

BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 4 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4*
Extra Song: Inspector Graff's Rap: The ABC's of God PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 5

Big Question Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23 In Heaven Above Song *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 6*
Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: In Heaven Above 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (short version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 7
Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: In Heaven Above or Earth Beneath 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (other version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 8
Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: O, O LORD 1 Kings 8:23, ESV (other version) PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 9
Extra Unit 4 Bible Verse: I Am God Deuteronomy 32:3-4, HSCB, PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 10

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

Bible Truth 2: The LORD Is the Only True God

Bible Truth Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, v.3 *PFI Songs 2, Track 14*

Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

Bible Verse Song: Among the Gods *PFI Songs 2, Track 15*

Extra Bible Verse Song: O LORD of Hosts: Isaiah 37:17 PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 16

Lesson 3 New Testament Story: The Case of the Troublesome Tentmaker
Acts 19:23-20:1; Ephesians; Revelation 2

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Artemis Keeps the Money

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, v.3 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 14*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 86:8-10 Discussion Sheet and Game: Verse Hi-Lo

Bible Verse Song: There Is None Like You: Psalm 86:8-10 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 15*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Bean Bag in the Hole

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: Many Ephesians

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Stop n Go

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 2, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Troublesome Tentmaker Acts 19:23-20:1; Ephesians; Revelation 2

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the Troublesome Tentmaker?
2. What did he do that caused trouble? Why was it worth the trouble he caused?

This story takes place in New Testament times, about twenty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Big money, big parties, and beautiful things. Does that sound like the lifestyle of the rich and famous today? Maybe so, but it also was life in Ephesus long ago, when it was once of the richest, most important cities in the Roman Empire.

What made Ephesus so important? One thing: the Temple of Artemis. Artemis was the most worshiped goddess in the Roman Empire. She was worshiped as Mother Creator: Maker and Sustainer of the earth. As the Mother Goddess: Queen of Heaven. As the Goddess of Nature: Giver of All Good Things. And, as the Moon Goddess.

The Ephesians built a massive temple to her. It was 450 feet long and 225 feet wide. And, while the temples to other gods were made of wood or maybe limestone, Artemis' temple was made of expensive marble and gold on the outside and filled with art work and statues from the world's finest artists on the inside. It was so stunning and many called this temple the world's most beautiful building.

The Temple was the center of life in Ephesus. Wedding and worship feasts were held in its gardens. Sacrifices were constantly being offered. People even used it like a bank, keeping their riches there for safekeeping. Who better to trust than the Mother Creator and Giver of All Good Things with their riches, they thought.

Because people came from around the world to worship Artemis and to bank their riches at her Temple, the city of Ephesus grew rich. Someone had to feed and entertain all the visitors. Someone had to keep track of their money and sell them souvenirs

of Artemis and the Temple. And all those someones lived in Ephesus and grew rich.

But even with all these riches, the Ephesians weren't satisfied. Their hearts were empty because they were trying to fill them with things that could never satisfy--riches, good times and a false god. Only knowing and loving the Lord, the one, true God could bring satisfaction, but they didn't know of Him. At least not yet.

But then, God sent a certain tentmaker named Paul to Ephesus to do just that. Now you may think of Paul as just a teacher, but he also made and sold tents. He did this to pay for his daily needs. He preached when he wasn't working.

At first Paul just taught the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles in the synagogue on the Sabbath once a week. These were people who would have known the Bible already and might have hearts ready to receive the good news of Jesus. But after three months, Paul moved to the Hall of Tyrannus where he preached every day from 11 to 4, during the city's mid-day lunch and rest break. And it was here that many of the other people of Ephesus heard about the LORD, the one, true God and Jesus, His Son, who came to save sinners from their sins.

What a very different message this was from what they heard at Artemis' Temple! The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many as Paul preached, giving them faith to repent and believe. Soon, so many Ephesians had become Christians that even the souvenir makers and sellers were noticing it in their sales. Artemis was losing! The Lord was winning!

Paul was overjoyed with this, but the souvenir makers and sellers were not! They were outraged! Something must be done to protect their jobs! Something must be

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.

done to protect Artemis!

Demetrius, a souvenir maker led the fight against Paul and the gospel. He called all the souvenir-makers together to discuss the matter. "Men, we make a lot of money from selling souvenirs, but now Paul has come and is causing trouble. He's convinced many that Artemis is no god at all. If we don't do something, we'll be out of business and Artemis and her great Temple will be robbed of the honor due her name," he warned.

The other souvenir-maker were furious. They took the matter in their own hands. Over and over they official worship motto of Artemis: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was upset. They looked for Paul but couldn't find him so they grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's friends. Then the mob of thousands of people rushed down the street and to the huge, sports stadium with them.

When Paul heard what was happening he said, "They have my friends, but it's me they want. I must go and speak to the crowd about this! myself," he told the Ephesian Christians.

"No, Paul, we can't let you! You know what that crazy mob will do to you. They will kill you!" they insisted.

As they were talking a messenger came with a note for Paul from the rulers of the city: "Paul, please don't go to the crowd in the stadium. They will kill you." Paul obeyed their wishes and stayed where he was.

The crowd in the stadium were getting upset and confused. Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most didn't even know why they were there. A Jewish man named Alexander was pushed to the front of the crowd to try to talk with them. Just as the crowd was quieting down to hear what he had to say, someone shouted, "Don't listen to this man, he's no better than Paul. He's no worshiper of Artemis, he's a Jew! This sent the crowd into another angry uproar and they began to shout in one, big voice again: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" and they kept shouting it for almost two hours straight! Wow!

Finally the mayor of Ephesus came forward to quiet the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, the whole world knows that our city is the special caretaker of Artemis and her temple. Nothing these men have said or done has dishonored her. If Demetrius and the other souvenir

makers have a problem, they can bring it before the city leaders and they will take care of it. Just calm down and go home. If you don't, we may all get in trouble for rioting," he warned them.

When the crowd settled down and went home, Paul and the Ephesian believers gathered together. After the day's frightening events, Paul had something to tell them. "My dear brothers and sisters, it is time for me to leave Ephesus," Paul told them. "But before I go, I want to encourage you. When you think of these men and what happened today, don't be scared of what they might do to you because you believe in the Lord, the one, true God. Don't turn back to your old ways of worshiping Artemis. You know that she is only an idol of lifeless stone. You have been chosen and loved by God. You have come to know His love for you through Jesus. His Holy Spirit fills your hearts with joy. You have joined the people of God who in their praises of the Lord make something far more beautiful than even their splendid Temple of Artemis. Keep trusting in the Lord. He is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within you!" Then Paul and the Ephesians said goodbyes; and he, Gaius and Aristarchus were off.

What happened to the Ephesian Christians after Paul left? They did face a lot more trouble from the worshipers of Artemis. Some were even tempted to turn away from Jesus and go back to the easy life of worshiping Artemis. But through it all, the Lord helped them to remain faithful. Never did He stop helping them to worship Him; and never did they grow weary in telling others about the Lord, the one, true God.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

- 1. Who was the Troublesome Tentmaker?** Paul.
- 2. What did he do that caused trouble? Why was it worth the trouble he caused?**

He shared the good news of Jesus and many people turned away from worshiping the idol Artemis. The sellers of the souvenir idols were angry because they weren't making as much money. Paul and the other Christians were endanger of being hurt. It was worth it because the Lord is the one, true God. Only through Him can we be saved.

Something For You and Me**Our Bible Truth is:****The LORD Is the One, True God****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 86:8-10**

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."

These verses remind us that the LORD is alone worthy of all our worship. Paul rejoiced to see so many Ephesians turn away from Artemis and praise the Lord as the one, true God that He is. But what about you and me? The Lord calls us to come and worship Him as the amazing God who does marvelous deeds that He is.

Let's praise Him for being greater than all other gods. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us to bring glory to His name the rest of our lives.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the one, true God, unlike any other god that this world worships.

C God, we confess that like the Ephesians we need Jesus to be our Savior. The good things in this life we love can never satisfy our hearts. Only You can.

T God, we thank You for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus, just like you sent Paul to tell the Ephesians.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Satisfy our hearts with You.

Special Words**Temple:** Worship house of a god.**Idol:** A fake god, often made of stone or other material.**Mob:** A large crowd of people, usually angry.**Riot:** Harmful things done by an angry crowd.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being the only true God, worthy of all our worship.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are tempted to worship many other things than You--other gods, people, other things, even ourselves. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for treating us with mercy, forgiveness and love when we turn away from the other things we are tempted to worship and worship You, instead. Thank You for being willing to work in our hearts and help us to worship You. Thank You for making Your glory also for our best good.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, show us the wrong things we worship and help us turn away from them. Help us to love You most of all and live to honor You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Artemis Keeps the Money

Gold foil-wrapped chocolate “coins” (often found in little bags at major drugstore candy aisles); or could use round carrot cuts that were kept in Temple of Artemis or received by silversmith. And/or, Gummy bear or teddy graham “Artemus” statues sitting up on a dab of cream cheese (or peanut butter, etc) on top of a chunk of celery.

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

Case Tie-in: People came from many places to the Temple of Artemis to worship her and to keep their money in her safe keeping, thinking she was a great goddess, worthy of their worship. But Paul came to Ephesus and told them about salvation through Jesus. He told them about the Lord, the one, true God that they might turn from their sins, be saved and worship Him.

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.

The LORD Is the Only True God

To worship means to love, honor and testify to the worth of someone. It usually means that we choose it to be more important than anything else in our lives. Sometimes it is a god that people worship. Sometimes it is other people or things that they love. Sometimes, they really just worship themselves.

But God created people to worship Him. He is the only, true God. He is our Creator and our king. He deserves for us to worship Him. He deserves for us to choose loving and obeying Him over everything else in our lives.

Not only does God deserve our worship, but only when we worship Him, will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be. Seeking His glory is also for our best good!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is worship?

To worship means to honor and live for something as the greatest, most important thing in your life.

2. What do people worship? *People worship gods, people, things or even themselves.*

3. How can people worship themselves?

They think mostly about themselves and what they want. They put themselves first before God and others.

3. Who did God create people to worship? *Himself.*

5. Why does God deserve our worship? *He is our Creator and our King.*

6. Why else should we worship God?

Only when we worship Him will we be truly happy and live life as it was meant to be.

7. For whose good and glory is it that we worship God? *Our good and His glory.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is the Only True God**? How did the Ephesians show that they worshiped the LORD as the Only True God? *They were willing to leave behind the worship of Artemis even though it was a big part of life in Ephesus. They were willing to suffer persecution from the Artemis worshippers.*

2. Why do you think Demetrius and the craftsmen were so upset about all the Ephesians who stopped worshipping Artemis and started worshipping the LORD? *Mostly because they were losing money from selling the Artemis shrines.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 86:8-10**: "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."?

This verse tells us that "among the gods there is none like you" and "you alone are God." They tell us that the LORD is the one, true God.

Life Application Questions

1. What are some things we can do to show we worship the LORD as the Only True God? *Spend time with God praying to Him and reading His Word. Obeying what God has told us to do.*

2. What is the best first step that God calls us each to take in worshipping the LORD as the Only True God with our hearts, minds and lives? *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?

The LORD is the Only, True God.

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

Confess that though the LORD is the only true God that we all choose to go things our own way instead of obeying Him and loving Him as He deserves. We need Jesus to save us!

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

Thank Him that the LORD has been so kind to us through Jesus. That though we choose to rebel against Him, that He is so merciful as to offer forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

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

We can ask that the LORD help us to worship Him alone. We can ask Him to work in our hearts to say no to sin and to trust Jesus as our Savior. And, to fill us with love for Him, the Only True God. We can ask Him to turn the hearts of others to worship and love Him, too.

The Gospel

1. The LORD is the only true God and all people have sinned against Him. They have hard hearts not choosing not to worship the LORD. They deserve God's eternal punishment, but God has shown mercy to people through His Son Jesus. What did He do? 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.

Game: Silly Grand March

Materials

CD and CD player
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy,
 Though the darkness hide Thee,
 Tho' the eye of sinful man
 Thy glory may not see;
 Only Thou art holy;
 There is none beside Thee,
 Perfect in pow'r,
 In love and purity.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 14

Understanding the Song

1. What does "holy" mean?

Holy means to be purely good, set apart from all that is evil.

2. Why does the song say holy three times in a row?

That it's a way of saying very, very, very holy.

3. Who is so very, very, very holy?

Only the LORD.

4. Who is the darkness hiding?

"Thee"; an old English word for you. The LORD is the "You" or "Thee"

5. What kind of darkness "hides" the LORD?

This is not darkness like night or a dark room. This is a spiritual darkness of sin and evil. This means that the LORD is so holy, so purely good that nothing evil cannot stand in His presence. We are all sinners and live in a world filled with many evil, sinful things. The darkness of this evil "hides" the glorious, perfectly holy LORD from us.

6. What is sin and what is the "eye of sinful man" not allowed to see?

Sin is rebellion against God, in our heart, our mind, our words or actions. All "men" (people) are sinful. In His mercy, God does not let sinful people see His glory right now. The Bible tells us that even God's glory is so holy that if they saw it they would be destroyed, as punishment for their sin. All who confess their sins and trust in Jesus have their sins forgiven. They will be able to see God's glory and live because Jesus has paid for their sins.

7. What does it mean that there are "none beside Thee"?

He is the only true God.

8. What is special about the LORD that shows He is the only true God?

He is perfect in holiness, power (all powerful), love and purity (completely without sin.)

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The LORD Is the Only True God?**

"The LORD made us to worship Him as the only, true God; yet, our sinful rebellion against Him "darkens" our hearts so that we refuse to see and confess Him as the glorious God He is. Instead, we seek other things to worship in His place. Nonetheless, there is none like the LORD, who is perfect in power, love and purity. He is holy!"

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Ephesians worshiped Artemis as the mighty Queen of Heaven. But many, when they heard Paul's message about Jesus, came to understand that it was the Lord, not Artemis, who was to be worshiped. The other Ephesians did not like that so many people were turning to worship the Lord instead. Yet, even when these people rioted against Paul and later persecuted the Ephesian believers after Paul had left, they still worshiped the Lord. They knew that He alone was holy, perfect in power, love and purity.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10:** "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God." *This hymn praises God for being the only holy God who is perfect in power, in love and purity. It says that there is no other god besides Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song?

We can praise God for being the Only True God, who is perfect in holiness, power, love and purity. We can ask Him to give us soft hearts that desire to love and obey Him. We can confess our sins to Him and trust in Him as our Savior, that we among His Very Own People who one day get to look upon Him in all His glory and live.

ACTS Questions

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

The LORD is the Only, True God. He is holy. There is no sin in Him at all. He is only good.

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

We can confess that though the LORD is the only true God and that there is none beside Him, that we still have all chosen to do things our own way instead of obeying Him and loving Him as He deserves. We need a Savior!

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

We can thank God that there is no god beside Him. For what other god is so loving and good and holy? There is no other god to compete with Him and what He wants to do. We can trust every promise He has made. We can trust that He will truly save all who come to Him for forgiveness of sins, trusting in Jesus as their Savior.

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

We can ask that the LORD help us to worship Him alone. We can ask Him to work in our hearts to say no to sin and to trust in Jesus as our Savior. And, ask Him to work in us and help us to live holy lives that please Him.

Gospel Question

1. God is holy and we are not! We are sinful people who have rebelled against Him. We deserve His eternal punishment for this! What hope has the LORD given us? What has He done for sinful people like us? 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 86:8-10

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 86:8, 10

"There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God."

Understanding the Bible Verse

Who is not like the other gods?

The Lord.

2. How are the gods different from the Lord?

They are only created things, whether they are people or things. They were never meant to be worshiped. They are not all powerful, wise, loving, perfect, or any of the other things that the Lord is.

3. What are works and why can't the other gods' works never compare with the Lord's?

Works are things someone does. Other gods do not have works that can compare to the Lord's because they do not have the same powers He has—they are just creatures.

4. What will all the nations do before the Lord one day?

They will come and worship before Him, they will bring glory to His name.

5. What does it mean to "bring glory" to God's name?

It means to praise God for all the amazing things He is and has done.

6. When do we know that all nations will come and worship before Him?

At the end of time the Bible tells us that He will gather all the nations before Him and that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.

7. What wondrous deeds of the Lord show that He alone is God?

Rescuing His people from Egypt, raising Jesus from the dead, changing the hearts of sinful men to love Him, etc.

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is the Only True God?** *This Bible verse tells us that there is no one like the LORD. If we compare anyone else's deeds to the LORD's, it is easy to see just how great He is. He alone is God and worthy of our worship.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How did the LORD show that He alone is God in today's story?

Artemis was only made of stone. She offered her worshipers nothing. They had lots of money and beautiful things, but their sins could not be forgiven and they did not have true peace or joy. But the Lord worked in the hearts of the Ephesians through His Word & by His Spirit to show them that He, not Artemis, was the Only True God. When they worshiped the Lord as He had always made them too, they found the joy, peace & satisfaction they had always hungered for but never knew in worshipping Artemis.

Life Application Questions

1. How is it encouraging for God's people to know that the LORD does great and marvelous deeds?

No matter how difficult a problem they have, they know that the Lord is able to help them.

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

3. How should we worship God? *With everything we do: with our minds, with our hearts, with our lips, with our lives.*

ACTS Questions

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

The LORD is the Only, True God. All the nations...all peoples of the earth will come and worship before Him.

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That though the LORD is the only true God that we all choose to go things our own way instead of obeying Him and loving Him as He deserves. We need a Savior!*

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

For His great, great deed in saving all who come to Him for forgiveness of sins, trusting in Jesus as their Savior. Oh, to get to be His dear, adopted children, forever! All at the cost of His Son, Jesus!

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

We can ask that the LORD help us to worship Him alone. We can ask Him to work in our hearts to say no to sin and to trust Jesus as our Savior. And, to fill us with love for Him, the Only True God. We can ask Him to turn the hearts of others to worship and love Him, too. We can ask Him to give us eyes to see His great deeds each day and minds that remember to praise Him for them.

Gospel Question

1. What great deed did the LORD do for sinful people that can never be compared to the deeds of any other god? 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.

Game: Verse Hi-Lo

Materials

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

A long pieces of rope

Preparing the Game

1. Make up some questions about the verse and/or story. Use the Bible verse and Story Review Discussion questions, if desired.

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 line up in a straight line behind the leader. Explain to them that they will recite the Bible verse and then have a chance to see how high they can jump. After each round, the rope will be raised a little higher. jump across. For caution sake, don't raise it so high that most children will likely trip. One foot high is a good stopping height. Help younger children by holding one of their hands while they jump over. If a child can't make it over, he can answer one of the questions about the verse you prepared to get another chance to jump (Let him have a partner to help with answering their question, if desired.)

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Among the Gods: Psalm 86:8,10

Among the gods, there is none like you, O Lord;
 Nor are there works like yours.
 For you are great
 and do wondrous things, O Lord,
 You alone are God.
 Psalm Eighty-six, eight and ten.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 15

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.

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What made Ephesus so rich, luxurious and beautiful?

From money made from business with the Temple of Artemis.

2. What did people say when they saw the Temple of Artemis?

They thought it was the most beautiful building in the world.

3. Why weren't people completely satisfied and happy even though they had so much money, parties and beautiful things? *They did not worship the Only True God, they only worshiped an idol and the things they (thought) they got from the idol.*

4. What did Paul tell the Ephesians was the reason why they would never be satisfied? *Because beautiful things and lots of riches can never satisfy people. Only knowing and loving God, as He created us to can do that.*

5. What did Paul tell the Ephesians they needed to do?

Repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

6. Where did Paul preach? Why do you think he chose to preach from 11 to 4?

Because more people would be able to come during their time off.

7. Who was not pleased about so many people becoming Christians?

The craftsmen who were losing business on selling statues of Artemis.

8. What do you think was going on in the hearts of the craftsmen and Demetrius: a love of Artemis or a love of the money they used to get? Why? *A love of money most of all. They could use the money to get all sorts of things they needed and wanted.*

9. Why did Paul's friends not want Paul to go to the crowd and why did Paul think he should?

Paul's friends thought Paul would be killed. Paul thought he should go because the crowd had gathered because of him. He should take care of the situation himself instead of letting his friends get hurt.

10. Why did the crowd not want Alexander to speak? *Because he was a Jew, not a worshiper of Artemis.*

11. How long did the crowd in the sports stadium chant to Artemis? How many times do you think they probably repeated their chant in two hours?

Two hours! If they said it 10 times a minute x 120 minutes, that would be 1200 times!!!!

12. How did the riot end?

The mayor of Ephesus came and told them they should go home and let the government take care of any problems. They were about to get in trouble for causing a riot.

13. What did Paul tell the Ephesian Christians before he left?

To not go back to the big money and rich parties, but find their contentment and joy in Christ. Trust in God to take care of them, even if things get very hard. He will take care of them!

14. Did the Ephesian Christians stay faithful to the Only True God after Paul left? Yes.

15. How did the Lord help the Ephesians stay faithful to the Lord, even in hard times?

He worked in their hearts by His Holy Spirit to comfort them and help them to keep loving God. He encouraged them by Paul's words and other words from the Bible. He encouraged by Paul coming back to visit them.

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD Is the Only True God**?

Many Ephesians heard Paul's message and turned from worshiping Artemis to following the Lord as the Only True God. They kept following Him even when it was very hard.

Life Application Questions

1. How will our actions be different if we truly worship the Lord, the Only True God? *They will show worshipful obedience to what pleases Him; they will show a peace and satisfaction that can come only from knowing the Lord.*

2. How will our words be different if we truly worship the Lord, the Only True God? *We will confess the Lord as the Only True God, even if others might make fun of us; we will be careful to use our words to show others what the Lord is like, in terms of purity, love, kindness, etc.*

3. How will our hearts be different if we truly worship the Lord, the Only True God? *They will be satisfied, even if we do not have the same riches, beautiful things, etc. that others do.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 86:8-10**: "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God!"?

How did the LORD show that Artemis, even with all her beautiful, is nothing compared to the LORD?

Artemis was only made of stone. She offered her worshipers nothing. They had lots of money and beautiful things, but their sins could not be forgiven and they did not have true peace or joy. But the Lord worked in the hearts of the Ephesians through His Word & by His Spirit to show them that He, not Artemis, was the Only True God. When they worshiped the Lord as He had always made them too, they found the joy, peace & satisfaction they had always hungered for but never knew in worshipping Artemis.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the only, true God who gives true peace and joy when we come to know Him and worship Him.

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times, we like the same big money, fancy parties and beautiful things that the Ephesians liked. Many times we choose them over the LORD, even though He is far better than anything they can give us. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God that He has sent people to us to tell us about the Only True God. That we don't have to try to be satisfied with things that will never satisfy, but when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus, we can be forgiven of our sins and become His people, enjoying all the satisfaction and joy of knowing Him.*

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

We can ask Him to help us say no to the temptation to love big money and beautiful things. We can ask Him to help us to find joy in Him, rather than things.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Paul told the Ephesians? 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.

Game: Beanbag in the Hole

Materials

Paper and pencil

Markers

Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

Beanbag

2' by 2' piece of cardboard

Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Bend back about 3" along two opposite sides of the cardboard. Cut 3 to 5 holes in the main part of the cardboard that are just large enough for the beanbag to be thrown in easily. Use the tape along the top and bottom to hold back in place the bend sides of the cardboard, making a stand for the target. Use the markers to write point values for each hole in the target.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns tossing the beanbag at the target board. Each child gets three chances to get the beanbag in a hole. If he does, the leader reads a question to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the target hole.. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team who can get half the point value for a correct answer.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, 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 beanbag (three tries each). 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 Troublesome Tentmaker.

Our story takes place In Ephesus, during New Testament times, about twenty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Troublesome Tentmaker."

Actions:

Scene 1:

The Temple of Artemis made Ephesus one of the richest, most important cities in its time. People brought their money to the Temple to be protected and blessed by Artemis. Many thought the Temple was the most beautiful building in the world. People would hold weddings and worship celebrations in the gardens around the Temple. Many Ephesians became rich from all the people who came to do business and worship at Artemis' Temple. They may have been rich, but they were never truly satisfied or happy because Artemis was only an idol and riches will never satisfy.

Scene 2:

The Lord sent Paul to go to Ephesus to urge them to turn away from worshiping Artemis and worship the LORD, the only true God instead. He came to tell them how they could be saved through Jesus. Paul made his living making tents, but on the Sabbath, he preached at the synagogue. Later, he moved to the Hall of Tyrannus where he would preach from 11 to 4 each day, while the businessmen took their daily work break. Many Ephesians heard about the Lord and came to believe that He, not Artemis, was the only true God. They trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Scene 3

While Paul was overjoyed at the new believers, the craftsmen who made the souvenirs of Artemis and her Temple were angry. Many people had become Christians. They had stopped buying their souvenirs and they were losing money. Demetrius, a silver-maker, called all the other craftsmen together to stir them up to action against Paul. They didn't find Paul, but seized his two friends Gaius and Aristarchus. They dragged them along with the mob to the big sports stadium to protest, chanting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Paul wanted to go talk to the crowd, but his friends urged him not to, afraid he would be hurt or killed. A Jew named Alexander tried to say something to the crowd, but they began to chant "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" again when they saw he was a Jew. Finally the leader of the city calmed the crowd and got them to go home. Paul gathered the Ephesian Christians to encourage them to persevere because the Lord not Artemis was the only true God. He would take care of them. Then Paul left the city with his friends. The Ephesians did face many hardships in their city, but the Lord sustained them through them all.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is the Only True God.** Many Ephesians heard Paul's message and turned from worshiping Artemis to following the Lord as the Only True God. They kept following Him even when it was very hard.

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 Troublesome Tentmaker.

Our story takes place in Ephesus, during New Testament times, about twenty years after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: The Ephesians, Paul, the new believers, Gaius and Aristarchus, Demetrius and the other craftsmen, the city officials, the angry mob.

And now we present: "The Case of the Troublesome Tentmaker."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Temple of Artemis made Ephesus one of the richest, most important cities in its time. People brought their money to the Temple to be protected and blessed by Artemis. Many thought the Temple was the most beautiful building in the world. People would hold weddings and worship celebrations in the gardens around the Temple. Many Ephesians became rich from all the people who came to do business and worship at Artemis' Temple. They may have been rich, but they were never truly satisfied or happy because Artemis was only an idol and riches will never satisfy.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The Lord sent Paul to go to Ephesus to urge them to turn away from worshiping Artemis and worship the LORD, the only true God instead. He came to tell them how they could be saved through Jesus. Paul made his living making tents, but on the Sabbath, he preached at the synagogue. Later, he moved to the Hall of Tyrannus where he would preach from 11 to 4 each day, while the businessmen took their daily work break. Many Ephesians heard about the Lord and came to believe that He, not Artemis, was the only true God. They trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Scene 3: (End)

While Paul was overjoyed at the new believers, the craftsmen who made the souvenirs of Artemis and her Temple were angry. Many people had become Christians. They had stopped buying their souvenirs and they were losing money. Demetrius, a silver-maker, called all the other craftsmen together to stir them up to action against Paul. They didn't find Paul, but seized his two friends Gaius and Aristarchus. They dragged them along with the mob to the big sports stadium to protest, chanting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Paul wanted to go talk to the crowd, but his friends urged him not to, afraid he would be hurt or killed. A Jew named Alexander tried to say something to the crowd, but they began to chant "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" again when they saw he was a Jew. Finally the leader of the city calmed the crowd and got them to go home. Paul gathered the Ephesian Christians to encourage them to persevere because the Lord not Artemis was the only true God. He would take care of them. Then Paul left the city with his friends. The Ephesians did face many hardships in their city, but the Lord sustained them through them all.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD is the Only True God.** Many Ephesians heard Paul's message and turned from worshiping Artemis to following the Lord as the Only True God. They kept following Him even when it was very hard.

Many Ephesians

Description

Children will make a mask of an Ephesian man.

Materials

Card stock

Markers

Doll curls and craft glue (optional)

Thin "string" elastic

Paper Reinforcers, 2 per child

Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of Template #1, one per child. Cut out around face, the eye holes, and the two small holes for the elastic. Stick the paper reinforcers around the holes for the elastic to reinforce.
2. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children decorate their masks with markers and, if desired, with the doll curls. The Ephesians, as part of the Greek culture, LOVED CURLS. Men and women would use wax to plaster a head full of curls into their hair, their beards, etc. (The little row of circular shapes on Template #1 are curls)
3. Tie elastic so that it makes a snug fit around head.

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 does our story take place?

In Ephesus.

2. What made the city so special? How did that make many people rich? *The Temple of Artemis. Many Ephesians became rich selling their products or caring for the many people who came to visit the Temple of Artemis.*

3. What did Paul do that made the craftsmen so angry? What did they do to get rid of Paul? *He shared the gospel of Jesus and many people turned away from worshiping Artemis and believed in Jesus instead. The craftsmen began to make less money and they were upset. The craftsmen stirred up a mob to get rid of Paul.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

The LORD Is the Only True God.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The LORD Is the Only True God?

The craftsmen didn't like that so many Ephesians had started to worship the Lord as the only true God and had stopped buying their statues.

6. What can our craft help us remember?

We all can be tempted to love and worship other things besides the Lord, but only He is truly God. Only He will truly satisfy us.

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: Many Ephesians

2. In Ephesus, the silversmiths and other craftsmen who made souvenirs of Artemis and her Temple led a riot of many Ephesians to try to stop Paul from telling others about Jesus.

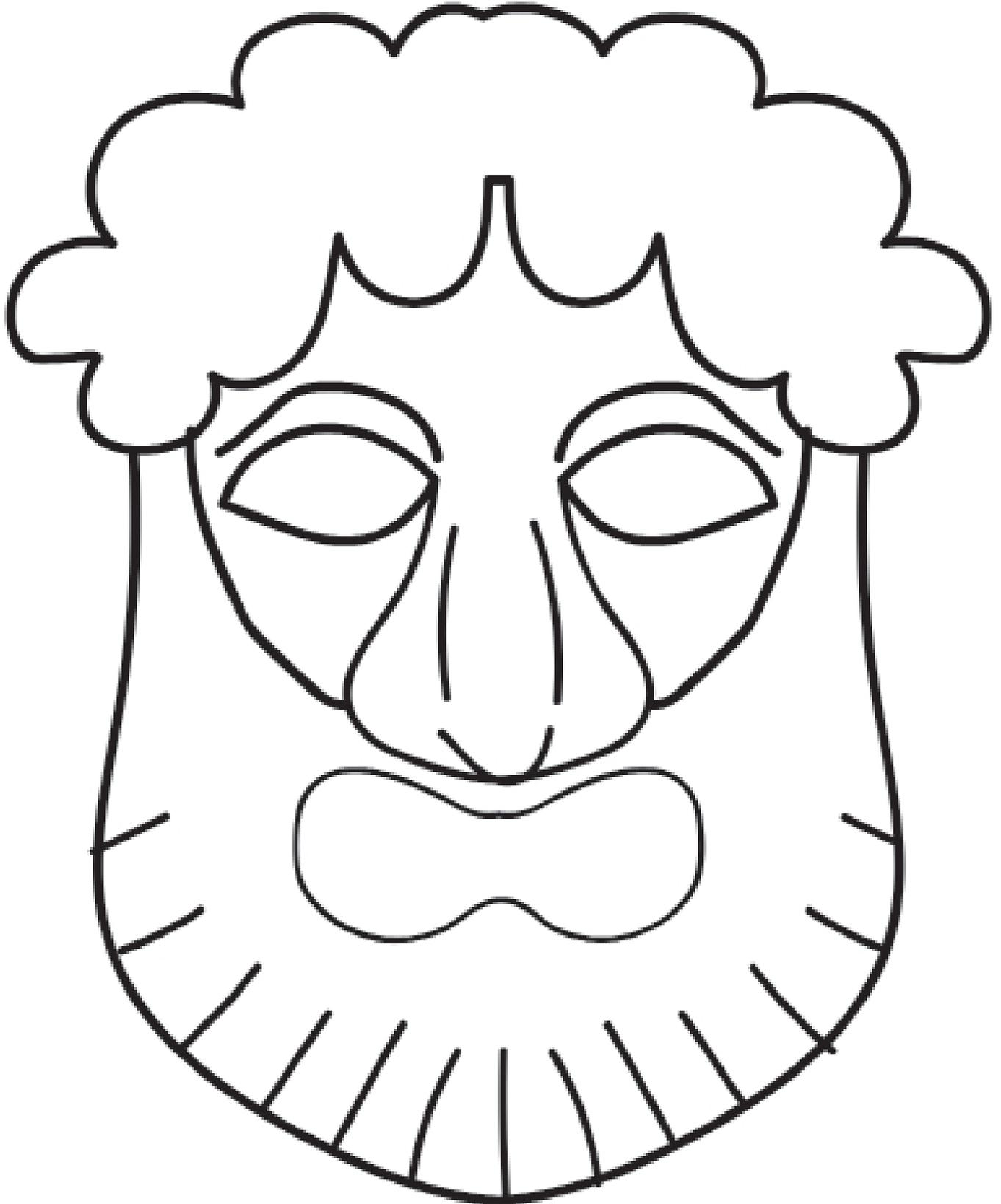
3. Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is the Only True God.

4. The craftsmen didn't like that so many Ephesians had started to worship the Lord as the only true God and had stopped buying their statues.

5. Our craft can help us remember that we all can be tempted to love and worship other things besides the Lord, but only He is truly God. Only He will truly satisfy us.

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.

Greek Mask



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.

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.

Stop and Go

Materials

Information for one VIPP
2 Sets of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Ball
Blindfold
Bag

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 all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

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 stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller's "Go" command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says "Stop." Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses a Clue Card envelope. The child (or the teacher) tells the class the Clue Card category and asks them if they can remember the answer for the VIPP. The envelope is opened to see what the answer is. If the children get it right, the category is retired. If they get it wrong, it goes back into the pile of envelopes.

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
