

BIBLE TRUTH 6, 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 4 CD, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI NIV Songs 4 CD, Track 2

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

Big Question Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23 Song *PFI NIV Songs 4 CD, Track 6*

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

Bible Truth 6: The LORD Is Holy

Bible Truth Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy *PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19*

Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3

Bible Verse Song: I Saw the LORD *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20*

Lesson 1 Old Testament Story: The Case of the Flopped Fish God
Daniel 1-2

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Ark of the Covenant...with Tumors and Rats

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Omit! Obey!

Bible Truth Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy *PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Isaiah 6:1-3 Discussion Sheet and Game: Simon Says How

Bible Verse Song: I Saw the LORD Isaiah 6:1-3 *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Spoon and Ball Relay

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Secret Agent

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

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

Craft: The Ark of the Covenant

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book); Game: Mix and Match

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 6, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Fish God Who Flopped 1 Samuel 4-7

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Fish God Who Flopped.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Fish God? Why did the Fish God seem to win at first?
2. Who made him flop? How? What did the Philistines and the Israelites come to see about the LORD?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

What troublesome neighbors were the Philistines! For many years, they had been some of the Sea Peoples who raided ships on the Mediterranean Sea. Then they settled down on a little strip of land on the coast, right next to Israel, bringing their gods and pirating ways with them.

Both the Philistine's habit of raiding others soon became a big deal to the people of Israel. The Philistine land quickly became overcrowded and its five, big cities--Ekron, Ashdod, Ashekelon, Gath and Gaza--were full to bursting! So what did these pirate-y people do? Make plans to steal land from their neighbor, Israel.

And who would the Philistines depend on to give them victory? Their gods, especially Dagon. Dagon was their god of good crops and rain. In other words, he was the god who brought them all the good stuff! He looked like a man from the waist up, but had the fins and tail of a fish from the waist down. What a funny looking god!

But as funny as Dagon may have looked, it under his banner that the Philistine army swooped into Israel to take some more land. The soldiers of Israel came out to meet them. How very different the two armies looked! The Philistines had strong armor, but the Israelites had none. The Philistines stood under the banner of their god, Dagon, but the Israelites had nothing to represent their god. The Philistines didn't think things looked good for the Israelites, especially without a token of the LORD. Most people believed that the gods fought in heaven while the soldiers fought on earth. If your god was to fight for you, then you had to have a token of him with your army. Dagon was sure to beat the LORD.

But the Israelites weren't worried. God's laws told

them to make no images or tokens for Him. They were confident the LORD would easily defeat Dagon in heaven as well as the Philistines' army there on earth. After all, the LORD was the one, true God who created both heaven and earth.

But, to the Israelites' shock, the LORD did not bring them victory! The Philistines killed four thousand of their men and won some Israelite land. Loudly they shouted, "Praise Dagon! He is stronger than the LORD! He has given us victory over Israel today!"

"Why did the LORD let us be defeated," the Israelite leaders wondered. If they had asked the prophet, Samuel, they would have known the answer. "The LORD is holy," Samuel would have told them. "He is set apart from everything else, in perfectly pure goodness and love. Nothing sinful can stand in His presence. He calls His people to be holy, too," he would have reminded them. "You've been worshiping the fake gods, Ashoreth and Baal as well as the LORD. Even the LORD's priests do sinful things with the offerings that are offered to Him. The LORD is holy. He will not put up with this! He won't go out with you to battle until you worship Him in holiness as He has told you to!" he would have said.

But the Israelite leaders didn't even think of asking Samuel. Instead, they came up with their own idea: "The LORD wasn't with us because we went out to battle without a token of Him, like the Philistines do of Dagon. Let's get the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle. The LORD is supposed to especially dwell with His people over the Ark. If we bring it here, then He will be with us and help us!" they thought.

What a terrible idea! Had the Israelites really forgotten

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.

ten the special laws about the Ark? The LORD had told them that Ark was so holy that no one was supposed to even look at it—not even the priests! To misuse the Ark in any way meant God’s certain punishment!

The Israelites went out to fight the Philistines again, sure that the LORD would fight for them now; but of course, He didn’t! He was a holy God. His people were dishonoring Him even more with how they treated the Ark! Once more, the Philistines defeated the Israelites. This time, thirty-thousand soldiers and two priests died. The Ark was captured and placed in Dagon’s temple in the city of Ashdod.

“Oh great Dagon, we bring you this token of the LORD, the Israelites’ God who you triumphed over. He is your prisoner,” the Philistines proclaimed.

But was the LORD really Dagon’s prisoner? The next day, the people went in Dagon’s temple and found that some unseen hand pushed over their huge image of Dagon so that it lay face down on the ground before the Ark of the LORD. The Philistines set him upright again, only to find that he had fallen down on his face once more... and this time his head and hands had fallen off.

Who had made this fish god flop? I bet you can guess! It was the LORD! He was no one’s prisoner! He could never be made to bow down to Dagon! Yes, He had chosen not to protect His sinful people until they confessed their sins and turned back to Him, but He also chose to make sure the Philistines knew that He, not Dagon, was the one the holy, one, true God. He alone should be worshiped!

The LORD had made it clear who He was, but the Philistines still refused to give up the Ark. So now, the LORD sent trouble upon the people. Tumors grew on their skin and rats flooded their city. People got sick and died. The people of Ashdod said, “Get rid of the Ark of the LORD! He’s the one who’s bringing these terrible things upon us.”

They were right! When they sent the Ark away to the city of Gath, the people of Ashdod got better and the rats went away, but the people of Gath began having them. The same thing happened when the Ark was moved to Ekron, too. At last, the Philistines had had enough! They called for their wise men and said, “What shall we do with the Ark of the LORD? Tell us how we

should send it back.”

“Send it back with a guilt offering to admit that you have sinned against this holy God,” they were told.

They made a guilt offering of five, gold tumors and five, gold rats to represent the punishment the LORD had sent on them. They placed them along with the Ark on a cart pulled by cows and sent it off by itself to the Israelite city of Beth Shemesh. As the leaders watched it go, being led only by the will of the Israelites’ God, they knew that it truly had been Him who had brought these terrible sicknesses upon them. At last the sickness and rats came to an end. How happy they were to be rid of the Ark of this holy God!

The Israelites rejoiced when the Ark arrived at Beth Shemesh and offered worship gifts to the LORD, but they still didn’t treat Him as the holy God He was. Seventy, curious men decided to look into the Ark, though they knew the LORD’s warning that anyone who did would die. And die, those men did! The people were terrified, “Who can stand before this holy God?” they cried. They sent the Ark faraway to Kiriath Jearim and went back to worshipping their much safer, fake gods: Baal and Ashtoreth.

For twenty, long years, the Israelites kept dishonoring their holy God and the LORD kept on allowing the Philistines to attack them. At last they were sick of their sins. They got rid of their idols of Baal and Ashtoreth and met Samuel at Mizpah with their worship gifts for the LORD. “You are the holy God and we have sinned against You. Please forgive us,” the people prayed. And this time, they truly did turn back to the LORD.

Before long, the Philistines attacked Israel once more. “Oh, Samuel! We are so afraid of these Philistines! they cried. “Do not stop praying to the LORD for us that He would rescue us from our enemies this time.” they pleaded. Samuel prayed to the LORD as the Israelites went out to face the Philistines.

The Israelites had turned from their sins and turned to honor and obey the LORD, their holy God. Now He would defeat their enemies! The Bible tells us what happened: “The LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were fled Mizpah with the Israelites beating them back far, far out of Israel.” The Israelites won

without even raising a single sword! How great was the LORD!

Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying "Thus far has the LORD helped us." He wanted the people to always remember this day, which turned out to be the day the fish god finally and completely flopped. Never again did the Philistines attack the Israelites.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Fish God? Why did the Fish God seem to win at first? Dagon. Because the Philistines defeated the Israelites in battle and Dagon was their god.

2. Who made him flop? How? What did the Philistines and the Israelites come to see about the LORD? The LORD. By making his statue fall down and worship Him in his temple. By bringing sickness upon the Philistines in the cities that kept the Ark of the Covenant. That He is holy and is the one, true God.

Something For You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:
The LORD Is Holy**

Our Bible Verse is: Isaiah 6:1-3

"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with 6 wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

The Israelites as well as the Philistines came to know that indeed the LORD is holy. They saw that He was unlike any other god. He punishes those who sin against Him, yet offers forgiveness to all who turn from their sins and ask for forgiveness.

But what about you and me? Are we so different from the Israelites and the Philistines? How many times do we forget to live holy lives that honor and obey the LORD? How many times do we chose to break His good laws or disrespect Him? Is there hope for us? Yes, there is, because of Jesus. He came to pay for the sins of all those who will ever turn and trust in Him. He will cleanse of our sins and then fill us with His Holy Spirit and change our hearts so that we can live holy lives that please our holy LORD.

Let's praise God for sending His Son Jesus to make a way for sinful people like us to know and enjoy Him. Let's ask Him to help us to honor and obey Him as He, the perfectly holy God deserves.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being holy.

C God, we confess that like the Philistine and the Israelites we choose to forget that the LORD is the holy, one, true God. We disobey His laws. We deserve His punishment for our sins. We need Jesus to save us!

T God, we thank You for being so patient with sinners like us! Thank You for sending Jesus to pay for our sins and make the way for us to come to You.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to seek to live holy lives that please You.

Special Words

Philistines: Some of the Sea Peoples that used to raid the ships of the Mediterranean Sea, thousands of years ago.

Tabernacle: The portable worship tent that God commanded the Israelites to make.

Ark of the Covenant: A special golden box with two angels on top of it. In Old Testament times, it was the very special meeting place of God with His people on earth. It contained the Ten Commandments and a few other things. It was kept in the holiest part of the Tabernacle/Temple. Prayers and offerings for the sins of the people were made at it by the high priest only once a year.

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 holy: perfectly good and so very great! You are without sin!

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are not holy. We choose to rebel against You in so many ways. We like to do things our way, doubting that Your way is best. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever repent and trust in Him as their Savior. He made the way for sinful people to become God's holy people.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to be holy --knowing You, loving You and obeying You with our whole life.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Ark of the Covenant...with Tumors and Rats

Pretzel stick cart (side view) with Ritz cracker wheels pulled by two animal cracker "cows" with a cheese rectangle "Ark of the Covenant" set on it. Can add pieces of gold fish to be the gold tumors and rats, if desired.

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

Case Tie-in: The Philistines thought very little of the holiness of the LORD until He inflicted them with tumors on their skin and lots of rats in their cities after they captured the Ark of the Covenant. Then, they eagerly sent away the Ark of the Covenant with worship gifts on a cart back to Israel, hoping to bring an end to just punishment against their actions.

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.

BIBLE TRUTH 6 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.

The LORD Is Holy

God is holy. He set apart from everything and everyone else. He is good and He is great. He never sins in anything He thinks, says, does or plans. Because He is holy, He hates sin. Sin is rebelling against God and His good ways. God is so holy that nothing sinful can come into His presence.

We are all sinners, so how can we ever become God's people? It is only because of Jesus, the holy Son of God. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He chose to die on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. He suffered the full punishment for their sins, exchanging their un-holiness (sinfulness) for His perfect holiness. Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are saved. They get to know God and will one day live in His holy presence forever.

God calls His people to live for Him by being holy as He is holy. He wants them to reflect the way He is. God's Holy Spirit helps them do this. He lives in their hearts and helps them to love God and obey Him. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth. But one day, they will live with their wonderful God in heaven, perfectly good and holy, changed by Him to never sin again! How wonderful that will be!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What does it mean that God is "set apart"? *It means that He is like nothing else in His pure holiness. He alone is perfectly good and so very great. He alone never sins.*
2. How is it comforting to know that God never sins in anything He does, thinks, feels or plans, when something happens to us that we don't understand? *Even though we can't know why the thing has happened to us, we can trust that God has only good intended to work through it. He never sins. He never intends evil.*
3. What does God hate? Why does He hate this? *God hates sin because He is perfectly holy and it is always right to obey Him.*
4. Why can't anything sinful come into His presence? *God hates sin. His holiness demands that He punish sin. Anything sinful will be destroyed. God will not tolerate it.*
5. Since God's people are sinners, how is it that they will be able to come into God's holy presence in heaven? *Because Jesus paid for their sins. There is no punishment left for their sins. God treats them as if they were perfectly holy.*
6. How does God call His people to live? *Holy lives, like Jesus.*
7. Who helps God's people live holy lives? *God's Holy Spirit, at work in their hearts.*
8. Can God's people live perfectly holy lives here on earth? *No. God's people will always struggle with sin while they live here on earth.*
9. When will God change His people so that they sin no more? *In heaven.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy**? How did the Israelites not treat the LORD as holy? *They worshiped idols, not just Him. They did not treat the Ark as He told them to.*
2. How did the Philistines not treat the LORD as holy? *They treated the Ark as if it were just the token of an idol. They put it in Dagon's Temple as if the LORD should bow before an idol.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Isaiah 6:1-3**: "I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'" *It is a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is set apart from everything else, high and exalted because of His perfect holiness. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.*

Life Application Questions

1. What should God's people do to live holy lives? *Pray that by the Holy Spirit the Lord would work in their hearts so that they hate sin; so that they honor the LORD; so that they try to do only what is good and loving in everything they think, do, feel or plan.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?
Praise God for being holy: perfectly good and so very great.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess that we are not holy. We choose to rebel against You in so many ways. We like to do things our way, doubting that God's way is best. We need a Savior!!
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?
Thank God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him, making the way for sinful people to become God's holy people.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.

The Gospel

1. God is the holy King and Creator who deserves our worship, but we have all rebelled against Him. We deserve His punishment! Is there any hope? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who'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: Omit! Obey!

Materials

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

Divide the children into two teams, having them line up in straight lines, arms' length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying "Obey" or "Omit" right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says "Obey", but NOT do it if they say "Omit" first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said "Omit" is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

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

NOTE: Have children who are "Out" help give you ideas for actions.

Non-competitive Option

Let the Question Chooser immediately back into the game, 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.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Verse 2

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns,
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim,
Falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art,
And evermore shall be.

Verse 3

Holy, holy, holy!
Tho' the darkness hide Thee,
Tho' the eye of sinful man
They 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 NIV Songs 4, Tracks 18,19

Understanding the Song

1. What does holy" mean? *Holy means to be purely good, set apart from all that is evil.*
2. What is a "saint"? *Someone set apart, made holy. Christians are saints. God counts them as holy because of Jesus' payment for their sins on the cross.*
3. How do the saints adore the Lord? *In heaven, the Lord will give each of His people crowns of victory for enduring in faith and good works to death. They will take them off and cast them down before Him because they know that they only had faith and did good works because of His work in them. It was He, not them who is to be praised.*
4. What is the glassy sea? *In Revelation—the last book in the Bible—John sees a vision of the Lord's throne and a large, crystal glass, flat area he calls a sea. It's not a sea like one of water.*
5. What are cherubim and seraphim? *Special angels that surround God's throne.*
6. What does "wert, art, evermore shalt be" mean? *These are old English words that mean was, is and evermore will be. God was, is, and always will be. He is without beginning or end.*
7. 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.*
8. 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.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The LORD Is Holy?**

This song is a picture of God in His splendid holiness in heaven. One day, God's people will come before Him and at last see Him upon His throne in His perfect holiness, just as this song describes.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *The Israelites did not treat God as the holy God He was. They treated Him like He was just an idol like Dagon. Both the Israelites and the Philistines, in their sinfulness, failed to treat the Lord as He deserved, but the LORD made it clear to each that He indeed was holy and like none other. The Philistines saw this when Dagon fell face down twice before the Ark; and, when He brought tumors and other diseases upon them. The Israelites saw this by losing time & again to the Philistines while they did not worship the LORD.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3:** "I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings...And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"?

"Holy, holy, holy" are the words the seraphim cry to one another, as they stand before the LORD in heaven. Both they and the saints (God's people) worship the LORD for how perfect in power, love and purity He is.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for being purely holy. They can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts so that they might be His holy people, living lives that are loving and good, in thought, words and actions.*

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

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being holy: perfectly good and so very great.

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

Confess that we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We are not holy as He is. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

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

Thank God for sending Jesus to die as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him, making the way for sinful people to become God's holy people. God's people will be so thankful for what He has done for them that in heaven any "crowns" of praise they get for what they have done in serving God, they will want to cast down at Jesus' feet, knowing that He is the one who saved them and enabled them to do whatever good works they did.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.

Gospel Question

1. All the saints—that is, all God's people—will cast down their crowns of God's reward before Jesus because they know that anything they did was really because of what God did for them through Jesus. What did they deserve? What did God do for them through Jesus? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who'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: Isaiah 6:1-3

"I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"

Alternate Memory Version: Isaiah 6:3

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Where did Isaiah see the LORD? *Seated on a throne.*
2. How does Isaiah describe what he saw? *The LORD was high and exalted and the train of His robe filled the temple.*
3. What does "high and exalted" mean? *Majestic, more important, more glorious, more important than anything or anyone else. The greatest king of all.*
4. What is a train of a robe? *Regular robes that we wear are just floor length. We might wear them over our pajamas or when we get out of the bath. Kings have special robes to show they are king. They are made of exquisitely beautiful fabric and even have jewels on them. They are not floor length, but are very, very long so that they trail behind the king as he walks. This long part is called the train of his robe. The more important the king, the longer his robe.*
5. How long was the train of the LORD's robe? What does that tell us about Him? *It filled the temple, it was so long. That tells us that He is by far the most important of all kings.*
6. What are seraphs? *They are a special kind of angel that dwell before God's throne.*
7. Where were the seraphs and what were they doing? *They were flying above the LORD on his throne. They telling each other: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty...etc."*
8. What did the seraphs say is full of the LORD's glory? *The whole earth.*
9. How is the whole earth full of the LORD's glory? *Because God made everything, everything is a display of His glory—the skies, the mountains, the oceans, etc. all display a part of His glory. Most of all, God's people, as they love Him and live for Him are a display of His goodness, holiness, love, mercy, etc.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy**? *It is a picture of God's holiness. The LORD is set apart from everything else, high and exalted because of His perfect holiness. He is so holy that the seraphs repeat to each other how holy He is. He is so holy that even the whole earth is filled with the glory of His holiness.*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this verse have to do with our story? *The Israelites and the Philistines both did not treat the LORD like He was the high and exalted, holy King that He is. They treated Him like He was just another idol. The LORD showed them through His actions that He was very, very different. He was to be treated as holy and worshiped alone.*

Life Application Questions

1. Will there ever be a time when we could get to see the LORD on His throne, like Isaiah did in his vision? When? *Yes, in heaven all God's people will see Him in all the fullness of His glory.*
2. What must we do if we are to become one of God's people? *Turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the holy LORD God Almighty.

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That we are all sinners made to reflect God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We are not holy as He is. We need a Savior!*

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

We can thank God for sending Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all those who turn away from disobeying God and trust in Him as their Savior. He paid for their sins so they can know the holy LORD.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us be holy in our thoughts, words and actions, like He is holy.

Gospel Question

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects both God's pure holiness and His merciful love? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Simon Says How

Materials

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

A die

Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

Preparing the Game

Make a sign as follows:

1 = Head

2 = Feet

3 = Hands

4 = Head and Feet

5 = Feet and Hands

6 = Whole Body

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play "Simon Says How", a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that "Simon" will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions "Simon" made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, or 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 the song in large print on a white board or some large paper 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 the sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

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

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

I Saw the LORD

I saw the LORD,
 Seated on a throne,
 High and exalted,
 Seated on a throne,
 Above Him were seraphs,
 Each with six wings,
 They were calling to one another,
 "Holy is the LORD,
 Holy, holy, holy is the LORD.
 Holy, holy, holy is the LORD."
 Isaiah Six, one through three.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 20

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

General Story Questions

1. Why were the Philistines wanting the land of the Israelites? *They wanted more land because of how crowded they were..*
2. Why were the Israelites so sure that they would win against the Philistines? *The LORD is stronger than Dagon.*
3. Why didn't the LORD help the Israelites win? *Because they were not treating Him as holy. They weren't worshipping Him alone.*
4. Why did the Israelites decide to bring the Ark out to where the battle was and why was that bad? *They thought that if they brought the symbol of the LORD closer to the battle, He would be stronger. They showed they were not treating Him as the holy God, but just as another idol like the other gods. Also, the Ark was never to be taken from the Tabernacle. It was holy to the LORD.*
5. Why did the Philistines put the Ark in Dagon's Temple? *They believed that Dagon had beat the LORD and so he was now in control of His people and land.*
6. Why was the Dagon face down before the Ark the next day? *The LORD is the only true, holy God. He would not let the Philistines think that Dagon was more powerful than He. Dagon must bow—and so must they—to the LORD.*
7. What did the LORD do to the Philistines as punishment for not treating Him as the holy God He was? *He brought sicknesses upon them through rats; they grew tumors on their bodies & died.*
8. Why did the Philistines finally send the Ark away and make an offering to the LORD? *They understood that they had sinned against Him and only by sending the Ark back to Israel and making some sort of offering was there a chance He would stop punishing them.*
9. What did the people of Israel do when the Ark came back? *They did not treat the Ark as holy. They sent it away to a faraway town in Israel.*
10. Why did the LORD let the Philistines keep attacking the Israelites after the Ark was returned? *Because they still did not stop worshipping their idols.*
12. Why did the people finally get rid of their idols and turn to the LORD for forgiveness and to worship Him? *After they were so sick of being attacked by the Philistines. They finally understood that they must worship the LORD in holiness if He were to protect them.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy?** *The Philistines and the Israelites saw that they could not treat the LORD like one of their idols. He was the true, the Holy LORD. He must be worshiped and obeyed. He will not tolerate sin or idolatry.*

Life Application Questions

1. What is something we can learn from this story for our lives? *We should remember the LORD is the holy God who has given us good laws to live by. We should ask Him to help us to live holy lives for Him.*
2. What is the first best step God calls each of us to take in living holy lives? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Isaiah 6:1-3** "I saw the LORD seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings...and they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"? *The Israelites and the Philistines both did not treat the LORD like He was the high and exalted, holy King that He is. They treated Him like He was just another idol. The LORD showed them through His actions that He was very, very different. He was to be treated as holy and worshiped alone.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story?

Praise God for being holy: perfectly good and greatest of all.

2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that like the Philistines and the Israelites, we choose to forget the LORD and disobey His laws. We need a Savior!*

3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for His great patience with sinners, like the Israelites and like us. We can thank Him for sending Jesus to save His people.*

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us live holy lives that please Him.

The Gospel

1. Like the Israelites and the Philistines we are sinners. We have rebelled against our good and holy God. What hope is there for 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.

Game: Secret Agent

Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)

Paper and Marker

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.
2. Write out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: "on top of your hat" or "inside your hat", or "under your left shoe", etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

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. Tell the children how many questions you have hidden on your outfit and challenge them to work together to find them all and answer the questions. Keep track of how many questions they've found with tally marks on a piece of paper.

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 Flopped Fish God.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place in Israel and in the land of the Philistines, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Flopped Fish God."

Scene 1:

Actions:

The Philistines are overcrowded. They attack their neighbors, the Israelites to take some of their land. They make sure to take the standard of their god, Dagon with them to battle, believing that if they do, Dagon will help them win by fighting the LORD in the heavens as they fight the Israelites on earth. The Israelites go to fight the Philistines but with no standard for the LORD because He told them not to make any image of Him. They are sure the LORD will help them win, but are surprised when they are defeated! They decide to take the Ark of the Covenant with them when they go into battle again so that they will win, thinking that is why the LORD let them be beaten. Once more the Philistines defeat them. The LORD is allowing their enemies defeat them because they keep on worshiping other gods as well as Him. But He is the holy God. They should worship only Him. They must turn back and worship only Him if they want Him to defeat their enemies.

Scene 2:

The Philistines capture the Ark and take it back to Dagon's Temple because they think Dagon won the battle over the LORD. They are shocked to find the statue of lying face down before the Ark the next day. They stand the statue up again, but the same thing happens only this time his arms and head have fallen off. The LORD is showing them that He is holy and most powerful, not Dagon. The LORD sends tumors and disease carried by rats upon the Philistines for not treating Him or the Ark as holy. The king of each of the five cities sends the Ark away because to stop their people from dying. When the dying doesn't stop, the kings ask their wise men what to do. They are told to set the Ark on a cart pulled by cows and send it away towards Israel along with an offering of five gold tumors and rats, like the ones bringing the sickness. The cows do go back, the sicknesses do stop.

Scene 3

When the Ark comes to Beth Shemesh the people are so happy to see it back, but still they don't treat it as holy. They send the Ark away to Kiriath Jearim and they kept on worshiping Baal and Ashtoreth. Because of His people's unfaithfulness to Him, the LORD allowed the Philistines to keep on attacking them and taking their land. Finally after twenty years, they were so sick of the Philistines fighting them, they confess their sins against the LORD and stop worshiping idols. The LORD forgives them and brings peace to the land. Samuel and the people set up a pillar of stones to remember how the LORD helped them. The rest of Samuel's days, the LORD brings peace to the people of Israel.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Holy**. Both the Israelites and the Philistines did not treat the LORD as holy until the LORD punished them. When He did, the Philistines gave back the Ark; and, the Israelites put away their idols and worshiped the LORD.

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 Flopped Fish God.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place in Israel and in the land of the Philistines, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: the Philistines and the five kings of their five big cities, Samuel, and the people of Israel.

And now we present: "The Case of the Flopped Fish God."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The Philistines are overcrowded. They attack their neighbors, the Israelites to take some of their land. They make sure to take the standard of their god, Dagon with them to battle, believing that if they do, Dagon will help them win by fighting the LORD in the heavens as they fight the Israelites on earth. The Israelites go to fight the Philistines but with no standard for the LORD because He told them not to make any image of Him. They are sure the LORD will help them win, but are surprised when they are defeated! They decide to take the Ark of the Covenant with them when they go into battle again so that they will win, thinking that is why the LORD let them be beaten. Once more the Philistines defeat them. The LORD is allowing their enemies defeat them because they keep on worshiping other gods as well as Him. But He is the holy God. They should worship only Him. They must turn back and worship only Him if they want Him to defeat their enemies.

Scene 2: (Middle)

The Philistines capture the Ark and take it back to Dagon's Temple because they think Dagon won the battle over the LORD. They are shocked to find the statue of lying face down before the Ark the next day. They stand the statue up again, but the same thing happens only this time his arms and head have fallen off. The LORD is showing them that He is holy and most powerful, not Dagon. The LORD sends tumors and disease carried by rats upon the Philistines for not treating Him or the Ark as holy. The king of each of the five cities sends the Ark away because to stop their people from dying. When the dying doesn't stop, the kings ask their wise men what to do. They are told to set the Ark on a cart pulled by cows and send it away towards Israel along with an offering of five gold tumors and rats, like the ones bringing the sickness. The cows do go back, the sicknesses do stop.

Scene 3: (End)

When the Ark comes to Beth Shemesh the people are so happy to see it back, but still they don't treat it as holy. They send the Ark away to Kiriath Jearim and they kept on worshiping Baal and Ashtoreth. Because of His people's unfaithfulness to Him, the LORD allowed the Philistines to keep on attacking them and taking their land. Finally after twenty years, they were so sick of the Philistines fighting them, they confess their sins against the LORD and stop worshiping idols. The LORD forgives them and brings peace to the land. Samuel and the people set up a pillar of stones to remember how the LORD helped them. The rest of Samuel's days, the LORD brings peace to the people of Israel.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD is Holy**. Both the Israelites and the Philistines did not treat the LORD as holy until the LORD punished them. When He did, the Philistines gave back the Ark; and, the Israelites put away their idols and worshiped the LORD.

The Ark of the Covenant

Description

Children will make a model of the Ark of the Covenant using a small box and salt dough, containing a copy of the 10 Commandments, Aaron's staff, and a jar of manna. Or, you can just use the coloring sheet of the Ark.

Materials

Salt dough (recipe included)
 Yellow food coloring (and gold glitter)
 1 small box per child, about 3" long x 2" wide x 2" high
 Yellow markers and glitter glue
 2 yellow or metallic gold pipe cleaners per child
 Little twigs, 1 per child
 2 kebab sticks per child, sharp end cut off
 OR, the coloring sheet of the Ark of the Covenant

Preparing the Craft

1. Make salt dough according to recipe, setting aside enough to make a small jar and 2 10 Commandment tablets per child. To the rest, add yellow food coloring to a large make the dough "golden" colored. You can also add gold glitter to the dough to give it more of a golden appearance. Make sure you have enough for each child to make 2 cherubim.
2. Bore two sets of holes big enough for a pipe cleaner to fit through about ½" from each end on the long side of the box. These will be where the pipe cleaner handles for the Ark are inserted.
 OR, just copy the coloring sheet.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children shape their 2 cherubim. You can show them the picture in Figure #1 to give them an idea of what they would have looked like. They may find it easiest to make their figures by making separate pieces for the head, the arm, the wings, etc. and then attaching them together.
3. Have them shape their jar of manna and their 10 Commandments tablets of stone.
4. Have the children color in the outside of the ark with markers and glitter glue.
5. Make pipe cleaner handles by threading a pipe cleaner through a hole on one side of the box, through the inside of the box, then out the other side. Twist the end of the pipe cleaner around the kebab stick "pole" on each side. Cut off excess pipe cleaner with scissors or wind it around the sticks. Repeat with second pipe cleaner and second set of holes.
6. Place the 10 Commandments, Aaron's staff, and the little "jar" of manna inside the Ark. Place the cherubim on top.
 OR, Just color in the coloring sheet.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

Discussion Questions

1. Where did our story take place?

In Ashdod, a city of the Philistines.

2. What did the Philistines place in Dagon's Temple in Ashdod? Why? *The Ark of the Covenant, as a sign that Dagon had defeated the LORD.*

3. What happened to the people of Ashdod after they put the Ark in Dagon's Temple? Why? *The LORD inflicted them with tumors and lots of rats invaded their city. The LORD did this to show them that He was the one, true, holy God and they must treat Him and His Ark with the honor due His name.*

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

The LORD Is Holy.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The LORD Is Holy?

The Ark of the Covenant was to be treated as holy because God had designed it to be a special place of His holy presence. The LORD punished the Philistines for failing to treat Him and the Ark of the Covenant with the honor and obedience His perfect holiness deserved.

6. What can this craft help us remember?

None of us treats God as His holiness deserves. Only through Jesus and His perfect holiness can we have fellowship 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: The Ark of the Covenant.

2. In Ashdod, the Philistines got rid of the Ark of the Covenant after suffering punishment from mistreating the LORD, the one, true, holy God.

3. Bible Truth 6 is: The LORD Is Holy.

4. The Ark of the Covenant was to be treated as holy because God had designed it to be a special place of His holy presence. The LORD punished the Philistines for failing to treat Him and the Ark of the Covenant with the honor and obedience His perfect holiness deserved.

5. Our craft can help us remember that none of us treats God as His holiness deserves. Only through Jesus and His perfect holiness can we have fellowship with God

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.

SALT DOUGH RECIPE:

2 cups of Plain Flour

1 cup of table salt

1 cup of water

OPTIONAL

1 tablespoon of vegetable oil (makes it a little easier to knead)

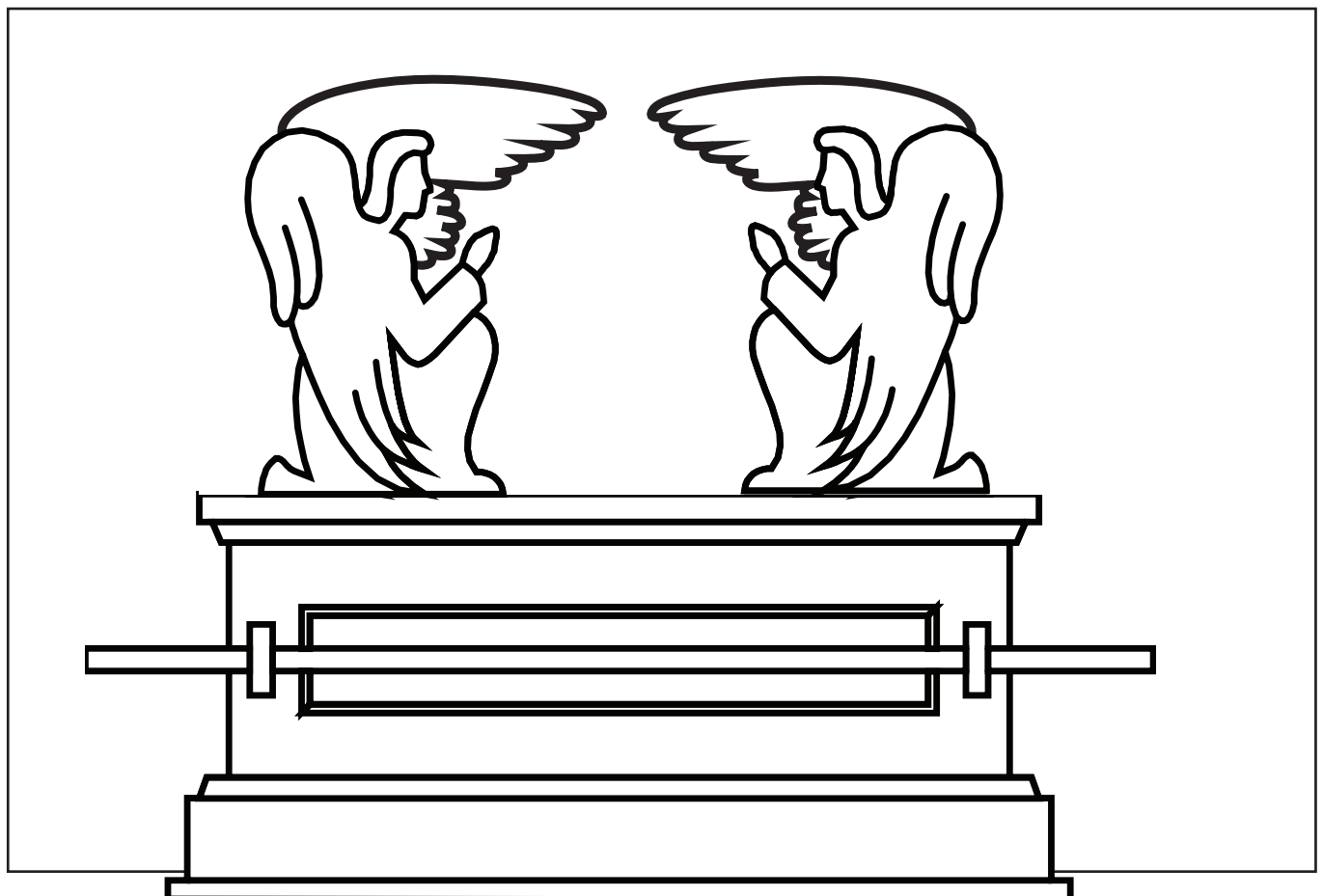
1 tablespoon of wallpaper paste (gives the mixture more elasticity)

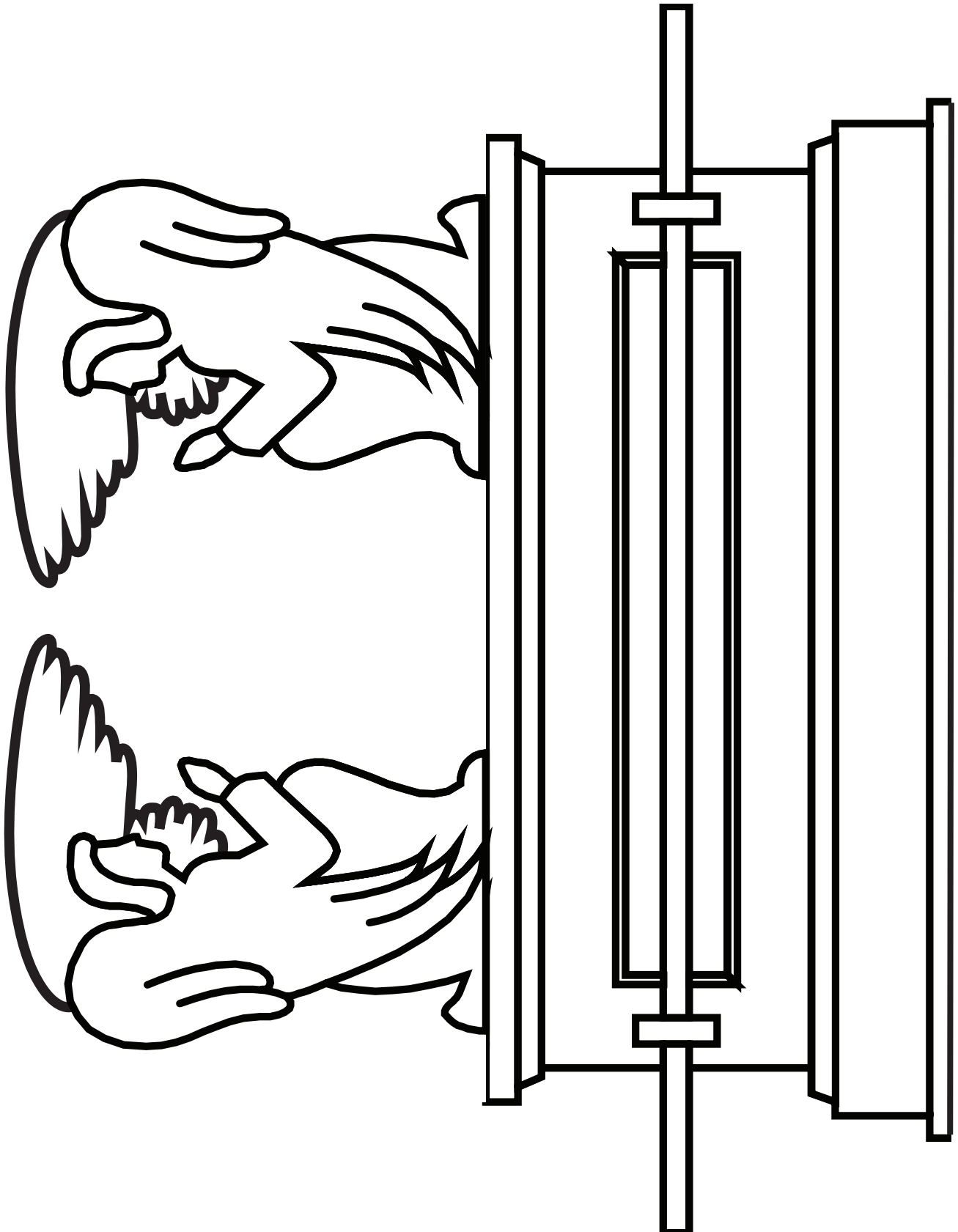
1 tablespoon of lemon juice (makes the finished product harder)

METHOD

Put plain flour, salt and any, or all, of the optional ingredients into a mixing bowl and gradually add the water, mixing to soft dough. This should be neither too sticky, in which case add more flour, nor too dry, in which case add more water. When mixed remove from the bowl, place on a flat surface and knead for 10 minutes to help create a smooth texture. If possible it is best to let the dough stand for approximately twenty minutes before beginning a project. Unused dough can be stored in the fridge, in an airtight container or cling film, for up to a week. Children always love making models, and as long as you don't add wallpaper paste all of the ingredients are natural. So if they are tempted to put it in their mouths, all it will do is taste incredibly salty.

Figure #1 Ark of the Covenant





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. Clue Cards found at 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: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

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
