

## **BIBLE TRUTH 2, 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 2:** God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

**Bible Truth Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 8*

**Bible Verse:** Deuteronomy 6:4-5

**Bible Verse Song:** Hear, O Hear *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9*

**Lesson 1 New Testament:** The Case of the Three Questions *Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21*

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Sea of Galilee Fish

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Help the Blind Man

**Bible Truth Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 8*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Discussion Sheet and Game: Jump for Joy

**Bible Verse Song:** Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Spin the Light

**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:** An Upside Down Cross

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Hit the Wall

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 2, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Three Questions** *Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Three Questions.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What were the Three Questions? Who asked them?
2. Who answered the questions? How did he show his answer with his life?

This story takes place during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth.

Peter, James, John and the other fishermen left their boats and headed for shore with their fishing nets. All night they had thrown out and heaved those heavy nets, but they hadn't caught even one, measly fish! Now they had to clean the nets and inspect them for tears before putting them away and heading home to sleep. It was the last thing those weary, discouraged men wanted to do, but they knew they had to do it.

As the fishermen worked on their nets, Jesus and a crowd of people came down to the shore. Jesus climbed into Peter's boat and sat down.

"Would you push the boat out from shore a little way?" he asked Peter. Peter did as Jesus asked, then Jesus began to preach to the crowd. Peter and the other fishermen listened as they worked.

"This Jesus is something special! He talks about God like no other teacher we've heard!" they thought. When Jesus had finished preaching, He told Simon, "Take your boat out into the deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

What was Jesus thinking? Didn't He realized they had just finished cleaning their nets? They would have to clean them again if they did as He asked! Besides, every fisherman knew that you fish at night, not during the day! "We've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything," Peter told Jesus, "but I will do what you ask."

They cast out their nets and immediately they were filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. The other fishermen scrambled out to help them and soon both boats were filled so filled that they were about to sink!

Peter knew this wasn't just a lucky catch! This was God at work! He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

But Jesus didn't go away. He had plans for Peter and

his partners. "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men," Jesus told them. "Come, follow me."

What? Leave behind their way to make money and be Jesus' disciples? It would cost them everything! But that was just what they did. They pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.

For three, whole years, Peter and the others followed Jesus, With amazement they watched Him calm stormy seas, give sight to blind people, even raise the dead to life. And, oh, how they loved to listen to Him speak! He spoke with authority the very words of God. What power, what wisdom, what love!

"Jesus is no ordinary teacher, He is the Messiah, the Son of God," Peter confessed. And the more he saw, the more he believed and the more he loved Jesus.

But life with Jesus was not going to always be like this. Jesus' love for God's people was taking Him to the cross to suffer and die for their sins. The disciples' love for Him would waver. "One of you will betray me and hand me over the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will arrest me and you will all leave me. Then they will kill me. But, on the third day, I will rise," Jesus told them as they sat together eating the Passover Feast the night before Jesus was to die.

Peter disagreed. He loved Jesus and believed He was God's Son. "No, Lord. Even if everyone else leaves you, I won't. I will die with You!" he insisted.

But Jesus knew better. "Peter, your love for Me is not what you think it is. By the time the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny you even know Me three times!" Jesus warned.

Later that night, everything began to happen just as Jesus said it would. Judas Iscariot--one of the twelve

**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.

disciples--led Temple soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. As the soldiers grabbed Jesus, the disciples ran away. Peter was braver than most of the others. He followed secretly behind and waited in the courtyard to see what happened to Jesus. But by the time the rooster crowed in the morning, even Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times.

How Peter cried over his weak love for Jesus, then cried even more as Jesus was crucified later that day. But on the third day, the weeping changed to rejoicing when Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He had risen from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people!

Yet even as Peter rejoiced and worshiped Jesus, something wasn't right. He couldn't forget what he had done: "I knew He was the Messiah, the Son of God. I boasted that I loved Him so much that I would die for Him; yet, I left Him when He was arrested. How could my love for Jesus have been so weak?" Peter thought.

But Jesus wasn't finished with Peter. He knew all about the poor love of his heart and He had plans for Peter. "Tell the disciples and Peter to go to Galilee and I will see them there," Jesus had told the women, the day He rose from the dead.

So that's what they did. They went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited. One night they decided to go fishing, like they did in the old days. Surely it was nice to throw out the nets and hopefully pull it in, full of flip-flopping fish.

But the nets came in empty each time, just like they had on that strange night three years earlier. Just as they were about to give up for the night, a man called to them from the shore: "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they shouted back.

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some," the man said. They cast out their nets and caught so many fish that they didn't even have strength to haul them in!

Immediately Peter, James and John knew who the man was. "It's the Lord!" John exclaimed.

Simon Peter jumped into the water and swam towards Jesus standing on the shore. The others followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish.

Waiting for them was bread and a fire with fish

cooking on it. "Bring some of the fish you have just caught," Jesus told them.

So Simon Peter went to the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

"Come and have breakfast," Jesus invited them, taking the bread and fish and giving it to them.

After eating breakfast, Jesus pulled Peter aside. It was time to talk. "Do you truly love Me more than these?" he asked Peter.

"Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love You."

"Feed my lambs," Jesus told him. (Lambs was Jesus' name for all who would trust in Him as their Savior.)

"Peter, do you truly love me?" Jesus asked again.

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," Peter replied.

"Then take care of my sheep, God's people."

A third time Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt that Jesus had asked him three times, but he understood. He had denied Jesus three times, now Jesus was giving him three chances to tell he loved him. "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you," Peter replied.

"Then feed my sheep," Jesus told him.

Perhaps Peter's love for Jesus had been weak, but even so it was true love for Him. And nothing would please him more than to live the rest of his life taking care of the new believers in Jesus.

Do you wonder what happened to Peter after that day on the beach? Did he take care of Jesus "sheep", His new followers, or did he deny Jesus again?

The Bible tells us that with the help of the Holy Spirit, Peter did take care of the new believers in Jesus. Many times he chose to suffer rather than to give up living for Jesus and loving His people. And do you know how many say Peter died? They say he was crucified as punishment for believing in Jesus. But because he did not think he deserved to die just as Jesus did, he asked to even be crucified upside down! Here was a man who God had helped to love Him with all of himself!

**Cracking the Case:**

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

**1. What were the Three Questions? Who asked them?** Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times.

**2. Who answered the questions? How did he show his answer with his life?** Peter told Jesus he loved Him, even though he had denied he knew Him before He was crucified. Peter showed that he really did love Jesus by boldly telling others about Him and dying for the sake of His name.

**Something for You and Me**

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God's People Love Him with All of Themselves**

**Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

What about you and me? Can we ever love God with all of ourselves? Never on our own! There is only one way we can even begin to love God as He calls us to: by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will give us a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He will work powerfully in our hearts, helping us to love Him more and more.

But what a wonderful day it will be when God's people live together with God in heaven. For then, they will be completely changed and will truly love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength forever.

Let's praise God for sending Jesus to save sinners like us and like Peter. Let's praise Him for promising to send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of His people, helping them to love God as He wants them to. And let's ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we might love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

**A** God, we praise You for being so worthy of all our love.

**C** God, we confess that like Peter, we are tempted to avoid doing hard things for You, instead of loving You as we should. We all need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that would even forgive Your people when they choose to avoid doing hard things for You. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside Your people, giving them greater love for You and courage to do hard things for You.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, giving us love for You and helping us to do even very hard things for You.

# **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 completely worthy of all our love.

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

---

Add your own Adorations:

---

---

## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that many times we do not love You as You deserve. Too many times, we love other things more than You, even though You deserve all of our love. We need a Savior to save us from our sins! We need Your Spirit to work in our hearts!

God, we have sinned against You....

---

Add your own Confessions:

---

---

## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for all showing how great Your love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to help us to love You most of all.

God, we thank You for...

---

Add your own Thanksgivings:

---

---

## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts! Send Your Holy Spirit to live inside of us. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Help us to love You most of all, in our hearts and in our lives.

God, we need Your help...

---

Add your own Supplication:

---

---

---

---

---

## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

---

### **Snack: Sea of Galilee Fish**

Fishermen Goldfish Crackers OR Cups of Sugar-Free Blue Jello "Sea of Galilee" with "Gummy Fish" Fish swimming in it.

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

**Case Tie-in:** At the Sea of Galilee, Jesus first called Peter and some of the other fishermen to leave their jobs and come follow Him as His disciples. They did this. Over the next few years, their love for Jesus grew as did their faith that He was the Messiah, sent to save God's people. But their love was shallow. They all ran for their lives when soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Peter even denied Jesus three times, just to keep himself safe! But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He met them down at the Sea of Galilee once more as they fished. He spoke with Peter that day and Peter once more told Jesus he loved Him. And this time, Peter stayed true to Jesus his whole life. He even died on a cross upside down rather than deny Him as Lord. What a work God's Holy Spirit had done in his heart, helping him to love God!

---

## **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 Love Him with All of Themselves**

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength-- and, oh, they want to do this! Why wouldn't they? Didn't God love them before they loved Him? Didn't He freely give His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins? And doesn't He promise to always love them and do what is best for them? Why wouldn't they want to love God most of all, in everything they do?

But loving God and living for Him is not something God's people will ever do perfectly here on earth. Yes, their sins have all been forgiven by God and they will be God's people forever, but they still struggle with sin. Their hearts are still tempted to love other things. Their lives show that they still want to live for themselves. It will be this way until they go to live with God in heaven. There, God will make them perfect; and at last, they will live and love perfectly.

Until then, God's Holy Spirit lives in their hearts and helps them love God more and more. He grows love in their hearts for God and His good ways. He works in their minds to understand God better and to delight in His ways. He gives them strength to act out their love for God and fulfill His good plans in all that they do.

God's people are grateful to God for helping them live for Him now, but they look forward to the day when they go to heaven and will truly love Him with all of themselves.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. How does God call His people to love Him? *He calls them to love Him most of all--with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength.*
2. Why do God's people want to do this? *Because of how God has loved them.*
3. How did God show how much He loved His people? *He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins.*
4. Why did God love His people this way? *Not because they deserved it. They were all sinners. He did it because He loved them and to bring glory to His name (so we could see and delight in who God is.)*
5. Why did God's people need Jesus to be sacrificed for their sins? *Because they were sinners and could never pay for their sins themselves. Only the sacrifice of a perfect life, like what Jesus lived, could be the payment for sins.*
6. Why does God's gift of His Son for them cause God's people to want to love Him in response with all their heart, mind, soul and strength? *Because they love Him and they are so grateful that He would be so merciful to them and be willing to make such a huge sacrifice for them. They know His love is the most wonderful thing of all. They want to love Him completely because this is the best way to live.*
7. Why is there nothing that will ever be enough to show God how much God's people love Him? *Because His gift to them is so wonderful, so huge.*
8. Will God's people ever be able to love Him with all of themselves here on earth? Why or why not? *No, they will not. Because they are still sinners.*
9. Who helps God's people love God more? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*
10. Where will God's people finally love God with all of themselves? *In heaven.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." *This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength. That is loving Him with all of themselves.*

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

1. How did Peter's love change after Jesus talked with him by the Sea of Galilee, after He rose from the dead? *He knew that Jesus had died for his sins, even the sin of denying Him. He was grateful that Jesus would forgive him and give him work for Him. He loved Jesus enough to even suffer and die for Him.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What can God's people do today that shows their grateful love to God for what He has done through Jesus? *They can seek to obey Him and love Him in everything they do. (Add specific examples)*
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 because of this Bible Truth?  
*Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day*

**Gospel Question**

1. We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us?  
*God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*



## Game: Help the Blind Man

### Materials

Blindfold

Cane

Bible Truth Questions

Bag/Bowl

### 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

Children form a circle, with "It", a blind man, in the center. The circle moves slowly to the left or to the right at the Blind Man's command. Then, the Blind Man says, "Halt!" Everyone in the circle stands still. The Blind Man then begins walking out towards the circle of children, GENTLY touching his cane out until he touches someone. When he does, the blind man gets to choose a question from the bag for the teacher to read to the class. When they get a correct answer, the blind man gives up his blindfold to the other child who becomes the blind man, while the former blind man joins the circle.

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.

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**Verse 4**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

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

**Understanding the Song**

1. What does "realm of nature" mean? *All of the nature, the whole world.*
2. What is "a present far too small"? *All of nature, the whole world.*
3. Who is this too small of a present for? *The Lord.*
4. Why is the whole world too small of a present for the Lord? *Because of God's amazing love shown to His people through Jesus.*
5. What does divine mean? *Something that God is or does.*
6. What is so amazing and so divine about God's love? *It is amazing that He would choose to give up His own Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for the sins of His sinful, rebellious, undeserving people. It is divine love because only Jesus, the Son of God, could offer that kind of sacrifice for sins; and because only God is truly good enough to even think about doing such a thing for sinful people.*
7. What does this amazing, divine love demand (deserve) that is even better than all of nature as a present? *To love God with your "soul, life and all."*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Love Him with All of Themselves?**  
*When God's people think about what Jesus did for them on the cross, they want to respond back with grateful, loving lives that love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to the story? *When Peter thought about what Jesus did for him on the cross, he wanted to respond to Him with a love that loves God in return with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength...with his life and his all. And that is just what the Holy Spirit helped Peter do, even when it meant dying on a cross himself.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."?  
*God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, soul and strength. God's people want to do this. Not just because they know that the LORD is God, but also because they think about how God sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save them and make them His people. They want to love God with all of themselves because of all He has done for them!*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for sending His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for their sins. They can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to help them love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. They can remember each day to ask themselves: "How can I live to show love to God today?"*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?  
*Praise God for being worthy of giving us giving our whole lives, our "all" for Him.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?  
*That many times we don't marvel at how great God's love is. We don't think much about how Jesus suffered and died, taking God's people's punishment, so that they could be saved. We do not want to give Him our "all", but only what we think will be good for us or easy for us to give. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?  
*We can thank God His glorious love that would send Jesus to save His people by suffering and dying on the cross.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?  
*That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to come to Him and be forgiven. We can ask Him to help us wonder at His glorious love shown through Jesus. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to give our whole lives, our "all" for Him.*

**Gospel Question**

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

## **Song Game: Word Take Away**

### **Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song

White board and marker

Eraser

### **Preparing the Game**

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

### **Playing the Game**

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

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

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

**Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: Deuteronomy 6:5**

"Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What did the LORD want Israel to do? *To hear.*
2. Who is Israel? *There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God's special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.*
3. Why is the name "LORD" written in all capital letters? *Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write "LORD" instead.*
4. What does it mean that the "LORD is one?" *He is the only true God.*
5. How was Israel to love the LORD? *With all their heart, soul and strength.*
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? *All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.*
7. What is a soul? *A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.*
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? *None. It is written twice for emphasis.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Love God with All of Themselves?** *This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How did Peter show he loved the LORD this way after Jesus rose from the dead? *He obeyed Jesus' command for him to take care of God's people and teach them about God. He was willing even to give up his life in order to tell others the good news of Jesus.*
2. How did Peter have the strength to love God like he did? *The Holy Spirit working in his heart gave him more and more love for God and courage to obey God.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Who must help God's people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? *God's Holy Spirit.*
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.*
3. How can God's people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength? *Obey God, no matter what. Ask Him to give them more of the Holy Spirit to help them love God and live for Him in this way.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being worthy of all our love.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *That we are all sinners. who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God's people more love for God.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.*

**The Gospel**

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

## Game: Jump for Joy

### Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see  
A very long rope or jump rope

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:  
Have the children form a line. Have two people be the Rope Turners for the jump rope. While the entire group recites the verse, have the children take turns trying to jump through the whole verse without stopping. For children adept at jumping rope, you can even have them try running in and jumping, jumping with a partner, etc. or other variations the children come up with.

Game continues until all children get to jump, 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 verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

**Hear, O Hear**

Hear, O hear, O Israel,  
 Hear, O hear, O Israel,  
 The LORD your God, the LORD is one.  
 Love the LORD our God with all your heart,  
 Love the LORD our God with all your soul,  
 Love the LORD our God with all your strength.  
 Deuteronomy Six, verses four through five.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 9**

**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.



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 had happened to Peter, James, John and the other fishermen, the night before they met Jesus? *They had been fishing all night and had caught nothing.*
2. What did Jesus ask Peter to do for him so He could speak to the crowds? *Let Him sit in the boat and push it out a little bit from the shore.*
3. Why did Peter hesitate to let down the nets again? *Because they were tired and it took a long time to clean the nets. If they put the nets down again, they would have to clean them again. Peter thought it very unlikely that they would catch anything since they hadn't had any success all night.*
4. What did Peter know about Jesus and think about himself after the huge catch of fish (the first time)? *That Jesus must be someone special sent by God; and, that Peter was a sinful man. He wanted Jesus to have nothing to do with him because of his sinfulness.*
5. Why did Peter, James, and John decide to follow Jesus and leave behind their way to make money? *God was already working in their hearts, helping them believe in Jesus and love Him. They wanted to know more about God and were glad to leave behind everything to answer Jesus' invitation to follow Him.*
6. What did Peter, James and John come to understand about Jesus as they followed Him as disciples? *That He was the Messiah.*
7. How did they feel about Him? *He was the Messiah, the Son of God. They loved Him.*
8. What things did Jesus do that helped them see that He was the Messiah? *He did miracles, such as calm stormy seas and heal people, even raise the dead. He taught powerfully the Word of God.*
9. What did Peter promise Jesus he would do when Jesus was betrayed and arrested? *That he would die with Him.*
10. What did Jesus tell Peter that he would really do? *He would betray him.*
11. What did Peter learn about his love for Jesus when he denied Him three times? *It was not as strong and faithful as he thought it was. He thought more of himself than of Jesus.*  
Even after Jesus rose from the dead, not everything was right with Peter. Why? *He was thinking about how he denied Jesus, after he had boasted that he loved Him so much.*
12. What did Jesus ask Peter three times? What did He ask Peter to do? *If Peter loved Him. For Peter to "feed His sheep": take care of God's people and help them grow to love and obey God.*
13. Who are the "sheep" Jesus was talking about? *God's people.*
14. What was different about Peter's love for Jesus after Jesus rose from the dead? *Peter did not betray Jesus or run from danger. He had seen Jesus raised from the dead. He knew Jesus had won the victory over sin and death. The Holy Spirit working in Peter's heart made him strong.*
15. What did Peter do that showed he loved Jesus with all of his heart, mind, soul and strength? *He took care of God's people. He was willing to suffer, even die for the sake of Jesus.*
16. Why did Peter not want to be crucified the regular way? *Because he did not feel he should have the honor of dying in the same position as Jesus did.*
17. Who helped Peter love Jesus with all his heart, mind, soul and strength? *The Holy Spirit working in his heart.*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Love Him with All of Themselves? *Peter struggled to love Jesus as he should, but God, by the Holy Spirit, helped him to love God most of all..*

### Life Application Questions

1. How can Peter's life be an encouragement to God's people? *The Lord loved him and forgave him for his weak love. He sent the Holy Spirit to work in his heart to make his love stronger. Many times God's people's love for Jesus is not what it should be. He will forgive them and send the Holy Spirit to help them too, if they ask Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."? *Peter struggled to love the LORD with all his heart, soul and strength when Jesus was being arrested and was sentenced to death on the cross. He wanted to love the LORD this way, but he feared punishment and death. But after Jesus rose from the dead, He forgave Peter. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to give him and the other believers power to love and obey the LORD as He wanted them to. The Holy Spirit did come. He gave Peter even greater love for God. He gave him courage to even die for the sake of Jesus.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being so worthy of all our love.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that like Peter, we are tempted to avoid doing hard things for God, instead of loving Him as we should. We all need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that His forgiveness is so great that would even forgive His people when they choose to avoid doing hard things for Him. We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside His people, giving them greater love for Him and courage to do hard things for Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, giving us love for Him and helping us to do even very hard things for Him.*

**The Gospel**

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

## Game: Spin the Light

### Materials

Flashlight

Paper and Marker

Story Review Questions

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Have them sit in a close circle, alternating Team A and Team B players. Have the children sit in a circle. Put the light in the middle of the circle. Spin the light. Whoever the light points to, answers the question. If it points to a Team A player and he gets it right on his own, it is worth 2 points for his team. If he needs help from another team member, then it is worth 1 point. The question goes to the Team B player on his right for a possible 1 point if the Team A player fails to answer correctly.

Game continues until all children get to toss the Frisbee, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children sit in a circle and spin the light, asking whoever it points to a question. If desired, you can let each child choose another child to help them answer the question.

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

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

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

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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

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

“Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Three Questions.

This is a New Testament story. It took place takes place during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: “The Case of the Three Questions.”

**Scene 1:**

Peter, James, John and the other fishermen were weary and discouraged from fishing all night, yet catching no fish at all. As they cleaned their nets, Jesus and a crowd came to the shore. Jesus got into Peter’s boat and began to teach. Peter and the others listened as they worked. They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. Jesus ask Peter to put the boat back out and let down the nets again. Peter was reluctant, but obeyed. The nets filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. Peter knew that this was a miracle and that Jesus must be someone sent by God. He wanted Jesus to leave him alone.

**Actions:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scene 2:**

Jesus asked Peter, James and John to follow Him as disciples. This would mean leaving everything behind, but they chose to do this. Already they had begun to see who Jesus was and loved what they saw. Over the next three years, Peter watched Jesus do amazing things like heal the blind and raise the dead. Peter listened to Jesus preach God’s Word like no one had ever preached before. The Holy Spirit helped him understand that Jesus was no ordinary man. He was the Messiah, the Son of God. The more Peter understood, the more he loved Jesus and wanted to do whatever Jesus wanted him to do. But Jesus warned them that He is about to be arrested and put to death. He told them that one of them would even betray Him, while the rest of them would abandon Him. Peter refused to believe this would happen. He knew his love for Jesus was strong. He would choose to die for Jesus before he would leave Him, he exclaimed. But Jesus told Peter that not only would he leave Him, but he would do even more. By the time the rooster crowed in the morning, Peter would deny he knew Him three times. Soon, everything happened as Jesus said it would. Judas Iscariot betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, and Peter denied Him three times before the rooster crowed. Jesus was taken away and was crucified. He died on the cross and was buried How terrible it all was!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Scene 3:**

But what happy things happened on the third day! Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples. Peter and the others were overjoyed! Jesus had beaten sin and death for God’s people! He was the Messiah. It was beginning to all make sense now. Even so, Peter still felt awful about denying Jesus. They all went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited for Him, like He told them to. They went fishing as they waited, but and didn’t catch any fish all night. A man appeared on the shore and called out to them, telling them to put out their nets again. When they caught a miraculous number of fish, just like they had three years earlier, they knew it was Jesus! They excitedly headed back to shore to be with Him. After a fish and bread breakfast, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times. Peter said yes. Jesus told him to take care of the new believers. The Holy Spirit helped Peter love Jesus with all of himself. Peter did take care of the new believers and chose to suffer and stay true to Jesus to his dying day. He was even crucified upside down for his faith in Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves.** Our story is how Peter struggled to love Jesus as he should, but how God, by the Holy Spirit, helped him to love God most of all.

## **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 Three Questions.

This is a New Testament story. It took place takes place during New Testament times when Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Peter, James, John; Other fishermen; Jesus; Crowd of People; Other disciples; Blind Man; Dead Man; Pharisees and Sadducees; Soldiers; and, the Servants of the Chief Priest.

And now we present: "The Case of the Three Questions."

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

Peter, James, John and the other fishermen were weary and discouraged from fishing all night, yet catching no fish at all. As they cleaned their nets, Jesus and a crowd came to the shore. Jesus got into Peter's boat and began to teach. Peter and the others listened as they worked. They were amazed at Jesus' teaching. Jesus ask Peter to put the boat back out and let down the nets again. Peter was reluctant, but obeyed. The nets filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. Peter knew that this was a miracle and that Jesus must be someone sent by God. He wanted Jesus to leave him alone.

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

Jesus asked Peter, James and John to follow Him as disciples. This would mean leaving everything behind, but they chose to do this. Already they had begun to see who Jesus was and loved what they saw. Over the next three years, Peter watched Jesus do amazing things like heal the blind and raise the dead. Peter listened to Jesus preach God's Word like no one had ever preached before. The Holy Spirit helped him understand that Jesus was no ordinary man. He was the Messiah, the Son of God. The more Peter understood, the more he loved Jesus and wanted to do whatever Jesus wanted him to do. But Jesus warned them that He is about to be arrested and put to death. He told them that one of them would even betray Him, while the rest of them would abandon Him. Peter refused to believe this would happen. He knew his love for Jesus was strong. He would choose to die for Jesus before he would leave Him, he exclaimed. But Jesus told Peter that not only would he leave Him, but he would do even more. By the time the rooster crowed in the morning, Peter would deny he knew Him three times. Soon, everything happened as Jesus said it would. Judas Iscariot betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, and Peter denied Him three times before the rooster crowed. Jesus was taken away and was crucified. He died on the cross and was buried How terrible it all was!

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

But what happy things happened on the third day! Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples. Peter and the others were overjoyed! Jesus had beaten sin and death for God's people! He was the Messiah. It was beginning to all make sense now. Even so, Peter still felt awful about denying Jesus. They all went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited for Him, like He told them to. They went fishing as they waited, but and didn't catch any fish all night. A man appeared on the shore and called out to them, telling them to put out their nets again. When they caught a miraculous number of fish, just like they had three years earlier, they knew it was Jesus! They excitedly headed back to shore to be with Him. After a fish and bread breakfast, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times. Peter said yes. Jesus told him to take care of the new believers. The Holy Spirit helped Peter love Jesus with all of himself. Peter did take care of the new believers and chose to suffer and stay true to Jesus to his dying day. He was even crucified upside down for his faith in Jesus.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Love Him with All of Themselves.** Our story is how Peter struggled to love Jesus as he should, but how God, by the Holy Spirit, helped him to love God most of all.

## An Upside Down Cross

### Description

The children will make a cross out of wire and nails.

Thin wire, about 2 feet per child

2 3.5" Masonry nails per child

2.5" Masonry nails per child

(preferably get the "Cut" kind of masonry nails with the blunt end rather than the "Fluted" kind with the sharp end)

Wire cutters or scissors

### Preparing the Craft

1. Cut five pieces of 6" wire for each child with the wire cutters or scissors.
2. Make a sample for the children to see.

### Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Place the two 3.5" nails next to each other with one end sticking up and one end sticking down. Wind one piece of the wire around the middle of the nails until the nails are secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
3. Place the two 2.5" nails next to each other with one end sticking up and one end sticking down. Wind one piece of the wire around the middle of the nails until the nails are secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
4. Lay the bundle of 2.5" nails on top of the bundle of 3.5" nails, in a cross fashion (perpendicular and with the 4. bundle a bit closer to one end of the 3.5" bundle than the other end).
5. Secure the two bundles together by wrapping a piece of wire in an X fashion around the middle of the two bundles (top left and right bottom, then top right and left bottom). Wrap until secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
6. Take the last two pieces of wire and bend each in the middle. Then, wrap the end pieces together around the end of each of the 3.5" nails so that a loop is formed on each end.
7. Have the children hold up the cross the normal way and say, "This is the way Jesus died on the cross." Then turn the cross upside and hold by the other loop and say, "But this is the way Peter died, because he did not think he deserved the honor of dying in exact same way as Jesus."

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

**CASE CRAFT****Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Where did Peter die? *In Rome.*
2. How did he die?  
*On a cross.*
3. What was different about how Peter died on his cross? Why did he want to do this?  
*He was crucified upside on his cross because he didn't think he deserved the honor of dying the same way as Jesus did.*
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God's People Love Him with All of Themselves.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Love Him with All of Themselves?  
*After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter spent his whole life seeking to love God with all of himself, no matter what the cost. He even was willing to die upside on a cross rather than denying that Jesus was the Son of God, he loved God so much.*
6. What can this craft help us remember?  
*God's Holy Spirit works powerfully inside His people, helping them to love God with all of themselves, even when it is very, very hard. He can work in us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**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: Upside Down on a Cross.
2. In Rome, Peter chose to die upside on a cross, because he didn't think he deserved the honor of dying the same way as Jesus did.
3. Bible Truth 2 is: God's People Love Him with All of Themselves.
4. After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter spent his whole life seeking to love God with all of himself, no matter what the cost. He even was willing to die upside on a cross rather than denying that Jesus was the Son of God, he loved God so much.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's Holy Spirit works powerfully inside His people, helping them to love God with all of themselves, even when it is very, very hard. He can work in us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

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



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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Game: Hit the Wall

### Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

### Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape the envelopes to the wall.

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be aimed at.

**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**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

