

## **BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

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

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

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

**Big Question Bible Verse:** Ephesians 5:1-2 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 5*  
*Extra Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name: 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 6*

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

**Bible Truth 5:** God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 19*

**Bible Verse:** 1 Peter 4:10-11

**Bible Verse Song:** As Each Has Received a Gift *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 20*  
*Extra Bible Verse: Gift, Gift, Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 21*

**Lesson 2 Story of the Saints:** The Case of the Bulging Box

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Tasty Treats and Taters

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 19*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** 1 Peter 4:10-11 Discussion Sheet and Game: Duck, Duck, Goose

**Bible Verse Song:** As Each Has Received a Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 20*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Windssock Wall Ball

**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 Missionary Box

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) & Game: Beanbag Toss In

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 5, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Bulging Box**

Adapted from How Cyrus Hamlin Came Out of a Missionary Box, My Life and Times, Cyrus Hamlin, D.D.

**Our story is called:****The Case of the Bulging Box.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was the box for? What did it bulge with?
2. What came out of the box besides money? What did he mean?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about God's people who lived in America in the 1820's.

Have you ever heard of a missionary box? Perhaps it sounds like a box with a missionary in it; or perhaps a box that belongs to a missionary. But the truth is, it is neither. A missionary box is a little box with a little slot to put money in on the top. Many churches used to keep these by the door to collect money for missionaries who had gone to faraway places to help others and tell them about Jesus. Money goes into the box until it fills up and then it all comes out of the box and gets sent to the missionaries. That is the way that missionary boxes worked. But our story today is the story of what happened when a little boy named Cyrus put his money into a missionary box, only to find years later that something far more than just money came out of the box.

A request was made to Cyrus' little church to help out missionaries working in India who were starting a school to teach young boys how to read and tell them about Jesus. "Just twelve dollars a year will educate a boy!" Cyrus and the others were told. "That's a dollar a month, boys and girls. Any amount is welcome, but why don't you try to bring in one cent a week and we shall do nicely."

Now perhaps one cent a week sounds like only a very small amount of money to you, but back then even a penny was hard to come by, for a couple of reasons. First of all, most people didn't even use money, they simply traded and swapped things (this is called bartering). Perhaps you grew corn and your neighbor had chickens and eggs. You wouldn't use money to buy eggs from your neighbor, you would just trade your corn for their eggs.

But not only that, pennies went a long way back then. Nowadays there is almost nothing you could buy with a penny, but then you could buy many things with one.

It would take a lot of hard work and sacrifice if a boy or girl would make a penny a week, but Cyrus and his friends at church were willing to do it. Why? Because they knew that the best thing they could do with their hands and feet, their hearts and their minds, their money and their time, any day, was something that loved others and might help them to know about Jesus. They wanted to be good stewards of the gifts God had given them.

So how did the children try to raise money? Some of the boys got big, heavy shovels and gathered ashes from fireplaces to sell at the potash (fertilizer) factory. By the end of the day, they were covered in grey ash and their muscles were tired, but they had made a little money. Other boys grew potatoes to sell at the market. Each day they worked hard in their little plots of land: clearing a new patch of ground with a hoe, planting deep holes in which to plant the little potato eyes (seeds), then day after day of pulling out weeds, killing potato bugs, and lugging water in heavy buckets to water the little plants in dry spells. It was hard work! and sixty pounds of good potatoes sold for just ten cents. Girls braided straw for hats or knitted woolen clothing that they could sell. They worked their fingers long and hard. Adults helped the children by putting some of their few spare cents into the box, as well. What came of all their hard work? Every month, by hook and by crook, the missionary box collected its dollar a month.

Cyrus, like the other children, worked hard month after month to put in his share in the missionary box. But there was one fine morning, when what Cyrus put in the missionary box was to change his life. This particular day happened to be Cyrus' favorite day of the whole year: "Muster" Day, as they called it in his little

**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.

town. All the men of the town would dress up like soldiers and act out a famous battle from a war.. Cyrus rushed through his chores that morning then reported to his mother, looking for her final approval of his work and permission to go off to watch the Muster.

"Cyrus, you've done a good job on your chores. Now be off to the Muster," his mother told him. "I know you won't be back until dark, so here is seven cents for you to buy lunch and some of that special gingerbread you love, plus whatever else you need all day. That's a lot of money, Cyrus, perhaps you will want to think about sparing a cent or two for the missionary box."

As Cyrus started off to the Muster, he began to think about the missionary box. "Shall I drop in one cent or two? I wish mother hadn't said one or two. Let's see, how much can I spare? Well, five cents should be enough to cover everything I could eat, more. Perhaps, I can give two cents." But as Cyrus kept walking along, more thoughts came to him: "Five cents for me and only two cents given away to help those who have never heard about Jesus? Five cents for gingerbread and only two for Jesus? That can't be right. Let's make it four for gingerbread and three for Jesus", Cyrus decided.

But soon even that did not seem like enough, by the time he reached the missionary box. "Hang it all!" Cyrus exclaimed, " I'll dump them all in and have no more bother about it. Don't I know that the best thing I can do with hands and feet, my heart and my mind, my time and even my gingerbread money, any day, is something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus? I want to be a good steward of the good gifts that God had given me." So that is just what Cyrus did and went away contented.

All day Cyrus enjoyed the glories of the Muster: the men in their bright uniforms with shiny buttons and old-fashioned guns, acting out a battle just as Cyrus and his little friends often did. All around the field were refreshment stands with lemonade and gingerbread and all sorts of other good things to eat. The other children were enjoying the food as much as the muster, but Cyrus stayed clear away of the stands for even the smell of the freshly baked goodies seemed to tease his nose and make his stomach grumble.

Yet even with pangs of hunger, never did Cyrus doubt

that he did the right thing with his seven cents. "I love gingerbread and lemonade just as much as everyone else," thought Cyrus to himself, "but the best thing I can do with hands and feet, my heart and my mind, my time and even my gingerbread money, any day, is something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus. I want to be a good steward of the gifts God has given me. Today that means doing without a little gingerbread and lemonade."

By four o'clock, Cyrus was starting to feel a little weak he was so hungry. He had been up on his feet since dawn with nothing to eat since breakfast. He left the muster and started the long walk home.

When he got there, he burst into the house and cried out, "Mother, I'm as hungry as a bear! I haven't had a mouthful to eat today."

"Why, Cyrus, have you lost the money I gave you?" she asked him.

"No, mother; but you didn't give it to me right," Cyrus answered. "If you had given me eight cents, or six cents, I would have divided it half and half between me and the missionary box. But you gave me seven. I couldn't divide it, and so I dropped it all into the box together!"

"You poor boy!" she said, smiling in tears. And soon Cyrus had a huge bowl of milk and bread that Cyrus thought was fit for a king.

But why do you think Cyrus' mother cried? Did she think he had done something bad by giving the money all away? No, not at all. It was because she, like Cyrus, knew that the best thing anyone could do with their hands and feet, their heart and mind, their time and even their gingerbread money, any day, was something that loves others and might help them to know about Jesus. Her son had even chosen to deny his own needs that day to do this. She knew that he night she worked to heal him. The next day, the chief awoke!. Each day he improved. The people celebrated. Thanks to the White Ma, not only would the chief live, wanted to use all that he had and was for Jesus. He wanted to be a good steward of the gifts God had given him.

But remember I told you that on this day, Cyrus put his money in the missionary box, but that years later something very different came out? Now it's time to tell you what came out. Well, you see, Cyrus never, ever

forgot that day when he chose to deny himself to help the missionaries tell others about Jesus. As he grew up, there were many more times when he weighed his desires for smaller things against the great need of telling others about Jesus, deciding their needs were more important than his. Finally one day, Cyrus thought, “You know, it’s not enough for me anymore just to give money to help the missionaries. I really do believe that the best thing I can do with my hands and feet, with my heart and mind, my time as well as my money, is to love others and help them know about Jesus! I want to be a good steward of the good gifts God has given me. For me, that means being a missionary! I never realized that when I put that money in the missionary box, what would come out of it would be a new missionary—me!

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. What was the box for? What did it bulge with?** To help missionaries who had gone overseas to tell others about Jesus. Money.

**2. What came out of the box besides money? What did he mean?** Money to care for the missionaries came out of the box, but also Cyrus did! He didn’t really come out of the box. He meant that because of that box and the money he gave, God gave him a heart to want to go tell people in faraway places about Jesus, too.

### Something for You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God’s People Are Good Stewards of God’s Gifts**

**Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 4:10-11:**

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

Cyrus was not the only missionary that came out of that little missionary box. Five of the other children from that one little church also grew up to be missionaries to different parts of the world. And they all said that it was learning to work and give and even sacrifice for that little missionary box that made the difference.

What about you and me? Do we think about being stewards of the gifts God has given us? Do we ever work

hard or think about doing without something so that the good news about Jesus might spread to new places and to more people who have never heard about Him? What do we think is the best thing to do with our hands and feet, our hearts and minds, our time and money?

Let’s praise God for the good gifts He has made us stewards of. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to work in our lives that we might use everything we have and everything we are for Jesus. Let’s ask Him to make us good stewards of all the good gifts He’s given us.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the Sender of Your people to tell others about Jesus that they might be saved from their sins.

**C** God, we confess that many times we do not act like Cyrus and the other children. We would rather keep all our money for ourselves rather than giving it away to help tell others about Jesus

**T** God, we thank You that You give Your people the desire and the strength to give and even sacrifice what they want that others might hear and believe the good news of Jesus.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Make us like Cyrus. Make us willing to even sacrifice our own wants and sometimes needs so that others might hear about Jesus. Give us a heart that wants to go and tell others the good news of Jesus.

### Special Words

**Missionary Box:** A wooden box that churches used to have for people to put money in to give to missionaries who had gone to faraway places to tell others about Jesus.

**Muster Day:** A day when men dressed up as soldiers and acted out a famous battle from a war. A special celebration day.

# **ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY**

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

## **Instructions:**

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

## **ADORATION:**

God, we praise You for being the Giver of all the good things and gifts we enjoy.

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 are selfish with what You have given us. We forget that You call us to be good stewards of Your gifts. You want us to bring praise to Your name and to help others know and love You by the way we use them.

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for the many gifts You have given us. Thank You most of all, for the offer of salvation through Jesus to all who repent of their sins and trust in Him as their 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. Help us to remember that we are all stewards of the gifts You have given us. Send Your Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and help us to be good stewards of Your gifts. Help us to use them to bring praise to Your name; to help take care of the needs of others; and, to help them know and love You.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: Tasty Treats and Taters**

Lemonade and Gingerbread or a potato product

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

**Case Tie-in:** Cyrus chose to put his money in the Missionary Box instead of buying lemonade and gingerbread at Muster Day. He did this and other things, like grow and sell potatoes, in order to help people in faraway places hear the good news of salvation through Jesus.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

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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 Are Good Stewards of His Gifts**

God is the Creator of all things and all things belong to Him. There is nothing that we have that God did not give to us: our bodies, our belongings, our money, our lives. Yes, everything is a gift from God to us.

What does God want us to do with all these good gifts He have given us? He wants us to be good stewards of them. What is a steward? A steward is someone who takes care of someone else's things.

God tells us in His Word how He wants His people to be good stewards of His gifts to them. He wants them to serve Him with their bodies—with their hands, their mouths and all of their strength. He wants them to freely share what they have with others. He wants them to use their money generously to take care of their families, to help others and to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus.

In heaven, God promises to reward each of His people according to how they stewarded His gifts during their lives on earth. God's people know that they can't be good stewards of God's gifts on their own. They know that it is the Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, who helps them be the good stewards He wants them to be. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. Why do all things belong to God? *Because He created them.*
2. What do we have that God has given to us? *Everything! Our bodies, things, money, lives.*
3. What is a steward? *Someone who takes care of someone else's things.*
4. What are people stewards of? *The things that God has given to each of them.*
5. How can we be good stewards of God's gifts to us? *Serve Him with our bodies; share freely with others; give our money generously to help our families and others; use all we have to tell others about Jesus.*
6. What difference does it make how we steward the things God has given us? *How we use them pleases Him or not. He will reward us in heaven for how well we stewarded His gifts.*
7. How will God reward each of His people in heaven? *According to how they stewarded His gifts to them during their lives on earth.*
8. Can God's people be good stewards of God's gifts to them on their own? Why or why not? *No. They know that the Holy Spirit, working in their hearts must help them to be the kind of steward God wants them to be.*
9. 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 our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 4:10**: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ?"

*This verse reminds us that the gifts God gives to each of His people are to be used to bring praise to God and to encourage each other.*

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

1. How were the children good stewards, of what God gave them? *They used their skills to work hard to make money to put in the missionary box in order to help the missionaries help the children in India to know about Jesus. Some, like Cyrus, even sacrificed their own needs to give more money. Six of them grew up to give their whole lives to tell others about Jesus.*

### **Life Application Questions**

1. How can we be good stewards of God's gifts to us? *Answers will vary.*
2. What difference does it make to God's people to know that everything they are and have is really God's and He calls them to be a steward of them? *It makes them think carefully about how they use what they have and are. They know that God is watching them and will reward them for serving Him well, even if no one else sees.*
3. What is the best first step to being a good steward of the soul that God has given us to know and love Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust 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 the Giver of all the good things and gifts we enjoy.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

*Confess that many times we are selfish with what God has given us and forget that He calls us to be good stewards of them, using them to bring praise to God and help others to know and love Him.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Thank God for specific gifts He has given us.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Ask God to help us to remember that we are all stewards of the gifts He has given us. Ask God to work in our hearts that we might trust Him as our own Savior. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and help us to be good stewards of God's gifts, using them to bring praise to God and help others to know and love Him.*

**The Gospel**

1. We are all born sinners. We have all chosen to use the good gifts and abilities God has given us to please ourselves, not to obey and glorify Him. We deserve His punishment, but God offers us hope. 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: Storks

### Materials

Three large, but soft balls

Tape

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, each on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. One team is "The Hunters". The other team is "The Storks." The hunters have three balls and they are to stand about twenty feet away from the storks, who are lined up, similarly to ten bowling pins. Storks are to balance on one leg without leaning on anything. They can switch from leg to leg, but must not stand on both at the same time. Read a question to the hunters. If they get it right, then one of the hunters gets three chances (3 balls) to roll the ball at the storks FAIRLY GENTLY and try to get them to put their other foot down. The Hunters score as many points as storks who lost their balance and put their foot down. Sides get switched when all the Hunters have had a turn: or, when they have been stumped by a question.

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

### Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target 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.

**Be Thou My Vision**

**Verse 2**

Be Thou my Wisdom,  
And Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee  
And Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father,  
I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling,  
And I with Thee one.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 19

**Understanding the Song**

1. What does "Thou" mean? Who is the "Thou" being spoken to? *"Thou" is an old word meaning "You." The Lord is the "Thou" in this song.*
2. What does it mean to ask God to be your "Wisdom"? *To not depend on your own understanding but on God's to know what is best. It also means asking God to show you what He thinks as wise, to help you believe it and to help you to do it.*
3. What does it mean to ask God to be your "true Word"? *It means to ask God to help you to believe in His Word., and help you desire to live by them in all you think, say and do.*
4. Who does the writer of the song want to always be with Him? *The Lord.*
5. Who is God a great Father to? *God is a great Father, not just to Jesus, but also to all of His people.*
6. Who is like a "true son" to God? *Not just Jesus, but all of God's people.*
7. How can we have God as our true Father? How can we be His true sons? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
8. Are true sons just talking about boys/men or does it include girls/women, too? *Sons means both boys and girls; men and women.*
9. How does God dwell in His people? *The Holy Spirit lives inside their hearts.*
10. What does it mean to be one with God? *It means to be in happy fellowship with Him in your heart; and, in agreement with what He wants.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts?**

*God's people want God to be their Wisdom, that they would know how to use their lives to please Him. They want Him to be their true Word, that they might believe His Word and obey all it tells them about how to use the good gifts He's given them. They want His Holy Spirit to be dwelling in them so that even in their hearts they might have the wonderful fellowship with God He created them to have. They want Him to ever be with them, so that everything in their lives, from the thoughts of their hearts to their words and their actions, please Him and might be used as He wants them to be used. This is how they can be good stewards of all the gifts God has given them.*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to the story? *Cyrus and the other children learned from God's Word about Jesus' command for His people to go into all the world to tell others the good news of salvation through Jesus. They showed that they wanted God to be their Wisdom and their true Word by believing the Bible and wanting to give their money to help God's people be able to go into other parts of the world to tell the good news of Jesus.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Peter 4:10**: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.?"

*God's people know that all the gifts they have are good gifts from God, their Father. They know that they need God's wisdom and His Word to know how to use the gifts God has given them in ways that will bring praise to Him through Jesus Christ. They depend upon the Holy Spirit, dwelling in them to help them to believe and obey God's wisdom as revealed in His Word; and, to do whatever God calls them to do with the gifts He has given them.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We can ask God to be our Wisdom and our true Word. We can ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. And, we can ask the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts, helping us to use all the good gifts God gives us for the praise of His name.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for the Wisdom and True Word of His People.*

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

*That many times, we do not want God's wisdom or to be our true Word. We want to do things our own way, instead of God's good and perfect ways.*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God for making His people His true sons, even though they deserve nothing but His punishment for the way that have sinned against Him. We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts and giving them wonderful, close fellowship with Him.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *That God would make us His true sons by working in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts, that we might have wonderful, close fellowship with God.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Why do none of us deserve to be God's true sons? What has Jesus done so that we can be? 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 Peter 4:10-11**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: 1 Peter 4:10**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What kind of gifts do we receive from God? Why? *Everything from just being alive to the things we have to special skills and talents that we have. He gives them to serve others.*

2. What does it mean to "faithfully administer God's grace in its various forms?" *To use all the different gifts that God has given us to love others and help them know & obey Jesus.*

How can someone who is speaking be a good steward of his words? *By saying only what God would want them to say (speaking the very words of God.) If God would not be pleased with something you want to say, then don't say it.*

3. How can someone who is serving be a good steward of what he is doing? *Don't serve to get people to think more highly of you. That's serving in your own strength, with yourself in mind. Serve with the strength of Christ. That is, serve in the same loving, selfless way as Jesus did with the purpose of loving others and helping them know and obey God—just as Jesus did.*

4. What are ways that we can serve Christ? *Anything we do, from helping our family and friends, sharing our things, spending time reading the Bible and praying so that we love God more, telling others about Jesus, etc. is serving Christ when we do it with Him in mind.*

5. What happens when we speak and serve this way? *God will be praised through Jesus Christ. Others will see the way we are and see what Jesus is like. They will want to praise Him for doing such wonderful things through us and for being such a wonderful God.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts?**

*God wants His people to use all the good gifts He has given them to serve Him by loving others and helping them know Him.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *The children used their gifts of gardening, shovelling ashes, knitting and braiding straw to serve the missionaries in India by making money for their school.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people apply this verse to their lives? *They can ask God to use the gifts He has given them to serve others as He desires.*

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

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the Giver of Good Gifts to His people.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Many times we want to use the gifts God gives us to bring praise to ourselves, instead of God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God giving gifts to His people to use to bring praise to Him.*

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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that He might help us to use whatever gifts He has given us to bring praise to His name.*

**The Gospel**

1. This verse encourages God's people to speak as if speaking the very words of God. What are the best words that God has given us to speak to others? What is the gospel?

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

## Game: Duck, Duck, Goose

### Materials

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

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children sit in a circle, cross-legged on the floor. Choose a child to be "it". "It" will walk around behind the seated children, tapping each one on the head, the whole group recites the verse, saying one word for each head tap. The child whose head is the last one to be tapped must get up and chase "It", hoping to tag "It" before "It" can get around the circle and sit down in the open spot in the circle. If the child does tag "It" then he may take his place in the circle. If not, then the new child is "It." Repeat as frequently as desired.

Game continues until all children are out; 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.

**As Each Has Received a Gift**

As each as received a gift,  
Use it to serve one another,  
As each as received a gift,  
Use it to serve one another,  
As good stewards of God's varied grace,  
Use it to serve one another,  
As good stewards of God's varied grace,  
In order that in everything ,  
God may be glorified.  
In order that in everything ,  
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. *repeat*  
First Peter Four, ten and eleven.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 20**

## 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 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.

**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 was a missionary box? *A missionary box is a little box with a little slot to put money in on the top. Many churches used to keep these by the door to collect money for missionaries who had gone to faraway places to help others and tell them about Jesus. Money goes into the box until it fills up and then it all comes out of the box and gets sent to the missionaries.*
2. What did the church want to use the money in the missionary box to do? *To help out missionaries working in India who were starting a school to teach young boys how to read and tell them about Jesus.*
3. How much a year, a month, a week did the children try to earn? *Twelve dollars a year or a dollar a month was needed, altogether. Each child tried to earn a penny a week.*
4. Why was it hard to earn even just one cent a week? *Because people had so little money. They mainly traded things they had for other things that they needed without using money at all.*
5. What did the children do to earn money? *The boys did things like shovel ashes and sell them to be used in fertilizer or grow and sell potatoes. The girls braided straw to make into hats and knitted woolen clothing to sell.*
6. What big day was Cyrus excited about? What happened on that day? *Muster Day. It was the day when soldiers re-enacted a battle from a war. It was fun to watch and there was yummy food to eat and drink.*
7. Why did Cyrus' mother give him seven cents? *To buy food and something to drink.*
8. What did Cyrus' mother suggest that Cyrus do? *Put a cent or two in the Missionary Box.*
9. Why did Cyrus have such a hard time deciding how much money to put in the missionary box? *He kept thinking that it was more important for the money to go to help the missionaries rather than be used to buy him gingerbread and lemonade, etc.*
10. How did Cyrus feel at The Muster? Was he sorry for what he did with his money? Why or why not? *He felt hungry, thirsty and a little weak, but he was not sorry for putting all his money in the Missionary Box. He would rather do without treats so that others might hear the good news of Jesus.*
11. What did Cyrus' mother do when she found out what he had done with his money? Why did she do that? *She cried b/c she was happy to see that he was willing to sacrifice his own desire to do something for the LORD.*
12. What happened to Cyrus when he grew up? *He became a missionary.*
13. Why did he say that he and five other of the children "came out" of the missionary box? *Because what they learned about using their lives to love other and help them know about Jesus was first learned through raising money for the missionary box.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts?** *Cyrus and his friends were good stewards of the bodies and money that the LORD had given them. They worked hard and gave to help others know about Jesus.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Peter 4:10-11:** *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*

*The children used their skills to work hard to make money to put in the missionary box in order to help the missionaries help the children in India to know about Jesus. Some, like Cyrus, even sacrificed their own needs to give more money. It was hard, but they did it in the strength God provided. Six of them grew up to give their whole lives to tell others about Jesus. They did this so that in all things God might be glorified.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? *Yes!*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
3. Does our church support missionaries? *What could we do to help them?*
4. How can we help send out the gospel to others? *We can tell others here how they can be saved. We can pray for our missionaries. We can save our money and give it to help missionaries. We can ask God to prepare us to go to other lands to tell others there about Jesus.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?

*Praise God for being the Sender of His people to tell others about Jesus.*

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

*Confess that many times we do not act like Cyrus and the other children. We would rather keep all our money for ourselves rather than giving it away to help tell others about Jesus.*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?

*We can thank God that He gives His people the desire and strength to even sacrifice their own needs that others might hear and believe the good news of Jesus.*

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 make us like Cyrus: willing to even sacrifice our own wants and sometimes needs so that others might hear about Jesus.*

**The Gospel**

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Cyrus and the other children worked so hard to be told to the children in India? 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: Windsock Wall Ball

### Materials

Small ball such as a tennis ball, Nerf or foam ball  
 The bottom half of a pantyhose leg  
 16 sheets of variously colored construction paper  
 Paper and marker  
 Masking Tape  
 Story Review Questions or other 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. Make a windsock ball by placing the ball in the pantyhose leg and tying a knot right above the ball.
3. Choose three different point values for questions and write each value on three sheets of the construction paper. On the last four sheets draw a question mark shape. Tape these sheets of paper to the wall (or on the floor, if no wall is available) in the shape of a square, mixing up all of the point values. Make a shooting line with the masking tape.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child from Team A to come up to the throw line. Hand him the windsock ball and let him throw it at the point cards on the wall. If he hits a point value, then the leader reads a Story Review question to his team. If they answer it correctly, they get the points. If not, then Team B can get the points for a correct answer. If he hits a star instead of a point value, then Team B gets to think up a question to ask Team A. If Team A gets it right, then they get double the highest point value on the board. If Team B stumps them—and can answer the question, themselves—then THEY get the double point value.

Play then resumes as the first player for Team B throws the windsock ball. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues until everyone gets a chance to toss the windsock ball, as Story Review questions last; or, as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the ball and answering the questions together. Tally up the points as a group number.

### 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: The Case of the Bulging Box.

Our story takes place in the United States, in the 1820's.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bulging Box."

**Scene 1:**

An announcement is made at Cyrus' church that they are going to try to raise one dollar a month to help missionaries in India teach one boy at their school so he could learn to read and hear about Jesus. The boys and girls are challenged to try to earn one cent a week. One cent a week was a lot of money, but Cyrus and the other children did all sorts of hard work to try to earn it. The boys did things like shovel ashes and sell them to be used in fertilizer or grow and sell potatoes. The girls braided straw to make into hats and knitted woolen clothing to sell. Each month, with a lot of hard work and help from adults, the children managed to make the needed one dollar.

**Actions:**

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**Scene 2:**

Cyrus' mother gives Cyrus seven cents to spend on gingerbread, lemonade and other food at "The Muster", a pretend battle that the men in the town did once a year. As Cyrus leaves the house, she suggests he give a penny or two to the missionary box. Cyrus keeps trying to decide how much to give. Each time, he decides to give more to the missionary box and to keep less for himself. Cyrus couldn't bring himself to think that the gingerbread he could buy that day was as important and helping out the missionaries. Finally Cyrus decides to put all seven cents in the Missionary Box. At The Muster, Cyrus enjoyed the men's battle, but stayed away from the refreshment stands because everything looked so good and he was so hungry. Still, he did not regret his gift. Cyrus went home at four, asked for food.

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**Scene 3:**

That evening, when his mother heard what Cyrus had done, she was so happy that she cried! She thought it was so wonderful that he would choose to even sacrifice to help others know about Jesus. When the children grew up, Cyrus and five of the other children who had worked so hard to fill the missionary box all decided to give their lives to serve as missionaries. They said that while they only put money in the missionary box, they each "came out" of it. They had all learned to love to give all of themselves for Jesus because of what they learned from raising money for the missionary box.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.** Cyrus and his friends were good stewards of the bodies and money that the LORD had given them. They worked hard and gave to help others know about Jesus.

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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 Bulging Box.

Our story takes place in the United States in the 1820's.

The characters in our story are: The missionaries in India; the Indian boy they would raise money for; Cyrus and the other children; Cyrus' mother; the Soldiers in the Muster; sellers of food and drink at the Muster; and, Cyrus (and the other five children) grown up as missionaries.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bulging Box."

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

An announcement is made at Cyrus' church that they are going to try to raise one dollar a month to help missionaries in India teach one boy at their school so he could learn to read and hear about Jesus. The boys and girls are challenged to try to earn one cent a week. One cent a week was a lot of money, but Cyrus and the other children did all sorts of hard work to try to earn it. The boys did things like shovel ashes and sell them to be used in fertilizer or grow and sell potatoes. The girls braided straw to make into hats and knitted woolen clothing to sell. Each month, with a lot of hard work and help from adults, the children managed to make the needed one dollar.

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

Cyrus' mother gives Cyrus seven cents to spend on gingerbread, lemonade and other food at "The Muster", a pretend battle that the men in the town did once a year. As Cyrus leaves the house, she suggests he give a penny or two to the missionary box. Cyrus keeps trying to decide how much to give. Each time, he decides to give more to the missionary box and to keep less for himself. Cyrus couldn't bring himself to think that the gingerbread he could buy that day was as important and helping out the missionaries. Finally Cyrus decides to put all seven cents in the Missionary Box. At The Muster, Cyrus enjoyed the men's battle, but stayed away from the refreshment stands because everything looked so good and he was so hungry. Still, he did not regret his gift. Cyrus went home at four, asked for food.

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

That evening, when his mother heard what Cyrus had done, she was so happy that she cried! She thought it was so wonderful that he would choose to even sacrifice to help others know about Jesus. When the children grew up, Cyrus and five of the other children who had worked so hard to fill the missionary box all decided to give their lives to serve as missionaries. They said that while they only put money in the missionary box, they each "came out" of it. They had all learned to love to give all of themselves for Jesus because of what they learned from raising money for the missionary box.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.** Cyrus and his friends were good stewards of the bodies and money that the LORD had given them. They worked hard and gave to help others know about Jesus.

## The Missionary Box

### Description

The children will make and decorate a missionary box that they can take home and fill with money to give to missions.

### Materials

Pattern for gift box

White card stock

OR, purchase white gift boxes from an office supply store (about .50 each)

Markers, colored pencils or crayons

Other decorating supplies (glitter glue, sequins, stickers, craft feathers, even colored dots from hole punches)

Scissors and tape, if constructing your own gift boxes

### Preparing the Craft

1. Print out a copy of the gift box pattern, 1 per child (if making own boxes).
2. At least for younger children, cut out the boxes along the outer edges. Pre-fold along the dashed lines, but DO NOT make into box shape. (Keep flat). Cut slit in top of box as indicated as directed on next page.
3. Set out other decorating supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

### Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children use markers to color in their boxes.
3. If constructing your own boxes, help the children fold up the ends and make into box. Use tape to secure.
4. Refer back to box construction directions on next page as needed.
5. Let the children add additional decorations to their boxes.

### 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 were the children raising money for? *To put in the Missionary Box at church.*
2. How much were they trying to raise? What were they wanting to use it for? *They were trying to raise a dollar a month to send to India so that one boy might go to school and hear the good news of Jesus.*
3. What were they willing to do in order to make sure to raise enough money?  
*They were willing to work hard and even sacrifice things that they wanted for themselves in order to raise all the money.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts?  
*Cyrus and the other children used the skills they had to raise money to send to missionaries. They were good stewards of the gifts of skills and money that God had given them.*
6. What can our craft help us remember?  
*God has given us skills and things that He was us to be good stewards of. He can even use us to do great things for His Kingdom.*

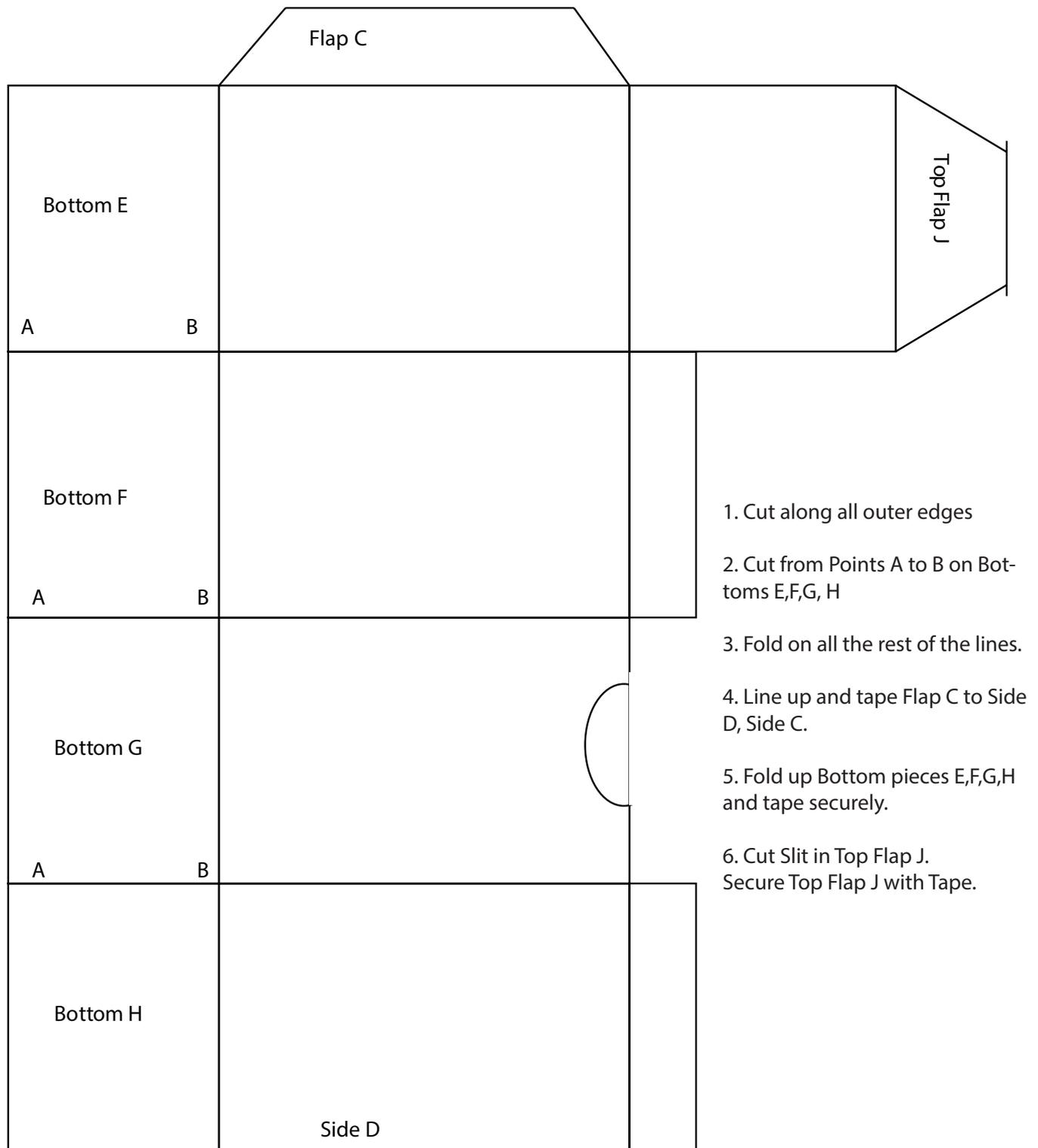
**TAKING IT TO OTHERS****Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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 Missionary Box.
2. Cyrus Hamlin and the other children worked hard to make money to put in the Missionary Box to help raise a dollar a month to pay for a boy in India to go to school and hear the good news of Jesus. They were willing to work hard and even sacrifice things that they wanted for themselves in order to raise all the money.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.
4. Cyrus and the other children used the skills they had to raise money to send to missionaries. They were good stewards of the gifts of skills and money that God had given them.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God has given us skills and things that He was us to be good stewards of. He can even use us to do great things for His Kingdom.

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.



1. Cut along all outer edges
2. Cut from Points A to B on Bottoms E,F,G, H
3. Fold on all the rest of the lines.
4. Line up and tape Flap C to Side D, Side C.
5. Fold up Bottom pieces E,F,G,H and tape securely.
6. Cut Slit in Top Flap J. Secure Top Flap J with Tape.

Box Construction  
Directions



**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: Beanbag Toss In

### Materials

Information for one VIPP

2 Sets of Clue Cards

8 Letter-sized Envelopes or folders

Bean Bag(s), one per child

Tape

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be tossed at.

# **VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

## **VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## **WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

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

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

## **FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

## **3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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