

BIBLE TRUTH 9, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 2

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

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5*

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

Bible Truth 9: God's People Think about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26*

Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6

Bible Verse Song: Your Love Is Better than Life *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27*
Extra Bible Verse: Let the Morning Bring Me Psalm 143:5,8 PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 28

Lesson 1 New Testament: The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook *Luke 10:25-42*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Martha's Big Deal Meal

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26 PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 63:3-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Who's Got the Penny?

Bible Verse Song: Your Love Is Better than Life *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Frisbee Toss 'n' Quiz

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

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

Craft: Food for the Meal

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Ball Roll Review

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 9, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook Luke 10:25-42

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook?
2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing?

This story takes place when Jesus lived on earth. It takes place in Bethany, a village in the hills outside of Jerusalem.

Big Sister had a lot to do! Feeding an extra thirteen, hungry men who showed around meal time back in took a huge effort. She could rush out and buy some grilled lamb or fish freshly fried, but most everything had to be made from scratch.

Women would go to the outdoor market in the center of town to buy the fruit, vegetables, grains, and live animals they needed. Then they brought it home to kill, pluck, clean, chop, mix and cook it all up into a fresh meal. There were no modern ovens or microwaves or stoves. Usually there was just an outdoor, beehive-shaped clay oven in the courtyard, heated by fire to bake flatbread. And another fire to cook everything else. Even an ordinary, simple dinner of vegetable-lentil stew with some flatbread to scoop it out, could take quite some time to prepare.

But who said this was an ordinary meal? Big Sister was planning a meal as special as her guests--Jesus and His twelve disciples! The usual vegetable-lentil stew didn't seem good enough to honor Jesus. Only her very best would do. She would make lots of different dishes for Him. What herbs should she put with the vegetables? Should she have lentils, barley or Egyptian rice? She could serve cakes sweetened with figs and dates as well as the usual flatbread. Maybe she would even splurge and boil some dove or lamb along with fish.

Big Sister's head swam with the details of the meal, as she tried to figure out what to have and how she would work out cooking all the different dishes so they would all be hot and ready to serve at the same time.

"It was a good thing that I have Little Sister to help me," Big Sister surely thought. "There would be no way I could pull off this special meal without her help!"

As Big Sister and Little Sister busily prepared the meal in the courtyard, Jesus and His disciples made themselves comfortable in the main room of the house. Jesus reclined in one of the few chairs and began teaching His disciples, who sat at His feet, as serious disciples usually did. Perhaps some men would have spent this time in casual talk, but not Jesus. He was always thinking about His Father in heaven and doing what pleased Him. He knew how little time was left with His disciples. He would make the most of it by teaching them something important.

We don't know what Jesus taught His disciples that evening. But perhaps he reviewed the conversation He had had with the expert in the law that day.

"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" this man had asked Jesus.

"What does the Bible say?" Jesus had replied.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,'" the expert answered back.

Jesus had been pleased with this answer. "You have answered correctly," Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live." Here was a man who was hungry to please God. He was the kind who thought about God. Who prayed to Him and wanted to know His Word, the Bible. He lived to please God by serving Him and others.

Whether it was this or something else, Little Sister listened to what Jesus said as she chopped, plucked and kneaded the food to make her very curious. Before long, the little bits and pieces she caught from the other room just weren't enough to satisfy her. Little Sister had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry

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.

for food, her heart grew hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him. So, unknown to her big sister, Little Sister put down the food she was supposed to be preparing, slipped out of the courtyard, and joined the twelve disciples, sitting at Jesus' feet. Here, she could catch every crumb of what He had to say.

Big Sister was so distracted with the meal that at first that she didn't notice her sister had disappeared. Was it burnt vegetables left untended; the fish found still uncleaned of head, tail and bones; or the bread dough left unfinished that was her first clue that Little Sister was no longer doing her part? Maybe.

"Where has that girl gone?!" Big Sister wondered, a bit frustrated. "Here we are in the middle of making this fine meal for Jesus and His disciples, and she decides to get up to go who knows where! How unthinking she is being of our guests and of me! How will I ever get everything for this meal properly cooked without her help?" Big Sister worried. "I must find her!"

Big Sister didn't have to go far before she found Little Sister. She could hardly believe her eyes when she found her there sitting among Jesus' disciples. Not only had Little Sister left her to prepare this big meal alone, but she had even settled herself at Jesus' feet. Everyone knew that was no place for a woman! Only men disciples who were training to follow after their teacher were supposed to do that!

Big Sister blurted out to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that Little Sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Surely Jesus would see things her way, she thought. Little Sister's place was in the courtyard with her preparing dinner, not at His feet like a disciple! What was Little Sister thinking?

Jesus understood Big Sister completely: she was showing her love for Him by preparing a good meal for Him and His disciples' hungry bodies. She was thinking about who Jesus was and wanted to make a meal she thought would be worthy of Him.

But Jesus understood Little Sister, too. She was thinking about Jesus, too, as she left food preparations to listen at His feet...and in a far more important way

than making that fancy meal. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others. She longed to follow Jesus as much as any of His men disciples. Jesus wanted all of His disciples to think about Him like Little Sister did. He would not have this taken away from her.

"Big Sister, Big Sister," Jesus answered her, "you are worried and upset about your many things, but only one is needed. Little Sister has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Big Sister had a lot to think about as she turned to the courtyard and somehow finished the meal by herself. Perhaps she had been thinking about Jesus in her service to Him, but Little Sister was thinking about Jesus, too, by taking time to learn from Him.

How did the meal turn out that night? Were the vegetables burnt? Were there bones in the fish? Was the bread baked? Did all the dishes get prepared? The Bible doesn't tell us. But even if the meal didn't come out just right, Big Sister, Little Sister and Jesus' disciples all learned that feeding a hungry heart-- one that is eager to think about God, to know and love Him more was even more important than anything they ate at that dinner. For from hearts hungry for God, come lives that seek to keep pleasing Him throughout the day, with loving service to Him and to others.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the eavesdropping cook? Mary.

2. Who did she listen in on and why was that a good thing? Mary listened in on Jesus teaching His disciples. It was a good thing because it showed that she loved to think about God and wanted to know how to better love and live to please Him.

Something for You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****God's People Think about Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 63:3-6**

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Did you guess that this was the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus' good friends? I wouldn't be surprised if you did! Jesus helped these sisters see what is truly important in God's eyes: thinking on Him, that they might know Him and love Him.

What about you and me? Are our hearts hungry to know and love God like Mary? Do we long to think about Him so much that we even want to set down our work and the things we love to do to spend time with Him? Our Bible verse tells us that when we do spend time thinking about Him as we pray and read the Bible, that He satisfies our heart as much as the tastiest foods satisfy our stomach!

Let's praise God for being so wonderfully satisfying to our heart. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior—the great, first step in loving God and knowing God. And let's ask Him give us hearts hungry to spend special time each day thinking about Him and to help us to keep thinking about Him in everything we do, all throughout the day.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being better than anything we could enjoy in this life. No one or nothing is as wonderful or satisfying as You.

C God, we confess that many times we do not choose to seek to be with You and know You better. Many times we look for our happiness in far less important things. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You love for us to think about You and spend time with You. Thank You that You promise to show Yourself to us when we seek after 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 seek after You and find our greatest delight in knowing You and being with You.

Special Words

Eavesdropper: Someone who listens in on the conversation of other people.

Made from Scratch: Food that is made starting with basic ingredients, such as flour and butter, instead of bought already made.

Disciple: Someone who learns from another person or teacher and tries to obey their teachings.

Expert in the Law: A man who spent many hours in school to learn the Old Testament of 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 perfectly good. He is so worthy of all our thoughts.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that many times we choose to not think about God. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him. We just think about ourselves. We need a Savior to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank Him for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Martha's Big Deal Meal

Have a variety of foods, like what Martha would have wanted to serve: sliced cucumber; grapes or melon or dates or pomegranates; "goldfish" fish; and pita "flatbread", etc.

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

Case Tie-in: These are foods like what Martha would have served Jesus and his disciples.

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 Think about Him

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. Through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with Him. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day. They know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? *Food, exercise, sleep.*
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? *Our bodies will stay strong.*
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? *Special time to pray and hear God's Word, the Bible.*
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? *Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.*
5. Why do God's people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? *They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don't feel like it.*
6. Who do God's people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? *They ask God to help them.*
7. Why do God's people want to spend time and think about God even when they don't feel like it? *Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did Mary show she cared about the needs of her heart? *She choose to listen to Jesus rather than work on the fancy dinner. She sat at Jesus' feet, like a serious disciple, showing that she wanted to learn how to be one of His disciples, who kept doing each day the things that He wanted His people to do.*
2. Usually Jesus encourages God's people to help and serve others. Why did He want Mary to listen to Him, even more than help her sister? *Because taking care of the needs of Mary's heart was of more importance-- even over making His dinner!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."
This verse reminds us that God's people delight to think about Him. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

Life Application Questions

1. What difference will it make if God's people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? *He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.*
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don't feel like it? Why? *Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don't feel like it.*
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
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 trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who like to think more about ourselves and what we want than about God and what He wants. We deserve God's punishment, but He offers us hope and forgiveness. 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: Beanbag Scramble

Materials

Small bowl or bag
1 Bean Bag per child
CD and CD player
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

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

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

Non-competitive Option

Let all the children whose beanbag fell join back into the march, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 26

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Thou" mean? *Old English word for "you," often used to show respect to God.*
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? *We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He's talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on –or think about– in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.*
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? *A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people's hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.*
4. What does "naught" mean? *Another word for "nothing."*
5. What does "naught be all else to me, save that Thou art"? *There is nothing else that means as much to him as the Lord.*
6. What does it mean that God is his "best thought, by day or by night"? *God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.*
7. What does mean for God's presence to be his light? *Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Think About Him?**

God's people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. By day or by night, they keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Mary left her preparations on the fancy dinner so that she could spend time just thinking about the Lord. As important as it was to help her sister, nothing was as important as thinking about Jesus that afternoon. She sat at His feet, showing that she was a serious disciple of His—she wanted to live her life, thinking about Him and trying to obey Him, both by day and by night.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 63:3-6**: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

God's love means more to God's people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life. That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being so wonderful to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about Him.*

2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.

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

That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our hearts. Many times we want to do things our way instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!

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

We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.

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. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to think of Him and love Him, and be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them. What is this amazing good news of God's love? How can we know it ourselves? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we’ve learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

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

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:3-6

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 63:5,6

"I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? *God's love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God's love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God's love.*
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? *To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God's name.*
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God's name? *The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.*
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? *Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.*
5. What else does he do with his lips? *He sings songs of praise to the Lord.*
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? *He thinks about God.*
7. What are "the watches of the night?" *In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him?**

The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Mary's heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important than thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible verse?
That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse?
We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.
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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.

Life Application Questions

1. When might God's people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? *Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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 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: Who's Got the Penny?

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
A Penny or other small object

Preparing the Game

1. Choose Meditation or Alternate version of the verse to use.

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, discuss of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children spread out in a circle. Explain to them that you are the Penny Detective and you have come to find the missing penny. Have everyone say the verse together. Blindfold yourself, count to 10, while the children quietly and quickly pass the penny around the circle. At the count of 10, tell the child who has the penny to hold onto. Take off the blindfold and tell them that you have 2/3 guesses to guess who has the penny. If you guess correctly, then the child who has the penny says the verse, and you will stay the Penny Detective. If you did not guess correctly, then you have to say the verse and the person with the penny identifies himself and becomes the new Penny Detective. Everyone says the verse together, then repeat. (All players can have one other person help them say the verse, if desired.)

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

Non-competitive Option

Let the children continue to limbo at each height, even if they have a failed attempt at a particular height.

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 song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Your Love Is Better than Life

Because your love is better than life,
 My lips will glorify you.
 I will praise you as long as I live,
 And in your name I will lift up my hands,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life,
 Because your love is better than life.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 27

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.

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 would it have been so hard to quickly make a meal for an extra 13 people, in Jesus' day? *Everything made from scratch, no grocery stores, no electric ovens or stoves, etc.*
2. Why did Martha want to make something better than the normal one dish meal for Jesus? *She thought about who He was and thought that only her best, fancy meal was good enough to properly honor Him.*
3. What kinds of things would Martha have thought about making? *Flatbread, melons, cucumbers, rice, lamb, dove, fish.*
4. Where did Martha and Mary prepare the dinner? Why there? *Out in the courtyard (in the center of the house) b/c they cooked over fires.*
5. What did Jesus and his disciples do while Martha and Mary prepared the meal? *Jesus reclined in a chair, teaching. His disciples sat at his feet, listening.*
6. Why did Mary stop helping Martha? *She heard Jesus' teaching and wanted to hear everything He had to say.*
7. How did Martha show she was thinking about Jesus? *She wanted to give Him only her best meal Because she knew He was so important.*
8. How did Mary show she was thinking about Jesus? *She wanted to hear what He had to say so much that she even gave up helping her sister just to listen. She sat at His feet, like a serious disciple, showing she hoped to understand and obey what He was teaching.*
9. Why was Martha so upset with Mary? *Because she needed help to make the big meal. It would be very difficult for it to come out right without her help.*
10. Why was Martha shocked that Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet? *Only men who were serious disciples of a teacher were supposed to sit there.*
11. Why did Jesus think what Mary was doing was even more important than what Martha wanted her to do? *Mary wanted to think about Jesus and learn how to follow Him. Martha had chosen to make a meal bigger than she needed to that would keep Mary from learning from Jesus. Growing hearts that love God is always the most important thing of all. If something is getting in the way of that, it would be better to not do it at all.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's People Think About Him**? *Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.*

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things that God's people can do today that will help them think about God? *Read the Bible, pray, learn in church and Sunday School, etc.; talk to our parents or others about how they are growing as Christians.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 63:3-6**: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."?
Mary's heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important than thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being worthy of all our thoughts!*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times we do not choose to spend time with God. We would rather be busy doing other things and forget that He wants us to spend time with Him.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that He has given us Jesus not just to save His people from their sins, but saved them to be able to have wonderful fellowship (spend time) with Him.*
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 us to spend time with Him each day and to think about Him as we go about doing things all day.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of salvation that Mary and Martha both came to believe? 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 n' Quiz

Materials

Frisbee
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own. Write point values to each question, such as 5, 10 and 25 points, depending upon how difficult they are.
2. Tape sections on the floor and designate each with a point value that you write on a piece of paper and tape to each section. Make the higher point sections smaller and more difficult to hit; the lower point sections easier. You may even decide to make a target shape.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members toss the Frisbee into the sectioned areas. A correct answer to a question wins the designated points for the team. If the person is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until all children get to toss the Frisbee, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point number for the group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have the children take turns tossing the Frisbee. Tally number of turns on a piece of paper. When the target number has been reached, start over and try to reach the target number in fewer turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

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

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

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

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

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

Materials

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

Preparation

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

Instructions

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

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

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

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook.

Our story takes place in Bethany, a village outside of Jerusalem in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook."

Scene 1:

Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary's house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best. She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc. Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven. Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do. Mary could hear bits of Jesus' teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus' feet.

Scene 3

Martha finally noticed Mary was gone and began to look for her. She knew she couldn't make the meal on her own. Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus' feet. She told Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner. Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him, it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching. Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

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 Eavesdropping Cook.

Our story takes place in Bethany, a village outside of Jerusalem in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Mary, Martha, Jesus, the twelve disciples, sellers at the market

And now we present: "The Case of the Eavesdropping Cook."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary's house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best. She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc. Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven. Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do. Mary could hear bits of Jesus' teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus' feet.

Scene 3: (End)

Martha finally noticed Mary was gone and began to look for her. She knew she couldn't make the meal on her own. Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus' feet. She told Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner. Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him, it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching. Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Think About Him.** Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

Food for the Meal

Description

The children will decorate fish with tissue paper as a very likely part of the meal that Martha would have served Jesus and His disciples.

Materials

Fish pattern

Tissue paper of various colors

Glue sticks

Preparing the Craft

1. Print out fish patterns onto white cardstock, one per craft.
2. Cut tissue paper into scale-like circles of various sizes.
3. Set out the glue sticks.

Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children stick the tissue paper onto the fish in scale-like patterns.

NOTE: You may want to make several fish per child available for decoration.

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 were the sisters working on their meal?
In the courtyard of their house, in the village of Bethany.
2. Who was sitting in the house?
Jesus and His disciples.
3. Why did Mary sneak away from preparing the meal?
Because she wanted to hear everything Jesus was teaching His disciples.
4. What is Bible Truth 9 that we are learning?
Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.
5. What does this meal have to do with the Bible Truth 9?
As important as it was for Mary to be a help to her big sister, it was even more important for her to think about God.
6. What can God help us remember through this craft?
God's people today are busy doing many things and that is good, but they should never be too busy to spend time with God.

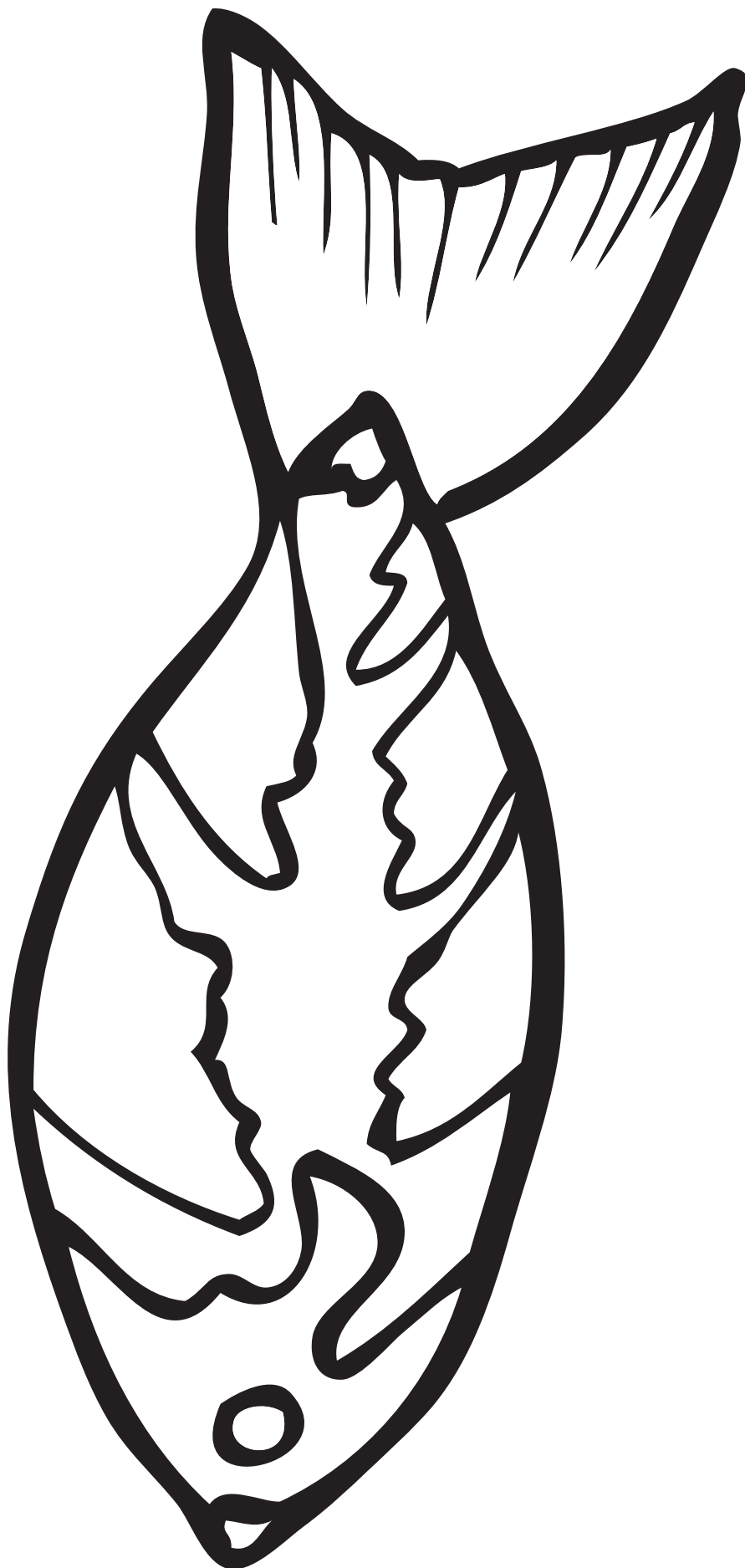
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is Food for the Meal.
2. At their house in Bethany, Mary left Martha and the food they were preparing for Jesus' meal to sit at Jesus' feet and learn more about God.
3. Bible Truth 9 is: God's People Think About Him.
4. As important as it was for Mary to be a help to her big sister, it was even more important for her to think about God.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people even today are busy doing many things and that is good, but they should never be too busy to spend time with God and thinking about Him.

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.



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.

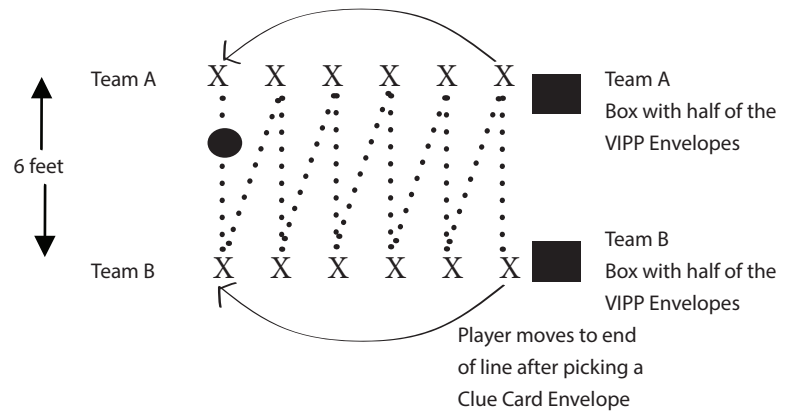
Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

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: Ball Roll Review

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
 2 Set of Clue Cards
 Ball
 8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
 Tape
 Pen and Markers
 2 Boxes



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. Put half the Clue Card Envelopes in one box and the other half in the other box. These are the Team A and Team B Boxes.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Have the children break into two even groups and sit down on the floor facing each other, with about a 6' spread between the 2 lines (see diagram above). For Round 1, Give the ball to the first child in Team A and have them roll it across to the child on Team B directly across from them. Then, that Team B child rolls it back across to the next child on Team A, etc. all the way down the line to the last child on Team B. The last child to get the ball will then pick a Clue Card envelope out of their team's box. They (or the teacher) will tell the group and the Clue Card category by looking at the picture of the Clue Card on the outside of the envelope. Have the children try to remember the VIPP's answer to the category. If the class gets it right, the category is "retired". If they get it wrong, then it gets put back in the pile of category envelopes. The child who picked the Clue Card, then takes their place at the other end of the line. They begin Round 2 by rolling the ball to the first person on Team A, etc. This time, the ball will end up with the last child in the Team A line. ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue from their Clue Card box. Continue until all the clues have been chosen/answered correctly.

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
