

BIBLE TRUTH 7, 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 7: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle
Luke 24:47; Mark 16:17-28; Acts 9:32-43

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Tabitha and Clothes She Made

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 Discussion Sheet and Game: Frisbee Toss

Bible Verse Song: For We Are God's Workmanship: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Balloon Volleyball

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 Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) & Game: Crabbin' Around

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 7, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle Acts 9:32-43

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?
2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do?

This story takes place during New Testament times, not many years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

When Jesus died, Peter and the other disciples hid together in a secret room in Jerusalem, afraid for their very lives. Surely the Romans and Jews who had put Jesus to death on the cross would be soon after them!

But when Jesus rose from the dead, everything changed! Jesus appeared to His disciples and told them: "Now you are to be my witnesses. I will send the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts and give you power to do all I want you to do. Start in Jerusalem and then go into all the world, telling everyone how they can be forgiven of their sins through Me. I will give you mighty works to do in my name that the world may know that I am the Son of God who has conquered sin and death," He told them.

It wasn't long before the Holy Spirit came upon them, just as Jesus promised; and, perhaps no one was more changed than Peter when this happened. In the Temple courts in Jerusalem, over to the rolling hills of Samaria, then down to the town of Lydda, in the fertile, green plains of Sharon, Peter spread the good news of Jesus. He preached boldly to huge crowds of thousands of people. Sick people were brought to him and in the name of Jesus, they were all healed. When arrested and threatened by the Jewish leaders, Peter was no longer fearful. Now he counted it an honor to suffer for Jesus. Everywhere Peter went, many turned from their sins and believed on Jesus as their Savior. The Lord truly had prepared many mighty good works to be done through Peter, that many would be saved.

But mighty good works were not the only important good works the Lord was using to declare the greatness of Jesus' name. Only ten miles down the road from

Lydda where Peter was staying, was another equally powerful—though much quieter—witness to the great name of Jesus. There, in the town of Joppa, by the Mediterranean Sea, lived a woman who loved the Lord and served Him faithfully. Her parents named her "Tabitha", meaning "gazelle." And what a perfect name for her it was. For just like the beautiful, quick-footed animal she was named after, Tabitha was quick to selflessly, quietly serve the other believers in Joppa, just as soon as she heard of a need.

Tabitha especially loved to serve poor widows. These were women whose husbands had died, leaving them in need of food and clothes. Back in those days, women couldn't just go out and get jobs like they can today. There was no help from their government either. Many of these women were forced to rely on generosity of others or beg for their daily needs. If no one helped them, then they went hungry or cold. But the widows of Joppa had Tabitha to help them. And along with a tender heart filled with His love for these needy women, the Lord had given Tabitha skill with needle and thread. With her own money she bought cloth and with her willing, nimble hands, she made the coats and dresses they needed and gave them to them. While Peter had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, Tabitha had been busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs. How the believers in Joppa loved Tabitha for her generous, selfless service to them!

You can imagine how very sad all the believers in Joppa were when Tabitha suddenly became sick and

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.

died. "I can't believe that this is to be how Tabitha's life is to end! How many were her good works! What a wonderful servant she was to us! Now she is gone!" they exclaimed.

"It's true," someone else said. "Why, what would we have done without her selfless service? Think of all the clothes she made for our widows, as well as all the other things she did for us. She was always ready to serve!"

The believers Tabitha had served, now served her. They prepared her body for burial by washing it, as was the custom in those days; and then, they did something very surprising. Instead of burying her body as would usually happen, they took it and laid it in an upstairs room of a house. How odd? Why would they do this? Well, you see, these believers had great faith in God and they were up to something. Perhaps they were thinking they had not yet seen the last of this good friend, Tabitha after all.

"Peter is in Lydda, only ten miles away!" someone remembered. "The Lord has used him to display the mighty power of Jesus' name by healing the sick? Isn't the Jesus who heals the sick, also able to raise the dead? Perhaps the Lord might choose to display His mighty power to bring Tabitha back to life through Peter? Let's send for him!" they decided.

Two messengers went to Lydda and told Peter, and Tabitha and urged him to come quickly.

Now if you or I had been asked to hurry ten miles down the road to ask God to raise a dear friend back to life, we would have thought it was an impossible idea. But these were the early days after Jesus' resurrection. The Lord prepared special mighty works for His disciples to do in His name as signs that Jesus was indeed the risen Son of God. Peter knew that perhaps the Lord had allowed Tabitha to die for Him to raise her back to life as a great display of His name to the people of Joppa. So Peter quickly gathered his things and hurried with them to Joppa.

Peter climbed the stairs to the room where Tabitha's still body lay. As he looked down at Tabitha, the widows through sobs and tears, told him about Tabitha's many good works. "Look at these clothes, Tabitha made them for us," they exclaimed as they showed him all the things she had made for them.

"What a wonderful servant Tabitha had been!" Peter thought. While he had been busy doing mighty works that displayed the power of Jesus to forgive sins, this single woman had been just as busy doing quiet works that powerfully displayed the love of Jesus to care for His people's daily needs.

"I would like everyone to leave the room," Peter told the believers gathered. When they had left, he knelt down and prayed to God. He knew that none of the mighty, good works he did were in his own strength. They were only the good works that God had prepared to do through him.

Tabitha would be raised from the dead, only if the Lord raised her. When he finished praying, Peter turned toward the dead woman, and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Peter watched as color returned to Tabitha's face and life returned to her body. Tabitha opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter offered her his hand and helped her to her feet.

"Come in, come in!" he called to all the Joppa believers and widows. With joy, Peter presented them with their dear friend, alive and well.

It did not take long for the news about Tabitha to spread throughout Joppa. Many new people came to believe in Jesus when they heard Tabitha's amazing story. Once more, the Lord had prepared a mighty good work for Peter as a display of the wonderful name of Jesus: powerful to heal, powerful to save.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

Case Questions

1. What changed Peter into a bold man for God? What good works did God use him to do?

The Holy Spirit changed Peter's heart and gave him boldness. Peter spoke to huge crowds about Jesus; by God's power, he healed many sick people; he joyfully suffered persecution from Jesus' enemies.

2. Who was the dead gazelle? What good works did God use her to do? Tabitha. Her name means gazelle. Tabitha served many in her quiet way. She especially helped widows by making food and clothes for them.

Something for You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them****Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

The Lord has prepared good works for all of His people. Some might be mighty good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Peter. Others might be quiet good works, like the ones the Lord prepared for Tabitha. But the important thing isn't really which kind of good works the Lord has prepared for each of His people. It's that He has specially prepared just the right good works for each of them, that they all can be used as a wonderful display of who He is.

What about you and me? Do we want to be God's people and do good works He has prepared? The first step is for us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we have done this, God will forgive our sins and make us His people. And we can know that He will have special, custom-made good works prepared for us each and every day—even today! Let's praise God for giving each of His people just the right good works to do for Him. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to give us good works to do and help us to do them.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Preparer of Mighty and Quiet Works for Your people.

C God, we confess that many times we do not want to do quiet works. Many times we like the thought of doing mighty works that others can see and think that we are a big deal.

T God, we thank You for working in Your people's hearts in such great ways that they would change from being scared to suffer and tell others about Jesus into people who boldly want to tell others about Jesus.

S God, work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might boldly do whatever You want us to do. Use us to do mighty or quiet good works for Your name's sake.

Special Words

Gazelle: A slender, quick-footed animal with horns, like a deer.

Disciple: Someone who learns from a teacher and follows his example. All Christians are disciples of Jesus, but disciple is also a special word that we use to talk about Jesus' first closest followers--the Twelve disciples.

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:

We praise You, God, for being the Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Tabitha and the Clothes She Made

Using a gingerbread girl cookie cutter, cut a "Tabitha" out of bread. Cut simple cold cut clothes free hand with a knife or by using the gingerbread girl cookie cutter shape, without the head, arms, legs to symbolize the clothes she made for others; or simply spread Tabitha bread with peanut butter, jelly, butter, cream cheese, etc.

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

Case Tie-in: When Tabitha died, the widows looked at the many clothes Tabitha had made them, as some of the many good works God had given her to do and she had so faithfully done.

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 Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did God create people to be busy at? *Work.*
2. What did God create our bodies, minds and hearts to do? *To be active, to create and to want to be at work.*
3. Did God create everyone to do the same things? *No. He created everyone with different talents and abilities.*
4. What does God want people to use all of their gifts to do? *To do good works.*
5. What are the good works that God wants us to do? *To better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.*
6. What did God plan for each of His people? When did He plan them? *Good works for them to do. He planned them in advance.*
7. What work does God have for children to do? *To obey their parents, love and serve others, learn about God and His world, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, take time to know God and His Word.*
8. What can God's people do that pleases Him? *Do well the work He has given them.*
9. Who are we also serving when we are at work? *God.*
10. What does God promise to reward? *Whatever good His people do.*
11. Can God's people do the good works God has prepared for them on their own? *No.*
12. Who helps God's people do the good works God has prepared for them to do? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Peter and Tabitha? *Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being the Planner of Good Works for His People.

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

Confess ways that we have been lazy or not done a good job doing the work God has given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about God and His world.

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

Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people to help them do the good works God has prepared for them to do.

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

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, helping us to know and to do the good works He wants us to do, the best we can.

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*

2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*

3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*

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

The Gospel

1. Even the best of our good works will not save us from our sins? Is there hope for us? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Game: Circle and Cross

Materials

Beanbags, 1 per child
Masking 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.
3. Tape a circle about 2' in diameter on the floor. Tape a large X in the middle of it.
4. Mark one team's set of beanbags with a small piece of masking tape or other distinguishing mark.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, giving the members of each team a beanbag of the same color or marking. Have all the children stand outside of the circle, about 6' back. At your signal, have the children toss their beanbags into the circle, trying to make them land on the taped X. Count up the beanbags for each team that landed on it. That's how many points their quiz question is worth. Choose a question for each team from the bag/bowl. If a team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for 1 point, if they can get the correct answer. Gather up the beanbags and continue play.

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Verse 3

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Tracks 25-27

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What does it mean to let your hands move at the impulse of God's love? *To do things that display God's love to others.*
3. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that display God's love? *Love to God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. Love to others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; make them encouraging cards; etc.*
4. What does it mean for God to make our feet swift and beautiful for God? *Swift: To obey quickly whatever God wants us to do; Beautiful: Not have good-looking feet, but to go places and do things that show our love for God and others. In the Bible, people who are willing to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus are said to have "beautiful feet" because they bring the news of salvation—what people need most of all.*
5. What does it mean to have your voice only sing for the King? *It doesn't just mean only sing Christian songs. It means whatever you sing—or even say—it something that pleases God by how it glorifies Him or is an encouragement to others.*
6. What does silver and gold mean? *Silver and gold means money and all the things that God has given you.*
7. What is a mite and why does the songwriter not want to withhold it from the Lord? *A mite is a very small amount of something. He is saying that he wants God to use all of his money and things to do good works that honor Him and serve others.*
8. What does "ceaseless" mean? *How does one let their moments and days "flow" in ceaseless praise? Ceaseless means never to stop. The songwriter is wanting everything he does with his life to be so pleasing to God with its good works and love for Him that it is like he is always praising God.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?** *When we offer our lives, our wills, our voices, our hands, our feet, etc. to God's service, we are seeking for God to help us to do all the good works He has prepared for us.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Peter and Tabitha gave their whole lives to serve the Lord. Peter served by preaching mightily, leading believers, and healing people in Jesus' name. Tabitha quietly worked to take care of poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by this song? *They can praise God for preparing good works for them that they may praise Him with all of their lives. They can ask Him to help them to use every part of their lives to do these good works as best as they can so that they might result in ceaseless praise of Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the good King over all of heaven and earth.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't want to use our lips, our hands, our feet, our silver or gold to serve Him but to serve ourselves. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God that we do not have to do these good works on our own—that would be impossible anyway! But, that we can ask God to take our lives and work in our hearts and help us to do good works of our lips, hands, feet, silver and gold to His glory.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to take our lives and make everything we do be a good work to His glory.*

Gospel Question

1. What is the best first step God calls all people to take to consecrate their lives to the Lord? Why do they need to take this step? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

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: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does "workmanship" mean? *Something that is made by someone.*
2. Whose workmanship are Christians? *God's.*
3. What does it mean that they are "created in Christ Jesus?" *Everything is created by God, but Christians are called new creations. They've been made into God's special people, with His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. This is because they have received forgiveness for their sins by trusting in Jesus' payment for sins when He died on the cross. It is only because Jesus died in their place that they have been made God's special people. That's why they are said to be created in Christ Jesus.*
4. What were Christians created to do? *Good works which God prepared in advance for them to do.*
5. What is a good work? *Any thoughts, words, actions done that please God and love and serve others.*
6. How are Christians to serve others? *Wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, Himself.*
7. What does "wholeheartedly" mean? *With your whole heart; in other words, doing your very, very best.*
8. What will the Lord reward His people for? *Whatever good they do.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?**

These verses tell us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!

Story Connection Questions

1. What good works did the Lord have prepared for Peter and Tabitha? *Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.*

Life Application Questions

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*
4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? What is the good news of Jesus? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Frisbee Toss

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 or more Frisbees (or bean bag)
Masking tape
marker and paper
small container

Preparing the Game

1. Divide the verse into 5 to 10 sections and place a word/verse section in each section. Write point values on the word/verse section, higher points for a word near the beginning of the verse; lower points for a word closer to the end. Tape these down.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

Divide the children into two teams and sit down in line. Explain that everyone will say the verse together. Then a child from one team will come up and toss the Frisbee into a word section. The leader/group will say the verse up to that word. The child can then win total point values by completing the verse on his own, or have point values by asking a team member to help him. If they are unsuccessful, the other team will have a chance to complete it for the half point amount. Have whole group say verse together again, then choose a child from the other team to toss the Frisbee.

Game continues until all children get a turn, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the Frisbee, letting the child or a child with a partner, say the rest of the verse on their own.

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.

For We Are God's Workmanship

Refrain

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,
For we are God's workmanship.
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,
For we are God's workmanship,
Serve wholeheartedly,
As if you were serving the Lord, not men,
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 28

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.

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 did Peter and the other disciples do at first, after Jesus was crucified? *They hid together in a secret place so that they wouldn't be found by the Jews.*
2. What change came over Peter and the others after Jesus rose from the dead and the Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts? Why? *Because they could see that Jesus really was the Son of God AND because the Holy Spirit gave them the power of God to live boldly for Him.*
3. What did Peter do after the Holy Spirit came into his heart? *Preached boldly to large crowds, did mighty healings in Jesus' name; thought it was an honor to suffer for Jesus.*
4. Where did Peter go besides Jerusalem? Why? *All around the countryside; Samaria, Lydda, Joppa, etc. because that was Jesus' command to him and the others.*
5. What kind of good works did Tabitha do? *Made clothes and food for the believers that were widows.*
What did Tabitha's good works show others about God? *That He loved His people. He gave Tabitha a heart of tender care (like His) for His people who were in need, especially widows.*
6. What did the believers in Joppa do with Tabitha's body after she died? *Put it on a table in the upper room of a house.*
7. What was unusual about what the believers did with Tabitha's body? *Usually you would bury someone immediately.*
8. How did Peter find out about Tabitha? *Some believers from Joppa went to tell Peter about her and ask him to come quickly.*
9. Why didn't Peter think the two messengers were ridiculous for him to travel 10 miles to help a dead woman? *Because he knew that the Lord was doing mighty works through him in those early days of the church to be a display of the truth about Jesus. He knew that the Lord might intend to even raise Tabitha from the dead as just such a display.*
10. What did the widows do to show Peter what kind of person Tabitha had been? *The clothes she had made them.*
11. Why did Peter pray? *He knew that his mighty works were only done by God through him. It would have to be the Lord who raised Tabitha from the dead.*
12. What happened as a result of Tabitha being raised from the dead? *Many people in Joppa heard and came to believe in Jesus*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them? *Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for His people.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why does God give some people great good works and others just quiet ones? *God has planned each person's good works perfectly for them and according to what He knows is best. The most important thing is not what kind of good works you are given to do, but doing whichever ones He gives you well!*
2. What kind of good works have you seen God do through His people? *Can you name some mighty ones? Some quiet ones? Mighty ones: Telling many people the good news of Jesus and seeing them become Christians; risk their lives to go to dangerous places to tell others about Jesus. Quiet ones: taking care of other believers who are sick or hungry. Sending someone an encouraging card to comfort them with God's love during a hard time; serving others in ways that few people notice; praying for others.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

The Lord prepared many good works for Peter: to be a bold witness to many about all he had heard and seen about Jesus, even when it meant suffering and even dying to do so. To display the power of Jesus by healing people, and even raising some from the dead, in the name of Jesus. He also prepared many good works for Tabitha: to be a selfless servant to poor widows who had no husband to take care of their needs.

sus.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Preparer of Mighty and Quiet Works for His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we do not want to do quiet works. Many times we like the thought of doing mighty works that others can see and think that we are a big deal.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for working in His people's hearts in such great ways that they would change from being scared to suffer and tell others about Jesus into people who boldly want to tell others about 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 in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit that we might boldly do whatever He wants us to do. We can ask God to use us to do mighty or quiet good works for His name sake.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Peter and Tabitha believed and shared with others? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

Game: Balloon Volleyball

Materials

20+ balloons
small strips of paper
pen
Masking Tape
20+ Story Review Questions and 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. Write out each Story Review question on a small strip of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Roll it up and place it inside of the balloon. Inflate the balloon. Continue this process for each Story Review question. Make a line with masking tape across the middle of the playing area.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them spread out on each side of the masking tape line. Take one of the balloons and bat it out into the field of play. The children will bat it back and forth without letting it hit the floor. When it hits the floor, play stops and the team on the opposite side scores a point. The balloon is popped, the question is unrolled and read. The team who scored the point gets first try at answering the question. If they get it correctly, they get another point. If not, then the other team can try for a point. Play resumes by the leader batting another balloon out into the court.

Play continues as balloons last, or as time and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't keep track of points. Encourage the children to see how many times they bat the balloon back and forth, counting out loud with each hit. When the balloon hits the floor, the leader pops the balloon and reads question for all to 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.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**P.1**

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle.

Our story takes place mainly in Lydda and Joppa, two cities in Israel that were only about ten miles from each other. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle."

Actions:

Scene 1:

After Jesus died on the cross, Peter and the other disciples hid in fear that the Jews and the Romans would come arrest and punish them. After Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He told them to go into all the world and tell people about Him. He told them He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power they needed to obey Him. After the Holy Spirit came to live in them, Peter and the others became very bold. Peter bravely preached to large groups of people about Jesus. He was not scared when he was arrested by the Jews. By the Holy Spirit Peter did mighty good works. The paralyzed, the lame and people with other diseases were healed through him. Many people saw the great works the Lord did through Peter and became believers in Jesus. Peter preached not just in Jerusalem, but began to travel to other places so that the people there could hear about Jesus. He traveled to Samaria and to Lydda, preaching and healing in Jesus' name.

Scene 2:

While Peter was doing many great works for the Lord throughout the area, Tabitha was doing many quiet good works for believers in Joppa. She served people however she could, but was especially kind to the widows. She made them coats and clothes to wear. Tabitha got sick and died. The believers in Joppa was very sad. about Tabitha's death. After washing her body, the other believers did not bury her like usual. Instead, they lay her body in an upper room. They did not think that perhaps they had seen the last of Tabitha.

Scene 3

When they heard that Peter was only 10 miles away in Lydda, they decided to send two messengers to bring him to see Tabitha. Peter came with the two messengers. He was amazed at all the good things that Tabitha had done for others, esp. the widows. The widows showed him all the clothes she had made for them. Peter called for everyone to leave the room where Tabitha lie. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he went over to Tabitha and told her to get up. Tabitha opened her eyes and looked at Peter. Peter helped her to her feet and then called in the other believers and presented Tabitha to them. When others heard about what had happened with Tabitha, many came to believe in Jesus, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.** Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for His people.

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 Peter and the Dead Gazelle.

Our story takes place mainly in Lydda and Joppa, two cities in Israel that were only about ten miles from each other. It takes place not long after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story today are: Nicias, Epimenides, the leaders of Athens, sick and dying people, sheep, stonemasons, Shepherds, Paul, Dionysius, Damaris, and other people of Athens.

And now we present: "The Case of Peter and the Dead Gazelle."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

After Jesus died on the cross, Peter and the other disciples hid in fear that the Jews and the Romans would come arrest and punish them. After Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to Peter and the others. He told them to go into all the world and tell people about Him. He told them He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power they needed to obey Him. After the Holy Spirit came to live in them, Peter and the others became very bold. Peter bravely preached to large groups of people about Jesus. He was not scared when he was arrested by the Jews. By the Holy Spirit Peter did mighty good works. The paralyzed, the lame and people with other diseases were healed through him. Many people saw the great works the Lord did through Peter and became believers in Jesus. Peter preached not just in Jerusalem, but began to travel to other places so that the people there could hear about Jesus. He traveled to Samaria and to Lydda, preaching and healing in Jesus' name.

Scene 2: (Middle)

While Peter was doing many great works for the Lord throughout the area, Tabitha was doing many quiet good works for believers in Joppa. She served people however she could, but was especially kind to the widows. She made them coats and clothes to wear. Tabitha got sick and died. The believers in Joppa was very sad. about Tabitha's death. After washing her body, the other believers did not bury her like usual. Instead, they lay her body in an upper room. They did not think that perhaps they had seen the last of Tabitha.

Scene 3: (End)

When they heard that Peter was only 10 miles away in Lydda, they decided to send two messengers to bring him to see Tabitha. Peter came with the two messengers. He was amazed at all the good things that Tabitha had done for others, esp. the widows. The widows showed him all the clothes she had made for them. Peter called for everyone to leave the room where Tabitha lie. He knelt and prayed to God. Then he went over to Tabitha and told her to get up. Tabitha opened her eyes and looked at Peter. Peter helped her to her feet and then called in the other believers and presented Tabitha to them. When others heard about what had happened with Tabitha, many came to believe in Jesus, too.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.** Peter did mighty good works that the Lord prepared for him to do as a testimony of who Jesus was. Tabitha did quiet good works that the Lord prepared for her to do as a testimony of Jesus' care for His people.

The Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows

Description

The children will make and decorate tunics made out of burlap and fabric pieces. Optional for older children: Decorating by sewing with yarn and blunt tapestry needles.

Materials

1 yard of 60" wide burlap per FOUR tunics
 Fabric scraps cut into various shapes about 1 ½ -2" diameter
 Craft glue
 Cereal box back or front per child
 Optional for older children: Blunt tapestry needles and yarn of various colors
 Markers or chalk
 Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. See diagram on next page. Cut out basic tunic shapes by: cutting each yard of 60" burlap into 4 15" (wide) by 36" (long) pieces.
2. Fold each piece of burlap in half along the long side (now is a double folded 15" (wide) by 18: (long) piece.
3. Fold burlap piece again, only this time along the short side (now it is a quadruple folded 7.5" wide by 18" long piece.
4. Cut a quarter circle out of the top side of the folded burlap. This makes a head opening. Unfold the tunic and it is ready to be decorated on the front and back. (Sides will be left open and child will slip tunic over head through head hole.)
5. Cut fabric scraps into pieces and set out along with craft glue.
6. If also sewing, thread the tapestry needles with a 1 yard length of yarn, doubled up and knotted at the end.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. If the children are decorating by sewing as well as fabric scraps, have them sew first. You can show children a basic stitch made by an over and under pattern. If desired, have the children sketch out a SIMPLE pattern to sew with markers or chalk before beginning to sew.
3. Then let the children glue fabric scraps in place, making various patchwork designs. Have the children put their piece of cereal box in the middle of their tunic before gluing. This will keep the back and front from sticking together as the glue dries.
4. If desired, the children can also fringe the edges of their burlap tunic by pulling out the horizontal thread. It is easy, fun, looks good and is often addictive!

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Tabitha die?

In Joppa.

2. What did the widows show Peter ?

The clothes Tabitha made them.

3. What did Peter do after seeing all the clothes Tabitha made for the widows?

By God's power, he asked her to get up from the dead and she did!

4. What is Bible Truth 7 that we are learning?

Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

5. What does our craft--the clothes Tabitha made the widows--have to do with our Bible Truth?

Tabitha was known in Joppa for the many quiet good works that she had done among the poor widows as part of the good works that God had prepared in advance for her to do.

6. What can the Altar to the Unknown God help us remember?

All the good works God plans for His people are important, even if they are quiet ones that few people see.

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 Clothes Tabitha Made the Widows.

2. In Joppa, many widows showed Peter the clothes Tabitha had made them because they were too poor to buy or make their own clothes.

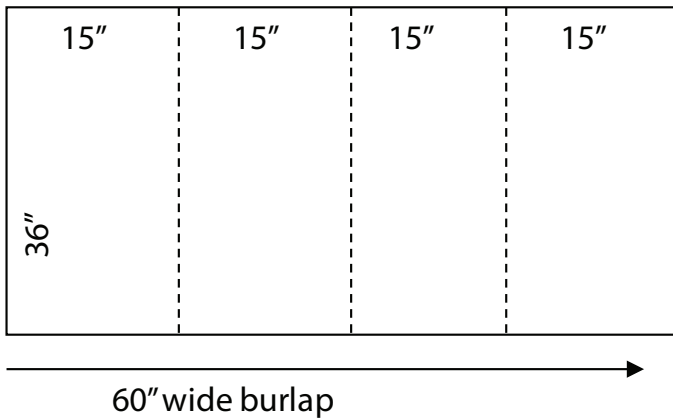
3. Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

4. Tabitha was known in Joppa for the many quiet good works that she had done among the poor widows as part of the good works that God had prepared in advance for her to do.

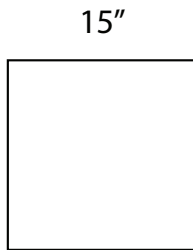
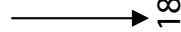
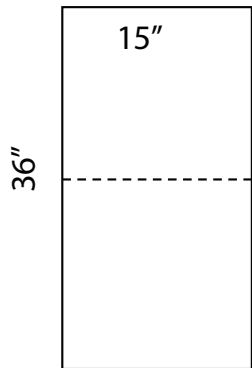
5. Our craft can help us remember that all the good works God plans for His people are important, even if they are quiet ones that few people see.

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.

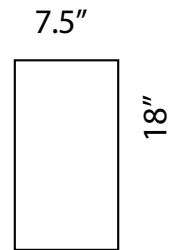
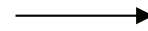
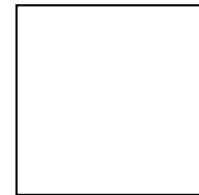
1. Cut each yard into four pieces



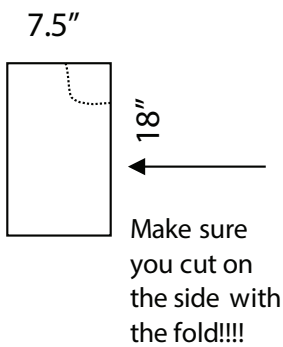
2. Fold each piece first across the middle of long side



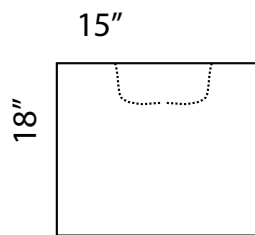
3. Then fold each piece across the middle of short side



4. Cut a quarter circle out of the top corner of the folded side.



4. Open it back up and you have a tunic with a neck hole and open sides



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: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Tape the picture and name of each VIPP to the wall, about 3 feet from the ground.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Put the Clue Cards for both VIPPS put in one bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

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
