

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 3: God's People Love Others

Bible Truth Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10*

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Bible Verse Song: Love Is Patient *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11*

Lesson 3 Old Testament: The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail *1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9; Daniel 1,6*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Loving Warning with a Bow and Arrow

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 10*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Discussion Sheet and Game: Which Way Did It Go?

Bible Verse Song: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Forceball

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

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

Craft: Food from the Royal Table

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

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

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

The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail *1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9; Daniel 1,6*

by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Friend Who Didn't Fail? Who did he love so well?
2. What was so selfless about his love for his friend? Who helped him love this way?

This story takes place in Old Testament times in the days of the first kings of Israel, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

King Saul and the Israelite army looked in fear across the Valley of Elah. There on the other side stood the fierce Philistine army. Armed with iron swords and led by giant 9 1/2 foot Goliath, the Israelites knew their little swords of wood and stone were hardly a match. Only King Saul and his son, Jonathan had iron swords, yet they were too afraid to face the Philistines, too. Things looked hopeless, were it not for a young man named David. He trusted in the LORD to give them the victory. With a single stone, David struck Goliath in the head and killed him. The Philistines fled in terror. Israel was saved from its enemy once more.

General Abner presented David presented before King Saul. "For your bravery and skill in battle I am making you one of my soldiers," Saul told David.

Prince Jonathan stood to the side, as Saul honored David. It would be easy to be envious of David. The soldiers used to talk about Jonathan's great deeds in battle--or King Saul's--but now they only talked about David's. And here was his father was honoring him!

But Jonathan wasn't envious, he loved David for his faith in God and the great things God did through him.

"Let's make covenant of unailing friendship," Jonathan said to David. "Let's promise to always love each other."

David agreed. To seal the covenant, Jonathan took off the special belt and tunic of his war uniform and gave them to David. He handed his very own bow and his priceless, Philistine-made, iron sword and to him, too. Then, he took off his exquisite robe--made only for the Crown Prince of Israel—and put it on David. David humbly received these priceless gifts and swore his friendship to Jonathan.

King Saul was quick to use his new soldier in battle.

Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it. David became famous. As the men marched back home from their battles with the Philistines, women came out from each town to meet King Saul and his men with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

Jonathan was happy to see how God blessed David, but not King Saul. He was envious and angry. He wanted the people think he was the greatest. "The people love David more than me. They think he's a better soldier, too," Saul thought angrily. "Before long they will want him to be king instead of me."

As the LORD gave David more victories over their enemies, King Saul's hate grew. He must get rid of David! Twice he threw his spear at David and barely missed him. Then he had soldiers sneak up on David in bed to kill him, but David found out about his plan and fled.

Later, David snuck back to King Saul's palace to see Prince Jonathan. "Jonathan, your father has tried to kill me four times now, and I don't even know what I've done to make him mad! I need your help!" he exclaimed.

"What are you talking about?" Jonathan answered in surprise. "My father tells me everything! He hasn't said anything about wanting to kill you."

"Your father saw us make our friendship covenant after the battle with Goliath and the Philistines. He knows not to tell you about his plans to kill me. He knows that you love me and would faithfully protect me from harm," David answered. "Jonathan, swear to me, as my covenant friend that you will find out if your father still plans to kill me."

"David, you know that I love you as much as I love myself. By the LORD, the God of Israel, I promise to find

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.

out my father's plans in the next two days! If he speaks favorably of you, I will let you know. If not, I promise to send you safely away," Jonathan promised "David, I know you will be the next king--not me--and I'm happy about that. May the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. There will be a day when as king you will have the power to kill me and my family along with all your enemies," Jonathan told David. "Please renew your covenant with me again. Promise that you will never stop loving me or showing kindness to my family, even after you become king," he asked.

"Go and hide, David. Meet me in the field by the stone Ezel in two days. I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, then I will send my servant boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then that is my signal to you that you must go, because the LORD has sent you away."

Two days later, David waited in the field by the stone Ezel. Jonathan and his servant boy came out to the field, carrying his bow and a quiver full of arrows. Jonathan skillfully strung the bow with one, two, three arrows and sent each of them zinging into the air towards Ezel. "Run and find the arrows, my boy," he told his little servant. When the boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, "Isn't the arrow beyond you?" Then he shouted the secret signal words, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!"

After the arrows were found, Prince Jonathan dismissed the boy and waited for David. David came and bowed before him three times, with his face to the ground.

"It is all true," Jonathan told David. "When I spoke to my father about you he got furious and said, 'I know you have sided with David against us. Don't you understand that as long as he lives you will never be king? Bring him to me! He must die!' But I refused. Then when I asked why you should be put to death, he threw a spear and tried to kill me! David, you must go!"

Then they kissed each other on each cheek (common in the Middle Eastern cultures, even today) and wept together—but David wept most of all. How grateful he was for his friend, Prince Jonathan! His friend truly loved him. He had been unfailingly faithful to him. He even stood up to his father, the King.

"Go in peace, David," Jonathan said, "for we have promised in God's name, that our families will be friends forever." Then the two friends parted.

David and Jonathan were to see each other only one more time in the rest of their lives. For about ten years, King Saul kept chasing David, trying to kill him. One time Jonathan snuck out to Desert of Ziph where David was hiding. Once more they promised each other to be unfailingly faithful friends.

One day, King Saul and his sons (including Prince Jonathan) were killed in a great battle with the Philistines. The people chose David to be the next king of Israel. Now David had the power to get rid of all his enemies. Saul's family feared David would hunt them down and kill them.

But all through those years, David never forgot his promises to love Jonathan and his family. "Is there anyone still left of Saul's family I can be kind to, for Jonathan's sake?" David asked Ziba, an old servant of Saul's.

"Yes, there is still a son of Jonathan who is alive. His name is Mephibosheth. He is crippled in both feet," Ziba replied.

"Bring him to me," David ordered.

So Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, came to David and bowed down to pay him honor. He was trembling with fear. Would the new king have him killed?

"Don't be afraid," David said to him, "I will be kind to you for the sake of your father, Jonathan. I will give you back all King Saul's lands and I want you to be like my own son, eating with me and my family at the king's table the rest of your life," David promised. And that is what he did.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Friend Who Didn't Fail? Who did he love so well?

Jonathan was the friend who didn't fail David.

2. What was so selfless about his love for his friend? Who helped him love this way?

If David became king, it would be instead of him. Most men would not want to help someone else become king instead of themselves. The LORD helped Jonathan His good plan to make David king. He helped Jonathan love David and protect his life.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: God's People Love Others

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

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

What new things about loving others did you learn from Jonathan and David? Jonathan and David loved each other by not being proud or envying others, but rejoicing in the good that the Lord did in their lives. They persevered with an unfailingly faithful, even in the hardest times.

And what about you and me? What is our love like? Do we envy others when something good happens to them that doesn't happen to us; or when they are good at something that we are not? Do we have a love for others that is unfailingly faithful, even through very hard times?

God knows how hard it is to love others as He wants us to. He knows that it is impossible for us to do this without His help. And help of the most powerful kind is what God promises to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. To all who do this, He will save from their sins and send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts, helping them even to love others as He wants them to.

Let's praise God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to work love in their hearts. Let's ask Him to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. Let's ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit so that we might love

unfailingly faithfully, without envy, rejoicing in the good the Lord does in their lives, like Jonathan and David. He is the only one who can give us this kind of love for others.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Faithful Love to His People, helping them to love, even when it is very hard.

C God, we confess that we are not like David and Jonathan. We choose not to faithfully love others. We are sinners! We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sustaining the love of His people for each other, just like He did with Jonathan and David.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit that we might faithfully love each other, just as David and Jonathan did.

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: Loving Warning with a Bow and Arrow

Carrot stick "bow" strung with shoelace red licorice by making a small notch in each end of the carrot and inserting the licorice. String the "bow" by laying a pretzel stick "arrow" across the middle starting with the licorice. Place a "Jonathan" teddy graham next to bow and arrow. Then place a second carrot arrow some distance away from the other with a "David" teddy graham next to it. (Carrot sticks should be cut into thin sticks and then apply just enough pressure on both ends at the same time until they break almost completely through in the middle, making a hinge and a place where the pretzel arrow rests on the bow.)

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

Case Tie-in: Jonathan warned David to run away from his father, King Saul, by shooting a arrow out into a field, as a signal that the king was going to try to kill him. The LORD kept David's life safe through the work of this loving friend.

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**: "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

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. How did David and Jonathan love each other as God had loved them? *They loved without fail. They made promises to treat each other lovingly and they persevered in them, even when it was very hard. Saul tried to kill Jonathan for his loyalty to David; David might have found it hard to want to bless anyone in Saul's family after the way he treated David for about ten years.*

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: Beanbag Grand March

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

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 NIV Songs 12, Track 10

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? *Jonathan and David both loved God and shared the special fellowship love that God's people know. They cared about each others problems as if they were their own. It was a tie that bound their hearts together, even in very hard times. They loved each other very much and were very sad to part. They longed for a day when they would get to be together again as friends. Even after Jonathan died, David still kept his promises to him. While Jonathan never got to enjoy a time of close fellowship again with David before he died, David—for the sake of Jonathan-- found Jonathan's son and blessed him and treated him like he was one of his sons.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**: "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."?

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: 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: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

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

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy... it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always... perseveres. Love never fails."

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 it mean to be self-seeking? *To insist on getting your own way. To think about what is best for you and not think about how it will affect others.*
7. Why isn't it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? *If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you 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 persevere? *Keep loving someone without giving up.*
10. Whose love will never fail? How does that affect God's people? *God's love will never fail And, through His Holy Spirit working in them, the love God's people have for Him and for others will never fail, too. He will give them what they need to go on loving, even when it is very hard.*
11. 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? *Jonathan showed David love that did not envy and was not self-seeking. It protected David from Saul and persevered in his faithful love of Him. David was not boastful or proud. He trusted in Jonathan's promises to him. He persevered in his love for Jonathan by remembering to take care of Mephibosheth, even after Jonathan died.*

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: Which Way Did It Go?

Materials

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

Coin

Beanbag or other small object

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.

2. Explain the game to them as follows:

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Love Is Patient

Love is patient, love is kind,
 Love doesn't envy, It does not boast,
 Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.
 Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
 It always protects, it always trusts and hopes,
 It always perseveres.
 Love never fails, love never fails, love never fails, love never fails!

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 11

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. Why were the Israelites so afraid of fighting the Philistines? *They were afraid of the size of Goliath and the power of their iron weapons. They failed to trust in their powerful God, but only looked at their own strength.*
2. Why could have Prince Jonathan be envious of David? *Because everyone was praising David for being a great warrior when previously Jonathan was the one who had been praised as such.*
3. What was so amazing about the gifts that Prince Jonathan gave David? *They were to be worn by the Crown Prince of Israel, that is, the man who would be the next king of Israel. Also, they were very, very valuable.*
4. What did Prince Jonathan and David promise each other the day David fought Goliath? *They would be unfailingly faithful friends for their whole lives.*
5. Why did King Saul get jealous of David? *Because the people were saying that David was a greater warrior than King Saul.*
6. Why did King Saul want to kill David? *He was jealous of him. He wanted Jonathan to be the next king, not David.*
7. How did Prince Jonathan show his love for David when he spoke to his father about him? *He could have told his father where David was hiding and led him to him to be killed. Then he might have gotten the throne instead of David. But Prince Jonathan loved David and knew that God intended for him to be the next king. He laid aside grasping the throne for himself and protected David instead.*
8. What did Prince Jonathan have David promise him before he left Gibeah? *That David would also be a faithful friend to Jonathan's family.*
9. How long did King Saul keep chasing David? *For about ten years.*
10. How did David show his love for Jonathan when he became king? *He remembered his promise to Jonathan to care for his family. He sought out any members of his family, not to kill them, but to care for them.*
11. How did David bless Mephibosheth? *He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul's land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons as long as he lives.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **God's People Love Others**? *Jonathan and David loved without fail. They made promises to treat each other lovingly and they persevered in them, even when it was very hard. Saul even tried to kill Jonathan for his loyalty to David; David might have found it hard to want to bless anyone in Saul's family after the way he treated David for about ten years.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**: "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."?
Jonathan showed David love that did not envy and was not self-seeking. It protected David from Saul and persevered in his faithful love of Him. David was not boastful or proud. He trusted in Jonathan's promises to him. He persevered in his love for Jonathan by remembering to take care of Mephibosheth, even after Jonathan died.

Life Application Questions

1. How should we be like David and Jonathan in how we love others? *We should not be envious of the good gifts that God gives others to serve Him. We should love each other, even when it is very hard.*
2. Who is the only one who truly has an unending love? *God*
3. How can God's people become more unending in their love? *Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work an unending love in their hearts.*
4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Giver of Faithful Love to His People, helping them to love, even when it is very hard.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we are not like David and Jonathan. We choose not to faithfully love others. We are sinners! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for sustaining the love of His people for each other, just like He did with Jonathan and David.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. WE can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might faithfully love each other, just as David and Jonathan did.*

The Gospel

1. The people praised David for saving them the Philistines and other of their enemies, but David made sure that everyone knew that God was the one who had saved them, not him. David lived before Jesus' day, but he looked forward to the day when Jesus would come and really save His people. Not just from an enemy like the Philistines, but the biggest enemy of all: death. Many times David wrote about the coming Savior in his Psalms. God promised David that this Savior would be one of his great, great, great, etc. grandsons. David looked forward in faith to that day. The day when the good news of salvation through Jesus would be revealed. What is that good news of salvation through 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: Forceball

Materials

One kick ball or other rubber ball
Masking tape
Yard stick
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Use the tape to mark 2 lines about 3 yards apart.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Non-competitive option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**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, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is: The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail.

Our story takes place in Old Testament times, during the times of the first kings of Israel, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: David; Goliath; Jonathan; King Saul; Philistine and Israelite soldiers; Servant boy; Ziba; and, Mephibosheth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Friend Who Didn't Fail."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

While all the Israelites were too scared to fight the Philistine army and their giant, Goliath, David was not. He trusted in the LORD. He faced Goliath and struck him down with a single stone from his sling. The Philistines all panic and run away. The Israelites had won! The Israelite soldiers all praised David. King Saul praised him, too. He called David to his tent and made him one of his soldiers. Prince Jonathan, Saul's son, could have been jealous of David, but he was not. Instead, he admired David's faith in God and the good things God was doing through him. Jonathan and David made a covenant that day to always be faithful friends. Jonathan sealed the promise by giving David his princely robe, belt, tunic and special, iron sword.

Scene 2: (Middle)

King Saul sends David out to fight more battles. Every time, David leads the army to amazing victories. Saul becomes more and more jealous as people begin to praise David's brave deeds more than they praise his own. He becomes so jealous that he tries to kill David, but David flees the palace at Gibeah and hides. David sneaks back and asks Jonathan why his father wants him dead. Jonathan is in shock. He can't believe his father really wants to kill David. But he promises David to find out the truth from his father, then report back what he finds out. Saul tells Jonathan that he wants to kill David so Jonathan will get the throne. When Jonathan defends David, Saul tries to kill him--his own son! Jonathan goes to the field near the Ezel Stone with his servant boy. He shoots arrows for the boy to get, but also as a signal to David that he must leave Gibeah. Jonathan and David say goodbye and promise to still be faithful friends, even when David becomes king.

Scene 3: (End)

For ten years, Saul and his men hunt down David, but God protects David. In the end, Saul, along with Jonathan and his other sons, die in a battle against the Philistines. David becomes king of Israel and he still remembers his promise to Jonathan. He finds out that Mephibosheth, one of Jonathan's sons, is alive, but crippled. David wants to care for him. He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul's land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons, for the rest of his life. And that's just what he does.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Love Others.** Jonathan and David loved each other with a faithful love that never failed, even in very hard times.

Food from the Royal Table

Description

The children will decorate a royal plate with markers and place food on it.

Materials

Pattern of plate design

White card stock (or regular paper)

Markers, colored pencils, etc.

Self-adhesive laminating sheets, 1 sheet per craft

10 3/8" sturdy paper plate with rim (Chinet type), 1 per craft

Scissors

Optional: glitter glue

Craft glue; or glue gun and gun sticks

Food such as grapes, olives, figs and pita bread, or other Middle Eastern food

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out 1 copy of the plate pattern per child onto card stock.
2. Set out markers and scissors.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate their plates, then cut them out around the outer edge.
3. Help the children to put their plate decoration in a laminated sheet and flatten down firmly. Cut around the plate decoration again, this time about 1/4" or so from edge so that a bit of the laminating sheet is left.
4. Have the children glue their decoration onto the middle of their plate (or you do it with the glue gun.)
If desired, children can add a few extra decorations to the rim of their plate with the glitter glue.
5. Give the children bits of each type of food you have brought to put on their plates.

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 David live when he became king? *In Jerusalem.*

2. Who did David look for to bless after he became king? Who did he find? *Anyone from Jonathan's family. He found Mephibosheth, Jonathan's crippled son.*

3. How did he bless him? Why did he want to do this? *He gave him back all of his family's lands and he gave him a seat at and food from the royal table for the rest of his life. He did this to keep his promise to always care for Jonathan's family, even after he became king.*

4. What is 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?

David showed his love for Jonathan by keeping his promise to him. When new kings usually killed the children of former kings, David cared for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, instead.

6. What can our craft help us remember? *Even when some might choose to stop loving others, God wants His people to keep on loving instead.*

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: Food from the Royal Table.

2. In Jerusalem, King David gave back to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, all the lands that had belonged to his family. He also gave him a seat at and food from the royal table. He kept his promises to Jonathan to always care for his family.

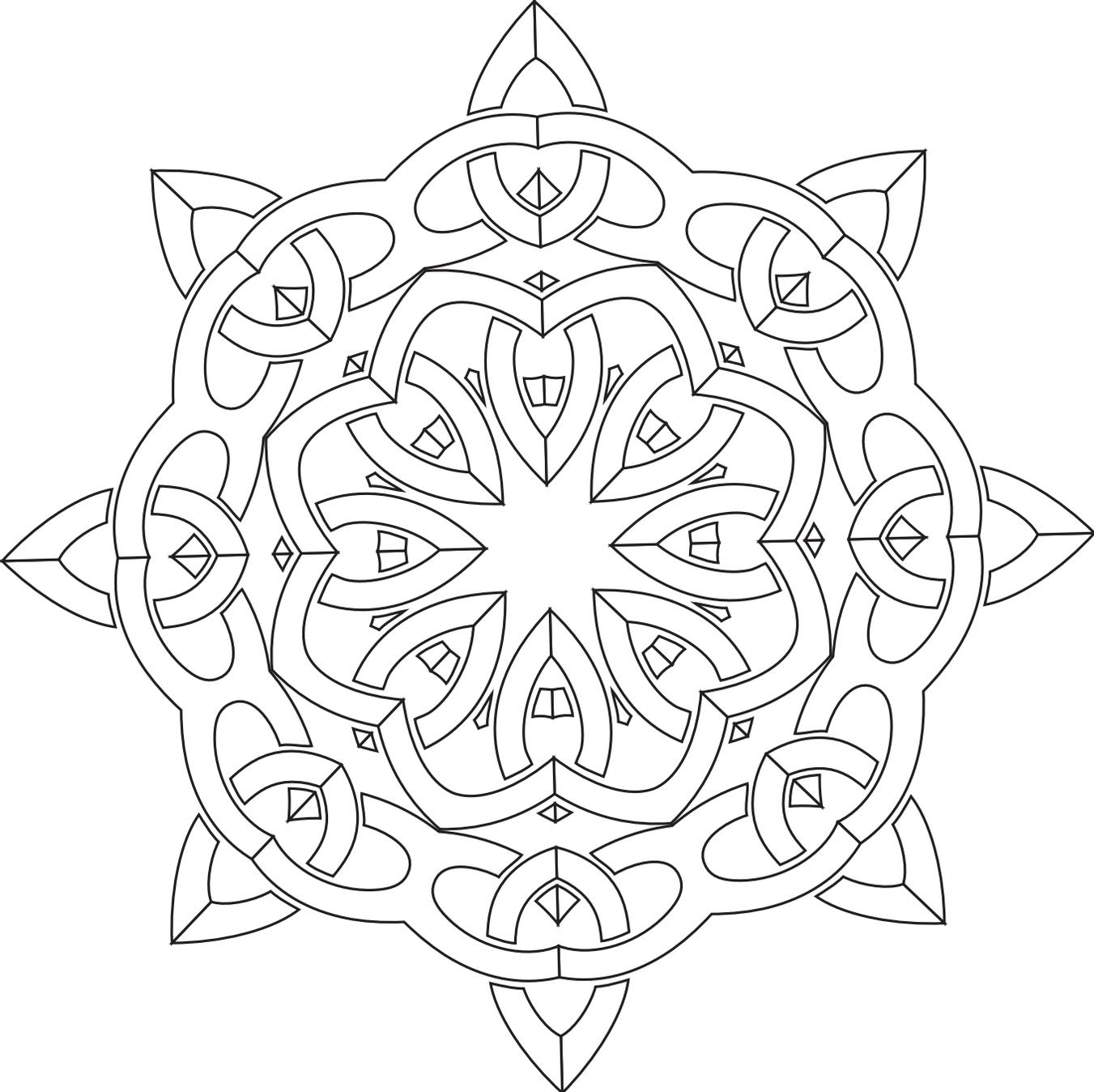
3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Love Others.

4. David showed his love for Jonathan by keeping his promise to him. When new kings usually killed the children of former kings, David cared for Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, instead.

5. Our craft can help us remember that even when some might choose to stop loving others, God wants His people to keep on loving instead.

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.

Plate decoration



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: Stop and Go

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker
(Missionary)

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR
THE VIPP**
