

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 4: The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 11, Tracks 13,14*

Bible Verse: Titus 3:4-7

Bible Verse Song: He Saved Us *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 15*

Extra Bible Verse Song: I Will Give You a New Heart Ezekiel 36:26, ESV PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 16

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Scorpion House

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Chinese Food and the Cost of the Gospel

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, vs.1,2 *PFI ESV Songs 11, Tracks 13,14*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Titus 3:4-7 Discussion Sheet and Game: Puzzling Wall Ball

Bible Verse Song: He Saved Us: Titus 3:4-7 *PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 15*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

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

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

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

Craft: Shouting the Good News of Jesus from Cracks in the Prison

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 11 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Scorpion House

by Connie Dever

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

1. Why was it called the Scorpion House? Who lived there?
2. What did God use who lived there to show and to tell others? What did God begin to do in these other people?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people obeying Jesus' command to spread the good news of salvation to the whole world. It takes place in the 1880's in China.

China is a huge country with big, roaring rivers, tall, majestic mountains, and lush, green valleys. At the time when this story takes place, most of the many millions of Chinese people knew nothing about Jesus but worshiped idols and spirits instead. And that's why the two main people of our story—C.T. Studd and Priscilla Stewart-- chose to leave their comfortable homes and families in England and Ireland and traveled thousands of miles away to China. Someone needed to tell these people about Jesus!

In a tiny mission house, way up the mighty Yangtze River in the little city of Ta-Ku-Tang, a small Chinese man named Pastor Shi stood reading from an opened book to the English man and Irish woman before him.

"Do you Charles, take Scilla to be your wedded wife..to have and to hold...for better or for worse...in sickness and in health....?" the pastor asked the man.

"I do!" responded the English man who looked like a giant compared with tiny Pastor Shi.

"Scilla, do you take Charles to be your wedded husband...to have and to hold... for better or for worse..in sickness and in health...?" he then asked the woman.

"I do!" eagerly replied the lively, blond-haired, blue-eyed young Irish woman.

"I now pronounce you man and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Studd," Pastor Shi announced.

"And now together," Charles and Scilla added, "we want to make another vow: a vow to work together for Jesus. We promise to never hinder each other from serving Jesus however He might call! More than

anything else we want the Chinese people to hear about Jesus and to be saved. We want them to know God's change of heart by the power of His Holy Spirit."

As soon as the wedding ceremony was over, Charles, Scilla and their friend, Miss Burroughes, set off with only five dollars and some bedding to start a brand-new mission outreach station in Lungang-Fu. All over China, people needed to hear about Jesus, but perhaps nowhere more than in Lungang-Fu. It was in the far north of China where no missionary had ever gone before. The trip to Lungang-Fu was far from a relaxing honeymoon! The newlyweds had to cross rushing rivers, hike narrow, dangerous mountain ledges, and slog through mud up to their knees.

And as difficult as the trip to Lungang-Fu was, life in that faraway city was even more difficult! The people of Lungang-Fu weren't happy to see Scilla, Charles and Miss Burroughes and certainly not eager to hear their message about Jesus. No one would even give them a house to live in, except for the one they thought was haunted by evil spirits.

CT, Priscilla and Miss Burroughes gladly took the house. They weren't worried about any evil spirits. They knew that the Lord was the only true God and He was more powerful than any evil spirit. But even so, the house was in terrible shape. It was old and run-down. Its beds made of old, uneven bricks and had thin mattresses with only inch of padding in them. Worst of all, the house was infested with lots of deadly scorpions!

If the house was miserable to live in, life in the village were even worse for them! As soon as people saw the Studds or Miss Burroughes, they would throw glass and bricks at them and would curse them saying: "You are foreigner trouble-makers! You aren't our people.

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.

You call our gods, idols. You tell our people to turn from them to worship your God. All of our problems are your fault because you make our gods unhappy and bring their anger down upon us. Go home!"

But CT, Priscilla and Miss Burroughes wouldn't go home. "We will stay right here in Lungang- Fu. These people have hard hearts full of sin, but the Holy Spirit can change them. We will pray for these people. And, perhaps if we keep on loving them, invite them into our house and let them see how God has worked in us, then they will begin to listen to our message.

And that is what they did. God blessed their prayers and their work. "There is something different about you and your God that is more than just that you are not Chinese. What is it?" some Chinese people began to ask.

"Come to our house and we will tell you," they said.

So the Studds started holding little meetings for anyone interested. "Our God is the one true God who loved the sinful people of the world so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to die for the sins of all who believe in Him," they explained to the Chinese. "We are different because His Holy Spirit came to work in our hearts, giving us faith to believe in Jesus, cleansing our hearts of sin and filling them with His Holy Spirit so that we might know and love God. You can know this one true God, too. He will cleanse your heart and fill you with His Spirit, too."

After one of these meetings, a Chinese man came up to CT and said, "I'm a murderer, an adulterer and drug addict. I've broken all the laws of my village, over and over again. Your God can't do anything to change me. I'm too bad!"

"You're wrong!" the Studds told the man. "There is no one who has sinned too much to be forgiven by Jesus. There is no heart too full of sin that the Holy Spirit can't cleanse it and make it new. You, too, can be one of His people, if you will turn away from your sin and trust in Jesus as your Savior," they promised him.

The man heard these wonderful words of hope and believed. The Holy Spirit changed his heart and he became one of God's people. He was a changed man!

"What good news this is! It is as you said!" the man exclaimed. "I am a new person. I must go at once back to my village where I did all those evil things and tell

them about Jesus and the work of Holy Spirit in my heart." And so he did.

Crowds came to hear what he had to say. "You know what an awful man I have been. You know what terrible things I've done. I thought there could never be any change for me. But I'm here to tell you about the true God who offers salvation through His Son Jesus. He changed my heart by His Holy Spirit. I can't believe in Him and now he has made me like a new person."

The people listened to the man and said, "This is no foreign trouble-maker speaking! We know this man and all the wicked things he used to do. He is truly a changed man. We must know more!" they exclaimed.

But the village leaders didn't want the people to know more. They arrested the man and beat him with a bamboo cane 2000 times and left him for dead. "That will stop the talk about this foreign god!" they thought.

But it did not! The man hadn't died and as soon as he could walk again, he went back to the village and started telling them about Jesus again: "Come and let me tell you about the true God's salvation through Jesus. Let me tell you about the change of heart that He gives through the Holy Spirit," he told them again.

The village leaders were furious! They grabbed the man again and this time threw him in jail. But even in jail, the man found a way to shout the good news of Jesus through the cracks in the prison walls to the crowds that gathered outside his cell.

"There is no stopping this man. He causes problems even when we put him in jail. We might as well let him go," the village leaders decided and released the man. Soon many Chinese people became Christians. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they heard this man's message and saw his changed life.

CT, Scilla and Miss Burroughes were overjoyed at how God had heard their prayers and answered them. They praised God for melting the stony, hard hearts of the Chinese people by His Holy Spirit and bringing them to faith in Jesus.

In a few years, bad health forced CT and Scilla to leave China completely and go back home to England. They were sad to go, but they knew that thanks to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, they were leaving behind a little church of believers with such strong faith

that no persecution could stop them.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Why was it called the Scorpion House? Who lived there? It was infested with scorpions. C.T. Studd, his wife 'Scilla, and Miss Burroughes.

2. What did God use who lived there to show and to tell others? What did God begin to do in these other people? The difference the Holy Spirit makes when He lives in our heart. As the Chinese saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the Studds and Miss Burroughes, they came to their house to hear more about God's Word and salvation through Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit began to work in the house of the Chinese and bring them to faith in Jesus, too.

Something for Me and You

Our Bible Truth is:

The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God

Our Bible Verse is Titus 3:4-7:

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

How wonderful was the work the Lord did in the Chinese people through the Studds! Yet sadly, still today, many today in China still have not heard how they can be saved from their sins through Jesus.

Let's pray that God would send out more people to tell the Chinese people about salvation through Jesus. Let's pray that as they hear, that God's Holy Spirit would work in their hearts and bring many Chinese to know Him. Let's pray that God would give courage to the Chinese Christians to keep on sharing about Jesus, even though they still might be arrested or suffer for it.

And let's ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to maybe even send us to the Chinese people to tell them about Jesus, one day!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit who changes hard hearts of Your people.

C God, we confess that many times, we hardened our hearts to You and Your good ways. We even know the good news of Jesus. We even know how You want us to live, yet we rebel against You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for working in Your people's hearts to want to tell others the good news of Jesus, even if it means risking their own lives.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to cleanse our hearts of sin and give us new hearts that know and love You.

Special Words

Scorpion: An insect from the spider family that has lobster-like pincers and a poisonous sting at the end of its curved, jointed tail. .

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 Changer of the hearts of sinful people, like you and me.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are all sinners. We have hard hearts that are slow to believe, love and obey You. We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to work inside us that we can know You, love You and live for You. You give us what we need, but could never get on our own.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Give us faith as we hear Your Word, the Bible. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us new creations! Give us the new birth! We want to know You and live for You!

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Chinese Food and the Cost of the Gospel

Simple Chinese food (with chopsticks), such as rice with pineapple and soy sauce OR “mud” up to their knees sugar free chocolate pudding, with graham cracker “mountains” sticking out of the mud, and with rushing ice cold “river” water to drink to remind them of the sacrifices the Studds chose to make to tell others about Jesus.

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

Case Tie-in: The Studds and Miss Burroughes chose to go through many hard things and risk their lives to tell the people of China about Jesus. At first the people hated them and treated them cruelly. But, by the help of the Holy Spirit, the Studds and Miss Burroughes responded in love and would not leave. The Chinese people saw this and became curious. They went to learn more about the good news of Jesus and the wonderful Holy Spirit who lived in them. Soon, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of some of the Chinese people. They came to believe in Jesus, too.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, each of us have been born with a spirit dead with sin. That means that on our own, none of us can know God or choose to live for Him, just like a dead person can't bring his body back to life.

But God can do what we cannot do. He can bring dead hearts to life, so that we can know Him and want to live for Him. He does this by sending His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. As we hear God's Word, the Holy Spirit can help us see our sins and help us want to turn away from them. He gives us faith in God. Faith to trust that Jesus died on the cross for sinners and rose from the dead in victory. He gives us a new heart that can know God and want to live for Him.

Jesus called this being "born again, born of God." He calls this being born again because this change in heart is so radical that God actual makes us into a new creation--a brand-new person! He calls this being born of God, because this change comes from God. And with it, He makes us a part of His family forever.

We can ask God's Holy Spirit to work in our hearts like this. God delights to answer this prayer. He loves for sinners to ask Him to change them and make them into His people.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Every since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, each of us has been born with a spirit that is what? *Dead with sin.*
2. What does it mean that our heart is dead with sin? *That on our own, none of us can ever know God or choose to live for Him, just like a dead person can't bring his body back to life.*
3. Who can bring dead hearts to life? *God can.*
4. When God brings a dead heart back to life, what can we do? *We can know God and want to live for Him.*
5. How does God bring a dead heart back to life? *By sending His Holy Spirit to work inside the hearts of sinners.*
6. What does the Holy Spirit do when He works in a sinner's heart? *The Holy Spirit helps them see their sins, be sorry for them and want to turn away from them. He gives them faith in God. He gives them new hearts that can know God and want to live for God.*
7. What does it mean to be born again, born of God? *For the Holy Spirit to work in a sinner's heart, making it new and alive to God.*
8. Whose family do we become part of when we are born again, born of God? *God's family. We become His people, His adopted children.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Titus 3:4-7**: "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."?

Our verse tells us that it is the Holy Spirit who gives God's people a new heart to know, love and obey God. God's people receive this gift of rebirth and new life because of what Jesus did on the cross to save them: He took the punishment for all their sins.

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. Why did C.T. Studd not give up when the Chinese people were so unwilling to believe in Jesus? *Because he knew that the Holy Spirit could work inside their hearts and change them.*
2. How did the people know that something very amazing must have happened inside the heart of the Chinese man who did all the bad things? *The man left his old, sinful ways and was changed into someone who loved God, wanted to please Him and would even be willing to die for Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can we know that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts? *If He helps us see our sins, be sorry for them and want to turn away from them. If our hearts want to please and love God.*
2. What can we ask God to have the Holy Spirit do in our hearts? *Help us to see our sins, be sorry for them, and turn away from them. Ask Him to help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to cleanse our hearts and make us born again.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the Changer of the hearts of sinful people.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that our hard hearts are cold to God and slow to love Him and obey Him. We are dead in our sins on our own. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth? *Thank God for seeking out His people to make Himself known to them.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth? *We can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us new birth, new life through the Holy Spirit working in us. We can ask Him to give us hearts to know, love and obey God.*

The Gospel

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

Game: Circus Lions

Materials

Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.

Hula hoop, etc.

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 11, Tracks 13,14

1. What is grace? *Being treated with favor or given a gift that you could never deserve.*
2. What is a wretch? *A person who has done bad things and deserves nothing. A person who is bad trouble and can't get out of it.*
3. What was the wretch saved from? *From the punishment he deserved from God for the bad things he had done; and, from the trouble his sins had gotten him into.*
4. Who saved this wretch and how? *Jesus died on the cross to pay for his sins and the Holy Spirit worked in his heart that he might see his sins, turn from them and believe in Jesus.*
5. How is being a sinner like being "lost" and becoming one of God's people like being found? *All people were made to know and love God, yet they rebelled against Him and cut themselves off from Him. Now, unless God works in their hearts to help them believe in Jesus and receive forgiveness for sins, they will live their lives apart from God and His blessings, like someone lost out on their own away from their home. But, when someone does turn to God and believe in Jesus, they come to know God again and all the blessings that come with knowing Him. That is like being found and brought back to your wonderful home after being lost out on your own.*
6. What kind of "blindness" and "seeing" did the wretch have? *Spiritual blindness—not being able to know that you are a sinner or know God. Spiritual sight—being able to know that you are a sinner and able to know God.*
7. What three things did God in His grace "do" in the wretch's heart (verse 2)? *Made his heart to fear God's wrath against his sin; relieved his fears as he learned about Jesus' offer of forgiveness to those who believe in Him; and, worked in his heart that he would believe in Jesus as his Savior.*
8. How did God in His grace "do" these things in the wretch's heart? *By His Holy Spirit, working in his heart.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God?**

All people would be lost in their sins and rebellion forever if it were not for God's work by the Holy Spirit in their hearts. By God's amazing grace, His free gift given to sinners, the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of God's people. He first gives them "sight" to make them aware of their sinfulness and to fear His judgment, then as they turn to Him, He relieves their fears by taking away their guilt the hour they believe. He cleans their hearts from sin and gives them love for God. Why does the Holy Spirit do this? Because Jesus died on the cross and paid for all their sins. God's people know the gift of the Holy Spirit working in their hearts all because of Him!

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *People were amazed when the Chinese man told how God had changed him! He had been a very, very bad man, but as he heard the good news of Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked in his heart. He taught the man to fear God's punishment for his sins; and then, He helped the man believe and trust in Jesus as his Savior. How precious was salvation through Jesus to this man! How amazed he was that God would show him such undeserved favor and make him one of God's people!*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Titus 3:4-7**: "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."?

God, in His kind grace, sends His Holy Spirit to work in His people. He shows God's people that they are "wretches" before Him—they are sinners deserving His punishment. When they see they deserve His punishment it causes them to fear. Through His Word and others sharing the good news of Jesus with them, they hear how God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. They are forgiven! They will not face God's punishment! This relieves their fears from the hour they believe. How amazing is God's grace given to them through Jesus' death on the cross...and given to them through the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We thank God for His amazing grace shown to sinners and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might see our sins, turn from them and believe, like the person in this song.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Giver of Amazing Grace, enough to save His sinful people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *We can confess that many times we are blind to our sins, not even seeing them. We need God's grace! We need a Savior!*

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

We can thank God for showing His people their sins, helping them fear His punishment, and then forgiving their sins through Jesus. We can thank God for the gift of faith, given to His people, by His grace.

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

That God would work in our hearts that we might see our sins, turn from them and trust Jesus as our Savior

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of Jesus that can relieve our fear of God's punishment? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song

White board and marker

Eraser

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Meditation Version: Titus 3:4-7

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Titus 3:5

"...He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who was the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior who appeared and saved God's people? Jesus.
2. Why is goodness and loving kindness of God a good way to describe Jesus? Jesus lived a perfectly good life. In His great loving kindness, He chose to rescue sinners from their biggest problem that they could never rescue themselves from--their sin and the punishment of death they deserve because of sin. Jesus chose to come, suffer and die for the sins of God's people to save them. God used His perfect goodness to show us more loving kindness anyone has ever shown--and to people so undeserving!
3. Why did Jesus come to be our Savior? Because of His mercy, not because of righteous things we had done.
4. What are righteous things? Obeying God and His good laws.
5. Why did it have to be God's mercy, not our righteousness that Jesus came to save us? Because we are all sinners. We could never deserve such kindness from God because of what we do. We would have to be perfect to serve that.
6. Who is "us" that God saved? *God's people. All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus to save them. That can be us, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
7. How did God save His people? *Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit He gave them through Jesus Christ, their Savior.*
8. What does "rebirth" mean? *To be born again, born of God.*
9. What does "renewal" mean? *To be made like new again.*
10. Who gives rebirth? Who renews them? *The Holy Spirit.*
11. What part of us is born again, is renewed by the Holy Spirit? *Our spirits, our hearts.*
12. How is being born again and being renewed by the Holy Spirit like being washed? *Our spirits are "dirty" with sin. The Holy Spirit makes them like new, just like washing dirty clothes takes away the dirty and makes them look like new.*
13. Why did it have to be through Jesus that God could give His People the Holy Spirit? *No sinner can have the Holy Spirit live inside him unless his sins have been paid for. Jesus offered His life up as the payment for the sins of His people, since they could never pay for them, themselves. So it is only through Jesus' death for us that we could ever be made right to receive the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God?**
God's people receive this gift of rebirth and new life through the Holy Spirit because of what Jesus did on the cross to save them: He took the punishment for all their sins. The Holy Spirit works inside the hearts of sinners so that they can see their sins, be sorry for them and want to turn away from them. He gives them faith in God. He gives them new hearts that want to please and love God.

Story Connection Questions

1. How did the people know that the one particularly bad Chinese man had been born again and renewed by the Holy Spirit? *The Holy Spirit worked inside his heart and changed him so that stopped doing sinful things and loved and obeyed God.*

Life Application Questions

1. What should we do if we want the Holy Spirit to wash and renew our hearts? *Turn from our sins and believe 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 Giver of the Holy Spirit to His People to give them new birth and new life in Him.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *That we have all turned away from God. None of us love God on our own and obey Him. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior! We need the Holy Spirit!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for sending Jesus to die for His people's sins, that they could be given new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. We can ask Him to give us hearts that know and love God.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that the Holy Spirit helps us believe? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
An object to hide

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 sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, led by the teacher, will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

Game continues as time or 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.

He Saved Us

He saved us, he saved us,
By regeneration
And renewal of the Spirit.
He saved us, he saved us,
By the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit whom he poured out,
On us richly,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
The Holy Spirit whom he poured out,
On us, through Jesus Christ.
Titus Three, verse five through seven.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 11, Track 15

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What promise did CT and Priscilla did make when they were married? *To never hinder each other from serving Jesus, whatever He might call them to do.*
2. What was so different about the Studds' honeymoon? *It was spent traveling a hard, dangerous road to Lungang-fu with a fellow missionary.*
3. Why did they want to go to Lungang-fu? *Because no one had yet gone there with the good news of Jesus.*
4. Why didn't the people of Lungang-fu like the Studds? *The Studds were foreigners who said that their gods were only idols. They thought their gods were angry and were making bad things happen to people because of what the Studds said about them.*
5. Why did the people of Lungang-fu let the Studds have that one particular house in Lungang-fu? *Why weren't the Studds worried about this? The people believed it was haunted with evil spirits. The Studds weren't worried because they knew that the Lord was the one, true God. He had power over all evil spirits. They had nothing to worry about!*
6. What was so bad about the house they lived in? *It was old and run down. It had beds made of broken, uneven bricks and thin mattresses. It was infested with scorpions!*
7. What did the people do to the Studds when they left their house? *They threw bricks and glass at them and told them to leave.*
8. Why didn't the Studds give up? *They wanted the people to hear about Jesus and be saved.*
9. What did the Studds believe the Holy Spirit could do? *They believed He could change the hearts of the people of Lungang-fu so that they believed in Jesus. He could change them so that they loved God.*
10. Why did the Chinese man think God couldn't forgive him? *He had been too bad of a sinner.*
11. How did the people from the Chinese man's village know that something had happened inside the man's heart? *Because the man was so changed. He no longer did the same sins he had done before. He did not speak the same way he used to.*
12. What did the Chinese man tell his people had happened to him? *That God had forgiven his sins through Jesus. He had sent the Holy Spirit to clean his heart and make it new. He filled it with love for God.*
13. Why did the village leaders want the man to stop telling others about Jesus? *They didn't want the people to hear about or believe in the Lord because He was a foreign god.*
14. Why did the man keep telling about Jesus, even after he was beaten and thrown into jail? *Because he knew that the good news of Jesus was true! He wanted everyone to know how they could be saved from their sins, too. He was willing to suffer to be able to tell them about Jesus.*
15. What made the Studds happy, even though they had to leave China? *They knew that there was now a little church of Chinese Christians who could keep telling the people about salvation through Jesus.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *The Holy Spirit worked in the hard hearts of the Chinese people to see their sin, turn and believe in Jesus and be saved.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: **Titus 3:4-7**: "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."?

The Chinese man did not think he could be saved or his life changed. He thought he was too bad of a sinner. But the Studds told him that God, by the Holy Spirit, is able to save and change anyone who repents of their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior. How? By sending His powerful Holy Spirit to work these changes in their hearts. The man turned from his sins and believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit changed his heart and changed his life. The other Chinese saw these changes and wanted to hear the good news of Jesus, too. Many of them also became Christians.

Life Application Questions

1. Why is there still a need to go to China? *Because many millions of Chinese still do not know about Jesus.*
2. What powerful things can we do to help change the hearts of Chinese people, even right here at home? Why? *We can pray that God would send His Holy Spirit to work in the Chinese people's hearts when they do hear about Jesus. God loves to answers prayers to work in the hearts of people and He is always completely able to do this.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?
Praise God for being the Giver of the Holy Spirit who changes hard hearts of His People.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?
Confess that many times, we hardened our hearts to God and His good ways. We even know the good news of Jesus. We even know how God wants us to live, yet we rebel against Him. 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 working in His people's hearts to want to tell others the good news of Jesus, even if it means risking their own lives.
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

The Gospel

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

Game: Shoe Search and Ransom

Materials

The children's shoes

Masking Tape

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.
2. Hide the questions around the room. Make a line out of tape for each team, approximately long enough to place one shoe per child per team on it.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Have them take off one of their shoes and give them to you to place along the taped line in front of their team and then sit back down in their groups. Tell them that in order for them to get back their shoes, they will have to do a little searching and ransoming. Explain that questions on small pieces of paper are hidden around the room. You will alternate between the two teams asking the first person in each line to get up and find a question for their team to answer. (The person hunting can ask for suggestions, if desired, from his/her seated teammates.) If the team answers it correctly, then that child's shoe is "ransomed". If not, then the question goes to the other team to answer. If they answer it correctly, then the first team member's shoe is ransomed.

Continue until all shoes are ransomed. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children sit down in a circle around the pile of shoes. Let one or two children at a time search for a question for the teacher to ask the group. If the group gets it right, then the child/children can ransom one of their shoes. Continue until everyone has their shoes ransomed.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is: The Case of the Scorpion House.

It takes place in the 1880's in China.

And now we present: "The Case of the Scorpion House."

Scene 1:

C.T. Studd and Priscilla Stewart stand before a little Chinese pastor. They make marriage vows to each other, promising together to never stop each other from serving Jesus, no matter what He might call them to do. After the wedding, they begin the difficult trip with their companion, Miss Burroughes, to Lungang-fu, in the distant far north of China. This is a part of China where no missionary has ever gone before. They travel through rushing rivers, dangerous mountain ledges, and knee-high mud until at last they get there.

Actions:

Scene 2:

The people of Lungang-fu are not at all happy that these white people have come. They think they will bring bad luck to their village. Only Chinese should live there. The only house the Studds are allowed to live in is a terrible house with brick beds and lots of dangerous scorpions. The Chinese throw bricks and glass at the Studds whenever they came out of their house. They tell them to leave Lungang-fu. But the Studds did not leave. They prayed that God would send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as the people came to their house and saw how they lived. God answered their prayers and the people began to come to listen to the Studds' message about Jesus. One man who was a murderer, a adulterer and a drug addict heard their message. He did not think that God could change him, but he was wrong. The Holy Spirit helped him believe and changed him.

Scene 3:

The man goes back to his village to tell the people there about Jesus. Many people come to listen and see this man who had been changed so completely. The village leaders get worried. They don't want the people to believe in Jesus. They have the man beaten and left for dead. But the man did not die. He gets up and keeps on telling more people about Jesus. So the village leaders decide to put him in jail, but he keeps telling the people about Jesus by shouting out the cracks of his cell. Finally, the village leaders give up and let him out. They see that they can't stop him from preaching about Jesus. At last, sickness forces the Studds to leave China, but they praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the Chinese people; and for leaving behind believers to tell others about Jesus.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God.** The Holy Spirit worked in the hard hearts of the Chinese people to see their sin, turn and believe in Jesus and be saved.

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 Scorpion House.

It takes place in the 1880's in China.

The characters in our story are: C.T. Studd; Priscilla Stewart; the Chinese Pastor; Miss Burroughes; Lungang-fu; Chinese people; "Bad" Chinese man; People from "bad" man's village; and, the Village leaders.

And now we present: "The Case of the Scorpion House."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

C.T. Studd and Priscilla Stewart stand before a little Chinese pastor. They make marriage vows to each other, promising together to never stop each other from serving Jesus, no matter what He might call them to do. After the wedding, they begin the difficult trip with their companion, Miss Burroughes, to Lungang-fu, in the distant far north of China. This is a part of China where no missionary has ever gone before. They travel through rushing rivers, dangerous mountain ledges, and knee-high mud until at last they get there.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The people of Lungang-fu are not at all happy that these white people have come. They think they will bring bad luck to their village. Only Chinese should live there. The only house the Studds are allowed to live in is a terrible house with brick beds and lots of dangerous scorpions. The Chinese throw bricks and glass at the Studds whenever they came out of their house. They tell them to leave Lungang-fu. But the Studds did not leave. They prayed that God would send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as the people came to their house and saw how they lived. God answered their prayers and the people began to come to listen to the Studds' message about Jesus. One man who was a murderer, a adulterer and a drug addict heard their message. He did not think that God could change him, but he was wrong. The Holy Spirit helped him believe and changed him.

Scene 3: (End)

The man goes back to his village to tell the people there about Jesus. Many people come to listen and see this man who had been changed so completely. The village leaders get worried. They don't want the people to believe in Jesus. They have the man beaten and left for dead. But the man did not die. He gets up and keeps on telling more people about Jesus. So the village leaders decide to put him in jail, but he keeps telling the people about Jesus by shouting out the cracks of his cell. Finally, the village leaders give up and let him out. They see that they can't stop him from preaching about Jesus. At last, sickness forces the Studds to leave China, but they praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the Chinese people; and for leaving behind believers to tell others about Jesus.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God.** The Holy Spirit worked in the hard hearts of the Chinese people to see their sin, turn and believe in Jesus and be saved.

Shouting the Good News of Jesus from Cracks in the Prison

Description

Children will make a little prison decorated with construction paper stones that has flaps which acts as cracks in the wall. They will make a simple popsicle stick Chinese man who says "Believe in Jesus" as he pops his head out the various cracks (flaps) in the prison wall.

Materials

1 Tall, sturdy paper cup with waxy finish. (Preferably the 5.25" tall variety with a 3 3/8" mouth)
 Chinese man pattern
 Tape (preferably packing tape)
 Scissors
 Gray, brown, black construction paper (or stones as given in the follow resource pages)
 Glue sticks
 Popsicle sticks, 1 per man
 Markers or colored pencils, etc.

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out the Chinese man pattern, preferably onto card stock so he will be sturdy. Cut out around them (especially for youngest children).
2. Print out 1 page of stones per child. Or, cut stones out of the gray, brown and black construction paper into similar shapes and number.
3. Cut out 3 or 4 flaps for the cracks in various places and heights around the prison wall, leaving one side attached to the cup. These should be about 1" x 1". Note: the bottom of the prison is the mouth of the cup. The top of the prison is the bottom of the cup.
4. Print out the Chinese words "Believe in Jesus" in the thought bubbles, 1 per child.
5. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children glue the stones onto their prison, even the flaps that are the cracks in the prison walls. But make sure the children glue the stone onto the cracks while holding the flaps away from the wall of the prison so that they remain free to open and shut. Tell the children that the mouth of the cup is actually the bottom of the prison, so they will want to glue stones to the top of the prison (the bottom of the cup).
3. Have the children decorate the Chinese man and tape him to the popsicle stick.
4. Tape the Chinese pronunciation for "Believe in Jesus" "Shing Yeh-zu" to the top of the prison
5. Hold the cup with one hand and hold the popsicle stick of the man in the other. Move the man up, down and around the prison "cell", letting his head stick out. As his head sticks out have the children say the Chinese words for "Believe in Jesus."

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 the Studds go to share the good news of Jesus? *China.*
2. What happened to the "bad" Chinese man who became a Christian? How was he treated? *He went back to his home village to tell them about Jesus, but the village leaders didn't want him to talk to the people. They had him hurt and put him in jail to get him to stop.*
3. What did the man do in jail? Why?
The man kept shouting out the good news of Jesus to people through cracks in the jail's walls. He wanted everyone to know how to be saved and how the Holy Spirit had changed his heart.
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God.
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God?
This Chinese man was so bad that he didn't think that God could forgive his sins and change his heart. But God did change his heart. The man was so amazed at what God did in his life that he couldn't stop telling others about it...even from inside the prison. He wanted them to know how they could be saved, too.
6. What can our craft help us remember?
God can change the hearts and forgive the sins of even the worst of sinners.

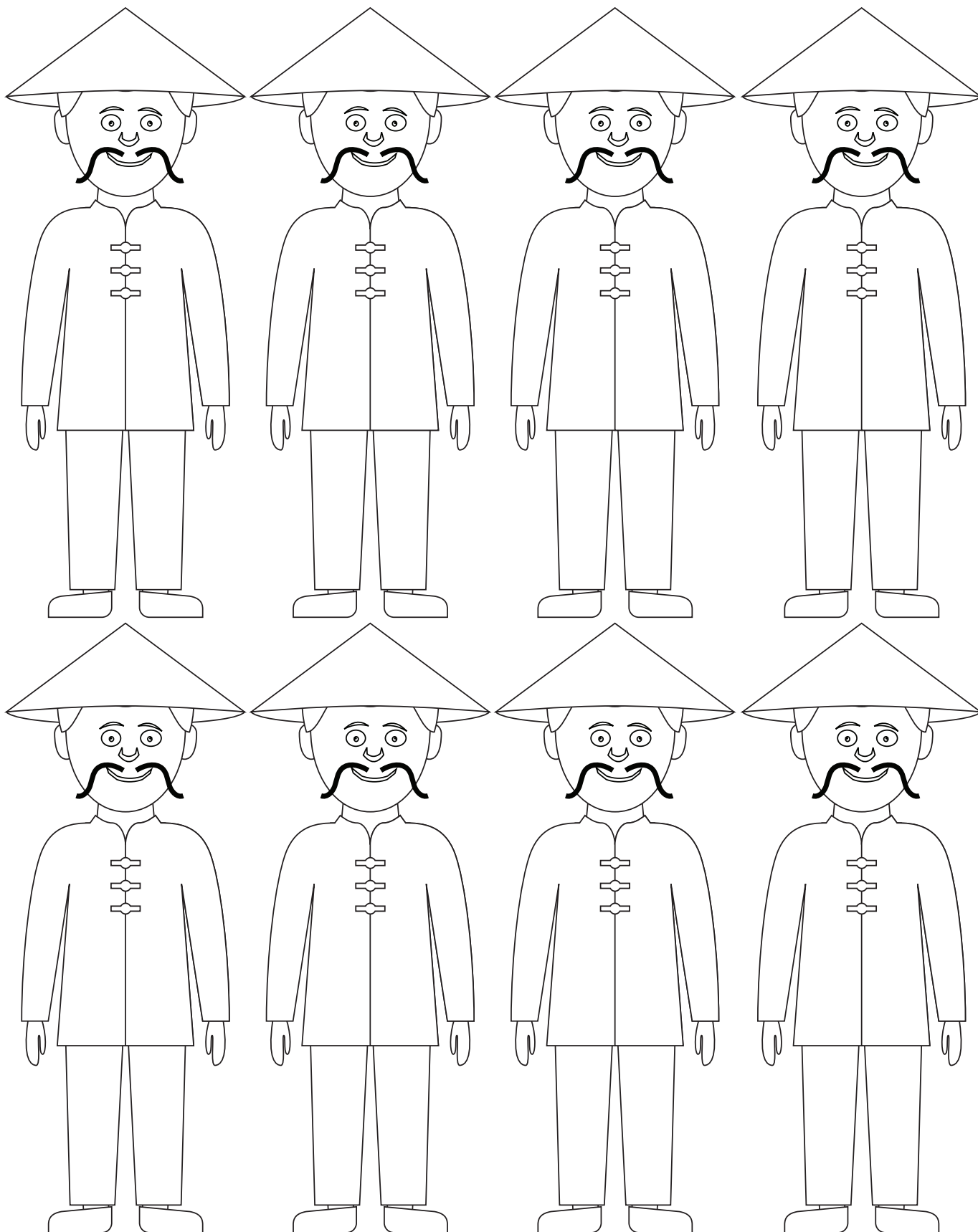
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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

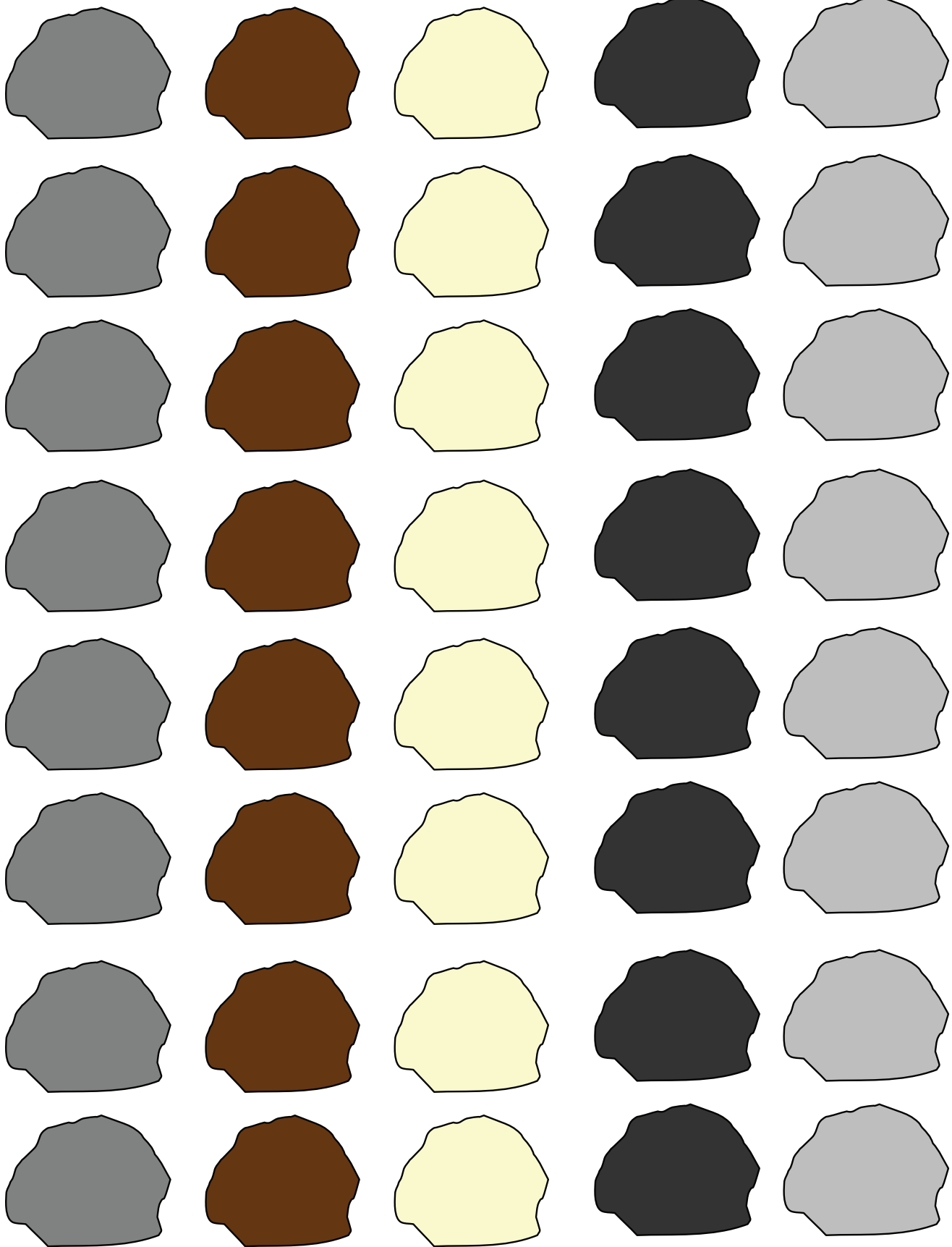
Presentation:

1. Our craft is: Shouting the Good News of Jesus from Cracks in the Prison.
2. In China, a very bad Chinese man who became a Christian was hurt and put in jail for telling others about Jesus but he kept shouting out the good news of Jesus to people through cracks in the jail's walls. He wanted everyone to know how to be saved and how the Holy Spirit had changed his heart.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The Holy Spirit Brings Us to God.
4. This Chinese man was so bad that he didn't think that God could forgive his sins and change his heart. But God did change his heart. The man was so amazed at what God did in his life that he couldn't stop telling others about it...even from inside the prison. He wanted them to know how they could be saved, too.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God can change the hearts and forgive the sins of even the worst of sinners.

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



Rocks



Words of Chinese Man

**“Shing Yeh-zu”
Believe in
Jesus!**

**“Shing Yeh-zu”
Believe in
Jesus!**

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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. They are found in the back of this book.

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

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

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

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

Game: Over, Under and Throw

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

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

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
