
BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 1*

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

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

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

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

Bible Truth 3: We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord

Bible Truth Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.2 *PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 10*

Bible Verse: Romans 10:9-10

Bible Verse Song: If You Confess with Your Mouth *PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 11*

Lesson 1 New Testament: The Case of the Transformed Tax-Man *Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:27-32*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Matthew's Money and Feasty Food

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: To God Be the Glory, v.2 *PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 10*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign! **PFI NIV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Romans 10:9-10 Discussion Sheet and Game: Memory Verse Limbo

Bible Verse Song: If You Confess with Your Mouth: Romans 10:9-10 *PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 11*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Spoon and Ball Relay

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 Riches of Tax Collecting

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Transformed Tax-Man *Mark 2:13-17; Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:27-32* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Transformed Tax-Man.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Tax-Man? Why did he need transforming?
2. Who transformed him? How?

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

Matthew sat in his tax booth along the Great West Road, just outside of Capernaum. This busy road led from the rich city of Damascus in the east, to the ports of Phoenicia on the great Mediterranean Sea to the west. Matthew was the chief customs officer for the Roman leader, Herod Antipas, and his job was to collect Herod's customs tax money from every merchant's caravan that passed.

"You must collect tax from everything the merchants carry in their caravans," the Romans had told Matthew, when he started the job. "Any extra money you can get out of the them is for you. That's how you get paid," they explained.

A fellow could get very rich if they were good at this job...and Matthew was! Galilee—the part of Israel where his booth was—had brought in five million dollars of customs tax money in just one year! Yes, Matthew had grown very, very rich.

But Matthew was a rich sinner. He had grown rich only by doing many sinful tricky tricks. What kinds of tricks did tax collectors like Matthew use? Well, it would look something like this:

Matthew would sit at his booth until he heard the tingling bells and clomping hoofs. This meant a merchant and his caravan of camels, loaded down with goods was approaching.

"Good morning, Master Merchant. What do you have in your caravan today?" Matthew would ask.

"Good morning to you, Master Tax Collector," replied the merchant in a less than friendly voice. He knew what Matthew was like. "Wheat from the plains, and fish from the Sea of Galilee."

"We'll see about that. I'll have to inspect each animal's load. Unpack them all," Matthew ordered.

"But Master Tax Collector, look at all these animals!

You can plainly see what I have," the merchant replied.

"Do as I say or I will be forced to call in Roman soldiers to persuade you to cooperate," Matthew warned.

"Yes, Master Tax Collector," the merchant grumbled. Load after load was pulled from camels' backs for Matthew to inspect.

"What is this here? This is not fish or wheat. It looks like a great deal of fine cloth. You must pay tax on it, too, my friend," Matthew would say.

"But sir, that is not cloth for sale, it is for my family. You are only to tax those things I am selling," the merchant would answer.

"How do I know that you have a family? I have a duty to the King Antipas and I must not fail. I will be forced to tax this cloth!" Matthew ordered. "So, let's see, that's 10 loads of wheat and 20 loads of fish, plus one load of fine cloth. To that we add a charge for each servant and for each animal...plus the fee for crossing the King's bridges...that comes to ... and Matthew would lean over and show the merchant a ridiculously high amount.

"What! That is at least twice the amount I should pay!"

"Will you pay or shall I get the soldiers to force it out of you?" Matthew threatened again.

"You tax collectors are all the same! Forcing every last cent out of us hard-working merchants so you can have your fine houses and luxurious lifestyles. How can you live with yourself? I pity your mother and father for having such a child. You are a disgrace to us, Jews, you sinner!" The merchant turned his head and spit. He flung his money down on Matthew's table and left.

"Ha, ha," thought Matthew as he looked at the sum of money. "I'm off to a good start this morning!" Yet, deep

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.

inside Matthew knew that what the merchant had said was right. He was a disgrace to his family and his people. He was a sinner. "But, I am a rich sinner," Matthew said to comfort himself. "I have a nice house and lots of money. And at least I have the other tax collectors and outcasts for friends."

So now do you see how things were with Matthew? How much hope could there be for a tricky sinner like him? The Bible tells us. Here's what happened next:

News traveled fast along the Great West Road. Matthew overheard the latest happenings from merchants as they passing through this tax station. Those coming from Capernaum told amazing things about Jesus: He did miracles! He healed the sick and forgave their sins like He was God. Just the day before He had forgiven the sins of a paralyzed man and healed him! The man just got up, picked up his mat and walked out of the house! No one has ever seen anything like this! Great crowds had begun to follow Jesus. People wanting to be healed. People wanting to be forgiven. People wanting to hear what Jesus had to say about God.

"Now this is stunning news!" thought Matthew. "A man healing people and forgiving sins? A man who offers forgiveness for sins, as if He was God?" Perhaps a little hope rose in Matthew's heart as he heard about Jesus. Perhaps he began to think about his life and his sin. Perhaps he began to think, "I am very rich, but I am such a sinner. I wonder if a sinner like me could be forgiven? I would like to meet this Jesus and see what he is like."

Soon, Matthew got to do just that. Later that day, Jesus was teaching a large crowd nearby. He came down to the Great West Road and right up to Matthew's tax booth. Jesus looked Matthew in the eyes and said, "Follow me."

What would Matthew do? Leave behind his job, his money? It would be almost impossible to get it back if he quit, especially if he quit right then and there. And what about his house and all his money? If he followed Jesus, he would have to give all of that up. Wouldn't he miss his good lifestyle? Matthew had a lot of big reasons to say "no" to Jesus' offer.

But Matthew had even bigger reason to say "yes" to

Jesus. " Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and has proven He has the power to do it by healing the sick. It is nice to be rich, but I am such a terrible sinner. I want forgiveness even more than riches," thought Matthew. That settled it. Matthew turned to Jesus and said, "Yes, I will follow you!" He just got up, left everything and followed Jesus. Matthew turned away from his sinful life, believed in Jesus and followed him. Matthew was a changed man! God had forgiven and he had joy in his heart.

But it wasn't enough for Matthew to be forgiven of his sins. He wanted the other outcasts, to hear how they, too, could have their sins forgiven, by repenting and believing in Jesus. So Matthew held a great banquet for Jesus at his house and invited a big crowd of tax collectors and other outcasts.

Jesus ate with them and told them about the Kingdom of God. Never had there been a teacher like Jesus! To eat with someone in Jesus' day meant that you considered them as your equal... even as family. No good Jew and certainly no teacher of God's Law would dream of eating with people like Matthew and his friends. But Jesus had come to save sinners from their sins. He knew that many of the other tax collectors and outcasts felt the burden of sin on their hearts, like Matthew. They longed to turn to God and be forgiven. Jesus would not hold back the good news of salvation from them.

But not everyone was as pleased with this news-- especially the Pharisees. "Matthew the tax collector is throwing a huge feast for all the sinners and Jesus has gone to be with them!" they grumbled to each other.

They went to Matthew's house and found Jesus eating, drinking and teaching the people about the Kingdom of God. "Why do you eat and drink with 'sinners'?" the Pharisees complained to Jesus.

"You act like you have no sins. You think your good works make you right with God and you hate people who know they need God's forgiveness," Jesus replied.

"All people are sinners and need God's forgiveness. But until you know you are "sick" with sin, I cannot help you. These people here, they know they are sinners and need to turn away from their sins. So I have come to bring them forgiveness. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance," Jesus told them.

The Pharisees knew the Bible better than anyone else in Jesus' day. They tried hard to keep every single works make you right with God and you hate people who know they need God's forgiveness," Jesus replied.

"All people are sinners and need God's forgiveness. But until you know you are "sick" with sin, I cannot help you. These people here, they know they are sinners and need to turn away from their sins. So I have come to bring them forgiveness. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance," Jesus told them.

The Pharisees knew the Bible better than anyone else in Jesus' day. They tried hard to keep every single law they thought Jews were supposed to keep. They thought this made them acceptable to God. But Matthew and his friends knew something the Pharisees didn't understand: before God, everyone is a sinner in need of salvation. And they did something that the Pharisees didn't do: they turned and trusted in Jesus as their own Savior.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Tax-Man? Why did he need transforming? Matthew was the Tax-Man. He loved money so much that he had been willing to do bad things--such bad things, that he was not even allowed to meet for worship in the synagogue or the Temple. He had chosen money over God.

2. Who transformed him? How? Jesus transformed him. He told him the truth about God and about himself. He offered Matthew forgiveness of sins and new life with God, if he would repent of his life and follow Him as his Lord.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

We Must Trust Him as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 10: 9-10:

"...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Matthew and his friends listened to Jesus. They saw the amazing things He did. And many of them turned away from their sins and trusted Jesus to be their Savior. The Pharisees heard Jesus say and do the same things as Matthew and his friends, yet they would not turn away from their sins, trust in Jesus and be saved.

What about you and me? Will we be like the Pharisees and teachers of the law who know the Bible and can answer all the questions...who try hard to keep all the laws...and think that we please God by knowing a lot and doing a lot of good things? Yet, never turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior?

Or, will we be like the tax-collector Matthew and his friends, who knew they could never earn the favor of God, but must confess their sins, turn away from sinning and trust in Jesus as their own Savior?

Let's praise this Jesus, the God who Saves, who offers forgiveness and sins to the worse of sinners who turns to Him. Let's ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him and turn and trust in His as our Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Lover of Sinful People. You welcome them to come and be forgiven!

C God, we confess that many times we act like the Pharisees. We act like we can make ourselves good enough to please You on our own. Sometimes we don't think we really are that sinful, but, oh, how we need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us all to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to turn away from our old, sinful way of life and live for You instead.

Special Words

Tax Collector: This is not someone like the people who collect our taxes today. This was someone who was paid to collect taxes from people and allowed to be unfair, scare and even hurt people in order to get as much money as they could from people. They became rich by doing this.

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 Savior of sinners who trust in Jesus. We honor You as the wise and good Lord we all should obey.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are all sinners who need a Savior. We can never be acceptable to You on our own. We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for working in the hearts of sinners that they would trust in Jesus as their Savior and be saved.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins to You and repent of them. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to no longer live however we please, but now to live to please You.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Matthew's Money and Feasty Food

Round, money-shaped food like carrot cuts and Ritz-bits peanut butter crackers; or Matthew's feast food, such as grapes, hummus, pita bread, dates, figs, other Middle Eastern foods.

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

Case Tie-in: Matthew grew rich as he cheated people out of their money while collecting taxes, but he was cut off from God. Jesus offered him new life. Matthew turned away from his old life, put his faith in Jesus and chose to follow and obey Him the rest of his life. He invited other needy people like him to hear the good news of God's forgiveness and receive it, too, in a feast at his house.

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.

We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord

It isn't enough to simply think that Jesus is the only way to God. We need to trust in Jesus as our own Savior; and, we need to begin a new life of living for Him.

We need to confess to God that we are a sinner and ask His forgiveness for our sins. We need to believe that Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the perfect payment for our sins; and that three days later, He rose from the dead in victory over death. We need to turn our lives over to Him, asking Him to help us to love and live for Him in everything we do.

Trusting in Jesus to be our Savior is a wonderful work that God does by His Holy Spirit in the hearts of His people. He delights for us to ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to do this work in our heart.

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we also accept Him as our Lord. "Lord" is an old word used in the Bible that we don't use much anymore. It means someone who is in charge and who we are to obey. The sign of someone who truly trusts in Jesus as their Savior, is whether they also are trying to live to please God.

God's people want to obey Him in everything they do, but they can't do think on their own--and they don't have to. God gives believers His Holy Spirit to live inside them and help them to grow in love and in obedience to Him. God always gives us what we need to be His people, if we but ask!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Why isn't it enough to just know that Jesus is the only way to God? *Because we can know something with our minds and there never be a change in our hearts or lives. If we are truly saved, our hearts will be changed and our lives will show that change as we live to love and obey God.*
2. What must we do besides know that Jesus is the only way? *Ask Him to be our Savior, confess our own sins to Him, ask Him to forgive us, trust in our hearts that He died for us and that we are forgiven, and live our lives for Him.*
3. What do we need to believe about Jesus? *That He suffered and died on the cross as the perfect payment for our sins; and then three days later, He rose from the dead in victory over death.*
4. Who do we turn our life over to, if we want Jesus to be our Savior? How do we do that? *We need to turn our lives over to Him, asking Him to help us to stop living live to please ourselves, but instead to live to please God.*
5. What does "Lord" mean? *It means someone who is in charge and who we are to obey.*
6. What is the sign of someone who truly trusts in Jesus as their Savior? *That they are trying to live to please God, instead of just living life their own way.*
7. Who works in our hearts when we trust in Jesus? *God does, by His Holy Spirit.*
8. Who do God's people want to obey in everything they do? *God.*
9. Can they obey God on their own? Who helps them? *No, they can't on their own. The Holy Spirit will help them.*
10. What does God delight to do in our heart, if we ask Him? *To help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior and live for Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 10:9-10**: "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."?
This verse tells us that we are saved when we believe in our hearts that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead in victory over sin.

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What was the difference between how the Pharisees and Matthew and his friends reacted to Jesus?
The Pharisees saw what Jesus said and did, but did not believe; while Matthew and his friends did.
2. What costs did Matthew have to consider in following Jesus and why did he choose following Him?
He had to decide to give up his rich job and his sinful ways. He wanted to be forgiven his sins and to know Jesus more than even his riches.

Life Application Questions

1. Are there any sins we can commit that Jesus cannot forgive if we ask Him? *No!*
2. Who can God's people go to for help in trusting in Jesus? Why? *God. He promises to never turn away anyone who comes to Him. He promises to give faith to all who ask Him for it.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being the Savior of His People.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that we are sinners who have rebelled against God and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need Him to be our Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for making the way, Himself, through Jesus, that we might be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to work in the hearts of others, too, that they might be saved.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news that we need to believe to 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: Rush to Safety

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

To God Be the Glory

Verse 2

O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus
a pardon receives

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 NIV Songs 11, Track 10

Understanding the Song

1. What is "perfect redemption"? *To have your sins completely, perfectly paid for.*
2. Whose blood is the only perfect redemption for our sins? Why? *Jesus: Because only He lived the perfect life that could please God. Only He could offer up His life—His blood—as an acceptable sacrifice for sins.*
3. What is the promise of God? *To pardon every believer who truly believes.*
4. What does "vilest offender" mean? *The worst of sinners.*
5. What does the vilest offender have to do to have his sins forgiven? *Truly believe in Jesus as his Savior.*
6. Why does Jesus pardon make us want to praise and rejoice in the Lord? *Because His pardon is perfect and we never have to worry about our sins again. Because we could never deserve such a wonderful gift.*
7. What does it mean to come to the Father through Jesus the Son? *Trusting in Jesus' death and sacrifice is the only way we can know the Father, the holy, perfect God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord?** *It is not enough to know that Jesus can save, we must trust Him to be our Savior. When we do—even if we have been the worst of sinners—we can know that God will save us, just as He has promised. This makes us want to give God the glory for the great things He has done for us.*

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Matthew and his friends were considered the vilest offenders in Jesus' day; yet, when they turned and trusted in Jesus, He forgave their sins. They praised God for making the way for them to come to Him through Jesus, His Son.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song?
We can praise God who is willing to forgive us our sins, no matter how many or how terrible they are. We can ask Him to help us to truly believe in Him that we would be saved. We can ask God to help us praise His name to others that they might know, too, what an amazing Savior He is.
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: **Romans 10:9-10**: "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."?

No matter who you are and what you have done, you can receive a pardon for all your sins when you truly believe in Jesus (that is, when you have confessed your sins to God, turned away from them and trusted in Jesus as your Savior). This is true, even if you are the vilest offender. How can this be? Because God's people are redeemed through Jesus' blood, shed on the cross. His blood is enough to pay for all of a sinner's sins, no matter how many or how bad they are. That is why God's people praise Him and give Him the glory for this great thing that He has done!

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the purchaser, the redeemer of His people through the blood of Jesus.

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

We can confess that we are vile offenders against God and His good ways. We have all chosen to rebel against Him. We deserve God's punishment! Our only hope is for Him to save us, through the blood of Jesus.

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

We can thank God sending Jesus to save His people from their sins. We can thank Him that He can save anyone, even the vilest offender (the worst of sinners) when they turn from their sins and truly believe in Him.

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

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to pardon our sins and make us His people. We can ask Him to help us praise Him for the great things He has done for His people through Jesus.

Gospel Question

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

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

Meditation Version: Romans 10:9-10

"...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Romans 10:9

"...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does it mean to confess something? *To say that you believe it is true.*
2. What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord? *A lord is someone who rules over his lands; but to say that Jesus is Lord (capital "L") means that he rules over everything.*
3. Why is it important to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? *Only if God raised Jesus from the dead, did Jesus really win the victory over sin and death. He cannot save us, if He was still dead.*
4. What is the difference between knowing about something and believing in something? *You know about something with just your mind, but you believe something with your mind and your heart and are willing to change your life because of it.*
5. What does it mean to be justified? *To be forgiven of your sins so that God does not count them against you. (He treats "just as if I" never sinned.)*
6. Why is confessing with our mouths important for salvation? *It shows that we truly believe that Jesus is Lord and are willing to be known as a believer in Jesus, no matter what others think.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord?**
It's not enough to just know about Jesus. We must believe in our own hearts that He is our Savior and be willing to confess to others that He is our Lord who we obey, if we are to be saved.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Both the Pharisees and Matthew and his friends knew about Jesus, but only Matthew and some of his friends believed in Jesus as their Savior. They, not the Pharisees, were the ones saved.*

Life Application Questions

1. Who can help God's people confess that Jesus is Lord and help us believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? *God! He promises to give faith to all who ask Him for it.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse?
Praise God for being the Lord, the one, true God all should worship and obey.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?
That we have all turned away from God, even though He is Lord. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?
We can thank God for making the way that sinners can be saved.
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 help us confess that Jesus is Lord. We can ask Him to help us believe that He raised Jesus from the dead.*

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. What must we believe if we are to 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: Memory Verse Limbo

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
A broom or other long pole

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

Have the children line up. Have everyone say the verse together. Start with the pole at head height and have each child say the verse before "limbo-ing" (bend backwards without touching the pole) under the pole. Feel free to help the children say the verse. After everyone has gone through at the first height, lower a few inches and repeat the process. (Say verse and have children go through). A child is "out" when he/she can no longer limbo without falling down or touching the pole.

Give children who have a failed limbo attempt the option of being restored to the limbo line again by saying the verse a second time (on their own, with a partner or with you); or, allow them sit quietly in a line in front of the limbo line so that they can help others still "limbo-ing" saying the verse (if needed) or simply watch.

Game continue as time or attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Let the children continue to limbo at each height, even if they have a failed attempt at a particular height.

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.

If You Confess with Your Mouth

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 11, Track 11

If you confess, with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
 And believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
 You will be save, you will be saved.
 For it is with your heart, that you believe and are justified.
 If you confess, with your mouth,
 "Jesus is Lord,"
 And believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,
 You will be save, you will be saved.
 For it is with your mouth, that you confess and are saved.
 Romans Ten, nine and ten.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

General Story Questions

1. What did Matthew do for a living? *He was a tax collector.*
2. Where did Matthew collect taxes? Why was that such a good place to collect taxes? *Along the Great West Road that led from the prosperous city of Damascus in the east, to the ports of Phoenicia on the great Mediterranean Sea to the west. It was one of the busiest roads in all of Israel. There would be lots of merchant caravans to collect taxes from.*
3. Who did Matthew collect the taxes for? *The Roman, Herod Antipas, who ruled over that area.*
4. What did Matthew do that was sinful? *He collected far more money than he should have. He collected taxes on goods that weren't being sold. He cheated the merchants on purpose in order to get really rich.*
5. What kinds of things would Matthew have heard about Jesus? *He was an amazing teacher. He did miracles, such as healing the paralyzed man. He forgave sins.*
6. How did Matthew meet Jesus? *Jesus came up to him at his tax booth on the Great West Road.*
7. What did Jesus ask Matthew to do and why would that have been hard? *To follow Him. It would have been hard because Matthew would have to leave his job and living his rich way of life.*
8. Who did Matthew invite to his feast? *Other tax collectors and other people who led a sinful life.*
9. What did Jesus tell Matthew's friends about? *The way that they could be forgiven their sins and be saved.*
10. Why were the Pharisees shocked that Jesus went to Matthew's feast? *Good Jews and especially teachers should have nothing to do with sinful people like Matthew and his friends. To eat with someone is to consider them an equal, even as family.*
11. What reason did Jesus give the Pharisees for associating with "sinners"? *Because people who know they are "sick" (are sinful) need a physician to heal them (need God's forgiveness), not those who do know think they are "sick" (sinful and in need of saving).*
12. What did Matthew and his friends understand that the Pharisees did not? *That they were sinners who needed to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
13. How did Matthew show that he trusted Jesus as his Savior? *He turned away from his sinful way of life and followed Jesus. He acted differently after he began to follow Jesus. He wanted others to hear the good news of Jesus, too.*
14. What did the Pharisees trust to save them, instead of Jesus? *Their good deeds that they thought would make them pleasing to God.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord**? *Matthew, his friends and the Pharisees all saw the amazing things that Jesus did. They all heard what He taught about Himself and God, His Father. But only Matthew and his friends turned away from their sins, trusted in Jesus and were saved. It is not enough to just KNOW about Jesus. We have to trust Him as our Savior, if we are to be saved.*

Life Application Questions

1. How should our lives show that Jesus is our Savior, if we have trusted in Him as our own Savior? *We are turning away from living life our own way and living to please God. We are seeking to know God and love Him. We are seeking to obey His good laws.*
2. What kinds of things do people trust in, instead of Jesus?
3. What's the difference between knowing that Jesus is the Savior and trusting Him as our OWN Savior? *(One is a fact that we know, but it doesn't change our life or our relationship with God. The other changes our life so that we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus. Our sins are forgiven and we have peace with God.)*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 10:9-10**: "...if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."?

Matthew turned away from their sins and trusted Jesus as their Savior, even before Jesus had risen from the dead. He looked forward in faith to God's promises to save His people through the Messiah, Jesus. But oh, what a wonderful day it was when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to Matthew and the other disciples! Then Matthew, along with the others could fully confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and could fully believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead. On that day, they understood just what Jesus had done to save them.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Lover of Sinful People.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we act like the Pharisees. We act like we can make ourselves good enough to please God on our own. We don't think we really are that sinful. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

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.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Matthew believed? 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: Spoon and Ball Relay

Materials

Spoons, one per each team

Ping-pong Balls, one per each team

Masking Tape

Baskets: one small one per team; plus, one large one to be shared by all teams.

Story Review Questions, one per child

Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own. Write point values to each question, such as 5, 10 and 25 points, depending upon how difficult they are.

5 point questions: What does it say? Simple fact questions, such as "How did Satan tempt Jesus to disobey God, His Father?"

10 point questions: What does it mean? Meaning questions, such as "Why was it important that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?"

25 point questions: What does it mean to me? Life application questions, such as "What is something God wants you to do that you find especially difficult to obey?"

2. Fold up all the questions and place them in the large basket. Place all of the questions in the larger basket at a central point in the room. Use the tape to mark starting points for each team and place the smaller baskets next to the start line. Have a spoon and ping pong ball ready for each team.

Playing the Game

Part 1: Getting the Questions: Split the children into two teams. Have them line up behind the taped lines on the floor. Give the first person in each line a spoon and a ping pong ball. Tell the children that at your signal the first person will walk with the ball balanced in the spoon down to where the basket is. They are to drop the ball into the basket, pick up the ball again as well as a question from the basket and run back with the spoon, ball, and question to their team. They hand the spoon and ping pong ball to the next person in line and deposit their question in their smaller team basket located next to the start line. The relay continues until all children have had a turn.

Part 2: Asking the Questions

After the relay is finished, the children sit down in their groups. The leader will take a question from a team's basket, tell them how many points it is worth and ask them the question. If the team gets it right, then they get the points. If not, then any other team has a chance to win the points. The teacher then proceeds to the next team's basket and continues the process. At the end, add up the points and see who wins.

Non-competitive Option

Split the children into two groups and retrieve the questions as above until all the questions have been retrieved. Have the children of the two groups take turns pulling a question out of their basket for all the children to answer. Tally how many questions the children were able to get right. If desired, can play the game again, using only the questions they did not correctly answer. Ask them these again and see how many they get right the second time. Repeat as long as attention span allows or until all the questions have been correctly answered.

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 (if using a word bank)

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 Transformed Tax-Man.

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

The characters in our story are: Jesus; His disciples; Matthew; Merchants; Crowd with Jesus; Matthew's friends; and, the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

And now we present: "The Case of the Transformed Tax-Man."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Matthew sat in his booth along the Great West Road collecting tax money from the merchants who passed by. He made merchants unload all their goods off their camels and carts for inspection. Matthew made himself rich by overcharging the fair amount of tax on some things and by charging tax on other things that didn't have to be taxed. The merchants hated Matthew (and the other tax collectors) and would curse their name and spit to show their hatred.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Matthew liked being rich but knew he was a sinner. He heard about what Jesus was doing and saying in nearby Capernaum and wanted to meet Him. Jesus walked down the Great West Road with the crowd He was teaching and came up to Matthew. Jesus looked him in the eyes and told him to follow Him. Matthew wanted to trust Jesus more than he wanted his riches. He got up and followed Jesus.

Scene 3: (End)

Matthew held a huge feast at his house for Jesus and all his "sinner" friends. Jesus came and told them about the Kingdom of God. The Pharisees heard about this and came to see what Jesus was doing. They were disgusted that Jesus would eat and talk with such sinners. Jesus told them that He had come to help those who knew they were sick with sin, not those who did not think they had any.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord.** Both the Pharisees and Matthew and his "sinner" friends heard and saw what Jesus did, but only Matthew and some of his friends turned and trusted in Jesus to be their own Savior.

The Riches of Tax Collecting

Description:

The children will make some shekels out of cardboard and paper and put them in a little drawstring bag.

Materials

Posterboard or cereal boxes
 Paper circles of front and back of coins
 Glue sticks
 Scissors
 1 large, white adult sock per child (athletic socks work well)
 1 shoe string (or about 2' of yarn/string) per child
 Colored pencils and/or thin tips markers

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut the posterboard into circles, using the template as a guide. You will need at least 4 circles per child.
2. Make copies of the coin fronts and backs, 1 set per cardboard coin. If working with younger children, you may want to go ahead and cut out the circles. Older children can do this themselves.
3. Cut off the tops of the socks so that you have a 5" sock remaining (use the foot portion). This will be your drawstring bag.
4. If using yarn or string, cut into 2' lengths.
5. Use the point of a scissor blade to poke even spaced holes along the top of each sock, about 1" from the top. (Too much closer and the sock will unravel)
6. Set out supplies.
7. Make a copy of the coins and bag for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample craft.
2. Have them decorate their coin fronts and backs and glue to each side of the cardboard circles.
3. Have the children decorate their sock with the markers.
4. Weave the string in and out the holes in the top of the sock.
5. Tie the ends of the string together in a knot.
6. Put the coins in the bag and draw up the string.

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 Matthew work? *In a booth along the Great West Road, just outside of Capernaum.*
2. What did Matthew do? What did it give him?
He was a tax-collector. It made him very rich.
3. What was wrong with what he did? What happened when he met Jesus?
It was sinful because he took too much money to make himself rich. He left behind his sinful life and the riches of tax-collecting to follow Jesus.
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?
We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord?
Matthew wanted Jesus to be his Savior, even more than he wanted the riches of tax collecting. He chose to turn away from his sinful ways to believe and follow Jesus.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
Having Jesus as our Savior is worth more than anything else!

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.

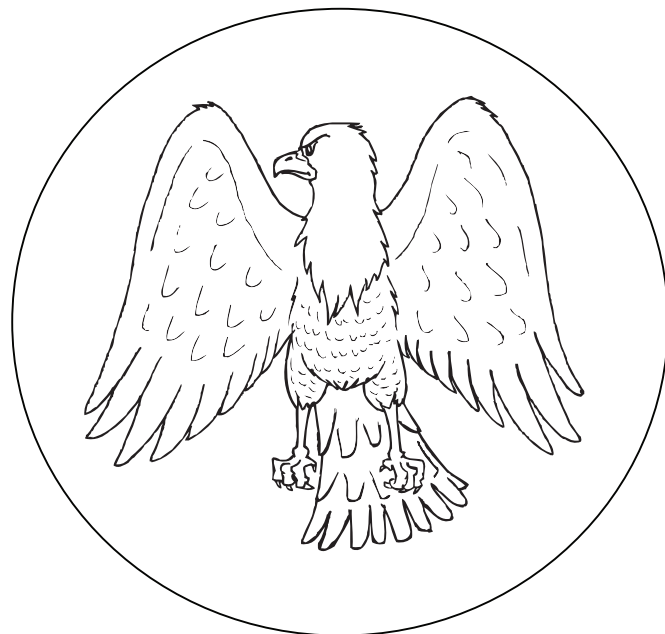
Presentation:

1. Our craft is: The Riches of Tax-Collecting.
2. On the Great West Road, outside of Capernaum, Matthew the tax collector left behind his sinful life and the riches of tax-collecting to follow Jesus.
3. Bible Truth 3 is: We Must Trust Jesus as Our Savior and Obey Him as Our Lord.
4. Matthew wanted Jesus to be his Savior, even more than he wanted the riches of tax collecting. He chose to turn away from his sinful ways to believe and follow Jesus.
5. Our craft can help us remember that having Jesus as our Savior is worth more than anything else!

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.



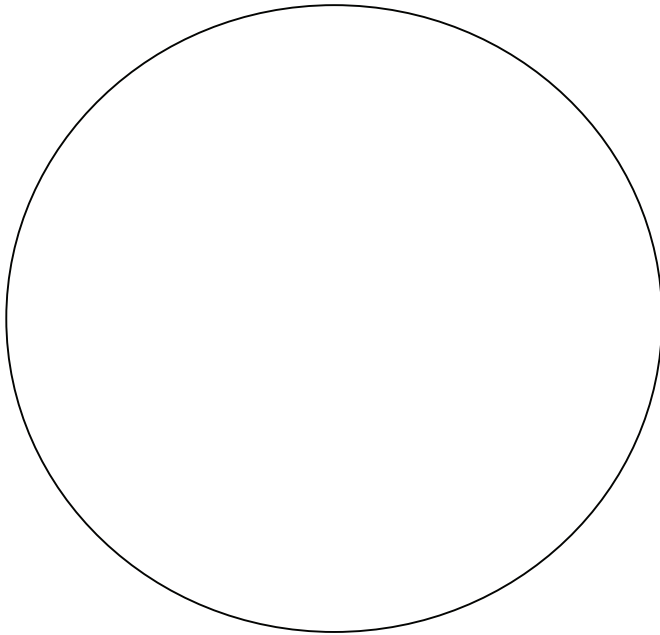
Coin #1, front and back



Coin #2, front and back



Coin #3, front and back



Pattern for cardboard coin

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
