

## **BIBLE TRUTH 8, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bible Truth 8:** God's People Read His Word, the Bible

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*

**Bible Verse:** Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV

**Bible Verse Song:** I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*

**Lesson 2 Story of the Saints:** The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Printing Press Alphabet Soup

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Circus Lions

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Trust and Obey, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 119:11,15-16 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hot and Cold Hide

**Bible Verse Song:** Hear, I Have Stored Up Your Word *PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Shoe Search and Relay

**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:** Pages from Their Bibles in Rice Pits

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

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 8, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers**

by Connie Dever

**Our story is called:****The Case of the Sly Soap-Makers.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?
2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

This story is not in the Bible. It is a true story about some of God's people who worked in Antananarivo, Madagascar in the 1830's.

In their house, high above Antananarivo, a little group of missionaries worked furiously to finish translating the Bible into Malagasy--the language of Madagascar. Queen Ranavalona wanted to stop her people from becoming Christians and the best way to do this was to get rid of the missionaries and their Bible. They would have been thrown off the island already if it had not been for come very quick and very sly thinking.

The Queen had sent a messenger ordering them to stop teaching the people about Jesus and start teaching them something useful instead. She gave them one week to prove they had something of value to teach the people, such as soap-making.

Soap-making! How could these missionaries learn how to do that...and in just one week! (Remember, this was many, many years before telephones or the Internet, or television, or airplanes or even fast boats. They couldn't get soap-making supplies from other places. They would have to figure it out themselves, with what they had there on the island.) It seemed impossible, but they asked God to help them and they got to work. They would do whatever was needed to stay on the island and keep on translating the Bible. God was faithful. By the end of the week, they had figured out how to mix plant oils, animal fat and ashes to make soap. On the last day, they sent the Queen a large bar of soap, the first ever made in Madagascar. She was so delighted with it that she ordered a large quantity and allowed the missionaries to remain in Madagascar until they had completed her order.

The missionaries praised God! This gave them a few more weeks' to finish their Bible. So while one of them was made soap, the others printed the Bible. There were no computers, copy machines or even electricity

back then. They made each page of the Bible one at a time, by setting blocks of letters (backwards) in place in a flat wooden frame to form the words that would appear on the page.

Once all the words had been put in place, they dipped them in ink, then pressed the moistened letters down upon paper with a heavy printing press. When the frame was lifted from the paper, the words were left behind on the paper in ink. It was hard, slow work; and, they still had part of Job and all the books from Ezekiel to the end of the Old Testament to complete!

Everyone was given their own job. David Jones worked to finish off the translation and giving the final touches on each page, Cameron set the type, while Baker worked at the heavy hand-press. Their wives took their share too. They stitched the printed sheets together into book form as they came from the machine, then put on the book cover. Sometimes they relieved Baker from his work at the press by lending a hand at turning the great wheel. None of them hardly stopped for sleep or for meals. They knew they were running out of time. At last, Baker burst into his David Jones' room with the exciting announcement, "We have finished; here is the whole Bible in Malagasy!"

David Jones took the book and said, "Thank God it is done. Now Queen Ranavalona can do her worst. Even if she turns us all out of the island there will be a great witness for Jesus left behind. For the Bible isn't just any book. It's God's Word. It will keep telling the people what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him long after we are gone. The Holy Spirit will use it to work in their hearts and help them grow strong in their faith. None of the Queen's threats or tortures would make them give it up. They were determined not to let

**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 go, too," he exclaimed.

Now that this first Bible was made, they began to make as many copies as they could until the Queen forced them to leave. In the end, these sly soap makers had printed hundreds of Bibles, most of which they buried in deep pits lest they should be destroyed by the Queen's order.

The missionaries had hardly left the island when the Queen called her councilors and told them, "Now that the missionaries are gone," she said, "we can crush the Christians. Issue a command in my name that no one may worship the Christian God. Anyone who gathers together for Christian meetings shall surely die," she vowed. "I will cast them off the great Rock of Hurling."

The Queen's orders were announced, but God gave His people comfort from His Word and gave them faith to keep on living for Him, even though it cost them their lives. The Queen was sure this would be the end of the Christians, but it was not! To her horror, she discovered that now even more people were becoming Christians as they saw the faith of those who died.

"Why is it that the Christians have not yet been crushed?" the Queen asked her advisers.

"The reason, your Majesty, is that they still have the Bible. They believe the Bible is God's Word. They read it daily in their homes, and they hand it round to their friends, so that many people are becoming Christians though reading its words. If your Majesty would stamp out Christianity, you must destroy all the Bibles."

"Issue a command in my name," replied the Queen, "that all Bibles must be handed over to me. Anyone who fails to turn over even a page of the Bible will be killed."

This was a terrible threat, but it wasn't enough to make the Christians hand over their Bibles! They depended upon God's Word and they would never let it go! They hid their books. Some buried them in the rice-pits underneath the floor, or hid them in holes of the earth; others concealed them in the thatch of their roofs, or in the hollow of trees. Some took their Bibles to pieces, page by page, and hid some of the portions in caves and gave other pages to their friends, who sewed them into their clothes.

Sometimes the message would be whispered round

the village, "Tonight we shall meet at John's Gospel," or, "You will find us where Romans is hidden this evening," or, "Let us gather at Psalm 53 after the evening meal."

One night a little group of Malagasy Christians crept out of the city and met in a small cave in the mountain. A tiny lamp was lighted and its flickering flame lit up the faces of the people gathered round. One man had a hunted look in his eyes, for he had been living in dens in the mountains and forests for five long years; another, who had once been an important man, was now wearing around his neck, hands, and ankles the chains of slavery; an old woman's head was bowed with grief, for both her children had been sold as slaves, and she did not know whether they were alive or dead; many bore scars from being punished for being a Christian. It did not matter to them who were rich and important and who were merely servants and country folk. They all had one thing in common: their love for God and His Word.

Together they whispered a hymn they had written:  
Where can we find a place for rest?  
Save dens and caves, with hunger pressed?  
Yet Thy compassion is our bliss,  
Pilgrims amidst a wilderness.  
O God, our God, to Thee we cry,  
Jesus our Savior be Thou nigh:  
O Sacred Spirit, hear our prayer  
And save the afflicted from despair.

When they finished, one of the elders said, "Have you got it, Rehara? It is time for the reading."

"Yes, I have it here under my lamba, wrapped in leaves." Rehara handed over his Bible. It was torn and mildewed and rat-eaten through being buried in the rice-pit and hidden in the thatch. Holding it close to the lamp, he began to read: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident..."

After a short pause, the old man whispered, "it's your turn now, Ravelo. Have you got your with you?"

"Yes," replied the young man coming forward, "I have a

page sewn into my lamba.” He pulled out his page of the New Testament and read, “Aza kivy ny fonares” (Let not your heart be troubled.)

Then the old man spoke again. “My brothers and sisters,” he said, “these are bitter days, and none of us knows how long they will last. But our faith is firm, for God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Every week our numbers grow. New believers come to join us, and there are some here now who wish to become Christians.”

Then a few young Malagasy stood up and proclaimed themselves followers of Jesus. The others greeted them in whispered words, and then the little company knelt down on the floor of the cave to commend these new believers to God’s care, praying that if any of them were called to die for their faith, they might be made brave and loyal.

Queen Ranavalona’s terrible persecution of the Christians lasted for almost thirty years, until she died. And Despite the worst of her efforts, the number of believers only grew throughout all of those terrible days. God kept His people strong through the reading of His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit through it, in their hearts.

### Cracking the Case:

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

#### Case Questions

##### 1. Who were the soap makers and why were they sly?

They were missionaries who had come to bring God’s Word to the people of Madagascar that they might believe the good news of Jesus and be saved. They were sly because they were only making the soap so the queen wouldn’t kick them out of the country and destroy the Bible they were printing.

##### 2. What were they really doing and why was that so important?

They were translating the Bible into Malagasy so the people of Madagascar could have it to read in their own language. This was so important because only the Bible is God’s Word. And, it would mean the people could continue to learn about God even when the queen got rid of the missionaries.

### Something for You and Me

#### Our Bible Truth is:

#### God’s People Read His Word, the Bible

#### Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:11,15-16

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”

The Malagasy Christians lived out their love and honor for the Bible. We talk about the Bible being God’s Word. We talk about it being the most important book of all, but they risked their lives for it. They knew they lived by the Word of God. If they could not have it, they would rather die. Why did risk their life for this book? That God might be glorified and sinners might be saved! That the world might know that by turning away from their sins and trusting Jesus as their Savior, they can be forgiven their sins and adopted as God’s dearly loved people. They longed to see the people of Madagascar do this!

Let’s praise God for giving us His Word so we can know Him and how to please Him with our lives. Let’s praise Him for sending the Holy Spirit to use the words of the Bible to change sinful people like you and me when we read them. Let’s ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to treasure His Word as much as the Christians of Madagascar and ask Him to help us to read it and grow from it every day.

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the One Who Sends Out Your Word. Not even the most powerful enemy is strong enough to keep your Word from going out!

**C** God, we confess that even though we have Your Word that we don’t treasure it or read it like we should or could. Our love for You and for Your Word is often cold.

**T** God, we thank You for giving Your Word to Your people to give them courage and help them to know You and how to obey You.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to read, understand, love and obey You and Your wonderful Word, the Bible.

# **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:**

Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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### **CONFESSION:**

Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things. Confess that we don't love or follow His Word as we should. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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### **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who helps us understand it and uses it to change us.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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### **SUPPLICATION:**

Ask God to use His Word to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: Printing Press Alphabet Soup**

Printing Press alphabet soup Either can buy the soup in cans; or, if not available, buy the pasta letters and add them to chicken noodle or some other soup.

**Case Tie-in:** Davy Jones and the others used a printing press to print a copy of the Bible in secret to give to the people of Madagascar, even though the Queen didn't want them to have it.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

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

### God's People Read His Word, the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God and His wonderful plans. It tells us about this world, about who we are and what Jesus has done for us. God's Word is very different from our words. His Word is perfectly true. It tells us everything we need to know to live the way God wants us to live. And, it doesn't just tell us what we need to know, it can change us, too. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to know, love and obey God. He uses it to help their faith keep growing strong.

### Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God's Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God's Words different from our words? *They don't just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God's people when they read the Bible? How? *The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God's Word? What else should we do? *We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God's people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

### Story Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.*

### Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

*This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

### ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*

2. What difference will it make if God's people read and memorize God's Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God's way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*

**Gospel Question**

1. We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? *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: Circus Lions

### Materials

Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.

Hula hoop, etc.

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

Tell the children that they are circus lions. Have them get on all four and roar and roam like lions. Have them “jump” through a hula hoop, etc. Then tell them they are getting very, very sleepy and must lie down....on their backs... in their den. Tell them that sleeping lions lie very still, make no noise, and keep their eyes open! Tell them that you are the Lion Trainer and are trying to wake up the Sleeping, Lazy Lions to perform in the circus. Any lion that makes a move, a sound or smiles will have to get up! Put on your funny wig, glasses, hat, etc. and make your rounds, trying to catch the lions moving, making noise or to make them smile. Lions who are caught are asked to answer a question correctly as their circus trick to before they can go back to their den. Have one of the lions caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don't get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the Lion Trainer.

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

### Non-competitive Option

Let all the caught lions join back into the circus, even if the class answers a question incorrectly. Put the question back in the bag for further review.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**Trust and Obey**

**Verse 1**

When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His Word  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
Let us do His good will;  
He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

**Refrain**

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

Words: John H. Sammis Music: Daniel B. Towner Public Domain

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 29**

**Understanding the Song**

1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn't mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God's good will is? *God's good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible?**

*God's people read the Bible so that they can "walk in the light of His Word", living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.*

**Story Connection**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Madagascar Christians wanted to have the Bible to make sure that they lived lives in the light of His Word that they were willing to risk their very lives to keep them.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

*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.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.*

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

*That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse?

*That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Each of us needs to trust and obey God, but we are sinners. What hope is there for us? What is this amazing good news of God's love? 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: 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.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

**Meditation Version: Psalm 119:11, 15-16**

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

**Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 119:11**

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Whose word is this verse talking about? *God's Word.*
2. What does it mean to store up God's Word in our hearts? *It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.*
3. What good is it to memorize God's Word? *It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.*
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? *It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.*
5. What is a precept? *A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.*
6. What are God's precepts and where can we find them? *Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.*
7. What does it mean to meditate on God's precepts? *To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.*
8. What does it mean to "fix our eyes on God's ways"? *To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.*
9. What are God's decrees and how do we delight in them? *God's decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.*
10. What does it mean to not forget God's Word? *Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible?** *This verse reminds us that God's people delight in God's Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God's Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don't want to forget it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How did the Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word? *The missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? *Because it is not just anyone's words. It is God's Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.*
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?  
*That many times we choose not to delight in God's Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against 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 confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.*

**The Gospel**

1. This verse encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God's Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely... and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God's Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, 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: Hot and Cold Hide

### Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see  
An object to hide

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

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

Have the children sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, led by the teacher, will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

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.  
***If you do this closing activity, make sure you read the verse to the class before asking the 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 verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

**I Have Stored Up Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16**

## Refrain:

I have stored up your word in my heart,  
That I might not sin against you,  
I have hidden your word in my heart,  
That I might not sin against you.

I'll meditate on your precepts,  
And fix my eyes on your ways.  
I'll delight in your statutes,  
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

Psalm One-nineteen, eleven through sixteen.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 12, Track 30**

**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.



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 did the missionaries have to hurry with making their Bible for the Madagascar Christians? *The Queen would soon get rid of the missionaries b/c she wanted all teaching about Jesus to cease. They wanted to get the Madagascar Bible finished so that the people could read the good news of Jesus themselves, even though the missionaries had gone.*
2. What did the missionaries think it was so important to leave the Christians with a Bible? *They knew it was God's Word. The Holy Spirit would use it to save people and to strengthen the faith of the Christians even if they had to leave the island.*
3. What did the missionaries make to give them more time to work on their Bible? *Soap.*
4. Why did the Queen want soap? *Because they didn't have any on Madagascar yet.*
5. How did the missionaries keep working on the Bible and make soap? *They all had different jobs—some made soap while the rest worked on making copies of the Bible.*
6. Why did it take such a long time to make the Bible? *There were no copy machines or computers, etc. all the letters of each page had to be set in a frame by hand and then pressed one page at a time.*
7. What did the missionaries do with the copies of the Bible they made? *They gave some to the Christians and hide the rest from the Queen.*
8. What did the Queen do as soon as the missionaries left? *She tried to get rid of all the Christians by making it illegal to meet for worship, baptize people, take the Lord's Supper, etc.. They would be thrown off the Rock of Hurling if they did.*
9. What surprised the Queen about the Christians after she made her threat? *She did not stamp them out.*
10. What did her councilors say was the reason that there still were Christians? *Because of the Bibles.*
11. What did most of the Christians do when the Queen made it illegal to have a Bible? *Hide their Bibles or gave up their lives to keep them.*
12. Where did the Christians hide their Bibles? *Rice pits, sewn in clothes, torn and hid in different places, the small pox cave, etc.*
13. How did the Christians keep meeting? *In the middle of the night in secret places like caves.*
14. What did the Holy Spirit use to give the Christians courage to endure the terrible persecution? *Meeting together for prayer and fellowship; but most of all, hearing the Word of God.*
15. Why were the Christians more willing to give up anything else except the Bible? *Because they knew it was God's Word. Not only did it tell them how to live for God, but the Holy Spirit used it to give them to endure their hardships.*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Read His Word, the Bible? *The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.*

### Life Application Questions

1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? *Yes!*
2. Are there still peoples who do not have the Bible written in their own language? *Yes.*
3. Who will go to help these people today? *God's people.*
4. What can we do today to help God's Word be translated into these other languages? *We can pray and we can give money to help God's people go to those people and give them translations of the Bible to read.*
5. What is the most important message of the Bible that God calls all people, even you and me, needs to read and accept? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16**: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."?

*The Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God's Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not care much about God's Word. We don't think that it is a very big deal to be able to hear it and read it in our own language. We need God's forgiveness!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for giving His people courage through the Holy Spirit to risk even their lives to preserve the Bible. We can thank Him for sending His people to even dangerous places so that more may have God's Word, believe in Jesus as their Savior.*

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help missionaries living in hard or dangerous situations right now so that they can give new peoples their own translation of God's Word. We can ask God to give these new peoples faith in Jesus.*

**The Gospel**

1. What was the good news of Jesus that the missionaries and Christians of Madagascar believed and risked their lives to tell 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: Shoe Search and Ransom

### Materials

The children's shoes

Masking Tape

Game Questions, one per child

Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Hide the questions around the room. Make a line out of tape for each team, approximately long enough to place one shoe per child per team on it.

### Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Have them take off one of their shoes and give them to you to place along the taped line in front of their team and then sit back down in their groups. Tell them that in order for them to get back their shoes, they will have to do a little searching and ransoming. Explain that questions on small pieces of paper are hidden around the room. You will alternate between the two teams asking the first person in each line to get up and find a question for their team to answer. (The person hunting can ask for suggestions, if desired, from his/her seated teammates.) If the team answers it correctly, then that child's shoe is "ransomed". If not, then the question goes to the other team to answer. If they answer it correctly, then the first team member's shoe is ransomed.

Continue until all shoes are ransomed. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children sit down in a circle around the pile of shoes. Let one or two children at a time search for a question for the teacher to ask the group. If the group gets it right, then the child/children can ransom one of their shoes. Continue until everyone has their shoes ransomed.

### 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 the Sly Soapmakers.

Our story takes in 1830's in Madagascar, a large island off the eastern coast of Africa.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sly Soapmakers."

**Scene 1:**

**Actions:**

Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country. Queen Ranavalona would only let them stay if they could do something useful, like make soap. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they made soap. The Queen let them stay a bit longer to make her soap. Some made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings & helped with the press. They finished the Bible just in time. They gave some of the Bibles to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn't find them.

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**Scene 2:**

After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord's Supper stop or be thrown down the Rock of Hurling. Many Christians were hurt or killed, but this didn't stop even more people from becoming Christians. The Queen didn't understand why her plan wasn't working. Her councilors told her it was because of the Bibles. She must get rid of them. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hid theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

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**Scene 3**

Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God's Word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God's Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** The Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Sly Soapmakers.

Our story takes in 1830's in Madagascar, a large island off the eastern coast of Africa.

The characters in our story today are: Cameron, David Jones, Baker and their wives; Queen Ranvalona, her messenger; her councilors; and the Christians of Madagascar.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sly Soapmakers."

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

Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country. Queen Ranavalona would only let them stay if they could do something useful, like make soap. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they made soap. The Queen let them stay a bit longer to make her soap. Some made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings & helped with the press. They finished the Bible just in time. They gave some of the Bibles to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn't find them.

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

After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord's Supper stop or be thrown down the Rock of Hurling. Many Christians were hurt or killed, but this didn't stop even more people from becoming Christians. The Queen didn't understand why her plan wasn't working. Her councilors told her it was because of the Bibles. She must get rid of them. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hid theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

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

Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God's Word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God's Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Read His Word, the Bible.** The Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God's Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

## Pages from Their Bibles in the Rice Pits

### Description

The children will write down and decorate a John 3:16 in Malagasy and hide in a little cup of rice.

### Materials

Copies of John 3:16 in Malagasy. (Blank version for older children, written version for youngest children)

Markers, colored pencils, etc

Pencils

1 8 oz cup per child

½ to ¾ cup of rice per child

### Preparing the Craft

1. Print out whichever version of the page you are using for your children. Younger children may do better with the version in which they trace over the letter. Older children will want to write in the words on the blank version of the page. For these children, you will also want to print out copies of the words to the verse so that can have them on hand to copy.

2. Set out supplies.

### Making the Craft

1. Have the children write the letters to John 3:16 in Malagasy with pencil and then use the markers, colored pencils, etc to decorate around the outside of the page.

2. Have the children fold up their page and put it in their cup.

3. Cover the page with rice.

### 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 our story take place?

*In Madagascar, a large island off of the eastern coast of Africa.*

2. What did the Queen's councilors tell her she must do stamp out the Christians?

*Get rid of the Bibles the missionaries had given them.*

3. What did the Christians do to keep the Queen from getting their Bibles?

*They hid their Bibles in many places, including the rice pits.*

4. What is Bible Truth 8 that we are learning?

*Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.*

5. What does our craft have to do with the Bible Truth 8?

*The Madagascar Christians loved God's Word and wanted to be able to read it. They had to hide their Bibles in sections to keep them from being taken away from their by the government.*

6. What can this craft help us remember?

*God's people know that there is no book like God's Word. It is worth protecting and even worth risking their lives to get to have it.*

**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: Pages from their Bibles in the Rice Pits.

2. In Madagascar, the Christians hid their Bibles in the rice pits to keep them safe from the Queen.

3. Bible Truth 8 is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible.

4. The Madagascar Christians loved God's Word and wanted to be able to read it. They had to hide their Bibles in sections to keep them from being taken away from their by the government.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people know that there is no book like God's Word. It is worth protecting and even worth risking their lives to get to have it.

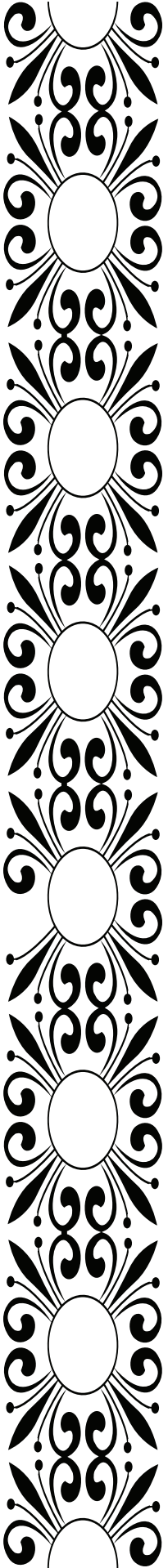
Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.



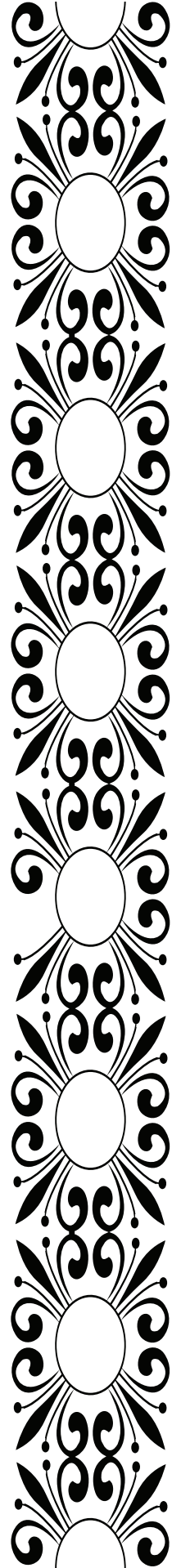
Jaona 3:16  
a toy izao no  
nitiavan'

Andriamanitra izao  
tonotolo izao:  
nomeny ny  
anailahy Tokana,  
mba tsy ho  
very izay rehetra  
mino Azy, fa  
hanana fiainana  
mandrakizay.

John 3:16 in Magalasy



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 10 horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page.



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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Game: Beanbag Toss In

### Materials

Information for one VIPP

2 Sets of Clue Cards

8 Letter-sized Envelopes or folders

Bean Bag(s), one per child

Tape

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

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

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

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

