

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Truth 3: God's People Love Others

Bible Truth Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 11*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13

Bible Verse Song: Love *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 12*

Extra Bible Verse: Love Is Patient PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 13

Lesson 1 New Testament: The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply *Matthew 18:21-35*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Fall Crops and Stacks of Money

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Rush to Safety

Bible Truth Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 11*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 Discussion Sheet and Game: Balancing Act

Bible Verse Song: Love 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 12*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: What's in the Box?

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 Servant in Debtor's Prison

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Ball Roll Review

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply *Matthew 18:21-35* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. To multiply means to make something get a lot bigger, just like in math we multiply numbers together to get big numbers quickly. Who was the Man who needed to multiply? What did he need to multiply?
2. Who told him to multiply? How many times? Why was this so important?

This story takes place in Capernaum, in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

Capernaum: an important fishing town on the north side of the great Sea of Galilee that was the hometown of Jesus' three closest disciples, Peter, James and John.

Walking, teaching, and healing. That's what Jesus had been doing for the past six months, His disciples following along. Not only around their hometown, Capernaum, but far to the north in the foreign lands of Tyre, Sidon, and Caesarea Philippi. It was spring when they left. Now it was autumn and surely it felt good to be home!

The desert winds of September swept down the hills and across the Sea of Galilee, ripening the dates, figs, pomegranates, and juicy clusters of grapes. Harvest time! It was a wonderful time of year!

But while the autumn air was full of dry, desert heat, there was perhaps something more like a chill in the heart of Peter that day. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about what to do when someone sins against you and Jesus' words stirred up something inside of Peter.

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?" Peter asked Jesus. Was Peter's question just a question of a curiosity or was it more? Had someone--maybe even one of the other disciples--wronged Peter so many times that he didn't want to forgive them? We don't know. But whatever the reason for the question, Peter wanted to know Jesus' answer.

"Lord, the rabbis (Jewish teachers) say that after forgiving someone three times for the same thing, you don't have to forgive them any more. What do you say? Would seven times be enough?" Peter asked Jesus.

"Seven times! Far from that!" Jesus answered, "Seventy-seven times would be more like it! There should never be an end to how much you forgive someone!"

Jesus could see that Peter still had so much to learn about love. God's love was a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs. A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they have sinned against Him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart. And God's people were to love each other like this, too.

"Let me tell you a story about the kingdom of heaven, Peter. What life looks like when people love God's way," Jesus told him.

"Once there was a king," Jesus began, "who had servants who collected tax money for him. From time to time he would call them in and have his bookkeepers check that the they had really collected and turned in the money for him that they were supposed to. As each of the servants' records were checked, it was found that one of the servants had failed to give him millions of dollars that he had collected.

"Bring this thief to me!" the king ordered.

Soon the servant was dragged in, and stood trembling before the king. He knew he had done terribly wrong and deserved a terrible punishment," Jesus told.

"Where are the millions of dollars you collected for me?" the king demanded. "You must pay me back! Guards, go to this man's house, take everything he has and sell it. Then take this man—even his wife and children—and have them all thrown in jail! Keep them there until all of his debt to me has been paid off or until the day they die!" he ordered.

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.

The servant fell to his knees before the king and said, "O king, be patient with me. I will pay back everything I owe you, just give me time."

The king knew this was impossible. This servant could work every day of his life and still not pay back all the money. But this king was a loving king. He had a patient, enduring kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs; love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart. So he said to the servant, "You deserve punishment, but I have decided to forgive you. You never have to pay me back the money you owe me. You and your family don't have to go to jail. You don't even have to sell your things. You are completely forgiven. Now go. Your debt is canceled," he told the man.

The tax collector could hardly believe his ears. Could it really be that the king would forgive so large a debt as his? What king had ever acted so mercifully as this! "Thank you, thank you, sire," the grateful servant said. and left the king's throne room rejoicing.

Yet hardly had that servant left the presence of the king when he ran into another servant who owed him some money. "Hey, you! I've been looking for you! Do you remember those thousands of dollars I loaned you? It's long past time that you pay me back. Give it to me, now!" the servant demanded as he grabbed the other man by the neck and began to choke him.

"I can't! I don't have it yet!" the servant fell to his knees and pleaded. "Please be patient with me. I will pay you back as soon as I can. I promise."

Hadn't these been the very words the servant had spoken to the king? He had asked the king for patience and the king had shown him mercy and forgiven his debt.

Would this man remember to be like his king who had treated him so lovingly? Would he have a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others? A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs? A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him, that forgave others completely, from the heart?

No, he would not! The king had just forgiven him

that huge sum of money; yet all that greedy, selfish man could think about was the much smaller amount of money that this servant had not paid him.

"Why should I show you mercy? You will get what you deserve for how you've treated me. The money is due now and you can't pay it. You know the punishment. It's off to prison for you. And there you will stay until you can pay me back every bit that you owe me. Guards, throw this man in jail!" And so they did.

News of what happened reached the king and he was furious! Once more, the king's men dragged this servant before the king, but things didn't turn out as they had the first time.

"You wicked servant," the king said. "I canceled your huge debt because you begged me to. How could you forget that? You should have shown mercy on your fellow servant for the little debt he owed you!"

'Guards, take this man to the prison. He is to be punished and left in prison until he has paid back every penny he owes me!' The guards grabbed the tax collector and carried him away."

As Jesus finished the story, He looked at Peter and said, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Now Peter could see. Like the first servant, we have a huge debt that we each owe to God, our great King. It is even worse than a huge debt of money: it is a huge debt of sin. And it is a debt so big that we can never pay it off. As a punishment for our sins against God, we deserve a punishment even worse than being thrown into jail with our families and having all of our things sold. We deserve to receive eternal punishment in hell.

Yet God, like the king in the story, has chosen to treat all who confess their sins to Him with love and forgiveness. He calls His people to be like Him, loving others far better than they could ever deserve.

"If I don't keep forgiving someone who wrongs me, then I am being just like that wicked servant!" Peter thought. "God has forgiven me my sins, Now I must love others the same way that God has loved me: with unending mercy and patience, kindness and forgiveness, even if they treat me badly over and over." Peter understood Jesus' lesson. Now he would need to go and live it out.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. To multiply means to make something get a lot bigger, just like in math we multiply numbers together to get big numbers quickly. Who was the Man who needed to multiply? What did he need to multiply? Peter. He was to multiply (greatly increase) the number of times he forgave someone who wronged him.

2. Who told him to multiply? How many times? Why was this so important? Jesus told Peter to forgive someone seventy-seven times, not just seven. He meant to not stop forgiving someone. He said that we need to forgive others, if we want God to forgive us.

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Love Others

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

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 merciful to sinful people. We praise You for being the Forgiver of Your people's sins.

C God, we confess that like the first tax collector in the story, we often do not forgive others as You want us to. We all need a Savior! We need You to help us forgive, too!

T God, we thank You that Your forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can receive Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live in Your people's hearts so that they can forgive others as You want them to.

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 and help us to forgive others as You want us to.

Special Words

Tax Collector: This was someone a king hired to collect the tax money from the people who lived under his rule--money he would use to rule over them well. But unfortunately, kings in those days, often let them also force the people to give them a lot of extra money

Rabbi: Jewish teacher of God's Word.

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 a God of love. You show Your love to all people, especially by offering to save them from their sins through Your Son, Jesus.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we have not loved others as You have called us to.. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving us people who love us. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who helps Your people love others as You want them to.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Send Your Holy Spirit to live inside of us. Help us to love others like You have loved us.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Fall Crops and Stacks of Money

Grapes, pomegranates, figs, raisins—seasonal crops coming to ripen in Capernaum at that time. And, round crackers “money” to symbolize the debt the one tax collector owed to the king and the debt the other tax collector owed to him.

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

Case Tie-in: Around harvest time in Capernaum, Jesus told Peter and the other disciples the parable of the tax collector who received forgiveness from the king for the huge amount of money he owed him. Jesus told how the tax collector should have shown the same kind of forgiveness to his fellow tax collector as he had received from the king, but who treated him harshly instead. Jesus wanted Peter and others to understand that they had been forgiven so much by God and they should show the same love to others by forgiving them for whatever much smaller wrongs they have done to each other.

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 Others

God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He created them and gave them life. He shows them patience, love and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This is how they can become His people, adopted into His family forever.

God wants His people to treat people—even their enemies-- in the same loving way as He does. He wants them to treat everyone with patience, love and kindness. He wants them to care about their needs, especially their need to hear the good news of salvation through Jesus.

While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. Through Jesus, He has adopted them to be in His family. They will live with Him and with each other forever in heaven.

God wants His people to love each other like sisters and brothers, since they are all in His special family of people. Jesus said that when God's people love each other as He has loved them, others will know that they really are His people. God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, helps God's people to love others as He wants them to.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who is God loving towards and how does He show it? *God is loving towards all. He treats them with patience, mercy and kindness; takes care of their needs; forgives all who confess their sins.*
2. What makes forgiveness one of the best parts of God's love? *God's forgiveness comes at a great cost to Himself: the giving up His Son as the only sacrifice that could pay for our sins.*
3. How does God want His people to treat others? *With the same kind of love He shows.*
4. Why does God expect His people to treat their enemies with love? *While His people were still enemies (in rebellion) to Him, He sent His Son to die for their sins. He wants them to treat others as He treated them.*
5. What is different about the love that God has for His people? *It is a covenant (special promise) love that will last forever.*
6. What is different about the love that God wants His people to show for each other? *He wants them to love each other with covenant love, too. Others will know they are His people if they do.*
7. Can God's people love others as God has loved them on their own? Why not? *No, they can't. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They will never love others here on earth as fully as God wants them to.*
8. Who helps God's people love others as God wants them to? *God's Holy Spirit helps them to love as God wants them to love.*
9. How can we become part of God's special family? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13**: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."?

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What did Peter learn about how many times he should forgive others? *He should never stop forgiving others from the heart because this is how God has forgiven him.*
2. What is the difference between the love God shows in forgiving us and the love we show when we forgive someone who wrongs us? *God's love has to be so much greater than our because we have sinned against Him so much more than anyone has ever sinned against us.*

Life Application Questions

1. Have you ever found it hard to persevere in faithful love to someone else? When?
2. What is something good for God's people to remember when they have to forgive someone and they don't want to? *Remember God's forgiveness of their sins; remember that it is His command to forgive others.*
3. 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 His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

The Gospel

1. God wants His people to love others as He has loved them? How has God shown His great love to His sinful people? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who 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: Rush to Safety

Materials

Construction Paper
CD and CD player
Masking Tape
Small bowl or bag
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.
3. Cut circles about 9" in diameter, enough for every child but one.
4. Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

Playing the Game

Point out the safety spot circles on the floor. Tell the children that you will tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, crab crawl, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they are to get to a safety spot. Show them that there is one spot too few for them all so that someone will be caught out. The child who has no safety spot picks a question for the class to answer. If the class answers it correctly, then the child is added back into the group. If not, then the child stays out and another safety spot is removed.

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

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

Non-competitive Option

Have the child without a safety spot choose a question for the class, but then join the game, even if the class gets it wrong. Add the question back into the bag for further review. Don't reduce the number of safety spots.

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.

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds,
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds,
is like to that above.

Refrain:

Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds,
Blest be the tie, Blest be the tie,
Blest be the tie that binds.

Verse 2

Before our Father's throne,
we pour our ardent pray'rs;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 11

Understanding the Song

1. What is the tie that "binds" the hearts of God's people? *Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God's people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God's family.*
2. What is the fellowship of love that binds God's people together? *"It is like to that above"—a little taste of what they will have in heaven.*
3. How do God's people show this special fellowship of love in their prayers? *They pray "ardently" (with great desire), they pray about each other's fears, hopes, aims (what they hope to do) as if they are their own.*
4. How do God's people show this special fellowship of love as they talk with each other? *They share their woes and burdens (hard things) and care so much that they will even cry in sympathy over them.*
5. How do God's people show this special fellowship of love when they "asunder part" (are apart from each other)? *They are sad to have to say goodbye because they love being with them; they still care for them in their heart, and look forward to seeing each other again.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Love Others?**

God's People are to love everyone, but have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God's family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part.

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to the story? *Peter learned from Jesus that the special love that God's people are to have for each other means to never stop forgiving someone when they sin against you.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13**: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."?

The Holy Spirit is the tie that binds the hearts of Christians together in love. Through His work in their hearts, He helps them to love each other with love that is like God's love, the love of "above", of heaven. They love each other in ways that this verse describes. They share each others' mutual woes and they pray about each other's cares, and bear each others' burdens. Even when they are apart, their love for each other perseveres.

Life Application Questions

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

They can praise God gives His people the Holy Spirit to bind their hearts together in a love so special that they love each other in the same way as He has loved them. They can ask Him to put more of that kind of love in their hearts for His people.

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, the Holy Spirit, for being the great Worker of Love in God's people's hearts.

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

That many times we do not love God's people as we should. We forget to pray for them. We do not care about their "woes", or help them with their burdens--the hard things they are going through. We are too busy thinking about ourselves. 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 forgiveness for our sins. We can thank Him for the Holy Spirit's work in His people's hearts to help them love each other far more than they ever could on their own.

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 send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and give us love for His people.

Gospel Question

1. How can we become God's people? How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts and help us to love others as God wants us to? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song

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

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Meditation Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast... It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love...endures all things. Love never ends."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does it mean to be patient with someone? *To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.*
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? *To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.*
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? *To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don't have it. It isn't loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don't have that you can't be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don't want what is best for them, if you don't have it, too.*
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? *Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.*
5. What does it mean to be rude? *To be impolite and not think of others in how you act or speak.*
6. What does love not insist on? *On getting its own way.*
7. Why isn't it loving to be irritable or resentful or to keep a record of wrongs? *If you are irritable (easily angered) about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you are resentful or keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.*
8. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? *Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.*
9. What does it mean to for love to bear all things, believe all things, hope and endure all things? *Keep loving someone without giving up.*
10. What is the greatest: faith, hope or love? Why? *Because we are all sinners in need of mercy and forgiveness--two key parts of love. Faith in God and hope in His salvation spring out of and are only available to us because of His love shown through Jesus. And, as we live with others, they will need our love as they fail and sin. It will not be enough to simply hope they treat us well or to have faith that they will. The fact is, we will all disappoint and sin against each other. It will take love to forgive and continue to love.*
11. Whose love will never end? How does that affect God's people? *God's love will never end. And, through His Holy Spirit working in them, the love God's people have for Him and for others will never end, too. He will give them what they need to go on loving, even when it is very hard.*
12. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Love Others?**

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and go and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps them love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Peter learned that we must be patient and persevering, not keeping a record of wrongs against others. Love means forgiving someone who sins against us time after time again.*

Life Application Questions

1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? *By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for loving His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.

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

That we are all sinners. We do not love others like These verses tell us we should. 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 inside His people's hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.

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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of God's love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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: Balancing Act

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 10 or so various balance-able items, per team
 (erasers, plates, rulers, books, shoes, etc.)
 Paper, marker
 2 baskets/boxes per team

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as there are items per team. Number these verse pieces in order.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. Use masking tape to mark starting line. Tape the verse pieces to the items and make a pile for each team at the far end of the relay area.
5. Place items for each team in a basket and place at each team's starting point. Place the other baskets at the other end of the relay area.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
 Divide the children into teams and have them line up at a start line. Have the whole group say the verse together. Then draw a number from the bag. Tell the first person in each line to pick an item from the basket at the starting line. They are to put it on their head, and balance it down to the other end. If they drop the item, they just pick it up and continue from that point. When they get there, they are to put their balanced item in the basket and then say the verse to the leader. The leader will then give them the piece of verse with the number on it that was drawn. The two children then rush back to their team with the verse piece and sit down at the back of the line. When all items have been taken down to the other end and all verse pieces retrieved, have been retrieved, they will then put all the pieces in verse order. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. After getting it in order, the team will finish by saying the verse all together. The first team to do so, wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't divide the children into teams. Have them say the verse together, then have one child retrieve the correctly numbered verse piece for the group. Everyone assembles and says the verse together at the end.

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.

Love

Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy or boast,
It is not arrogant or rude, Does not insist on its own way,
It is not irritable, It is not rude,
Does not rejoice in wrong-doing, but with the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes and endures all things,
Faith, hope and love abide these three, but the greatest is love.
Love never ends, love never ends, love never ends.
Faith, hope and love abide these three, but the greatest is love.
First Corinthians Thirteen, four through eight, and thirteen.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 12

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

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

General Story Questions

1. Why did Peter think seven times was a generous number of times to forgive someone? *Because three times was the number the rabbis thought was proper to forgive someone. Peter's number was over double that amount.*
2. What number of times to forgive someone did Jesus think was closer to the right answer? *Seventy-seven times, literally, but He probably was conveying the idea that you should never stop forgiving someone.*
3. Who is the king in Jesus' story like in real life? Why? *God because He is king over all and because He is merciful, patient and forgiving to those who ask Him for mercy.*
4. Who is the first servant in the story like in real life? Why? *Us. We have wronged God terribly with all our sins.*
5. What are our debts to God, money or something else? *Sin is our debt. We have rebelled against God and deserve to pay punishment for our sins.*
6. How big is our debt of sin to God? *It is so big that we deserve eternal punishment. It is so big that we can never pay for our sins. They deserve for us to always be punished for God, without an end.*
7. How did God, the King of everything, pay the price for His people's sins, Himself? *By sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross and die for the sins of His people. He paid their debts completely. They are forgiven and can enjoy eternal life with Him, instead of the eternal punishment for their sins.*
8. How can we know God's forgiveness for our sins? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
9. Who is the second servant like in real life? Why? *Others who do bad things to us and who need us to forgive them.*
10. Why is it so wrong for us to not forgive others when God has forgiven us? *Because if God has forgiven us all our countless sins, we should do the same for others who have only done little wrongs against us, in comparison.*
11. What did Jesus say would happen to people who would not forgive their brother from their heart? *They would receive a terrible punishment from God.*
12. Who can we go to help us to forgive others the way Jesus wants us to? *To God. He will send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to forgive from our heart.*
13. Why do you think it was so easy for the servant to forget to treat the other tax collector as the King had treated him? *Because he, like us, is a sinner. It is all too easy for us to think a lot about ourselves and what we want others to do for us, but then forget to think about others and what we can do for them.*
14. What does it mean to forgive someone from the heart? *To not hold the wrongs against them any more.*
15. How is forgiving someone, loving them? *Much of love is treating someone better than they deserve when they are treating you unkindly. Without forgiveness people have broken friendships that can't be fixed.*
16. Can we ever forgive or love people as God wants us to on our own? *No, we can't.*
17. Who helps God's people to forgive and love people as He wants them to? *The Holy Spirit, living and working in their hearts. He gives them grace to do what they could never do on their own.*
18. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our heart and help us to forgive and love others as God wants us to? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of all who do this.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **God's People Love Others**? *Peter learned that love is patient and forgiving. It keeps no record of wrongs. He learned that we should always forgive others because of how God has forgiven us.*

Life Application Questions

1. What does this story tell us about how God wants us to treat people who do bad things against us and ask for our forgiveness? *He wants us to forgive them over and over again.*
2. Do you find it hard to forgive someone when they have wronged you?
3. How can we love people as God wants us to love them? *When we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, God will send the Holy Spirit to live in our heart and help us to love and forgive others as He wants us to.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13**: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”?

These verses tell us that God’s people are not to keep a record of wrongs. This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t write down the bad things people do to us. It means that in our hearts we should forgive them for the wrongs things they do and then treat them with love instead of holding a grudge against them.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being so merciful to sinful people. Praise God for being the Forgiver of His people.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?

Confess that like the first tax collector in the story, we often do not forgive others as God wants us to. 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 even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by Him. We can thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to live in His people’s hearts so that they can forgive others as He wants them to.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and help us to forgive others as He wants us to.*

The Gospel

1. What did God do to forgive His people’s debts—sins—against Him? 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: What's in the Box?

Materials

10-20 Various props or pictures with an association with the story
Paper and Marker
Large box or basket
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Place the props/pictures in the box.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members reach into the box and pull out a story prop/picture. He will show it to his team and they will come up with an answer as to how that particular prop relates to the story. A correct answer wins 2 points for the team. The team can double their points if they can also tell something from the story they learned about God or about how He wants His people to live. If the team is unable to come up with an answer, then the other team can give an answer for 1 point. For extra fun, you can add some props/pictures that have nothing to do with the story, making the children eliminate them....or even try to think of way it could be added to the story.

Game continues until all children get to pull out a prop/picture,, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Have the children sit down in a circle around the box. Have the children take turns pulling props/pictures out of the box for the other children to tell what it has to do with the story.

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 Man Who Needed to Multiply.

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 Man Who Needed to Multiply.”

Scene 1:

Peter asked Jesus if seven times is enough times to forgive someone who has wronged him. He thought he was giving a more generous answer than the usual three times the teachers of the law taught. Jesus tells him that seventy seven times is a closer answer and tells Peter a story to show what He means.

Actions:

Scene 2:

A king checks his records to see if his servants have really given him all the money they should have and finds that one owes him millions of dollars. The king orders his guards to bring this servant to him. The king questions the man about the missing tax money. The king threatens to sell all of his things and have he and his family thrown into jail until it is all paid off. The servant begs for mercy and patience. The king shows the servant mercy. He forgives his entire debt. The servant is so relieved that the king has forgiven him. He leaves rejoicing.

Scene 3:

The servant immediately runs into another servant who owes him a few thousand dollars. He grabs him by the neck and demands it. The second servant pleads for mercy and patience, just as the first servant had done to the king. The first servant refuses and has him thrown into jail until he has paid him his money. News of what this servant has done reaches the king. He is furious. Guards come and bring the first servant back for questioning by the king. The king throws the servant in jail for not showing the other servant the same mercy and patience that he had shown him. Jesus warns that God will treat this same way those who do not forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven them.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Love Others.** Peter learned that love is patient and forgiving. It keeps no record of wrongs. He learned that we should always forgive others because of how God has forgiven us.

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 Man Who Needed to Multiply.

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; Other disciples; Jesus; King; Servant with huge debt; Servant with small debt; Guards; and, Servant's family.

And now we present: "The Case of the Man Who Needed to Multiply."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Peter asked Jesus if seven times is enough times to forgive someone who has wronged him. He thought he was giving a more generous answer than the usual three times the teachers of the law taught. Jesus tells him that seventy seven times is a closer answer and tells Peter a story to show what He means.

Scene 2: (Middle)

A king checks his records to see if his servants have really given him all the money they should have and finds that one owes him millions of dollars. The king orders his guards to bring this servant to him. The king questions the man about the missing tax money. The king threatens to sell all of his things and have he and his family thrown into jail until it is all paid off. The servant begs for mercy and patience. The king shows the servant mercy. He forgives his entire debt. The servant is so relieved that the king has forgiven him. He leaves rejoicing.

Scene 3: (End)

The servant immediately runs into another servant who owes him a few thousand dollars. He grabs him by the neck and demands it. The second servant pleads for mercy and patience, just as the first servant had done to the king. The first servant refuses and has him thrown into jail until he has paid him his money. News of what this servant has done reaches the king. He is furious. Guards come and bring the first servant back for questioning by the king. The king throws the servant in jail for not showing the other servant the same mercy and patience that he had shown him. Jesus warns that God will treat this same way those who do not forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven them.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Love Others.** Peter learned that love is patient and forgiving. It keeps no record of wrongs. He learned that we should always forgive others because of how God has forgiven us.

A Servant in Debtor's Prison

Description

The children will make a prisoner's hat and chains out of paper.

Materials

Patterns for hat brim and chain links

1 white 8" paper plate per craft

White Card stock

2 ½" pieces of sticky backed Velcro per craft

Black construction paper

Tape

Black markers

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out a copy of the 2 hat brim patterns onto card stock, 1 set per craft.
2. Cut along the dashed lines and fold edges of circle.
3. Print out patterns for hat brim and for chain links. Cut out each.
4. Tape together the two hat brim pieces to make one long piece. (Older children can do this step as part of the craft, if desired).
5. Use the template for the chain links to cut out at least 10 links per craft onto the construction paper.
6. Set out other supplies.
7. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have them color in every other stripe on the hat brim with the black markers.
3. With tape, help the children attach the brim to the edges of the hat top "plate" (eating surface side, face down), cutting off excess of the band length, once you know exactly how much is needed. You will probably need to do this step completely for the younger children, maybe for most of your children. You can do this as they work on assembling their chain links.
4. Have the children form a set of 8 interlocking chains. Make the first chain, fastening with a piece of tape. Then slip the end of the next piece of paper through the first loop and fasten the ends of this second link with tape. Continue until you have 8 links.
5. Form the hand cuffs for each wrist using the same linking technique, but instead of using tape, attach a piece of the Velcro to these links so that they can be taken on and off.

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. How did Jesus explain to Peter why we should forgive others who do bad things to us over and over? *With a story.*

2. Who did Jesus say we were like? *The servant who owed the king a huge debt and was forgiven.*

3. Who did Jesus say we are like if we don't forgive others?

Like the man who refused to forgive the other servant's little debt, even though the king had forgiven him his huge debt.

4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?
God's People Love Others.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Love Others?

Jesus told this story about the unmerciful tax collector to show Peter that God's people should love by forgiving others, just as God has forgiven their sins against Him.

6. What can this craft help us remember?

God wants us to show others love by forgiving them when they wrong us. He wants us to forgive them over and over again.

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 Servant in Debtor's Prison.

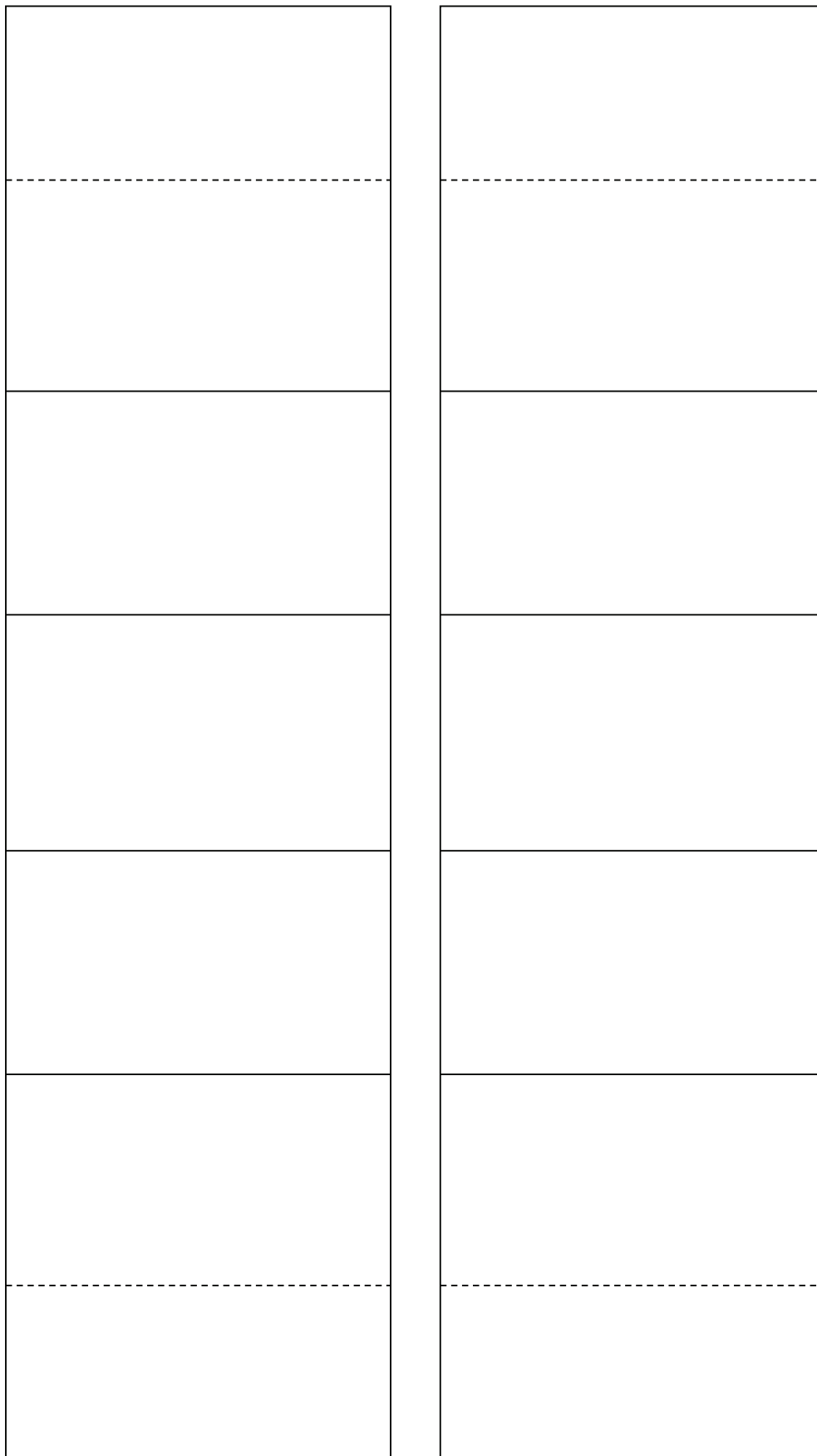
2. In Capernaum, Jesus told Peter the story of a king who put his unmerciful servant in debtor's prison because he refused to forgive another servant's small amount of debt even though the king had forgiven him a huge debt.

3. Bible Truth 3 is: God's People Love Others.

4. Jesus told this story about the unmerciful tax collector to show Peter that God's people should love by forgiving others, just as God has forgiven their sins against Him.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us to show others love by forgiving them when they wrong us. He wants us to forgive them over and over again.

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.



Prisoner Hat Brim Pieces (Two Pieces)
Overlap the pieces along the dashed lines and tape after coloring in.

Chain Link Pattern

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

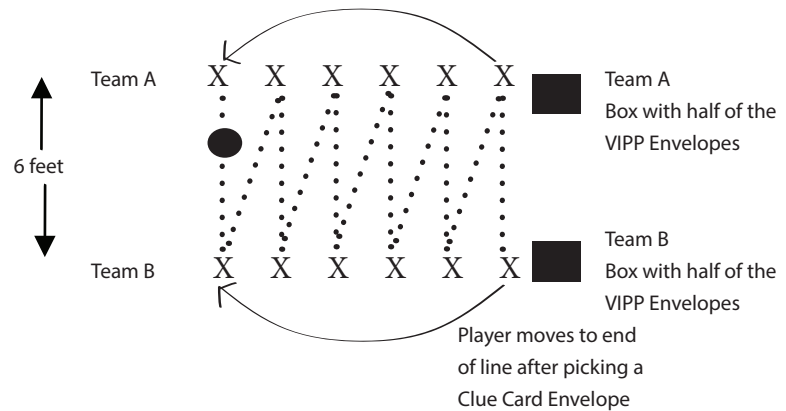
Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

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

Game: Ball Roll Review

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
 2 Set of Clue Cards
 Ball
 8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
 Tape
 Pen and Markers
 2 Boxes



Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put half the Clue Card Envelopes in one box and the other half in the other box. These are the Team A and Team B Boxes.

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 break into two even groups and sit down on the floor facing each other, with about a 6' spread between the 2 lines (see diagram above). For Round 1, Give the ball to the first child in Team A and have them roll it across to the child on Team B directly across from them. Then, that Team B child rolls it back across to the next child on Team A, etc. all the way down the line to the last child on Team B. The last child to get the ball will then pick a Clue Card envelope out of their team's box. They (or the teacher) will tell the group and the Clue Card category by looking at the picture of the Clue Card on the outside of the envelope. Have the children try to remember the VIPP's answer to the category. If the class gets it right, the category is "retired". If they get it wrong, then it gets put back in the pile of category envelopes. The child who picked the Clue Card, then takes their place at the other end of the line. They begin Round 2 by rolling the ball to the first person on Team A, etc. This time, the ball will end up with the last child in the Team A line. ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue from their Clue Card box. Continue until all the clues have been chosen/answered correctly.

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
