

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 2*

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

Big Question Bible Verse: Amos 4:13 Song *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 5*

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

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 13*

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 14*

Lesson 1 New Testament Story: The Case of the Burning Hearts
Luke 24:13-35

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Food from Cleopas' Supper

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, v.4 *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 13*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 119:18,72,73: Discussion Sheet and Game: Hand Ball

Bible Verse Song: Open My Eyes *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 14*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Sticky Pad Search

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

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

Craft: Burning Hearts

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

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

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who had burning hearts? What does that mean?
2. What made their hearts burn?

This story is a New Testament story. It took place right around the time Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

“What a Passover week this has been!” exclaimed Cleopas and his companion as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. It had begun with great hope, but ended with hopelessness!

Now, as Cleopas and his friend walked home this Sunday afternoon, they tried to make sense of it all. Like thousands of other Jews, they had gone to Jerusalem for the yearly Passover celebration. While they were there, they had been with Jesus. What wonderful things He had taught about God and His kingdom! What astonishing things He had said about Himself! What miracles He had done!

The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened to Jesus and watched what He did. “Jesus is more than a prophet,” they had decided. “He must be the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible! How exciting to see God’s promises to save His people being fulfilled right before their eyes!

But by the end of the week, everything had changed. Thursday night, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested and brought Him to trial. “You deserve to die, Jesus! You say that you are the Messiah who God spoke about in the Bible, but you aren’t! You must die for saying such things and making others believe them,” they said to Jesus. Then they handed Him over to the Romans to be crucified! Jesus, the Messiah was dead on Passover Friday. They could hardly believe it! From Messiah to dead man in one week!

But then, today, this very Sunday morning, they had heard something even more confusing....or was it amazing? Some women had gone to Jesus’ tomb and it was empty. Jesus’ body was gone! Two angels in dazzling robes appeared to them and said: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has

risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified on the third day rise?” they told the women.

The women ran to tell Jesus’ disciples what they had seen and heard. Peter and John hurried to see for themselves, but they found nothing but an empty tomb. Were these just the tales of silly women? It seemed so. They all lost hope.

“This is all so confusing! What does it mean?” Cleopas and his friend thought. They tried to make sense of it as they slowly walked home.

As they were discussing it all, a man came up and began walking with them. Cleopas and his friend didn’t know it yet, but it was Jesus, Himself! (Perhaps He wore a hood over His head, or simply kept them from understanding who He was in a way that only God can do, we don’t know.) Jesus knew what Cleopas and the other disciple were talking about. He knew they were confused. He had come to reveal Himself to them and explain what had happened. He WAS the Messiah. He was the one who God spoke about in His Word, the Bible. Jesus would remove their confusion by first showing them what had been written about Him there, in the Bible. So by God’s power, Jesus kept them from recognizing Him as He came up to them and started talking.

“What are you talking about?” Jesus asked the two.

“Haven’t you heard what happened in Jerusalem lately?” they replied in shock.

“Tell me what has happened,” Jesus replied.

“Jesus of Nazareth was a powerful prophet, preaching

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

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

During your presentation:

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

God's Word and doing miracles in God's name," they told him. "But the chief priests and our rulers gave him over to the Romans to be crucified. We had thought he was the Messiah promised by God in His Word. We thought He had come to save God's people."

"This is the third day since He was crucified and buried, yet some of the women came with an amazing story. Early this morning, when they went to His tomb to put fresh spices on His body, His body was gone! They said angels spoke to them, saying that Jesus was alive. Some of the men went to the tomb and found the body missing, just as the women had said, but they didn't see Jesus," they told Him.

"How slow you are to believe what the prophets' wrote in God's Word!" Jesus replied to them. "Didn't they say that the Messiah would have to suffer like this then be glorified?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus went through the Old Testament showing how His life fulfilled all God's promises about the Messiah.

God gave Moses these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

Deuteronomy 18:15: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like you...I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command."

The Messiah was to be the greatest of prophet who spoke God's words!

God gave David these words to write down in the Bible about the Messiah:

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me...All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him...They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.'" (Psalm 22)

"Did you hear that?" the disciples thought with amazement, ***"That prophecy about the Messiah is exactly what happened to Jesus before He died!"***

God gave the prophet Isaiah these words to write down about the Messiah in the Bible: "He was pierced for our transgressions...the LORD has laid on him the sins of us all." "Did you hear that?" the disciples couldn't believe their ears. ***"Jesus fulfilled that prophecy, too, when He died on the cross!"***

On and on through the Bible Jesus took them, to verse

after verse that God had spoken about the Messiah.

As Cleopas and his companion listened to Jesus, their hearts felt like they were burning, they were filled with such faith and with joy. "This man is right! We have been foolish and slow to believe," they exclaimed. "We knew these things which God had spoken in His Word, the Bible, about the Messiah, yet we did not remember them or believe them. But now we do! The Messiah really was supposed to suffer first! Perhaps Jesus really was the Messiah after all!" they hoped.

The sun was beginning to set as the three of them reached Emmaus. It was time for travelers to seek the hospitality of a host for the night. Soon darkness would set in and the road would be pitch black. Anyone left out on the road was in danger of harm from wild animals or robbers. Cleopas and the other disciple headed to their home, while Jesus acted as if he were going farther. It would be rude for Jesus to invite Himself to their home. He waited for their invitation.

"Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over," Cleopas and his friend urged. Jesus accepted their invitation and headed to the house with them.

As good hosts, Cleopas and the other disciple immediately set about preparing food for their guest. When everything was ready, they sat down at the table. Usually Cleopas would host the meal, but shockingly, their guest picked up the bread and served the others as if HE was the host!

"How strange!" Cleopas and his companion must have thought, but they allowed their honored guest to continue.

What happened next was even stranger! When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them, something happened. Maybe they saw the nail prints in his hands, maybe it was the way He broke the bread and prayed, or maybe it was the Holy Spirit at work inside of them, but the Bible tells us that they recognized Jesus, then He vanished—He completely disappeared from their sight."

"It's Jesus! It's Jesus! He is alive! Of course! Who else would show us God's plans for the Messiah through the Bible like that! No wonder our hearts felt like they were burning within us as He taught us! We must go and tell the others! Jesus is alive!"

So right then they got up and hurried the seven miles back to Jerusalem down that dark road. They didn't care if there might be wild animals or robbers along the way. They would take their chances! This good news could not wait!

When at last they arrived in Jerusalem, they found the Eleven (Jesus' closest disciples) and those with them, gathered together. These believers were bursting with excitement, too. "It's true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon Peter," they exclaimed.

Cleopas and his friend told what had happened to them. How Jesus had gone through the Bible and explained everything, then how they recognized Him when He broke the bread at dinner. Everyone was so excited! Jesus was alive and was appearing to His followers to prove it! Surely He was the Messiah!

Even as they were talking about all these things, Jesus Himself suddenly stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Jesus was really alive! He had worked forgiveness of sins for God's people, just as God had promised in His Word that He would!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who had burning hearts? What did that mean?

Cleopas and his friend as they listened to Jesus. It means that they were so full of faith and joy with the truths that Jesus was explaining to them.

2. What made their hearts burn? The truths of the Bible that Jesus explained, showing that He really was the Messiah, come to save God's people.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:18,72-73 NIV 1984

"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands."

What about us? We have heard from God's Word the wonderful promises God made about Jesus that Cleopas and the other disciple heard that Sunday, two

sand years ago. They are still just as true now as they were then. What will we do with them?

Let's ask God to work in our hearts and help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to hear His Word, the Bible, and believe the good news of Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Word and the Savior who came to pay for the sins of Your people.

C God, we confess that like Cleopas and his friend, many times we don't remember or believe what You have promised in Your Word.

T God, we thank you for helping us to understand the truths in Your Word.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us understand and believe Your Word, the Bible.

Special Words

Prophet: A person who speaks, teaches and acts in the name of God.

Prophecy: The words of God, spoken by the prophet. Sometimes, these are promises about future events, such as the prophecies about the coming Messiah that Jesus perfectly fulfilled.

Crucified: A terrible kind of death the Romans used to punish their worst criminals. A person is hung by nails on a wooden cross and left to die.

Passover: A yearly celebration of how the LORD delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

Disciple: Someone who learns and lives by a particular teacher's teaching.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for being the God who reveals Himself to us through Your Word, the Bible.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to learn from Your Word, the Bible. Many times we don't want to obey what it tells us to do. We would rather think about ourselves or do something else that seems more fun. We need a Savior to save us!

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving us the Bible so we can know more about You, more about why You made us, and how to be saved through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to know You better as we read the Bible, Your Word. Help us to live out what the Bible tells us to do. Use it to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Food from Cleopas' Supper

Pita Bread and Hummus or other bread and spread

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

Case Tie-in: That night, at supper as Jesus broke the bread, Cleopas and his friend realized it was Jesus, risen from the dead, who had walked with them, explained the promises about the Messiah to them and was now eating supper with them!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God Speaks through His Word, the Bible

God used many people to write down His words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds to help them write down exactly what God wanted written. That's why the Bible is called God's Word. It's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly.

When we read the Bible, God tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and how He wants us to live. He tells us of His great plans for this world and for the world to come.

There are many things that God has chosen not to tell us in the Bible. But in it, He has told us everything we need to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him and to look forward to life with Him forever. And by His Holy Spirit working in our hearts, He can use His Word, not to just know these things, but to do them in us

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who did God use to write down His words in the Bible? *Many people.*
2. How did God give men the words to write down? *The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and minds so they would write down exactly what God wanted written.*
3. Why is the Bible called God's Word? *Because it's the only book where God's words are written down perfectly for us to know.*
4. What sorts of things does God tell us about in the Bible? *He tells us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him.*
5. How does God speak to us in the Bible? *When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and minds to help us understand it and apply it to our lives. He also speaks to us through the Bible when the pastor preaches on it in church or Christians discuss what it means.*
6. Does God tell us everything there is to know in the Bible? *No. There are many things He has chosen not to tell us.*
7. What do we know God has put in the Bible? *Everything we need to know to become His people; to know Him, to live for Him, and to look forward to life with Him forever.*
8. What can God's Holy Spirit use God's Word to do? *Use His Word to help us to save us, know Him, live for Him and enjoy life with Him forever.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? Jesus quoted the prophecies written down by many different men over hundreds of years about the Messiah. How could it be that they all came true? *Because the Holy Spirit worked in all those different men over all those hundreds of years and had them write down exactly what He wanted them to write. God was always the author behind every word that every man wrote, so it always was true.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands." There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.

Life Application Questions

1. Why is it so important that we read the Bible? *Because it is the only book that God has given us that is His Word. If we don't read it, how will we know what He is like, who we are, and why He made us? How will we know how to be saved and live to please Him?*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Giver of His perfect Word, the Bible.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That many times when we listen to God's Word that we choose to rebel against it. We want do what we want to do, not what God wants. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can thank God for giving us His Bible so we can know about Him and how we can be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and His good ways, written down in the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the Holy Spirit in our hearts who can help us to obey God and His good laws

The Gospel

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

Game: Rush to Safety

Materials

Construction Paper
 CD and CD player
 Masking Tape
 Small bowl or bag
 Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Cut circles about 9" in diameter, enough for every child but one.
4. Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

Playing the Game

Point out the safety spot circles on the floor. Tell the children that you will tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, crab crawl, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they are to get to a safety spot. Show them that there is one spot too few for them all so that someone will be caught out. The child who has no safety spot picks a question for the class to answer. If the class answers it correctly, then the child is added back into the group. If not, then the child stays out and another safety spot is removed.

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

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

Non-competitive Option

Have the child without a safety spot choose a question for the class, but then join the game, even if the class gets it wrong. Add the question back into the bag for further review. Don't reduce the number of safety spots.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Amazing Grace

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word, my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 13

Understanding the Song

1. What has the Lord promised to the person who believes in Him? *He has promised good.*
2. Where has He promised good to His people? *In the Bible.*
3. What kind of good does the Lord promise? *He does not promise that nothing bad will happen to us; but, that in all things—bad or good—that He will work to make us like Jesus. That is the greatest good of all.*
4. What is "His word?" *The Bible.*
5. What does the Bible secure? *The believer's hope that he will be forgiven his sins and get to live forever with God in heaven.*
6. What does a shield do? *A shield protects someone in a battle from being struck down by the enemy's arrows.*
7. How is God like a shield to His people? *He protects them from all sorts of evil and only allows things in their lives that He knows will work for their good and His glory.*
8. What does it mean for God to be your portion? *To be satisfied that He will take care of absolutely everything you need.*
9. How long will God be the shield and portion for the believer in Jesus? *All his life*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *God's people read in His Word His promises to do good to them. They know that they can have unfailing hope in Him for their salvation, their protection and provision for all their needs, for all of their lives, because He always does what He promises to do.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Jesus showed the men on the road to Emmaus that God had fulfilled all His promises to do good and provide for all their needs by sending the Messiah to suffer and die for their sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:18, 72-73:** "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands." *God's Word is where God's people learn that God promises to do good to His people and that their hopes for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him are secure through Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can thank God for giving them a secure hope in His promised salvation They can praise God for being so kind to them as to promise to always protect and provide for them, even when it was at the cost of sacrificing His only Son, Jesus.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, that tells us of His promises for His people and that their hope in Him is secure.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we chose to not believe the promises of God's Word or don't care about them. We need God's forgiveness.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for giving His people promises that He will never break. They know that their whole lives they can always trust what God's Word promises. Their hope is secure in Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose hope is always secure and can always trust His promises to them in the Bible.

Gospel Question

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

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 119:18, 72-73

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.”

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What kind of eyes do we need God to open for us to see wonderful things in God's law? *Not our actual eyeballs, but the “eyes” of our spirit, our heart. Our spirit—or heart—doesn't really have eyes, like the ones we look around the room with. No! It's just a way of saying, help us to understand God's Word.*
2. Why do we need God's help to “see” wonderful things in God's law? *Because we are sinners, our hearts do not understand God's Word without God's help. God sends His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and helps us to understand His law.*
3. What is God's law? Is it just a bunch of rules? *God's law is another way of meaning the whole Bible. (Unless you are reading a part of the Bible that is talking just about laws God gave—then it is talking about God's actual laws).*
4. What kind of wonderful things are in God's law? *God shows us what He's like; His plans for this world and His people; the way to be saved; how He wants His people to live; and so much more.*
5. How is the Bible God's Word from His mouth? *God gave His words for men to write down just right. Sometimes He did speak aloud to men, like Moses. Many times, He spoke to them by His Holy Spirit, whispering in their hearts.*
6. What makes God's law worth more than a thousand pieces of silver or gold? *It alone is the perfect Word of God. Without it, we would not know so many things about God. Without it, we would not have the stories of Jesus and how to be saved.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible?** *There is no book like the Bible! It alone is God's Word, written down perfectly. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us about who He is, who we are, and why He made us. He tells us how we can be saved and live to please Him. That is why it is more precious to God's people than even a lot of money—because they want to know those things and live out those things most of all.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does our story tie in with this Bible Verse? *Jesus opened the eyes of Cleopas and the other disciple to the truths about Him in the Bible. They were so excited with what they understood about Jesus that they were even willing to risk robbers and wild animals on the dark road back to Jerusalem, just to tell the other disciples that they had seen Jesus and what He had told them.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who made us and formed us? Why does this make God the one to give us understanding of His commands? *Since God made us, He knows exactly how to teach us how to understand His Word.*
2. What is the best first step God calls us to make to know Him, obey Him and understand His Word, as He made us to? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us and fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit. He can help us to know God and obey God and to understand God's Word.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His laws and for being the One who made us.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse *That many times we don't want to hear God's law and we don't love it. Many times we just want to do things our own way. We need a Savior!*

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

We can thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to help us understand it.

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

Ask God to help us to "see" and understand His laws. Ask Him to help us obey His commands that we might honor Him in the way we live.

Gospel Question

1. What is the most precious good news the Bible tells us? What is the gospel?

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

Handball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 A soft-surfaced, medium sized ball, such as a foam ball
 Masking tape
 Paper and markers
 Helpful, but optional: colored team “pennies” (jerseys) to identify members of each team.

Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player
Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player

Preparing the Game

1. Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.
2. Partition the floor into even sections as shown in the diagram above

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Divide the children into two teams and have them put on pennies. Give each child a section and alternate players from each team. Explain to them that everyone will say the verse together, then when you say “go,” they are to roll the ball out of their sections each time it rolls in until time is called. The person who has the ball in his section when time is called can win 2 points for his team if he can say the verse by himself. If he asks someone else from his team to help him, then he can earn 1 point. If he does not get it right, then someone from the other team can try to say it for 1 point.

If desired, you can have less but bigger sections and put 2 team members in each section, that way two children will work together to keep the ball out and recite the verse.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Give the children a group target amount of points to earn and challenge them to try to make the target amount in as few turns as possible. Always give two points to the class for getting the verse right, even if they have a partner help them.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Open My Eyes

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 14

Open my eyes that I may see,
 Wonderful things in your law.
 Open my eyes that I may see,
 Wonderful things in your law.
 The law from your mouth is more precious to me
 Than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
 Your hands, they made-me and formed me;
 Give me understanding to learn your commands.
 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
 Open your eyes that I may see
 Wonderful things in your law.
 Psalm One-nineteen, eighteen, seventy two and three.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

General Story Questions

1. Why had Cleopas and his companion been in Jerusalem? *Celebrate Passover.*
2. What had they thought when they heard Jesus preach? *He was the Messiah who had come to redeem God's people.*
3. What had happened that made them sad and confused? *Jesus had been arrested and then crucified by the Jewish leaders.*
4. What amazing news had they heard from some of the women who were Jesus' followers? *That Jesus' tomb was empty and they had seen angels.*
5. What were they trying to figure out as they walked home? How all the pieces fit together about Jesus.
6. Who joined them as they walked? *Jesus*
7. Why didn't they know who He was? *We don't know for sure. Perhaps the Lord just kept them from understanding who He was, using His powers to do that as God.*
8. What did Jesus say was the reason for why they couldn't understand what had happened to Him? *Because they were slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken about Jesus.*
9. How did Jesus help them understand? *He showed them many verses in the Bible, starting at the beginning that showed them what the Lord had always planned would happen to the Messiah.*
10. What did Cleopas and his companion invite Jesus to do when they got to Emmaus? Why was that so important? *Asked Him to stay the night. It was important b/c there were no hotels, etc. and a traveler would be out in the dark, even exposed to robbers if he had no where to go. It was common courtesy to do this for a stranger back then.*
11. What was Jesus doing when they were allowed to recognize Him? *Breaking bread, much like He did at the Last Supper.*
12. What did Jesus do as soon as they recognized Him? *He disappeared.*
13. What did Cleopas and his friend do as soon as they recognized Him—and what was unusual about that? *They immediately went back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. They were risking their lives to robbers, etc. by traveling at night.*
14. How did God speak to Cleopas and his companion through the Bible? *Jesus quoted God's words about the Messiah to them. As they heard the words, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, helping them to see how they were all fulfilled in Jesus. The Word worked so powerfully in their hearts that it was like they were burning inside them—"burning" with excitement over the truth of who Jesus was.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible**? *Jesus is God. He used the Bible to show Cleopas and the other disciple what He is like.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18, 72-73**: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands." *Jesus helped to open the eyes of Cleopas and the other disciple to the truths about Him in God's Word. The disciples were so excited at what Jesus showed them that their hearts felt like they were burning with in them. This was the best thing that could ever hear and know! Truly God's Word is more precious than silver or gold! It showed them that they could be saved through Jesus!*

Life Application Questions

1. What makes the Bible so special for us today? *It is still the only book which has the perfect words of God. If we want to know about God, His good laws, and His great plans, we need to read it, too.*
2. What does the Bible tell us is the way that we can be saved? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story?

Praise Him for being the Savior who came to pay for the sins of His people..

2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that like Cleopas and the other disciple, many times we do not remember or believe what God has promised through His Word. We need God's Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to understand and to believe.. We need a Savior!*

3. What's something we can thank God for from this story?

We can thank God for helping His people understand the truths about Him and believe.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to understand and believe His Word, the Bible. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news about Jesus that the disciples learned from the Bible? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Sticky Pad Search

Materials

Re-stickable scratch pad sheets
 Paper and marker
 20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. On the sticky pads write various point values, from 1 to 4...with perhaps two 10's thrown in for fun. Make perhaps 50 of these point values. Stick these all over the room, high, low, unusual places. Place the two 10 point sticky pad sheets in the most unusual spots.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit in two lines. At the leaders signal the first child from Team A will get up and have 10 seconds to gather as many point values as he can and get back to his spot. If successful, then that will be the point value for the Story Review question you ask the team. If the team answers the question correctly, they get the point values. If not, then the other team can try to answer it for half the point value. If a player doesn't get back to his spot before time is called, then he loses all his points (they are replaced to their spots) and it is the other team's turn. Play then resumes with the first player from Team B, etc.

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point value for the children to reach together. Tell the children that they are going to work together and see how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Have the children take turns gathering the point values and everyone together answering the question. If they get it right, then the group keeps the points. If not, then they are returned to their spots. Keep track of how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Replace all of the sticky pads and play again, seeing if the group can make the target in less turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Burning Hearts.

Our story takes place in outside of Jerusalem, in Israel. It takes place in New Testament times, right after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Burning Hearts."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Cleopas and his companion walked along the road from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus on a Sunday afternoon. They were trying to make sense of everything that had happened to Jesus during the Passover week. They had listened to Him preach so powerfully. They had seen Him heal people only as God could heal. They put their faith in Him. Surely, Jesus must be the Messiah! But on Friday, the Jewish leaders arrested Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus was buried in a tomb. No, it seemed Jesus wasn't the Messiah after all. And then came today, Sunday, and with it the most puzzling events of all! Some women went to Jesus' tomb and found Jesus' body gone. Angels told them He had risen from the dead! What did it all mean? they wondered.

Scene 2:

As they walked and talked, a stranger came alongside them and joined in. They didn't realize it yet, but the stranger was Jesus, Himself! Jesus asked them who they are talking about and they tell Him everything that had happened during the past week. Then Jesus took them through the Bible, showing them from prophecy after prophecy how the Messiah was supposed to suffer and die just as Jesus did. Cleopas and his companion's hearts burned with faith and joy as Jesus talked. They were so excited! It all began to make sense!

Scene 3

When at last they reached Emmaus, Cleopas and his friend invited Jesus to stay with them for dinner and the night. Jesus took over the position of host at dinner and as He broke the bread, they recognized that it was Jesus. They immediately got up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. As they were sharing their story, Jesus appeared among them. The disciples are scared and confused, then overjoyed to see that Jesus really had risen from the dead. He had worked forgiveness of sins for all of God's people!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Jesus used the Bible to show His disciples how He fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Burning Hearts.

Our story takes place in outside of Jerusalem, in Israel. It takes place in New Testament times, right after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"The characters in our story are: Cleopas, his companion, Jesus, Disciples

And now we present: "The Case of the Burning Hearts."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Cleopas and his companion walked along the road from Jerusalem back to their home in Emmaus on a Sunday afternoon. They were trying to make sense of everything that had happened to Jesus during the Passover week. They had listened to Him preach so powerfully. They had seen Him heal people only as God could heal. They put their faith in Him. Surely, Jesus must be the Messiah! But on Friday, the Jewish leaders arrested Jesus and put Him to death. Jesus was buried in a tomb. No, it seemed Jesus wasn't the Messiah after all. And then came today, Sunday, and with it the most puzzling events of all! Some women went to Jesus' tomb and found Jesus' body gone. Angels told them He had risen from the dead! What did it all mean? they wondered.

Scene 2: (Middle)

As they walked and talked, a stranger came alongside them and joined in. They didn't realize it yet, but the stranger was Jesus, Himself! Jesus asked them who they are talking about and they tell Him everything that had happened during the past week. Then Jesus took them through the Bible, showing them from prophecy after prophecy how the Messiah was supposed to suffer and die just as Jesus did. Cleopas and his companion's hearts burned with faith and joy as Jesus talked. They were so excited! It all began to make sense!

Scene 3: (End)

When at last they reached Emmaus, Cleopas and his friend invited Jesus to stay with them for dinner and the night. Jesus took over the position of host at dinner and as He broke the bread, they recognized that it was Jesus. They immediately got up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples. As they were sharing their story, Jesus appeared among them. The disciples are scared and confused, then overjoyed to see that Jesus really had risen from the dead. He had worked forgiveness of sins for all of God's people!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.** Jesus used the Bible to show His disciples how He fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.

Burning Hearts

Description

Children will make a “burning” heart(s) out of foil and tissue.

Materials

Light cardboard (poster board or cereal boxes)

White craft glue

Wide paintbrush or pieces of sponges

Heavy-duty aluminum foil

Shiny sequins, glitter, etc.

Colored tissue paper: red, plus other colors

Clear packing tape or glue sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Use Template #1 to cut out a heart shape (or two) per child.
2. Cut out squares of foil big enough to cover front and back of heart shape.
3. Mix equal amounts of glue and water. Place in bowls within reach of all children.
4. Cut tissue paper into different sized and shaped pieces, 1” to 3” in length
5. Set out rest of materials.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample craft you have made.
2. Spread out the foil on top of the heart shaped cardboard, shiny side up. Smooth it into place, then flip the heart over and flatten the ends on the back. Make a cut in the foil down to the hollow of the heart and fold back. (You may want to do this step ahead of time for youngest children.) Tape or glue down the foil on the back of the heart. Turn heart back over.
3. Use a sponge piece/brush to spread a thin layer of glue mixture over all the foil.
4. Lay pieces of tissue on the glue, piece by piece, spreading more glue over the top each time. Keep adding tissue and glue, overlapping the tissue pieces to make a design. They may want to use a higher proportion of red along with other colors to keep to traditional heart color, but don’t have to.
5. The tissue paper will begin to bleed into the glue, giving it color. As colors of tissues overlap, they will blend to make new colors.
6. When finished with the tissue, add sequins, glitter, etc. to the design.
7. If time allows, let the children make two hearts, one for each of the two disciples.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Where were Cleopas and his companion walking? *From Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus.*
2. Who joined them and what did he explain to them? *Jesus. He explained the prophecies in the Bible that had to do with the Messiah.*
3. How did Cleopas and his friend react to what Jesus told them? Why? *They were so filled with joy and faith that it felt like their hearts were burning. They felt this way because it was clear that Jesus was the Messiah and everything that had happened to Him was part of God's plan to save His people.*
4. What is Bible Truth 4, that we are learning? *God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible? *Cleopas and the other disciple were amazed that God had spoken so clearly in His Word that the Messiah would live and die just exactly as Jesus had.*
6. What can this craft help us remember? *God will reveal His truth to us through His Word, the Bible, if we will read it.*

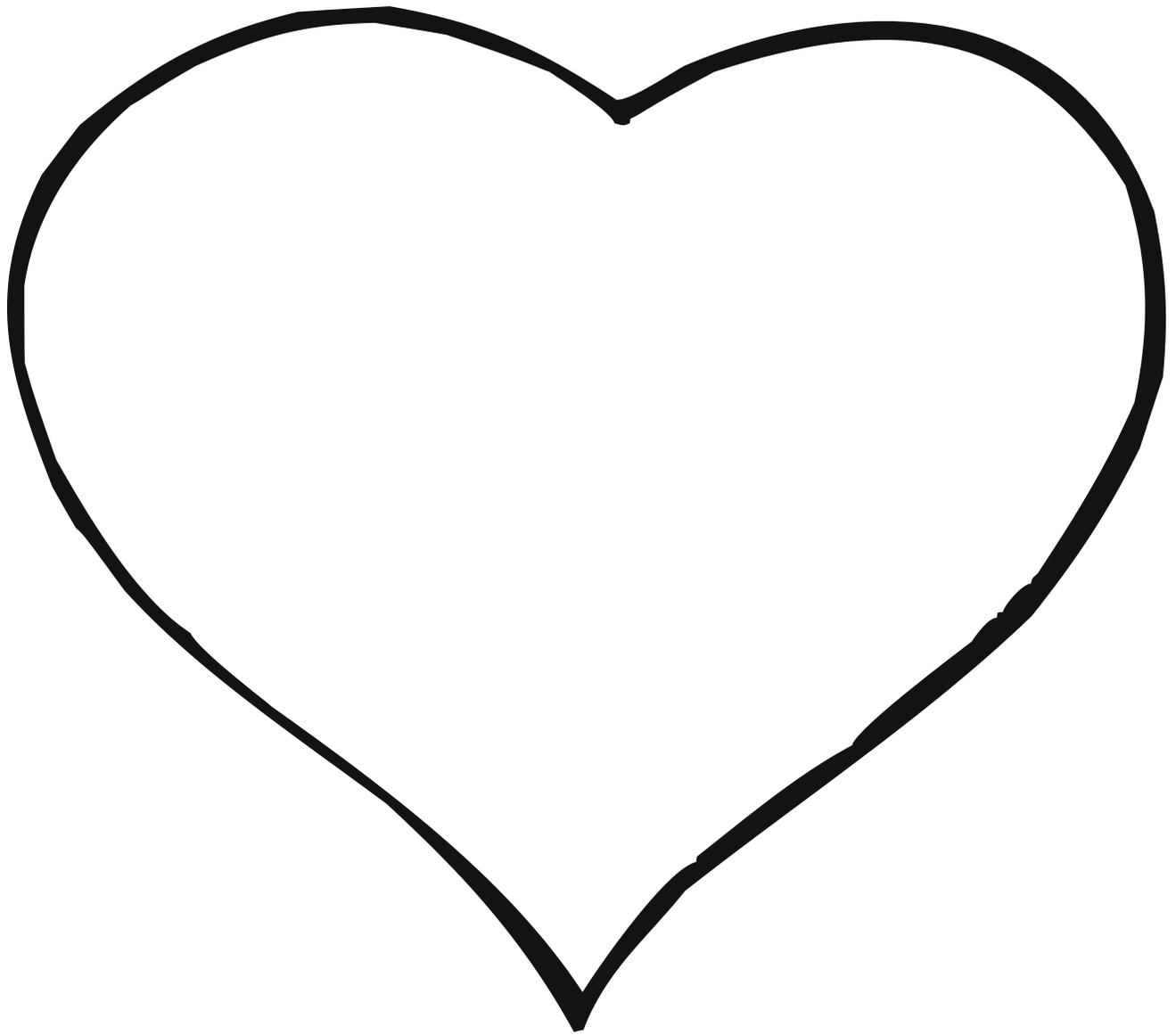
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is Burning Hearts.
2. On the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and the other disciples were so full of Joy and faith that they felt like their hearts were burning within them As they heard Jesus—who they thought was just a stranger—showed them from the Bible all the prophecies about the Messiah He had fulfilled.
3. Bible Truth 4 is: God Speaks through His Word, the Bible.
4. Cleopas and the other disciple were amazed that God had spoken so clearly in His Word that the Messiah would live and die just exactly as Jesus had.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God will reveal His truth to us through His Word, the Bible, if we will read it.

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



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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
