

## **BIBLE TRUTH 12, LESSON 3: 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 12:** God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan

**Bible Truth Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation, vs. 3,4 *PFI ESV Songs 12 Tracks 41,42*

**Bible Verse:** 1 Peter 1:6-7

**Bible Verse Song:** For a Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 43*  
*Extra Bible Verse Song: If God Is for Us: Romans 8:31,32,35, 38-39 PFI ESV Songs 12 Track 44*  
*Extra Bible Verse Song: Who Shall Separate Us? Romans 8:31,32,35, 38-39 PFI ESV Songs 12 Track 45*

**Lesson 3 New Testament Story:** The Case of the Suffering Speaker *Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33*

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Scales on Saul's Eyes

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Grand March

**Bible Truth Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation, vs. 3,4 *PFI ESV Songs 12 Tracks 41,42*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** 1 Peter 1:6-7 Discussion Sheet and Game: Which Way Did It Go?  
**Bible Verse Song:** For a Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 43*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Forceball

**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:** Paul's Enemies

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Stop & Go

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 12, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Suffering Speaker** Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

by Connie Dever

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

- 1. Who was the Suffering Speaker? What did he speak about and why did he suffer for it?**
- 2. What helped him endure his sufferings?**

This story takes place in New Testament times, in the days after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Like a great, stone oasis, the towering walls of Damascus rose out of the dry, Syrian desert. As the only source of freshwater for miles around, Damascus was a welcome stop for merchants with their heavy-laden camel caravans on the way along the great trade break that stretched from Babylon in the East, down through Jerusalem, and then all the way to Egypt. Each day, hundreds streamed into the city gates seeking to be refreshed, to sell their goods, and to exchange news from abroad.

These days, much of the gossip from Jerusalem had to do with Saul, a young, extremely eager Jew who was trying to rid the city of all Christians. He was hunting them down, throwing them into jail, and even helping to have them killed. And now it seemed that Saul was expanding his hunt to cities outside of Jerusalem, as was now on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians there.

You can imagine the shock and fear of one Damascus Christian named Ananias when the Lord Jesus called him in a vision, saying, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

"Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Paul, for he is praying," the Lord told him. "In a vision, he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard about this man and all the harm he's done to your people in Jerusalem. The chief priests have sent him here to arrest your people here in Damascus."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go!" I have chosen this man to declare my name to the Gentiles and their kings as well as to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

"Could it really be," thought Ananias, "that this hater and killer of Christians might now have become a believer, himself? Will he who has caused so many believers to suffer and die will now also suffer greatly so that Jews, Gentiles and even their kings might hear and believe in Jesus, too?" It was almost more than Ananias could believe. He certainly hoped it was true. If it wasn't, Ananias was walking straight into the hands of one of a man Who would happily have him arrested, sent to prison, and even killed. But Ananias trusted in the Lord. He knew whatever the Lord would have him do—even suffer—it would be part of his perfect plan. It would be for his good and God's glory. So Ananias obeyed the Lord and headed down the dark, narrow passage called Straight Street to find Paul.

But it was all true! Ananias placed his hands on Paul and said, "The Lord Jesus has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell off of Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

Had once Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. He out-argued even the wisest Jews living in Damascus, proving the Jesus is the Christ. Everyone who heard him was shocked, Isn't this the man who caused so much trouble in Jerusalem? Hasn't he come here to take the Christians back to the chief priests as prisoners?" they asked each other.

The Lord was quickly fulfilling His promise to use Paul to powerfully spread the gospel of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles; but, the troubles He promised were quick to come, too. "Paul must be killed!" The Jews decided. They got the governor of Damascus to help them, too. "Search the whole city for Paul. Shut the city gates," the

**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.

governor demanded. "Find this troublemaker and bring him to me."

But Paul was never to be found. The Lord protected him. The believers put him in a large basket, lowered him with ropes through a window in the wall, and Paul escaped. Paul was to suffer for the Lord, but only as He had planned for Paul's good and God's glory. Being caught by enemies in Damascus was not part of His plan. The Lord enabled Paul to slip out of their grasp.

Damascus was only a beginning of what the Lord had planned for Paul. Paul traveled many hundreds of miles by foot and by boat, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. Many heard the good news and believed; but even more were angered by Paul's preaching and tried to kill him. And oh, how Paul suffered, just as Jesus had said! Jews hated him for proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God. Five times they caught him and gave him forty lashes minus one with a whip—just one lash short of the number that would kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. Three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned. Many times he was chained and thrown into jail by them. Three times he was shipwrecked, and once even spent a night and a day in the open sea. Constantly he was being hunted down by enemies. Many times he was hungry and thirsty, cold and even naked! In the city, in the country, from the Jews, from the Romans, Paul suffered and faced death over and over.

There always seemed to be someone who hated Paul. Did this make him give up and stop telling others about Jesus? No, it did not. No matter who hurt him or how he suffered, Paul rejoiced. He thought about how Jesus had suffered and died to save him and he was honored that the Lord had chosen him to suffer for His sake. He was grateful that the Lord had promised to use his sufferings to grow his trust and obedience to Him. He knew that no matter how terrible were his sufferings, the Lord was in control. He would give him strength to endure them; and in the end, all these sufferings would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus came back. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God's glory.

These sufferings only strengthened Paul's faith and made him want to trust and obey God more.

But the same God who planned so much suffering to be part of Paul's life, also protected him from much suffering, too. When Paul went to preach about Jesus in the city of Corinth, he stirred up many Jews and Greeks with his message. The Jews didn't LIKE that Paul called Jesus the Messiah. But they HATED that he took this message to the Greek (non-Jewish) Corinthians. The Greeks weren't happy with Paul, either. Many stopped worshipping the Greek gods, Apollo and Aphrodite and turned to follow Jesus, instead. Both Jews and Greeks began to grumble and plot how they could get rid of this trouble-maker. Paul began to fear that soon he would once be suffering at the hands of these angry Corinthians. It was tempting to stop preaching before something terrible happened to him again.

One night, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, "Don't be afraid. Don't stop sharing the gospel! I am with you! No one is going to harm you, because I have many people in this city. I will protect you and make sure they all hear the gospel and are saved."

And so it was, Paul stayed in Corinth another year and a half. And, while both Jews and Greeks tried to hurt him, the Lord allowed no suffering to come to Paul. None at all!

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. Who was the Suffering Speaker? What did he speak about and why did he suffer for it?** Paul. He spoke the gospel of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles. He suffered at the hands of many who wanted him to stop sharing that message.

**2. What helped him endure his sufferings?** He knew that his suffering would only be according to what God had chosen for his good and God's glory. He counted it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the one who died to save him.

**Something For You and Me****Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan****Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV 1984**

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

What about you and me? Does it sound scary to think that God's people will suffer? It's not surprising, if it does.

No one likes to suffer! But isn't it wonderful to know that in heaven, there will be no more suffering for God's people? And, that here on earth, they will only suffer in ways that their good God, who loves them so much, has chosen for them. He will always be with them, giving them the strength they need to endure their sufferings. And, He will use them all to bring both Him and them praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back!

Let's praise God, the Perfect Planner of all His people's sufferings. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to make us-- like Paul—to be people who love Him and are honored to suffer for His name.

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

**A** God, we praise You for being the Perfect Planner of all Your people's sufferings. Nothing will happen to them except what You have carefully chosen to be for their good and Your glory.

**C** God, we confess that many times we don't trust Your choice of sufferings. We don't want any at all, even if they are for our good and Your glory. Please forgive us.

**T** God, we thank You for sustaining Your people through all their sufferings. Thank You for not wasting a single one of them. Thank You for putting loving, wise limits on everything they go through.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us people who love You more and are honored to suffer for Your name. Use all our sufferings to make us more like Jesus and to honor Your name.

**Special Words**

**Oasis:** A green place in the desert where water is found.

**Vision:** A special dream mentioned in the Bible in which God speaks to a person.

**Synagogue:** A local gathering place where Jews and others gathered to worship the Lord and listen to preaching from the Bible.

**Repent:** To desire to stop doing something and turn away from continuing to do it. God calls us to repent of our sins.

**Apollo:** Greek god of music, healing and prophecy.

**Aphrodite:** Greek goddess of love.

# **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 perfect Planner of Your people's sufferings, according to Your good plans.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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### **CONFESSION:**

We confess that many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to You and trusting in You and Your good plans. We need a Savior to save us from our sins.

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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### **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God, for always giving Your people the strength to endure the sufferings You has planned for them. Thank You for Jesus, who suffered for Your people's sins so they wouldn't have to.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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### **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on You; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for You that is possible.

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: Scales on Saul's Eyes**

Cut two slices of cucumber as eyes. Place a round slice from a carrot to be the pupil of each eye. Add another piece of carrot between the two eyes to be the nose. (Baby carrots work great for the nose, especially if you chop it down to about an 1" or 1.5".) Place a round cracker on top of each "eye." Sprinkle some shredded cheese in an arc above the eyes to be hair.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Saul had been a hater and killer of Christians until the day the Lord appeared to him on his way to Damascus. Saul was struck suddenly with blindness and taken into the city. There, he prayed, repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. But when Ananias prayed for Saul, the Lord restored Saul's sight and something like scales fell off of his eyes. Saul got up and began to share the good news of Jesus straight away. He would keep on doing this, no matter how much he suffered, until the day he died. How he loved Jesus and was so grateful that He had saved him! It was an honor to suffer for His name!

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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 Suffer According to God's Good Plan.**

God has promised His people that though they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God promises to only use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to make them holy and to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. God's people don't like to suffer, but they trust in God's good purposes in allowing them to suffer and in His promise to use it for their good and His glory. They know that God's Holy Spirit will always give them the strength they need to endure the suffering He allows. God's people count it an honor to suffer for Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. But, they also look forward with great excitement to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. When will God's people suffer? *Here on earth.*
2. How will they suffer? *In many ways, but only according to His plan.*
3. What will He use their sufferings to do in them? *To strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him; to make them holy.*
4. What will God always, only use His people's sufferings to do? *To do good to them and to bring glory to His name.*
5. Do God's people like suffering? *No.*
6. What will God give His people by His Holy Spirit? *The strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives.*
7. What do God's people want even more than not to suffer? *To see their sufferings strengthen their faith and for them to result in praise, glory and honor.*
8. What will their sufferings result in when Jesus comes back? *Praise, glory and honor.*
9. Why do God's people think it is an honor to suffer for God? *Because of how He sent His Son to suffer and die for them.*
10. What do God's people look forward to? *The day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.*

### **Story Connection Questions**

How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan:**

1. How could the Lord tell Ananias about Paul's sufferings before they happened? *Because God was in control of all of Paul's sufferings, just like He is in control of everything else. He knew exactly what He had planned for Paul to suffer and what He did not.*
2. Why did Paul stay in Corinth without fear of suffering? *The Lord gave him His promise and Paul knew the Lord was in control of all his sufferings.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7:** "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

*God's people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.*

### **Life Application Questions**

1. How can knowing about God being the perfect planner of their sufferings help God's people?  
*They can be encouraged in the middle of suffering that God will give them strength to endure through it; and they can know that God is only using their sufferings for their good and His glory.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

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## **BIBLE TRUTH 12 REVIEW**

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### **ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His people's sufferings.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him .*

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

*Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.*

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

*Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.*

### **The Gospel**

1. Suffering came to the world through sin, yet God has shown mercy to sinners. What has God done to bring an end to sin, death and the sufferings of His 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'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.*



## Game: Beanbag Grand March

### Materials

Small bowl or bag  
1 Bean Bag per child  
CD and CD player  
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

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

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

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

### Non-competitive Option

Let all the children whose beanbag fell join back into the march, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into 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.

**How Firm a Foundation**

**Verse 3**

"When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

**Verse 4**

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 41,42**

**Understanding the Song**

1. What is a "fiery trial?" *It usually has nothing to do with fire, but just means a really hard time of suffering we have to go through.*
2. What "pathway" do these fiery trials lie upon? *Not a real path or road that you walk on. Pathway is another way of saying things you go through in your life. So, it's talking about the times of suffering you face in life.*
3. What does "supply" mean and what shall be the believer's supply when going thro their difficult trials? *Supply means to be everything you need. God's grace—that is, His gifts of strength, faith, hope, patience, etc that He freely gives His people—will be enough for them to make it through even the hardest of sufferings.*
4. What shall not hurt the believer? *The flame.*
5. What does he mean by "flame?" *The writer has been talking about "fiery trials"—hard times the believer goes through. A flame is what burns or hurts you. He is saying that even when His people go through "fiery," hard times of suffering, they will never let the trials be anything but for the good and His glory.*
6. What does God design (plan) for the "flame" to do? *Just like fire is used to purify gold by melting out impurities (called dross) and make it more beautify and pure, so God only plans to use His people's trials to purify them of sin and strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him.*
7. What does it mean to lean on something for repose? *To rest on something peacefully, without worry.*
8. What does God promise to a person (a soul) who rests on Him, peacefully? *He will never desert (abandon) to his foes (enemies).*
9. What does it mean for "hell to endeavor to shake" a soul? What does God promise when that happens to His people? *It means for Satan to bring lots of suffering upon them and try to get them to turn away from God. God promises to never forsake them. He will always be with them, always giving them strength to endure their sufferings, no matter how hard they are.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan?**

*God's people may go through very hard, "fiery" trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are "staid" on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to "consume their dross"—make them holy—and bring glory to His name.*

**Story Connection**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Paul faced more trials than most believers in his life; yet, never did the Lord forsake him. He always gave him grace to endure the trials. He never deserted him to his foes. Paul knew that the Lord was always completely in control, using his trials for his good and God's glory.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7:** "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."?

*God's people praise God that He will use all their fiery trials to refine their faith. He will never desert them or forsake. Completely the opposite is true. He will always be with them, supplying them everything they need. He will use all their trials to bring praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for promising to always protect them, and help them through even the worst of trials. They can ask Him to use their trials to make them holier and stronger in their faith.*

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 God who never deserts His people.*

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

*Confess that many times we do not lean on Jesus or trust Him to supply us what we need when we suffer. We grumble and complain instead. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!*

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

*We can thank God for using the trials of His people to refine their faith; and, for giving them everything they need to endure their trials.*

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

*That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to supply us what we need to endure any trials we are going through. We can ask Him to help us to come to Him and depend upon Him as we go through them.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Fiery trials are a part of everyone's life, but God's people take joy in God as they go through theirs? Why? What has God done for them? What is the gospel?

*God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who'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: 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV 1984**

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

**Alternate Memory Version: 1 Peter 1:6,7 NIV 1984**

"...you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What were these believers suffering? *Grief in all kinds of trials.*
2. What is grief? *Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.*
3. What is a trial? *Hardships or troubles we go through.*
4. What are some trials that believers go through? *Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.*
5. Why do trials come to believers? *Believers, like all people are sinners, living in a world spoiled by sin, face trials. But God has planned for all of their trials to be used so that their faith in God may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*
6. What is their faith worth more than? Why? *Gold. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.*
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? *This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn't gold from it and makes it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.*
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? *We cannot see Jesus right now because He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.*
9. What will God's people's sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? *Praise, glory and honor.*
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? *God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor will for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan?** *God's people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Even though Paul faced a life of terrible suffering, he would not stop preaching about Jesus. He took comfort in knowing that God was in complete control of when and how he suffered. He knew that God was using these trials to purify his faith and bring glory to Himself.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God's people today? *As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.*
2. How can we become one of God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the perfect planner of His people's sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.*

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

*That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.*

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

*We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith..*

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 Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God's people around the world in their sufferings, too.*

**The Gospel**

1. What is the good news of Jesus that is the root of their faith that God promises to refine through trials? 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: Which Way Did It Go?

### Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

Coin

Beanbag or other small object

### 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:

Divide the children into two teams. Have the children sit or stand in a circle, alternating team members. Have everyone say the verse together. Explain to the children that they will pass the beanbag, starting clockwise, around the circle. Outside the circle one person, the Coin Flipper, will flip the coin. Each time the Coin Flipper gets a tails, he yells "Change" and the children in the circle change the direction they are passing the beanbag. After 5 changes whoever has the beanbag says the verse for their team. He gets 2 points for his team if he can say it by himself. One point, if he can say it with the help of another team member. If they can't say it, then the person next to him (on the other team) can try to say it for 1 point for his team. The child who correctly recited the verse is the next Coin Flipper. Have everyone say the verse again, then repeat steps.

Game continues until all children get to be the Coin Flipper, or as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Give the group a target number of points to make. Challenge the children to see how few turns it will take to reach the target number of points. Tally the number of points on a piece of paper. Continue until target number is reached. Repeat, seeing if they can do it in less turns the second time.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**For a Little While**

For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials.  
These have come that your faith,  
May be proved genuine, be proved genuine.

**Refrain:**

Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,  
Which perishes though refined by fire.  
Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold,  
Which perishes though refined by fire.

For a little while you may have had suffered grief in all kinds of trials.  
These have come that your faith,  
May result in praise, glory and honor. *Refrain*  
First Peter One, six through seven.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 43**

## 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.



**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 news from Jerusalem reached Damascus? *Paul was coming to arrest Christians like he had in Jerusalem.*
2. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do? *Go to Paul and lay hands on him to restore his sight.*
3. Why did Ananias not want to go to Paul? *He knew Paul had come to arrest the Christians.*
4. What did Jesus tell Ananias about Paul? *He was the Lord's chosen instrument to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. He would suffer much.*
5. What happened when Ananias went to see Paul? *Paul's sight was restored. He was baptized.*
6. What did Paul start to do after he was baptized? *Went to the synagogues to preach to the Jews about Jesus.*
7. Why did the Jews want to kill Paul? *For preaching powerfully that Jesus was the Messiah.*
8. How did Paul escape from Damascus? Why didn't the Romans catch him? *Through a window in the wall. They did not catch him because the Lord hadn't planned for Paul to suffer that way.*
9. What happened to Paul as he began to travel and preach about Jesus? *Many people believed, but many more did not. They made him suffer in many ways.*
10. What was so bad about getting 39 lashes? *It was considered one lash short of death.*
11. What are some ways that Paul suffered? *Hungry, thirsty, shipwrecked, stoned, beaten with rods, many times in jail, etc.*
14. Why was Paul afraid about staying in Corinth? *Jews and Romans were angry at so many people coming to believe in Jesus. He knew that suffering would surely come soon.*
15. What did the Lord tell Paul that made him stop fearing in Corinth? *He told him to stay and preach. He promised him that he would not suffer there and that many people would come to believe in Himself.*
16. Did the Lord protect Paul from suffering in Corinth? *Yes! Even though enemies threatened to hurt him, the Lord never let them harm Paul.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan:**

1. How could the Lord tell Ananias about Paul's sufferings before they happened? *Because God was in control of all of Paul's sufferings, just like He is in control of everything else. He knew exactly what He had planned for Paul to suffer and what He did not.*
2. Why did Paul stay in Corinth without fear of suffering? *The Lord gave him His promise and Paul knew the Lord was in control of all his sufferings.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7:** "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."?

*Even though Paul faced a life of terrible suffering, he would not stop preaching about Jesus. He took comfort in knowing that God was in complete control of when and how he suffered. He knew that God was using these trials to purify his faith and bring glory to Himself*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people today take comfort from Paul's life of suffering? *God is also in complete control over their sufferings. He will not allow them to suffer if it is not His will. The Lord will give them strength to endure any sufferings He has planned for them.*
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 being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being Powerful to only have His people suffer the trials He has allowed for their good and His glory.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we are not like Paul, who counted it an honor to suffer for the sake of Jesus. Many times we would rather avoid any suffering at all. 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 being so able to sustain His people through whatever suffering they go through.*
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 them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us count it as a honor to suffer for Him in any way He has chosen. We can ask Him to help us to endure any sufferings we go through with courage and even joy in Him.*

**The Gospel**

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

## Game: Forceball

### Materials

One kick ball or other rubber ball  
Masking tape  
Yard stick  
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. Use the tape to mark 2 lines about 3 yards apart.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind one of the lines.

Players should stand side to side, with legs apart and feet touching. The two teams are facing each other. Play starts as one team rolls (with their hands) the ball to the other team, trying to get it through the other team's legs without being blocked. The defending team cannot move their feet to block the ball. They can only block it with their hands. If the ball gets through their legs, the other team can get 2 points if they can answer a Story Review question correctly. If they do not say it correctly, then the defending team can try for 1 point. The defending team then bats the ball and tries to get it through the other team's legs. The team with the most points wins.

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

### Non-competitive option

This game is difficult to make completely non-competitive. You can, however, not keep track of points.

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

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Suffering Speaker.

Our story takes place in Damascus and all over the Roman Empire, in New Testament times, in the years not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Suffering Speaker"

**Scene 1:**

The news spreads to Damascus that Paul is coming to arrest Christians there just like in Jerusalem. The Lord tells Ananias in a vision to go to Judas' house on Straight Street to lay hands on Paul and restore his sight. Ananias is frightened, knowing how dangerous Paul has been to the Christians in Jerusalem. But the Lord tells him that He has chosen Paul to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. Jesus tells Ananias that Paul will suffer much for His name. Ananias believed the Lord and goes to Paul. Paul sight is restored and he is baptized. Paul immediately goes to the synagogue and starts preaching about Jesus. The Jews are amazed and angered by the change in Paul. They, along with the governor of Damascus plot to kill Paul. The city gates are shut and the streets are searched, but Paul is never found. God protects him from this suffering by having the believers lower him out a window in the wall and escape.

**Actions:**

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**Scene 2:**

Paul travels to many cities preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. He suffers much, just as the Lord had said he would. The Jews hate him for saying Jesus is the Son of God. They whip him thirty-nine times, almost enough to kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. He's beaten with rods, he is stoned. Many times he is thrown into jail. He is shipwrecked. He is hungry, thirsty, cold and even naked! He faced death many times. Paul's sufferings don't stop him from telling others about Jesus. He counts it an honor.

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**Scene 3**

Paul goes to Corinth to preach the gospel. The Jews and the Greeks start to get angry that so many people are turning to follow Jesus. Paul fears that soon they will hurt him. The Lord tells Paul not to fear. He won't let him suffer in Corinth. Paul stays 1 ½ years longer and is never harmed. The Lord shows once more that He is completely in control of the suffering that Paul goes through for the sake of the gospel.

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The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan.** Paul kept bravely telling others about Jesus even when suffering because he knew that God was completely in control of his sufferings.

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## **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 Suffering Speaker.

Our story takes place in Damascus and all over the Roman Empire, in New Testament times, in the years not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: Ananias, Chief Priests, Paul, Jews, Governor of Damascus, Jews and Greeks

And now we present: "The Case of the Suffering Speaker."

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

The news spreads to Damascus that Paul is coming to arrest Christians there just like in Jerusalem. The Lord tells Ananias in a vision to go to Judas' house on Straight Street to lay hands on Paul and restore his sight. Ananias is frightened, knowing how dangerous Paul has been to the Christians in Jerusalem. But the Lord tells him that But the Lord tells him that He has chosen Paul to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. Jesus tells Ananias that Paul will suffer much for His name. Ananias believed the Lord and goes to Paul. Paul sight is restored and he is baptized. Paul immediately goes to the synagogue and starts preaching about Jesus. The Jews are amazed and angered by the change in Paul. They, along with the governor of Damascus plot to kill Paul. The city gates are shut and the streets are searched, but Paul is never found. God protects him from this suffering by having the believers lower him out a window in the wall and escape.

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

Paul travels to many cities preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. He suffers much, just as the Lord had said he would. The Jews hate him for saying Jesus is the Son of God. They whip him thirty-nine times, almost enough to kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. He's beaten with rods, he is stoned. Many times he is thrown into jail. He is shipwrecked. He is hungry, thirsty, cold and even naked! He faced death many times. Paul's sufferings don't stop him from telling others about Jesus. He counts it an honor.

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

Paul goes to Corinth to preach the gospel. The Jews and the Greeks start to get angry that so many people are turning to follow Jesus. Paul fears that soon they will hurt him. The Lord tells Paul not to fear. He won't let him suffer in Corinth. Paul stays 1 ½ years longer and is never harmed. The Lord shows once more that He is completely in control of the suffering that Paul goes through for the sake of the gospel.

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan.** Paul kept bravely telling others about Jesus even when suffering because he knew that God was completely in control of his sufferings.

## Paul's Enemies

### Description

The children will make an angry face spoon puppet "enemy" using wooden (or plastic) spoons and various decorating supplies.

### Materials

1 Wooden or white plastic spoon per craft (The benefit of wooden spoon is that you have more space to decorate per craft. The benefit of the plastic spoons is that they are much cheaper and you can have the children make multiple crafts, if desired)

Jiggly eyes

1 pipe cleaner per craft

Decorating supplies such as Sequins, buttons, glitter glue, small pom-poms, yarn scraps

Craft Glue

Black markers (regular kind if using wooden spoons; must be permanent (!) markers if using plastic spoons)

### Preparing the Craft

1. Set out supplies

### Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children make angry-faced puppets using the back of the spoon for the face and the handle of the spoon for the "body".
3. Children can use the pom-poms/buttons for noses, hair or as decorations down the spoon handle for cloths. Yarn works well as hair. The markers can be used to add in angry eye brows and a frowning mouth. The pipe cleaner can be wrapped around the base of the spoon and made into arms. Make loops on the end of the arms for hands.

### Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

### 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 and to whom did Paul preach the gospel? *To Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews), throughout the Roman Empire.*

2. What usually happened when Paul preached the gospel? *Jews and Gentiles became angry that people were becoming Christians. They hurt Paul and tried to get him to stop.*

3. What was unusual about Paul's time in Corinth? *The Lord protected him from suffering at the hands of his enemies.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan.*

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth? *Wherever Paul went, he had enemies who did not want him to tell the good news of Jesus. Paul knew that his enemies could not harm him in any way or at any time that was not a part of God's good and perfect will.*

6. What can our craft help us remember? *God keeps His people from suffering in ways other than what is part of His good and perfect will for their good and His glory.*

**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: Paul's Enemies.

2. In Corinth, Paul preached the gospel without being hurt by his enemies because the LORD had promised him that He would not allow Paul to be harmed while he was in Corinth.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Suffer According to God's Good Plan.

4. Wherever Paul went, he had enemies who did not want him to tell the good news of Jesus. Paul knew that his enemies could not harm him in any way or at any time that was not a part of God's good and perfect will.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God keeps His people from suffering in ways other than what is part of His good and perfect will for their good and His glory.

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



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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

### Materials

Information for one VIPP  
2 Sets of Clue Cards  
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes  
Ball  
Blindfold  
Bag

### 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.

### 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 stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller's "Go" command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says "Stop." Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses a Clue Card envelope. The child (or the teacher) tells the class the Clue Card category and asks them if they can remember the answer for the VIPP. The envelope is opened to see what the answer is. If the children get it right, the category is retired. If they get it wrong, it goes back into the pile of envelopes.

**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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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR  
THE VIPP**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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