

BIBLE TRUTH 7, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 7: The LORD Is Omnipotent

Bible Truth Hymn: This Is My Father's World *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21*

Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6

Bible Verse Song: I Know that the LORD Is Great *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the Forbidden Visitor
Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Centurion's Money and Sick Servant

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

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

Bible Truth Hymn: This Is My Father's World *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 21*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 135:5-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Mr. Freezie Ball

Bible Verse Song: I Know that the LORD Is Great: Psalm 135:5-6 *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Obstacle Course Quiz

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

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

Craft: Roman Centurion

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Hot and Cold Hide

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 7, Lesson 3 **PFI NIV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Forbidden Visitor Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something?
2. What was he forbidden to do? Why?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on the earth, in the Galilean town of Capernaum.

A strong man dressed in the glittering, bronze breastplate and red cape of a Roman centurion, knelt near the mat where his dearly-loved servant lay. The centurion had watched as the man grew sicker, day after day. Now he was about to die.

How sad was the centurion! How he loved this servant! By Roman law, centurions were not allowed to marry. So, for many of these officers, their servants became more like family than workers. This is how was with this centurion and his servant. He treasured his servant not just for his work, but also for his close friendship.

The centurion was desperate to save this man's life! But what could he do?! "Here I am a centurion. I'm in charge of sixty men who run to obey my least command. When I say go, they go. When I say come, they come. Yet here I am completely powerless over the sickness of my dear servant!" he exclaimed.

"This is not a matter for men. It's one for the gods," his Roman friends would have likely told him. "Only the gods have the power to make sickness and death come and go in the same way that you command your soldiers," they would have said. "Ask the gods for help! Make an offering to Apollo, the god of healing. Perhaps he will accept your offering and heal your servant. That is your only hope."

While this centurion would have completely agreed that his servant's life was a matter needing the power of a god, he knew better than to ask the Roman god, Apollo who was thought to have command over sickness and death. This centurion had the beginnings of faith in the one true God, the LORD, the God of Israel. Perhaps he had been raised as a Roman, but he had

come to love Israel. By himself, he given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. He worshiped Him, too. So it was to the LORD, not any Roman false god, that he turned to for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

Suddenly the centurion's face lit up with an idea, "Jesus, the Jewish teacher! He's the one who can help my dear servant! Why, the townspeople can hardly stop talking about the powerful way He teaches and the amazing healings He does! He has the power of God to heal. No sickness seems to stand against His power!" the centurion decided.

"Somehow I must bring Jesus here to heal my servant, but how? I am a Roman and He is a famous and powerful Jewish teacher. By their laws He should have nothing to do with me. How can I ever expect Him to help me or even speak to Him," he thought. "But still, my servant is near death. Jesus is his only hope. Perhaps I can think of some way..." the centurion thought.

As a plan came to mind, the centurion leapt up and left the house in a rush. "Maybe Jesus wouldn't come with me if I asked Him and maybe I don't deserve to speak to Him, but what if Jews asked Him to help my servant? Perhaps then He would come. It's certainly worth a try."

Before long, the centurion had gathered together some of the Jewish leaders of Capernaum. "Listen, I need your help," he told them. "My dear servant is near death and only your teacher, Jesus, can possibly save him now. As a Roman, Jesus surely would not want to have anything to do with me, but you are Jews. Perhaps if you ask Jesus would come and help my servant. Would

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.

you please do this for me?" he pleaded with them.

Now if it had been most any other Roman, these Jews would have quickly refused to help. The Jews hated the Romans, especially the Roman soldiers, and with good reason. After all, hadn't it been the Roman soldiers who had fought their people and taken over their land? Didn't they make their lives miserable? Why would the Jews ever want to help a Roman—especially a Roman soldier?

But there was something very different about this Roman centurion. For he had the beginnings of faith in the one true God: the LORD, the God of Israel. This man had come to love Israel and had, by himself, given the Jews of Capernaum enough money to build their synagogue where the Bible was preached and the LORD worshiped. They could see that it wasn't to Roman gods, but to the LORD he turned for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death.

"We will do what we can for you," they told him. "Go home and wait with your servant while we go talk to Jesus."

It didn't take long for these leaders to find Jesus. As usual, a large crowd swarmed around Him, many of them seeking Jesus' commanding power to heal their own sicknesses. As quickly as they could, the elders made their way through the crowd and up to Jesus. "Jesus, come with us. There is a centurion who begs You to come and heal his servant," they pleaded earnestly.

"Yes, it's true, he is Roman, not a Jew," they continued, "but we urge You to help him and his servant. There is something very different about him. He has come to love Israel and has, by himself, given us, the Jews of Capernaum, enough money to build our synagogue where the Bible is preached and the LORD worshiped. He isn't turning to the Roman gods, but to the LORD for the power to heal his servant and rescue him from death," they told Jesus.

Jesus listened and agreed. He followed them down the streets of Capernaum towards the centurion's house, the crowd of people trailing after Him.

Back at his house, the centurion waited hopefully by his servant's side, listening for the sound of voices and approaching footsteps. As he waited, he thought more and more about Jesus and what he was asking Jesus to

do. "Only God has the power over sickness and death; yet, Jesus orders them about just as easily as I order my soldiers. Surely it is only by God's power that He can do this. I am not worthy to have someone as great as Jesus come to my house! I must send word to stop Him from coming here!" he decided. He quickly sent some of his friends to find Jesus and give Him his message before it was too late.

They soon ran into Jesus as He, the Jewish leaders and the crowd neared the centurion's house. "Our friend, the centurion asks You not to come to his house, Sir," they told Jesus. He says to tell You, 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

How shocked the Jews were! Here they had urged Jesus to come help this Roman and now he refused to even let him come into his house!

Jesus was also amazed at the centurion's words, but for a very different reason. Jesus could see that this centurion had more than a love of Israel and the beginnings of faith in the LORD. This centurion had the greatest faith in Him and His omnipotent power over sickness and death, than even any of the Jews! Many might have believed Jesus had power to heal them when He was with them, but to believe that, like God, He had the power to simply give the word to heal wherever He was, was absolutely astonishing—even to Jesus, the very Son of God!

Jesus turned to the crowd following him and said, "I tell you the truth, I've not found such great faith among any of the Jews." Then the men who had been sent returned to the centurion's house and found the servant well.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the forbidden visitor? Who forbid him to do something?

Jesus. The centurion with the sick servant.

2. What was he forbidden to do? Why? He was forbidden to come to enter the centurion's house to see his sick servant. Because the centurion believed it was too great of an honor for Jesus, the Messiah, to enter his house. And, because he believed that Jesus had complete power over sickness and death. He did not even need to come to his house to heal his servant. He only needed to speak the word and it would happen.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Is Omnipotent

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:5-6

"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."

The centurion heard about Jesus' powerful teaching and amazing miracles and he recognized that this was the LORD's omnipotent power at work in Him. He believed that Jesus had to the power to do Simply speak His will and it would come about. No wonder Jesus was amazed at his faith! It was a great gift, indeed!

What about you and me? We have heard far greater things about Jesus than this centurion had. We know that not only did He command sickness and death, but He had the power to endure on the cross all God's just and eternal punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He had the power to conquer death by rising from the dead. And one day, He will come back and with just the power of His word, bring an end to sin, evil and death, and reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Knowing all these things about the power of Jesus, do we not have even more reason to put our faith in Him?

Let's praise Jesus, the all-powerful Son of God. Let's ask Him to help us to give us the gift of great faith in Him. Let's ask Him to help us trust Him with our whole lives.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being all-powerful over sickness, sin and death.

C God, we confess that many times we don't respond in faith, like the centurion did. Many times we doubt whether God is able to help us or others.

T God, we thank You for caring about our needs. Thank You for all the ways You use Your omnipotent power to do good to us and others.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us greater faith in You and Your omnipotent power. Give us faith like the centurion had.

Special Words

Centurion: An officer in the Roman army who is in charge of one hundred soldiers.

Omnipotent: All-powerful.

Synagogue: A local gathering place where Jews and others worshiped the LORD and heard preaching from the Bible.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

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.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

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!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for being so powerful that You can always rescue those who turn from their sins and depend upon You. Thank You for all Your promises You give us in the Bible and for always having the power to fulfill them.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

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.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Centurion's Money and Sick Servant

Oyster cracker "coins" like what the centurion used to pay for the building of the synagogue with chicken noodle soup "sick food". OR, Teddy graham "servant" lying on a graham cracker mat spread with peanut butter, etc. "blanket."

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

Case Tie-in: The centurion loved the LORD and gave money to build a synagogue to worship Him. He had faith to believe that Jesus was who He claimed to be and had God's omnipotent power to do whatever He wanted to do--and do it by only giving the command. Even Jesus was amazed at this man's faith in God and His power at work in Him.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

The LORD Is 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 is it 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**? What did the centurion do that showed he believed about the omnipotence of Jesus? *By not even thinking that Jesus needed to be with his servant to heal him, but only needed to give the command, he showed that he believed that Jesus had God’s power to know all things—even what was wrong with his servant w/o seeing him—and God’s omnipotent power to Simply, by His word, to bring healing to the dying servant.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 135:5-6**: “I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”?

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: Silly Grand March

Materials

CD and CD player
Small bowl or bag
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

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 NIV Songs 4, Track 21

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 of 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? *The centurion had so much faith that Jesus was omnipotently in control over sickness and death that He did not even need to come to his house to heal his dying servant. All He had to do was to give the command and the servant would be healed. Jesus was amazed at such great faith in His omnipotence.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 135:5-6:** "I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.?"

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: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, “It” who will stand in the Middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When “It” says “Pass the Secret Sign”, the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When “It” says “Stop the Passing!” the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of “It”, watch the child with the card do the sign, then have “It” guess the name of the sign. (If desired, “It” can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes “It.” Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 135:5-6

"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 135:5,6

"I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him."

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 use 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? *The centurion believed that Jesus could do whatever pleased Him, wherever He was. There was nothing that could limit His power. Because he believed this, he did not think he was even worthy to have Jesus enter his house. He also did not think—like most in those days—that Jesus needed to be with his servant to heal him. All He had to do was to give the word and the sickness would leave at His command.*

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: Mr. Freezie Ball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
Medium size foam or other soft surfaced ball, or tennis ball

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out around the leader, who will be the first Mr. Freezie. Everyone says the Bible verse together. Then, Mr. Freezie throws the ball up in the air as he calls out the name of one child. That child runs to get the ball, while everyone else spreads out. When the child gets the ball, he yells "freeze" to the other children. He then rolls the ball to gently hit another child. That child tries to say the memory verse, getting the assistance of one other person if desired. If he says it correctly, he becomes the new Mr. Freezie and will be the next to toss the ball. If not, then the child who rolled the ball remains Mr. Freezie for another turn. The person who rolled the ball would then become the new Mr. Freezie and be next to toss the ball. Class says verse together each time before Mr. Freezie says the next child's name.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

I Know that the LORD Is Great

I know that the LORD is great,
 That our Lord is greater than all gods.
 The LORD does whatever pleases him.
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths,
 In the heavens and on the earth,
 In the seas and all their depths.
 The LORD does whatever pleases Him.
 Psalm One-thirty-five, five and six.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 22

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. Why was the centurion so worried about his servant?

He had gotten so sick that he was paralyzed and was about to die.

2. Why was the servant so dear to the centurion? *Centurion could not marry. Good servants were not only prized for their good work, but often became like family to them.*

3. What would his Roman friends probably told him to do to help his servant?

Make an offering to Apollo, the god of healing.

3. Who did the centurion turn to for help? Why? *To the Lord, the God of Israel. He had the kernels of faith in Him.*

4. Why did the centurion think he shouldn't go to Jesus to ask for help, himself?

Because Jesus was a great Jewish leaders and he was a Roman, he did not think he was worthy to go to Jesus.

5. Why did the centurion go to the Jewish leaders for help?

Because they were Jews, he thought maybe if they asked Jesus to help, He would.

6. Why would the Jewish leaders not want to help most Romans and why did they help this one?

The Romans had invaded and conquered their land. The Jews wanted their own land. They hated the Romans for ruling over them. But, this Roman loved Israel and he had even given all the money needed to build a synagogue in Capernaum. He had faith in the Lord, not the Roman gods.

7. What did the Jewish leaders tell Jesus as the reason He should help the centurion's servant?

All of the things the centurion had done for them and because of his love of Israel.

8. What did the centurion begin to think about while he waited at home for Jesus to come?

How unworthy he was for Jesus to even enter his house.

9. What did the centurion send his friends to do? *Tell Jesus to not come to his house, but just give the command to heal him where he was, since he was unworthy for Him to come to his house.*

10. What amazed Jesus about the centurion? *He had such great faith that he believed that Jesus was omnipotent over sickness and death, wherever he was. He had not even such faith among the Jews*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

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

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith in Him, that indeed He was omnipotent over sickness and death. He believed that just like God, Jesus only needed to give the commanding word and the sickness would leave his servant.

Life Application Questions

1. 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.*

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:** "I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths."?

The centurion believed that Jesus could do whatever pleased Him, wherever He was. There was nothing that could limit His power. Because he believed this, he did not think he was even worthy to have Jesus enter his house. He also did not think—like most in those days—that Jesus needed to be with his servant to heal him. All He had to do was to give the word and the sickness would leave at His command.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise Jesus for being the powerful Son of God.

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?

Confess that many times we do not act like the centurion, who had such great faith in God. Many times we doubt whether God is able to help us or others. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?

We can thank God for being the giver of more faith in Him to all who ask and truly seek Him.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us great faith in Him, like the centurion had.

The Gospel

1. The centurion had faith in Jesus, even before Jesus had died on the cross and was raised by God from the dead. That was one of the most amazing things about his faith. God calls us to have faith in Jesus, too. What is the gospel that God calls us to believe?

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: Obstacle Course Quiz

Materials

Various materials, such as jump ropes, balls, inner tubes, carpet squares, boxes, tunnels made from chairs and bedspreads, etc. to make a simple obstacle course for each team.

Masking Tape

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions, 1+ per child

Paper/post-it notes and marker/pencil

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Set up two identical obstacle courses, one for each team, that both end up at the same wall of your room.
3. Write a question on the back of a post-it note. On the front, write a point amount, such as 5, 10, 25 points, depending upon the difficulty of the question. Place these questions on the wall at the end of the obstacle courses.
4. Use the masking tape to make starting lines.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit down in a line. Demonstrate how they are to go through the obstacle course. At the leader's command, the first person in each line goes through the obstacle course. Whoever reaches the question wall first wins 1 point for their team and gets to take down one question to give to the teacher. The teacher will ask the question to both teams, calling on the team who raises their hand first. If that team is correct in their answer, they get 2 points. If not, then the question goes to the other team. Process in repeated with next 2 children in line, etc.

Game continues until all have had a chance to run the course, or as question cards, time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Send the children through two at a time, each child choosing a question from the wall. Have the children ask their question to the whole group and work together on the answer. Have the two children come back through the obstacle course and go to the back of their own lines. Repeat with next two children.

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 Forbidden Visitor.

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on the earth, in the Galilean town of Capernaum.

And now we present: "The Case of the Forbidden Visitor."

Actions:

Scene 1:

A Roman centurion knelt by the mat of his dying servant, wondering what he could do to help him. He remembers what he has heard about Jesus, the famous teacher and powerful healer. He knows that Jesus is his servant's only hope for getting well. Being a Roman, the centurion does not think that Jesus as a Jewish teacher would even associate with him, nor does he think himself worthy of even talking with Jesus. He decides to ask some of the Jewish leaders of Capernaum to ask Jesus to heal his servant.

Scene 2:

While the Jewish leaders would have little desire to help most of the hated Romans, this centurion was different. He loved Israel and had even given them enough of his own money to build a synagogue where they could listen to the Bible and worship the Lord. They agree to talk to Jesus and tell the centurion to go home to wait. The Jewish leaders find Jesus with a crowd of people. They ask Him to come quickly to help the centurion's servant. They tell Him all that the centurion has done for them.

Scene 3

Jesus agrees to go with them, the crowd following behind Him. The centurion decides he is not worthy for Jesus to even come under his roof. He sends friends to tell Jesus to not come, but just give the word to his servant's sickness, since He has control over sickness and death, just like a centurion has command over his soldiers. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith. He remarks that this Roman has more faith in Him than any of the Jews.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Omnipotent.** Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith in His omnipotent power over sickness and death. He did not even think that Jesus needed to come to see his servant in order for him to be healed by Him.

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 Forbidden Visitor.

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on the earth, in the Galilean town of Capernaum

The characters in our story are: the centurion and his servant, the Jewish leaders of Capernaum, Jesus, the crowd, the centurion's friends

And now we present: "The Case of the Forbidden Visitor."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

A Roman centurion knelt by the mat of his dying servant, wondering what he could do to help him. He remembers what he has heard about Jesus, the famous teacher and powerful healer. He knows that Jesus is his servant's only hope for getting well. Being a Roman, the centurion does not think that Jesus as a Jewish teacher would even associate with him, nor does he think himself worthy of even talking with Jesus. He decides to ask some of the Jewish leaders of Capernaum to ask Jesus to heal his servant.

Scene 2: (Middle)

While the Jewish leaders would have little desire to help most of the hated Romans, this centurion was different. He loved Israel and had even given them enough of his own money to build a synagogue where they could listen to the Bible and worship the Lord. They agree to talk to Jesus and tell the centurion to go home to wait. The Jewish leaders find Jesus with a crowd of people. They ask Him to come quickly to help the centurion's servant. They tell Him all that the centurion has done for them.

Scene 3: (End)

Jesus agrees to go with them, the crowd following behind Him. The centurion decides he is not worthy for Jesus to even come under his roof. He sends friends to tell Jesus to not come, but just give the word to his servant's sickness, since He has control over sickness and death, just like a centurion has command over his soldiers. Jesus is amazed at the centurion's faith. He remarks that this Roman has more faith in Him than any of the Jews.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Omnipotent.** Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith in His omnipotent power over sickness and death. He did not even think that Jesus needed to come to see his servant in order for him to be healed by Him.

A Roman Centurion

Description

Children will make a Roman Centurion's helmet out of paper and foil.

Materials

Poster board
 Card stock
 Staplers and/or tape (preferably clear packing tape)
 Foil
 Markers
 Glitter Glue (optional)
 Scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut 1 strip out of poster board, 1 ½" x 23" long per child. This will be the headband for the helmet.
2. Cut 2 strips out of poster board, 1" x 13" long per child. This will be the cross pieces that form the cap part of the helmet.
3. Copy Templates #1-3 onto card stock.
4. Cut two 16" (or larger) squares of heavy-duty foil, per child.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample of the craft.
2. Overlap slightly and staple together the ends of the 23" long piece.
3. Make an + with the two 13" pieces and staple them together where they cross in the Middle.
4. Staple the four ends to the headband.
5. Set cap upside down on the double layer of foil. Bring foil up and carefully wrap around frame of cap and to the underneath side.
6. Have children decorate Templates #1-3 with flourishes and/or other designs with markers and glitter glue. (You will need to glue/tape the two Template #2's together to make a 2-sided flourish.)
7. Staple/tape Template #1 to the front of the cap. Staple/tape Template #2 onto top of helmet. Staple/tape a Template #3 along the back and sides of the cap, attaching along the inside bottom of the cap.

NOTE: Younger children may have difficulty with steps 2-5. If so, add these steps to your preparation and have them spend the craft time decorating the Templates and attaching them.

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 Capernaum.*
2. Who was looking for Jesus? Why? *A Roman centurion was looking for Jesus to heal his dying servant.*
3. What amazed Jesus about this centurion? Why? *He was amazed at his faith in Him to heal the dying servant by just giving the command. It showed he believed that Jesus had God's omnipotent power. He showed more faith than any of the Jews.*
4. What is 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?
The Roman centurion believed that Jesus had such complete power over sickness that He need only say the word and his servant would be healed.
6. What can our craft help us remember?
We can never have too much faith in God's power. He is omnipotent. There is no end to what He can do as part of His holy, perfect will.

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.

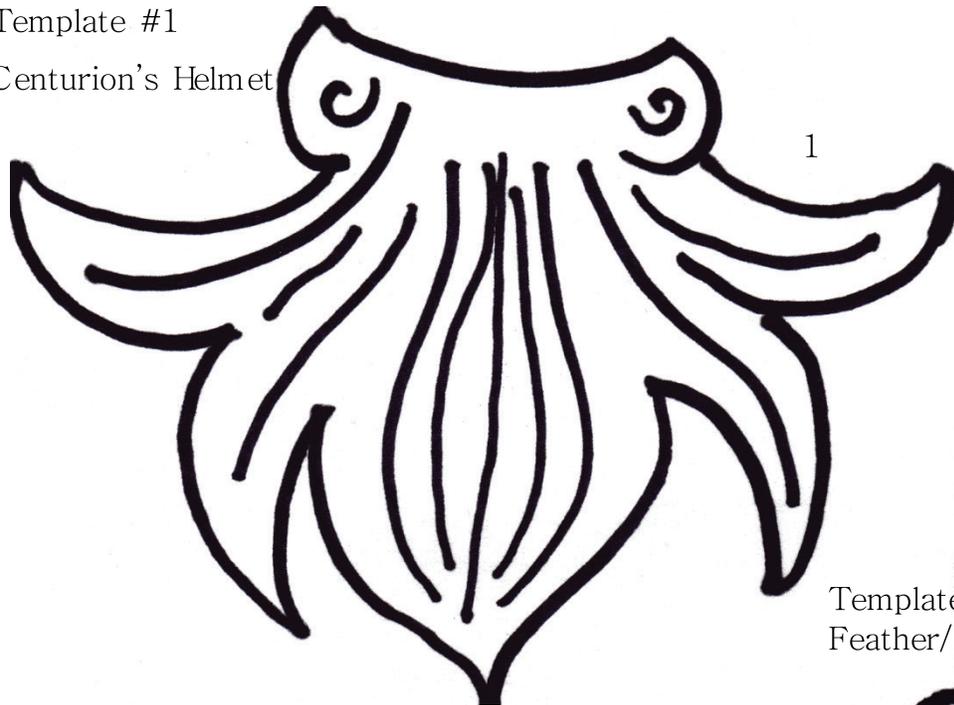
Presentation:

1. Our craft is: A Roman Centurion.
2. In Capernaum, Jesus was amazed at the words of a Roman centurion because he had such great faith in Him and His power.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The LORD Is Omnipotent.
4. The Roman centurion believed that Jesus had such complete power over sickness that He need only say the word and his servant would be healed.
5. Our craft can help us remember that we can never have too much faith in God's power. He is omnipotent. There is no end to what He can do as part of His holy, perfect will.

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.

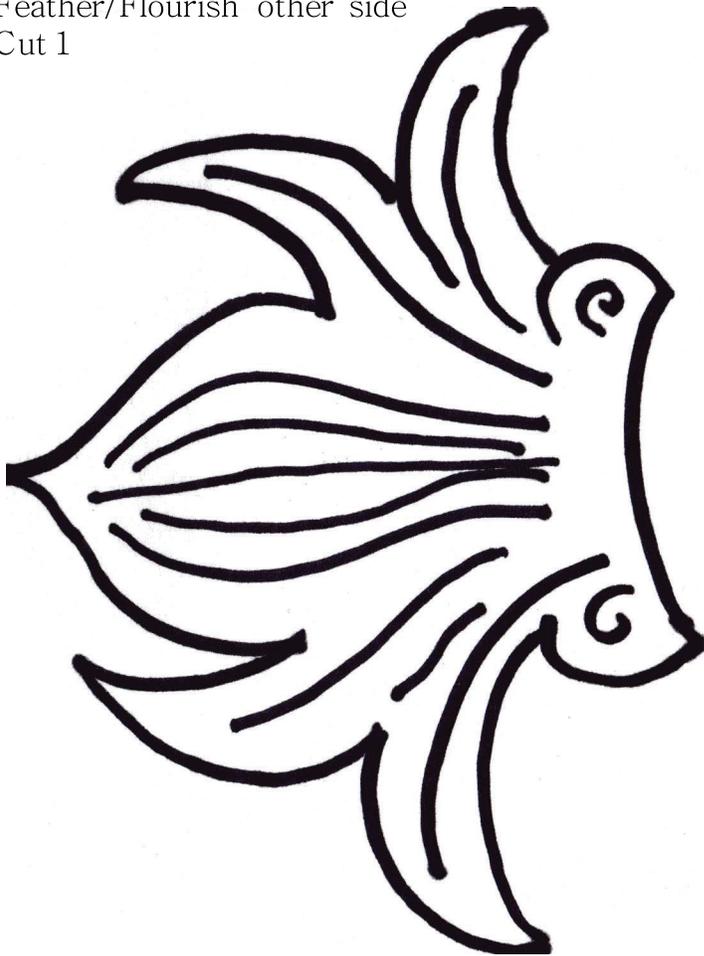
Template #1

Centurion's Helmet



Template #2A Top
Feather/Flourish one side Cut

Template #2B Top
Feather/Flourish other side
Cut 1



Place on fold of paper

Template #1 Front headband
piece Cut 1

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
2 Set of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manila Envelopes
Blindfold

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.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Choose one child to be "The Finder" and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the Clue Card envelopes. Choose another child to be "The Hider". This child will hide the envelope somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope. The other children say "hot, cold, etc" as the child gets closer or further from the envelope to help the child find it. When the folder is found, 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 hidden.

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**
