

BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 10 *Songs: PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26 *Song: I Will Give You a New Heart PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5*
Extra Bible Verse Song: A New Heart Ezekiel 36:26 PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 6

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

Bible Truth 2: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

Bible Truth Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, vs.3,4 *PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13*

Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31

Bible Verse Song: Now, Lord Consider Their Threats *PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Old Gardener's Fruit and Veg...and Rapeseed

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circus Lions

Bible Truth Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, vs.3,4 *PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away PFI NIV Songs 10 BOOK or ONLINE

Bible Verse Review: Genesis 1:26-28: Discussion Sheet and Game: Puzzling Wall Ball

Bible Verse Song: Then God Said *PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice PFI NIV Songs 10 BOOK or ONLINE

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Give These to Farmer Brown

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

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

Craft: Aser's Hut

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Over, Under & Throw

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 2 **PFI NIV Prontos 10 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder adapted from Religious Stories for Young and Old, vol. IV editor Joel Beeke

Our story is called:

The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder.

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

1. Who tried to scare the gardener? What did they want to take from him?
2. What did the gardener use as gunpowder?
Who helped the gardener with the thieves and then helped the thieves?

This story does not take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1600's in England.

During those days there was an old man who lived all by himself. Everyone called him, "The Old Gardener" because it was by gardening that he made his living. All day he would tend to his plants.

But at night, the old gardener was not just an old gardener. He would go down to the barn, not with his rake and hoe in hand, but with his Bible, to do what he loved most of all: preach the Word of God. Having no where else to meet, a small group of people came to the barn many nights...and THREE TIMES on Sunday to hear the old gardener read and preach from the Bible.

The Old Gardener was an even better preacher than he was gardener. The Holy Spirit worked in his heart, giving him wisdom and boldness to preaching God's Word well. More and more people came to hear the him preach, and soon his barn was full to bursting. So, even though everyone was very poor, they decided to save enough money to build a church building big enough to fit them all. Each meeting, people would bring their little bits of money to the Old Gardener until at last they had collected enough to build their church building.

News traveled around the area about the Old Gardener's growing church and the money they were collecting to build a church building. Most people heard and were happy for the Old Gardener and his congregation. But there were three, young students--Jack, Tom and Charles-- who heard the news, and looked for a chance to steal the church's money. They came up with a trick to frighten the Old Gardener during the night, then grab the money for the church building.

One night, Jack, Tom and Charles painted their faces black and dressed themselves with some strange

clothes so no one would recognize them. At midnight they snuck up to the Old Gardener's house. Seeing the candlelight glowing in one of the rooms, the young men knew that the gardener had still not gone to sleep. Now was their chance!

The three young men threw the door to the house open very roughly and noisily entered the big hallway. In a corner stood a big table and upon it a bag partly opened and filled with a sort of black kernels. Some of those black kernels had split out and were lying on the floor. On the wall hung a hunting gun.

The old man, who by the light of his candle, was reading the Bible, turned around in surprise when he heard the noise behind his back. Jack, the leader of the three rascals, called to him with a loud voice, "I am the devil!" Thinking he could scare the old man.

Those words might have scared many men that dark night, but the Old Gardener was not just any man. Here was a man who loved God, who read His word and had the Holy Spirit at work in his heart. He knew enough of the Bible to know these were bad men, not the devil. Would the Holy Spirit give him courage to face these men? Yes, He would! The Holy Spirit was working in the Old Gardener's heart to give him courage to face these bad men without fear.

The old man moved his glasses down his nose a little and looking over them, he said, "No, you are not the devil, I see that; but you are a friend of him." This was not at all the response they expected!

The two other young men thought it was their time now to say something too, and they shouted, "We have come to take the money which you folks have saved to build a little church!"

Now the eyes of the gardener began to gleam with

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.

courage. With a strong voice he answered, "If the Lord shall be my Shield and Help (and that He is), what shall man do to me? That money does not belong to me, it belongs to the Lord. Never will I give it to you. If you dare, you will have to take it by force!"

When he spoke those words, an idea came to mind. With a quick move of his hands he took the burning candle and set it in the midst of the black kernels on the floor. The three students did not expect the old gardener to put up such a fight. He seemed like just an old gardener to them before. Now they saw that he had a courage they had never expected. They hadn't known what boldness the Holy Spirit could bring to the hearts of God's people's!

Tom followed the move of the gardener, in a moment he turned pale with fright. With a trembling voice he cried, "Boys, that black stuff is gunpowder!" Soon it will explode and we all will fly up in the air!"

The three boys were terribly frightened and wanted to run away, but the old man called to them and said, "Halt! Fall down on your knees, or...I'll..." when he spoke those words, he shook the candle to and fro through the black kernels.

The rascals threw themselves down on their knees, and Jack, pleaded, "Sir, please be careful and take the candle away from that gunpowder. If one spark falls, we are perhaps all dead. I ask you for forgiveness. We have done a great evil to trouble you this night as we have. We will gladly make it good by giving you a large amount of money for the building of your new church."

"We will, too," the other two boys said with trembling voices.

The Holy Spirit had given the Old Gardener courage to stand up to these young men, but now He gave him courage to speak to them about Jesus: "Bad men run away in fear as if they will be harmed, even when there is no one seeking to harm them," the Old Gardener told them. "Your money will I accept, but before you get up off your knees, there is something I must tell you about what happens to rebellious people who do not change their ways," he told them.

The old gardener opened his Bible and read it to the young men. Looking at them earnestly he told them about the holiness of God, the eternal punishment that

we all deserve for our sins against Him and about the gift of salvation to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

"Boys, we all need God's mercy through Jesus. Without it there is no hope for any of us. Come, let us sing a song of praise to Him for all that. Here, have this little hymn book."

He told them what verse to sing, and with a loud voice the Old Gardener started to sing. To his delight, the three students joined him with trembling voices.

When the hymn ended, the Old Gardener picked up the money which the boys had laid down on the table, Ashamed and puzzled, Jack, Tom and Charles ran off to their homes as quickly as possible.

After about five months, the little church building was finished. All of the church gathered in its own little building for its very first meeting. And who of all people should have sneaked in among them but Jack, Tom, and Charles, the three burglars.

When the old gardener's sermon came to an end, he thanked all the people who gave the money to build the church. Then he added, "A big amount of the money for this church building came from three young men who one night came to scare me and take the money one night. They, however, made a great mistake when looking upon a heap of black kernels of rapeseed, believing it was a dangerous heap of gunpowder," he told the congregation. "I didn't show them their mistake, but accepted the money they offered me for the trouble they caused me that night."

The three young men were again ashamed and puzzled. The whole time it had never been gunpowder, only seeds!

Because of these three young men, the church became known as "The Little Rapeseed Church. They had come to do harm, but the Lord used their sinful plan to tell them about the good news of salvation through Jesus. These young men praised God for His goodness to them; and they, too, became Christians and regular members of the The Little Rapeseed Church.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who tried to scare the gardener? What did they want to take from him?

Some boys tried to scare the gardener and take the money for the church building.

2. What did the gardener use as gunpowder? Who helped the gardener with the thieves and then helped the thieves? Rapeseed that looked like

gunpowder in the darkness. The Holy Spirit living in the gardener's heart gave him courage to face the thieves and to encourage them towards the Lord. The Holy Spirit later worked in the boys' hearts. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

Our Bible Verse is: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Our Bible Verse reminds us of how the Holy Spirit made Jesus' first disciples brave to speak God's Word, even when other threatened to hurt or arrest them. Our story shows us that in just the same way, the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of the Old Gardener to make him brave to face the three burglars and even speak God's Word to them.

And what about you and me? If we turn from our sins and believe in Jesus, will the Holy Spirit live in our hearts? Will He give us courage to boldly stand and be strong for Jesus? Will He give us courage to tell others about Jesus, no matter what? Yes, He will! Let's praise God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to make them brave to do His will, no matter what!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Holy Spirit to Your people, to make them courageous to tell others about Jesus.

C God, we confess that many times, like the young men, we are greedy for money and other things that others have that we want. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to live inside Your people. Thank You that He works in them and changes them into the people You wants them to be. He could even change people like those young men! He can even change us!

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Make us courageous to live and speak and even suffer for You.

Special Words:

Rapeseed: A plant with a bright, yellow flower. It is mainly grown for it's seed, which is turned into oil, such as Canola oil.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being the Giver of Courage to Your People through the Holy Spirit.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that many times we fear instead of trusting You to give us courage by the Holy Spirit. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving Your people the Holy Spirit to give them courage to do everything You call them to do.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts that we might live courageously for You. Help us to boldly do everything You want us to do, no matter how hard it is.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: The Old Gardener's Fruit and Veg...and Rapeseed

Any fruits and vegetables, to remind them of the Old Gardener; a few chocolate chips to stand as the black rapeseed.

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

Case Tie-in: The preacher in the Little Rapeseed Church may have been only a gardener, but the Holy Spirit worked in him and made him bold. He boldly preached the good news of Jesus and he boldly stood up to thieves to protect the money for the new, little church building.

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.

The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage

God gives His people many good things to enjoy, but He also calls them to do difficult things. God does not expect His people to do these things on their own. He gives them His Holy Spirit, to live inside of them and help them do everything He calls them to do.

God's Holy Spirit helps God's people do things they would never have the courage to do on their own. He gives them the courage to tell others the good news of salvation. He gives them the courage to obey Him, even when they are tempted not to. He gives them courage to keep trusting in God and to joyfully endure any hard things God may have them go through. He even gives them courage to boldly face their enemies who want to hurt or kill them.

Not only does God's Holy Spirit give them the courage to do whatever God calls them to, but He also reminds them of God's promises to use everything that happens to them for their good and God's glory. And, He reminds them that one day God will bring them home to live with Him in heaven, where there will be only joy and happiness in God's presence forever.

God's Holy Spirit can give us courage to live for God, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What kinds of things does God give His people? *Many good things.*
2. What does God call His people to do? *He calls them to do many things, even very difficult things.*
3. What did God promise to do to help His people? *He promised to send them the Holy Spirit to live in them and to help them.*
4. Who does the Holy Spirit live in? *He lives in every believer.*
5. What does the Holy Spirit help believers do? *Everything He calls them to do, even very difficult things that they would never have the courage to do on their own.*
6. What does the Holy Spirit give God's people the courage to do when they go through hard things? *To keep trusting in God and joyfully endure the hard things.*
7. What does the Holy Spirit give God's people the courage to do when they face enemies who want to hurt or even kill them? *To boldly face them.*
8. What are some of God's promises that the Holy Spirit encourages believers with? *That God will use everything that happens to them for their good and His glory. That one day God will bring them home to live with Him forever.*
9. Can God's Holy Spirit give us courage to live for God, too? How? *Yes! When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Acts 4:29,31**: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." *God delights to answer His people when they pray for boldness to live and speak for Him. He answers these prayers by filling them with His Holy Spirit. He is the one who gives God's people boldness.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. How did the Old Gardener suffer because he was a believer in Jesus? *He was given threatened by the young burglars.*
2. How did the Holy Spirit help the Old Gardener? *He gave him courage to stand up to the young men and to tell them the good news of Jesus.*

Life Application Questions

1. Can the Holy Spirit live inside us, giving us courage? *Yes, when we turn away from disobeying God and trust in Him as our own Savior. God will send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He will give us courage to live and to speak for Him.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Giver of Courage through the Holy Spirit.

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

Confess ways that we fear instead of trusting Him to give us courage.

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

Thank God for giving His people the Holy Spirit so they do not ever need to be afraid.

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. We can ask God to fill us with His Spirit so we will bravely tell others about Him.

The Gospel

1. God gives the Holy Spirit to His people. How can we become God's people? 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: Circus Lions

Materials

Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.

Hula hoop, etc.

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Tell the children that they are circus lions. Have them get on all four and roar and roam like lions. Have them “jump” through a hula hoop, etc. Then tell them they are getting very, very sleepy and must lie down....on their backs... in their den. Tell them that sleeping lions lie very still, make no noise, and keep their eyes open! Tell them that you are the Lion Trainer and are trying to wake up the Sleeping, Lazy Lions to perform in the circus. Any lion that makes a move, a sound or smiles will have to get up! Put on your funny wig, glasses, hat, etc. and make your rounds, trying to catch the lions moving, making noise or to make them smile. Lions who are caught are asked to answer a question correctly as their circus trick to before they can go back to their den. Have one of the lions caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don't get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the Lion Trainer.

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

Non-competitive Option

Let all the caught lions join back into the circus, even if the class answers a question incorrectly. Put the question back in the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Verse 3

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear for God has willed,
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, For lo' his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 12,13

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them abideth,
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through Him who with us sideth,
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Understanding the Song

1. What is a mighty fortress? *A very strong building (fort) or even a town, built to keep you safe when enemies attack.*
2. Who is the mighty fortress of believers? *The LORD is. He is always strong enough to help them and protect them.*
3. What are devils and what does it mean that this world is filled with them? What do they threaten to undo? *Devils-- or demons--refer to Satan and the other angels who long ago, in the beginning, rebelled against God. Satan also tempted Adam and Eve, the first people, to rebel against God, too. Since then, he and his demons have continued to try to bring harm to God's world and His good plans.*
4. Who does Satan threaten to undo? What does that mean? *God's good plans for this world, especially for God's people. It means Satan would love to keep God's people from loving God and living for Him.*
5. Why can Satan only threaten to undo God's good plans and God's people? *God is far mightier than Satan. Satan will only be able to act within the bounds set by God, in His mercy and wisdom. While there are parts of God's wisdom about what He allows Satan to do, we KNOW for sure, that God promises to only use all things His people go through for their good and His glory. Satan can never undo this!*
6. Why do God's people not have to fear? What has God willed? *God, His Word and His good plans will always win out. God's truth will always triumph. He will always help His people to keep on believing and living for Him.*
7. Who is the Prince of Darkness? *Satan. This is a nickname that points to his love of sin (Darkness). And, that he has only a limited rule (Prince) here in this broken world of ours, for now. He will continue to have this power until Jesus comes back and puts a final end to him. Then Jesus, called the Prince of Peace, will reign forever.*
8. What is Satan's certain end? *He will be completely defeated and put away, once and for all. Jesus already defeated him when He died on the cross and rose from the dead.*
9. What is the one little word that will "fell" him (put an end to Satan's attempts to lead God's people away from God)? *Martin Luther wrote that the word "liar" was the one word. That's because every day he had to remind himself that Satan was a liar and that God's Word and God's promises were always true. Satan wants us to believe his lies so we will doubt and rebel against God. We can remind ourselves to believe God, not Satan.*
10. What does God give His people to fight against Satan's schemes and lies? *His Word, the Bible; His Holy Spirit and the gifts He gives to each of God's people that work together to encourage us to love and live for God.*
11. Why do God's people have these wonderful gifts? *God has given the Holy Spirit and the other gifts because of what Jesus has done for them on the cross.*
12. What are goods and this mortal life? *Goods are a word meaning all the things we have. Mortal life means our life.*
13. What does abide mean? What abides, even if we die? *Abide means to continue. God's truth continues to be true and will be completely fulfilled, even if we die*
14. What truth is especially comforting for God's people to remember, even when they die? *God's promises that He has beaten sin and death through Jesus. His promises to take them to live with Him in His kingdom--heaven--forever.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage**? *We do not have to look very far to see signs that God's good world and good ways are challenged by a powerful enemy called Satan. He and other angels rebelled against God long ago. No wonder his nickname is the "Prince of Darkness" and these rebel angels are called demons! They love to oppose God. These enemies also want to cause trouble for God's people. This may sound very scary. No one wants to have powerful enemies like these. But the good news is that they are not even close to a match for God. He is so much more powerful than they are. He will always win over any of their wicked plans. And thanks to Jesus, God gives His people powerful gifts to fight these enemies, too. He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to make them bold. They will never have to fight alone! The Holy Spirit working inside them helps them to stand up to Satan's lies and keep on believing and living for God.*

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Old Gardener was willing to stand up to the young thieves. He believed that they and their evil plans were no match for the Lord. He was even willing to let go of his life and them kill him before he would give up the money for the church. And God's truth did prevail! Not only did the young men not take the money, but the Lord used the situation to work in their hearts and save them.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Acts 4:29,31**: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."?

God's people know that while they may face strong enemies who threaten to harm them or try to spoil God's plans, that they need not fear. They may not be strong enough on their own, but they know that God is their mighty fortress. He gives them the Holy Spirit to give them courage and help them keep on doing what God wants them to do. All they need do is ask. God delights to answer His people's prayers to give them strength! He is always able to give them everything they need. His truth will always win the victory!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the Giver of Your Spirit and other gifts to help Your people keep on believing and living for You. Praise God for always being stronger than Satan. He is always able to win!*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we do fear instead of trust that God can always beat Satan's evil plans. We want to depend on ourselves, not God. We don't think His Spirit will be enough. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit to change our hearts!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *That God really is always stronger than our greatest enemy! Through Jesus, God has already defeated 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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to come and live in our hearts, helping us not to fear, but to trust God to take care of us, no matter what we go through.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We can ask God to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to help us not to fear, but for Him to give us His Spirit and His gifts to help us love Him and keep on living for Him. We can remember that if we are God's people, then even if we lose all of our goods or even our life, that we will go to be with Him in His kingdom forever. That will be best of all.*

Gospel Question

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

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

Meditation Version: Acts 4:29,31

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness...After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Alternate Memory Version: Acts 4: 29,31

"After they prayed...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who was threatening whom? *The Jewish leaders were threatening the believers in Jesus.*
2. What did the Jewish leaders not want them to do? *To tell others about Jesus.*
3. What did the disciples ask God to give them because of the Jewish leaders' threats?
Courage to tell about Jesus boldly.
4. Why didn't the believers ask to be rescued from danger? *Because the Holy Spirit gave them courage to trust God with their safety and to help them care more about sharing about Jesus than even their lives.*
5. How did God answer the believers' prayers? *Filled them with the Holy Spirit and shook the room.*
6. Do rooms always shake when God sends His Holy Spirit to His people? *No. This was a special sign of encouragement to those first believers in Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside God's people today, even without the room being shaken.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage?**
God delights to answer His people when they pray for boldness to live and speak for Him. He answers these prayers by filling them with His Holy Spirit. He is the one who gives God's people boldness.

Story Connection Question

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *The Holy Spirit worked inside the Old Gardener, giving him bold actions and helping him to boldly preach the word of God to the burglars.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who will God give His Holy Spirit to today?
All His people; all those who turn from their sins and trust in Christ and live for Him.
2. What sorts of things do Christians today need the Holy Spirit to give them courage to do?
Same as with these believers, the courage to stand up and tell about Jesus, no matter what.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse?
Praise God for being the Hearer and Answerer of His People's prayers.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?
That many times we do not want to pray for boldness to speak and act for God. Instead, we want Him to protect us from hard and scary things like this. We forget all that God has done for His people through Jesus! We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?
We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to give His people courage. They do not have to have enough courage on their own to do what He wants them to do. No! He will give it to them, through the Holy Spirit!
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. We can ask Him to give us His Holy Spirit and make us those who courageously speak and act for the glory of His name.

The Gospel

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

Game: Bowling Ball Verse

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
10 Plastic bowling pins or empty 2-Liter soda bottles
Playground or foam ball

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Divide the children into two teams. Have everyone say the verse together. Explain to the children that they will take turns trying to knock down bowling pins. The bowler then will recite the verse. If he can do it alone, he gets as many points for his team and pins he knocked down. If he asks for the help of another team member, then their recitation of the verse is worth half the points. If they cannot recite it, someone from the other team can try for the half point value. If a child does not knock over any pins, he can still say the verse for 1 point. The team with the most points at end of play wins.

Game continues until all children get a chance to bowl, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Give the group a target number of points to make. Challenge the children to see how few turns it will take to reach the target number of points. Let the children take turns bowling and knocking down pins. You can have them say the verse individually, with a partner, or with the whole group. Tally the number of points on a piece of paper. Continue until target number is reached. Repeat, seeing if they can do it in less turns the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Now, Lord Consider Their Threats

Now, Lord, consider their threats,
 Enable your servants to speak Your word,
 Now, Lord, consider their threats,
 Enable your servants to speak Your word,
 With great boldness,
 With great boldness.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 14

After they prayed,
 The place where they're meeting was shaken,
 And they were all filled,
 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
 And they spoke boldly,
 And they spoke boldly,
 And they were all filled,
 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice**Materials**

Song
 Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What two jobs did the old man in the story have? *He was a gardener and a preacher.*

2. Where did the church first meet? *In the Old Gardener's barn.*

3. Why did the church need to move from the barn?

So many people were coming to hear the Old Gardener preach that they couldn't all fit in the barn anymore.

4. How much money did the people give to the Old Gardener to save up for the building?

People gave the little bits that they could give. They were all very poor.

5. Who kept their money? *The Old Gardener.*

6. What did the young men do to scare the Old Gardener?

They snuck into his house at night dressed up in costumes and told he they were the devil.

7. What did the young men want? *They wanted to steal the money raised for the new church.*

8. What did the Holy Spirit give the Old Gardener courage to do?

To stand up to the young men and tell them that they would not get the money from him.

9. What did the Holy Spirit give the Old Gardener courage to say?

To tell them the good news of Jesus and tell them; and, to use the rapeseed to protect the money.

10. What did the young men think the black kernels were? *Gunpowder.*

11. What were the black kernels really? *Rapeseed.*

12. What did the young men do after the night after the Old Gardener's house? *They raised much of the money needed to build the church.*

13. What did the young men do when the new church was built?

They came to the first service in the new church. They became Christians and joined the little church. They praised God for using what happened at the Old Gardener's house to bring them to know Him.

14. How did the church get the name, "The Little Rapeseed Church"? *Named after the seeds the Old Gardener used to trick the young men who tried to steal the church's money, but then gave so much money to help pay for the church.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *The Holy Spirit gave the Old Gardener the courage to stand up against his enemies and to tell them the good news of Jesus.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: Acts 4: 29,31: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness....After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."?

The Holy Spirit worked inside the Old Gardener, giving him bold actions and helping him to boldly preach the word of God to the burglars.

Life Application Questions

1. Who will God give His Holy Spirit to today?

All His people; all those who turn from their sins, trust in Christ and live for Him.

2. What sorts of things do Christians today need the Holy Spirit to give them courage to do?

Same as with these believers, the courage to tell others about Jesus and live for Him.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit to His people, to make them courageous to tell others about Him.

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

Confess that many times, like the young men, we are greedy for money and other things that others have that we want. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?

We can thank God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to change them into the people He wants them to be. He can even change people like those young men! He can even change us!

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, making us courageous to live and to speak and even to suffer for Him.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that the Old Gardener shared with the young men? What is the gospel? What is this message of good news, we call 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: Egg Toss

Materials

3-5 Plastic Open-able Easter Egg of the same colors (that close well!) or balls of crumpled foil of the same size
Small piece of construction paper
Paper and Marker
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Put a small piece of construction paper in one of the eggs (or in one piece of crumpled foil, if using foil). The other eggs/foil balls remain empty.

Playing the Game

Have the children spread out randomly (or in a circle) at about arms' distance apart.. Have the children begin to toss an egg around between each other. When the leader says, "Freeze," the child with the egg opens it and reads the question to the group. If question is correctly answered, the egg is permanently retired. If the question is incorrectly answered, the egg goes back into the pile. The teacher (or the child who opened the egg) chooses another egg and play continues.

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.

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 Gardener and the Gunpowder.

Our story takes place in the 1600's in England.

And now we present: "The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder."

Scene 1:

The Old Gardener was a gardener by day and a preacher in a barn in the evening. More and more people came to his church to hear him preach. Soon, there were so many people that they couldn't fit into the barn. They decided to save up money for a proper church building and give the Old Gardener the money to keep until they have enough.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Three students hear about the money for the church. They come to scare the old man and steal the money. They dress up like what they think the devil looks like and sneak up to his house. They try to scare him, but the Old Gardener was not scared. The Holy Spirit gave him courage. The Old Gardener quickly comes up with a plan to scare them into thinking he is about to blow them up with gunpowder. The three young men offer to give lots of money to help build the church building, if he will not blow them up. The Holy Spirit then gives the Old Gardener courage to tell them about Jesus. He tells them to sit down and listen to him. The young men listen to the gospel, sing a hymn with him and run away.

Scene 3:

The little church gets built. And who comes to the first service in the new building, but three young men who tried to steal the church's money! During the service they learn that it was not gunpowder, but rapeseed, the Old Gardener had used to scare them. The young men praise God for using that night to tell them about Jesus. They become Christians and members of the "Little Rapeseed Church" as it became known as.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage.** The Holy Spirit gave the Old Gardener courage to stand strong no matter what for Jesus when the three young men came to take the money. He also gave the Old Gardener courage to tell them about Jesus.

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 Gardener and the Gunpowder.

Our story takes place in the 1600's in England.

The characters in our story are: the Old Gardener; the people gathering at the church; and the three students.

And now we present: "The Case of the Gardener and the Gunpowder."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Old Gardener was a gardener by day and a preacher in a barn in the evening. More and more people came to his church to hear him preach. Soon, there were so many people that they couldn't fit into the barn. They decided to save up money for a proper church building and give the Old Gardener the money to keep until they have enough.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Three students hear about the money for the church. They come to scare the old man and steal the money. They dress up like what they think the devil looks like and sneak up to his house. They try to scare him, but the Old Gardener was not scared. The Holy Spirit gave him courage. The Old Gardener quickly comes up with a plan to scare them into thinking he is about to blow them up with gunpowder. The three young men offer to give lots of money to help build the church building, if he will not blow them up. The Holy Spirit then gives the Old Gardener courage to tell them about Jesus. He tells them to sit down and listen to him. The young men listen to the gospel, sing a hymn with him and run away.

Scene 3: (End)

The little church gets built. And who comes to the first service in the new building, but three young men who tried to steal the church's money! During the service they learn that it was not gunpowder, but rapeseed, the Old Gardener had used to scare them. The young men praise God for using that night to tell them about Jesus. They become Christians and members of the "Little Rapeseed Church" as it became known as.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage.** The Holy Spirit gave the Old Gardener courage to stand strong no matter what for Jesus when the three young men came to take the money. He also gave the Old Gardener courage to tell them about Jesus.

A Candle and a Pile of Rapeseed

Description

The children will use craft sand and seeds to make the picture of the candle and pile of rapeseed.

Materials

Various colors of craft sand OR Coloring supplies (markers, crayons, etc.)

Craft glue

Tape

1 copy per child of candle

Black seeds or beans, such as sunflower seeds or black beans

Burlap

1 Paper plate per child, plus one extra

1 wooden skewer or long popsicle stick per child

Packing tape or Glue gun and glue stick

Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy onto card stock of the candle.
2. Cut out candle shape and tape kebab stick to back. This will make a good handle for the children to hold their candle as they add the sand to it.
3. Cut out a paper plate in half. This will be the pattern for the burlap, then cut out 1 burlap piece per child.
4. Set out the sand, glue and seeds
5. Make a copy of the craft for children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Glue a section of the candle and sprinkle the desired color of sand over the glue.
2. Tilt paper and allow excess sand to slide back into the container for that particular color of sand.
3. Choose another section to glue and color. Continue until candle is complete.
(OR, the children can use the coloring supplies to color in the candle instead of using sand).
4. Glue down the burlap piece onto the paper plate, then add black seeds coming out of it.
5. Remove the kebab stick from the back of candle and glue down the candle.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. What did the Old Gardener have at his house that the burglars wanted? *The money saved up for the new church building.*
2. What did the Old Gardener do to stand up to the three men? *He used a candle and a pile of rapeseed to fool the burglars into thinking he was going to blow them up with gunpowder.*
3. How helped the Old Gardener have courage to do this? What else did this Person give the Old Gardener the courage to do that night?
The Holy Spirit. He also gave him the courage to tell the three men to sit down and hear the gospel.
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage?
An old man is no match for three young men, but the Holy Spirit gave the Old Gardener courage to trust God to take care of him, the money, and to even speak about Jesus to them.
6. What can our craft help us remember?
The Holy Spirit living inside His People is very, very powerful! He gives them do mighty things for God.

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

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Candle and a Pile of Rapeseed
2. In the Old Gardener's dark, little house, gave the Old Gardener courage to stand up to three, young burglars with a candle and a pile of rapeseed to protect the money needed to build the new church and to tell the burglars the good news of Jesus.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Courage.
4. An old man is no match for three young men, but the Holy Spirit gave the Old Gardener courage to trust God to take care of him, the money, and to even speak about Jesus to them.
5. Our craft can help us remember that the Holy Spirit living inside His People is very, very powerful! He gives them do mighty things for God.

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.

Candle



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 the 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: Over, Under and Throw

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

Box or basket big enough for the envelopes to fit in and the ball to land in.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
5. Place the envelopes in the basket, a good shooting distance from where the child at the head of the line will stand.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Have the children line up, all facing forward. Give the ball to the last child in line. At your signal, have them pass the ball to the next child with an overhead pass; then that child passes the ball through the legs of the next child, etc. until the ball reaches the first child. The first child in line then tries to make a basket. If he succeeds, he gets to go up and pick out an envelope to open. the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back with the Clue Cards in the basket. Game continues until all the envelopes have been retired or as time or attention span allows.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
