

## BIBLE TRUTH 7, 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 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 7:** The LORD Is Omnipotent

**Bible Truth Hymn:** This Is My Father's World *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 29*

**Bible Verse:** Psalm 135:5-6

**Bible Verse Song:** I Know that the LORD Is Great *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 30*

*Extra Bible Verse Song: For I Know the Plans: Jeremiah 29:11-13, ESV PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 31*

**Lesson 1 Old Testament:** The Case of the King's Eye

Esther 1-9

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Purim Food

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

**Bible Truth Hymn:** This Is My Father's World *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 29*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me!

**PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 135:5-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Cross the Raging River

**Bible Verse Song:** I Know that the LORD Is Great: Psalm 135:5-6 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 30*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away

**PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Go Fish

**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:** Honoring Mordecai

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Hit the Wall

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 7, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the King's Eye** Esther 1-9

by Connie Dever

**Our story is called:**  
**The Case of the King's Eye.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the King's Eye? What made him so powerful?
2. Who was more powerful than the King's Eye? How did he show that?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place back in the days of Xerxes, King of Persia, about 500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Xerxes was one of the most powerful kings the world has ever known. His kingdom included many peoples and stretched from Africa to India. Xerxes expected people to do things his way and do them fast. Servants jumped at his commands. The laws he made could never be broken. People came into his presence only by special approval. To make sure these things happened, Xerxes had a special, very powerful servant he called the King's Eye. This man made sure the king's laws were followed, scheduled all his meetings, and kept watch for and got rid of all of the king's enemies.

Xerxes chose a man named Haman to be the King's Eye. Haman was usually very busy taking care of the king's business. But right now, as our story begins, he was up to some business of his own--and bad business it was.

"Gods of Persia, tell me upon what day I should get rid of my enemy, Mordecai the Jew," he prayed, as he threw lots (little wooden sticks) on the fortune-telling board. The lots first landed on the number thirteen, then on the month of Adar. "Ah ha! The thirteenth of Adar! On that day I will punish Mordecai for refusing to bow down to me. I will kill him and all the other Jews with him," he plotted. "Now all I have to do is fool the king into approving my plan."

Haman managed to trick the king with just one lie: "Great King, I have terrible news for you. There's a people called the Jews who don't live by our customs or obey your laws. You should get rid of them. It will take 333 tons of silver (about six million dollars' worth!) to do the job," Haman said.

"Very well," the king agreed, as simply as that. Do

what you think best. When you take care of this problem, come back and we will celebrate this great danger from which you have spared me."

Haman happily agreed. He sent out messengers throughout the land with the new law: "By the command of King Xerxes," it said, "My loyal subjects are ordered to get rid of all the Jews on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Take all of their belongings, too. Prepare yourself for that day," the people were told.

Haman was delighted! Soon he would be rid of Mordecai and all his people! He went to celebrate with the king. But the Jews were horrified. They wept and fasted. They put on itchy sackcloth, rubbed ashes on their skin and they prayed and prayed to the one who could rescue them--the LORD. Perhaps Xerxes was a very powerful king and Haman was his very powerful servant, but the LORD was omnipotent--all powerful! He could help them when no one else could.

Like the rest of the Jews, Mordecai wept, fasted and prayed; but he did something else, too. He sent a message to his niece, Queen Esther, Xerxes' new bride. "Esther, there's a new law ordering the death of all our people! It's Haman's doing. You must go to the king and beg mercy for us," he wrote.

Esther read the dreadful news, but didn't know what to do. "Dear Uncle Mordecai," Esther wrote back, "I want to help, but the law says that anyone who goes to the king without being invited will be put to death, unless the king holds out his golden scepter to them. It's been a whole month since the king has asked to see me. How do I know he will spare my life if I go before him now?"

**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.

**OLD TESTAMENT STORY****P.2**

Esther wrote back.

Mordecai knew what Esther said was true. It seemed like a very chancy thing to approach the king uninvited. But Mordecai didn't believe in chance. He believed in the LORD. He knew He was omnipotent—all-powerful. He was in complete control of what happened to Esther. "Esther, don't think you will escape from this law. You will be killed with the rest of the Jews. You will be doing this to save your life as well as everyone else's. But, don't look at the chances. Rely upon the LORD, His plans and His power. It may be that He's made you queen for such a time as this!" he urged her.

Esther agreed. "You're right, Uncle. I'll do it, but gather all the Jews of the city together. Fast and pray to the LORD for three days for me. I and my maidservants will do the same. Then I will go to the king, even though it's against the law. If I die, I die," she wrote him. Esther knew that only by the overruling power of the omnipotent LORD would she survive this daring plan.

All the Jews fasted and prayed. Then, on Day Three, Esther put on her royal robes, went to the king, and hoped in the LORD. The LORD answered their prayers! The king raised his scepter to Esther and invited her to come near. "What do you want, Queen Esther? Ask for what you want, up to half my kingdom and I'll give it to you," he told her.

"I would like you and Haman to come today to a banquet I've prepared."

The king happily agreed. At the banquet, as he and Haman were enjoying their wine, he asked Esther again, "What else can I give you, Esther, up to half my kingdom?" he asked her.

"Will you and Haman come to another banquet tomorrow night. I will give you my answer then," she replied.

Haman left the banquet in a good mood. How good it felt to be honored by the queen like this! But all that changed when on his way home he passed by Mordecai and Mordecai refused to bow down and honor him.

Telling his troubles to his wife and friends, they came up with a plan. "Built a tall gallows. Make it seventy-five feet high. In the morning, ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai; then in the evening, go enjoy your dinner with the queen and him," they suggested. Haman

agreed. All that night, you could hear the bang, banging of hammers as the gallows was being prepared. The evil plans of the powerful King's Eye seemed certain to succeed.

But there was someone far more powerful than the King's Eye at work that night: The LORD. He is omnipotent—all-powerful. He can defeat the plans of even the most powerful plan. And that's what He did that night.

Sleep is a gift from the LORD and it was one gift He withheld from King Xerxes that night, as part of His good plan. Since he couldn't sleep, Xerxes decided to read. "Bring me the Book of Deeds from my reign," he ordered a servant. Xerxes opened the book and what did he read? The story of how Mordecai the Jew once saved his life from two men who planned to kill him.

"I want to honor Mordecai for what he did for me, but how?" the king said. "Call Haman! He'll know what's best," he ordered.

When Haman arrived, the king asked, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"

Haman was sure the king was thinking of honoring himself so he came up with a really fancy answer. "Give him one of the king's royal robes, put him on the king's horse and have one of the king's most important men lead him around the city, shouting, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

The king loved the idea. "Haman, go right now and do all that for Mordecai the Jew. And I want you to be the man who leads him through the streets of Susa."

Haman obeyed the king, but hated every moment of it. How hard it was to honor the man he most hated! But as terrible as this was, the worst was yet to come for Haman, that night at dinner with the king and queen. As they drank their wine, the king said to the queen: "Esther, give me your request."

"O king, please save the lives of my people and myself from the man who plans to destroy us," she pleaded.

"Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" the king demanded.

"He's right here, O king. It's Haman," she replied.

Haman believed he had a plan for revenge that would not fail, he thought he could trick the king into thinking Mordecai needed to die, he thought he could do away with the Jews, but he was wrong. Perhaps he was the

powerful King's Eye, but he was nothing compared with the LORD, the Omnipotent God. No one is like Him! The LORD had the power to do whatever He pleases...or to stop whatever He pleases. He works in all peoples and happenings, according to His good plan. He takes even the schemes of wicked men and the laws of powerful kings and weaves them into His own good plans, by His wise, omnipotent hand. He, not the King's Eye, would have the final say. Haman, the man who had once been confident in his own power, now stood terrified and powerless before the king and queen. He had planned to destroy Mordecai and his people; but instead, he would be destroyed.

"Guards, take this man away to the gallows to die!" the king ordered. Haman was taken away and hung.

That very day, the LORD turned over all of Haman's plans and worked out His own good plans. And Mordecai was given Haman's position as the King's Eye, and another law was sent out that would protect the Jews from being wiped out on the 13th of Adar.

### Cracking the Case:

#### It's time to answer our Case Questions.

**1. Who was the King's Eye? What made him so powerful?** Haman. The Persian king made him his most powerful servant. He was also powerful because he was deceitful. He used the king's trust in him to (try to) fulfill his own evil plans.

**2. Who was more powerful than the King's Eye? How did he show that?** The LORD. He overruled Haman's evil plans and worked His own, good plans out of them instead.

### Something For You and Me

#### Our Bible Truth is:

**The LORD Is Omnipotent**

#### Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

Haman trusted in lots, tricks and the king's laws to destroy the Mordecai and Jews. He didn't understand that his plans could never stand up against the

omnipotent LORD, who uses even the schemes of evil men to fulfill His good and wise plan for His people.

But God's people know this is true. Why? Because God has already sent Jesus to save them from the worst thing they will ever have to face: God's just punishment for their sins! That's right! If God has done this, they know that He is surely powerful enough to take care of any other trouble they face.

Let's praise the LORD right now! Let's praise Him for being the Omnipotent God who can do whatever pleases Him, as our Scripture verse say. Let's ask Him to help us to work in our hearts, helping us turn from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us not to worry when we face troubles, but in trust in Him and His omnipotent power to take care of us and work out all things for our good and His glory.

#### *Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being Omnipotent--more powerful than any enemy or trouble we will ever face.

**C** God, we confess that many times we think You won't or can't take care of us. We choose to worry or fear instead. We need Jesus to save us!

**T** God, we thank You for working out Your wonderful plans, even out of the most terrible things that could happen. You always work out everything for Your people's good and Your glory.

**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 trust You in everything we go through, instead of worrying or being afraid.

### Special Words

**Empire:** A large number of countries or peoples ruled by one ruler.

**Omnipotent:** All powerful.

**Scepter:** A decorated rod that a ruler carried as the sign of his/her power.

**Gallows:** A temporary, wooden structure that is built off the ground to make a high place to hang the rope by which a man could be hung to die.

**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.....

God, we praise You for being more powerful than anyone else. We praise You for always being able to do whatever You want to do.

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**CONFESION:**

God, we have sinned against You....

God, we confess that many times we want to rebel against You and do things our own way. We confess that many times when we're in trouble, we doubt that You really are powerful enough to help us. We need a Savior to forgive us!

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God, we thank You for...

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God, use Your almighty power to work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and live for You.

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God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

**SNEAKY SNACK**

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

**Snack: Purim Food**

Traditional food from Purim, the Jewish annual celebration of Esther: Lemon Poppyseed Cake or muffins OR Hamantaschen: cookie filled with a surprise filling (like Haman's plot was filled with a sweet surprise from the LORD): recipe for cookie dough: 4 large eggs, 1 cup oil, 1-1/2 cups sugar, 2 teaspoons vanilla, 1 tablespoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 4 cups flour, pinch of lemon rind Beat eggs, then add remaining ingredients, beating well after each addition. Roll out dough and cut out circles. (I use the rimmed end of a drinking glass, dipped in flour each time.) Put one teaspoon of filling in center. Fold over edges in three sections. Bake at 350F for about 20 min. Recipe for filling: 1/4 pound grated feta cheese, 1 tablespoon cream cheese, 1 egg , 1 tablespoon flour Combine all ingredients and fill prepared dough.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Every year the Jews have a special meal to celebrate God's great power that triumphed over the evil plans of Haman.

**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.**

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**3.**

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**4.**

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**5.**

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**6.**

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**7.**

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

### **The LORD Is Omnipotent**

"Omnipotent" means "all" (omni) "powerful" (potens). The LORD is all powerful. There are no limits on God's power to do what He wants to do. God uses His omnipotent power to carry out all His holy will and rule perfectly over all His creation.

In the beginning, God used His omnipotent power to create everything He wanted to create, just the way He wanted it created. By His omnipotent power, He sustains everything He's made so that it keeps on living as He wants it to and to carry out His wonderful plans.

This doesn't mean that we have no control over the things we do. God created all living creatures with a will. They make decisions and carry them out. This is especially true of people, to whom God has given a spirit to know Him and to know what is right and wrong. We are each responsible for our own actions. And yet at the same time, God uses His omnipotent power to work in and through all His creations so that His good plans are perfectly fulfilled.

God is all-powerful, yet there is something He will not and cannot do. He will not use His omnipotent power to do anything that is evil. He always acts according to the perfectly holy way He is.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What does "omnipotent" mean? *All powerful.*
2. What does He use His omnipotent power to do? *All His holy will. Create things just as He wants them created; Sustains everything so it keeps living just as He wants; and uses His power in and through all His creations so that they all fulfill His plans just as He desires.*
3. Does God's omnipotent power mean that we have no control over what we do? Why not? *No. God created us with a will. We make our own choices and are responsible for them.*
4. Even though we have a will and make our own choices, what does God work in and through us all? *He uses His omnipotent power to bring about His good plans so that they are perfectly fulfilled.*
5. What it is that God cannot and will not do with His omnipotent power? *Anything that is against the perfectly, holy way He is. He will never use it to do anything evil.*

### **Story Connection Questions**

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Omnipotent**? How did the LORD show that He was omnipotent over even Haman's evil plans and the king's laws?

*He used them to bring about good for His people and glory for His name. He did whatever He wanted with Haman and Xerxes—everything from sleepless nights, to reading the right passages in the Book of Deeds, to Haman being forced to honor Mordecai and building the gallows on which he, himself, was to die upon.*

2. How did Mordecai show that he believed that the LORD was omnipotent over the situation?

*He encouraged Esther, his beloved niece, to go before the King, even though "chances" would make most think that she would be killed; that the LORD placed her as queen so that she would be able to do be in position to beg for her people's protection, not a matter of luck.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 135:5-6:** "For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."?

*Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Why is it frightening to people who rebel against the LORD that He does whatever pleases Him? *They are choosing to rebel against Him, but one day He will finally use His power to judge and punish them justly if they do not confess their sins and turn for forgiveness through Jesus.*
2. Why is it encouraging to God's people that the LORD does whatever pleases Him? *They know that it doesn't matter how terrible their problems, the LORD is always working in the to do good for them and bring glory to His name. They know that He is always able to deliver them.*
3. 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 more powerful than anyone else and always being able to do what He wants to do.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess that many times we want to rebel against His ways, His power and do things our own way. Confess that many times when we're in trouble, we doubt that God is really powerful enough to help us. We need a Savior!!*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for being so powerful that He can always rescue His people and always keep all His promises to them.*
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. Work in our hearts so that we are people who trust Him and His great power to do good and bring glory to His name, in everything that happens to us.*

**The Gospel**

1. God has shown His great power to do good to His people and bring glory to His name 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.*

## Game: Beanbag Scramble

### Materials

Beanbags, enough for all the children, minus 1

Drum, guitar or just your hands!

Tape

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

Beanbags are placed in a circle on the floor, with children forming a circle just outside the beanbags. Tell the children that you will beat a beat on the drum, strum a strum on the guitar, or clap your hands and they are to march to the beat. As the beat gets faster, they march faster. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. The child who has no beanbag picks a question for the class to answer.

Game continues as number of questions, 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 song ties in with the Bible Truth.

**This Is My Father's World****Verse 3**

This is my Father's world,  
 O let me ne'er forget,  
 That though the wrong  
 Seems oft so strong,  
 God is the Ruler yet.  
 This is my Father's world.  
 The battle is not done.  
 Jesus who died shall be satisfied,

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 29**

**Understanding the Song**

1. Who can call the Lord his/her Father?

*All who confess their sins to Him and trust in Him for forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross.*

2. What belongs to "my Father"? *The world.*

*3. What does it mean that "wrong seem oft so strong" in this world? *There are many bad and painful things that happen. When we look just at them, it can seem like they are stronger than God and His plan.**

4. Even though wrong seems often so strong, what should believers remember?

*That God is the Ruler of the world still.*

5. What battle isn't done yet? *The Lord's battle over all that is evil in this world.*

*6. What does it mean that Jesus shall be satisfied? *Jesus died for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him for forgiveness. He rose again and then ascended into heaven as the conqueror over sin and death for His people. For now, until all of God's plan on earth is complete and all His people from every nation and people have come to Him in faith, the battle against sin and death will continue. But one day, when all of God's plan for this earth is finished, the Lord Jesus will come back, bring an end to sin, death and Satan in a final and everlasting victory. Then all that He had planned to accomplish with His death, will be completed, satisfied.**

7. What does it mean for heaven and earth to be one? *God's will is perfectly done here on earth as it is in heaven. This will happen when Jesus is satisfied, when there is the final end to sin and death.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

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

*This world does belong to God, because in His omnipotence He created it all, just as He desired; and He sustains it and all the creations in it by His omnipotent power. While sin and death are still allowed for now, one day, He will accomplish all He has planned for this world and will bring an end all that is evil. He will win the battle once and for all, at just the perfect time He has planned.*

**Story Connection**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Haman plotted hatefully against Mordecai and all the Jews. He thought he was powerful enough to use the king to do whatever he wanted. He even boasted about it and all that he had to his family and friends. But, the Lord is the omnipotent God. Haman's evil schemes seemed so strong, but they were nothing compared to the Lord. He easily turned all that Haman plotted into good for His people and for His glory.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6:** "For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."?

*This is God's world. He made it and sustains it. He makes sure that His plans for it will succeed. Why is this so? Because God is omnipotent—all powerful. He is able to do all that He, in His perfect good and wise plan, has decided.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song?

*They can praise God for being omnipotent. They can ask Him to help them trust that no matter how big the problems they are in, how evil are plans that are made against them, that the Lord will finally win the battle. He will use His omnipotence to care for His people and bring Him glory.*

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 the Ruler of this world who will overcome all evil.*

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

*Confess that many times we, like all people, do evil that God will one day finally punish and get rid of. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God that He has beaten death through Jesus, for all who turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. We can thank Him for His promise to do away with sin and evil forever one day.*

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

*That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. That we might be not be discouraged by the evil in the world and the sin in our hearts, but remember that He saves all those who trust in Him and that one day all evil will be gone for good.*

**Gospel Question**

1. God is the Ruler of this world who will one day will punish and do away with all evil and sin. What hope is there for sinners like you and me? 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: Mimic Me!

### Materials

Sign Language

Song

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Playing the Game

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

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

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

**Meditation Version: Psalm 135:5-6**

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

**Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 135:5,6**

"For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does..."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Who is the LORD greater than? *All gods.*
2. What does the LORD do? *Whatever pleases Him.*
3. What will it never please the LORD to do?

*Anything that is against His perfectly holy, good will and self. The LORD may transform the evil schemes of men and Satan to bring about His good will, but He never uses His power to do evil.*

4. Where does the LORD do whatever pleases Him? *In the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.*
5. How does the LORD use His omnipotent power in the world? *He uses it to create all things; to sustain all things; to work in all things to bring about His good and holy plan.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Omnipotent?**

*Omnipotent means all powerful. The LORD is all powerful. He is greater than all gods. He is all powerful over all His creation. That is why in the heavens, the earth, and the seas, He will always do whatever pleases Him.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does this verse have to do with our story? *Haman was a powerful man and Xerxes was a powerful king. But, Haman's schemes and Xerxes' laws could never stand up against the Omnipotent LORD. He did whatever He wanted with Haman and Xerxes—everything from sleepless nights, to reading the right passages in the Book of Deeds, to Haman building the gallows on which he, himself, was to die upon.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Why is it frightening to people who rebel against the LORD that He does whatever pleases Him?  
*They are choosing to rebel against Him, but one day He will finally use His power to judge and punish them justly if they do not confess their sins and turn to Him for forgiveness through Jesus.*
2. Why is it encouraging to God's people that the LORD does whatever pleases Him?  
*They know that it doesn't matter how terrible their problems, the LORD is always working in the to do good for them and bring glory to His name. They know that He is always able to deliver them.*
3. 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 Bible verse?  
*Praise God for being so great that He does whatever pleases Him.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse?  
*That even though we know that the LORD does whatever pleases Him—all His good and perfect plans—that we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?  
*We can thank God for being pleased to send Jesus to save His people from their sins! And not just being pleased to do it, but doing it perfectly and completely—even defeating death itself!*
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. We can ask Him to work in our hearts and do in our lives whatever pleases Him, according to His great power and perfect plans.*

**Gospel Question**

1. What is the greatest show of God's power on behalf of His sinful people, that God has pleased to 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: Cross the Raging River

### Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see  
Two yardsticks or long pieces of rope

### Preparing the Game

Make up some questions about the verse and/or story (use the Bible verse Discussion and Story Review Discussion Questions).

### 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 there's a river to cross and they get to jump the bank without getting wet. Each child will say the verse and then jump across the two yardsticks/ropes lying next to each other on the floor. After each round, the sticks/ropes will be separated by more space, making it a wider river to jump across. As the river gets wider, some children will not make it but "fall in". Explain to them that they are stuck in the river unless they can answer a question (that you make up) about the Bible verse or the story. Feel free to let a child "stuck in the river" ask another child for a "lifeline" and help them answer their question.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Caution: Avoid accidents by not letting the "river" get too wide.

### 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.

**I Know that the LORD Is Great**

I know that the LORD is great,  
 That our Lord's above all gods.  
 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does,  
 In heaven and on earth,  
 The seas and all deeps.  
 Whate'er the LORD pleases He does.  
 I know that the LORD is great,  
 That our Lord's above all gods.  
 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does,  
 In heaven and on earth,  
 The seas and all deeps.  
 Whate'er the LORD pleases He does.  
 Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 30**

**Song Game: Word Take Away****Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song

White board and marker

Eraser

**Preparing the Game**

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

**Playing the Game**

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

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

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 was Haman so angry with Mordecai? *He would not bow to show honor to him in front of the other officials.*
2. Why was Haman casting lots? *To have the "gods" show him what day to have the Jews killed on.*
3. What was Haman's job and why could he use his job to make Xerxes believe the Jews were dangerous? *As the King's Eye, he was to keep up with activities of the peoples in the 127 provinces. He could give the king a false report about the Jews and make him think they were dangerous.*
4. What did Xerxes give Haman his signing ring to do? *Get 6 million dollars of silver and send out order for killing of the Jews to all 127 provinces.*
5. What did the Jews and many Persians do when they heard the new law? *Jews wept and wailed; put on sackcloth. Persians were shocked.*
6. What did Mordecai want Queen Esther to do and why didn't she want to do it? *He wanted her to go to the King and beg mercy for her people. She didn't want to do it because she would likely be killed if she went to him w/o being requested.*
7. Why did Mordecai think that Esther had been chosen queen? *The Lord's will to rescue His people through her.*
8. *What did Esther, her attendants, and the Jews of Susa do for three days before she went to see the king? Fasted and prayed.*
9. What is fasting and why did they fast and pray before Esther went to the king? *Fasting is not eating for a time as a sign to God that His answer to what you are praying about is even more important to you than eating. They knew that only if the omnipotent Lord acted in Esther's behalf would the King have mercy on her and hear her request.*
10. How did the king show he would not kill Esther? *Held out his scepter to her when she appeared.*
11. What did the king offer Esther and what was her request? *Up to half the kingdom; bring Haman and come to a banquet she had prepared.*
12. What made Haman mad the night of the first banquet? *Mordecai not bowing in honor of him, once more.*
13. What did Haman boast about when he went home to his family and friends? *His great wealth, all his sons, favor with king and queen above all the other officials.*
14. Why was it wrong of Haman to boast about the things he had? *They were all things that God had given him, but Haman acted as if he had them because he was so great.*
15. What did Haman's wife and friends encourage to do to Mordecai before the next banquet? *Have 70' gallows built to hang Mordecai and ask the king the next day to let him hang Mordecai.*
16. How did the LORD show His omnipotent power the night after the first banquet? *Did not let the king sleep, led the attendant unknowingly to read the part about Mordecai's good deed to him, timed Haman's entry to the inner court with Xerxes' wanting advice on how to honor Mordecai.*
17. How did the LORD use the wicked plans of Haman and the laws of the king to do His will? *He had Haman punished on the gallows made for Mordecai; He had Mordecai given Haman's job; He allowed Mordecai and Esther to make a new law to actually protect the Jews.*

### **Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Omnipotent?** How did the LORD show that He was omnipotent over even Haman's evil plans and the king's laws? *He used them to bring about good for His people and glory for His name. He did whatever He wanted with Haman and Xerxes—everything from sleepless nights, to reading the right passages in the Book of Deeds, to Haman being forced to honor Mordecai and building the gallows on which he, himself, was to die upon.*
2. How did Mordecai show that he believed that the LORD was omnipotent over the situation? *He encouraged Esther, his beloved niece, to go before the King, even though "chances" would make most think that she would be killed; that the LORD placed her as queen so that she would be able to do be in position to beg for her people's protection, not a matter of luck.*

### **Life Application Questions**

1. What's something God's people can remember from this story? *That even the most powerful man in the world with the most terrible plans, is nothing compared with the omnipotent LORD. God's people can always trust Him to take care of them.*
2. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6:** "For I know the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."?

*Haman was a powerful man and Xerxes was a powerful king. But, Haman's schemes and Xerxes' laws could never stand up against the Omnipotent LORD. He did whatever He wanted with Haman and Xerxes—everything from sleepless nights, to reading the right passages in the Book of Deeds, to Haman building the gallows on which he, himself, was to die upon.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being Omnipotent—more powerful than any enemy or trouble God's people will ever face.*

2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times we do not think God can or will take care of us, when we trust in Him. Many times we choose to worry or doubt Him instead. We need a Savior!*

3. What's something we can thank God for from this story?

*We can thank God for working out His wonderful plans, even out of the most terrible things.*

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 to trust Him in everything we go through, instead of worrying or doubting.*

**The Gospel**

1. Haman was a very powerful, evil man, but Satan, the enemy of God, is even more powerful. How has God shown that He is even more powerful than Satan? What has God done to rescue His people from Satan's evil plans? 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: Go Fish

### Materials

Broom stick or pole  
String  
U-shaped magnet  
Paper clips, 1 per question  
Construction paper  
Scissors  
Basket/Pail  
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. Cut out fish (different sizes and shapes, if desired), one per question. Write a question on each fish. And assign a point value to each fish based on difficulty. Attach a paper clip to the mouth of each fish. Place the fish in the basket. Attach the magnet to one end of the string and the pole to the other end.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns catching fish by hooking them with the magnet and the paper clip. The question is then read to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the fish. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team for a possible one point.

Play continues as questions last, or as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns catching fish and answering the questions together.

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

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES****P.I**

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 King's Eye.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place back in the days of Xerxes, King of Persia, about 500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the King's Eye."

## **Scene 1:**

Haman hates Mordecai the Jew for not honoring him, the King's Eye. Haman plots to have him and all the Jews killed. He casts lots to decide on which day the Jews and Mordecai should die. The thirteenth of Adar is chosen. Haman tells King Xerxes that the Jews all over the 127 provinces are not obeying his laws and should be put to death. He asks for 6 million dollars' worth of silver to carry out this new order. The king agrees. Haman sends out couriers to have the new decree read in all 127 provinces. The people don't understand what the Jews have done to deserve this. The Jews weep and pray. Mordecai sends word to his niece, Queen Esther, about the decree and urges her to talk to the king, her husband.

## **Actions:**

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### **Scene 3**

Later that night, Haman's wife and friends encourage Haman to build 70' high gallows to hang Mordecai upon after Mordecai again refused to bow down to honor him. The workers build the gallows all night. Haman looks forward to getting rid of Mordecai the next day. But the LORD is at work. This same night, King Xerxes can't sleep. An attendant reads to him from the Book of Deeds and Xerxes hears about Mordecai saving him from being killed by an enemy. Xerxes asks Haman how he should reward such a man. Haman thinks the king wants to reward him and tells him to have him honored by riding the king's horse, wearing the king's robe and an important man shouting out the man's praises. To his horror, the king has Haman do these things for Mordecai. That night, Haman's wife and friends warn him that Mordecai will be his ruin. The king's attendants interrupt them and take Haman to dine with the king and queen. At dinner, Esther begs Xerxes for the lives of her people which are endanger because of Haman's evil plan. Xerxes has Haman hung on the gallows, Mordecai made the King's Eye, and a new law made so the Jews could protect themselves.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Omnipotent**. Haman thought he had unbeatable plans to destroy Mordecai and the Jews, but the LORD used His mighty power to defeat Haman and his plans.

**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 King's Eye.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place back in the days of Xerxes, King of Persia, about 500 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Mordecai, Haman, King Xerxes, His attendants, Haman's wife and friends, Esther, the people in the provinces and the Jews in the provinces.

And now we present: "The Case of the King's Eye."

**Scene 1: (Beginning)**

Haman hates Mordecai the Jew for not honoring him, the King's Eye. Haman plots to have him and all the Jews killed. He casts lots to decide on which day the Jews and Mordecai should die. The thirteenth of Adar is chosen. Haman tells King Xerxes that the Jews all over the 127 provinces are not obeying his laws and should be put to death. He asks for 6 million dollars' worth of silver to carry out this new order. The king agrees. Haman sends out couriers to have the new decree read in all 127 provinces. The people don't understand what the Jews have done to deserve this. The Jews weep and pray. Mordecai sends word to his niece, Queen Esther, about the decree and urges her to talk to the king, her husband.

**Scene 2: (Middle)**

Esther writes Mordecai telling him that she can't go to the king uninvited. She will be put to death unless he holds out his golden scepter. Mordecai tells her that it may very well have been God's plan to make her queen just to speak to the king and spare the Jews. Esther agrees to go. All the Jews fast and pray for three days, then Esther goes to the king. He holds out his scepter and spares her life. He offers to give her whatever she wants, up to half his kingdom. She asks that he and Haman come to a banquet she has prepared. At the banquet, Xerxes asks her again what she wants. She asks that they both come back to another banquet the next night.

**Scene 3: (End)**

Later that night, Haman's wife and friends encourage Haman to build 70' high gallows to hang Mordecai upon after Mordecai again refused to bow down to honor him. The workers build the gallows all night. Haman looks forward to getting rid of Mordecai the next day. But the LORD is at work. This same night, King Xerxes can't sleep. An attendant reads to him from the Book of Deeds and Xerxes hears about Mordecai saving him from being killed by an enemy. Xerxes asks Haman how he should reward such a man. Haman thinks the king wants to reward him and tells him to have him honored by riding the king's horse, wearing the king's robe and an important man shouting out the man's praises. To his horror, the king has Haman do these things for Mordecai. That night, Haman's wife and friends warn him that Mordecai will be his ruin. The king's attendants interrupt them and take Haman to dine with the king and queen. At dinner, Esther begs Xerxes for the lives of her people which are endanger because of Haman's evil plan. Xerxes has Haman hung on the gallows, Mordecai made the King's Eye, and a new law made so the Jews could protect themselves.

**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Omnipotent**. Haman thought he had unbeatable plans to destroy Mordecai and the Jews, but the LORD used His mighty power to defeat Haman and his plans.

## Honoring Mordecai

### Description

Children will make a puppet of Mordecai on King Xerxes' horse.

### Materials

Horse:

Adult-size socks the color of the horse desired

2" Styrofoam balls

3/8-inch dowels

Paper or plastic cups, 8 oz. size

Pairs of wiggly eyes

Felt: brown for mane, white for blaze down nose, pink for nostrils, felt the same color as sock for ears

Yarn: brown for bridle

Pipe cleaners

Glue stick or craft glue

Cotton balls or batting

Mordecai:

Clothespin (spring kind)

White card stock

Markers

Scissors

### Preparing the Craft

1. Use Templates #1- 4 to cut out ears, mane, nostrils, and blaze.

2. Copy Template #5 onto card stock.

### Making the Craft

Horse:

1. Push a cup into the toe of a yellow sock. This makes the horse's nose section.

2. Push end of dowel firmly into Styrofoam ball (may want to do this in advance for younger children).

3. Pull the sock over the ball and stick. This makes the back portion of the horse's head.

4. Glue ears, nostrils, blaze and mane in place. Glue jiggly eyes in place.

5. To make the bridle, tie a loop of yarn around the nose; tie a second loop around the forehead. Use two pipe-cleaner rings for the bit. Tie a piece of yarn to one ring and loop it over the head to the other. Lastly, tie yarn reins to the rings.

6. Stuff the sock with batting and slip over another cup, the dowel running through the Middle of the cup. This gives shape to the end of the horse.

Mordecai:

1. Color in the Mordecai for each side.

2. Clamp clothespin down on horse/dowel right above cup.

3. Glue the 2 Mordecais together at the top and then split so that one is glued to a side of the clothespin so that his "seat" is lined up with the horse's back and his legs hang down.

### 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 Persia.*

2. What did Haman use to decide when to kill the Jews? Why did he want to kill them? *Lots. He wanted to get rid of Mordecai and all his people because Mordecai refused to honor him.*

3. What happened instead? Why?

*Haman was forced to honor Mordecai and wound up being hung upon the gallows he had made for Mordecai because the LORD, not lots, decides what will happen. He is all-powerful.*

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

*The LORD Is Omnipotent.*

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

*Haman thought his plan against Mordecai and the Jews was unstoppable, but the LORD is omnipotent. He used Haman's evil plan against himself*

6. What can this craft help us remember?

*No matter how out of control things look, God is always in control.*

**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: Honoring Mordecai.

2. In Persia, evil Haman put his trust in lots to tell him what day to kill his enemy and his people, the Jews. But instead of killing Mordecai, Haman had to honor him and was killed himself, because the LORD is omnipotent. It is He, not lots, who decides when and how things will turn out.

3. Bible Truth 7 is: The LORD Is Omnipotent.

4. Haman thought his plan against Mordecai and the Jews was unstoppable, but the LORD is omnipotent. He used Haman's evil plan against himself

5. Our craft can help us remember that no matter how out of control things look to us, God is still always in control, working out everything for the good of His people and the glory of His name.

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.

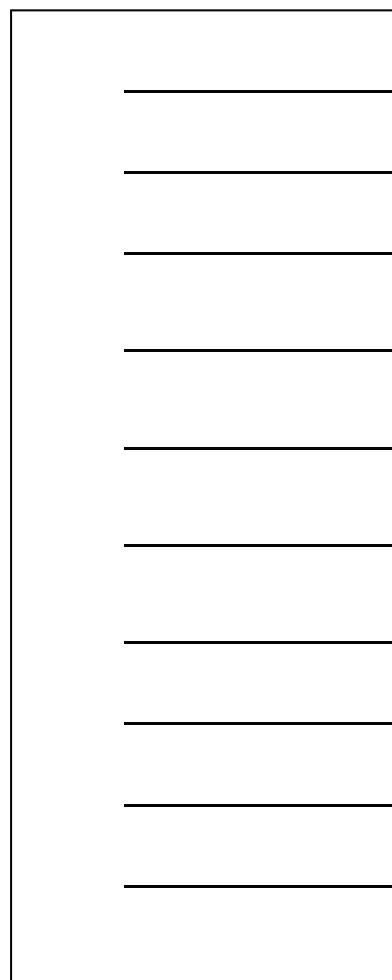
Template #1 Ears Cut 2

Figure #1 Picture of horse

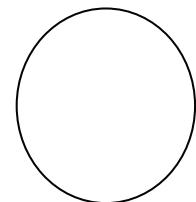
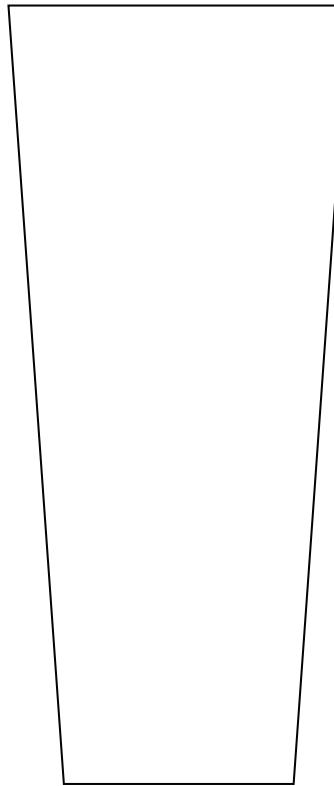


Template #2 Mane Cut 1

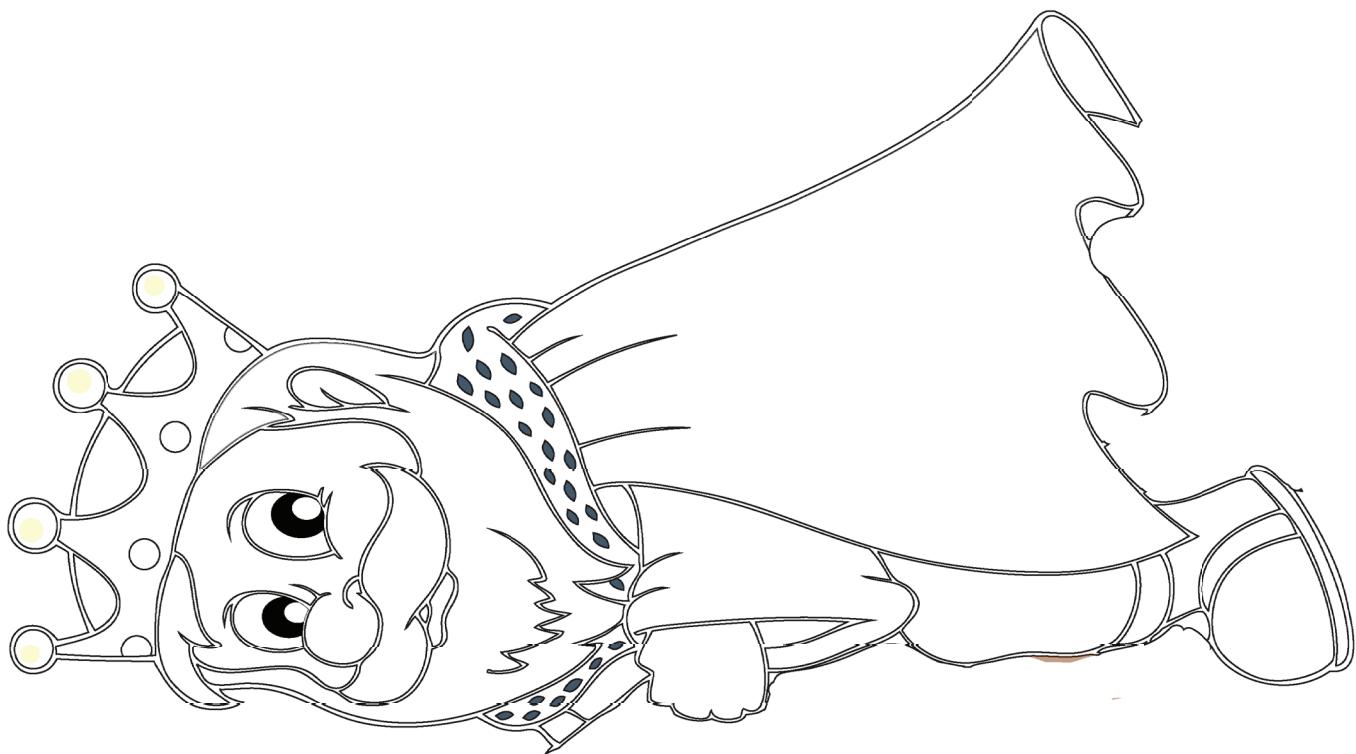
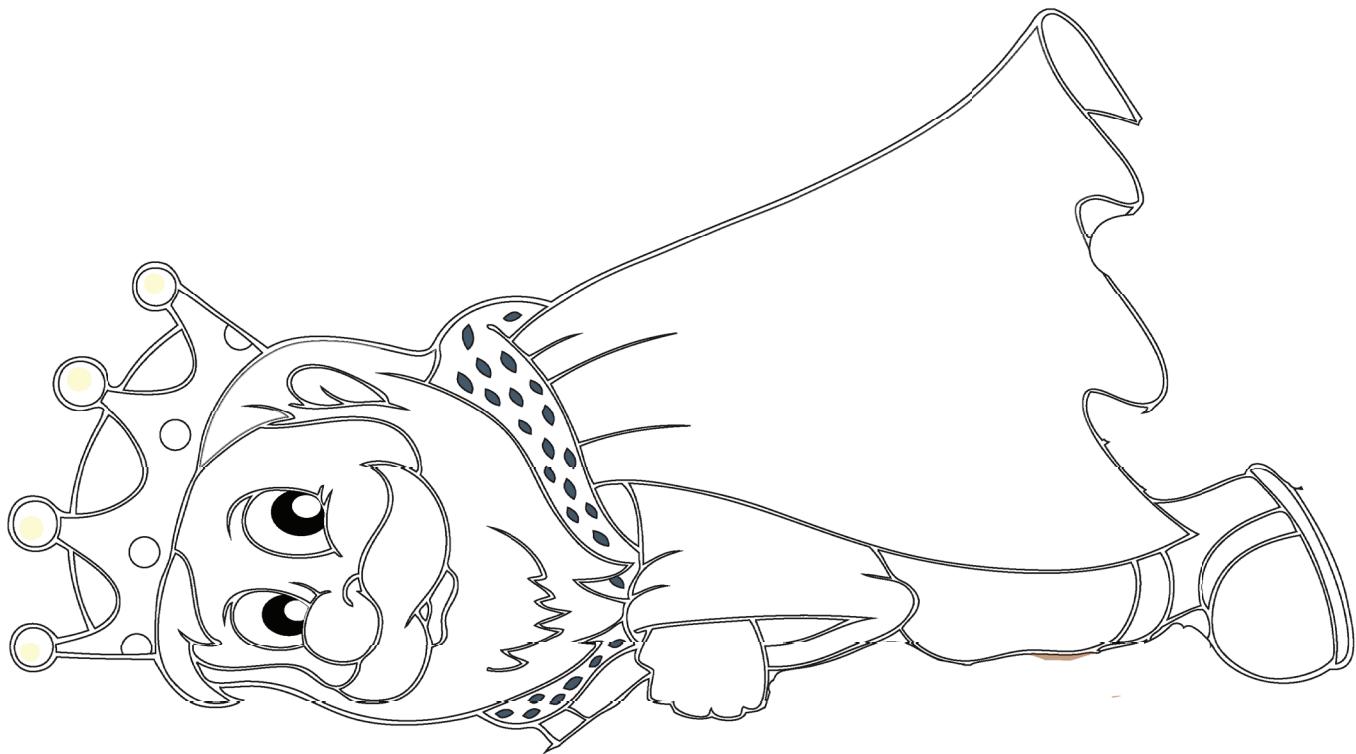
Cut along dashed lines to make  
fringed effect



Template #3 Blaze Cut 1



Template #4 Nostrils Cut 2







**BEFORE CLASS:****I. 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:****I. 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](http://praisefactory.org) with the resources for this Bible Truth.

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

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

## Game: Hit the Wall

### Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manila Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

### 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 manila envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape the envelopes to the wall.

### Playing the Game

#### ***Reveal, then Review Version:***

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

**Review:** Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be aimed at.

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET****P.3****VIPP NAME:**

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**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member      Deacon

Elder      Church Staff

Special Volunteer      Supported Worker  
(Missionary)**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

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

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

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**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

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**FAVORITE FOOD**

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**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

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**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

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