

BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 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 3 New Testament: The Case of the Treasure Seekers
Luke 11:13-34

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Farmer's Fresh Wheat Bread

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.2 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 19*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 Peter 4:10-11 Discussion Sheet and Game: Mr. Freezie Ball

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: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Obstacle Course Quiz

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: Earthly Treasure

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Hot and Cold Hide

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Treasure Seekers *Luke 11:13-34; Daniel 1,6* by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Treasure Seekers. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who came to Jesus seeking treasure? How did he want Jesus to help?
2. What treasure did Jesus tell him (and the others) to seek? How could they get this kind of treasure?

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

A young man walked down the dusty road with an angry look on his face. "I can't believe my older brother! He is so selfish and unfair to me!" this young man was thinking. "As if it wasn't enough for him to get the usual, double share of our dead father's things, he had to decide to keep it all—even the little bit that was to come to me! Well, I'll fix him now! That teacher Jesus, who everyone's been going to, is in town. I hear he's a good teacher and wise man. He will want me to have my share of my dead father's things. I'll get him to tell my brother to give me what I deserve! Surely if he says my brother should give me some of his things, he will listen." he thought angrily to himself.

Before long, the young man reached the edge of the crowd of people who gathered around Jesus. Some had come to hear what Jesus had to say about God and His kingdom. But all too many came because of what they hoped Jesus might do for them. The young man in our story was one of those. He knew just exactly what he wanted Jesus to do for him!

But how to get TO Jesus. That was the first problem this young man had to solve. The crowd that swarmed around Jesus that day numbered in the thousands! People were even trampling each other, they were so anxious to get to Jesus for help.

Somehow, the young man squeezed his way all the way through that crowd, even if it meant stepping over the mats of the weak and crippled or slipping past the blind man who couldn't see the gap that had formed in front of him. This young man did whatever it took to get up to Jesus.

"Teacher, tell my brother to divide my dead father's things with me!" he blurted out, interrupting Jesus' teaching time with His closest disciples.

Jesus stopped talking and looked at the young man;

and because Jesus is God, He knew just exactly what was going on in that young man's heart, even though He had never even seen him before. Here was a young man not just looking for justice. This was a young man filled with greed. He was a seeker of earthly treasure—he wanted more and more stuff to make his own life good and easy, when what he really needed was the heavenly treasure of knowing God better and using all that God had given him to love others and tell them about Jesus. Jesus would not help this young man continue to live this foolish way.

"Young man, I'm not here to decide between you and your brother about your dead father's things," Jesus told him. "I'm here to talk to you about what real life is all about...and it has nothing to do with how much stuff you have!"

Jesus then turned and said to the whole crowd, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. Don't spend your life just trying to get more and more things. Don't be a seeker of earthly treasure, like getting more stuff. Use the things that God has given you to know God better, to love others and tell them about Me. Then you will have heavenly treasure, the kind that lasts forever and ever!"

"Let me tell you a story," Jesus went on. "Once there was a farmer who had fields and fields of fine wheat. He had had lots of years of good crops and had grown very rich. He had a big house, he had everything he wanted. His storehouses of grain were brimming over. He was so rich that he could afford to have servants work his fields for him. God had been very good to him and blessed him with everything he needed. Yet the man did not think of God to thank Him or to help out others in need."

"Well, before long it was harvest time and once more

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.

this rich farmer was going to have an incredible harvest of grain," Jesus continued. "But this year, the bountiful harvest was a problem, for the rich farmer's storehouses were already full of grain. What should he do with the extra? Did he remember that it was the Lord who had richly blessed him with the land and the fine harvest? Could it be that the Lord had plans for all that extra wheat? Wasn't there a poor widow woman who lived down the road with barely enough food to feed herself and her children? Could it be that the Lord wanted him to share with her? Would he take the grain and make a thank offering with it, giving it to the priests in the Temple to enjoy? He could always sell the extra and give away the money to help one of his relatives. But no, he didn't choose to do any of those things. This rich farmer was a seeker of earthly treasure. He wanted to get more and more stuff. He didn't think about using the things that God had given him to know God better, to help others or tell them about God. He didn't want heavenly treasure. He wanted to keep all his good things to enjoy just for himself.

So the farmer made his plans: 'This is what I'll do, planned the rich farmer, "I will tear down my barns and build even bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. Then I can relax. I will have plenty of good things laid up for many years. I can take life easy. I can eat, drink and be merry," Jesus said.

"Oh, if only the rich man had realized how foolish it is to be a seeker of earthly treasure. For earthly treasure never lasts. For God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

Jesus finished his story and told the crowd: "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat. Don't worry about your body--what you will wear," Jesus told them. "Life is more than food. The body is worth more than clothes. Think about the ravens--those big, scavenger birds. They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you

cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

"And look at the lilies that grow wild in the fields," Jesus said. "They don't do any work at all to clothe themselves, but not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed as beautifully as one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the people who don't know Jesus are only seekers of earthly treasure. They run after all such things, but you don't need to for your Father knows that you need them,"

"Be seekers of heavenly treasure," Jesus urged them. "Seek to know God better and better. Use all that He has given you to love others and tell them about Me. Seek His kingdom, and these other earthly treasures you need will be given to you as well."

"Don't be afraid, little flock," Jesus told them. God is the loving shepherd of His people. He is pleased to take care of you and to give you the kingdom of God--life with Him forever! So sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Jesus told them.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who came to Jesus seeking treasure? How did he want Jesus to help?

A man whose father had died and he wanted Jesus to tell his brother to share his inheritance (the money and things that had belonged to his father) with him.

2. What treasure did Jesus tell him (and the others) to seek? What was it? How could they get this kind of treasure?

Jesus told them to seek heavenly treasure. Heavenly treasure is seeking to know and love God most of all. They would have heavenly treasure as they used everything God had given them to love God and to love others.

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."

What happened to the young man? Did he understand what Jesus was saying? Did he see that he had been seeking earthly treasure rather than the riches of heaven? Did he see his greedy heart for what it was—desiring more things rather than thinking about God and using what he had in His service to love others and tell them about Jesus? The Bible doesn't tell us.

But what about you and me? God is calling us to different from the young man—to stop being greedy for more and more things, as if they are most important. He is calling us to be different from the rich farmer, who thought only of his own needs and desires rather than using his riches to love others and help them know about Jesus.

If we are His people, having turned from our sins and trusted for forgiveness in Jesus' death on the cross, we know that God promises to give us everything we need and often gives us so much more than just what we need. We know that even the best things we can ever have or hope to have here on earth are nothing compared to what He promises us in heaven.

Let's praise God for freeing His people from being greedy and worrying about things here on earth, knowing that He will always take care of them. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let's ask Him to make us heaven treasure seekers, desiring to know Him better and better and using all we have—our things, our bodies and especially our hearts—to love others and help them know more about Jesus.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Teacher of Truth. We praise You for being the Good Shepherd who Your people can trust to take care of their needs.

C God, we confess that many times, we are like the young man who was greedy for more earthly riches, instead of desiring the heavenly riches that come in knowing and obeying You. We confess not trusting You to take care of our needs. We want to hold onto our things because we are afraid You won't take care of us.

T God, we thank You for giving us Your Word that we might not seek after earthly riches, but seek You and Your and heavenly riches.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and give us a desire for You and Your heavenly riches. Help us to trust in You, not in the things You give us.

Special Words

The Kingdom of God: Jesus spoke of the day when God's kingdom would come. That is when Jesus will come back to take God's people home to live with Him forever in the new heavens and earth. Sin and death will be defeated once and for all. Jesus will rule as king and all of God's people will happily and perfectly love God and obey Him forever. No more sin, suffering or death.

But Jesus also spoke of God's kingdom coming into the hearts of people, even now. By this He meant that all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior can already begin to know God and live for God. The Holy Spirit will come to live in their heart and help them to know and obey Him. They can tell others how to be saved from their sins and know God, too. These are little tastes and big preparations for the day when the Kingdom of God will come completely when Jesus comes back.

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.....

Add your own Adorations:

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....

Add your own Confessions:

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:

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:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Farmer's Fresh Wheat Bread

Bread and butter (or jam), made out of the rich farmer's wheat.

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

Case Tie-in: God gave the rich farmer huge crops with much more than he needed to live upon. He gave him these big crops not just to feed himself, but to love God and others. The farmer chose to hold onto his crops for himself alone. Jesus told this story to teach the people that God cares about how we use the good things He has given us. He wants us to use them to love Him and to love others. We do not have to hold onto everything we have to make sure we are well-taken care of. God promises to give His people everything they need.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God's People 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. What things did Jesus tell His disciples they should do to be good stewards of God's gifts to them? *Not be greedy with their money, but give generously to help others. Think about living for Jesus and telling others about Him most of all and not worry about their earthly needs because He would take care of them.*

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: Silly Grand March

Materials

CD and CD player
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they and their partner are to grab hands and sit down as quickly as possibly. The last pair to sit down become the Question Choosers for the class. If the class answers it correctly, then the pair is added back into the group immediately. If not, then the pair stays out until another round when a correct answer is given to a question. (Feel free to add back incorrectly answered questions into the bag).

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

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't exclude the Question Choosers from the game, even if class gets the wrong answer.

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 today's story? *The young man came to Jesus to make his brother share his inheritance with him. Jesus warned the young man and the whole crowd about being greedy for earthly treasure rather than heavenly treasure. He encouraged them to trust God to give them what they needed and to use what they had to help others. They would receive even better heavenly treasure if they did this. Jesus' words were God's wisdom. They were God's true Word. Jesus told them that the young man might turn away from his greedy ways and turn to God instead.*

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: 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: 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? *Jesus encouraged His disciples to not be greedy with their earthly things but to use them to serve others. God would take care of their earthly needs and would reward them with heavenly treasures, one day.*

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: Mr. Freezie Ball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
Medium size foam or other soft surfaced ball, or tennis ball

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 spread out around the leader, who will be the first Mr. Freezie. Everyone says the Bible verse together. Then, Mr. Freezie throws the ball up in the air as he calls out the name of one child. That child runs to get the ball, while everyone else spreads out. When the child gets the ball, he yells "freeze" to the other children. He then rolls the ball to gently hit another child. That child tries to say the memory verse, getting the assistance of one other person if desired. If he says it correctly, he becomes the new Mr. Freezie and will be the next to toss the ball. If not, then the child who rolled the ball remains Mr. Freezie for another turn. The person who rolled the ball would then become the new Mr. Freezie and be next to toss the ball. Class says verse together each time before Mr. Freezie says the next child's name.

Game continues 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: 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. Why was the young man so upset with his brother? *He would not share his rightful inheritance with him.*
2. Why did the young man want to go see Jesus? *He thought Jesus would tell his brother to share with him.*
3. What was the crowd like that surrounded Jesus? *It was in the thousands. People were trampling each other to get to Him.*
4. How did the young man show that he was really just thinking of himself in how he got to Jesus? *He made his way to the front; He Jesus talking to His disciples.*
5. Why didn't Jesus help the young man with his problem? *Because Jesus knew the young man's heart was filled with greed. He needed to be thinking about being rich towards God more than he needed his dead father's stuff.*
6. Why was the rich farmer's new wheat crop a problem to him? *He had no place to store his wheat b/c his storehouses were already full.*
7. How could the farmer have been a good steward with the extra wheat? *Cared the needs of others, such as a poor neighbor, the priests at the Temple.*
8. What did the farmer show that he was only thinking of himself and not of God or anyone else? *He did not thank God or think about using the wheat to help others. Instead, he made plans to build bigger storehouses and make life easier for himself.*
9. Why did God call the farmer a fool? *A fool is someone who does not think about God in his heart or in what he does. The farmer was rich with wheat and everything else, but he was about to die and had done nothing with his things to love God or love others. He had earthly riches, but would only know eternal punishment.*
10. Who did Jesus say we can look at to see that God will take care of our needs? *How He takes care of the ravens and the lilies.*
11. What does Jesus encourage His disciples to do with their lives? *Not to worry or be greedy with their earthly treasures, but be generous in using them for others.*
12. What kind of treasure will people who follow Jesus' advice get? *Heavenly treasure that can never, ever be lost or stolen or destroyed. And, a rich reward from the Lord.*

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?** *Jesus warned His disciples to use everything the Lord gave them to love others and help others know Him., and not to hold onto them greedily. God promised to always take care of their needs.*

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.?"

Jesus encouraged His disciples to not be greedy with their earthly things but to use them to serve others. God would take care of their earthly needs and would reward them with heavenly treasures, one day.

Life Application Questions

1. What kinds of things do you find it is easy to be greedy about?
2. What is something you are or have that you could use to love others or help them know Jesus?
3. What is the best first step God calls us to take to know Jesus ourselves? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Teacher of Truth.

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

Confess that many times, we are like the young man who was greedy for more earthly riches, instead of desiring the heavenly riches that come in knowing God and obeying Him.

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

We can thank God for giving us His Word that we might not seek after earthly riches, but seek God and His heavenly riches.

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us a desire for Him and His heavenly riches.

The Gospel

1. The young man came to Jesus to get His help in getting earthly riches from his brother. Jesus wanted this young man to have heavenly riches. What is the greatest of the heavenly riches he—or any of us—can have? What is that good news of salvation through Jesus? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Obstacle Course Quiz

Materials

Various materials, such as jump ropes, balls, inner tubes, carpet squares, boxes, tunnels made from chairs and bedspreads, etc. to make a simple obstacle course for each team.

Masking Tape

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions, 1+ per child

Paper/post-it notes & marker/pencil

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Set up two identical obstacle courses, one for each team, that both end up at the same wall of your room.
3. Write a question on the back of a post-it note. On the front, write a point amount, such as 5, 10, 25 points, depending upon the difficulty of the question. Place these questions on the wall at the end of the obstacle courses.
4. Use the masking tape to make starting lines.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit down in a line. Demonstrate how they are to go through the obstacle course. At the leader's command, the first person in each line goes through the obstacle course. Whoever reaches the question wall first wins 1 point for their team and gets to take down one question to give to the teacher. The teacher will ask the question to both teams, calling on the team who raises their hand first. If that team is correct in their answer, they get 2 points. If not, then the question goes to the other team. Process is repeated with next 2 children in line, etc.

Game continues until all have had a chance to run the course, or as question cards, time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Send the children through two at a time, each child choosing a question from the wall. Have the children ask their question to the whole group and work together on the answer. Have the two children come back through the obstacle course and go to the back of their own lines. Repeat with next two children.

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 Treasure Seekers.

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

And now we present: "The Case of the Treasure Seekers."

Scene 1:

A man had died and left his things to his two sons. The older brother did not give his younger brother the share of his father's things he felt he deserved. So, the younger brother decided to go to Jesus to get him to make his brother give him what he thought was the fair amount he deserved. When the young man came to where Jesus was, he found Jesus surrounded by a crowd of thousands of people, all trampling each other to get to Him. Everyone had something they wanted Jesus to do for them. The young man was not put off by the large crowd. He had a greedy heart and wanted his father's things. He fought his way forward past many others to get to Jesus. The young man shouted out his request to Jesus, interrupting Jesus as He was teaching His disciples.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Jesus immediately knew that the young man had a greedy heart that only was interested in earthly riches. He told the man and the rest of the crowd to be careful of wanting more and more things. He told them the story of a rich farmer who had everything he wanted and whose storehouses of grain were even full. The farmer got another good crop of wheat and had no space for the new harvest. Instead of thinking about how God might want him to use the grain to help others, the man only planned to build bigger storehouses so that he would have a richer life. The Lord spoke from heaven to the rich farmer, calling him a fool because that night he was to die, and never have a chance to use the riches he stored up. Instead he should have given it to help others.

Scene 3:

Jesus told his disciples to not worry about their needs, but to know that the Lord will take care of them, just like He takes care of the birds and the flowers. He wants them to use all the gifts God gives them to serve Him, by loving others and telling them about Jesus. In heaven, the Lord will reward them with heavenly treasures that are far better.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.** Jesus warned His disciples to use everything the Lord gave them to love others and help others know Him., and not to hold onto them greedily. God promised to always take care of their needs.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is: The Case of the Treasure Seekers.

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

The characters in our story are: The older and younger brothers and their father; the crowd; Sick and crippled people; Blind people; People wanting to see a sign; Jesus and His disciples; the Rich Farmer; a poor widow and her children; priests; and, the rich man's relatives.

And now we present: "The Case of the Treasure Seekers."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

A man had died and left his things to his two sons. The older brother did not give his younger brother the share of his father's things he felt he deserved. So, the younger brother decided to go to Jesus to get him to make his brother give him what he thought was the fair amount he deserved. When the young man came to where Jesus was, he found Jesus surrounded by a crowd of thousands of people, all trampling each other to get to Him. Everyone had something they wanted Jesus to do for them. The young man was not put off by the large crowd. He had a greedy heart and wanted his father's things. He fought his way forward past many others to get to Jesus. The young man shouted out his request to Jesus, interrupting Jesus as He was teaching His disciples.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Jesus immediately knew that the young man had a greedy heart that only was interested in earthly riches. He told the man and the rest of the crowd to be careful of wanting more and more things. He told them the story of a rich farmer who had everything he wanted and whose storehouses of grain were even full. The farmer got another good crop of wheat and had no space for the new harvest. Instead of thinking about how God might want him to use the grain to help others, the man only planned to build bigger storehouses so that he would have a richer life. The Lord spoke from heaven to the rich farmer, calling him a fool because that night he was to die, and never have a chance to use the riches he stored up. Instead he should have given it to help others.

Scene 3: (End)

Jesus told his disciples to not worry about their needs, but to know that the Lord will take care of them, just like He takes care of the birds and the flowers. He wants them to use all the gifts God gives them to serve Him, by loving others and telling them about Jesus. In heaven, the Lord will reward them with heavenly treasures that are far better.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.** Jesus warned His disciples to use everything the Lord gave them to love others and help others know Him, and not to hold onto them greedily. God promised to always take care of their needs.

Earthly Treasure

Description

The children will make some shekels out of cardboard and paper and put them in a little drawstring bag.

Materials

Poster board or cereal boxes

Paper circles of front and back of coins

Glue sticks

Scissors

1 large, white adult sock per child (athletic socks work well)

1 shoe string (or about 2' of yarn/string) per child

Colored pencils and/or thin tips markers

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut the poster board into circles, using the pattern as a guide. You will need at least 4 circles per child.
2. Make copies of the coin fronts and backs, 1 set per cardboard coin. If working with younger children, you may want to go ahead and cut out the circles. Older children can do this themselves.
3. Cut off the tops of the socks so that you have a 5" sock remaining (use the foot portion). This will be your drawstring bag.
4. If using yarn or string, cut into 2' lengths.
5. Use the point of a scissor blade to poke even spaced holes along the top of each sock, about 1" from the top. (Too much closer and the sock will unravel)
6. Set out supplies.
7. Make a copy of the coins and bag for the children to see.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample craft.
2. Have them decorate their coin fronts and backs and glue to each side of the cardboard circles.
3. Have the children decorate their sock with the markers.
4. Weave the string in and out the holes in the top of the sock.
5. Tie the ends of the string together in a knot.
6. Put the coins in the bag and draw up the string.

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 kind of treasure was the young man in the story seeking? *Earthly treasure.*

2. What kind of treasure did Jesus urge the young man and the rest of the people to seek? *Heavenly treasure.*

3. What does heavenly treasure come from and how long does it last? How do we use what we have to get it? *Earthly treasure will wear out or be stolen, but heavenly treasure is everlasting and is far, far better. Heavenly treasure comes from seeking God's kingdom. It uses what we have to help people know and love God; and, to love others by caring for their needs.*

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?

Jesus encouraged the young man and the crowd to be good stewards of the good gifts that God gave them. He told them not to worry about having enough things, but to use the things God had given them to love Him and love others.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

God wants us to be generous with our money and everything else that we have, using it to help others to know God better and to care for their needs. We don't have to worry that He won't take care of us, if we share with others. Not only will He always take care of those who love Him, but He will reward them richly in heaven for their generosity to others.

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: Earthly Treasure.

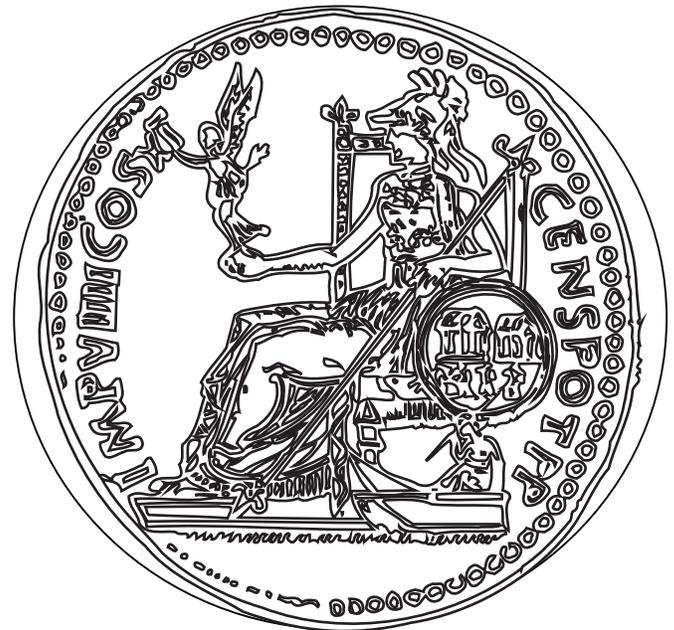
2. Jesus urged a young man, as well as the crowd of people come to listen to Him, to seek heavenly treasure instead of earthly treasure. Earthly treasure will wear out or be stolen, but heavenly treasure is everlasting and is far, far better. Heavenly treasure comes from seeking God's kingdom. It uses what we have to help people know and love God; and, to love others by caring for their needs.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God's People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts.

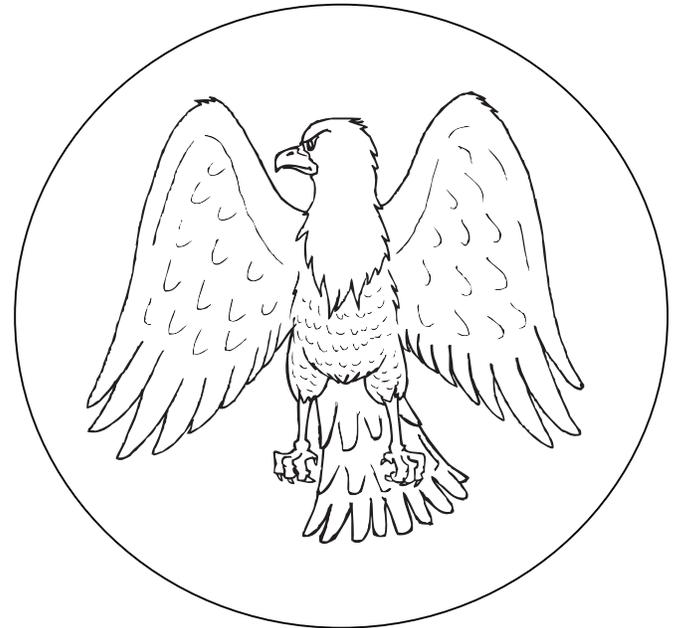
4. Jesus encouraged the young man and the crowd to be good stewards of the good gifts that God gave them. He told them not to worry about having enough things, but to use the things God had given them to love Him and love others.

5. Our craft can help us remember that Jesus encouraged the young man and the crowd to be good stewards of the good gifts that God gave them. He told them not to worry about having enough things, but to use the things God had given them to love Him and love others.

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.



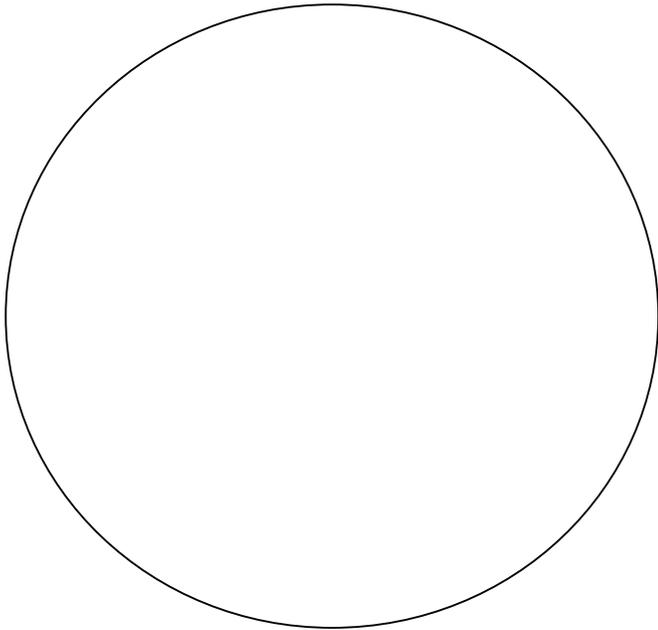
Coin #1, front and back



Coin #2, front and back



Coin #3, front and back



Pattern for cardboard coin

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
2 Set of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Blindfold

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.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Choose one child to be "The Finder" and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the Clue Card envelopes. Choose another child to be "The Hider". This child will hide the envelope somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope. The other children say "hot, cold, etc" as the child gets closer or further from the envelope to help the child find it. When the folder is found, 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 hidden.

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
