

## **BIBLE TRUTH 13, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

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

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

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 12 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 12 CD, 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 13:** God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The Sands of Time Are Sinking *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 46-49*

**Bible Verse:** Philippians 3:18-20, ESV

**Bible Verse Song:** Many Walk as Enemies *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 50*  
*Extra Bible Verse: You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 51*

**Lesson 2 Story of the Saints:** The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Memories of Ishii

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Sit Ball

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The Sands of Time Are Sinking *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 46-49*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Philippians 3:18-20 Discussion Sheet and Game: Scrambled Eggs

**Bible Verse Song:** Many Walk as Enemies *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 51*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Four Corners

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

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

**Craft:** A Packet for Miss MacDonald of Ishii's Life Story a Letter and a Coin

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Picture Run

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 13, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise**

adapted from "A Gentleman in Prison" by Tokichi Ishii

**Our story is called:****The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the prisoner? What was his punishment and why did he deserve it?
2. Why was this prisoner so different from the others who faced the same punishment?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the early 1900's in Japan.

The great "Empress of Russia" sped across the Pacific Ocean from Tokyo, Japan to Vancouver, Canada. Famous for record – breaking speed, its luxurious service, and its elegant rooms, the "Empress of Russia" was a ship like few others. Almost any comfort that could be had was found aboard this elegant passenger ship.

But the one thing not even the "Empress of Russia" could offer was the guarantee of good weather. This particular trip prove to be so stormy that even the sturdiest passengers were forced indoors.

A group of passengers sat together in one of the ship's drawing rooms, sharing stories to pass the time. Among them was a little Canadian woman named Caroline MacDonald who told the amazing story behind the coin she wore on a chain around her neck.

This coin was given to me by Tokichi Ishii, one of the wickedest, cleverest criminals in all of Japan," Miss MacDonald began. "He was a robber and a murderer. He sat in a prison cell for twenty years then escaped. Ishii fled to the lonely mountains near Okazaki for safety. The police tracked him for year and at last caught him and put him back in jail. This time, he was put in a special, protected cell and sentenced until he to death by hanging. Japan looked forward to be rid of this terrible criminal once and for all.

As Ishii sat in his cell he began to think about what would happen to him after he died. "I wonder if there is life after death? I wonder if there is a God who judges us and punishes our sense? If there is, then surely I deserve hell for all the wicked things I've done. I wish I knew the answers to these questions!

Ishii didn't know about the Lord, but the Lord knew about Ishii and soon brought him the answers to his questions. On New Year's Day, Annie West and I were

visiting Ishii's prison. we gave out Bibles and shared the good news of forgiveness through Jesus to all who would listen. Ishii was one of those who listened and accepted the New Testament we offered him.

"This book is the Bible, God's Word. Read it and you will learn so much more about Jesus and find answers to your questions," we told him.

At first, Ishii just put the Bible up on the shelf and ignored it. But one day he was so bored he decided he would pass the time by reading it. Soon, Ishii was fascinated with the story of Jesus. When he read about Jesus being unjustly sent to death on the cross he became especially interested. 'He is a man who knew something about the world he lived in," Ishii told himself.

But it was when Ishii read how Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," asking forgiveness for His enemies, that he finally understood what the good news of Jesus meant for him.

'Lord Jesus, Your love and forgiveness are amazing,' Ishii prayed. 'If You forgave those wicked men treating You so terribly, then I believe You would even forgive me for all the wicked things I done.'

With that prayer, the Lord did forgive Ishii and made him a new man. Everyone noticed the difference. Although he was under the sentence of death and might be let out to be home in the morning, Ishii was so known as the most cheerful man in the whole prison. Prison officers and even the governor of Tokyo, himself, came to see for themselves the change that had come to Ishii.

'What makes you so happy?' the governor asked him.

**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.

"I have become a Christian," Ishii replied. "I know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins. He has forgiven mine through Jesus. When I die, He will take me to heaven to be at home with Him forever. He will forgive your sins, too, if you will but ask Him," he urged the governor.

The prison chaplain, a Buddhist priest, came to see Ishii, too. "Every day, the prisoners waiting to be hung are in agony until 9 a.m. when they hear if it is their day to die or not. Every day is filled with dread that it's their last day. Is this how you spend your day?" he asked.

"No, not at all!" Ishii replied. "Every morning I am glad." Holding up his New Testament he said, "The words of Christ written here tell me that He is with me even now in this cell. I talk with Him every day. I know when I die, He will take me to be with Him in heaven forever. No wonder I am so happy!" he told the chaplain.

"It was a wonderful thing, seeing the Lord work in Ishii's life," Miss MacDonald told the other passengers, who eagerly listened to her story. "Each time, Miss West and I went to visit him, the Lord had changed him even more. As the time for his hanging drew near, Ishii shared with us his wonderful plan: 'Any day now, I will be called to gallows to die. Before I go, I want to write down the story of how the Lord forgave a wicked man like myself and adopted me as His dearly loved child. ***It's been over forty years since I went to school and I have forgotten much.*** Pray for me that God would help me to write down this story in time,' he asked us.

We prayed and Ishii worked as quickly as he could. Each day, Ishii was relieved when 9 o'clock passed and the jailer had not come for him. Day and night, he wrote and wrote. Finally he laid down his pen and said, 'I am done. Now perhaps others will read my story and find their hope in Jesus. I want them to know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins of even the worst sinners. They can be His dearly loved adopted children, too. And when they die, He will take them to home to heaven to be with Him forever.'

One morning, not long after Ishii had finished his story, the jailer came at 9 o'clock to his cell. "The time has come, Ishii. Are you ready?"

"I am very ready," replied Ishii, with excitement. "I am not afraid."

"You are a brave man," said the jailer, "most men tremble with fear when I come for them, but you seem almost glad. Here comes the Buddhist priest. We must go now."

Sadly, the jailer led Ishii to the scaffold, the Buddhist priest following them. He had come to love Ishii and hated to see him die.

"Don't be sad," he told the jailer. "I'm not! How can I be, since this morning I have read the words of Jesus, 'Let not your heart be troubled...I am going ahead of you to prepare a place for you.' I die without fear. The good news of Jesus tells me that there is forgiveness even for me, the worst of criminals. I am going home. But please do me one last favor. Give Miss MacDonald the book I have written along with all my other things."

The jailer promised he would.

In a few minutes all was over. Ishii had gone home to be with Jesus. The prisoner had reached paradise. The next day, the prison officials delivered a small package to me. It contained Ishii's book, this copper coin you see around my neck, and one last little message. It said: 'Today I am sitting in my small, dirty, prison cell, and yet I am far more contented than in the days of my freedom out in the world. In this prison cell, only nine feet by six feet in size, I am happier than if I was living in the largest house I ever knew. Then he closed with this little verse:

My name is defiled,  
My body dies in prison,  
But my soul, purified,  
Today goes to the City of God.'

Ishii knew that here on earth he had been a wicked person. He had lived over half his life in small, damp prison cell, and he faced death because of the things he had done.

But he knew that Jesus had forgiven him his sins. And that very day, he would be in his heavenly home, living face to face with Jesus forever. And that was far better than anything he could have in this world, by far."

All was silent as Miss MacDonald finished her story. All the passengers were deeply moved by Ishii's story. What were they thinking about? Only God's work in Ishii's life...or perhaps were they thinking about what He might do in their lives, too?

Ishii would be happy to know that God was using his story to give others the hope of forgiveness and an

eternal home with God in heaven," Miss MacDonald thought. "This was what he hoped would happen. And praise God, it begun to do just that already."

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. Who was the prisoner? What was his punishment and why did he deserve it?**

Tokichi Ishii. He was sentenced to be hung to death for being a robber and a murderer.

**2. Why was this prisoner so different from the others who faced the same punishment?**

Unlike the other men who were sentenced to death, Ishii didn't dread dying. He knew he would be going home to be with Jesus and was delighted about that.

### 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**

"For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Ishii's destiny had been destruction, but no longer, thanks to His Savior Jesus. Now his citizenship was in heaven and happy he was to go there!

What about you and me? Perhaps we have not robbed or murdered anyone as Ishii did, but we are sinners needing God's forgiveness, nonetheless. To Ishii it was clear that nothing in this world could compare with being forgiven, being adopted by God and getting to be at home with Jesus forever. Even today, God calls us to turn way from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Even day, our citizenship can be in heaven!

Let's praise God for offering forgiveness of sins through Jesus. Let's praise Him for delighting to adopt sinful people like you and me as His very own children. Let's ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might be forgiven. Let's ask Him to help us look forward to home in heaven and use each day of our lives on

earth as preparation for being forever with Him.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for not just offering forgiveness of sins to sinners through Your Son, Jesus, but delighting to do so!

**C** God, we confess that we, like Ishii, are sinners who have rebelled against You and Your good ways. We deserve Your punishment. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

**T** God, we thank You that we do not have to make ourselves good enough to ask You to make us Your children. Thank You that this is Your free gift through Jesus. Thank You that You want us to be with You forever in heaven.

**S** We ask You to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We ask that You would help us to know and love You while we live here on earth and that one day You will take us to live with You in heaven forever.

### Special Words

**Buddhist:** A religion based on the ideas of a man called, the Buddha. Buddhists don't believe in a god, but follow teachings that they believe free them from suffering until they reach a happy state of oneness with the universe called "nirvana." Buddhism is practiced by people in all parts of the world, but especially Asian countries, like Japan.

**Chaplain:** A religious worker who speaks to others about their spiritual needs.

**Scaffold:** A temporary, wooden structure that is built off the ground. Sometimes it is used by builders to reach high places where they are working. In this case, it was to make a high place to hang the rope by which Ishii would die.

**Paradise:** Among the Mboga, this was a spiritual leader who the people went to for protection from evil spirits and healing of sicknesses (believed to be caused by evil spirits.)

# **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.....

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **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....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **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...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **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:

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# SNEAKY SNACK

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

## Snack: Memories of Ishii

A carrot round “coin” with a little hole made in the middle to thread through red licorice lace “necklace” and/ or Ishii’s “book” made with a folded over American cheese slice “pages” inserted into a piece of bread (can be buttered on inside) folded over as a “book cover”. If you really want to go all out, buy decorator icing or gel that comes in the tubes, cut the smallest nozzle hole possible, and make a Japanese word/symbol on the “cover” of your book.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Ishii left his copper coin and the book which was the story of his life to Miss Hall and Miss MacDonald. He hoped they would share his story with others that they might be saved by Jesus, too. He longed for them to also live forever with God in heaven, as he was.

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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.

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**

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home?**  
*Ishii knew that Jesus had forgiven his sins. He did not have to face God's wrath when he died. He was peaceful and happy, not scared. He knew he would be going home to be forever in heaven with Jesus when he died.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20**: "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, 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.*

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## **BIBLE TRUTH 13 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 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.*



## Game: Sit Ball

### Materials

Two or Three soft baseball sized balls. Or, could use beach balls

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 children sit in a circle on the ground, with about 2' spacing. Give them two or three soft indoor baseballs and are to throw them from one to another, avoiding "It" who is moving around trying to catch one. When a ball is caught, the child who threw the ball chooses a question for the class to answer. If correctly answered, the player becomes the new "It". If not, then the old "It" remains in place.

Game continues as number of questions, 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.

**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 ESV Songs 12, Tracks 46-49**

**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? *Ishii was joyful, even as he faced death, because he knew Jesus--Immanuel! He had saved Ishii from his sins and was one of God's people. He would soon go to live face-to-face with Jesus, in all His glory. How happy he was to do this!*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

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 confess our sins, might 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: Pass the Secret Sign**

### **Materials**

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

### **Preparing the Game**

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

### **Playing the Game**

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

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

**Meditation Version: Philippians 3:18-20 ESV**

“For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

“For many...walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction...with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, 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 walk 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 belly? *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? *Ishii's destiny had been destruction, but he turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. As God's adopted child, Ishii knew that his citizenship was in heaven. He died in peace and eager to be with his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**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: Scrambled Eggs

### Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see  
Plastic Hollow Easter Eggs, 10 of one color for each team  
Pen and paper  
2 carpet squares or other base marker

### Preparing the Game

1. Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.
2. Hide the eggs around the classroom. Place the two carpet squares down in opposite ends of the classroom.

### 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 form two teams seated at their bases. Give each team a written out copy of the verse and place it on their base. Assign each team a particular color of Easter egg and tell them that pieces to the verse are hidden in eggs around the room. They are to find all their eggs, remove the verse section from the egg and put it in order. They can use the copy of the verse (and numbers on each section—especially helpful for pre- and early readers) to help them put it in order. The first team to find all the verse, put it in order and recite it as a group wins.

Game continues until all the eggs have been found or as time allows.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Use any color Easter egg for the pieces of the verse. Hide them around the room. Have the children take turns finding an egg and bringing it back to the group. Have the child open the egg and read (or have you read) the word/s on the piece of paper. Stick them in place on the copy of the verse. If desired, have the children say the verse each time before each "hunt", reinforcing the verse.

### 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 50**

## **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.



**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. Why were the passengers on the Empress of Russia staying inside? *Bad weather.*
2. Why did the policemen have such a hard time catching Ishii? *He was so good at getting away.*
3. How much of his life did Ishii spend in jail? *Over twenty years.*
4. What did Ishii start to think about when he was in jail? *If he had a soul and if he would go to hell.*
5. How did the Lord help Ishii, even though Ishii never even prayed to Him for help? *He sent Miss MacDonald and Miss West to tell the prisoners about Jesus and give them New Testaments.*
6. What did Ishii read that helped him believe that Jesus would forgive even him, though he had done so many terrible things? *He forgave His enemies while He was dying on the cross.*
7. What differences did others notice about Ishii after he became a Christian? *He was happy and peaceful. He was not scared to die.*
8. Why did the governor of Tokyo come to see Ishii? *Because he had heard about the big change that had happened in him and wanted to know why.*
9. Why did Ishii decide to write his story? *So that others might read it and turn to believe in Jesus, too.*
10. Why did Ishii have to work so quickly? *Because any day it could be his day to be hung.*
11. What was the jailer surprised about when he came to take him to be hung? *That he was not hiding in the corner of his cell, scared, but very willing to go with him.*
12. What did Ishii put in his note to Miss MacDonald? *That he was happy to be going home to heaven and be with Jesus.*
13. Why would Ishii have been happy to hear that Miss MacDonald was telling his story? *Because perhaps the Lord would use it to bring others to know Him.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home?** *Ishii began a changed man when Jesus forgave his sins. He was peaceful and happy and looked forward to the day he would go home to heaven.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Many people might look at Ishii's life and see it as a failure because he did so many bad things, went to jail, and was put to death for them. Do you think the Lord sees Ishii's life as a failure? *No, God does not! God used all the bad things in Ishii's life as an amazing display of His great mercy and love for sinners. Many people heard about Jesus and turned to Him to be saved because of what God did in Ishii's life.*
2. Ishii hoped that God would use the story of his life to save others. What must we do if we are to be saved? *Turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Philippians 3:18-20**: "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."?

*Ishii was not in jail because of suffering for Jesus, but for wrong things he had done. But Ishii did face death with joy and confidence, knowing his sins were forgiven. As God's adopted child: he would get to be with Jesus forever & God would give him better and lasting possessions than anything he had would ever have on earth.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Sender of His People to tell others about Him that they might be saved.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that like Ishii we are sinners who deserve God's punishment for our sins and who need a Savior.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for saving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior—even if they have done really bad things like Ishii did.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?  
*We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to desire to be with Him in heaven, like Ishii did.*

**The Gospel**

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Ishii believed and wanted other to know? 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: Four Corners****Materials**

Red and Green Construction paper  
 2 rulers  
 4 Large pieces of paper and a Marker  
 Masking Tape  
 Four small pieces of paper  
 Cup or bag  
 Story Review Questions  
 Optional: Team Pennies to differentiate each team

**Preparing the Game**

1. Make up story review questions that answer the questions: Why? What? How? What would you do? You will want to have 20+ questions. Many of the Story Review Discussion Questions can be modified to fit one of these four questions.
2. Make a stop sign and a green light out of the red and green construction paper and tape them each to the end of a ruler.
3. Make four signs out of the paper: Why? What? How? What would you do? Tape these signs in 4 different locations, such as corners of the room.
4. Write these 4 names also on four small pieces of paper of equal size and place in the cup/bag.

**Playing the Game**

Divide the children into two teams. At the leader's signal, all the children will run to one of the four signs and place their hand on it or near it. When leader yells "Freeze" then the children must stay at their station. The leader then pulls one of the pieces of paper out of the cup and asks the children at that particular station a Story Review question. If they get it right, then they gain as many points as children from that team who were at that station. Play then resumes again.

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

**Non-competitive Option**

Don't split into teams. Simply ask the children at the particular station the question and let them work together to answer it.

**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 Prisoner’s Paradise.

Our story takes place in the early 1900’s in Japan.

And now we present: “The Case of the Prisoner’s Paradise.”

**Actions:**

**Scene 1:**

Passengers on the Empress of Russia gather around Miss MacDonald as she tells them the story behind her coin necklace. Policemen track down Tokichi Ishii, one of the worst criminals in Japan. He is a robber and murderer who has spent twenty years in jail and escaped. Finally they catch Ishii, take him to a special prison cell and sentence him to death by hanging. In prison, he begins to think about his soul and that he surely deserves hell. He wonders if there is any hope for himself.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scene 2:**

Miss MacDonald and Miss West go the Ishii’s prison to tell prisoners about Jesus. They talk to Ishii, telling him the good news that there is complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus. They leave him with a New Testament to read. At first Ishii just puts the Bible away on his shelf, then he finally starts reading it. When he reads how Jesus forgave the men who had Him unjustly killed, he believes that Jesus would forgive him, too. He becomes a Christian. Everyone notices the amazing changes in Ishii. He is happy. He does not worry about dying. He explains to the governor of Tokyo and to the Buddhist priest that he can be so happy, though facing death because he knows Jesus has forgiven him and he will be going to heaven to live with him forever. When the two women visit Ishii again, he tells them he is going to write his story so others might come to believe in Jesus, too.

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**Scene 3**

Ishii works as fast as he can, knowing that any day at 9 a.m. he will be called to be hung. Ishii finishes just in time. The jailer calls for him to come with him to the gallows. Ishii goes joyfully and asks the jailer to give Miss MacDonald his book and his things. Ishii dies peacefully. Miss MacDonald receives a package the next day from the jailer including his book, a note telling her that he is happy to be going home to heaven, and the coin that she now wears around her neck. The passengers are deeply moved by the story and Miss MacDonald knows Ishii would be pleased to see that the story of his life might help to bring some of these people to know Jesus.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home.** Ishii became a changed man when Jesus forgave his sins. He was peaceful and happy and looked forward to the day he would go home to heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_

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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 Prisoner's Paradise.

Our story takes place in the early 1900's in Japan.

The characters in our story are: Miss MacDonald, passengers on the Empress of Russ, policemen, Tokichi Ishii, Other prisoners on death row, Miss West, Jailer, Governor, Buddhist priest.

And now we present: "The Case of the Prisoner's Paradise."

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

Passengers on the Empress of Russia gather around Miss MacDonald as she tells them the story behind her coin necklace. Policemen track down Tokichi Ishii, one of the worst criminals in Japan. He is a robber and murderer who has spent twenty years in jail and escaped. Finally they catch Ishii, take him to a special prison cell and sentence him to death by hanging. In prison, he begins to think about his soul and that he surely deserves hell. He wonders if there is any hope for himself.

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

Miss MacDonald and Miss West go the Ishii's prison to tell prisoners about Jesus. They talk to Ishii, telling him the good news that there is complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus. They leave him with a New Testament to read. At first Ishii just puts the Bible away on his shelf, then he finally starts reading it. When he reads how Jesus forgave the men who had Him unjustly killed, he believes that Jesus would forgive him, too. He becomes a Christian. Everyone notices the amazing changes in Ishii. He is happy. He does not worry about dying. He explains to the governor of Tokyo and to the Buddhist priest that he can be so happy, though facing death because he knows Jesus has forgiven him and he will be going to heaven to live with him forever. When the two women visit Ishii again, he tells them he is going to write his story so others might come to believe in Jesus, too.

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

Ishii works as fast as he can, knowing that any day at 9 a.m. he will be called to be hung. Ishii finishes just in time. The jailer calls for him to come with him to the gallows. Ishii goes joyfully and asks the jailer to give Miss MacDonald his book and his things. Ishii dies peacefully. Miss MacDonald receives a package the next day from the jailer including his book, a note telling her that he is happy to be going home to heaven, and the coin that she now wears around her neck. The passengers are deeply moved by the story and Miss MacDonald knows Ishii would be pleased to see that the story of his life might help to bring some of these people to know Jesus.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home.** Ishii became a changed man when Jesus forgave his sins. He was peaceful and happy and looked forward to the day he would go home to heaven.

## **A Packet for Miss MacDonald of Ishii's Life Story, a Letter and a Coin**

### **Description**

The children will make a little packet of a decorated copy of this story and a Japanese coin.

### **Materials**

Copies of the story, 1 per craft  
 Templates of the story cover and the coin  
 Card stock  
 1 manilla folder per craft  
 Markers, colored pencils or crayons  
 1 piece of yarn or string, about 30" per child  
 Glue Sticks  
 Stapler  
 Scissors

### **Preparing the Craft**

1. Print out the coins (two per craft) and story cover on regular paper. Cut out coins as pairs.
2. Print out plain coin circles on card stock. Cut out and poke a hole in the middle as indicated.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

### **Making the Craft**

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate the cover for Ishii's book and glue the front and backs of the coin in place on the card stock coin.
3. Glue the cover on the front of the manilla folder.
4. Staple the pages to the story in place, preferably with 3 staples down the left side of the cover.
5. Thread the string through the middle of the coin (breaking through the thin paper of the coin front and back) and tie ends together with a double knot.

### **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 did Ishii live?

*In Tokyo, Japan.*

2. What did Ishii leave behind for Miss MacDonald?

*His life story, a letter and a coin.*

3. Why didn't Ishii need these things? Why did he give these things to Miss MacDonald?

*Ishii was dying and going to his home in heaven. He wanted Miss MacDonald to take his story and share it with others so they might trust in Jesus as their Savior, too.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

*God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home.*

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

*Ishii had done many bad things, but God forgave all his sins through Jesus when Ishii read the good news of Jesus, turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as His Savior. Ishii no longer feared dying because he knew he was going home to heaven to be with Jesus forever.*

6. What can our craft help us remember?

*No one is too bad to be forgiven their sins by God through Jesus!*

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

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

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is: A Packet for Miss MacDonald of Ishii's Life Story, a Letter and a Coin.

2. In his prison cell, Ishii left a packet for Miss MacDonald of his life story, a letter and a coin because he was going home to heaven and he wanted others to know that they might trust in Jesus as their Savior, too.

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

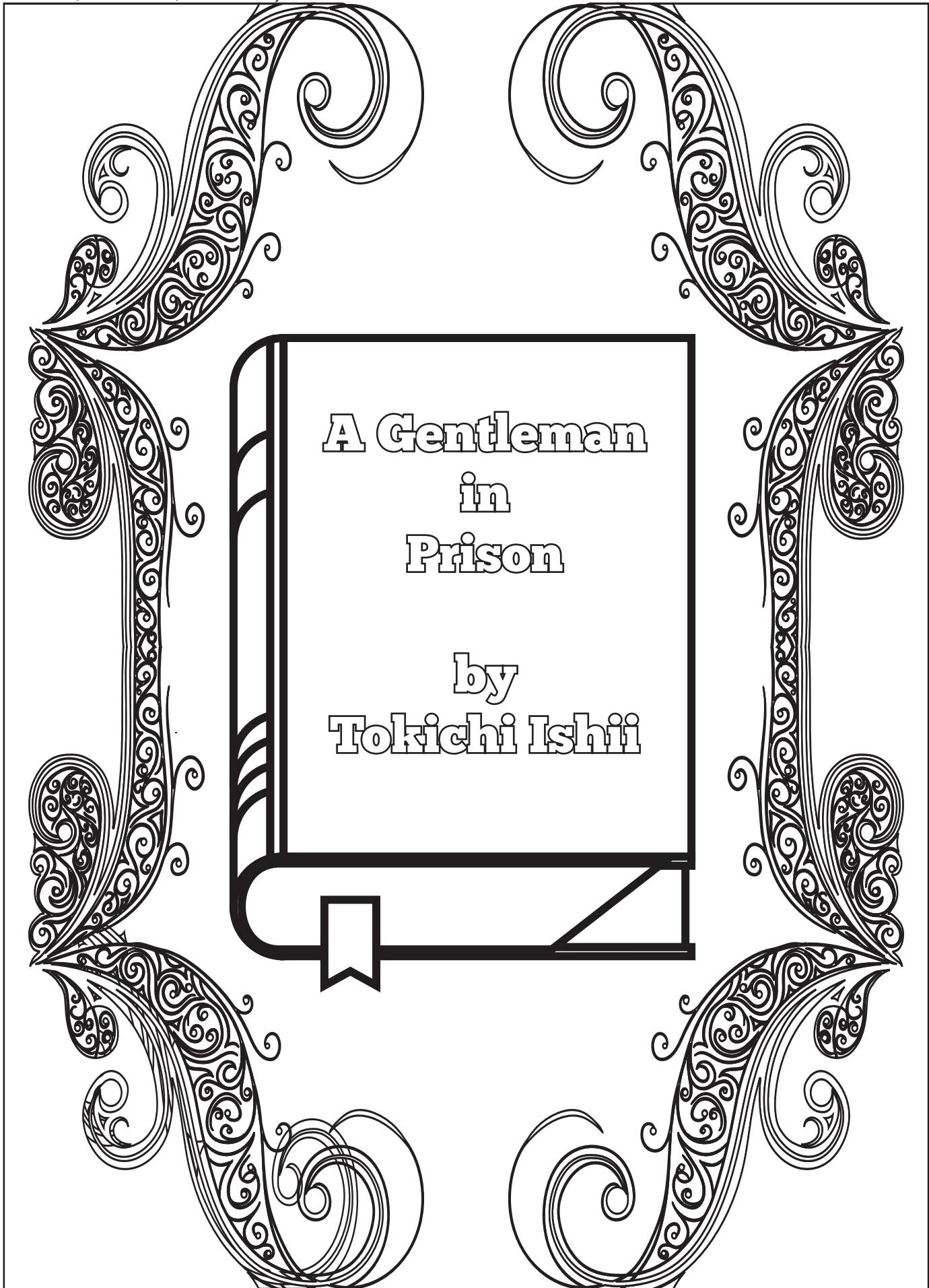
4. Ishii had done many bad things, but God forgave all his sins through Jesus when Ishii read the good news of Jesus, turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as His Savior. Ishii no longer feared dying because he knew he was going home to heaven to be with Jesus forever.

5. Our craft can help us remember that no one is too bad to be forgiven their sins by God through Jesus!

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.







**A Gentleman  
in  
Prison**

**by  
Tokichi Ishii**

**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: Picture Run

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

### Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

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

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

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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