

BIBLE TRUTH 8, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Truth 8: The LORD Is Faithful

Bible Truth Hymn: Day by Day, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23*

Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19

Bible Verse Song: Faithful! He Is Faithful! *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 24*

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer
Numbers 13:28-14:10; Joshua 1-4

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Food from the Promised Land, Stones from the River Jordan

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

Bible Truth Hymn: Day by Day, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 145:13,18-19 Discussion Sheet and Game: Rush to the Store

Bible Verse Song: Faithful! He Is Faithful! Psalm 145:13,18-19 *PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 24*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: String Along

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

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

Craft: The Priests

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 8, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer Numbers 13:28-14:10; Joshua 1-4

Our story is called:

The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer.

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

1. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy?
2. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties?

This story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Kadesh Barnea was crammed with thousands of men, women, children, and their sheep and goats! These were the Israelites whom the LORD had freed from slavery in Egypt by amazing miracles, then brought them safely across the Sinai Desert to this oasis.

The people enjoyed the oasis' shady, date palm trees and the cool water of the underground streams, but they were restless for more. At the LORD's command, Moses had sent out twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to sneak into the Promised Land that lay not far to the north. The men were to check it out and bring back news of what they found. The people were eager to hear more about this "land flowing with milk and honey," as the LORD called it. How they longed to go there and get out of that hot, dry wilderness for good!

After six, long weeks, the spies returned with quite a report. "The land grows rich crops," the spies told. "But it's also filled with big, powerful people who live in big cities with high, strong walls."

The people didn't like the sound of this at all! How could they ever defeat enemies like this! They grumbled against Moses and Aaron. They even talked of getting rid of them and choosing new leaders to take them back to Egypt!

All the spies but two agreed with the people. Joshua and Caleb had faith in God. "Don't say these terrible things! Trust the LORD! He will be faithful to give us the promised land. He can easily defeat these enemies!" they urged. But the people refused to trust. They even thought about stoning Joshua and Caleb!

The LORD would not allow this. Suddenly the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tabernacle before all the Israelites. "How long will these people refuse to trust

in Me, in spite of all the miracles I've done! Because of their unending grumbles against Me, they will not get to enjoy the Promised Land. For forty years, they will wander out here in the wilderness until they have all died. Only Joshua and Caleb will survive. Their children, will be the ones I lead into the Promised Land," the LORD proclaimed. "These people will not enter in."

Oh, how the Israelites hated to hear this! They knew how faithful the LORD had been to them. "We have sinned," they said. "We will follow the LORD into the promised land now," they told Moses. But it's was too late. There would be no Promised Land for them.

Forty years passed. The Israelites spent it never more than a few days' walk from the Promised Land, but they never were allowed to enter it. All those thousands of adults grew old and died out in the wilderness. Finally Aaron and Moses died, too. Caleb and Joshua were the only old men left among all the young Israelites.

The LORD chose Joshua to be the Israelites' new leader. "Joshua, get the people ready. It's time to lead them into the Promised Land," the LORD told him. "I will give it all to you and no one will be able to stand up against you. Be strong and courageous. Don't be terrified. Don't be discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, will be with you wherever you go," the LORD promised. Joshua took the LORD at His word. He knew He would be faithful.

"Tell the people to get their supplies ready. Three days from now we will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD is giving us," Joshua ordered the other leaders.

As the people prepared, Joshua sent two spies ahead of them into the Promised Land. They snuck into

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**

Jericho and returned to Joshua with their report. "The LORD has surely given us the land! All the people have heard of His great deeds and are afraid," they told him.

What great news! The LORD indeed was with them! It was time to cross the Jordan River and step foot on the promised land at last.

On the banks of the Jordan River the people camped one last night. "Prepare your hearts before the LORD for tomorrow He will do amazing things among you," Joshua told them. "The priests will carry the Ark of the Covenant ahead of you. When they step foot in the waters of the river, The LORD will hold back the waters for you to cross on dry land, just like He did long ago when you crossed the Red Sea. The LORD will do this to show you that He is the living God and He is among you. You can count on Him to drive out the peoples before you." Joshua told them.

What an amazing promise! The Jordan was a swirling mass of rushing water that time of year.. It was over 10 feet deep and 300 feet wide! It could sweep the priests and the Ark downstream, never to be seen again. Would the Israelites trust in the LORD's faithfulness or would they doubt Him again?

This time, they chose to trust Him! The priests picked up the Ark of the Covenant and headed straight down to the banks of the Jordan. As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. As the priests stood in the Middle of the dry river bed, the people crossed over into the Promised Land--forty thousand armed men and all their families!

When everyone had crossed, the LORD told Joshua, "Choose twelve men, one from each of the twelve tribes, to pick up twelve stones from where the priests are standing in the Jordan River and carry these with you into the Promised Land, then have the priests and the Ark come up out of the Jordan River, too."

Joshua and the people watched as the twelve men picked up and carried huge stones on their shoulders from the river bed and up the bank. The priests and the Ark followed behind them. As soon as everyone was out, the waters of the Jordan River whooshed back in place.

At Gilgal, Joshua took the twelve stones and set them up as a monument. "These stones will be a reminder of

the LORD's faithfulness to you. You and those after you will point to them and tell your children that this is where the LORD dried up the Jordan and lead the people of Israel across on dry ground," Joshua told the people. "The LORD did this so that the whole world might know that He is powerful and so that you might always worship and obey Him."

The LORD wanted not just the people of Israel, but everyone to know of His great faithfulness.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Difficulty Destroyer? What kinds of difficulties did he destroy? The LORD. Every difficulty they faced! He freed the Israelites from their powerful enemies the Egyptians with amazing miracles. He had feed them with manna from heaven every day out in the wilderness. He even kept their sandals from falling apart over forty years!

2. What did he show by destroying all the difficulties? That He was always faithful. They could always trust Him, no matter how big the difficulties they faced.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Is Faithful

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 135:13,18,19

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

The very same God who went to no ends to show the Israelites His great faithfulness, is the same God who calls us to trust in Him. How much more of His faithfulness do we know now than even what those Israelites knew! Perhaps we have never seen Him suddenly stop the flow of a roaring river, but WE know God's amazing faithfulness to His promise to save all who confess their sins and call upon Him for salvation. We know that He kept that promise by sending His One and Only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and then offer it up on the cross as the one and only perfect sacrifice for their sins. And if that were not a great enough display of His faithfulness,

did you know that for all who do trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, not only does God promise to faithfully take care of them as His beloved people, but He also promises them that one day they will all enter His Promised Land, too. Not a land of milk and honey anywhere to be found in this world, like He gave the Israelites, long ago, but something far better. He will bring them to live in Heaven, itself, where God's people will get to live in perfectly wonderful fellowship with Him forever and ever, never to again know any pain or sin or any kind of evil.

Let's praise our completely faithful God. Let's ask Him to help us always to praise Him and never to stop trusting in His faithfulness to us; to quickly and joyfully obey Him, matter what we go through.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so faithful to Your people.

C God, we confess that too many times we doubt and grumble against You, like the people of Israel.

T God, we thank You for continuing to be so faithful, even when Your people are unfaithful to You.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us like Caleb and Joshua, who kept believing in Your faithfulness and Your power, even when everyone else doubted You.

Special Words

Canaan: The original name of the land where Israel is. This was the Promised Land the LORD gave to Abraham.

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

Ark of the Covenant: A special golden box with angels on top of it. It contained the Ten Commandments and a few other things. It was kept in the holiest part of the Tabernacle and then in the Temple. Prayers and offerings for the sins of the people were made at it by the high priest only.

Priest: A man from the tribe of Levi and the family of Moses' brother Aaron who served in the Tabernacle. He prayed for the people and led the people in their worship of the LORD.

Oasis: A large city to the east of Israel.

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 always faithful to Your people and all Your promises.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that many times we grumble against You and we worry. We do not believe You will keep Your promises. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for the way You have showed Your faithfulness to us even today. Thank You that You have let us hear of Your promises and encouraged us to trust in You. Thank You for Your faithfulness shown through Jesus, who long before we were even born, died to save sinners like us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, Your promises tell us that You can make great changes in our hearts and our lives. Please, 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: Food from the Promised Land, Stones from the River Jordan

Fruit from the Promised Land, such as grapes, figs and pomegranates along with donut hole “stones” from the Jordan River bed.

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

Case Tie-in: The people of Israel doubted the Lord’s faithfulness to them, even though He had destroyed every difficulty they faced. They saw the good food from the Promised Land, but feared He would not help them fight the giants. They wandered in the wilderness for forty years, until at last they all died off. The LORD parted the flooding River Jordan so they could cross over to the Promised Land on dry land. He commanded them to take 12 stones from the River Jordan and set them up as a reminder of what He had done for them. He was their living, faithful God, always able to take care of them.

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 Faithful

Being faithful means doing what you promise you will do.

Many times people are not faithful to the promises they make to each other or to God. They do not do what they promised to do. But even though people are often unfaithful, God is always, completely faithful. He always keeps His promises, no matter what.

The Bible is full of God's many promises. He promises to forgive the sins of all turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to take care of them, to help them, and to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. He promises to work in their hearts so that they will love God and live for Him more and more. Best of all, God promises to bring these, His dearly-loved people, to live with Him in heaven to enjoy Him forever.

Because God is always completely faithful, His people can fully trust Him and all the promises He makes to them. Thinking about these promises gives them peace and joy for every day of their lives—no matter what happens.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What does "faithful" mean? *Doing what you promise you will do.*
2. How is God's faithfulness different from ours? *Many times we are unfaithful, but God is always, completely faithful. He always keeps His promises, no matter what.*
3. Where can we find God's promises to His people? What kind of promises does He make to them? *The Bible. He promises to take care of them, to help them, to only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory; to work in their hearts so that they will love and live more and more like Jesus.*
4. What does God promise to do for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior? *To forgive their sins and make them His people.*
5. Where does God promise to bring His people one day? Why will that be best of all? *He promises to bring them to live with Him in heaven. That will be best of all because they will get to know and enjoy God fully there. There is no one more wonderful than God to know, and God's people will get to know and enjoy Him forever there!*
6. What can God's people do, because they know He is always, completely faithful? *They can fully trust Him and all the promises He makes to them. They can have peace and joy for every day of their lives—no matter what happens.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Faithful**? Why did the Israelites doubt the LORD's faithfulness to fulfill His promises to them? *They thought about their own strength and compared it to the strength of the peoples living in the Promised Land, instead of remembering the amazing ways the LORD took care of them in the past.*
2. How did the LORD show His faithfulness to the Israelites? *He sustained them through the Wilderness for 40 years and led them through the Jordan River on dry land.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalms 145:13,18-19**

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

God's people are the people who fear Him. They know He promises to fulfill their desires with good things, that He hears their cries and will always save them. This is because they know that the LORD is always, completely faithful to all His promises.

Life Application Questions

1. What is something that God's people can do when they are worried, afraid, or faced with something very, very difficult?

They can think about God's promises to them to take care of them and help them. They can remember that He is always faithful and will only allow in their lives what will be for their good and His glory. They can think about how He has forgiven their sins and will take them to live with Him in heaven one day.

2. How can we become God's people for whom these promises are always true? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for His never-ending faithfulness to keep His promises.

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

Confess that many times we grumble against God and forget/do not trust in His perfect faithfulness.

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

Thank God for some of the many ways we saw His faithfulness this week.

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

We can ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to help us to always trust His faithfulness, even when it is very hard.

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: Menagerie

Materials

Small Bag/Bowl
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Divide the children into three or four teams, depending on how many children you have. Each group of children is given the name of an animal and is assigned a corner of the room. You are "It" and stand in the Middle of the room. When everyone is ready, give instructions to different groups of animals, such as "I want the bears to change places with the monkeys." The bears and monkeys when then run to change places. You, as It, will try to tag bears and monkeys. Choose a question from the bag to read to your caught animals. If they get it right, they are released to be back with their fellow animals. If not, they must wait until another, correct answer to be released.

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

Non-competitive Option

Do not exclude "caught" animals from the game, even if they get the answer wrong. Instead release them back to their fellow animals and put the question back in the bag for review again.

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.

Day by Day

Verse 1

Day by day and with each passing moment,
 Strength I find to meet my trials here;
 Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
 I've no cause for worry or for fear.
 He whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
 Gives unto each day what He deems best,
 Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
 Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 23

Understanding the Song

1. What does "day by day and with each passing hour" mean? *Every hour of each day.*
2. What does the singer find "day by day and with each passing hour" to be true? *God gives him the strength he needs to meet his trials here.*
3. What are trials? *What kinds of trials might he be thinking about? Trials are difficult things that happen. Trials can be sickness, persecution, sad times, hard things we need to do, bad things that happen to us or others we love.*
4. What does "My Father's wise bestowment" mean and how does thinking about that help him during his trials? *The things God wisely chooses to allow to happen to him each day as one of His people, is what "My Father's wise bestowment means. Realizing that God only allows those things—hard or enjoyable—that He in His perfect wisdom chooses for him helps him to trust that the trials he must go through are best for him.*
5. What does "kind beyond all measure" mean? *God is kinder than anyone can imagine.*
6. How does knowing God is so kind keep him from worry and fear? *He knows that God only plans good for him, as one of His people, so he does not need to worry or fear anything that happens to him. One day he will see how God meant it to do good for him.*
7. How does the singer see God's faithfulness in how each day goes? *He knows that God will always be faithful to His promise to always give him the strength he needs for everything that happens to him. Whether it is "pain" (something hard) or "pleasure" (something enjoyable), "toil" (hard work) or "peace and rest," God will only allow what is for His people's good and for His own glory.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The LORD Is Faithful**?
It praises God's faithfulness to take care of God's people. He will be faithful to help them and to allow only what is for their good and God's glory, every hour of every day.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *When the Israelites heard the spies report about the peoples of the Promised Land, they only grumbled. They did not think that the LORD would be faithful to give them strength for the trials ahead, or that they were part of His "wise bestowment" for them. But 40 years later, their children did not fear the raging waters of the Jordan or the peoples of the Promised Land. They trusted in the LORD and believed that He would help them and only give them the perfect combination of "pain", "toil" and "pleasure", "peace and rest." He showed Himself completely faithful to them, even stopping up the Jordan River that they might walk through on dry land.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19:** "The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."?

God's people know that God is faithful to all His promises. They do not have to fear about what comes each day because they know He has promised to always take care of them and to always use everything they go through for their good and His glory.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for His perfectly wise bestowment of what is best for each of them each day. They can ask Him to help them to always trust in His faithfulness to always give them what they need each day.*

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 His faithfulness to His people, every day, every hour.

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

Confess that many times we grumble against the trials God has for us to go through, even though they might be for our good and His glory. We would rather not go through them at all. And, confess that many times we grumble that we are too weak to handle the hard things we have to go through instead of asking God to give us the strength to go through them.

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

We can thank God for being so faithful to His people. Every moment, every situation, they know He will give them strength to do what He wants them to do.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us the strength to go through whatever He wants us to go through. We can ask Him to always trust His faithfulness every day, even when it is very hard.

Gospel Question

1. God is faithful day by day, but we are not. We are all sinners who have disobeyed God and doubted His faithfulness. We all deserve His forever punishment for our sins. What hope has God given for people like us? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: 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.

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 145:13,18-19

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 145:13

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is the Lord faithful to? What does that mean? *He is faithful to all His promises, which means that He will always keep every promise He makes.*
2. Who is the Lord loving toward? *All He has made--which is everything.*
3. To whom is the Lord near? *All who call in Him in truth—all who cry out to Him in faith.*
4. What's a desire and whose desires does He fulfill? *A desire is something that we want. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him.*
5. What does it mean to fear God? *It means to understand how great and holy God is and to want to honor Him with all your life, because you understand what He is like.*
6. How does God fulfill the desires of those who fear Him? *It doesn't mean that He always gives them just what they might first think is best. People who fear God know that He knows best and that even if they want something, God might not give them what they want b/c He knows better than they do. People who fear God desire most of all to have God glorified, even if that means they don't get something else that they think they want. They trust that He knows best how to fulfill their desires and that He always, only fulfill their desires in the best way.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Lord Is Faithful?**
God's people are the people who fear Him. They know He promises to fulfill their desires with good things, that He hears their cries and will always save them. This is because they know that the LORD is always, completely faithful to all His promises.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this verse have to do with our story? *The Israelites many times struggled with doubting that the LORD would really fulfill their desires with good things and that He would save them when they cried out to Him. Perhaps that is because many of them did not really fear the LORD. They only wanted the good things He had promised them, if He gave them to them just as they wanted them. After 40 years in the Wilderness, the Israelite children grew up to fear the LORD. They were willing to trust that the LORD would save them even when crossing the raging Jordan River and fighting the fierce people of Jericho; and, that He was fulfilling their desires with good things by the things He had chosen for them to do.*

Life Application Questions

1. What happens when people who fear God cry out to Him? *He hears them and saves them.*
2. How do we show that we fear God? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for His never-ending faithfulness to keep His promises. Praise Him for being so loving to all He has made.

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse?

Confess that many times we grumble against God and forget/do not trust in His perfect faithfulness. Many times we get upset with Him for not fulfilling our desires just the way we want them to be fulfilled or not as soon as we want Him to. We think we know better than He does. We need a Savior!

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

We can thank God for being faithful to always hear the prayers and needs of His people and answer them. Thank Him for filling their desires with good things that He knows is best for them.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *Ask God to help us always trust His faithfulness, even when it is very hard. Ask Him to give us the desire to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to fulfill that desire with His forgiveness. Ask Him to help us to trust Him to be faithful to all His promises.*

Gospel Question

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

Game: Rush to the Store

Materials

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

2 large pieces of paper or poster board

A toy shopping cart or shopping bag per team

Empty food or beverage containers such as milk cartons or cereal boxes—one for each word or group of words of the verse (no more than 10 per team)

Paper and marker

Bag or jar

Masking tape

Two tables

Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as containers per team. Number this verse pieces in order and tape them to the containers.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. Use the masking tape to mark each team's home starting line.
5. Place each team's "groceries" in separate piles at the far end of the room with space between the two piles for the teacher to stand.

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:

WARNING: Limit the children to walking quickly if you have a slick floor.

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at their home lines. Explain that the class will say the Bible verse together, then you will pick a number out of your bag. The first player of each team will rush to the store to find the grocery item with that number on it. Instead of money to pay for the grocery, a child says the memory verse to the teacher. Then they rush home with the item in their bag, this place it on their team's table of groceries. The whole class will say the verse again, the teacher will choose another number and the next two children will go find that item, etc. until all items have been purchased and retrieved. Then, the children will line up their groceries so that their verse is in the right order and say the verse together. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have only one set of groceries. Have the children take turns retrieving the item and adding it to the class groceries on the table. Together they will work to put the verse together after collecting all the groceries.

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.

Faithful! He Is Faithful!

Faithful! He is faithful!
 The Lord is faithful to all His promises.
 Loving! He is loving!
 The Lord is loving toward all He has made.
 The Lord is near to all,
 To all who call on Him in truth.
 He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him,
 He hears their cries and saves them.
 Faithful! He is faithful!
 The Lord is faithful to all His promises.
 Loving! He is loving!

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 24

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Song
 Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

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

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

General Story Questions

1. Why were the Israelites so eagerly waiting for at Kadesh Barnea? *They were waiting the return of the 12 spies who went to Canaan.*
2. What did the 12 spies tell them about the land? *It was as good as the LORD had told them, but it was filled with lots of giant, fierce peoples.*
3. Why did Joshua, Caleb, Moses and Aaron all believe they could take the land, while no one else did? *They knew God would be faithful to His promise to give it to them.*
4. What punishment did the LORD give the Israelites for their unbelief and grumbling? *They would all wander in the Wilderness 40 more years until all the adults who grumbled died. Their children would inherit the land, instead of them.*
5. Who were the only old men among the Israelites, 40 years later? *Joshua and Caleb, the only men who did not grumble.*
6. What did the LORD tell Joshua to do? *Be strong and courageous. Have faith in Him.*
7. What was the Jordan River like, as the Israelites prepared to cross it? *At flood stage. Over 10 feet deep and 300 feet wide.*
8. What did the LORD command the priests to do? *Carry the Ark and step out into the Jordan River.*
9. What happened to the Jordan River when they stepped out into it? *It stopped flowing all the way back seventeen miles in Adam. It became dry ground for the priests to step upon.*
10. What miracle was the crossing of the Jordan River like? Why do you think the LORD chose to do this miracle? *The crossing of the Red Sea to escape the Egyptians. He wanted to encourage the Israelites that they could trust in His faithfulness. He was completely able to fulfill His promise to give them the Promised Land. They did not need to worry how.*
11. How many fighting men crossed the Jordan River? *40,000*
12. What did the LORD tell Joshua to do after all the people were on the other side of the Jordan? *Pick one man from each of the 12 tribes to gather a stone from the riverbed and place them together in a pile at Gilgal.*
13. What was the purpose of the pile of stones? *As a reminder that the Israelites could show their children of the miraculous way that the LORD brought them into the Promised Land.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD Is Faithful**? *The Israelites at first did not trust in the LORD's faithfulness to give them the Promised Land. They thought only about their own strength, not the LORD's strength to do what He promised. After 40 years, the children of the Israelites did choose to trust in the LORD's faithfulness. They believed He would bring them into the Promised Land and take care of them.*

Life Application Questions

1. How has God shown us even more of His faithfulness than even what the Israelites saw? *He has sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who turn and trust in Him. He has shown us that He would be so faithful to His promises to save His people, that even though it cost the life of His One and Only Son, He would do it.*
2. What promises of God do His people look forward to Him faithfully fulfilling still? *To keep taking care of them each day; to bring them into heaven to live with Him forever when they die.*
3. How can we become one of God's people for whom these promises are true? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 145:13,18-19**: "The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all He has made...The LORD is near to all who call on Him...in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them."?

The Israelites many times struggled with doubting that the LORD would really fulfill their desires with good things and that He would save them when they cried out to Him. Perhaps that is because many of them did not really fear the LORD. They only wanted the good things He had promised them, if He gave them to them just as they wanted them. After 40 years in the Wilderness, the Israelite children grew up to fear the LORD. They were willing to trust that the LORD would save them even when crossing the raging Jordan River and fighting the fierce people of Jericho; and, that He was fulfilling their desires with good things by the things He had chosen for them to do.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so very merciful, patient and faithful to such a very forgetful, faithless people, like the Israelites and like us!

2. What's something we can confess from this story?

Confess that many times we are doubters of God's faithfulness, just like the Israelites.

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

That time after time He continues to be faithful to His people, even when they are unfaithful.

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 from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us like Caleb and Joshua, who kept believing God would be faithful to them, even against such strong enemies.

The Gospel

1. We, like the people of Israel, are doubters of God's goodness and faithfulness. We are sinners who deserve God's forever punishment. But what hope has God given us through His Son, Jesus?

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: String Along

Materials

- Ball of string
- Scissors
- A jar/bag big enough to fit all the string
- Masking tape
- Paper and marker
- 20+ Story Review Questions and other 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 various lengths of string and place them in the jar, mixed up so it is not easy to see how long they are.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the masking tape line. Read Team A a Story Review question. If they can correctly answer it, then the first child in line stands up and picks a piece of string from the bag/jar without looking. He holds up the string for every one to see. The leader places the piece of string at Team's A's line, but lets it point away from the group. If Team A does NOT correctly answer the question, the Team B can try to correctly answer it. If they do, then the first person in the Team B line gets to pick out a string instead of Team A. Next, it is Team B's turn. Continue as above. Each time a team gets a new piece of string, it is tied to the other strings. The goal is to see who can get the longest string by the end of the game.

Play continues as Story Review cards last; or, as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Mark a length along the floor, wall, etc. Tell the children this is their target string length and they will work together to see how few questions it takes the group to reach the target length. Have the children take turns pulling out a piece of string to be added to the group as the leader reads a question. If the class gets the right answer, the piece of string is added onto the group's string. Continue until the target length is reached, noting how many pieces it took. Untie the string pieces, put them back in the jar and start again, seeing if they can reach the target length with less pieces the second time.

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 Difficulty Destroyer.

This is an Old Testament story. It starts out in a place called Kadesh Barnea, an oasis to the south of Israel. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

And now we present: "The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer."

Scene 1:

The thousands of Israelites and their flocks waited restlessly at Kadesh Barnea for signs of the twelve spies, sent out to look at the Promised Land. After forty days the spies return, carrying a huge cluster of grapes and other fruit. They report that the land was as good as the LORD had told them, but that there were lots of fierce people who live there. All the people except Caleb and Joshua think they cannot defeat these enemies and take the land. Caleb, Joshua, Aaron and Moses urge the people to trust the LORD to give them the land, but the others will not listen. They grumble and plan to stone them. They want to go back to Egypt. The LORD tells the people through Moses that because they grumbled and would not trust in Him, He would discipline them. They would continue to wander in the wilderness for forty more years, until everyone 20 years and older died in (except Joshua and Caleb). He would take their children, not them into the Promised Land. When the people heard this they tried to get the LORD to change His mind, but He would not.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Forty years pass. All the adults have died in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb, just as the LORD said would happen. The LORD makes Joshua the new leader of the people. He tells them to prepare the people to cross into the Promised Land in three days. Joshua sends out two spies to check out Jericho and the land around it. They report back to him good news: that the LORD was indeed given them the land! He had filled the people of Jericho with fear about them because of the mighty ways the LORD had cared for them and defeated their enemies. Joshua has the Israelites camp by the raging Jordan River for three days and then has them get ready to cross it.

Scene 3

Joshua orders the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant to step out into the raging Jordan River. As they do, the LORD completely stops the water from flowing. The priests step out onto dry land and stand in the Middle of the riverbed. All 40,000 soldiers and the other Israelites cross the dry riverbed into the Promised Land. When everyone is across, the LORD has Joshua get twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to each get a stone from the dry riverbed. They take their stones and make a pile at Gilgal where the Israelites were going to camp those first nights in the Promised Land. The LORD tells them that the stone were to be a lasting memorial to His faithfulness to bring them into the Promised Land on dry ground that they are to tell their children about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Faithful.** While the Israelites at first did not trust in the LORD's faithfulness to give them the Promised Land, 40 years later, their children did. He even had them cross the Jordan River on dry land, as the first of many shows of His faithfulness to take care of them in the Promised Land.

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 Difficulty Destroyer.

This is an Old Testament story. It starts out in a place called Kadesh Barnea, an oasis to the south of Israel. It takes place about 1400 years before Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

The characters in our story are: the people of Israel; Moses; twelve Israelites spies, including Joshua and Caleb; people of Canaan; two Israelites spies; people of Jericho; the priests; and, the twelve men who carry the stones out of the river bed.

And now we present: "The Case of the Difficulty Destroyer."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The thousands of Israelites and their flocks waited restlessly at Kadesh Barnea for signs of the twelve spies, sent out to look at the Promised Land. After forty days the spies return, carrying a huge cluster of grapes and other fruit. They report that the land was as good as the LORD had told them, but that there were lots of fierce people who live there. All the people except Caleb and Joshua think they cannot defeat these enemies and take the land. Caleb, Joshua, Aaron and Moses urge the people to trust the LORD to give them the land, but the others will not listen. They grumble and plan to stone them. They want to go back to Egypt. The LORD tells the people through Moses that because they grumbled and would not trust in Him, He would discipline them. They would continue to wander in the wilderness for forty more years, until everyone 20 years and older died in (except Joshua and Caleb). He would take their children, not them into the Promised Land. When the people heard this they tried to get the LORD to change His mind, but He would not.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Forty years pass. All the adults have died in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb, just as the LORD said would happen. The LORD makes Joshua the new leader of the people. He tells them to prepare the people to cross into the Promised Land in three days. Joshua sends out two spies to check out Jericho and the land around it. They report back to him good news: that the LORD was indeed given them the land! He had filled the people of Jericho with fear about them because of the mighty ways the LORD had cared for them and defeated their enemies. Joshua has the Israelites camp by the raging Jordan River for three days and then has them get ready to cross it.

Scene 3: (End)

Joshua orders the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant to step out into the raging Jordan River. As they do, the LORD completely stops the water from flowing. The priests step out onto dry land and stand in the Middle of the riverbed. All 40,000 soldiers and the other Israelites cross the dry riverbed into the Promised Land. When everyone is across, the LORD has Joshua get twelve men—one from each tribe of Israel—to each get a stone from the dry riverbed. They take their stones and make a pile at Gilgal where the Israelites were going to camp those first nights in the Promised Land. The LORD tells them that the stone were to be a lasting memorial to His faithfulness to bring them into the Promised Land on dry ground that they are to tell their children about.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD Is Faithful**. While the Israelites at first did not trust in the LORD's faithfulness to give them the Promised Land, 40 years later, their children did. He even had them cross the Jordan River on dry land, as the first of many shows of His faithfulness to take care of them in the Promised Land.

The Priests

Description

Children will make a priest's breastplate and (optional) hat.

Materials

Breastplate:

Either 12" x 36" piece of cheap white fabric per child OR 3 12" squares of white felt

5' of thin gold trim or ribbon OR glitter glue

12 craft jewels of various colors

Hat:

Paper chef's hat (purchased at kitchen shops) OR round, plastic ice cream tub

Large construction paper, blue and white

White paper

Glue Gun and glue sticks

Craft Glue

Markers

Stapler

Preparing the Craft

Breastplate, if using single piece of fabric:

1. Fold fabric in half to make a 12" x 18" doubled piece
2. Cut out as shown in Figure #1
3. Cut gold trim into 5 12" pieces per child.

Breastplate, if using felt pieces:

1. Cut 2 pieces 2" x 6" out of one of the felt pieces. These will be straps for the breastplate
2. Use the glue gun to attach the straps to ends of one side of each of the remaining felt pieces. (See Figure #2)
3. Cut gold trim into 5 12" pieces per child.

The Hat:

1. Cut blue construction paper into 2 1/2" x 18" strips, two per child
2. Cut white construction paper into 1 1/2" x 16" strips, one per child

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.

The Breastplate:

2. Have children glue the 5 pieces of trim into a grid shape. (Figure 3)
3. Glue the 12 jewels in each square of the grid. (Figure 3)

The Hat (Figure #4):

4. If using the chef's hat: Have children staple a strip of blue paper from the center front of the hat to the center back; and, from center side of one side of hat to center side of other side. Beginning and ending on the band of the hat, if using the chef's hat. If using the tub, use glue instead of stapler; and beginning and ending as close to the rim of the tub, if using the ice cream tub.
5. Write the words "Holy to the LORD" on the white strip of paper. Attach it to hat headband (or rim of tub) with stapler or glue in the back.

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?

By the Jordan River.

2. What was remarkable about the Jordan River right then? The waters were really high and powerful. They were flood waters.

3. What did the LORD want the priests to do? How did the LORD display His faithfulness by having the priests do this?

He wanted them to step forward into the flood waters. When they did, the LORD stopped the waters and the priests stood on dry ground of the riverbed where the raging waters had been.

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

The LORD Is Faithful.

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

The Israelites doubted the LORD's faithfulness to give them the Promised Land the first time He commanded them to go. Forty years later, they trusted Him and He dried up the Jordan River, showing them that He was both powerful enough and faithful enough to give them the Promised Land.

6. What can this craft help us remember?

Impossible-looking circumstances are times when God displays how great His faithfulness is to keep His promises to His people.

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

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: The Priests

2. At the Jordan River, the LORD told Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant into the raging flood waters of the Jordan River to display His faithfulness to go before them into the Promised Land.

3. Bible Truth 8 is: The LORD Is Faithful.

4. The Israelites doubted the LORD's faithfulness to give them the Promised Land the first time He commanded them to go. Forty years later, they trusted Him and He dried up the Jordan River, showing them that He was both powerful enough and faithful enough to give them the Promised Land.

5. Our craft can help us remember that impossible-looking circumstances are times when God displays how great His faithfulness is to keep His promises to His people.

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.

Figure #1

18" side (double thickness)

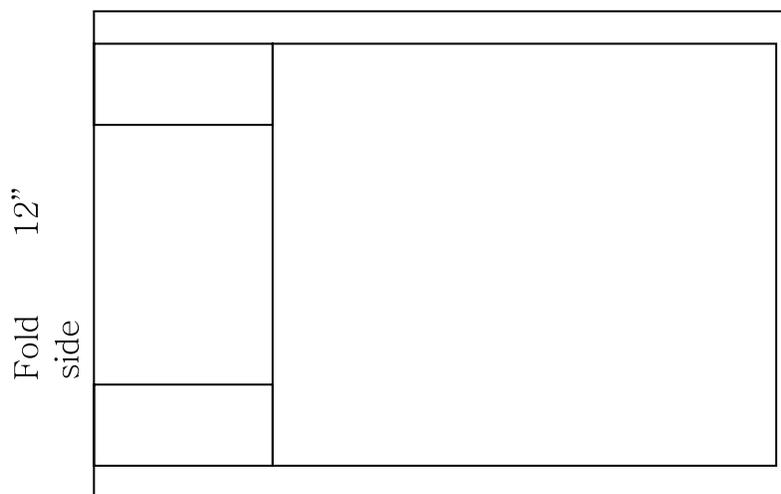


Figure #2

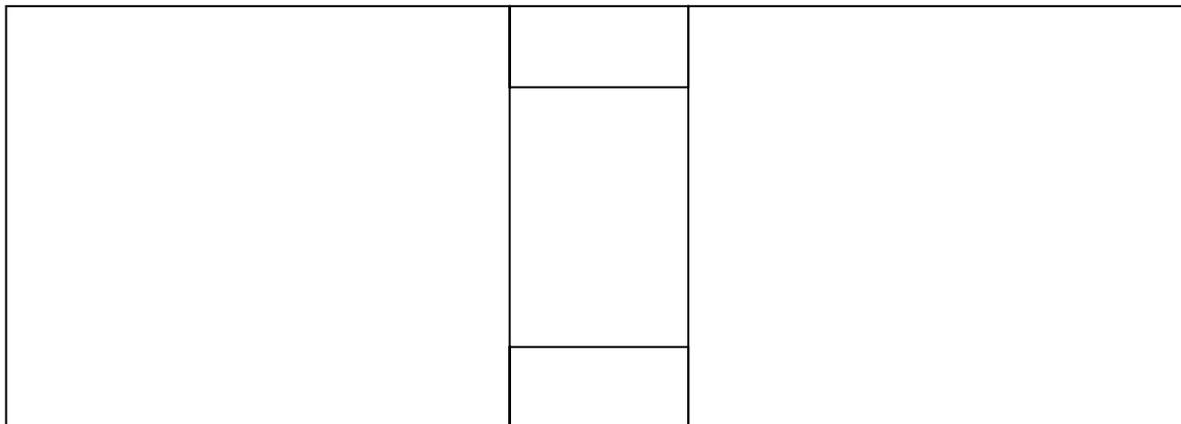


Figure #3

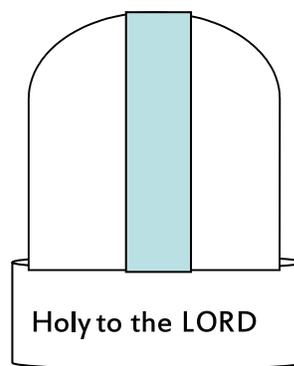
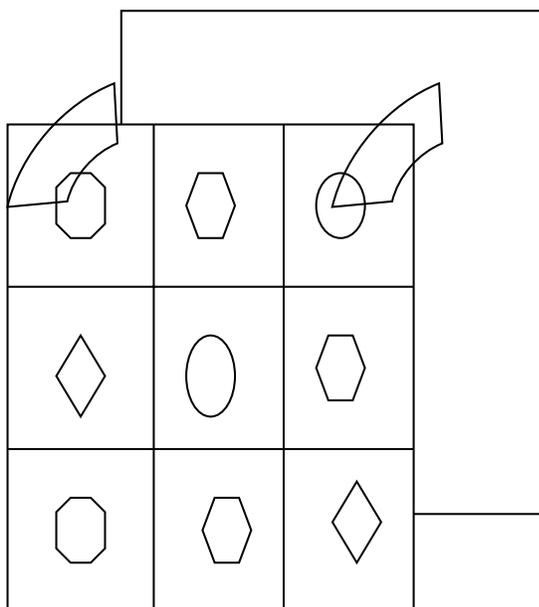


Figure #4

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.

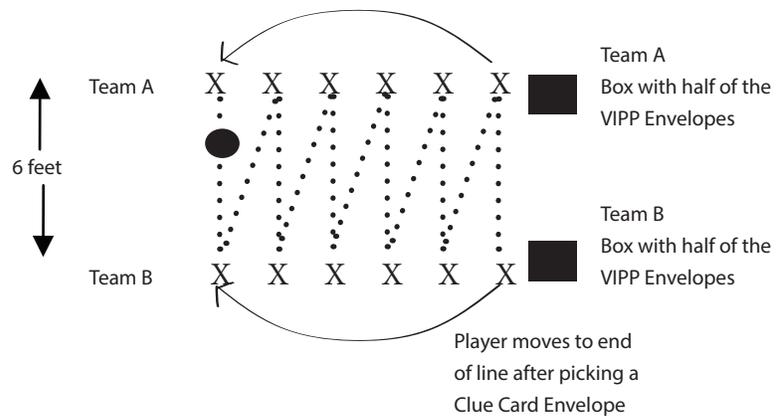
Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

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: Ball Roll Review

Materials

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



Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manila envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Put half the Clue Card Envelopes in one box and the other half in the other box. These are the Team A and Team B Boxes.

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

P.3

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
