

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

Big Question Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 5*

Extra Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, ESV Song: A New Heart PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 6

Extra Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, ESV Song: Within You PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 7

Extra Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:25-27, ESV Song: You Shall Be Clean PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 8

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

Bible Truth 4: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Bible Truth Hymn: The Church's One Foundation, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 25*

Extra Song: God's One Big Plan PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 26

Bible Verse: Acts 9:31

Bible Verse Song: The Church Was Strengthened *PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 27*

Extra Bible Verse Song: Behold, A Great Multitude Revelation 7:9-10 PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 28

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Big, Brickless Building *Genesis 1-3,9; Ephesians 1; Revelation 7, 19*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: From Every Tribe and Nation

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

Bible Truth Hymn: The Church's One Foundation, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 25*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 10 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Acts 9:31 Discussion Sheet and Game: Cross the Raging River

Bible Verse Song: The Church Was Strengthened *PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 27*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 10 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Go Fish

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: People from Every Tribe, Nation and Language

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Hit the Wall

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 10 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Big, Brickless Building *Genesis 1-3,9; Ephesians 1; Revelation 7, 19* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Big, Brickless Building.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who planned the Brickless, Big Building? When did He plan it?
2. What did He make His building out of? How big is it to be?

This story starts out before the beginning of time.

From before the beginning, God has been a builder with a grand plan. He planned to build something that to Him, was lovelier than the loveliest sunset, more precious than all the rubies and diamonds, more beautiful-sounding than the most melodious bird song, and more colorful than all the colors of creation. What was He planning to build? His Church! Yes, His Church!

Now this was no brick building, as you might be thinking. God's Church is actually made up of people! The Church is the name that Jesus used to stand for all of God's people. Yes, the Church is God's people from every time, every place, every nation, every language, every kind of person, with hearts full of love for Him and mouths full of His praise. And before the beginning, God planned to build His Church so that one day they would all live with Him and enjoy Him forever.

From the first days of creation, God did things to build His Church. God is spirit. If people were to know God, they would have to have a spirit, too. So when God created people, He created them with a spirit inside their bodies so that they could know and love Him. God was building His Church from people of every nation and language, people who would worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Then came another part of God's plan to build His Church: "Be fruitful and fill the earth," He commanded Adam and Eve. Later He told Noah and his family to do the same thing after the flood. If His Church were to be made of people from every part of the world as He planned, then they would need to spread out to the ends of the earth.

Some made ships and sailed to far away islands; some climbed tall mountains and made their homes near snowy peaks; others settled in thick jungles and forests. The peoples God created were filling the earth.

After awhile, people lived in about every part of the

world there is to live, just as God planned. One day, His beautiful Church would include people with every skin color, every language, every nation, and they would all lift up their praises to God.

But the people of the world, even though they had spread out far and wide into tribes and nations, did not look very much like the beautiful building of God's Church. You see, from the very first, starting with Adam and Eve, all people have rebelled against God. They turned away from Him and made their own idols. People who lived on islands worshiped gods of the sea and sky. People who lived in the mountains worshiped gods of the mountains. People who lived in the jungles and forests made gods of the trees and animals. There was little beautiful about these people now! Their--and our--hearts were ugly, broken and well, dead to God, because of sin. Every one of us deserve to be shut out from God's presence and never ever know Him. Could God make a beautiful Church out of people like these? Did sin ruin His plans?

No, it did not! From even before the beginning, God knew that all people would rebel against Him. So right then, even before the beginning, God planned to make His Church, His people, beautiful Himself, through His Son, Jesus. He would send Jesus, the very Son of God, to come to earth as a man. He would live a perfect life. One that was perfectly beautiful to God because there was no sin in anything Jesus thought or did or said. God planned that Jesus would offer up His perfect life on the cross as the perfect offering for the sins of all God's people--all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior, Through Jesus, God would forgive all of His people's ugly sin. He would fill

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.

their hearts with the Holy Spirit, making them beautiful and clean. Yes, it would be because of Jesus that God's people, the Church that God was building would be beautiful.

And that was just what God did! At just the right time, Jesus came and saved His people as He suffered and died on the cross. Then He rose in victory over sin and death. Now it was time for the next part of God's plan to build His Church.

"Go into every part of the world, making disciples of all people," Jesus told His followers. It was time to begin to bring the good news of salvation to the world so that God's Church would be from every people, just as He had planned.

How could eleven little men--those first disciples of Jesus-- do such a big, God-sized job by themselves? Well, they couldn't—and God never planned them to. God's Holy Spirit would do the building as He worked in the hearts of God's people.

"I will send the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to speak," Jesus told them. "I will teach you everything you need to know." The disciples remembered how Jesus had told them that the new life of forgiveness of sins and faith in Jesus comes through the Spirit. They trusted that the Holy Spirit would work as they obeyed Jesus' command to tell others the good news of salvation.

So the disciples went further and further away from their home, telling everyone who would listen the good news of salvation through Jesus. As they spoke, the Holy Spirit worked in hearts, just as Jesus had promised. He stirred the hearts of many to see that they were sinners and deserved God's punishment. He helped them turn away from their sins and gave them faith to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. One person at a time, the Holy Spirit changed ugly, broken, sinful hearts of rebellious sinners into the beautiful, Spirit-filled, God-loving hearts of God's people. God's Church was being built.

Dozens, hundreds, thousands, were saved by God, by Holy Spirit working in hearts as the disciples spoke. These new believers joined the first disciples in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus. Further and further away God's people traveled. They

went out into all the world. And as they went, the Holy Spirit worked. God was building His Church from people of every nation and language.

Some got in ships and sailed to far away islands. They urged people to turn away from their sea and sky gods and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. Others climbed over tall mountains and went to tell those who made their homes on snowy peaks. They urged them to tur

n away from their mountain gods...and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. Still others made their way through thick jungles and forests and shared the gospel with the people who lived there. They told them to stop worshiping their gods of trees and animals and turn to follow Jesus...and some did. This is how the Holy Spirit has been building God's beautiful Church, all according to His plan, from before the beginning.

On and on, for thousands of years now, Jesus' followers have kept going into all the world, telling people throughout the world about Jesus. On and on for thousands of years now the Holy Spirit has worked in the hearts of those people, building God's Church.

But one day, God will be finished building His Church. When will that be? When the good news of Jesus has been spread to every nation and every language--to every people on earth. Then Jesus will return to gather all God's people--all God's Church-- before the throne of God and together they will sing the most wonderful praises to God.

What will it look like? God gave John, one of Jesus' first disciples, a little glimpse of it: "I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.' (Revelation 7:9-10)

And what will it sound like? John tells us that there will be so many people in God's Church that the sound of their voices will be like the roar of rushing waters and like loud claps of thunder as they praise God saying: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who planned the Brickless, Big Building? When did He plan it? God is the planner. He planned it even before He created the world.

2. What did He make His building out of? How big is it to be? People. Only God knows. But it is so big that it is made up of more people than we can count.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church

Our Bible Verse is: Acts 9:31

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

It will be a magnificent thing to see this Church that God built through the Holy Spirit. And you and me, can we be a part of this most beautiful of buildings, God's Church? Yes, we can! The offer of salvation is for us, too. God promises to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. He will send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He will make our hearts beautiful and new, changed and forgiven of our sins. And we will become a part of His Church, too. Then on one marvelous day, we will get to stand among all of God's people, who will praise and enjoy God forever. What a day that will be!

But you know, God's people don't have to wait for that day to enjoy praise God with His people. Even right here on earth, each time believers gather together to worship God, it's a little picture of that great day. It's a tiny taste of that wonderful worship God's people will have when all the people of God gather together in heaven before their amazing, marvelous God.

Let's praise God sending His Holy Spirit to build His Church and ask Him to work in our hearts. Let's ask Him to help us turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and make us part of His Church, God's people.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Great Builder of the Church, Your people.

C God, we confess that like all people, we have chosen to rebel against You. Our hearts, like everyone else, are ugly and broken with sin. We cannot worship You, the one, true God as You created us to, unless You work in our hearts. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit to work inside of us!

T God, we thank You for choosing to make Your people into the beautiful Church. Thank You for sending Jesus to save Your people and for sending Your Holy Spirit to live inside them, encouraging them.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins, trust Jesus as our own Savior, and be Your people. Send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might know and love You. Keep strengthening Your people to go out and tell all peoples about You that many more might be saved.

Special Words

Church: The Bible word for God's people.

Multitude: A very large amount of something.

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 Builder of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are all sinners who need You to give us faith to believe in Jesus. We need Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for calling people from every tribe, nation, and language to be Your people, the Church.

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 know and love You. and love Him. Build Your Church, in us and in people, all over the world!

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: From Every Tribe and Nation

Different kinds of Teddy Grahams to represent all the different peoples in God's Church

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

Case Tie-in: From before He created the world, God planned to love and save a people for Himself. A people from every people group and language in the world. And He would save them all through Jesus.

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 Builds God's Church

Many people think that a church is a building, but it's not. Church is the name for all of God's people.

God's Church is built by the Holy Spirit, one person at a time. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people, giving them the gift of faith as they hear God's Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps them believe God's Word, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God has always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people, the Church. The Bible tells us that the Church will be made up of people from every single people group and language in the world.

Every week, groups of God's people meet together to worship God in gatherings all over the world. This is what we call going to church. But in heaven, the whole Church--all of God's people, from everywhere and every time--will gather together to worship God forever. What a gathering that will be! The Bible tells us that it will be so many people that we won't even be able to count them.

We can be part of God's Church--God's people--too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Is a church a building? No.
2. What is a church? *The name for God's people.*
3. Who builds God's Church? *The Holy Spirit, as He works in the hearts of people and gives them the gift of faith.*
4. Faith comes from hearing what? *God's Word, the Bible.*
5. How does the Holy Spirit work inside someone's heart when they hear God's Word? *He helps him to believe what he hears, confess and turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior.*
6. What did God always plan for the Holy Spirit to do? *God has always planned for the Holy Spirit to bring people from everywhere in the whole world to be part of His people, His Church.*
7. What do groups of God's people meet together to do each week? *They gather together to worship God.*
8. What do we mean we say that we are going to church? *That we are going to gather together with some of God's people to worship Him.*
9. Where will the whole of God's Church gather for the first time? *In heaven.*
10. People from when and where will be part of God's Church? *In heaven, the whole Church, all the people of God, from everywhere and every time, will gather together to worship Him forever and ever.*
11. How many people will there be gathered together as God's people before God? *So many people that they can't be counted.*
12. How can we become part of God's Church--His dearly loved people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Acts 9:31**: "[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord." *The Church, God's people, grows in numbers as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people to turn them away from sinning and to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He fills their hearts and encourages them by helping them to understand God's Word and giving them strength to obey it. He helps them want to live in the fear of the Lord: to want to live lives that please God.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. When did God first plan to build His Church? *Before the beginning of the world.*
2. When did God plan to send Jesus to save His people from their sins? *Before the beginning of the world.*
3. To what places did Jesus tell His followers to go to tell people about Him? Why? *To all places because God planned to build His Church to include people from every nation and language.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God use His people to build His Church? *He uses them tell others what God's Word says and to tell them the good news about salvation through Jesus, so they might come to be part of God's people, too.*
2. Why should God's people think about being missionaries to people who have never heard about Jesus? *Because Jesus commands them to; and, because the Holy Spirit might use them to be the first to tell a new people about Him!*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people so they will believe.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that we do not pray enough for God to send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of our friends and family.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for calling people from every tribe, nation, and language to be His people.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to send out more of His people to every part of the world so all might hear about Jesus.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that the Holy Spirit helps people believe? 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: Beanbag Scramble

Materials

Beanbags, enough for the all the children, minus 1
Drum, guitar or just your hands!
Tape
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Beanbags are placed in a circle on the floor, with children forming a circle just outside the beanbags. Tell the children that you will beat a beat on the drum, strum a strum on the guitar, or clap your hands and they are to march to the beat. As the beat gets faster, they march faster. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. The child who has no beanbag picks a question for the class to answer.

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.

The Church's One Foundation

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 25

Verse 1

The Church's one foundation
 Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
 She is His new creation,
 By Spirit and the Word:
 From heav'n He came and sought her
 To be His holy bride,
 With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

Understanding the Song

1. What is the church? Is it a building? *No. A local church is a group of Christians who gather together. The building is a church building. But the church this hymn is talking about is The Church, meaning all Christians in all places and in all times.*
2. What is a "foundation"? *Something that supports everything else. Builders lay a foundation of solid concrete before they build a house so that it won't fall down.*
3. Who is the Church's foundation? Why? *Jesus Christ is the Church's foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God.*
4. Who is the "she" talking about? *The Church. In the Bible, God's people are called the Church, the Bride of Christ (a "she" image), the people He loves and cares for forever.*
5. Why is the Church called Jesus' new creation? How does He do that? *Jesus shed His blood on the cross (bought them with His blood) that His people might be saved. When they believe in Him, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in His people. The Holy Spirit comes into their hearts, cleansing them and making them like new—or new creations. But the Holy Spirit keeps working in their hearts, changing them so that they love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church?**

Church is the Bible word for all of God's people. Jesus Christ is the Church's foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God. He bought all of God's people by paying for their sins with His own blood when He died on the cross. The Holy Spirit works in each of God's people, helping them turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior when they hear God's Word.. He gives them a new heart that knows and loves God and want to serve Him. One day the whole Church will be together with Jesus. The Church will be like His bride whom He loves and delights in forever. And how the Church will love Jesus! Like a bride loves her new husband, but far, far more!

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *From before the beginning of time God has planned to build His Church from people of every nation and every language. Even though they would all be sinners, He chose to save them all through Jesus. By His Holy Spirit and by the Bible, His Word, God would prepare the Church, His people, to be the beautiful bride of Jesus. That is, to be His dearly loved people who live with Him and enjoy Him forever.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God use His people to build His Church? *He uses them tell others what God's Word says and to tell them the good news about salvation through Jesus, so they might come to be part of God's people, too.*
2. Why should God's people think about being missionaries to people who have never heard about Jesus? *Because Jesus commands them to; and, because the Holy Spirit might use them to be the first to tell a new people about Him!*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our **Bible Verse: Acts 9:31**; "[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."?
The Church belongs to Jesus. He saved them by dying on the cross for their sins. The Church grows in numbers as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people to turn them away from sinning and to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He fills their hearts and encourages them by helping them to understand God's Word and giving them strength to obey it. This is how He helps them live in the fear of the Lord--that is, to want to live lives that please God. This is how He prepares them for the day that they will forever be with Him, as His dearly loved bride.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Purchaser of the Church, His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not appreciate God's great love shown to His sinful people by sending Jesus to die and save them with His own blood.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for choosing to save His people. They would never have chosen Him on their own. They would have never been saved and made into new creations with Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us new creations through His Holy Spirit.

Gospel Question

1. Why did God's people need saving? What have all people done? 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: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song
White board and marker
Eraser

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Meditation Version: Acts 9:31

"[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What was strengthened? *The church.*
2. What church is being strengthened in this verse? *It was a gathering of Christians in a particular city.*
3. What does it mean for a church to be strengthened? *Not that everyone has bigger muscles and can lift heavy things, but that their faith in God is growing stronger, they understand more of God and His Word; they are loving and knowing God more; they are becoming more obedient to His good ways; and more lovingly towards each other.*
4. Who was encouraging this church? *The Holy Spirit.*
5. How does the Holy Spirit encourage a church? *He is at work in the hearts of believers, helping them to keep saying "no" to sin; helping them to better understand God's Word; growing their faith in God; helping them become more loving and knowing God better; helping them become more obedient to God's good ways; and helping them to act more lovingly towards each other. He gives them wisdom and courage to live God's way, even when it is very hard.*
6. Why did the church grow in numbers? *Because it was being encouraged by the Holy Spirit.*
7. How were people in the church living? *In the fear of the Lord.*
8. What does it mean to live in the fear of the Lord? *It means to live to please God, in your heart, with your words and with all your life.*
9. What is the difference between "church" and "Church"? *Church with a little "c" means a particular gathering of a group of believers, such as our own church. Church with a capital "C" means all of God's people, everywhere, from all time.*
10. If the Holy Spirit is strengthening a local "church", like in this verse, how is that also strengthening the "Church"—God's people from everywhere, all the time? *Because the Church is made up of churches while we are here on earth. To encourage and grow each little church adds up to encouraging and growing all of the Church. It won't be until heaven that the Church—all of God's people—will gather together.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church?** *The Church, God's people, grows in numbers as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of people to turn them away from sinning and to trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He fills their hearts and encourages them by helping them to understand God's Word and giving them strength to obey it. He helps them want to live in the fear of the Lord: to want to live lives that please God.*

Story Connection Question

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *It has always been God's plan to build His Church, God's people, by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who works in their hearts to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He is the one who fills their hearts and encourages them by helping them know and live out the truth of God's Word. The Church will only grow in numbers by the Holy Spirit's works in the hearts of sinful people.*

Life Application Questions

1. How does God want us to live? *In the fear of the Lord.*
2. What is the first step in fearing the Lord? *Turning away from your sins and trusting in Jesus as your Savior.*
3. Who will God send to work in our hearts to encourage us and to help us live in the fear of Him, if we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior? *The Holy Spirit.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Giver of a Helper to live inside Your people forever.

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

That many times we want to do things on our own. We don't want a Helper, even though we need Him if we are to live for God. We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit!

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

We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be His people's Helper. We can thank God for not having His people live life on their own. We thank Him for giving Him to them always to be with them, to live inside them...forever!

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 to live in our hearts so that we can know Him and He can help us to know God and His truth, and live for Him.

The Gospel

1. What must we do if we want to know God and be filled with His Holy Spirit? 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: Cross the Raging River

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
Two yardsticks or long pieces of rope

Preparing the Game

Make up some questions about the verse and/or story (use the Bible verse Discussion and Story Review Discussion Questions).

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children line up in a straight line behind the leader. Explain to them that there's a river to cross and they get to jump the bank without getting wet. Each child will say the verse and then jump across the two yardsticks/ropes lying next to each other on the floor. After each round, the sticks/ropes will be separated by more space, making it a wider river to jump across. As the river gets wider, some children will not make it but "fall in". Explain to them that they are stuck in the river unless they can answer a question (that you make up) about the Bible verse or the story. Feel free to let a child "stuck in the river" ask another child for a "lifeline" and help them answer their question.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Caution: Avoid accidents by not letting the "river" get too wide.

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 Church Was Strengthened

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 10, Track 27

The church was strengthened,
and encouraged,
By the Holy Spirit,
by the Holy Spirit,
It grew in numbers,
it grew in numbers,
Living in the fear of, the fear of the Lord.
Acts Nine, thirty-one.

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 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.

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 God's plans to build from before the beginning of time? *His Church.*
2. Is God's Church a building of brick and wood? If not, what is it? *God's Church is made up of God's people. It is not a building of brick or wood.*
3. What peoples and languages did God plan to build His Church from? *From every people and language.*
4. What commands did He give Adam and Noah? *To fill the earth with people.*
5. Where did people spread to? *Most every part, from jungles to islands to mountains to plains.*
6. What happened to people's spirits when they rebelled against God? *Their hearts became ugly, broken with sin. They could no longer know Him, the one, true God, as they were created to.*
7. What did people worship instead of God when they rebelled? *They worshiped idols and created things, such as grandparents and things in nature.*
8. When did God know that people would rebel against Him? *Before He created the world. And even from them He had a plan to save them.*
9. What was God's plan to save His people? *He would save them by sending Jesus to pay for their sins as He suffered and died on the cross.*
10. What did Jesus tell His followers to do? Where were they to do it? *He told them to go into the world and make disciples of all peoples.*
11. Who did Jesus say would help the disciples in fulfilling this huge job of telling the world about salvation through Him? *The Holy Spirit.*
12. How did/does the Holy Spirit help God's people in fulfilling this huge job of telling the world about salvation through Jesus? *By helping them understand God's Word, by helping them speak truth; and by working in the hearts of those listening.*
13. What has happened as Jesus' followers have gone throughout the world, telling others about Him? *More and more people have turned away from their sins and trusted Jesus as their own Savior. The Holy Spirit has been building the Church, God's people, bigger and bigger as more and more people are saved.*
14. When will be the first time that all of God's Church gathers together? *In heaven, before God, at the end of time.*
15. What will God's Church do when they gather together for the first time? *They will sing their praises to God in a great loud voice.*
16. How does the Holy Spirit build God's Church? *By working in the hearts of people when they hear God's Word; by helping them see and want to turn away from sinning; and, by giving them faith to trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *It has been God's plan from before the beginning to build His beautiful Church, His people, from sinful, rebellious people from every tribe, nation and language. They could never become this on their own, it would have to be something He did. And so He did, by saving them through Jesus and filling them with His Holy Spirit, so they could know and love Him, as He created them to.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Acts 9:31**: "[The church] was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."?
It has always been God's plan to build His Church, God's people, by the Holy Spirit. He is the one who works in their hearts to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He is the one who fills their hearts and encourages them by helping them know and live out the truth of God's Word. The Church will only grow in numbers by the Holy Spirit's works in the hearts of sinful people.

Life Application Questions

1. How do we become part of God's Church? *Confess our sins to God & trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Great Builder of the Church, His people.

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

Confess that like all people, we have chosen to rebel against God. Our hearts, like everyone else, are ugly and broken with sin. We cannot worship the one, true God as He created to, unless He works in our hearts. 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 choosing to make His people into the beautiful Church. We can thank Him for sending Jesus to save them and for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside them, encouraging them.

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 that we might know and love Him. We can ask Him to keep strengthening His people to go out and tell all peoples about Him that they might be saved.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of salvation that Jesus commanded His people to take to all the world? 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: Go Fish

Materials

Broom stick or pole
String
U-shaped magnet
Paper clips, 1 per question
Construction paper
Scissors
Basket/Pail
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. Cut out fish (different sizes and shapes, if desired), one per question. Write a question on each fish. And assign a point value to each fish based on difficulty. Attach a paper clip to the mouth of each fish. Place the fish in the basket. Attach the magnet to one end of the string and the pole to the other end.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns catching fish by hooking them with the magnet and the paper clip. The question is then read to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the fish. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team for a possible one point.

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns catching fish and answering the questions together.

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 Big, Brickless Building.

This story began even before Old Testament times, before God created the world.

And now we present: “The Case of the Big, Brickless Building.”

Scene 1:

The Church is not a building. It’s the name Jesus gave for all His people. From before the beginning of time, God planned to build His Church from people of every nation and language. He prepared them to be His people by giving them a spirit to know and love Him in the very beginning. He commanded them to fill the whole earth so that they would be from every nation and language. They spread out to the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles.

Actions:

Scene 2:

But sadly, all people rebelled against God and their spirits became dead to God. The people in the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles turned and worshiped idols. But God always knew that people would rebel against Him. He always planned to send Jesus to pay for His people’s sins, so that they could be His people. Jesus came at just the right time. He offered up His life as the perfect sacrifice for His people’s sins. They were saved. Now it was time for the next part of God’s plan.

Scene 3:

Jesus commanded His disciples to go out to the ends of the earth and make disciples of people of every nation and language and tribe about Him. He told them that they would not be doing this by themselves, but that the Holy Spirit would work in people’s hearts as they told about Him. The disciples obeyed Jesus. They went further and further from home. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of people as the disciples spoke. He was building God’s Church! The new believers joined the disciples in telling the world about Jesus. They traveled to faraway places: to the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles. The Holy Spirit worked as they told others the good news of Jesus. Many people turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their own Savior. Through the ages, Jesus’ followers have continued to do this and the Holy Spirit has used their words to work in the hearts of people to make them part of God’s Church. In heaven, all of God’s Church will be finally gathered together and they will praise God around His throne, forever.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Gives God’s People Courage.** Our story shows how God’s plan was always to build His Church from people of every nation and language, to gather before God’s throne in heaven and praise and enjoy Him forever.

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 Big, Brickless Building.

This story began even before Old Testament times, before God created the world.

The characters in our story are: Adam and Eve; Noah; People who spread out through the earth; Jesus; Jesus' first disciples; and, Other believers.

And now we present: "The Case of the Big, Brickless Building."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Church is not a building. It's the name Jesus gave for all His people. From before the beginning of time, God planned to build His Church from people of every nation and language. He prepared them to be His people by giving them a spirit to know and love Him in the very beginning. He commanded them to fill the whole earth so that they would be from every nation and language. They spread out to the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles.

Scene 2: (Middle)

But sadly, all people rebelled against God and their spirits became dead to God. The people in the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles turned and worshiped idols. But God always knew that people would rebel against Him. He always planned to send Jesus to pay for His people's sins, so that they could be His people. Jesus came at just the right time. He offered up His life as the perfect sacrifice for His people's sins. They were saved. Now it was time for the next part of God's plan.

Scene 3: (End)

Jesus commanded His disciples to go out to the ends of the earth and make disciples of people of every nation and language and tribe about Him. He told them that they would not be doing this by themselves, but that the Holy Spirit would work in people's hearts as they told about Him. The disciples obeyed Jesus. They went further and further from home. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of people as the disciples spoke. He was building God's Church! The new believers joined the disciples in telling the world about Jesus. They traveled to faraway places: to the mountains, the islands, the forests and jungles. The Holy Spirit worked as they told others the good news of Jesus. Many people turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their own Savior. Through the ages, Jesus' followers have continued to do this and the Holy Spirit has used their words to work in the hearts of people to make them part of God's Church. In heaven, all of God's Church will be finally gathered together and they will praise God around His throne, forever.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Gives God's People**

Courage. Our story shows how God's plan was always to build His Church from people of every nation and language, to gather before God's throne in heaven and praise and enjoy Him forever.

People from Every Tribe, Nation and Language

Description:

The children will create a flip open globe out of paper plates, with decorated peoples from various parts of the world inside.

Materials

2 dinner plate sized paper plates per child

Packing Tape

Patterns for people, globe and sayings

Various decorating supplies, such as sequins, glitter, small feathers, fabric scraps, yarn

Coloring pencils, markers, crayons, etc

Glue sticks

Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out 1 copy of each pattern per child
2. For younger children, you may want to cut out (at least) the people ahead of time. Older children should be fine doing this on their own.
3. Tape the two paper plates together (tops of plate facing together) along the top, forming a hinge.
4. Set out other supplies.
5. Make a sample to show the children.

Making the Craft

1. Have the children color in the globe with the sayings "What in the World is God Doing?"
2. Cut it out and glue it to the front paper plate.
3. Have the children color in the saying: "He's Building His Church from Every People, Every Tribe, Nation and Language!".
4. Cut out the saying along the dashed lines. Flip up the top/outer paper plate so that the two paper plates show (the back of the top/outer plate and the front of the bottom/inner plate). Glue the saying to the top plate.
5. Have the children decorate with markers, etc. the various peoples. Let them add glitter, sequins, feathers, etc to add extra interest after coloring in. Glue the peoples to the bottom/inner plate.

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. When did God plan to call His people? *Even before He created the world.*
2. What would these people be like?
They would be from every tribe, nation and language.
3. What would God do for these people?
He would save them by Jesus and fill them with His Holy Spirit.
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?
The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church?
God has planned for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of people from every tribe, nation and tongue to be part of His Church, God's people.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
God wants His people to go into all the world and tell all people about Jesus, that they might be saved and become part of His people, the Church.

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: People from Every Tribe, Nation and Language.
2. Before the world was created, the LORD planned to call His People from Every Tribe, Nation and Language to be His Church, His own dear people, saved by Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Builds God's Church.
4. God has planned for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of people from every tribe, nation and tongue to be part of His Church, God's people.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants His people to go into all the world and tell all people about Jesus, that they might be saved and become part of His people, the Church.

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.

Pattern 1

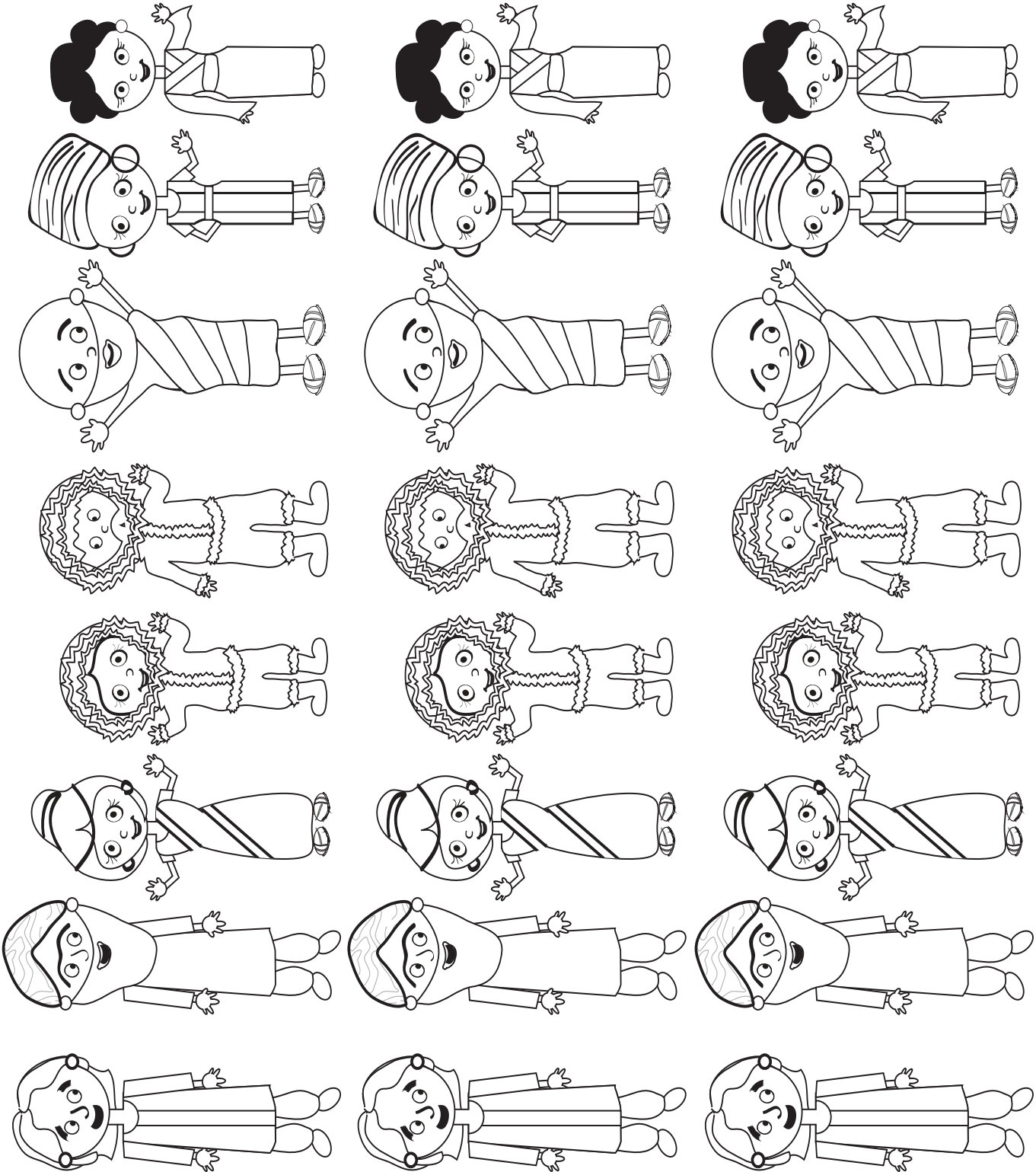


Pattern for inside top plate

**He's Building His Church
from Every People,
Every Tribe,
Every Nation!**

**He's Building His Church
from Every People,
Every Tribe,
Every Nation!**

Patterns for inside bottom plate



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: Hit the Wall

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

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. Tape the envelopes to the wall.

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 take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. 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 aimed at.

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
