

BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 5: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 15*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 16*

Extra Song: Anyone Who's Seen Me: John 14:9 *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 17*

Lesson 3 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Great Revealing
Daniel 9; Matthew 2:1-12

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Star and the Savior

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 15*

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

Bible Verse Review: Hebrews 1:1-3: Discussion Sheet and Game: Balloon Find

Bible Verse Song: The Son Is the Radiance *PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 16*

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

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: The Answer's in the Tent

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

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

Craft: A Bright, New Star

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Hot and Cold Hide

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 3 **PFI NIV Prontos 1 BOOK or ONLINE**

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

by Connie Dever

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

1. What was revealed? Who revealed it?
2. What was so great about it?

This story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Babylon was an amazing city. It was surrounded by ten miles of walls over one hundred feet thick! Inside the walls were huge buildings and temples with tall, golden statues. That's because this city was the home of the king of the huge Babylonian empire. And, home to the finest temples to the Babylonian gods.

Inside those huge city walls, inside one of those beautiful buildings, the great Raj Maj--the chief adviser to the king-- was doing something peculiar. He took off his fine, linen robes. He rubbed his body in ashes and put on a simple sackcloth tunic made of coarse, scratchy black goat's hair. Deeply troubled, he cried out to God. And not to any of the gods of the Babylonians, like you might think. But to the LORD. For this most important of all the king's advisers was not from Babylon at all. His name was Daniel and he was from Israel. He had been brought to Babylon to serve the king as a slave, but he loved Israel and was a believer in the one, true God.

"O LORD, Your people, the Israelites, have sinned against You and Your commands. You warned us, but we refused to obey You again and again. O LORD, You were right to punish us by letting the Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Your Temple where we worshiped You. You were right to let them capture us and serve them as slaves here in Babylon for seventy years, as You warned would be our punishment. But LORD, You are merciful and forgiving. Hear my prayer and forgive us. Please don't wait seventy years! Restore us to our land and rebuild Your city and Your Temple!" Daniel pleaded.

As Daniel prayed, the angel Gabriel appeared before him and said: "Daniel, I have a message from the LORD for you. The LORD says: 'I have heard your prayers and I have sent Gabriel to answer them. The

Israelites will have to stay in Babylon all seventy years, but after that they will be freed to go back to their country and re-build Jerusalem and the Temple. Then, 483 years after they rebuild the Temple, I will send the Messiah, the Anointed One, to save them," He promised.

What an incredible message! It was sad that the Israelites would have to finish out their years as captives in Babylon before God would take them home. But, how wonderful it was to hear when the Messiah would come! Oh, how they looked forward to that day when God would reveal Himself more completely than He ever had before!

The Israelites were right to be excited. For while God had revealed Himself through His creations, and through the words of the prophets, and through the Bible, this Messiah would be the greatest revealing of all! Why? Because the Messiah was Jesus! He would be like no other man the world had ever known!

Gabriel's message to Daniel certainly wasn't the first time the LORD had told the Israelites about the coming Messiah. God had spoken to them many times about Him through the prophets. He had told them where this Messiah was to be from and what He would be like. Almost 150 years earlier the LORD had told them, through the prophet Micah: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old". (Micah 5:2)

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; yet, He would not be like other men whose lives begin when they are born. No. His origins were from of old, long before He was born. This didn't sound like any regular man, this Messiah. Could it be that He was more than just a man?

Story-telling Tips**Ahead of time:**

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

During your presentation:

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

Through the prophet Isaiah, the LORD gave them the answer: “Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, [God with us]... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 7:13; 9:6)

Did you hear that?! Yes, it was true. The Messiah would be God, Himself! Yet He would also be a child that would be born. Both man and God? How could this be? Only time would tell.

And time did tell! The years passed just as the LORD said they would. At the end of seventy years, the Babylonians freed the Israelites to go home. The Jews went back and built Jerusalem and the Temple. The 483 years went by; and then at last, it was time for the revealing of the Messiah--Jesus!

Once again there was a stirring scene among the Magi living in the lands east of Israel. A spectacular new star had appeared in the sky. To them, that meant only one thing: the rise of a great, new king.

By ways and means that no one but God knows, the Magi decided that this star that rose in the east was the sign of the birth of a great king in the land of Jews, which lay to their west. Perhaps they had known the promise of the coming Messiah that Gabriel had told Daniel, the great Raj Maj, hundreds of years earlier. Or perhaps in His infinite wisdom and power, the LORD had given this star to the magi as part of His plan to make great His name throughout all the world. Only the LORD knows the real answer.

Either way, the Magi decided they would go find this new king and honor him. They packed rich, kingly presents-- gold, frankincense and myrrh-- and followed the star to find him.

The Magi traveled many long miles over dry, desert lands; then into Israel, and straight to the king's palace in Jerusalem. Surely that would be where the great, new king would be found.

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him,” the Magi asked throughout Jerusalem. Yet no one seemed to know of him. When King Herod heard

this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

“What does this mean? Is there a king I don't know about? I am not even a Jew!” thought King Herod. The Romans gave me this land to rule when they conquered it. Is there someone else who has come to take the throne away from me? The Jews murmur about promises of God sending a great Messiah—or Christ—one day to smash the Romans. Could this be about him? I had better find out! This could be serious!”

Herod called together the chief priests and teachers of the law, asking them where the Messiah was to be born.

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.” (Matthew 2:2-6)

So it was in Bethlehem--only five miles away from Jerusalem--that the Messiah would be found! The Magi were thrilled. The great king they were looking for was only a short journey away.

How much more excited they would have been if they knew this King was God, Himself, come to reveal Himself more completely than He ever had before.

Before the Magi set off for Bethlehem, Herod called them back to his palace for a secret meeting. “This is wonderful news!” King Herod lied to the Magi. “To think! The Messiah has come! Please, go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him,” he urged them.

The Magi agreed went on their way. The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense and of myrrh.

It was true. God's Messiah had come, as He had promised long ago through Daniel, and the prophets, Isaiah and Micah. And these men who were not even Jews had been some of the first to come worship Him.

King Herod never heard again from the Magi. The

LORD protected His Son, telling the Magi in a dream to not go back to him. They left Jesus and returned to their home country another way.

What did the Magi think as they went home? Did they understand that the Messiah was more than just a mighty king sent by God? Did they realize that He was God, Himself, come to reveal Himself to us more completely than He ever had through creation or the prophets' words or the Bible? What could they know by just looking at the little child, Jesus?

We don't know the answers to these questions. But we do know that when that little child grew up, He revealed what God was like to many people in everything He said and did. They saw God's wisdom in the way Jesus taught. They saw God's power, in the way Jesus controlled nature and healed sicknesses. They saw God's justice and mercy, in the way Jesus exposed the hidden sins of proud people, but welcomed humble sinners. And most of all, they saw how God's amazing love in Jesus' death on the cross for all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness. Yes. Here was Immanuel, God with Us, come to reveal Himself as never before.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. What was revealed? Who revealed it? God was sending His Son, Jesus into the world to save God's people and show us more of what He's like. The LORD revealed it to God's people through Daniel, as well as many other prophets.

2. What was so great about it? Before the time of Jesus, people could know God in their heart, could see His creations, could hear His words through the prophets and through the Bible; but now, with Jesus, God revealed what He is like more completely than ever before.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Our Bible Verse is: Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV 1984

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

And what about you and me? What will we do with this wonderful God who has revealed Himself most completely in His Son, Jesus? Will we act like we don't see and live for ourselves? Will we continue to live with our sins unforgiven and separated from wonderful fellowship with God, the most wonderful Person there is to know?

Or, will we see the way He is and turn to live our lives for Him? Will we turn from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior for the forgiveness of our sins?

Let's praise God for showing us what He is like so completely in Jesus. Let's ask Him to help us turn from our sins and live our lives for Him. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts right now, giving us faith to trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so wise and powerful to know, plan and perfectly bring about the Messiah, Jesus, His Son.

C God, we confess that we are all sinners who need the Messiah to save us from our sins! We need Jesus!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to save us! Thank You for Your promises in the Bible that let us see how He came and did everything exactly according to Your plan.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to remember how everything works according to Your plan in Your people's lives, just like it did with the coming of Jesus.

Special Words

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

Magi: A very serious promise made between two persons.

Babylon: An city that was east of Israel that conquered many lands and peoples and became one of the greatest empires in the world, thousands of years ago.

Messiah: The Special person God promised to send to save His people and establish His kingdom forever.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

We praise You, God, for showing us so much of what You are like through Jesus. Thank You for showing us how holy and just You are, as well as so loving and merciful to sinners.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we don't want to take time to learn more about You by learning about Jesus. We confess that even when we know more about You, as we look at Jesus, that we still do not love You or trust You as we should. We need a Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Your Son, Jesus, to come live on earth and show us what You are like.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to understand who You are better as we learn about Jesus. Work in our hearts. Help us not just know about You, but come to know You, ourselves, as we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: The Star and the Savior

Star sugar cookies made from sugar cookie dough in refrigerator section of grocery and Teddy Graham "Jesus" underneath. If desired, crumble up some Trisket and use as straw to lay baby Jesus on.

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

Case Tie-in: The Magi followed the bright, new star to Israel to worship the great king born there. They found Him and worshiped Him in Bethlehem, just where the Bible foretold He would be born. This was the beginning of the greatest revealing. God had come to live with us!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

God sent His Son, Jesus, to leave His home in heaven to be our Savior. He was born as a baby here on earth. Jesus grew up and became a man. He was fully human, like us, but He was also, still fully God.

Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. He never did anything wrong. He taught about God and He did many amazing miracles. Most amazing of all, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death, then He rose back up to heaven where He lives now.

Jesus didn't live on earth long--only about thirty years. He taught about God and did miracles only about three of those years. But in that short, little bit of time, He showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.

The Bible calls Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. That means when we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing what God is like: completely holy, powerful, loving and good. He hates sin, but He loves sinners who turn to Him for forgiveness and mercy! Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to show us what You're like!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God send Jesus to do? *To be our Savior.*
2. Where was Jesus' home? *Heaven.*
3. What did Jesus do when He left heaven? *He came to earth to be born as a baby.*
4. How was Jesus like us and how was He different? *Jesus was fully human just like us, but He was also fully God.*
5. What kind of life did Jesus live? Who did that please? *He lived a perfect life that pleased God. He never did anything wrong.*
6. What did He do that showed us about God? *He taught about God. He did amazing miracles with God's power.*
7. What was the most amazing thing that Jesus did and what did that show us? *He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead in victory on the third day.*
8. How long did Jesus live on earth? *How many years did Jesus teach? He lived here about thirty years and taught about three years.*
9. What did Jesus do in those few years? *Showed us more about God than anything else in the whole world.*
10. What does the Bible call Jesus? What does that mean? *The radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of Him. It means that Jesus is a perfect reflection of God. When we learn about Jesus and see what He is like, we are seeing exactly what God is like.*
11. What is God like? *Completely holy, powerful, loving and good.*
12. How did Jesus show what God is like in His life? *He showed His complete control over nature in the stilling of the storm; His ability to heal and forgive sins, His complete control even over life and death in His death and resurrection. He even displayed some of God's glory, itself, when He at the transfiguration.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? How did God display to the Magi that He was sending His Son, the Messiah? *The star appearing and hearing the prophecies about the Messiah.*
2. How did God show the Jewish leaders and Herod that the time had come for Him to reveal Himself through the Messiah, His Son? *The beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.*
3. When would Jesus reveal much more fully what God is like? *When He grew up and began to teach and heal, and especially, when He died on the cross for sinners and then rose from the dead in victory.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3**: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...?"

The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!

Life Application Questions

1. How can we know what God is like through Jesus today? *By reading about Jesus in the Bible. When we see what Jesus did and taught, we can know what God is like.*

2. How can we not just know about God, but actually know Him? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive us our sins and send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts that we can know God.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior.

The Gospel

1. God show His holiness and His mercy in the good news of Jesus. What is the gospel?

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

Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

Materials

Tape

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say "Green light" they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say "Red light" they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

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

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verse 1

O, for a thousand tongues to sing,
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 15

Understanding the Song

1. What does "O for a thousand tongues to sing" mean? *It means "I want to sing about this so loudly that one tongue (one voice) to praise God is not nearly enough. I wish I had the voice of 1000 tongues so I could be that loud in my praises!"*
2. What does he want to sing so loudly about? *His great Redeemer's praise.*
3. What is redeemer? *A redeemer is someone who frees someone from being a slave by buying them and setting them free.*
4. Who is the "Great Redeemer" and who did He redeem from what? *Jesus is the great Redeemer who paid the price for the sins of all His people (all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him) so that they might know God.*
5. What makes Jesus a great redeemer? *He is great because He alone was the one who could pay the price for His people's sins. He didn't just redeem one person, but so many people that the Bible calls them uncountable!*
6. What glories and triumphs would he sing about? *The amazing display of God's mercy and power on behalf of undeserving sinners and His triumph over sin and death for all His people.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Jesus is the Great Redeemer who came to earth to show us what God is like and to save His people from their sins. When we see what God has done through Jesus, we want to sing of His glorious love and mercy and grace shown to undeserving sinners.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Hebrews 1:1-3:** "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...?"
God's people wish they had a thousand tongues to sing of Jesus' praise because when they look at Him and what He's done for them, they see how great God's mercy and love towards them, even though they are sinners.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can ask God to help them remember each day what a very, very great thing Jesus did for His people when He chose to die for them on the cross. They can ask Him to be so grateful that they would truly wish to have a 1000 tongues.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the gracious God, full of mercy to sinners who don't deserve i
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we don't think about God and how merciful He has been to us sinners by sending His Son Jesus to suffer and die as the payment for sins. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for the triumph of His grace through Jesus saving His sinful people that they might get to know Him, love Him and obey Him forever.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be His dearly loved people whose desire a thousand tongues to sing His praise.

Gospel Question

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

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

Meditation Version: Hebrews 1:1-3

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

Alternate Memory Version: Hebrews 1:3

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What are forefathers? *Forefathers are our family members that lived many years—even hundreds and thousands of years—before us.*
2. How did God speak to the forefathers (especially of Israel)? *Through the prophets.*
3. Can you name some of the prophets? *Daniel, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.*
4. How did God speak through the prophets? *He gave them His words to tell the people; and, He had them write down their words in the Bible.*
5. What are "these last days"? *The time since Jesus came to earth.*
6. How has God spoken to us in these last days? *By His Son, Jesus.*
7. What is radiance? *The light and power that come out from something like the sun.*
8. What is Jesus the radiance of? What does that mean? *Jesus is the radiance of God's glory. That means that when we learn about Jesus' life and know and follow Him that He shows us the magnificent greatest of God—His great power, love, mercy, holiness, wisdom and faithfulness.*
9. What is an exact representation? *A perfect reflection of something.*
10. What is Jesus the exact representation of? *Of God's being. Jesus always perfectly reflected to people what God is like (His character, not His appearance which is invisible).*
11. How could Jesus be the exact representation of God? *Because Jesus is God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?** *The Bible tells us that when we see what Jesus is like, we are seeing what God is like. There is nothing or no one else who can show us more about God than Jesus. That's because Jesus is God!*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did God use the words of the prophets spoken in the past to tell the Magi, the Jewish leaders and King Herod, the time had come to send His Son, the Messiah? *The Magi possibly had heard of Him from the prophecies of the Raj Mag Daniel passed down. They all definitely heard about Him from the prophecies the Jewish leaders read when the Magi went to Jerusalem.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can God's people today know about God because of what they know about Jesus? *They can know that He is good and holy. That he hates sin, but has loved them, His sinful people, so much that He was willing to take the terrible punishment for their sins upon Himself so that they could be His dearly loved people forever.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for His holiness, love, powerfulness and goodness, as seen in Jesus.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus so we could see just what God is like.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That God would help us to understand more of what He is like as we learn about Jesus.

Gospel Question

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

Game: Balloon Find

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 2 large pieces of paper or poster board
 Paper, pencil, permanent marker
 Balloons, at least one per child and up to one per word of verse per team.
 2 Baskets or garbage bags
 Masking Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as there are balloons per team. Number these verse pieces in order. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar. Designate particular colors /shapes of balloons for each team. You can choose to have only one color per team (i.e., Team 1 has only blue balloons); Team 2 has only red ones) or multiple colors/shapes per team (i.e., Team 1 has orange and blue balloons, Team 2 has red and blue balloons). Roll up the pieces of paper and insert each one into each of the balloons. Write the corresponding number on the outside of the balloon with the permanent marker. Make sure to have a complete set of the verse for each team. Store each set of balloons in baskets or garbage bags until game time. Make a circle of masking tape: one larger one in the middle, where all the balloons will be released. Make two starting lines, one for each team.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
 2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Split the children into two teams and have them stand/sit in line. Tell them that all the words to the Bible verse are inside of the balloons. Let them know what color balloons their team will be looking for. Release all the balloons into the middle circle. Say the verse together as a group. Draw a number out of the bag and tell it the group. Then, at your word, let the first child in each team go find the correctly numbered balloon from the pile of balloons. They will each bring back their balloon and sit on it to pop it (or let you or someone else pop it. Remove the piece of verse and put them in a pile. Everyone one then says the verse again, the teacher pulls another number out and the next two children go to find the new number. Continue until all the numbers are found. Have each team stick their verse pieces up on their poster board, then say the verse together. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins. The first team who does, wins.

Non-competitive Option: Have the teams add each piece of verse to their poster board as it is retrieved from the balloon. At the end, have everyone say the verse together again.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

The Son Is the Radiance

The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 And the exact representation of His being,
 And the exact representation of His being.
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 The Son is the radiance, the radiance of God's glory,
 Hebrews Chapter One, verse three.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 1, Track 16

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What was Daniel's title in Babylon? What did it mean he was? *Raj Mag, the chief of the king's advisors.*
2. What is sackcloth and ashes and why did Daniel put them on? *Sackcloth is a scratchly kind of fabric and ashes are ashes from a fire. Daniel put them on as a sign of how sad he was and how much he wanted the LORD to answer his prayer.*
3. What did the angel tell Daniel would happen to the Israelites in captivity in Babylon? *They would have to stay in Babylon for seventy years before they would be released to go home.*
4. When did the angel tell Daniel that the Messiah would come? *483 years after the people of Israel rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem.*
5. What did the Magi think was the meaning of the star? *That a great king had been born and was coming to power in Israel.*
6. How could they possibly have known about the Messiah besides the star? *Through Daniel's words written down, hundreds of years earlier while he was in Babylon.*
7. Why did they go to Jerusalem? *They assumed that a king would be born in the royal palace in Jerusalem, son to the current king, King Herod.*
8. Who told them where the Messiah would be born? *The chief priests and teachers of the law read it from the Bible.*
9. Why did the Magi want to see the Messiah? *They had come to worship him, as the great king they knew he would be.*
10. Why did they bring Jesus presents? Why those particular presents? *It was proper to bring presents to a king. Gold, frankincense and myrrh are the kinds of rich presents fitting for a king.*
11. Why didn't they go back and tell Herod where Jesus was? *They were warned in a dream that Herod wanted to harm Jesus.*
12. Did the Magi understand who Jesus really was? *We don't know.*
13. How did Jesus reveal God when He grew up? *In many ways! People saw God's wisdom in the way Jesus taught. They saw God's power, in the way Jesus controlled nature and healed sicknesses. They saw God's justice and mercy, in the way Jesus exposed the hidden sins of proud people, but welcomed humble sinners. And most of all, they saw how God's amazing love in Jesus' death on the cross for all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus**? How did God display to the Magi that He was sending His Son, the Messiah? *The star appearing and hearing the prophecies about the Messiah.*
2. How did God show the Jewish leaders and Herod that the time had come for Him to reveal Himself through the Messiah, His Son? *The beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.*
3. When would Jesus reveal much more fully what God is like? *When He grew up and began to teach and heal, and especially, die and rise from the dead.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:1-3**: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son....The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."? *The Magi possibly had heard of Him from the prophecies of the Raj Mag Daniel passed down. They all definitely heard about Him from the prophecies the Jewish leaders read when the Magi went to Jerusalem.*

Life Application Questions

1. Where are there still people who do not know about Jesus? *Everywhere!*
2. How will people today see how Jesus reveals God? *By Christians going to them and telling them about Jesus and His invitation of salvation to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for His Wisdom and Power to know, plan and perfectly bring about His amazing plans to send the Messiah Jesus, hundreds of years before they were to happen.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *That we are all sinners who need the Messiah Jesus to save them We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sending Jesus to pay for the sins of all who repent and trust in His as their own Savior. We can thank Him for wanting people from every part of the world to know Him that they might be saved, too.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us want to live for Him, not for ourselves.

The Gospel

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

Game: The Answer's in the Tent

Materials

Various props, objects, costumes, or even pictures from the story, enough for one idea per child at least.

A small pup tent or blanket and chairs made into a tent

Paper and pencil/pen to write down questions

Jar or bag

Preparing the Game

1. Make a list of main characters, objects, elements from the story. For example in the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness you could have rocks, bread, blocks (like from the Temple), a globe, a red robe/shirt, etc. (for Satan), white robe for angels who came to comfort Jesus at the end, a Bible (the word of God that Jesus used to refute Satan), a picture of a desert or the sun, the number 40 (for 40 days and nights without food). The Plan-a-Play story sheet is a good source of ideas. If desired, you can write different point values--such as 5, 10, 25 points--on questions, depending upon how hard they are. Place these objects in the tent.

2. Make up questions that have these props as their answers, such as: What did Satan tempt Jesus to turn the rocks into when He was so hungry? (bread)

3. Place the questions in a jar or bag.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Tell them that in the tent are answers to the questions that you have folded up in the bag. They will take turns listening to a question and having the first person in line go into the tent and find the prop/costume piece/etc. that answers the question. If a team doesn't get the right prop, then the first person from the other team gets to go up and see if they can find it for a point.

Continue until all have had a chance to play or all questions have been answered. Tally points. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't put points on the questions. Don't split into teams, but instead sit in a circle around the tent. Have the children take turns going into the tent to retrieve the prop that fits the answer to the question.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Greatest Revealing.

Our story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Greatest Revealing."

Actions:

Scene 1:

Daniel, Raj Mag of Babylon, rubbed his body with ashes_and put on sackcloth to ask God's mercy upon the Israelites who were slaves in Babylon. He asked that the LORD would restore Jerusalem and the Temple and bring them out of captivity. The LORD answered Daniel by sending the Angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that the people will have to stay in Babylon for seventy years and then He would bring them back to Jerusalem. He would send the Messiah to Israel 483 years after they rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem. Through the prophets Micah and Isaiah, the LORD had already told them the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would be God, Himself.

Scene 2:

Seventy years pass and the Israelites return to Jerusalem and rebuild it and the Temple. Four hundred-eighty-three more years pass and it is time for the Messiah. Magi from Babylon notice a new star in the sky which they believe in the sign of a great leader who is born, King of the Jews. A group of Magi travel to Jerusalem to honor and bring rich presents to the new king. They ask Herod where is new-born King of the Jews. Herod and Jerusalem panic. The Jewish leaders tell them that the prophecies say He is to be born in Bethlehem. Herod tells the Magi to go find Him so he can worship Him, too.

Scene 3

The Magi follow the star to Bethlehem and find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him their presents. They return home without telling King Herod about Jesus because the LORD warned the Magi in a dream not to report back to him. Jesus grew up and showed us what God is like, by what He did and what He taught.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** God used a star and words He spoke through the prophets to announce to the Magi the coming of His Son, who would most completely reveal to us who God is.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Greatest Revealing.

Our story begins in Babylon, in Old Testament times, about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Raj Mag Daniel, Angel Gabriel, People of Israel,, Magi, King Herod, People of Jerusalem, Jewish leaders, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Jesus grown up

And now we present: "The Case of the Greatest Revealing."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Daniel, Raj Mag of Babylon, rubbed his body with ashes and put on sackcloth to ask God's mercy upon the Israelites who were slaves in Babylon. He asked that the LORD would restore Jerusalem and the Temple and bring them out of captivity. The LORD answered Daniel by sending the Angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that the people will have to stay in Babylon for seventy years and then He would bring them back to Jerusalem. He would send the Messiah to Israel 483 years after they rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem. Through the prophets Micah and Isaiah, the LORD had already told them the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would be God, Himself.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Seventy years pass and the Israelites return to Jerusalem and rebuild it and the Temple. Four hundred-eighty-three more years pass and it is time for the Messiah. Magi from Babylon notice a new star in the sky which they believe in the sign of a great leader who is born, King of the Jews. A group of Magi travel to Jerusalem to honor and bring rich presents to the new king. They ask Herod where is new-born King of the Jews. Herod and Jerusalem panic. The Jewish leaders tell them that the prophecies say He is to be born in Bethlehem. Herod tells the Magi to go find Him so he can worship Him, too.

Scene 3: (End)

The Magi follow the star to Bethlehem and find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him their presents. They return home without telling King Herod about Jesus because the LORD warned the Magi in a dream not to report back to him. Jesus grew up and showed us what God is like, by what He did and what He taught.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.** God used a star and words He spoke through the prophets to announce to the Magi the coming of His Son, who would most completely reveal to us who God is.

A Bright, New Star

Description

Children will make a crayon resist picture of stars with one particularly dazzling one.

Materials

White drawing paper, legal size preferred

Wax crayons of all colors

Dark Blue watercolor or tempera paint, not too thin and watery

Paint brushes

Preparing the Craft

1. Prepare dark blue paint and put in containers. This will be the sky.
2. Set out rest of supplies.

Making the Craft

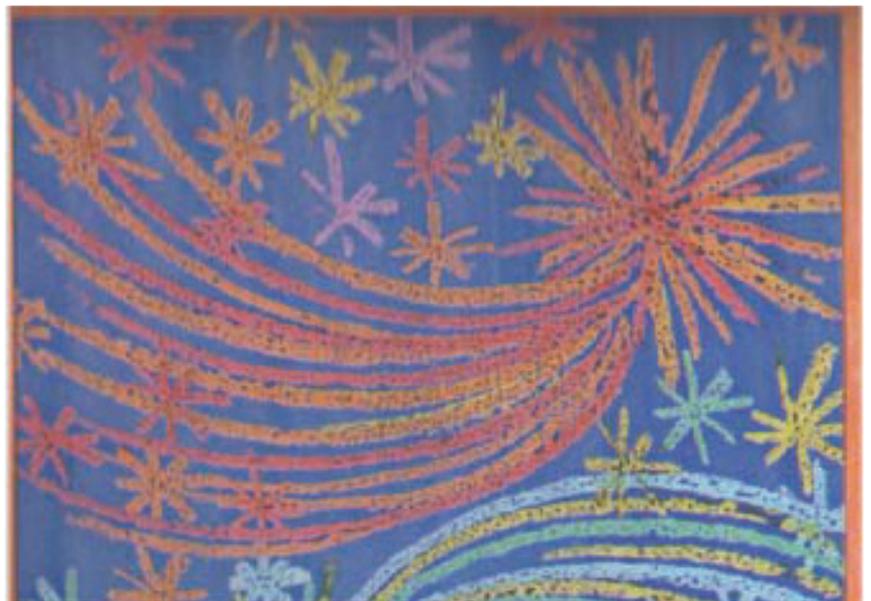
1. Show the children your sample of the craft.
2. Have the children draw a big star with lots of tail as shown in Picture #1. Have them use a couple of different colors of crayon on the same star, like yellow, orange and pink/red; or blue, yellow, green, etc. Add lots of smaller stars all over the rest of the paper. **MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILDREN PRESS FIRMLY ON CRAYONS FOR THE BEST EFFECT!**
3. When finished making stars, have them brush paint across the paper, covering their drawings. The crayon will still show through.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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



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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Who saw the star? Where were they from?

The Magi who lived in Babylon.

2. What did the star mean to them? *They felt certain that it was a sign of the birth of a great, new king.*

3. Who put the star there for the Magi to see? Who was the king He was telling them had come?

The LORD. He was telling them that the Messiah that He had told them would come, through Daniel, the Raj Maj.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus?

Magi bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him as the Messiah, the mighty king foretold by God, through Daniel the Raj Maj, Micah and Isaiah years earlier. Here at last was God's greatest revealing of Himself.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God gave the Magi a star to lead them to worship His Son when He was just a baby. How much more should we worship Jesus since we know how He chose to suffer and die for sinners.

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

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Bright, New Star.

2. In Babylon, the Magi saw a bright, new star because God was using it to lead them to Jesus, the Messiah foretold by God through Daniel, the Raj Maj.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Has Revealed Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus.

4. Magi bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him as the Messiah, the mighty king foretold by God, through Daniel the Raj Maj, Micah and Isaiah years earlier. Here at last was God's greatest revealing of Himself.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God gave the Magi a star to lead them to worship His Son when He was just a baby. How much more should we worship Jesus since we know how He chose to suffer and die for sinners.

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

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
2 Set of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Choose one child to be "The Finder" and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the Clue Card envelopes. Choose another child to be "The Hider". This child will hide the envelope somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope. The other children say "hot, cold, etc" as the child gets closer or further from the envelope to help the child find it. When the folder is found, the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be hidden.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
