

## **BIBLE TRUTH 4, 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 4:** God's People Trust Him

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Trust and Obey, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 14*  
*Extra Song: Walk by Faith PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 15*

**Bible Verse:** Proverbs 3:5-6

**Bible Verse Song:** Trust *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 16*  
*Extra Bible Verse: Trust in the LORD Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 17*  
*Extra Bible Verse: May the God of Hope: Romans 15:13, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 18*

**Lesson 1 New Testament:** The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56*

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Wine of Promise; Food of the Huppah

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

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

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Trust and Obey, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 14*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Proverbs 3:5-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Simon Says How

**Bible Verse Song:** Trust Proverbs 3:5-6 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 16*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Secret Agent

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

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

**Craft:** The Angel Gabriel

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

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 4, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't** *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Whose wedding almost didn't happen? Why?
2. Who had to trust God in order for it to take place after all? How did God bless their trust in Him?

This story takes place in New Testament times, around the time Jesus came to live on earth.

Mary and Joseph stood with their fathers in front of their eagerly watching families. Mothers, grandparents, brothers, and sisters. Everyone wanted to be there for Mary and Joseph's day of Erusin--Betrothal Day.

Joseph's father gave the "mohar" of fifty shekels of silver to Mary's father as a promise that Joseph would marry her within a year. Joseph gave Mary a "mattan" of gold and silver jewelry as his promise to take her as his wife. In return, Mary and her father made promises to get Mary ready to be Joseph's wife and save her just for him.

The promises, called a Ketubah, were written down and agreed upon. Mary drank a special cup of wine to seal her promise to wait for Joseph, then the fathers' signed the Ketubah. Joseph and Mary were now engaged to be married! Everyone cheered and enjoyed a big feast together, celebrating the day. How happy Joseph and Mary must have been! Not just to be getting married, but to be getting married to someone who trusted and loved the Lord so much!

Both Mary and Joseph had special things to do to get ready for the wedding. Joseph had to add his huppah (a special room) onto his family's house and get it ready for his future wife. He had to build it, then decorate it beautifully. He filled it with lots of food and drink. Jewish custom was that Mary and Joseph would stay in it together without coming out for anything for the first, seven days of their marriage. For most young men, it took a whole year to get the huppah ready. And how did he know when it was ready? Only when his father said it was beautiful enough, would the young man know it was done and he could get his bride.

Mary and her family were busy, too. First of all, a special veil had to be made for Mary to wear every time she went out of her house. This veil showed everyone

that she was promised in marriage. Then there was Mary's 'shiluhim' to get ready. These were the things she would take with her for her new home. And there were the oil lamps used in the wedding parade to Joseph's house where the wedding would take place. Mary needed to have her shiluhim packed and the lamps ready for whenever Joseph might come and send for her. She didn't know what day or what hour he would come. Joseph wouldn't know what day or hour it would be either. He would wait until his father told him. Mary only knew that it would be whenever Joseph's father decided that the huppah was ready.

If Joseph was like most men, he would surprise Mary by coming at midnight for her. Everyone would be long asleep in their beds, when there would be a knock at the door at Mary's family's house.. They would open the door to a whole crowd of musicians, family, friends and relatives. Mary would be dressed like a queen, with a beautiful dress and jewelry, and even a crown. They would pick up all her things and carry them and her to Joseph's family's house, singing, cheering and playing music all the way, by the light of the oil lamps Mary had prepared.

At Joseph's family's house, they would present Mary to Joseph, who would be dressed as a handsome king. They would read and sign the final covenant promising before God to treat each other well, and then they would be married! What a wonderful night that would be!

Oh, but now all Mary could do was wait and wait. When would the knock at the door come? When would it be time for this most important day of her life? It would be easy for Mary to be impatient, sad and grumpy, but

**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.

could joyfully rest in God's care and plan. Mary could trust God because she knew that He was completely powerful, completely wise, completely good, and even completely perfect in His timing. She believed that He would do for her what was for His glory and her good. He would always be able to take care of her and help her do whatever He wanted her to do, even if it is very hard. She could even trust Him with this most important of days.

But one day something very, very surprising happened to Mary that changed all of Mary's and Joseph's plans and dreams for their wedding. An angel of the Lord named Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Hello, Mary! The Lord highly favors you! He is with you." Gabriel's words puzzled and concerned Mary. Why would an angel speak to her, a plain, ordinary girl and tell her that she was highly favored by God?

But the angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You are going to have a baby boy. Name him "Jesus." He will be great and will be called God's Son. He is the Messiah, come to save God's people. He will reign as King forever."

Now Mary had even more questions. "How will this be," Mary asked, "I have no husband and have promised to not have babies until I do?"

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High God will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God," Gabriel explained. "You know your relative Elizabeth who everyone said could never have children. She is over sixty years old, yet she is six months pregnant with a baby who will be the special messenger for your son! Nothing is impossible with God," he told Mary.

Mary's mind must have been filled with so many thoughts and questions. "Am I to become a mother without being married to a man? Will my family or Joseph's family believe me when I tell them or will they think I'm lying? If they don't believe me, the wedding will be called off. I might even be killed, if they think I've been with a man who's not my husband. What should I do?" she surely wondered.

It would be easy for Mary to be worried and sad, but in her heart, she knew what to do. Mary was a girl who had decided to trust the Lord. She would joyfully rest in

God's care and plan. If this was what He wanted her to do, she believed He would always be able to take care of her and help her do it, even though it would be very hard. Mary would even trust Him with this incredible news and whatever might happen next.

So Mary answered Gabriel, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything happen just as He desires it to." Then the angel left her.

Mary went to visit Elizabeth for three months. Together they praised God for His amazing plans to save God's people that He would use their sons to bring about.

At the end of the three months, Mary went home to Nazareth. By now the little baby had grown enough for everyone to see Mary was pregnant. Mary's family broke the news to Joseph's family...and then to Joseph, himself.

"What will happen to me? What will people say? What will they do to me?" Mary must have thought. There were many hard things she might have to go through now that everyone knew about the baby. But even then, Mary would trust in the Lord. She would rest joyfully in God's care and plan.

When Joseph heard the news, he thought the same thing that everyone else thought. "How could Mary do this?" Joseph wondered. "She made a promise to me! So did her family! I've been working so hard on the huppah for her! All of my dreams and plans were for nothing."

Joseph had decisions to make. He had to think carefully about what was the right thing to do. "The law gives me the right to have her stoned to death for what she's done," thought Joseph. "I don't want Mary to be killed for what has happened," he mercifully decided, "but I can't marry a woman who is pregnant from another man. I will divorce her quietly. Tomorrow my father and I will go and take back our presents and tear up the Ketubah," he decided.

But that night the Lord showed Himself worthy of Mary's trust. He sent an angel to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The son she is having is of the Holy Spirit. Give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins," he explained.

When Joseph woke up, he knew just what to do. He went and brought Mary home to be his wife. Mary hadn't broken her promises to him! This baby was from the Lord. Instead of something shameful, Mary was someone to whom God had given a special honor. Joseph had known that Mary was a girl who loved the Lord and trusted Him, but never could he had imagined that the Lord had given to him a girl so special that she would be the mother of the Messiah! Perhaps the family wouldn't understand why he was marrying Mary; but he, too, would trust God to help them through whatever they would say to him or Mary. If the Lord had done this amazing thing in Mary, surely He could be trusted to help them through whatever else would come!

What happened to Mary's beautiful wedding day? How far had Joseph finished the Huppah? Did everyone come to celebrate or was it just a quiet wedding because everyone was ashamed of Mary? We don't know. But, we do know that both Mary and Joseph trusted the Lord and praised Him for choosing them to would raise the very Son of God. What was the joy of a wedding celebration in exchange for an honor like that? The Lord always knows best and does best.

### Cracking the Case:

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

#### 1. Whose wedding almost didn't happen? Why?

Mary and Joseph's. Because Mary was pregnant and they weren't married.

#### 2. Who had to trust God in order for it to take place after all? How did God bless their trust in Him?

Both Mary and Joseph had to trust God. God gave them the honor of raising Jesus, the Son of Mary, the Son of God, who would save God's people from their sins.

### Something for You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is: God's People Trust Him**

**Our Bible Verse is: Proverbs 3:5,6:**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Why did the Lord choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God? The Bible never mentions if she was pretty or especially smart. It never mentions if she had many friends. Her family wasn't particularly rich. We don't know if she was really good at doing things that girls were supposed to do in those days. She certainly

wasn't perfectly good--no one but God is. Many of the things we think of as really important we don't know about her at all.

What we do know is that Mary trusted the Lord. She was willing to do whatever He wanted her to do, even if she couldn't understand it, even if it was very hard. She was willing to not lean on her own understanding, but allow God to direct her path—to show her what she should do. It was her trust in Him and willingness to obey Him that made her pleasing to Him.

What about you and me? Perhaps we think a lot about whether we are smart or pretty or really good at something. Maybe we wish we had nicer things or more friends. But in this story we can see what's really important in God's eyes is what Mary had: trust in God. And that this is the best thing for us to have, too. Let's praise this God who is completely good and powerful and wise, completely worthy of our trust. Let's ask Him to help us to trust Him with our whole lives, by turning away from our sins, trusting Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to rest joyfully in His care and plan for our lives, just as Mary did.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being our Savior.

**C** God, we confess that often we choose not to trust You, even though You are so trustworthy.

**T** God, we thank You that You can help us trust You, just like You helped Mary.

**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 trust You.

# **ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY**

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

## **Instructions:**

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

## **ADORATION:**

God, we praise You for being completely trustworthy.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that many times we do not love You as we should and as You deserve. We love ourselves better. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for ways we have seen Your trustworthiness to us, even this week. Thank You for giving us Jesus to trust in as our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts! Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in Your trustworthiness and cheerfully trust You, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing You are doing.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

### **Snack: Wine of Promise; Food of the Huppah**

(White) grape juice or ginger ale “wine” of Mary’s vow (promise) at the Erusin. Pita bread and hummus (and/or figs, pomegranates, grapes, dates, etc.) huppah “provisions.”

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

**Case Tie-in:** Mary drank wine as part of her vow to Joseph to be his future wife at the Erusin--the Betrothal ceremony. They both looked forward to the day when they would get married and live in the huppah. Joseph worked hard on building it and would have stored up lots of good things for them to eat, in preparation for their wedding week.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

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Food for thought during snack time

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

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

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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 Trust Him**

Trusting God means resting joyfully in God's care and plans. God's people trust God because they know that He is completely powerful, wise, and good. They know His plans are perfect and they are always for their good and His glory. They know that God always takes care of them and helps them do whatever He wants them to do, even if it is very hard.

God's people know that they won't trust God perfectly while they live on earth. God has forgiven them of their sins, but they are still sinners. And so here, they will sometimes struggle to trust God, even though they know He has never failed them. They are grateful for God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts. He can help them to trust God more and more here on earth. They are even more grateful for the day when they will go to live with God in heaven forever. There, they will know and trust Him perfectly.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What does trusting God mean? *Resting in God's care and plan.*
2. What does it mean to rest in God's care and plan? *To not worry, but believe that God knows what is best and will do it.*
3. What do God's people know about God that helps them trust Him? *He is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing.*
4. What will God use everything that happens to do? *To bring glory to His name and to do good to them.*
5. How does God's all-powerfulness help God's people trust in Him? *They know that He is ABLE to do whatever He wants to do.*
6. How does God's perfect wisdom and love help God's people trust in Him? *They know that what He plans is only good.*
6. How does God's perfect timing help God's people trust in Him? *They know that He knows exactly when things should happen.*
7. What can God's people always depend on Him to do for them, even if it is very hard? *To take care of them and help them do whatever He wants them to do.*
8. Why won't God's people trust God perfectly while they live on earth? *Because they are still sinners.*
9. Who helps God's people trust in Him? *The Holy Spirit, working in their hearts.*
10. Where will God's people trust Him perfectly? *In heaven.*
11. How can we become God's people? *By turning 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: Proverbs 3:5-6**: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.?"

*This verse encourages God's people to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn't make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.*

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

1. What did Mary have to trust the Lord about? *That He would take care of her, even though no one else might understand about where her baby came from; that He would take care of her even if others wanted to punish her or Joseph divorced her because of her baby.*
2. How did Mary show she trusted the Lord? *She didn't demand to understand or refuse to be Jesus' mother, but obeyed the Lord and rejoiced in His plan and her part in it.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What are some times when it is hard for us to trust in the Lord? *Answers vary.*
2. What should God's people do when it is hard to trust in the Lord? *Tell others and have them pray for them; ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them trust Him.*
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 being completely trustworthy.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess sins of fear, worry, and willfulness that show we do not trust Him as He deserves.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for ways we have seen His trustworthiness to us, even this week.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, that we might take joy in His trustworthiness and cheerfully trust Him, even when it is very hard to understand what good thing He is doing.*

**The Gospel**

1. What did the angel tell Mary and Joseph that Jesus would do? Why did He need to do this? 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: Omit! Obey!

### Materials

Bible Truth Questions

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

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

### Non-competitive Option

Let the Question Chooser immediately back into the game, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**Trust and Obey**

**Verse 2**

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
But is blest if we trust and obey.

**Refrain:**

Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 14**

**Understanding the Song**

1. What are the "burdens, sorrows and toil, grief, loss, frown, cross" the song is talking about? *This song is about the hard things in life that happen to us or people we love and how hard they are for us to deal with. "Burdens" and "toil" are things that are difficult things that we have to do. "Sorrows" and "frown" are sad things in our lives. "Loss" is losing someone/something we love; and "grief" is what we feel when we've lost it. It's the sadness we feel after something bad has happened, A "cross" is something hard that God has us suffer through for His good purposes, just like Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God's good purposes.*
2. Who is the "we" in this song? *Christians: people who have confessed their sins to God, turned from them and now trust in Jesus as their Savior, living their lives for Him.*
3. What will God do with every burden, sorrow and toil? *Richly repay them.*
4. How will God richly repay them, in money or something else? *He will bless them by using them for His glory and our good and the good of others. In heaven, He promises to give us even greater blessings that we cannot imagine.*
5. What does God want us to do as we go through these hard things? *Trust and obey.*
6. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*
7. Why is it especially hard to keep trusting and obeying when hard things happen to us? *Because many times we don't understand God's good purposes in the hard things that happen and it is easy to start doubting that He knows best and stop doing the things He has told us to do.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Trust Him**? *God is the only one who perfectly knows and understand His plans. Many times God's people must trust Him and obey Him when there are many things they cannot understand. As hard as this may be at times, they know that because God is completely powerful, wise, good, and perfect in His timing, they can always trust that He knows best. This is the way to be "happy in Jesus."*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to the story? *Mary chose to trust and obey the Lord's plan for her as Jesus' mother, even though she didn't understand how it would happen and she knew that some very hard things could happen to her because people wouldn't believe what happened.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6**: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." *Many times it is very hard to trust God when we have to bear hard "burdens" or sorrows. Many times God's people do not understand why they have to go through them or what good thing God is doing through them. But God's people know that they do not have to lean on their own understanding. Instead, they trust in the LORD with all their heart and obey whatever it is they know He wants them to do. They can trust that God will make their paths straight: He will help them to obey Him and He will use everything they are going through for their good and His glory.*

**Life Application Questions**

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

*They can praise God for being completely worthy of their trust even in very hard times. They can ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them keep on trusting and obeying Him, no matter what.*

2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being completely trustworthy.*

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

*That many times we do not want to trust God or obey Him. We grumble and complain when we go through hard things instead of wanting God to work through them for His glory or our good.*

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

*We can thank God for using every single burden and sorrow that His people go through for their good and His glory.*

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 work in our hearts to help us to trust Him and obey Him with every single burden we bear or sorrow we share.*

**Gospel Question**

1. We are all sinners who have not trusted and obeyed God. What do we deserve? How can we be saved? 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: 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.

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: Proverbs 3:5-6**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What does it mean to trust in the LORD? *To have so much confidence in God's love, power, goodness, wisdom & timing in all things, that you can rest joyfully in Him, even in very hard times.*
2. What does is our “heart”? *This kind of heart is not the kind that beats. It is the part of you that thinks, feels, loves, and can know God.*
3. What does it mean to trust the LORD with all of your heart? *It means that you believe that the LORD will really do everything He has promised to do and you are going to live your whole life depending on Him and His promises. Because you trust Him with all of your heart, that changes the way you think and feel about things on the inside, and the way you act on the outside—even in very hard times.*
4. What does it mean to “lean on your own understanding”? *It means to depend only on what you know about something.*
5. What does it mean to acknowledge God in all our ways? *It means to remember that only God is completely good, wise, loving and powerful. Only He knows the reasons for everything that happens to us.*
6. Why should we acknowledge God in our ways rather than lean on our own understanding? *Because we are just humans and can't understand so many things. Only God knows enough to really understand what is best and is powerful enough to do it.*
7. What does it mean for God to make our paths straight? *It doesn't mean that He will make paths or roads that we walk on without curves. It means that He will show us what to do, even though we don't understand everything.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Trust Him?** *God's people are to keep trusting in the LORD and His good promises to them, even when it doesn't make sense. Many times their understanding of what they are going through will tempt them to not trust God, but they should keep trusting Him anyway. They can count on God to show them what they should do and guide them through His will.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? What did Mary have to trust the Lord about, rather than lean on her own understanding? *How she could have a baby even though she had no husband; how the Lord would take care of her even if no one believed her about her baby, even if Joseph divorced her.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What is something that you or someone you know has to trust God about right now? How could you encourage them to trust God instead of worrying?
2. What is the best first step in trusting God for all of us? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being always worthy of being trusted.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?  
*That we are all sinners. We love to do things our own way. We love to trust in our own understanding. Too often we do not want to trust in God or do things His way. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?  
*We can thank God that when we trust in Him that He will show us what He wants us to do. We do not have to rely on our own understanding.*
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 fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might trust in Him and not on our own understanding to show us what He wants us to do.*

**The Gospel**

1. All people are sinners who deserve God's punishment for their sins. What do we all need to trust Jesus to do for us? 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: Simon Says How

### Materials

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

A die

Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

### Preparing the Game

Make a sign as follows:

1 = Head

2 = Feet

3 = Hands

4 = Head and Feet

5 = Feet and Hands

6 = Whole Body

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:  
Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play "Simon Says How", a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that "Simon" will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions "Simon" made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

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

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

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

## Directions:

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

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

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

**Trust**

Trust in the LORD,  
 Trust in the LORD,  
 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
 And do not lean,  
 And do not lean,  
 On your own understanding,  
 In all your ways, acknowledge Him,  
 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
 And He will direct your paths,  
 And He will direct your paths.  
 Proverbs Three, five and six.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 16**

**Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign****Materials**

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

**Preparing the Game**

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

**Playing the Game**

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

**STORY REVIEW**

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

**General Story Questions**

1. What ceremony did Mary and Joseph and their relatives gather together for? *Erusin, the Betrothal Ceremony.*
2. What did Joseph's dad give to Mary's dad? Why? *"Mohar" of 50 silver shekels as a promise that Joseph would marry Mary within the year.*
3. What did Joseph give Mary? Why? *"Mattan" of jewelry, as a token of his love for her.*
4. What did Mary have to promise? How did she show that she made that promise? *To not be with any man like he was her husband; to not get pregnant or have children before getting married to Joseph. She showed her promise by drinking a cup of wine.*
5. What did Joseph have to do before Mary could be his wife? *Build the huppah and get it ready.*
6. Who decided when Joseph's huppah was ready? *His father.*
7. What did Mary and her family have to do before Mary got married? *Prepare her shiluhim, pack her things, get oil lamps ready.*
8. When did most young men like to come for their brides? *In the middle of the night.*
9. What did the angel Gabriel tell Mary that was so surprising to her? *She would have a baby who would be God's Son.*
10. What problems did Mary have to trust God about because of her pregnancy? *No one believing her that Jesus was God's Son, being divorced or maybe stoned for being pregnant.*
11. Why was Zechariah and Elizabeth's house a good place for Mary to go? *They also had heard Gabriel speak to them. They would believe her about Jesus and would rejoice with her.*
12. Why was it merciful of Joseph to divorce Mary quietly? *Because he could have brought shame on her by making her pregnancy known publicly...and by Jewish law he could even have had her stoned.*
13. How did the Lord show that He was worthy of Mary's trust and would take care of her? *Giving her Zechariah and Elizabeth for support, speaking to Joseph in a dream.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Trust Him? *Mary trusted the Lord's plan for her life, even though she could not understand it and it might be very hard.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Why can God's people trust God even when very hard things happen to them or others that they don't understand? *Because they know that He is completely good, wise, loving, powerful and He knows everything, while they do not.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6**: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."? *Mary trusted the Lord with all her heart. If she had leaned on her own understanding, she would be worried about what would happen to her. But Mary acknowledged the greatness of the Lord in how she responded to Gabriel and in how she spoke with Elizabeth about what was happening to her. She trusted Him and she did indeed make her path straight. He helped her through her hard times and worked in Joseph's heart so that he would not divorce her, but take her as his wife, understanding that this child was the Son of God.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Sender of the Savior of His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we choose not to trust God, even though He is completely worthy of being trusted.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that by His Holy Spirit He helps His people trust Him, just like He helped Mary.*
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 fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might trust and obey God, even when it is very, very hard.*

**The Gospel**

1. The Angel Gabriel told Joseph that Jesus would save His people from their sins. Why did God's people need saving from sins? How did Jesus do this? 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: Secret Agent

### Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)  
Paper and Marker  
Tape  
Story Review Questions

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

### Playing the Game

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

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

### Non-competitive Option

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

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

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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



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

“Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn’t.

This is a New Testament story. It took place in Israel, around the time Jesus came to live on earth.

And now we present: “The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn’t.”

**Scene 1:**

What a big day it was! Erusin Day! Betrothal Day! Mary and Joseph and their fathers exchange mattan, mohar, and covenant vows in the betrothal Ceremony (Erusin) in front of their families. Joseph’s father gives Mary’s father a mohar (bride price) of fifty shekels of silver, Joseph gives Mary a mattan (token of love) of jewelry. Mary agrees to keep herself pure for Joseph until they are married. The fathers sign the Keturah (wedding agreement). Mary drinks a cup of wine as her pledge. Everyone celebrates together with a feast.

**Actions:**

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**Scene 2:**

Joseph gets to work building a beautiful huppah for Mary, decorating it and filling it with food. Mary and her family get her things ready so she will be ready to go whenever Joseph comes for her. The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that the Lord has chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God. Even though Mary doesn’t understand how this could be and knew she would not be understood and even punishment by others, she trusts the Lord and wants to do His will. Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John (the Baptist) even though she is a very old lady.

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**Scene 3:**

After three months, Mary goes back home to Nazareth. Everyone can see that she is pregnant. Joseph decides that he will divorce Mary quietly. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him that he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because her baby was conceived of the Holy Spirit and He will be the Savior of God’s people. Joseph obeys and takes Mary to be his wife.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God’s People Trust Him.** Mary trusted the Lord’s plan for her life, even though she could not understand it and it might be very hard.

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

"Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't.

This is a New Testament story. It took place in Israel, around the time Jesus came to live on earth.

The characters in our story are: Joseph; Mary; Their fathers; Their relatives; Angel Gabriel, and, Zechariah and Elizabeth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Wedding that Almost Wasn't."

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

What a big day it was! Erusin Day! Betrothal Day! Mary and Joseph and their fathers exchange mattan, mohar, and covenant vows in the betrothal Ceremony (Erusin) in front of their families. Joseph's father gives Mary's father a mohar (bride price) of fifty shekels of silver, Joseph gives Mary a mattan (token of love) of jewelry. Mary agrees to keep herself pure for Joseph until they are married. The fathers sign the Keturah (wedding agreement). Mary drinks a cup of wine as her pledge. Everyone celebrates together with a feast.

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

Joseph gets to work building a beautiful huppah for Mary, decorating it and filling it with food. Mary and her family get her things ready so she will be ready to go whenever Joseph comes for her. The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and tells her that the Lord has chosen her to be the mother of the Son of God. Even though Mary doesn't understand how this could be and knew she would not be understood and even punishment by others, she trusts the Lord and wants to do His will. Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John (the Baptist) even though she is a very old lady.

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

After three months, Mary goes back home to Nazareth. Everyone can see that she is pregnant. Joseph decides that he will divorce Mary quietly. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream and tells him that he should not be afraid to take Mary for his wife because her baby was conceived of the Holy Spirit and He will be the Savior of God's people. Joseph obeys and takes Mary to be his wife.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Trust Him.** Mary trusted the Lord's plan for her life, even though she could not understand it and it might be very hard.

## The Angel Gabriel

### Description

The children will make and decorate a standing Angel Gabriel out of card stock and various decorating supplies.

### Materials

Templates for the stand and the angel

White Card stock

Markers, Crayons or colored pencils

Glue sticks

Craft jewels, sequins and glitter/glitter glue

Scissors

### Preparing the Craft

1. Print out the support piece and two copies of the angel per craft.
2. For younger children, you may want to cut out the parts for them. Older children can do this themselves.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

### Making the Craft

Show children your sample.

Have the children decorate their two angels with the markers. Then let them add in extra decorations with the sequins, glitter glue, etc.

Help the children attach the two angel pictures at the top with tape. Then tape the folded ends of the support piece in place at the middle bottom of each piece of card stock.

### 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. What message did the Angel Gabriel bring Mary in Nazareth? *That she would be the mother to Jesus, the Son of God, who would save God's people.*
2. What could Mary have worried about when she heard this message? *Whether anyone would believe that this was why she was pregnant. That people might even kill her, if they didn't believe her.*
3. What did Mary do instead of worry?  
*She trusted the Lord.*
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God's People Trust Him.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Trust Him?  
*Few people ever see angels, but the Lord used the Angel Gabriel to give both Mary and Joseph the incredible news about the birth of Jesus. Seeing this angel was part of God's encouragement to Mary and Joseph to trust that this amazing thing that was happening was really from Him.*
6. What can this craft help us remember?  
*God helps His people trust in Him. He has even sent angels at special times to tell them something they are to do, to help them or to encourage them to keep trusting God.*

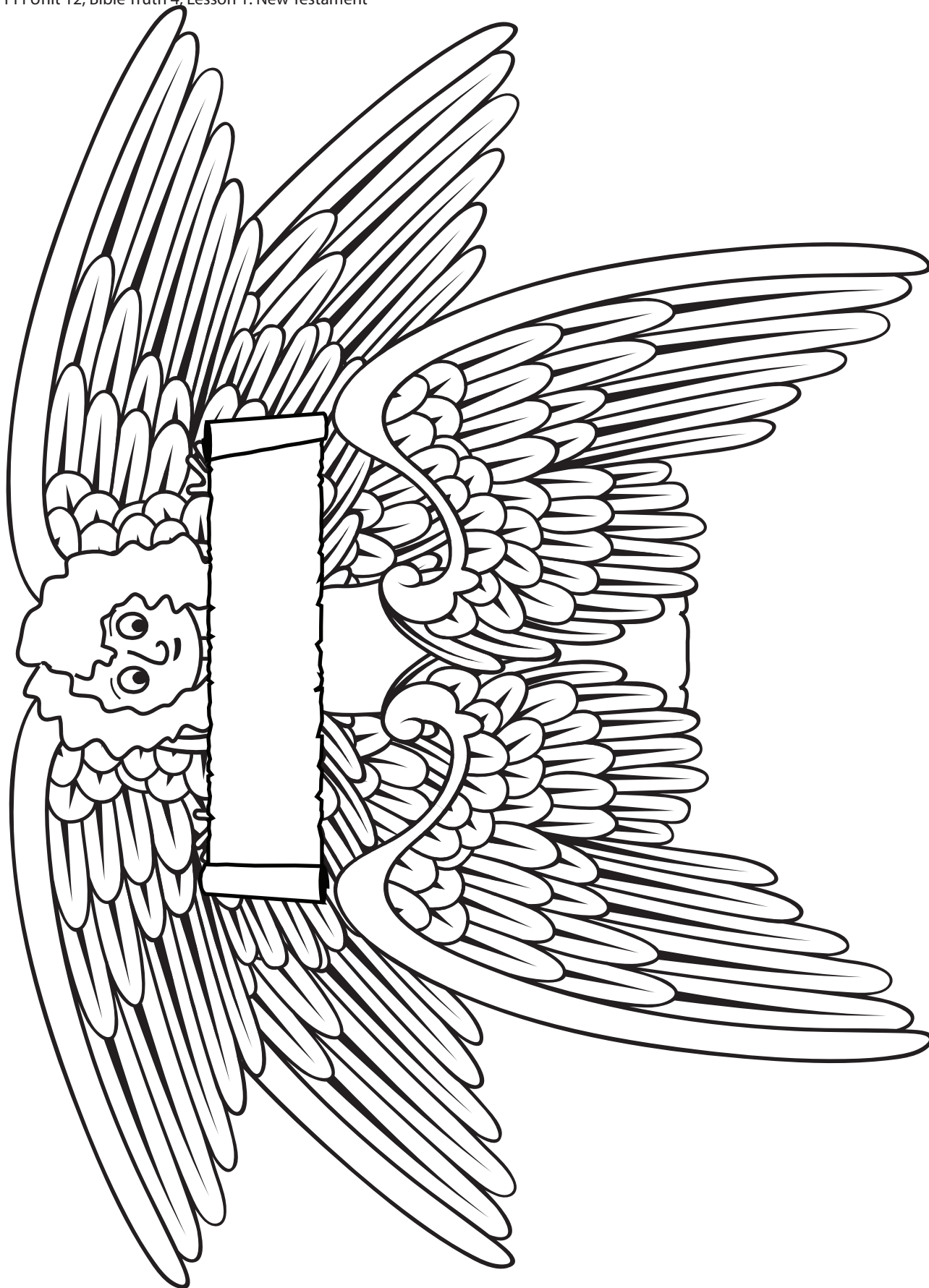
**TAKING IT TO OTHERS****Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

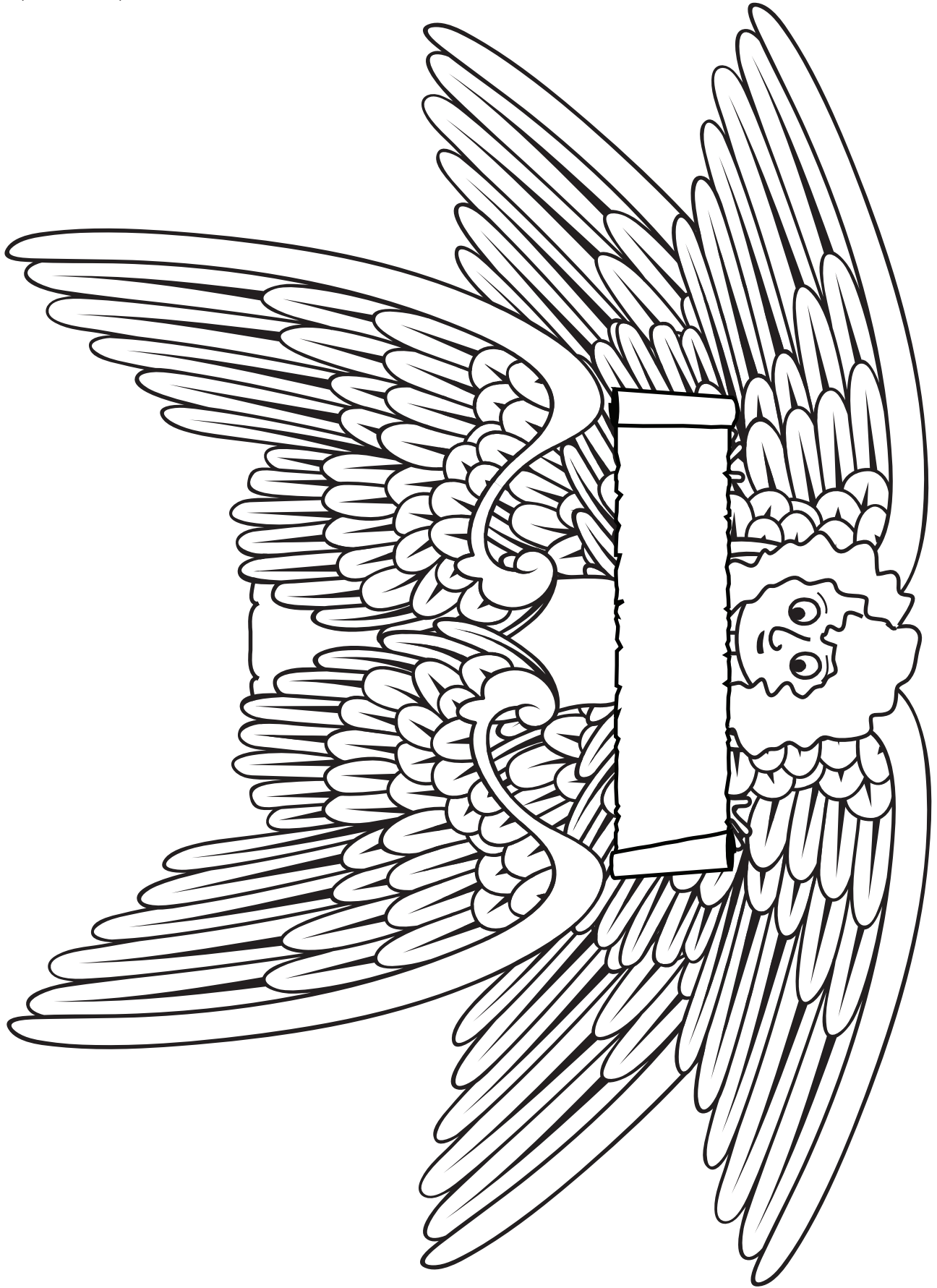
Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is: The Angel Gabriel.
2. In Nazareth, Mary praised God instead of worrying, as she thought about the message brought to her by the Angel Gabriel because she trusted the Lord.
3. Bible Truth 4 is: God's People Trust Him.
4. Few people ever see angels, but the Lord used the Angel Gabriel to give both Mary and Joseph the incredible news about the birth of Jesus. Seeing this angel was part of God's encouragement to Mary and Joseph to trust that this amazing thing that was happening was really from Him.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God helps His people trust in Him. He has even sent angels at special times to tell them something they are to do, to help them or to encourage them to keep trusting God.

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.







Support pieces for angel. 1 needed per craft. Fold along dashed lines, then tape each folded end to front of each angel card stock piece along the middle, bottom edge, forming a stand.





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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Game: Mix and Match

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

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

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

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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