

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5 ESV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Craft: David's Harp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

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

During your presentation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

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

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

Something For You and Me

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

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:1,5

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

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

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

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Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

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

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

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

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

Special Words

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

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

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

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

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

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

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

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

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Hearts of Love, Horns of Praise

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

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

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

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him

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

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

Understanding the Bible Truth

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

Story Connection Questions

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

Bible Verse Connection Question

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

ACTS Questions

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

Life Application Questions

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

The Gospel

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

Game: Silly Grand March

Materials

CD and CD player
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they and their partner are to grab hands and sit down as quickly as 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 1, Tracks 10,11

Understanding the Song

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

Bible Truth Connection Question

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

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

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *David was a man after God's heart. Throughout the night and the day, David thought about God and how to please Him. Nothing else meant as much to David as the LORD.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

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

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

Life Application Questions

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

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

ACTS Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them.

What is this amazing good news of God's love? How can we know it ourselves? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

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

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:1, 5 ESV

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

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:1 ESV

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

Understanding the Bible Verse

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

Bible Truth Connection Question

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

Story Connection Questions

1. When did David thirst for God? *Many, many times in his life. As a believer, he thirsted each day for God. Especially during hard times, like when he had to flee from Absalom, he thirsted for God and found his joy and peace in God.*

Life Application Questions

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

ACTS Questions

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

Gospel Question

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

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

Ball Circle Toss

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Alternative Game Version:

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

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

Refrain:

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

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

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 1, Track 12

Song Game: Word Take Away**Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song
 White board and marker
 Eraser

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What did God call David and why? *God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God.*
2. What did David think about when he looked at the stars, the skies and the hills? *They all showed how great is the God who created them all. They declare His glory because He made them.*
3. What did David think about God when he was shepherd of his sheep? *That God is His shepherd, the One who takes care of him and gives him everything he needs.*
4. What good things did David enjoy when he became king of Israel? *A big family, a big palace, lots of servants and beautiful things. The best of everything there was.*
5. What happened to Israel's enemies when David was king? *The LORD helped David to win against them in battle.*
6. What did the people think of David when he was king? *They loved him and respected him.*
7. How did David show God that even as king that God was still most important in his heart? *David kept writing songs about the LORD. He led the people in worship of Him at the Tabernacle. He did not forget God when he received all these blessings.*
8. What was worship at the Tabernacle like? *Lots of priests, with different music instruments, making sacrifices to the LORD and leading the people in praises to Him.*
9. Which of David's son turned against David and what did he try to do? *Absalom. He tried to kill David and become king in his place.*
10. Where did David flee to? *The wilderness of Judah.*
11. What happened to David while he fled to the desert of Judah? *People yelled names at him and even threw stones.*
12. How did David show that he still loved God most of all when he was in the desert? *He still kept praising God. He still kept writing and singing songs to Him and trusting in Him.*
13. What did David look forward to happening when he died? *To being with the LORD forever.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

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

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:1,5**: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water...My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips."
David's heart thirsted after God like this. These are actually the part of a song he wrote when he was in the Wilderness of Judah. Nothing was better to David than knowing and loving God!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise Him for being the Giver of our hearts that we might know and love Him.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times when bad things happen to us, we are not like David. We get upset with God and do not trust Him. We need a Savior! Jesus!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for David's psalms to sing and praise God with. We can thank Him for giving us the beauties of this world to know what He is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts: to help us to love and know God, like David did. We can ask Him to help us to trust Him and keep praising Him, even when very hard things happen to us.

Life Application Questions

1. What is something about David's heart that God's people can ask God to do in their hearts? *To give them hearts that deeply love and trust God, all the time—even when very hard things happen to them.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. Who did David look forward in faith for God to send, as He promised in the Bible?

Jesus, to the promised son of David's that would come one day to save His people.

2. What is the good news of salvation through Jesus?

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

Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Man After God’s Heart.

Our story takes place In the hills around Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, and in the wilderness of Judah. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus was born.

And now we present: “The Case of the Man After God’s Heart.”

Actions:

Scene 1:

God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God. As a shepherd boy, David would think about God as he looked up at the stars at night, as he looked at the sky and the hills during the day, and as he took care of his sheep.

Scene 2:

God made David king over all of Israel. He gave David a big family, a beautiful palace to live in, and lots of money. He gave David victory over all of Israel’s enemies until they did not attack Israel anymore. All the people loved and respected David. David did not forget God when he received all these blessings. He assigned 12,000 priests to lead the people in worshiping God in the Temple, to sing praises to Him and to teach the people to praise Him, too.

Scene 3

David had hard times, too. Absalom, his son, tried to take over his kingdom and kill him. David had to flee Jerusalem to keep from being killed. People yelled names at him and even threw stones. David’s heart did not grow hard towards God even then. He kept praising God. When David was old and about to die, his heart still loved God. He did not fear death but looked forward to worshiping God in His very presence.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** David had a heart wanted to know and love God so much that God called him a man after His own heart. No matter what happened to David, he still loved God.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Man After God's Heart.

Our story takes place In the hills around Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, and in the wilderness of Judah. It takes place in Old Testament times, about 1000 years before Jesus was born.

The characters in our story are: David and his family, Sheep, People of Jerusalem, Enemies of Israel, Israelite soldiers, Absalom and his men; David's friends and enemies.

And now we present: "The Case of the Man After God's Heart."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

God called David a man after His own heart because he had in his heart a great desire to know and love God. As a shepherd boy, David would think about God as he looked up at the stars at night, as he looked at the sky and the hills during the day, and as he took care of his sheep.

Scene 2: (Middle)

God made David king over all of Israel. He gave David a big family, a beautiful palace to live in, and lots of money. He gave David victory over all of Israel's enemies until they did not attack Israel anymore. All the people loved and respected David. David did not forget God when he received all these blessings. He assigned 12,000 priests to lead the people in worshipping God in the Temple, to sing praises to Him and to teach the people to praise Him, too.

Scene 3: (End)

David had hard times, too. Absalom, his son, tried to take over his kingdom and kill him. David had to flee Jerusalem to keep from being killed. People yelled names at him and even threw stones. David's heart did not grow hard towards God even then. He kept praising God. When David was old and about to die, his heart still loved God. He did not fear death but looked forward to worshipping God in His very presence.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.** David had a heart wanted to know and love God so much that God called him a man after His own heart. No matter what happened to David, he still loved God.

David's Harp

Description

Children will make a simple harp with rubber band strings.

Materials

White foam core board (30"x40" is best value), enough to cut out 1 of Template #1 for each child
OR Sheets of corrugated cardboard, purchased from office supply or shipping company, etc. (or lots of old boxes) need enough for TWO 8 ½" by 11" sheets per child. (2 pieces of cardboard are required to make body of harp strong enough)

NOTE: Foam core makes a lot prettier harp to decorate!

Razor blade or craft knife

Pen

8-32 2" long bolts, 8 per child

Matching 8-32 nuts for bolts, 16 per child

Rubber bands of varying gauges, 4 per child (plus extra for breakages)

Decorating supplies, such as markers, crayons, sequins, glitter glue, foam shapes, etc.

Glue

Preparing the Craft

1. Using Template #1, cut one out of foam core OR two out of cardboard per child out of the cardboard, if possible lay lines of cardboard in the direction of the arrows on the template. This will make for a stronger harp. Mark the inside of each piece of cardboard with an "X."
2. Use the pin or craft knife to bore 8 holes in the foam core/cardboard, as indicated by black dots on Template #1. If using the cardboard, line up the two pieces of cardboard so that the holes go through the same place in each piece.
3. Lay out decorating supplies, glue, nuts and bolts. KEEP THE RUBBER BANDS TO DISTRIBUTE LATER

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children decorate one or both sides of their foam core harp shapes. If using the cardboard, the children will decorate one side of each piece of cardboard, leaving the inner sides (marked with an "X" blank.
3. Have the children attach one nut to each of the 8 bolts, winding them up the threads until they are about 1/4" from the head. Then have them stick the bolt down through each hole (head side sticking up on the same side of harp), then wind the other nut on the bolt until the foam core/cardboard is firmly sandwiched between them. If using cardboard instead of foam core, have the children put the inner two pieces together, line up the holes, then thread the bolt and attach it.

NOTE: You may want to attach the first nut to the bolt ahead of time for the children; OR for the youngest children, you may want to attach the bolts for them. Also, do not screw the bolts down so tightly that it squashes into the harp—this will weaken it.

4. Children can now attach their rubber bands. Have them place them between the nut and the head on one side of the harp and stretch them across to the corresponding bolt on the other side. Each side of each rubber band can be tuned to its own pitch. Simply wind each side (separately) around the bolt, until you get the pitch you want. Also, different gauges and lengths of rubber bands make different sounds. Have the kids experiment.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Where did David think about God?

Everywhere he went.

2. What about God did David think about? How did David use his harp to express what he thought about God? *How wonderful He is. He made up songs about God. He played his harp as he sang them.*

3. Why did David keep singing and playing his songs of praise to God when he went through hard times?

Because he loved God most of all. He knew that no matter what he went through, God always loved him and would take care of him.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

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

God called David a man after His own heart because David sought to know and love Him, just as God created people to.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants us to seek after Him and sing His praises no matter what we go through, just like David did.

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

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: David's Harp.

2. Everywhere he went, David sang and played praises about the wonderfulness of God on his harp because he loved God most of all. No matter what he went through he knew that God always loved him and would take care of him.

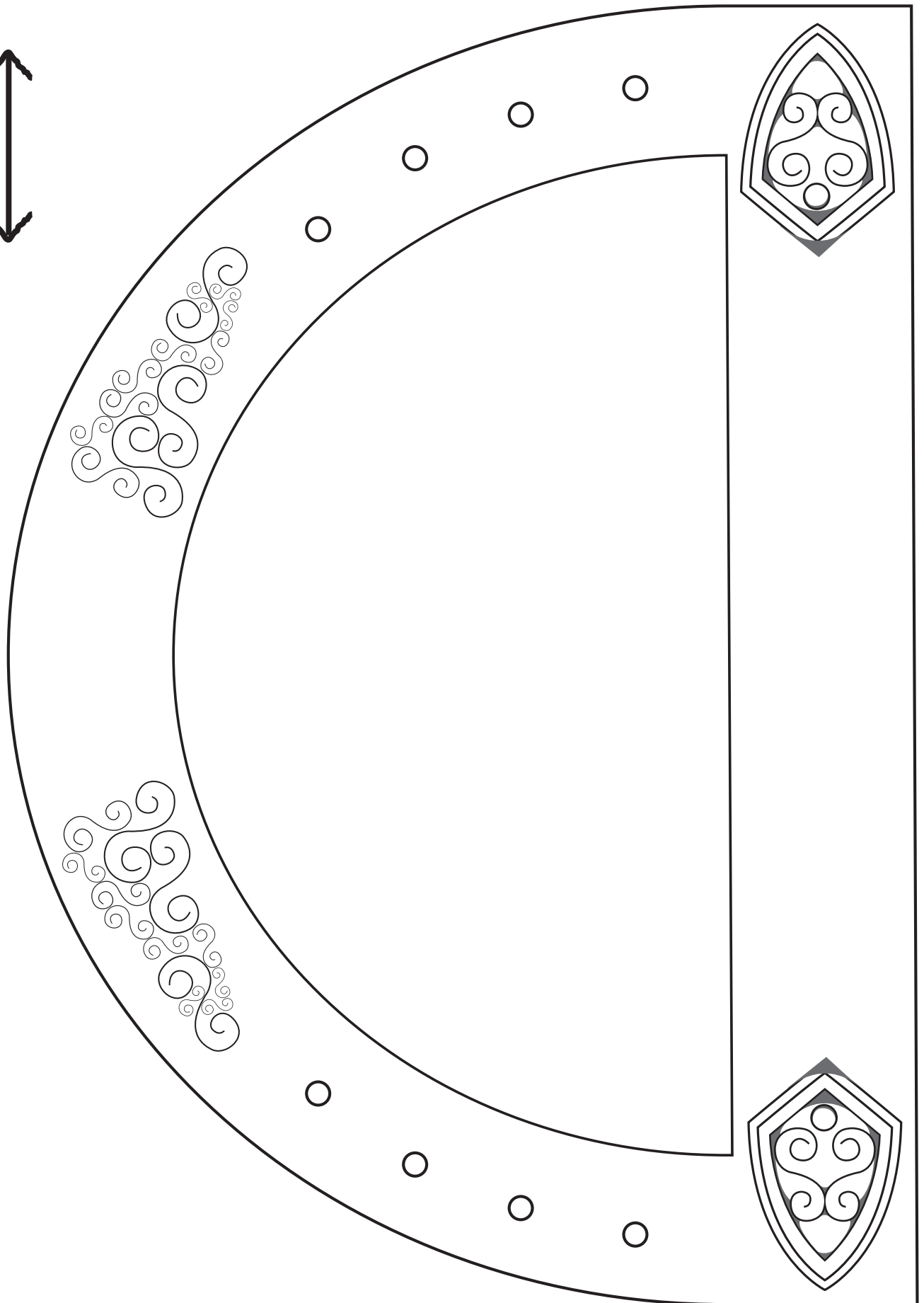
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Made Our Hearts to Know and Love Him.

4. God called David a man after His own heart because David sought to know and love Him, just as God created people to.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us to seek after Him and sing His praises no matter what we go through, just like David did.

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

direction of warp of cardboard



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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Tape the picture and name of each VIPP to the wall, about 3 feet from the ground.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Put the Clue Cards for both VIPPS put in one bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
