

## **BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

**Welcome to Praise Factory:** PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 1*

**Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:** WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song  
*PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 2*

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

**Big Question Bible Verse:** Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*

*Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

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

**Bible Truth 1:** God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The Church's One Foundation, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 7*

**Bible Verse:** 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Bible Verse Song:** We All with Unveiled Face *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 8*

**Lesson 1 New Testament:** The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave *The Book of Philemon*

### **TAKING ACTION: Response Activities** (*choose from among these activities*) *resources online only unless noted*

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Runaway Among the Rocks

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The Church's One Foundation, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 7*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me!

**PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** 2 Corinthians 3:18 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hoop & Holler

**Bible Verse Song:** We All with Unveiled Face 2 Corinthians 3:18 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 8*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away

**PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Keep It Under Your Hat

**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:** A Letter for Philemon

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets and Game: Mix and Match

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 1, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave** *The Book of Philemon* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was Sneak-Away Slave? Why did he sneak away?
2. What happened that caused him to go back?

Our story today takes place during New Testament times, about 30 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Tired and dusty, Philemon arrived in Ephesus. Philemon was a rich man from Colossae, an important city on the Lycus River and in the shadow of great Mt. Cadmus. He had traveled 120 miles up the trade route to the even bigger city of Ephesus to do business. What exactly Philemon planned to sell in Ephesus, we don't know. It might have been wool or purple cloth, since Colossae was famous for these. But whatever it was Philemon had come to Ephesus to get a little richer from selling on that trip, he certainly went home far richer than he could have imagined and from something far different and totally unexpected. From Paul, he came to know what true riches were.

Paul had come to Ephesus to share about Jesus. Every day Paul preached in the Hall of Tyrannus and it was probably here that Philemon heard the gospel. "All people are sinners who deserve God's eternal punishment for their sin," Paul would have said. "But God in His great mercy, sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross as complete payment for the sins of all who would ever repent and turn and trust in Him. Come, repent, come, believe!" he urged the listening crowd.

The Holy Spirit was at work in Philemon as Paul preached. He gave him the gifts of repentance and faith. Here were true riches! To know God and to be forgiven from his sins. Philemon was a new person, with the Holy Spirit living in his heart.

But that was only the beginning of the changes to happen to Philemon. The Holy Spirit was at work, helping him live more like Jesus. Now Philemon wanted to tell others about Jesus and help them live like Jesus, too. When he returned back home to Colossae, he told his wife, Apphia, and his son, Archippus, about Jesus and they became Christians, too. He told many others

about Jesus and before long, a whole little church of believers met each week at Philemon's villa. How happy Philemon and this little church was! Here were true riches! Knowing God and having the Holy Spirit at work in each of their hearts!

And the more the Holy Spirit worked, the more all these believers lived like Jesus-- especially Philemon. He became well-known for his great faith in God and his love for all of God's people. Word even reached Paul, far, far away, about the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in Philemon's life.

But even despite all these wonderful things that were happening, not everyone was happy at Philemon's. A man named Onesimus, in particular was very unhappy. The big reason Onesimus was unhappy was he was a slave. In case you don't know, a slave is a person that is bought by another person and forced to work for them for no money. A few people were slaves by choice. But most slaves were forced to become slaves when the Romans defeated them in war. During Onesimus' time, the Romans bought and sold about 500,000 new slaves a year.

Like many slaves, Onesimus wanted his freedom, but it cost a lot of money and few could ever afford it. And besides, he didn't want to wait year to save up enough money. He wanted his freedom now! He was so unhappy and he didn't do his work well. Onesimus means 'useful' in his language, but 'useless' would be a better name for him.

Onesimus decided to take things into his own hands. "I am tired of this life as a slave! I am going to runaway!" thought Onesimus. And that was just what he did.

"Philemon, Onesimus is missing...and so is some of

**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.

your money. Sir, I think he's run away," one of the others soon reported.

"Go after him. Try to find him!" Philemon replied.

But Onesimus was nowhere to be found. Onesimus ran and hid. On and on he went, always on the lookout. He knew the penalties for runaway slaves! Perhaps his master had changed and was known far and wide for his love for God and others. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was transforming his heart; but, according to Roman laws, masters had to right to severely punish their runaway slaves--even put them to death! Onesimus would take no chances. Onesimus would take no chances. No, there would be no catching him!

Onesimus traveled 1200 miles through the mountains of Turkey, Greece and Italy, until he reached Rome. This was a huge city. He could hide easily here. But even there, Onesimus never felt free. He was a hunted man. There was always a chance that someone might find out he was a runaway slave and arrest him.

"I can't go back, but I can't keep living like this!" Onesimus thought. "How can I get out of this terrible situation?"

Onesimus didn't know the answer, but the Lord did. The Lord loved Onesimus and all along had a plan for rescuing him using the same man who had shared the good news of Jesus with Philemon, his master--the apostle Paul!

Like Onesimus, Paul wasn't in Rome as a free man. He had been arrested in Jerusalem and sent to Rome to face trial. He was being carefully guarded by Roman soldiers but had been allowed to live in a little house instead of in a prison cell.

When Onesimus heard that Paul was in Rome, he got an idea: "I will go to Paul and ask him for help. Perhaps there is something he can do for me."

Onesimus went to Paul and said, "Sir, my name is Onesimus. I am Philemon's runaway slave. You helped him. Perhaps you can help me, too?"

Paul listened to Onesimus' story. "I believe I can help you, but perhaps in a different way than you were thinking. Your real problem is much bigger than being a runaway slave. Your real problem is your sin. You need to repent of your sins. You need to believe in Jesus as your Savior," Paul told him. "In Him you will find the true

freedom you really are looking for."

The Holy Spirit was at work in Onesimus' heart as he heard about Jesus. He repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Now it was Onesimus who was a changed man. He was free at last from the worst kind of slavery in his life: the slavery of sin.

The Holy Spirit began to work the same kind of changes He had worked in Philemon's heart. Now Onesimus began to love God. Now he wanted to live a different life. He wanted to live like Jesus did. Onesimus began to live up to his name "useful." He stayed in Rome and served Paul every way he could, and Paul taught him more about Jesus. Soon Paul loved Onesimus as if he were his very own son.

But as the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, it became clear to Onesimus that he had wronged his master. He knew he must go home, ask for his forgiveness, and take whatever punishment he deserved. That was what would please God. Paul agreed that this was what Onesimus must do, even though it might be very hard and he might face great punishment.

"I've written a letter to Philemon so that he can understand everything that has happened to you, Onesimus. I've told him that I will pay him back for anything that you took from his house and have asked him to set you free," Paul said. "I am sending Tychus to go with you on your journey, to carry this letter and give it to Philemon. I will be praying for you. But Onesimus, remember that whether Philemon releases you or not, you are always to live for God for you do not just serve an earthly master, but God who is in heaven."

They said goodbye, then Onesimus was on his way.

We don't completely know what happened when Onesimus went home, but surely the Holy Spirit was at work in each man's heart. Some say that Philemon freed Onesimus and that Onesimus went on to become the pastor of the church in Ephesus. It was there, when told to choose to stop following Jesus or die, that Onesimus chose death. He could never turn away from His Savior who had died on the cross to bring him true freedom--freedom from sin.

**Cracking the Case:**

**It's time to answer our Case Questions.**

- 1. Who was Sneak-Away Slave? Why did he sneak away?** Onesimus. He did not want to be a slave.
- 2. What happened that caused him to go back?** Paul shared the gospel with him and he became a Christian. He went back home because as he grew as a Christian, he knew this was the right thing to do.

**Something for You and Me**

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

**Our Bible Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

What about us? Can the Holy Spirit do this kind of work in us? Yes, He can! If we confess and turn away from our sinful lives and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, the Holy Spirit will cleanse our hearts. Then He will begin to transform our hearts so that we will love Him and live for Him more and more. Let's praise this God who does not just save His people, but who keeps working in their hearts by the Holy Spirit; and let's ask Him to do that work in us so that we will become more and more like Him.

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

**A** God, we praise You for being the Freer of People from their slavery to sin.

**C** God, we confess that like Onesimus and Philemon we are sinners. Like Onesimus, we want to live life our own way and are willing to do things the wrong way to get what we want. Like Philemon, we think a lot about the good, rich things we enjoy more than You. We need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by You. Thank You for working out Your good plans to save Your people, even when they least expect it.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to change our hearts so that we love You and live to please You with our lives, more and more.

# **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 Your People through Your Holy Spirit.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that many times we do not live or love like Jesus. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for Your promise to change Your people to love and live for You. None who trust in Jesus ever need to feel hopeless about their sins!

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts! Send Your Holy Spirit to live inside of us. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Make us more like Jesus in how we live and love.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: Runaway Among the Rocks**

Cheese ball or pretzel nugget “rocks” with a Teddy graham Onesimus hiding behind them. You may also add a broccoli floret bushes, too.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Onesimus ran away from Philemon and went all the way to Rome, hiding from anyone who might try to find him and take him back to his old way of life. But in Rome, Onesimus became a Christian. As God’s Word and the Holy Spirit worked changes in him, he knew he must go back and face Philemon. He must ask for forgiveness and work out his difficulties in the right way. So he did.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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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.

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

### **God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

When someone when turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, they become one of God's people. Not only does God forgive their sins, but He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.

The Holy Spirit works powerfully inside of God's people. He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act. He is their Helper, their Comforter, their Guide, who will always be with them, at work on the inside.

None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth. But God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, is growing them and transforming them, bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven one day.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. How does someone become one of God's people? They turn away from their sins (repent) and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
2. What are two things that God does when someone becomes a Christian (one of God's people)? He forgives their sins and He puts His Holy Spirit in their heart to live.
3. Who lives within the hearts of God's people? *The Holy Spirit.*
4. Does the Holy Spirit come to live in our hearts that beat? *No, heart is also another word for our spirit, the part of us that we cannot see but that thinks, feels and can know and love God and others.*
5. What does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of God's people? *He gives them wisdom and helps them understand God's Word. He helps them want to love and please God. He helps them continue to turn away from their old ways of living. He helps them to grow more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act.*
6. What does it mean to be like Jesus? Do Christians start to look just like Jesus did on the outside? *No. It means that they love God and live lives that please Him, like Jesus did.*
7. What are some things that change as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts? *The way they think, speak and act.*
8. Will God's people be perfect here on earth? *No.*
9. Who works to transform God's people bit by bit? *The Holy Spirit.*
10. Why does the Holy Spirit transform God's people? *For their good and God's glory.*
11. What does the Holy Spirit's work help God's people do? *Helps them to live for God on earth.*
12. Where is the Holy Spirit preparing God's people to live? *In heaven.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18:** "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."?

*This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God's people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.*

### **Bible Truth Story Connection Questions**

1. How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in Philemon's life?  
*He loved God and others more and more. He shared with others about Jesus and offered his home as a place for the church to meet.*
2. How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in Onesimus' life? *He loved God more, he served Paul cheerfully, he decided to go back to his master and turn himself in.*

### **Life Application Questions**

1. How can we have the Holy Spirit work in our lives? *We must turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit, cleansing our hearts and then working inside to help us to love God and live lives that please Him.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the Changer of His People through the Holy Spirit.*

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

*Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.*

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

*Thank God for His promise to change His people to love and live for Him. No one is too bad for God to change.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Ask Him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to make us more like Jesus in how we live and love.*

**The Gospel**

1. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to change us so that we love God and live for Him more and more? 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: Menagerie

### Materials

Small Bag/Bowl  
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

Divide the children into three or four teams, depending on how many children you have. Each group of children is given the name of an animal and is assigned a corner of the room. You are "It" and stand in the middle of the room. When everyone is ready, give instructions to different groups of animals, such as "I want the bears to change places with the monkeys." The bears and monkeys when then run to change places. You, as It, will try to tag bears and monkeys. Choose a question from the bag to read to your caught animals. If they get it right, they are released to be back with their fellow animals. If not, they must wait until another, correct answer to be released.

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

### Non-competitive Option

Do not exclude "caught" animals from the game, even if they get the answer wrong. Instead release them back to their fellow animals and put the question back in the bag for review again.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

### **The Church's One Foundation**

#### **Verse 1**

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

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 7**

### **Understanding the Song**

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

### **Bible Truth Connection Question**

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

*Christians owe everything to Jesus, their foundation. He is the one who not only bought them with his very own blood on the cross, so they might be saved. But, He is the one who sends the Holy Spirit into their hearts, making them new and working inside them so that Christians love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.*

### **Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to the story? *Philemon and Onesimus found in Jesus Christ, true riches and true freedom. He saved them and he filled them with His Holy Spirit so that they might become more and more like Him in their hearts and how they lived their lives.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **2 Corinthians 3:18**: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."?

*The one foundation of God's people, the Church, is Jesus Christ. He came from heaven to purchase His people with His blood that they might be saved from their sins. By His Spirit, He makes them new creations. He transforms them so that they reflect the Lord's glory more and more, as they love God and live lives that please Him.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song?

*They can praise Jesus for being the Giver of not just salvation to all who turn and trust in Him, but also the one who sends the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so that they love God more and live for Him.*

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 hymn?

*Praise God for being the Purchaser of the Church, His people.*

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

*That many times we do not appreciate God's great love shown to His sinful people by sending Jesus to die and save them with His own blood.*

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

*We can thank God for choosing to save His people. They would never have chosen Him on their own. They would have never been saved and made into new creations with Him.*

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

*That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us new creations through His Holy Spirit.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Why do people need to be bought? What have they all done? What is the gospel?

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

## **Song Game: 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.

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

**Meditation Version: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Who is “we” in this verse? *Christians.*
2. How does someone become a Christian? *They turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
3. What do Christians behold? *The Lord’s glory.*
4. How do Christians behold the Lord’s glory? *The Holy Spirit gives them faith to believe in the Lord and to know His presence in their hearts.*
5. Who beheld the LORD’s glory but wore a veil afterwards in the Old Testament? Why? *Moses did. He would meet with the LORD and the glory of the LORD would linger and shine from his face. He would tell the words of the LORD, with his face still shining. But before long, the glory would fade. It would not last. It was a glory from the outside. Moses put on the veil so the people would not see the glory fade.*
6. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? *By having His Holy Spirit living inside them forever. He is always working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them. They will go on reflecting the glory of the Lord by the Holy Spirit forever.*
7. How is the way they reflect the Lord’s glory with unveiled face? *It means that the Lord’s glory that Christians reflect will never fade. They will always reflect the Lord’s glory because now the Holy Spirit lives inside them forever. They will only grow with ever-increasing glory, as He works in them, more and more.*
8. What does transformed mean? *It means to be changed into something else.*
9. Whose image are Christians being transformed into? *They are being transformed into the Lord’s image.*
10. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? *No, it means that their hearts and lives will be changed so that they show more of the same love for God and live lives that please God more—like Jesus.*
11. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? *No, it is ever-increasing glory—they will grow from one degree to another. They will show more and more of His glory as the Holy Spirit works in them and changes them.*
12. Why does the glory keep increasing? *Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.*
13. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? *From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Holy Spirit Helps God’s People?** *This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. *Both Philemon and Onesimus were transformed to be more like Jesus when they became Christians. As they loved God more and more, and lived to please Him, more and more, they showed others what God is like with ever-increasing glory. Why were Philemon and Onesimus being transformed? Not because of their own goodness and strength. It came from the Lord, who sent His Holy Spirit to work powerfully in their hearts.*

**Life Application Question**

1. How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.*

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

*That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. 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 giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.*

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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.*

**The Gospel**

1. Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel?

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

## Game: Hoop & Holler

### Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see  
1 hula hoop for every 2 children

### Preparing the Game

1. Make up some questions about the verse and/or story. Use the Bible verse and Story Review Discussion questions, if desired.

### 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 pair up. Give each pair a hula hoop and tell them that you are going to tell them different things that they will do with the hula-hoop after they say the verse all together. Three activities might be: having the children hold hands and jump in and out of the hula hoop, for each word the group recites, rolling it back and forth on each word the group recites,; or having buddies take turn while one person from each group sees how far through the verse he can keep the hula hoop going. Allow the children to think up other activities. Repeat the verse again after each activity.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**We All with Unveiled Face**

We all with unveiled face,  
Beholding the glory of the Lord,  
Are being transformed,  
Into the same image f  
From one degree of glory to another,  
For this comes from the Lord,  
The Lord, who is the Spirit.  
For this comes from the Lord,  
The Lord, who is the Spirit.  
The Lord, who is the Spirit.  
Second Corinthians Three, eighteen.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 8**

## 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.



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 Paul tell Philemon that was even better than money to him? *The good news of forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith in Jesus.*
2. What did Philemon do when he went home? *Told others about Jesus.*
3. What did Apphia and Archippus do when they heard the good news of Jesus? *They believed also.*
4. What did Philemon, Apphia and Archippus tell others? *The good news of Jesus.*
5. What began to meet at Philemon's villa? *A little church of new believers.*
6. What did others notice was different about Philemon? *His love for God and loving way he treated others.*
7. Who heard about the changes in Philemon who lived far away? *Paul.*
8. What did Philemon mean when he told others that he owed Paul his life? *He came to believe in Jesus and was saved from eternal punishment to get to enjoy eternal life, so he owed him his life.*
9. Why would Onesimus want to runaway? *He wanted to have his freedom.*
10. What was Onesimus afraid might happen to him if he were caught? *He might be punished severely or even killed.*
11. Why did Onesimus never feel free? *Because he had sinfully runaway and because he was always on the alert for someone who might capture him.*
12. Why was Paul in Rome? *He had been arrested in Jerusalem, then taken to Rome to be judged.*
13. How did Paul help Onesimus in a surprising way? *He helped him with his problem with sin when he may have just been looking for help out of his problems as a runaway slave.*
14. Why was Onesimus' problem with sin even bigger than his problem as a runaway? *Sin deserves God's eternal punishment, while running away only deserved earthly punishment.*
15. How did Onesimus live up to his name "useful"? *The Holy Spirit worked in his heart and changed him so that now he did good works that pleased God and helped others.*
16. Why would the Holy Spirit prompt Onesimus to go home? *Because he had sinned against his master and needed to seek his forgiveness and make up for his wrong-doing, if possible.*
17. What do some say happened in the end when Onesimus went back to his master? *Philemon forgave and freed Onesimus. Onesimus went on to be the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later died for believing in Jesus.*
18. What do we know happened between Onesimus and Philemon when he returned to his master? *The Holy Spirit would be working in both of their hearts, helping them to do what pleased God as the outcome of the matter.*
19. Why might Paul's letter to Philemon be helpful? *Paul gave Philemon wise counsel in how to treat Onesimus now that he is a Christian. He offered to pay back any expenses caused by Onesimus. And, because Paul reminded Philemon of the debt he owed Paul for telling him the good news of Jesus.*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **The Holy Spirit Helps God's People**? *The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Philemon, transforming them so that they loved God and lived lives that pleased Him more and more.*

### Life Application Questions

1. How can Christians know that they will love God more and more? *It is God's promise to have His Holy Spirit work in them this way.*
2. What can the Holy Spirit do inside us if we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior? *He will work inside our hearts, changing them and filling them with love for God and a desire to please Him, more and more.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: **2 Corinthians 3:18**: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."?

*Both Philemon and Onesimus were transformed to be more like Jesus when they became Christians. As they loved God more and more, and lived to please Him, more and more, they showed others what God is like with ever-increasing glory. Why were Philemon and Onesimus being transformed? Not because of their own goodness and strength. It came from the Lord, who sent His Holy Spirit to work powerfully in their hearts.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Freer of People from their slavery to sin.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that like Onesimus and Philemon we are sinners. We have all rebelled against God and like to live life our own way. Like Onesimus, we want to live life our own way and are willing to do things the wrong way to get what we want. Like Philemon, we think a lot about the good, rich things we enjoy more than God. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that His forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by Him. We can thank Him for working out His good plans to save His people even when they least expect it.*

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 confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to change our hearts so that we love God and live to please Him with our lives, more and more.*

**The Gospel**

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Paul told Philemon and Onesimus? 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: Keep It Under Your Hat

### Materials

Paper and pencil  
 5+ hats  
 Story Review Questions

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write each question on a separate, small piece of paper. Assign a point value to each question, based on difficulty. Pin a question to the underside of each hat, except one. Save the unused questions to pin to the hats when the first set have all been selected.
3. Place all the hats on the floor or on the table.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing one of the hats and answering the question pinned to the hat. Each question is worth the number of points indicated on the question. If the first team does not get the right answer, then the question goes to the other team who can win half the points for a correct answer.

When the blank hat is chosen, the team who chooses gets to come up with their very own question to try to stump the other team. If they can, then they get the highest point value worth on the question AND another turn. If the other team gets the right answer, then play continues as normal. When all the questions on the hats have been answered, pin a new set in, changing the empty hat.

Game continues until all children get to choose a hat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Divide the children into two groups. Set a target point number for whole group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have one set of children be the hat wearers and the other set be the hat pickers. Once one set of children have had a turn, switch out hat wearers and the hat pickers. If someone chooses the blank hat, they make up a question to ask the rest of the children. Tally number of turns on a piece of paper. When the target number has been reached, start over and try to reach the target number in fewer turns.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES****P.1**

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2**

“Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave.

This is a New Testament story. It took place about 30 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: “The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave.”

**Scene 1:**

**Actions:**

Philemon left his home and went to Ephesus on important business. While in Ephesus, he heard Paul tell the good news of Jesus. Philemon turns from his sins and believes in Jesus. He is filled with the Holy Spirit who comes to live in his heart and begins to transform his whole life. Philemon goes home to tell his wife, Apphia, and his son, Archippus, about the “true riches” he found through faith in Jesus. Apphia and Archippus believe this wonderful news, too. They all begin to tell others about Jesus. Soon a little church meets in Philemon’s house. What wonderful things the Holy Spirit living in their hearts does! Philemon becomes well-known for his love for God and for God’s people.

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**Scene 2:**

Perhaps Philemon and his family have changed, but that didn’t mean that everyone was happy. Onesimus, one of Philemon’s slaves, is very unhappy. His name means “useful” but it is “useless” and does not do his work. He decides to runaway. He takes some money and flees across Turkey, Greece and Italy to Rome to try to get away. Onesimus becomes miserable in his life of constant hiding. He finds out that Paul is in Rome, too, and decides to ask him to help him. Onesimus talks to Paul in his prison “house” about his problems. Paul shares the gospel with Onesimus and he believes.

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**Scene 3:**

The Holy Spirit begins to work in Onesimus, making him a “useful” servant to Paul. Onesimus is convicted by the Holy Spirit to go home and makes things right with Philemon. Paul writes Philemon a letter urging him to forgive and free Onesimus. Paul says goodbye to Onesimus and sends Tychus to escort him back home. (Tradition says: Onesimus is forgiven, freed, and becomes the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later dies for his faith.)

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus.** The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Philemon, transforming them so that they loved God and lived lives that pleased Him more and more.

## **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 Sneak-Away Slave.

This is a New Testament story. It took place about 30 years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: Paul; Philemon; Apphia; Archippus; Slaves; Other believers; Onesimus; Roman Soldiers; and, Tycchus.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sneak-Away Slave."

### **Scene 1: (Beginning)**

Philemon left his home and went to Ephesus on important business. While in Ephesus, he heard Paul tell the good news of Jesus. Philemon turns from his sins and believes in Jesus. He is filled with the Holy Spirit who comes to live in his heart and begins to transform his whole life. Philemon goes home to tell his wife, Apphia, and his son, Archippus, about the "true riches" he found through faith in Jesus. Apphia and Archippus believe this wonderful news, too. They all begin to tell others about Jesus. Soon a little church meets in Philemon's house. What wonderful things the Holy Spirit living in their hearts does! Philemon becomes well-known for his love for God and for God's people.

### **Scene 2: (Middle)**

Perhaps Philemon and his family have changed, but that didn't mean that everyone was happy. Onesimus, one of Philemon's slaves, is very unhappy. His name means "useful" but it is "useless" and does not do his work. He decides to runaway. He takes some money and flees across Turkey, Greece and Italy to Rome to try to get away. Onesimus becomes miserable in his life of constant hiding. He finds out that Paul is in Rome, too, and decides to ask him to help him. Onesimus talks to Paul in his prison "house" about his problems. Paul shares the gospel with Onesimus and he believes.

### **Scene 3: (End)**

The Holy Spirit begins to work in Onesimus, making him a "useful" servant to Paul. Onesimus is convicted by the Holy Spirit to go home and makes things right with Philemon. Paul writes Philemon a letter urging him to forgive and free Onesimus. Paul says goodbye to Onesimus and sends Tycchus to escort him back home. (Tradition says: Onesimus is forgiven, freed, and becomes the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later dies for his faith.)

### **Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus.** The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Philemon, transforming them so that they loved God and lived lives that pleased Him more and more.

## A Letter for Philemon

**Description:** The children will make and decorate a scroll containing Paul's words to Philemon.

### Materials

- 1 piece of cardstock per child
- Template of letter
- 2 extra long skewers (11.5") or 2 11.5" pieces of wooden dowels per child
- Clear packing tape or glue gun and glue sticks
- Markers, colored pencils, etc.
- 6" piece of yarn or string per child

### Preparing the Craft

1. Print out onto cardstock a copy of the pattern for each child.
2. Cut off the sharp end of each skewer.
3. Make an example of the craft.

### Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate the scroll around the edges with markers.
3. Using the packing tape or the glue gun, attach each child's skewers/dowels to top and bottom of the scroll.
4. Roll up both ends of the scroll and tie up with the yarn.
5. If time allows, either you or the children can take turns reading through Paul's letter to Philemon.

### 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 Onesimus run away to? *Rome.*
2. Who did Onesimus meet in Rome and what happened?  
*He met Paul. Paul shared the gospel with him and he became a Christian.*
3. Why did Onesimus go back to Philemon? What did Paul give him to take with him? What did Paul hope would happen?  
*As the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, Onesimus knew he was wrong to run away. He needed to go back to ask for Philemon's forgiveness and make things right. Paul sent him with a letter telling Philemon about the changes that God had made in Onesimus' heart and asking him to forgive him for running away.*
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus.  
*Paul wanted Philemon to know that Onesimus was not the same kind of man he had been when he ran away. He had become a Christian and the Holy Spirit had been working great changes in his heart ever since.*
6. What can this craft help us remember?  
*God's Holy Spirit makes powerful changes in all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He can do them in us, too!*

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


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

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is: A Letter for Philemon.
2. In Rome, Paul sent Onesimus with a letter for Philemon to tell him about the changes that God had made in Onesimus' heart and to ask him to forgive him for running away.
3. Bible Truth 1 is: God's People Grow to Be More Like Jesus.
4. Paul wanted Philemon to know that Onesimus was not the same kind of man he had been when he ran away. He had become a Christian and the Holy Spirit had been working great changes in his heart ever since.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's Holy Spirit makes powerful changes in all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He can do them in us, too!

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.





Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bond-servant but more than a bond-servant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

ESV



**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](http://praisefactory.org) with the resources for this Bible Truth.

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

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

## Game: Mix and Match

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

Man or Woman? \_\_\_\_\_

Hair color? \_\_\_\_\_

Eye color? \_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR  
THE VIPP**

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