

BIBLE TRUTH 13, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Truth 13: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Bible Truth Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41*

Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

Bible Verse Song: Many Walk as Enemies *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42*
Extra Bible Verse: You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36 PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 43

Lesson 1 New Testament Story: The Case of the Homebound Hero
Matthew 6:14-16; Luke 7, 23; John 6:1-15, 7:31, 40; Acts 7: 20-43; Hebrews 12:1-

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Miraculous Meal

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Obey! Omit!

Bible Truth Hymn: The Sands of Time Are Sinking *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Philippians 3:18-20 Discussion Sheet and Game: Who's Got the Penny?

Bible Verse Song: Many Walk as Enemies *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Secret Agent

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

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

Craft: The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 13, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Homebound Hero Matthew 6:14-16; Luke 7, 23; John 6:1-15, 7:31, 40; Acts 7: 20-43;
Hebrews 12:1-3 by Connie Dever

Our story is called:

The Case of the Homebound Hero. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Homebound Hero? Where was His home and what was it like?
2. What did He do before He went home that made Him a hero? Why did He do this?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

Imagine a home filled with glorious light and indescribable beauty. Imagine a home where there's never sin or sadness, pain or death: where the Kingdom of God is in full bloom. A place of goodness and love so deep and delightful that they fill you up completely, spill over and fill up everyone else too, leaving no room for anything else. Then imagine not just a home, but an entire, endless home LAND like this.

Seems impossibly good, doesn't it? Must be a pretend place. But it's not. This place so wonderful that we can't even begin to imagine is real! It's heaven--home of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

No one would ever want to leave a home like this, but Jesus, the Son of God, chose to! Why? He was being sent on a mission by God, His Father to save sinners that they could know Him and one day come live in heaven with Him forever. Any where would Jesus go when He finished? Right back to His home in heaven, where once more He would enjoy the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus loved His Father and He loved God's people, so He would go. but He looked forward to being done, for there was no place like home!

Down to earth went the Son of God. He was born a baby boy--Mary's son. Fully human, fully God. And He was given the name, Jesus.

When Jesus grew up. He began to preach. "Repent--turn away from your sins--for the Kingdom of God is near. believe in Me. I'm the Promised One, sent to bring you to God. He backed up His words with amazing miracles. Sick people healed; dead people brought back to life. Thousands fed with only a few fish and loaves of bread.

The people were amazed! "Who has seen such mighty deeds! Who has heard such powerful words! Could this be God's promised Messiah, the king who will destroy Israel's enemies and bring God's kingdom?" they wondered. Great crowds of people began to follow Jesus. Many wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him their king.

But Jesus knew this would never do. Perhaps the idea of living a rich life in a grand palace sounding temptingly easy. But it would never save God's people from their sins. Only suffering and dying on the cross would do that! And what did the gold of an earthly throne offer compared with fellowship with God and the beautiful glory of heaven His home. Jesus withdrew from the crowds and prayed to His Father in heaven. No. There was no place like home!

The crowds didn't like Jesus' decision. Before long, their praise turned to hatred. "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" they cried as Jesus was arrested and sentenced to death on a cross--although He had done nothing wrong.

A sign was posted above Jesus as He hung on the cross. It said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Those who passed by made fun of Him: "Come down from the cross if you are God's Son," they jeered.

Jesus could have done just that, if He had wanted. Thousands of angels stood waiting His command. But the Bible tells us that Jesus chose to endure the suffering of the cross by thinking of the joy set before Him. What joys? The joy of triumphing over sin and death for God's people. The joy of fellowship with God the Father and God, the Holy Spirit in heaven once more.

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.

And the joy knowing that His death would mean God's people would share in that wonderful fellowship, too. There was no place like home for Jesus. And there would be no place like this home for God's people, too. So Jesus kept suffering on the cross, knowing that soon He would be home forever.

There were two criminals that were crucified with Jesus that day. One of them also insulted Jesus: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself for us!" he said to Jesus.

But the other criminal believed in Jesus. "Don't you fear God? We are getting the punishment we deserve, but Jesus has done nothing wrong!" He told the other man. Then to Jesus he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with Me in My kingdom. You will be coming home to heaven with Me."

Three hours later, it was all over. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished," and died. The other two men died that day, too.

To heaven went the spirits of Jesus and the believing thief. The thief could hardly believe the rich beauty of his new home. Never could he have imagined a place so wonderful.

But oh, the roar of praise, the blazing light of glory, and the flood of love and joy that burst upon Jesus as He entered His heavenly home! He had done without many good things on earth. He had struggled against sin. He had suffered more than anyone whatever suffer to complete the mission his father had given him. And now he had won the victory over death! All glory, honor and praise would be His now and forever, the angels proclaimed.

Jesus was delighted to be home in heaven again. Where the kingdom of God was in full bloom already. Where there was no sin, no sickness, no sadness, or death. Where the glory of God's presence dwelt in fullness. And where Jesus once more enjoyed the fullness Of fellowship with God the father God the Holy Spirit. And because of Him, it would be where God's people would live, enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of that fellowship, too. There really was no place like home!

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Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Homebound Hero? Where was His home and what was it like?

Jesus. His home was heaven. It was perfect, without any sin, suffering or death. It was where He enjoyed the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

2. What did He do before He went home that made Him a hero? He suffered and died on the cross to save God's people from their sins. He did this so they could be God's people and also come live in heaven, enjoying the Perfect Wonderfulness of close fellowship with God forever, too.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Our Bible Verse is: **Philippians 3:18-20**

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

What about you and me? Like the thief who turned from his sins and believed in Jesus while dying on the cross, so we, too, can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior and be saved. Then we will become God's adopted people. The Holy Spirit will come and live in our hearts and through His wonderful fellowship in our hearts, we can already begin to have a taste of life in God's Kingdom even today!

But, of course, that is only the beginning, for if we become God's people, we can look forward to the day when we die and go to be in heaven and enjoy God's

wonderful presence at last.

And even that is not all, for one day Jesus will come back to this earth. He will bring an end to sin and death in this world and He will make new heavens and earth. Then at last, God's kingdom here on earth will be in full blossom just like it is already in heaven now. Everywhere Jesus will reign and everyone will rejoice in His glory, goodness and beauty. And God's people will enjoy all these pleasures of eternal life with God forever.

Let's praise this God who delights to make sinners His dearly loved people and take them to live in His wonderful home with Him forever. 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 help us to remember the eternal rewards and pleasures of heaven that we might take joy in obeying His will for our lives here on earth, no matter what He calls us to give up or endure according to His good and wise plan.

Close in prayer.

Special Words

Mission: A special task, often involving overcoming difficulties and enemies.

Kingdom of God: Where God and His good ways are obeyed and enjoyed by God's people. Heaven is where the Kingdom of God is fully enjoyed already. God's people enjoy a taste of God's Kingdom in their hearts now as they know and love God. One day, Jesus will return and fully establish the Kingdom of God completely in the new heaven and earth, too.

Messiah: Special chosen one promised by God to save God's people from their sins, overthrow God's enemies, and bring in and rule over God's Kingdom.

Crucify: A terrible punishment in which a person is nailed to a wooden cross and left to die. Used by the Romans to punish the worst criminals.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A Jesus, we praise You for Your amazing love for sinners and for God, Your Father, to be willing to leave Your wonderful home in heaven to save us.

C God, we confess that many times we don't appreciate all that Jesus left behind to be our Savior. We grumble at things we know God might want us to do, but forget all that He has done to save people like us!

T God, we thank You that You, Yourself, made the way for sinner like us to live with You in Your wonderful heavenly home forever.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Change us and prepare us to live with You in heaven by helping us love and obey You. Help us to long to be with You in heaven.

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 Preparer of Your people's wonderful home in heaven.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don't get them. We forget about You. We forget that we can one day live with You in heaven which will be far better than anything we can imagine.

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God, for being willing to forgive all our sins through Jesus so that we can have eternal life and be with You forever in heaven.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to desire to be with You in heaven, most of all. Prepare our hearts by helping us love and obey You more today.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Miraculous Meal

Goldfish (or fish sticks) and pita bread, like the food Jesus miraculously multiplied for the crowd of 5000.

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

Case Tie-in: Jesus did many miracles to teach the people and help them believe that He really was the Son of God come from heaven to save them.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home.

Jesus is God's Son. He left His home in heaven to come to earth to save God's people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, so they would be God's forever. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day then went back to heaven to reign. He is preparing a place for God's people to come and live with Him. There is nothing better than living with God and enjoying Him forever. The Bible tells us that we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be. There are many hard things that God's people may have to endure here on earth, but they look forward to the day when they go home to heaven and suffer no more. There are also many good things that God's people enjoy here on earth, but they know that none of them can compare to the good things they will enjoy in heaven in God's presence. Every day, God's people try to please God with whatever happens in their lives, but they are always looking forward to that wonderful day when they will go home to be with Him forever.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who is Jesus? *God's Son.*
2. Where is Jesus' home and why did He leave it? *Heaven. He left it to come to earth and save God's people from their sins.*
3. What did Jesus do on earth for God's people? *Lived a perfect life, then offered it up on the cross as the perfect payment for their sins so they could be God's forever.*
4. What happened to Jesus after He died on the cross? *He rose from the dead on the third day and went back home to heaven.*
5. What is Jesus doing in heaven? *He is reigning and He is preparing a place for God's people to live.*
6. What is the best thing we can enjoy? *Living with God and enjoying Him forever.*
7. What about heaven helps God's people endure their hardships with joy? *They will have eternal happiness there with God. He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.*
8. Who do God's people try to please each day? *They try to please God with whatever happens in their lives.*
9. What are God's people always looking forward to? *The day when they will go home to be with God forever.*

Story Connection Questions

How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home:**

1. What about heaven did Jesus look forward to enjoying again? *The joy set before Him. The joy of being fully in fellowship again with God the Father and Holy Spirit; having His people be with Him there; and, receiving the praise due His name.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20**: "I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

God's people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Life Application Questions

1. How can knowing heaven is their home help God's people through their hardships? *They can know that one day the hardships will end and they will enjoy close fellowship with God forever. They know that in heaven, God will give them far greater treasures than anything they gave up here.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE TRUTH 13 REVIEW

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being Preparer of His people's wonderful home in heaven.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don't get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.*

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

Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue sinful people like us.

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

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

The Gospel

1. What is God's marvelous plan to make sinners like us His people, to live with Him forever in heaven? 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.

BIBLE TRUTH 13 REVIEW

Game: Obey! Omit!

Materials

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 two teams, having them line up in straight lines, arms' length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying "Obey" or "Omit" right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says "Obey", but NOT do it if they say "Omit" first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said "Omit" is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

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

NOTE: Have children who are "Out" help give you ideas for actions.

Non-competitive Option

Let the Question Chooser immediately back into the game, 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.

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

Verse 1

The sands of time are sinking, The dawn of Heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for, The fair, sweet morn awakes;
Dark, dark hath been the midnight, But dayspring is at hand.
And glory, glory dwelleth, In Immanuel's land.

Verse 2

The King, there in his beauty, Without a veil is seen,
It were a well-spent journey, Though sev'n deaths lay between;
The Lamb with his fair army, Doth mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth, In Immanuel's land.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 38-41

Verse 3

O Christ, He is the fountain, The deep, deep well of love,
The streams of earth I've tasted, More deep I'll drink above,
There to an ocean fullness, His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth, In Immanuel's land.

Verse 4

With mercy and with judgment, My web of time He wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow, Were lusted with His love,
I'll bless the hand that guideth, I'll bless the heart that planned,
When throned where glory dwelleth, In Immanuel's land.

Understanding the Song

1. What does the sands of time are sinking mean? *People used to tell time with a hourglass. It would take exactly one hour for the sand to sink from the top of the glass to the bottom. God's people know that the sands of time are sinking--the day when they will go to live at home with God in heaven is coming closer and closer.*
2. Why would this life be called dark, like midnight? Why is getting to be in heaven like the coming of the sun in the morning? *The sin, death and brokenness in this world that makes it sad. Darkness is used as a picture of that sadness. Life with God in heaven will be perfectly wonderful always. Bright sunshine is used as a picture of that happiness.*
3. Who is Immanuel? What does that mean? Why is heaven His land? *Immanuel is a nickname for Jesus. It means God with us, because Jesus came from heaven to earth to save sinners and bring them to God. Heaven is Immanuel's land because that's where Jesus came from and because that's where He takes His people to live with Him when they die.*
4. Who will God's people see in heaven? What will He be like? What is his nickname? Why? *They will see Jesus, the Lamb, in all His beauty and glory. He is called the "Lamb" because lambs were often offered (in Old Testament times) as sacrifices when people sinned. Jesus was the perfect payment for the sins of God's people.*
5. Who is Christ and how is He like a fountain? *Jesus is the Christ---the special Savior sent from God. A fountain was an old name for a deep well full of water where you could drink and drink until you would not be thirst anymore. Jesus' love for His people is like a fountain. It never runs out for them. Here on earth and later in heaven, they will enjoy more and more of it. It will never run out, just like the ocean never runs out of water!*
6. What does it mean that God wove the web of time of His people with mercy and judgment? What will God's people praise Him for about their lives when they get to heaven? *A spider carefully weaves its web. Every single thread is put in place where he wants it to be. God carefully plans out every single day of His people's lives. There may be times of sorrow. But God's people trust in God's good plan for them every day they live here on earth; They know that's true, even when they don't understand it all. Just like a web glistens and shines in the morning when the sun shines on the dew that collects on the web and makes it look so beautiful, so in heaven, God's people will fully see how true it was that God used all things for the good in their lives. They will praise God for all the good and wise things He did.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Know Heaven Is There Home?**
God's people look forward to the day when they will get to see Jesus, their King, face to face at last! They know how He has loved them, by dying for their sins to save them. They have seen how He has planned everything in their lives for their good and His glory. These things are good, but they are nothing compared with the day when they will see their King in all His beauty and glory in heaven and live there forever--Immanuel's land!

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Jesus' work on earth was harder than anyone who has ever and will ever live on earth. He endured His work joyfully because He looked forward to dwelling in glory at home with God the Father and the Holy Spirit when it was done. He looked forward to God's people all being there in Immanuel's land, enjoying God forever. They would be there because He was the Lamb who had been willing to suffer and die in their place! How they will praise God for what Jesus did for them!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Philippians 3:18-20**: "I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."?

God's people know that the sands of time is sinking--that is, their lives and this earth will not last forever. While there are many things that they enjoy in this life, there are many hard things, too, brought by the sin and brokenness in this world. Sometimes they even suffer because they are Christians. But, God's people remember that their citizenship is in heaven. That is where their King reigns in beautiful. That's where they will see Him face to face and live with Him forever. They know how much He loves them and will help them through everything in this life, but heaven will be home. They eagerly look forward to the day when they will live in Immanuel's land (heaven) forever. They look forward to the day when He will return and bring His kingdom that will last forever and ever.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can remember that this life here on earth will not last forever. We can remember how great is God's love for His people. Not only will He be at work, doing good to them in everything they go through in this life, but that He is preparing them a home with Him that will be forever. There, they will see Him and enjoy Him. How wonderful it will be!*

2. What must we do if we are to go to live with God in heaven? How can we be God's people? *We must turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

We can praise God for being the Giver of Eternal Life with Him in Heaven.

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

Sometimes we live our life here on earth as if it will never end. We don't think about God and seek to know, love and obey Him as we should. We don't want to think about heaven. We want to think about getting what we want, how we want it, right now, here on earth. We need a Savior!

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

We can thank God for the wonderful home with Him in heaven that He has for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. How wonderful it will be to see Him, the great King, at last! We can thank Him for how He cares for all His people and has carefully planned for all things in their lives to be for their good and His glory. They may have had to endure some hard things, but He has helped them every step of the way.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts, that we would confess our sins, turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us remember that our lives here on earth will not last forever, and to help us to live in a way that prepares us to live with Him in heaven forever.

Gospel Question

1. This song reminds us that our lives on earth will not last forever, but there is a way for us to know eternal life with God after we die. What is that way? 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: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

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

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Meditation Version: Philippians 3:18-20

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Alternate Memory Version: Philippians 3:18,19,20

"...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction... Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who is the "I" and the "you" in this verse? *"I" is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.*
2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? *That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.*
3. What does it mean to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? *It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.*
4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? *They had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.*
5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? *He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God's eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God's people.*
6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? *Destruction.*
7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? *Facing God's eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.*
8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? *Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God's laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.*
9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? *This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.*
10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? *Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.*
11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? *Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.*
12. What does it mean for God's people to have their citizenship in heaven? *It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.*
13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? *Jesus Christ.*
14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? *At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home?**

God's people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *When the people rejected Jesus for not being an earthly king, they showed that they were living as enemies of the cross. Their destiny was destruction. Their minds were on earthly things, not heavenly things. But Jesus knew His citizenship was in heaven. As He endured the cross, He looked forward with joy to the day when He would be there once more, with God His Father and God the Holy Spirit. He looked forward with joy to bringing His people to live with Him there forever.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? *They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God's presence forever.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.

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

We confess that many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.

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

We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.

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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

The Gospel

1. What has God done so that sinners like you and me can have our citizenship be in heaven with Him? What is the good news of Jesus? 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: Simon Says How

Materials

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

A die

Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

Preparing the Game

Make a sign as follows:

1 = Head

2 = Feet

3 = Hands

4 = Head and Feet

5 = Feet and Hands

6 = Whole Body

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 spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play "Simon Says How", a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that "Simon" will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions "Simon" made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, or 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.

Our Citizenship Is in Heaven

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
 Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
 Their destiny is destruction,
 Their mind's on earthly things,
 Their mind's on earthly things

But what about God's people?

But our citizenship is in heav'n,
 Yes, our citizenship is in heav'n,
 And we eagerly, we eagerly,
 Await a Savior from there.
 Philippians Three, eighteen through twenty.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 42

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

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 was did heaven not have? *Sadness, loneliness, death, sin, etc.*
2. What good things did heaven have? *Perfect love and goodness, things more beautiful than you can ever imagine, the close fellowship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, glorious light.*
3. How was heaven like a homeland, not just a home? *Everyone and everything lives perfectly under God's reign. It is not just a house, but a whole land, filled with the glorious presence of God.*
4. Why did Jesus, the Son of God, leave heaven? *To do the mission His Father had for Him.*
5. What was the message of Jesus' mission on earth? *To tell people to repent of their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness. If they did, they would have close fellowship with God and live with Him forever in heaven.*
6. What did Jesus do that showed He was really who He said He was? *Many miracles.*
7. What did people think when they heard Jesus talk and see what He did? *They thought He must be the king God promised them would come and save them.*
8. Why did they want to make Jesus their earthly king? *They wanted happiness and peace here on earth. They didn't understand/want to wait for the kingdom of heaven.*
9. Why did Jesus not encourage the people to make Him their earthly king? *He knew that wasn't what His Father had planned for Him. He knew that the people would not be saved from their sins if He was just their earthly king. He had to suffer and die for that to happen.*
10. Why did the people turn on Jesus? *He would not do what they wanted Him to do.*
11. What did Jesus' enemies say to Him while He hung on the cross? *They mocked Him for saying He was the King of Israel. They told Him to prove He was the Son of God by coming down from the cross.*
12. Why did Jesus choose to keep suffering on the cross, instead of proving to the leaders and the people who He was? *Because He thought about His home in heaven and knew that what He would soon have there was far more wonderful than anything He might have on earth.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home?** *Jesus was willing to do without good things, to struggle against sinful desires, and even to suffer terribly here on earth because He knew that heaven was His home. There He would receive far greater rewards, praise and love than anything earth could offer.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20**: "I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."?
When the people rejected Jesus for not being an earthly king, they showed that they were living as enemies of the cross. Their destiny was destruction. Their minds were on earthly things, not heavenly things. But Jesus knew His citizenship was in heaven. As He endured the cross, He looked forward with joy to the day when He would be there once more, with God His Father and God the Holy Spirit. He looked forward with joy to bringing His people to live with Him there forever.

Life Application Questions

1. How can know heaven is their home help God's people through hard times? *They can know that their hard times will not last forever; and that in heaven they will never no sadness again and will enjoy love and things far greater than anything they could have had on earth.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
3. Do you ever think about heaven? When?

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise Jesus for loving His God's people so much that He would leave His wonderful home in heaven to save them.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times we do not appreciate all that Jesus left behind in order to save sinful people like us. We grumble at things we know God might want us to do, but forget all that He has done to save people like us! We need Jesus to save us from our sins!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story?
We can thank God that He, Himself, made a way for sinful people like us to live with Him in His wonderful heavenly home.
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this 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 fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

The Gospel

1. Why did Jesus leave His home in heaven?! 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: Secret Agent

Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)

Paper and Marker

Tape

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 out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: "on top of your hat" or "inside your hat", or "under your left shoe", etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Tell the children how many questions you have hidden on your outfit and challenge them to work together to find them all and answer the questions. Keep track of how many questions they've found with tally marks on a piece of paper.

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 Homebound Hero.

Our story takes place in Israel, in New Testament times, when Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

And now we present: “The Case of the Homebound Hero.”

Scene 1:

Actions:

Jesus lived in heaven with God the Father and Holy Spirit. Heaven was a home more wonderful than anything anyone could possibly imagine. There was no sin, sadness or death. Everything was amazingly beautiful. There was only pure goodness and love. It is not just a home, but a homeland where everyone and everything was so wonderful. Jesus chose to leave this wonderful home and come to earth. He was sent on a mission by God the Father to save sinful people from their sins so they could live in fellowship with Him in heaven forever.

Scene 2:

Jesus was born as the son of Mary, yet was still the Son of God. When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. He called people to repent and believe in Him that they could live in fellowship with God in heaven forever. He did great miracles, too, that showed He was really who He said He was. He healed many sick people. He took five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 men and their families, with baskets full left over. The people were amazed at what Jesus did and said. They thought He must be the promised Messiah and wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him king of Israel. Jesus would have enjoyed great fame and a luxurious life as king of the Jews, but He thought about His home in heaven. He did not let them make Him king. He would do without these good things here on earth so He could fulfill the mission God gave Him. He chose to wait for the better things of heaven.

Scene 3

The people did not like Jesus’ choice. They quickly turned on Him. When the Jewish leaders arrested Him and the Romans sentenced Him to crucifixion, the people shouted for Him to be crucified. Jesus and two thieves were hung on crosses. Many people came and mocked Jesus. They told Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was God’s Son, the Messiah. Jesus thought about heaven rather than coming down from the cross to prove that He was really the Messiah. He knew there He would receive far greater praise and honor than these men would give them. And, His people would be saved from their sins by His death on the cross. One of the thieves mocked Jesus, too, but the other one believed in Jesus and what He had taught about His Kingdom in heaven. He asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom in heaven. Jesus promised him that he would be in heaven with Him that very day. Within hours, Jesus and the thief had both died. Their spirits rose to heaven. The thief was amazed at his new home in heaven. The voices of countless angels filled their ears with praise for Jesus and what He had done. Jesus once more enjoyed the fullness of love and joy of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home.** Jesus was willing to do without good things, to struggle against sinful desires, and even to suffer terribly here on earth because He knew that heaven was His home. There He would receive far greater rewards, praise and love than anything earth could offer.

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 Homebound Hero.

Our story takes place in Israel, in New Testament times, when Jesus came to earth to be our Savior.

The characters in our story are: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Jesus as a baby, Jesus as a man, Mary, people, sick people, Romans, the two criminals, angels

And now we present: "The Case of the Homebound Hero."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Jesus lived in heaven with God the Father and Holy Spirit. Heaven was a home more wonderful than anything anyone could possibly imagine. There was no sin, sadness or death. Everything was amazingly beautiful. There was only pure goodness and love. It is not just a home, but a homeland where everyone and everything was so wonderful. Jesus chose to leave this wonderful home and come to earth. He was sent on a mission by God the Father to save sinful people from their sins so they could live in fellowship with Him in heaven forever.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Jesus was born as the son of Mary, yet was still the Son of God. When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. He called people to repent and believe in Him that they could live in fellowship with God in heaven forever. He did great miracles, too, that showed He was really who He said He was. He healed many sick people. He took five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 men and their families, with baskets full left over. The people were amazed at what Jesus did and said. They thought He must be the promised Messiah and wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him king of Israel. Jesus would have enjoyed great fame and a luxurious life as king of the Jews, but He thought about His home in heaven. He did not let them make Him king. He would do without these good things here on earth so He could fulfill the mission God gave Him. He chose to wait for the better things of heaven.

Scene 3: (End)

The people did not like Jesus' choice. They quickly turned on Him. When the Jewish leaders arrested Him and the Romans sentenced Him to crucifixion, the people shouted for Him to be crucified. Jesus and two thieves were hung on crosses. Many people came and mocked Jesus. They told Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was God's Son, the Messiah. Jesus thought about heaven rather than coming down from the cross to prove that He was really the Messiah. He knew there He would receive far greater praise and honor than these men would give them. And, His people would be saved from their sins by His death on the cross. One of the thieves mocked Jesus, too, but the other one believed in Jesus and what He had taught about His Kingdom in heaven. He asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom in heaven. Jesus promised him that he would be in heaven with Him that very day. Within hours, Jesus and the thief had both died. Their spirits rose to heaven. The thief was amazed at his new home in heaven. The voices of countless angels filled their ears with praise for Jesus and what He had done. Jesus once more enjoyed the fullness of love and joy of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.

The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings

Description

The children will make and decorate a reversible crown out of poster board, one side representing the earthly King of Israel, the other side representing the heavenly King of Kings.

Materials

22' x 28" poster board
Crown templates
Markers, colored pencils, etc.
Craft jewels, sequins and glitter/glitter glue, feathers, other decorating supplies
Craft glue
Scissors
Sticky back Velcro, 2" per craft

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out patterns for crown, cut them out and tape them together as indicated. This is your pattern for cutting out the crown.
2. Cut out crowns out of the poster board.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Cut Velcro into 1" pieces.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children write the words "King of Israel" on one side of the poster board and decorate only with markers, colored pencils or crayons.
3. Have the children turn over their crowns to the other side and write the words "King of Kings" on that side, decorating with the special decorating supplies. Let dry.
4. Stick Velcro on each side of both ends of crown. Don't forget to alternate hook and loop sides of the Velcro so that on one end, the hook side is on the outside and the loop side is on the inside; and on the other end, the loop side is on the outside and the hook side is on the inside!
5. When the children make their presentation, they can tell the others that Jesus rejected the people's desire for Him to be their earthly King of Israel (while showing the plain "King of Israel" side of the crown). Then, they can tell the others that He chose instead to suffer and die on the cross to save God's people, bring victory to God's Kingdom and to be the heavenly King of Kings (now reverse crown and show "King of Kings" side).

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 was Jesus' home? Where did He go live as part of God's mission to save God's people?

Heaven. Earth.

2. What did the people want Jesus to be when they heard Him teach and saw the miracles He did? What did they hope He would do for them?

They wanted Him to be the earthly king of Israel who would do away with their enemies and give them a good life here on earth.

3. Why did Jesus reject the people's idea? What did He want to do instead?

He wanted to give them something far better: forgiveness of sins and life with God in His heavenly kingdom forever.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home.

5. What does this craft have to do with our Bible Truth?

It would have been easier for Jesus to give into the people's desire for Him to be their earthly king, but Jesus knew that heaven was His home. He chose suffering and death on the cross to bring salvation to God's people and victory for God's Kingdom, instead. He would be the heavenly King of Kings, just as God had planned.

6. What can God use this craft to help us remember? How great Jesus' love is for His people, that He would choose to do what would cause Him the most pain, so that they could be saved!

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

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings.

2. In Israel, Jesus rejected the people's desire for Him to be the earthly king of Israel so He could be the heavenly King of kings because He was the Son of God come to save God's people from their sins and bring them home to live forever in the kingdom of God.

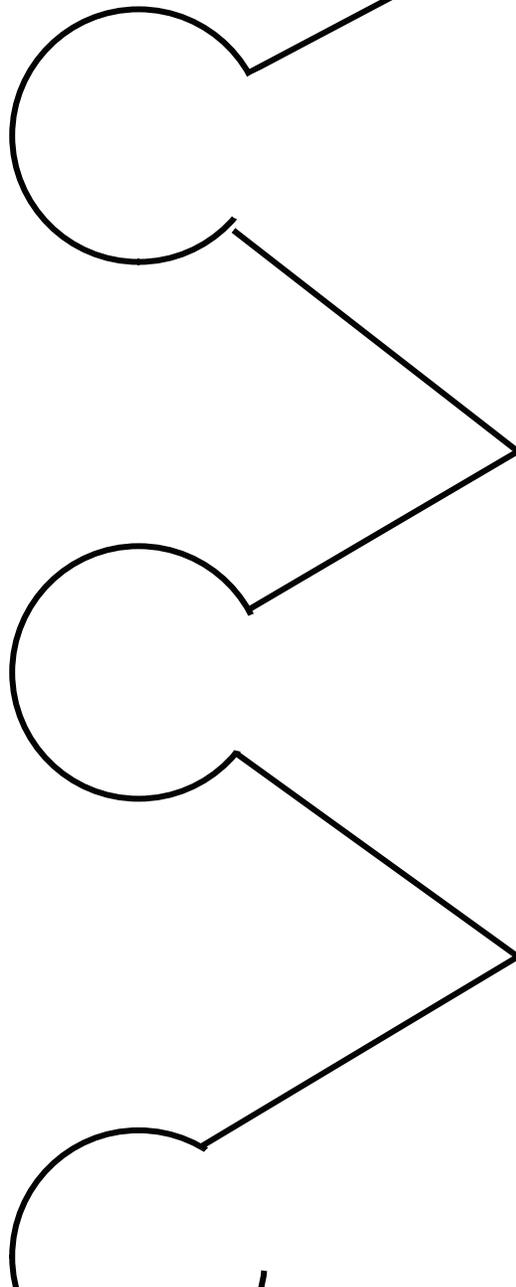
3. Bible Truth 13 is: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home.

4. It would have been easier for Jesus to give into the people's desire for Him to be their earthly king, but Jesus knew that heaven was His home. He chose suffering and death on the cross to bring salvation to God's people and victory for God's Kingdom, instead. He would be the heavenly King of Kings, just as God had planned.

5. Our craft can help us remember how great Jesus' love is for His people, that He would choose to do what would cause Him the most pain, so that they could be saved!

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.

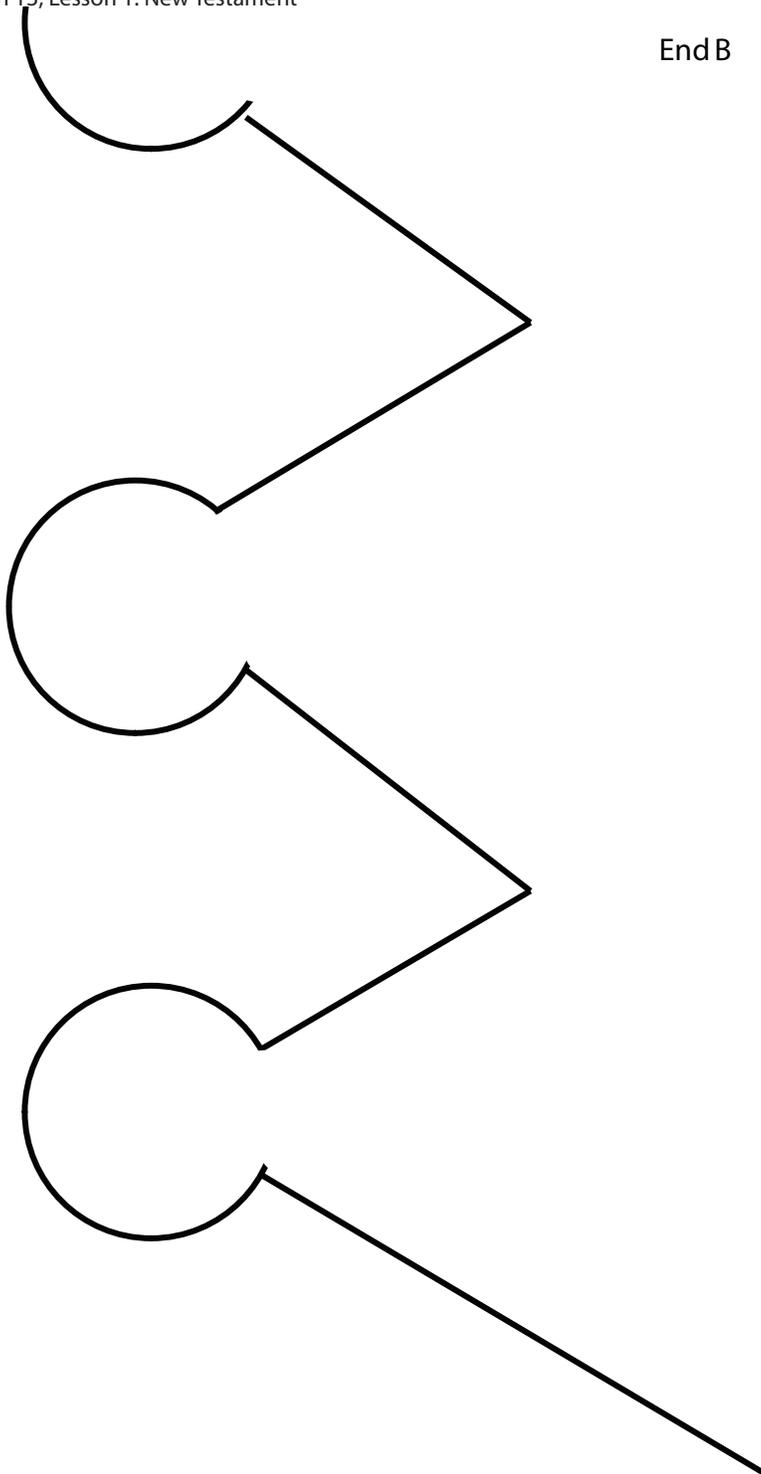
Crown Patterns: Tape End A to End B and use as pattern for crowns



Velcro goes here on each side Make sure to alternate hook and loop pieces so that the velcro will stick properly

End A

Crown Patterns: Tape End A to End B and use as pattern for crowns



End B

Velcro goes here on each side Make sure to alternate hook and loop pieces so that the velcro will stick properly

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. They are found in the back of this book.

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

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

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

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

Game: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP
