

BIBLE TRUTH 2, 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 11, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 11 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 11, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Romans 6:23 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 5*

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

Bible Truth 2: Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved

Bible Truth Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 9*

Bible Verse: John 14:2-6

Bible Verse Song: In My Father's House *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 10*

Lesson 1 New Testament: The Case of the Way-Maker *John 11-14*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Jesus Prepares to Make the Way to God

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Help the Blind Man

Bible Truth Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 9*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: John 14:2-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hand Ball

Bible Verse Song: In My Father's House *John 14:2-6 PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 10*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Sticky Pad Search

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

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

Craft: The Cross

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Way-Maker John 11-14 by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Way-Maker.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Way-Maker?
2. To where did He make the way? How did He make the way?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

Jerusalem was packed with thousands of Jews who had come to celebrate Passover. Every Passover was exciting, but news that Jesus had raised Lazarus, a man from the nearby town of Bethany, from death to life made this one even more exciting than usual. Could Jesus be God's promised Messiah, people wondered.

When the word spread that Jesus was staying in Bethany with Lazarus and his sisters, many decided to go see Jesus and this man Jesus had raised to life.

The next day, Jesus headed for Jerusalem, along with his disciples and a crowd of others. "Go to the village ahead of you," Jesus told two of His disciples. "There you will find a donkey's colt tied up, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here."

The disciples found the colt just as Jesus said and brought it to Him. They threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on its back. Jesus' time had come. He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey as the Messiah, the King of Israel, just as the prophets had foretold long ago.

As Jesus came to the top of the Mount of Olives, another large crowd came the hill to greet Him. "This is our king, the Messiah, we must give Him a royal welcome into the royal city!" people exclaimed. "Throw down your cloaks for the King to tread on. Plain ground is too good for Him. Get palm branches and wave them to honor Him as our king!"

The road was soon covered with cloaks and the air filled with waving palm branches. The crowd began to praise God for Jesus. "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! Blessed in the King of Israel, the Messiah!" they shouted.

How did Jesus react to the crowd's praise? Not as you might imagine. Jesus was weeping out loud! He knew

these people were praising Him for the wrong reasons. They thought He had come to get rid of their enemies, the Romans, and bring in happy days of life in a great, new Israel. But He had come to bring them eternal life with God as He offered up His life as the perfect payment for God's people's sins. Soon these cheering crowds would reject Him and call for Him to die, when they saw Jesus had not come to give them what they wanted. And so they did, in Jesus' next few days in Jerusalem, until by Thursday, few but Jesus' closest disciples still followed Him.

That Thursday night, Jesus gathered with His twelve disciples to celebrate the Passover Feast. The disciples might have thought this was just a Passover like the rest, but Jesus knew otherwise: it was the night before He would die on the cross for the sins of God's people. Jesus used that Passover dinner to explain to His disciples what He was about to do.

Instead of beginning the meal with the usual Passover prayer, Jesus got up from the table and did something that completely shocked His disciples: He took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist, like a lowly slave would do. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel wrapped around him. The disciples were shocked! No one touched another person's dirty feet--especially not an honored teacher!

When Jesus knelt down in front of Peter to wash his feet Peter said in horror, "Lord, you aren't going to wash my feet, are you?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Jesus wasn't really worried about the dirt on their

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.

feet. He was washing them as a picture of what He would do for them and all of God's people, the next day, when He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus was making the Way to the Father for all His sinful people. He had come to clean something a lot dirtier than feet with something much more precious than water. He loved them so much that He had come to wash away their dirty, sinful hearts and lives with His very own blood as He would give up His life on the cross as the perfect payment for their sins the very next day. He was the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one could come to the Father but by Him. They—nor any of God's people—could ever come to the Father and enjoy eternal life with them in heaven, unless He did this shameful, terrible, dirty job.

When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to His place at the table. Now it was time for the Passover Meal. This was usually one of the happiest celebrations of the year as the Jews remembered how God freed them from slavery in Egypt and had led them by Moses to the Promised Land. But once more Jesus changed things, and His words made this dinner far from a celebration:

"This is my body broken for you," Jesus told them as He broke the bread and passed it around for them all to eat some of it. "This is my blood poured out for you to make a new covenant with God," Jesus told them as He passed the cup for them to drink from.

"The hour has come for me to go away," Jesus told them. "One of you will plot with the Jewish leaders and betray me into their hands."

The disciples were in shock "Surely not!!!" they each exclaimed.

"Yes, it will be one of you who eats at this table with me even now," Jesus told them. "And when the time comes for my arrest, you all will abandon me. Peter, you will even deny three times that you have ever known me!"

What awful news this was to the disciples. They would abandon Jesus! Jesus would be arrested and would die!

"Where are you going, Jesus? Why can't we come with You?" Thomas asked the question they were all thinking. They still didn't understand this was all part of God's good plan to make the way of salvation for His

people. They were so upset!

"Don't be troubled! Trust in God. Trust also in me," Jesus told them. "Everything is not just falling apart as you think. Everything is completely in control and going as planned. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am making the Way for God's sinful people to come to the Father. No one goes to the Father, except through me. If I do not do this, then no one goes to the Father. I am the Truth: believe in the Father and believe in me! I am the Life: after this is over, you will see me again. I am going away to prepare a place for you in heaven--my Father's house. I will go away, but one day I will come back to get you and take you to be with Me forever."

That night, the disciples watched in horror as everything began to happen just as Jesus told them it would. Judas Iscariot led Jewish soldiers to arrest Jesus. The disciples ran away and abandoned Him. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times... and then the rooster crowed. Worst of all, they watched the next day as Jesus' body was broken and His blood poured out as He died on the cross. Jesus was doing the dirty job of washing away the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him, as He had said He would.

But horror turned to joy when on the third day! Jesus rose up victorious from the grave and appeared to His disciples, just as He said He would. Now they knew He was the Way: He had made the way for sinful people to come to God the Father. Now they knew that He was the Truth: everything He had them had come true. Now they knew that He was the Life: death could not hold Him in the grave. Now all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him would have their sins forgiven and eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom. There, they will never know pain, sadness or death again. Only the delight of close fellowship with God and His people forever!

Jesus was the Way, the Truth and the Life! And now it was time for His disciples to spread the news: "All authority has been given Me in heaven and earth! I rule over all," Jesus told them. "So now go into the entire world and tell them the good news that I have made the way for them to be saved. Make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything I've taught you". And so they did...and so they still are.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Way-Maker? Jesus.

2. To where did He make the way? How did He make the way? He made the way for God's sinful people to become God's people, getting to know Him and live with Him forever.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: Jesus is the Only Way to Be Saved

Our Bible Verse is: John 14:2-6

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life no one comes to the Father, except through Me." These are words for us to think about, too. They are words of warning for us and all people. "No one comes to the Father..." there is no way to the Father except through Jesus. We can never make ourselves acceptable to God without Him. But they are words of hope: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." To all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus, He promises to forgive them, save them, and one day to bring them to live with Him forever.

Let's praise Jesus for being the Way, the Truth and the Life. And let's ask Him to help us to believe in Him and to tell others about Him so that we all might know the greatest delight of knowing Him now and enjoy life with Him forever.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for making the way to You, Yourself, by sending Your Son, Jesus, to do what we could never do ourselves.

C God, we confess that like most of the people in Jerusalem, we often just want You to give us the good earthly things we want. Often times we don't really want Your far greater gift of eternal life. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to give sinful people what they really need--salvation—even when He knew they would treat Him so terribly and so dishonorably.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us all to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior.

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 Merciful and being the Provider of the way of salvation for sinners.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are all sinners who need You to save us. We can never be acceptable to You on our own. We need Jesus to make the way for us to be saved.

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Jesus to make the way for sinners like us to be saved from our sins.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts. Make us aware of our sins and our need of Jesus to save us. Help us to confess our sins to You and repent of them. Forgive our sins. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Be our Heavenly Father! Make us Your adopted children who love You and who You will love forever.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Jesus Prepares to Make the Way to God

Palm leaf lettuce leaf; "Nutter-Butter foot with foot-washing water; and matzoh Last Supper Bread.

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

Case Tie-in: Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as the Messiah King by the crowds waving palm branches. But as Jesus washed the disciples feet and led them in the Last Supper, He made it quite clear that He was coming not to be crowned the Messiah King. He was coming to offer up His life for the sins of God's people. This is how He would make the way to God.

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.

Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved

The Bible tells us that we have all rebelled against God and deserve His punishment for our sins. It tells us that our sins are so great that there is no way that we can ever earn God's forgiveness on our own. None of us can ever save ourselves.

But the good news is that God can! He has provided the way of salvation for sinful people through His Son, Jesus.

Jesus came to earth as a man. He was fully God and fully man. How amazing! He lived a perfect life. He's the only one who has ever done that! On the cross, Jesus offered up His life. He suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice needed for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had completely paid for their sins. Yes! He had won the victory over sin and death for them!

Now all who turn away from living a life of sin (repent) and put their trust in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven their sins. They will be saved from the punishment for their sins they deserve and will live as God's dearly loved people forever.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who does the Bible tell us has rebelled against God? *All of us.*
2. What do we all deserve because we have rebelled against God? *His punishment for our sins.*
3. Why is there no way we can ever earn God's forgiveness on our own? *Because our sins are so great.*
4. We can't save ourselves, but who can save us? *God can.*
5. How many ways are there to be saved? *Only one.*
6. Why is Jesus the only way for people to be saved? *Because He alone could make the perfect sacrifice needed to pay for sins of God's people.*
7. Why does Jesus please God and no one else does? *Because Jesus lived a perfect life that no sinful human could live. Only a perfect sacrifice would be good enough in exchange for a sinful life.*
8. What did Jesus prove when He rose from the dead, three days after He died on the cross? *That He had completely paid for the sins of God's people and had won the victory over sin and death for them.*
9. What does it mean to repent? *To turn away from living a life of sin and live for God instead.*
10. Whose sins will God forgive? *All those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
11. When someone is forgiven their sins, what are they saved from? *The punishment they deserve from God for their sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: John 14:2-6**: "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."? *Jesus tells us that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He was making the Way for God's sinful people to come to the Father. No one goes to the Father, except through Him. If He did not do this, then no one goes to the Father. He is the Truth: believe in the Father and believe in Him! He is the Life: after this is over, God's people will see Him again. He was going away to prepare a place for them in heaven--His Father's house. He would be going away, but one day He would come back and take God's people to be with Him forever."*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. Why was it not enough for Jesus to come and save the Jews from the Romans and set up a earthly kingdom as Messiah? *Because God's people would die in their sins. Only by Jesus offering up His life as the perfect sacrifice for sin could God's people be saved to know God and live with Him forever.*
2. What did Jesus show His disciples by washing their dirty feet? *That He had come to do what no one else would do for them: to pay the price for all their sinful souls so that they could stand forgiven before God.*

Life Application Questions

1. What do we do with the sin of our hearts? Do we just try to be better people and earn God's pleasure with good works or do we turn to Jesus for forgiveness of our sins?
2. What is the only way for our sins to be forgiven? What is the only way for us to "go to the Father, to know Him, love Him and have eternal life with Him? *By turning away from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
3. Why do Christians always have a reason to be joyful, no matter what? *Because even on the worst of days they know that Jesus has already taken care of their sins and that one day they will get to live with Him forever in heaven.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being Merciful and providing a way for sinful people to be saved.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess our sins against God that make us deserving of God's punishment.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for sending Jesus to be the way to be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to forgive us our sins and help us to trust Jesus as our Savior.

The Gospel

1. Why do people need Jesus to make a way to the Father for them? 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: Help the Blind Man

Materials

Blindfold

Cane

Bible Truth Questions

Bag/Bowl

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

Children form a circle, with "It", a blind man, in the center. The circle moves slowly to the left or to the right at the Blind Man's command. Then, the Blind Man says, "Halt!" Everyone in the circle stands still. The Blind Man then begins walking out towards the circle of children, GENTLY touching his cane out until he touches someone. When he does, the blind man gets to choose a question from the bag for the teacher to read to the class. When they get a correct answer, the blind man gives up his blindfold to the other child who becomes the blind man, while the former blind man joins the circle.

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.

To God Be the Glory

Verse 1

To God be the glory,
great things He hath done;
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 9

Understanding the Song

1. What great things has God done that we should glory Him?
He has sent His Son Jesus to be the Way for sinners to come to God.
2. How did God show how much He loved the world?
He gave His very own Son to come and suffer a terrible death to pay for the sins of His people.
3. What does "atonement" mean? *Making peace with someone after being enemies.*
4. What does it mean that Jesus yielded His life as an atonement for sin? *To yield one's life means to give it up. Jesus gave up His life to pay for the sins of His sinful people so that there would be peace between God and them.*
5. What is a lifegate? *A lifegate is a made up word that means the way to eternal life with God.*
6. Who may have eternal life?
All may go in. Anyone who turns from their sins and trusts in Jesus as the payment for their sins may be saved.
7. Why should the people rejoice and praise the Lord? *Because Jesus has made the way to the Father.*
8. How do we come to the Father? *Through faith in Jesus the Son's payment for our sins.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved?**
We give glory to God for giving us His Son to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Jews in Jesus' day thought that Jesus had come to be an earthly king; but Jesus had really come to make the way for sinful people to come to the Father. Only by His death on the cross could the price of sin be paid for. Jesus' disciples rejoiced after Jesus rose from the dead when they finally understood that Jesus came as the Way to the Father.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *Every day, no matter how bad things are, they always have something even greater to thank God for. Jesus has made the Way to the Father so that all who turn and trust in Him can know and enjoy Him forever in heaven.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **John 14:2-6**: "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus is the only way to the Father. He made the way, the lifegate, for sinful people to be forgiven and have eternal life with God.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so loving to His sinful people that He would send His Son to save them!

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

That even though we know of God's great love shown to sinful people, that many times we are more excited about a new toy or something fun we get to do than the offer of eternal life through Jesus. Many times we do not give Him the glory, the praise He deserves.

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

We can thank God for sending Jesus to be the lifegate, the way, in which sinful people can be forgiven and can have eternal life with God.

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 work in others, too, that we might go through "the lifegate", we might be saved through Jesus.

Gospel Question

1. What is the great thing that God has done for sinners that His people give Him glory for? 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: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

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

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. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

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: John 14:2-6

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: John 14:6

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who is speaking in these verses? What did He mean when He spoke of His Father's house? *Jesus. He was talking about heaven.*
2. What does Jesus mean when He says His Father's house has many rooms? *It means God has chosen to save many, many people. One day, they will all live together with Him in heaven.*
Where did Thomas not understand that Jesus was going? *He didn't understand that Jesus was going to die and go to heaven.*
3. What did Jesus tell Thomas is the way to heaven, where Jesus was going? *Jesus told him that He was the way. He was the one who was making the way to God.*
4. What did Jesus say He was going to do? *To prepare a place for Thomas (and all of God's people) in heaven.*
5. What did Jesus say He would do one day? *Come back to take Thomas (and all of God's people) to be with Him in heaven.*
6. Has Jesus come back for His people yet? When will that happen? *No, He has not come back yet. It will happen when all of God's good plans for this world are complete. No one knows the hour or the day but God.*
7. What does it mean that Jesus is the "Truth"? *It means that everything Jesus has told them, they can believe. They can trust Him and how He says they can come to the Father.*
8. What does it mean that Jesus is the "Life"? *Jesus is the source of eternal life. He is the one who makes it possible for sinful people to know God and live with Him forever.*
9. How do we come to the Father? *Only through Jesus.*
10. Why can we only come to the Father through Jesus? *Because we are sinners and cannot stand in the holy God's presence on our own. Our sins must be forgiven first. Only Jesus provides complete forgiveness of sins through His death on the cross.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved?**

These are Jesus' words telling us that by turning from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior is the only way that any of us can be saved. There is no other way to the Father.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Jesus gave hope to sinners, even the worst sinners, who confessed their sins to God, as they turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. God would even purify them from all unrighteousness.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can we go to the Father? *Only through Jesus. We must turn away from our sins, confess them to God and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Provider of the Way to eternal life with Him.

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

That we have all turned away from God. We cannot make our way to God on our own because of our sins. 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 the wonderful promise of taking all His people to live forever with Him.

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 work like this in others, too.

The Gospel

1. Why did Jesus need to come to make a Way to God? Who can know this Way and be saved? 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: Hand Ball**Materials**

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 A soft-surfaced, medium sized ball, such as a foam ball
 Masking tape
 Paper and markers

Helpful, but optional: colored team "pennies" (jerseys) to identify members of each team.

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

Preparing the Game

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

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

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

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

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

In My Father's House

"In my Father's house are many rooms," Jesus said.

"I go prepare, prepare a place for you.

You know the way."

"Lord, we don't know where You are going," Thomas said to Him.

"Lord, we don't know where You are going,

How can we know the way?"

"I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life," Jesus answered.

I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life," Jesus answered.

No one can come to the Father, except through me."

John Fourteen, two through six.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 10

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.

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 had Jesus done recently that made this Passover celebration especially exciting? *He had recently raised Lazarus up from the dead.*
2. Why did the first crowd come to Bethany? *They heard that Jesus was spotted there. And, because they wanted to see Lazarus who Jesus had risen from the dead.*
3. Why did Jesus ride a donkey into Jerusalem? *Kings rode donkeys. Jesus asked for the donkey because it was the kingly, royal animal; and, to fulfill prophecies about the Messiah. He was telling everyone that He was the true King of Israel, the Messiah.*
4. How did the crowds show that they wanted Jesus to be their king? *Putting their cloaks down for Him to ride over; by waving palm branches; and, by their cheers of "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD."*
5. Why was Jesus sad while all the crowds were cheering Him? *He knew that they were hoping that He would save them from their earthly enemies, the Romans. He knew that they would abandon Him when they realized He was the not kind of Messiah they were hoping for.*
6. Why did the people reject Jesus as Messiah? *They were hoping that He would save them from their earthly enemies, the Romans. He knew that they would abandon Him when they realized He was the not kind of Messiah they were hoping for. When He told them He would die, they did not believe that He could be the Messiah b/c they did not believe the Messiah was supposed to die.*
7. Why were Jesus' disciples so shocked that Jesus washed their feet? *This was the lowliest job for the lowliest servant. Feet were considered to be the dirtiest part of a person. Jesus was their master. He should never touch their feet!*
8. What was Jesus trying to show them by washing their feet? *He had come to clean the "dirtiest" part of them: their hearts. Their sinful hearts kept them away from God. He had come to suffer and die for their sins and make the Way to God, His Father, so they would be saved from their sins. No one could do this but Himself. Cleaning their dirty feet was a good picture of what He would do for the sin in their hearts as He died on the cross.*
9. What did Jesus tell them while He broke the bread and drank the cup? *The bread was a picture of His body, broken for them. The cup was a picture of His blood poured out to make a new forever promise (covenant) with God for the forgiveness of their sins. They were pictures of what He would do the next day on the cross.*
10. What sad things did Jesus tell them were about to happen? *One of them would betray Him; they would all leave Him; Peter would deny Him three times; and He would die.*
11. How did Jesus comfort His disciples? *By telling them that He was doing this to make the Way to God for them. He was going to prepare a place in heaven for them to come and be with Him.*
12. When did the disciples rejoice? *Three days later when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to them.*
13. How did Jesus make the Way to God? *By living a perfect life and then offering it up on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.*
14. Why is Jesus the only way to God? *No one, by their own life, will be found pleasing to God. No one can deserve eternal life because we are all sinners. Only perfectly sinless people could do that! Only Jesus! The only way we, sinners, can please God is by the gift of forgiveness that Jesus can give us. He paid for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. To all of those, all who ask in faith, He gives them forgiveness of sins. God no longer counts their sins against them. Instead, they receive Jesus' perfect record before God.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *This is the story of how Jesus made the way to God, for all God's people—all who would ever turn away from their sins, confess them to God, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: John 14:2-6**: "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."?

These are the words of comfort that Jesus gave His disciples after telling them that they would all abandon Him and that He would die..

Life Application Questions

1. If Jesus is the only way to God, what should Christians do for others? *Tell them about Him!*

2. How can we become one of Jesus' disciples? *We must turn away from our sins, confess them to God, and 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 Making the Way to Him, Himself, by sending His Son Jesus to do what we could never do ourselves.

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

Confess that like most of the people in Jerusalem, we often just want God to give us the good earthly things we want. Often times we don't really want His far greater gift of eternal life. We deserve His 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 sending Jesus to give sinful people what they really need--salvation—even when He knew they would treat Him so terribly and so dishonorably.*

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 help others, too, to know and believe in Jesus, the Way to God.

The Gospel

1. Why did Jesus need to come to make a Way to God? Who can know this way and be saved? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Sticky Pad Search

Materials

Re-stickable scratch pad sheets

Paper and marker

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

"Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Way-Maker

This is a New Testament story. It took place when Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Jesus; His disciples; Lazarus; and Crowds of people.

And now we present: "The Case of the Way-Maker"

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Thousands of Jews gather in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. They were especially excited this year to see Jesus and Lazarus, the man from Bethany that Jesus raised from the dead. A crowd of people head to Bethany to see Jesus and Lazarus at the same time that Jesus, His disciples and a crowd starts for Jerusalem. The crowd is going there to celebrate Passover, but Jesus knows He is going there to die on the cross. As they walk along, Jesus has two of His disciples get a young donkey for Him to ride into Jerusalem. He would ride into the city, just as hundreds of years earlier, the LORD, through the prophets, promised the Messiah would do. Word spreads ahead of Jesus that He is coming to Jerusalem. The crowd coming up from the city meets Jesus and His group as they come down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. They lay their cloaks on the road, wave palm branches and shout praises to God for Jesus. They believe He is the Messiah coming to get rid of their enemies and coming to take up his throne in the royal city of Jerusalem. Jesus weeps as the crowd cheers. He knows that they think He has come to get rid of the Romans and be the great king of Israel who makes life good for them. But He knows He has come to give up His life to make the way to God. He know they will reject Him when they don't get what they want. .

Scene 2:(Middle)

The people do reject Jesus. By Thursday, few but His disciples still follow Him. On Thursday night, Jesus and His disciples prepare to celebrate Passover. Jesus shocks His disciples by washing their feet like a lowly slave would. It is a picture of how He will cleanse them of their sins when He dies on the cross the next day. At the Passover Meal, Jesus tells them that His body will be broken for them and His blood will be poured our for them. Jesus tells them that one of them will betray Him, Peter will deny Him, they will all leave Him and He, Himself will die. The disciples are so sad and confused. Jesus comforts them and tells them that He is making the way to God.

Scene 3: (End)

Everything happens just as Jesus said it would. Jesus is arrested and His disciples abandon Him. Jesus suffers and dies on the cross. The disciples are sad when Jesus dies, but are overjoyed when He rises from the dead. They finally understand that He was making the way to God.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved.** Many Jews were looking for Jesus to be a great earthly king, but Jesus had come to make the way for sinful people to come to God.

The Cross

Description:

The children will a cross out of beads and yarn.

Materials

- 1 Straw per child
- 1 Pipe cleaner per child
- 6 yards of yarn/string per child
- 94 pony beads of any color or combination of colors except brown
- 26 pony beads of a brown color
- Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut 9 2' pieces of yarn per child.
2. Cut straws down to about 3". Insert 1 piece of yarn through the straw and tie ends in a knot. This will make the hanger for the cross.
- (Older children can do this, if you want to save this step for craft time.)
3. Tie one end of each of the other 8 pieces of yarn to the pipe cleaner, tightly. Spread them out about a pony bead's width apart. Bend the ends of the pipe cleaner around to the back of the row of strings.
4. Set out beads.
5. Make a sample for the children to see.

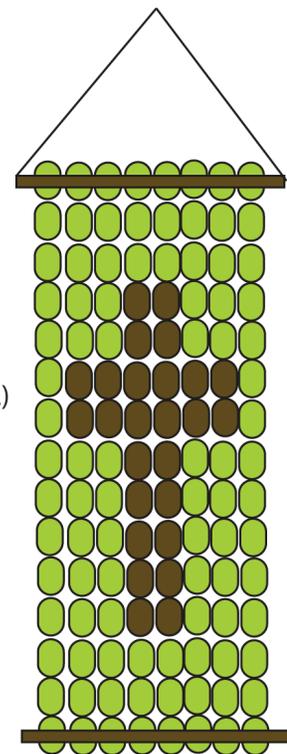
Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children slip the beads onto yarn as follows, tying the end to the straw each time. Older children will be able to tie on their own. Youngest children will probably need your help. Cut off excess yarn after tying securely.

Rows:

- 1: 15 colored beads
- 2: 8 colored beads, then 2 brown beads, then 8 colored beads
- 3: 8 colored beads, then 2 brown beads, then 8 colored beads
- 4: 3 colored beads, then 9 brown beads, then 3 colored beads
- 5: 3 colored beads, then 9 brown beads, then 3 colored beads
- 6: 8 colored beads, then 2 brown beads, then 8 colored beads
- 7: 8 colored beads, then 2 brown beads, then 8 colored beads
- 8: 15 colored beads

3. Hang up the cross by the straw and hanger end. (Pipe cleaner end at bottom.)



Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus die? *Right outside of Jerusalem.*
2. How did the disciples react when Jesus died on the cross?
They were sad and confused.
3. What didn't Jesus' disciples understand until later?
They didn't understand that the Messiah had to suffer and die to make the way to God for God's people.
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?
Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved?
Jesus made the way for God's sinful people to come to God when He suffered and died on the cross for their sins.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
How great God's love must be for His people, that He would send Jesus to suffer and die so terribly in order to save them from their sins and make the way to live with Him forever!

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: The Cross.
2. In Jerusalem, Jesus' disciples were sad and confused when Jesus died on the cross because they didn't understand that the Messiah had to suffer and die to make the way to God for God's people.
3. Bible Truth 2 is: Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved.
4. Jesus made the way for God's sinful people to come to God when He suffered and died on the cross for their sins.
5. Our craft can help us remember how great God's love must be for His people, that He would send Jesus to suffer and die so terribly in order to save them from their sins and make the way to live with Him forever!

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

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in 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: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**
