perfectly good and so very great.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess that we are not holy. We choose to rebel against You in so many ways. We like to do things our way, doubting that God's way is best. We need a Savior!!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him, making the way for sinful people to become God's holy people.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.*

**The Gospel**

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



## Game: Red Light, Green Light...for Storks

### 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.

### Holy, Holy, Holy

#### Verse 2

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns,  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
Falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art,  
And evermore shall be.

#### Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy!  
Tho' the darkness hide Thee,  
Tho' the eye of sinful man  
They glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy;  
There is none beside Thee,  
perfect in pow'r,  
In love and purity.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 26,27

### Understanding the Song

1. What does holy" mean? *Holy means to be purely good, set apart from all that is evil.*
2. What is a "saint"? *Someone set apart, made holy. Christians are saints. God counts them as holy because of Jesus' payment for their sins on the cross.*
3. How do the saints adore the Lord? *In heaven, the Lord will give each of His people crowns of victory for enduring in faith and good works to death. They will take them off and cast them down before Him because they know that they only had faith and did good works because of His work in them. It was He, not them who is to be praised.*
4. What is the glassy sea? *In Revelation—the last book in the Bible—John sees a vision of the Lord's throne and a large, crystal glass, flat area he calls a sea. It's not a sea like one of water.*
5. What are cherubim and seraphim? *Special angels that surround God's throne.*
6. What does "wert, art, evermore shalt be" mean? *These are old English words that mean was, is and evermore will be. God was, is, and always will be. He is without beginning or end.*
7. What kind of darkness "hides" the LORD? *This is not darkness like night or a dark room. This is a spiritual darkness of sin and evil. This means that the LORD is so holy, so purely good that nothing evil cannot stand in His presence. We are all sinners and live in a world filled with many evil, sinful things. The darkness of this evil "hides" the glorious, perfectly holy LORD from us.*
8. What is sin and what is the "eye of sinful man" not allowed to see? *Sin is rebellion against God, in our heart, our mind, our words or actions. All "men" (people) are sinful. In His mercy, God does not let sinful people see His glory right now. The Bible tells us that even God's glory is so holy that if they saw it they would be destroyed, as punishment for their sin. All who confess their sins and trust in Jesus have their sins forgiven. They will be able to see God's glory and live because Jesus has paid for their sins.*

### Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The LORD Is Holy?**

*This song is a picture of God in His splendid holiness in heaven. One day, God's people will come before Him and at last see Him upon His throne in His perfect holiness, just as this song describes.*

**Story Connection**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *This song is a picture of the vision the Lord gave John of Him in His majestic holiness. John wrote down all he saw and heard and send it to the churches in Turkey that they might be encouraged that indeed the LORD was holy. He would one day come to judge their enemies and bring an end to all their pain and suffering. He would bring them into His presence where they could delight in Him forever.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3:** "I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings...And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"?

*"Holy, holy, holy" are the words the seraphim cry to one another, as they stand before the LORD in heaven. Both they and the saints (God's people) worship the LORD for how perfect in power, love and purity He is.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for being purely holy. They can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts so that they might be His holy people, living lives that are loving and good, in thought, words and actions.*

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

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being holy: perfectly good and so very great.*

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

*Confess that we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We are not holy as He is. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*Thank God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him, making the way for sinful people to become God's holy people. God's people will be so thankful for what He has done for them that in heaven any "crowns" of praise they get for what they have done in serving God, they will want to cast down at Jesus' feet, knowing that He is the one who saved them and enabled them to do whatever good works they did.*

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

*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.*

**Gospel Question**

1. All the saints—that is, all God's people—will cast down their crowns of God's reward before Jesus because they know that anything they did was really because of what God did for them through Jesus. What did they deserve? What did God do for them through 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'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: Isaiah 6:1-3**

"I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings...And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

**Alternate Memory Version: Isaiah 6:3**

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Where did Isaiah see the LORD? *Seated on a throne.*
2. How does Isaiah describe what he saw? *The LORD was high and lifted up and the train of His robe filled the temple.*
3. What does "high and lifted up" mean? *Majestic, more important, more glorious, more important than anything or anyone else. The greatest king of all.*
4. What is a train of a robe? *Regular robes that we wear are just floor length. We might wear them over our pajamas or when we get out of the bath. Kings have special robes to show they are king. They are made of exquisitely beautiful fabric and even have jewels on them. They are not floor length, but are very, very long so that they trail behind the king as he walks. This long part is called the train of his robe. The more important the king, the longer his robe.*
5. How long was the train of the LORD's robe? What does that tell us about Him? *It filled the temple, it was so long. That tells us that He is by far the most important of all kings.*
6. What are seraphim? *They are a special kind of angel that dwell before God's throne.*
7. Where were the seraphs and what were they doing? *They were flying above the LORD on his throne. They telling each other: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts... etc."*
8. What does the name, "LORD of hosts" mean? LORD is the name of God. *Hosts is a Bible word for the whole army of heavenly creatures. To call God the LORD of hosts is to say He is mightiest of all.*
9. How is the whole earth full of the LORD's glory? *Because God made everything, everything is a display of His glory—the skies, the mountains, the oceans, etc. all display a part of His glory. Most of all, God's people, as they love Him and live for Him are a display of His goodness, holiness, love, mercy, etc.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy?** *This verse is a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is so high and lifted up because of His perfect holiness and He is to be worshiped. He is so holy that the seraphim repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does this verse have to do with our story? *John's vision of the LORD in heaven was much like that of Isaiah. The LORD gave him this vision to encourage the churches in Turkey facing such terrible persecution that He was indeed the holy Lord. He would one day punish their enemies for their cruelty & He bring them before His throne to delight in Him forever, with no more sadness or pain ever again.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Will there ever be a time when we could get to see the LORD on His throne, like Isaiah did in his vision? *When? Yes, in heaven all God's people will see Him in all the fullness of His glory.*
2. What must we do if we are to become one of God's people? *Turn from our sins and trust 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 holy LORD God Almighty.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We are not holy as He is. We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God for sending Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all those who turn away from disobeying God and trust in Him as their Savior. He paid for their sins so they can know the holy LORD.*

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

*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.*

**Gospel Question**

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects both God's pure holiness and His merciful love? What is the gospel?

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

## Game: Ball Circle Toss

### Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see  
Foam or other soft surface ball

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:  
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm's length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

### Alternative Game Version:

- 1) Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
- 2) No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**I Saw the LORD**

I saw the LORD,  
Sitting a throne,  
High and exalted,  
Sitting a throne,  
Above Him stood the seraphim,  
Each had six wings,  
And they called to one another,  
"Holy is the LORD,  
Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts,  
Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts.  
Isaiah Six, one through three.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, 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. Why was John on the island of Patmos? *The Romans had exiled him there for spreading the good news of Jesus.*
2. Who did John most want to encourage? *The seven churches in Turkey.*
3. How did John encourage them even though he couldn't be with them? *He wrote to them.*
4. Why did those churches need special encouragement? *They were going through times of terrible persecution.*
5. What did Jesus do to encourage the seven churches? *Gave John a special vision to write down and tell them about heaven and things to come.*
6. What did Jesus look like in the vision? *Gloriously white face and hair, blazing eyes and feet, in a long robe and a sash, dressed for battle.*
7. What special words did He have for the churches? *Stop sinning to some, praise to others for a good job; encouragement to all to keep persevering.*
8. What did Jesus show on the other side of the open door? *A vision of the heaven.*
9. What did God look like in the vision? *Seated on His throne in inapproachable light of many colors.*
10. What did the throne and around the throne look like? *Emerald rainbow around it. Four seraphim, one of each corner. Glassy, crystal "sea" in front of it.*
11. What did the seraphim look like? *Had different faces, lots of eyes and six wings. Always crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty."*
12. What were the twenty-four elders like? *They each sat on a throne, had a crown that they would cast before the Lord as they bowed down in worship when the seraphim praised the Lord.*
13. What did the angels, the elders and all of the creatures in heaven, in earth and in the sea do when Jesus approached the throne of His Father? *They praised and worshiped Him along with the Father for His great work in saving His sinful people.*
14. What did the people who had suffered and died for their faith in Jesus want to know? *How much longer before the holy Lord would punish their enemies and bring an end to all the suffering.*
15. What did the Lord say to encourage the people who had suffered and died? *That the Lord would judge and punish their enemies at just the right time and He, Himself, would wipe away the tears of all His people and they would serve before His presence forever, never to know pain again.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy**?  
*John's vision is a wonderful glimpse into God's perfect holiness.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can this story be an encouragement to God's people? *When they suffer for Jesus' sake, they can know that God will one day, in His holiness, bring just punishment upon sin; and that He will, Himself, take them to live with Him in His wonderful presence forever.*
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: Isaiah 6:1-3**: "I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings...And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"?  
*In his vision, John saw the Lord Jesus in all His glory, praised by a countless number of angels as the holy, glorious Lord and Savior of His people.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?

*Praise God for being the Overcomer of all evil and Savior of His people.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?

*Confess that many times we choose to not trust God in hard times, but are afraid that He would not take care of us. 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 overcome all evil and to help His people through any hard times they face.*

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 turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior, like John and the Christians in the seven churches of Turkey. We can ask Him to help us to keep trusting Him all our lives, even in very hard times. We can pray for Christians in the world today that face terrible persecution, just like the Christians in John's day.*

**The Gospel**

1. Why could God's sinful people stand before the holy LORD in all His glory in heaven? What had Jesus 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.*

## Tell the Truth Basketball

### Materials

3 baskets  
A ball  
Paper and marker  
Masking Tape  
20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

### Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review Questions to come up with 20+ statements about the story that are true, false, or not in the story.
2. Write the words "true", "false", and "not in the story" on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns making baskets and answering the questions.

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

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision.

This story takes place in New Testament times, on the island of Patmos, about sixty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision."

**Actions:**

**Scene 1:**

The Apostle John, last of all the original, twelve disciples, is exiled on Patmos for his faith in Jesus. Even though he is separated from his beloved seven churches of Turkey, he still can write and encourage them. The Lord gives John a vision to write down for these churches of Turkey for their encouragement. In the vision, John sees Jesus, in all his glory, in a long robe and a sash, dressed for battle, standing upon seven lampstands—one for each of the seven churches. Jesus gives John special words of warning and encouragement for each of the churches. He urges them not to give up even though they were being terribly persecuted. He will reward them all for their faithfulness to Him.

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**Scene 2:**

Jesus takes John through a door standing open to heaven and showed John a beautiful picture of heaven. John sees God the Father on His throne in inapproachable light of many jewel colors, and an emerald-colored rainbow that encircled the throne and a large, sparkling crystal floor in front of it. Four seraphim stand on the corners of the throne, constantly speaking of God's holiness and of His worthiness to be praised. Twenty-four elders all dressed in white sit on thrones around God's throne. They praise Him and bowed down before Him. Jesus approaches the throne of His Father and tens of thousands of angels, the elders and all the creatures in heaven, earth and the sea praise Him and bow down before Him for being the Savior of God's sinful people.

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**Scene 3**

The people who have already suffered and died for their faith in Jesus ask how long it would be before God, in His holiness, will judge their enemies and bring an end to all the suffering. The Lord comforts them and tells them it would be as soon as all of God's people who are to suffer and die for His name have done so. He promises them that then He will bring an end to all their suffering and will Himself wipe away all their tears. They will get the honor of serving in God's wonderful presence forever. John writes down all these words and many more for the seven churches of Turkey to encourage them to keep on persevering. God has everything under control. He will bring an end to their suffering at just the right time.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Holy**. The Lord gave John a vision of His holiness and of heaven as an encouragement to the suffering believers in the seven churches of Turkey.

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## **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 Very, Vivid Vision.

This story takes place in New Testament times, on the island of Patmos, about sixty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: John, Roman soldiers, Christians in the seven churches of Turkey, Jesus, 24 elders, Angels, all the creatures of heaven, earth and sea God's people in heaven who had already suffered and died for loving Jesus.

And now we present: "The Case of the Very, Vivid Vision."

### **Scene 1: (Beginning)**

The Apostle John, last of all the original, twelve disciples, is exiled on Patmos for his faith in Jesus. Even though he is separated from his beloved seven churches of Turkey, he still can write and encourage them. The Lord gives John a vision to write down for these churches of Turkey for their encouragement. In the vision, John sees Jesus, in all his glory, in a long robe and a sash, dressed for battle, standing upon seven lampstands—one for each of the seven churches. Jesus gives John special words of warning and encouragement for each of the churches. He urges them not to give up even though they were being terribly persecuted. He will reward them all for their faithfulness to Him.

### **Scene 2: (Middle)**

Jesus takes John through a door standing open to heaven and showed John a beautiful picture of heaven. John sees God the Father on His throne in inapproachable light of many jewel colors, and an emerald-colored rainbow that encircled the throne and a large, sparkling crystal floor in front of it. Four seraphim stand on the corners of the throne, constantly speaking of God's holiness and of His worthiness to be praised. Twenty-four elders all dressed in white sit on thrones around God's throne. They praise Him and bowed down before Him. Jesus approaches the throne of His Father and tens of thousands of angels, the elders and all the creatures in heaven, earth and the sea praise Him and bow down before Him for being the Savior of God's sinful people.

### **Scene 3: (End)**

The people who have already suffered and died for their faith in Jesus ask how long it would be before God, in His holiness, will judge their enemies and bring an end to all the suffering. The Lord comforts them and tells them it would be as soon as all of God's people who are to suffer and die for His name have done so. He promises them that then He will bring an end to all their suffering and will Himself wipe away all their tears. They will get the honor of serving in God's wonderful presence forever. John writes down all these words and many more for the seven churches of Turkey to encourage them to keep on persevering. God has everything under control. He will bring an end to their suffering at just the right time.

### **Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Holy**. The Lord gave John a vision of His holiness and of heaven as an encouragement to the suffering believers in the seven churches of Turkey.

## A Letter to the Seven Churches in Turkey

### Description

Children will make a “leather” scroll like what John would have written and sent to the churches in Turkey.

### Materials

9” side by 2’ long piece of leather, fake leather, or canvas/denim

2 1” thick x 9” long dowels

Stapler or glue gun

Markers (permanent would be best, but be careful to protect the children’s clothes! Could also use calligraphy-type markers/pens for older children)

Poster board or other large sheet of paper (or a white board)

Yarn or leather lacing

### Preparing the Craft

1. Cut a piece of cloth, 9” by 2’ per child

2. Attach the dowels to each end of the scroll

3. Write out excerpt from Revelation that you want the children to use. You might want to use all or part of Revelation 7:9-17. You also might want to include part of Revelation 1:1-11 and end with Revelation 22:20-21. These are all included on the following page for you to copy off for the children to have, if desired. For youngest children, you may want to trace the letters out onto the scroll with pencil and let them go over your letters with markers.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample of the craft.

2. Have the children write out the words from Revelation. Then they can add pictures or other decorations that go with it around the edges of the scroll.

3. When done, children can tie up their scroll with a piece of yarn or leather lacing, making sure that their writing is dry first.

### Making a Bible Truth Connection

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

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

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

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

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

**Discussion Questions**

1. Where was John when he wrote down his letter? Where were the churches he wrote his letter to?  
*On the island of Patmos. The churches were in Turkey.*
2. What did John write down in his letter? *All the words and pictures of the amazing vision Jesus gave him about things that were to happen before Jesus came back.*
3. How was this letter to be an encouragement to the seven churches? *That the Lord is the holy God who reigns and will bring a glorious, victorious end to their suffering at just the right time.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?  
The LORD Is Holy.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy?  
*The believers in the Turkey churches were suffering terribly under Emperor Domitian. The Lord knew their suffering and promised them that He would judge their enemies according to His perfect holiness and bring His people to live with Him forever, never to suffer again.*
6. What can our craft help us remember?  
*God is holy. He sees the sufferings of His people even today. He will bring justice for their sufferings at just the right time and bring them into His presence to live forever and ever.*

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

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

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is: A Letter to the Seven Churches in Turkey.
2. On the island of Patmos, the Lord Jesus commanded John to write down all the words and pictures of the amazing vision He gave him for the seven churches in Turkey to encourage them that the Lord is the holy God who reigns and will bring a glorious, victorious end to their suffering at just the right time.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Holy.
4. The believers in the Turkey churches were suffering terribly under Emperor Domitian. The Lord knew their suffering and promised them that He would judge their enemies according to His perfect holiness and bring His people to live with Him forever, never to suffer again.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God is holy. He sees the sufferings of His people even today. He will bring justice for their sufferings at just the right time and bring them into His presence to live forever and ever.

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



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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

