

BIBLE TRUTH 9, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Truth 9: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Oh, How I Love Jesus, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 36*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Bible Verse Song: Proclaim the Name *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 37*
Extra Bible Verse Song: I Will Proclaim Deuteronomy 32:3-4, ESV PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 38

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the Heavenly Light
Matthew 1,12; Mark 3; Luke 1-2,8; John 7,8;12-59; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Temple Torches

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

Bible Truth Hymn: Oh, How I Love Jesus, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 36*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 Discussion Sheet and Game: Frisbee Toss

Bible Verse Song: Proclaim the Name Deuteronomy 32:3-4 *PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 37*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Balloon Volleyball

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: Candelabra

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Crabbin' Around

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 9, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV Prontos 4 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Heavenly Light on Earth

Matthew 1,12; Mark 3; Luke 1-2,8; John 7,8;12-59; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:7

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the Heavenly Light on Earth.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Light? What made the light heavenly?
2. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth?

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

"He's here!" the shepherds exclaimed. "Here's the baby in the manger, like the angel said! Sure enough, there was Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the little animal shelter.

"How did these shepherds find us here?" Mary and Joseph must have wondered.

"We were outside of town, watching our sheep when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared! The sky and everything around us was filled with the beautiful, blazingly bright glory of the Lord and we were terrified!" the shepherds said. "But then the angel said: 'Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the peoples of the earth. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord. You will find Him wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'"

"Suddenly hundreds of heavenly angels appeared. They praised God saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' We watched them until they went back into heaven. As soon as they left, we hurried here to Bethlehem and started looking for you...and for Him. And here we are," they told Mary and Joseph.

This baby, the Messiah, the Lord? Both Mary and Joseph had known it for months. An angel had appeared to each of them. "Your child will be God's Son," he had told Mary. And to Joseph he had said, "You are to give Him the name Jesus, which means 'Yahweh saves,' for He will save His people from their sins." And now it seemed this amazing news was being announced to the world: Here was the Messiah, God's Son, that Israel had been waiting for! He was "Immanuel, God, Himself, living among us," promised long ago.

The shepherds left the shelter rejoicing. They spread the good news about Jesus, and all who heard it were amazed. Mary, herself, had much to think about. The Bible tells us that she treasured up all these things and thought about them in her heart. This son of hers, this Son of God, what would His life be like? How would He save His people? She had many questions, and so few answers. Only time would reveal the LORD's plan.

Thirty years passed from that night in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph took Jesus and settled in Galilee. Mary and Joseph had children together, little half-brothers and sisters for Jesus. There was James, Jude (Judas), Simon and Joseph, and others whose names we don't even know. They played and grew up.

But, while the half-brothers and sisters grew up to live very regular lives, big half-brother Jesus grew up and began doing things that were not regular at all! He started preaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God, like He was some great teacher. He did amazing miracles. He healed sick people and even a raging storm with just His word. He fed over five thousand people with just a few fish and bread. He raised dead people back to life! He even forgave people's sins, like He was God, Himself!

No, Jesus was not being a regular man at all! In everything He said and did, Jesus was showing people He was exactly who His name said He was: He was Jesus: 'Yahweh saves.' He had come to save His people from their sins. He was Immanuel, God, Himself, living among them. He was God's Son. Jesus had come to bring the

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.

light of salvation to sinful men. He had come to put an end to the darkness of sin and death. He was Jesus, the Light of the World.

What did people think of Jesus when He began to do all these amazing things? Some believed He really was the Messiah. But others followed Him thinking He was just a great prophet, like Elijah, from the old days. The jealous Jewish leaders even called Him a devil!

Even Jesus' mother and half-brothers were confused about what Jesus was doing. Sometimes they thought He was crazy. His half-brothers thought he was just trying to make himself into a big leader and made fun of Him. "Jesus, it's time for the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem—one of the biggest feasts of the year. Everyone will be there," they told him. "Surely you're coming with us and the rest of town to celebrate. You could do some of your 'miracles' there and really make a big name for yourself then," they said joking. But Jesus didn't listen to them. He would do everything in God's perfect timing as part of God's perfect plan.

Everyone loved the Feast of Tabernacles and for good reason. There were so many wonderful parts to it, each having its own nickname. They called it 'the Season of Great Joy,' for the Israelites all came together in Jerusalem to celebrate the day the Lord brought the Israelites into the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the desert. Everyone joined joyous parades, carrying lulabs (palm branches), etrogs (a kind of fruit), and myrtle and willow branches, singing songs of praise to the LORD as they walked.

They also called it 'the Feast for All Peoples,' celebrating the day when peoples of every nation would come and worship the LORD together, as the LORD had promised through the prophets. The priests brought into the Temple courts a long parade of seventy bulls, representing all the nations of the world. The priests offered them all up on the altar at the Temple as worship gifts to the LORD.

And they also called it 'the Festival of Light.' Each night, four gigantic candelabras each with seven, giant wicks made from the priests' white robes, were raised up the top of the towering Temple, and lit. It was so bright that it lit up every part of Jerusalem, as a reminder of the brilliant glory of the LORD.

Down in the Temple Courts, the Jewish leaders held torches as they danced. The music of the trumpets, horns, cymbals, flutes and harps of the Temple orchestra played while they sang: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD... The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the feast parade, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you." (Psalm 118: 25-29)

The Feast lasted for seven, wonderful days. At the very height of the celebrations, Jesus came to Jerusalem to make a big announcement. Standing right next to the Temple, beneath the glorious light of those candelabras, and in the middle of all those thousands of people, Jesus proclaimed: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me not keep living in the darkness of sin and death, but will have the light of eternal life. I am the good news of great joy for all people. I am just exactly who My name says I am: Jesus, 'Yahweh saves.' I have come to save My people from their sins. I am God's Son. I am Yahweh, Himself, living among you," He said.

The Jewish leaders were furious! Not only had Jesus spoken the name "Yahweh" which they believed was too holy to be spoken aloud, but He was using that name for Himself! What blasphemy! To think a man would call himself by God's name! They picked up stones and tried to kill Him. But Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the Temple grounds.

Jesus escaped, completely unharmed that day, but not too many months later, it was the leaders who got their way—or so it seemed. They arrested Jesus, accused Him of doing bad things He didn't do, then put Him to death on the cross. "Jesus is dead," the Jewish leaders rejoiced. "Now we will hear no more from this man who says He is Yahweh. We have put out the supposed 'Light of the world,' once and for all."

But of course those Jewish leaders were wrong. God had always meant to use their evil plans to bring great joy for all of God's people. For Jesus hung on the cross that day, He was fulfilling the promise of His name: Jesus: 'Yahweh Saves.' He took upon Himself God's punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn from

their sins and trust in Him as Savior. He, was Immanuel, God, Himself. He had lived among them and now He was dying for them on the cross.

Jesus' sad friends took His body and buried in the grave that day. They thought this was the end of Jesus, but how wrong they were! For on the third day, God raised Jesus up from the dead, proving that He really had beaten sin and death for all of God's people. Now here was good news of great joy for all people, the angels had sung about long ago. But no, this was not really just good news. This was the BEST news of great joy! For Jesus had brought the Light of Salvation to the world, for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Light? What made the light heavenly?

Jesus. He was the Son of God, come from His home in heaven.

2. What did the Heavenly Light come to do on earth?

He came to be Immanuel, God with Us. He came to tell people about God and to be their Savior so that could go to live with God forever.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

"For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

Does it surprise you that people who knew so much about Jesus and saw so many of His miracles should be so slow to believe in Him? It shouldn't. For every one of us is born with hard, unbelieving hearts. Faith in Jesus is a gift that God must give each of us. Even Jesus' own mother and half-brothers—just like you and me—only believed in Jesus by the gift of faith. The wonderful news is that faith is a gift God loves to give and promises to lavish upon all who turn away from disobeying Him and trust Jesus as their Savior.

Let's praise the name of Jesus—that He is 'Yahweh Saves.' Let's ask Him to give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being Yahweh, the Light of the World, who takes away the darkness of sin and death for all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

C God, we confess that many times we want to hide from the Light of the World. We don't want to confess our sins, but hide them from You and everyone else.

T God, we thank You for revealing us Yourself through Your Son, Jesus--the Light of the World.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us the gift of faith that we might love Him and worship Him.

Special Words

Temple: Worship house of a god.

Feast of Tabernacles: One of the Jewish celebrations held in Jerusalem every year.

Yahweh: The name of God.

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 Yahweh, the "I Am Who I Am," Eternal, the Source and Sustainer of Life, unlike anyone or anything else.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that many times we forget what Your names tell us about You. Many times we do not honor You, trust You or live for You as we should. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for choosing to tell us so much about Himself through His names. Thank You for always being true to Your names.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us to spend time thinking about Your names and knowing You better. Help us to believe that You are faithful to be as good as Your names tell us You are. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, just as His name tells us He is. Help us to trust in Your faithful care of us every day.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Temple Torches

Mini “flaming torches” made with half a tortilla spread with cream cheese and rolled up into a cone shape. Stick slice(s) of yellow/red/orange peppers or baby carrots sticking out one end as the torch’s flame. Or, Sugar cone “torch” filled with rainbow sherbet “fire” (could look for sugar-free variety?) like what the Jewish leaders held while they danced and sang at night in the Temple courts.

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

Case Tie-in: Jesus entered the Temple courts during the and proclaimed to everyone that He was the Light of the World. He was showing them that He was the Messiah, God’s Son, come to save 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's Names Tell Us about Him

When we are born, our parents name us. Sometimes we are named after someone in our family or someone in the Bible. Besides our real names, many times our family or friends give us a nickname that describes something about us.

The Bible tells us that God has a real name and many nicknames, too. All His names tell us something about Him. God's real name is "Yahweh," which means "I Am Who I Am." It means that God is eternal, with no beginning or end. It means that no one else is like Him. He alone is the source and sustainer of all life. When we read the word "LORD" in the Bible that is like saying "Yahweh."

God has many nicknames, too, such as Savior; God Most High, Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the Rock and the Good Shepherd. God commanded Mary and Joseph to give His Son the name, Jesus, because it means "Yahweh saves." At the end of time when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God's name and nicknames tell us how great He is and how completely worthy of all of our love, trust, obedience and praise.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. How did our parents choose our names? How do we get a nickname? *We are named after someone or a name they like. Many times we are given a nickname that describes something about us.*
2. What is God's real name? What does it mean? "Yahweh." *It means 'I Am Who I Am.' He is eternal, like no one else, the source and sustainer of life.*
3. Why is "LORD" written in the Bible? *Jews thought the name Yahweh too holy to write or read. They changed some of the letters and wrote LORD instead.*
4. What are some of God's nicknames? *God Most High, Almighty God, Everlasting God, Rock, the Good Shepherd.*
5. What does the name Jesus mean? *Why was that a good name for Jesus? "Yahweh Saves." Jesus really was Yahweh, come to save His people from their sins.*
6. What will everyone call Jesus when He returns? *King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*
7. What do God's name and nicknames show us He is worthy of? *All of our love, trust, obedience and praise.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him**? Why was Jesus the perfect name for God's Son? What did it tell others about Him?
Jesus means "Yahweh Saves." Jesus was Yahweh, Himself, come to save His people as He had promised. His name revealed exactly who He was and what He had come to do.

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Deuteronomy 32:3-4**: "For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." *Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can thinking about God's names help God's people today? *They can remind them about all the great ways He is. They can give them comfort in times of trouble and help them to keep trusting and obeying Him.*
2. How can we become one of God's people? *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 being Yahweh, the "I Am Who I Am," Eternal, the Source and Sustainer of Life, unlike anyone or anything else.

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

Confess that many times that we forget what His names tell us about Him by not honoring Him, trusting Him or living for Him as we should.

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

Thank God for choosing to tell us so much about Himself through His names; and for always being true to His names.

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

Ask God to help us spend time thinking about His Names and growing in trusting and obeying Him because of who He is.

The Gospel

1. One of the names for God that God's people love most of all is the Savior Jesus. That's because we all are sinners who deserve God's forever punishment. Who can be saved by Jesus? What do they have 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: Circle and Cross

Materials

Beanbags, 1 per child
Masking Tape
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.
3. Tape a circle about 2' in diameter on the floor. Tape a large X in the Middle of it.
4. Mark one team's set of beanbags with a small piece of masking tape or other distinguishing mark.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, giving the members of each team a beanbag of the same color or marking. Have all the children stand outside of the circle, about 6' back. At your signal, have the children toss their beanbags into the circle, trying to make them land on the taped X. Count up the beanbags for each team that landed on it. That's how many points their quiz question is worth. Choose a question for each team from the bag/bowl. If a team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for 1 point, if they can get the correct answer. Gather up the beanbags and continue play.

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

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target 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. 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.

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Verse 1

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing it's worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 36

Understanding the Song

1. What does is the name the singer loves to hear? *The name of Jesus.*
2. What does the singer love to sing about and what does that mean?
The worth of the name of Jesus. Worth means what is good and valuable about it.
3. What does Jesus' name mean and how does that tell us of its worth?
It means 'Yahweh saves.' It is of greatest worth because we all are sinners, deserving eternal punishment for our rebellion against God. We never can never save ourselves from this punishment. Only Yahweh, who sent His Son, Jesus to live a perfect life and offer it up on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for sins could do what was needed to save us. Jesus' name tells us of this greatest act of love that Yahweh did for all who would ever turn and trust in Him. There is nothing worth more than the name of Jesus!
4. What does it mean that Jesus' name sounds like music in the ear?
Not that it sounds like someone singing. It's an expression meaning something is really good news.
5. What does 'sweetest name on earth' mean? *Not sweet-tasting like sugar. Sweetest also mean the best. Jesus' name is the best name on earth.*
6. What makes Jesus' name the best on earth?
He alone could save sinful people from the eternal punishment they deserve.
7. What does the singer love Jesus? Why is that so important to him? *Because Jesus first loved him. The Bible tells us that God loved us while we still were sinners, living in rebellion and hatred of Him. HE sent Jesus to die for His sinful people before they loved Him. When the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, they each came to believe in Him, love Him, and turn and live their lives for Him. Without Him first loving us, we would never have chosen to love Him! The singer is so grateful for God's loving him first!*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him?**
Jesus' name means 'Yahweh Saves.' It tells us about the LORD and how He, Himself, saved His people from their sins.

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story?

Even though many—even Jesus' own mother and half-brothers—did not understand or appreciate who Jesus was before He died on the cross, they did understand believe in Him when He rose from the dead. They knew that He had died for them on the cross while they did not fully believe in Him or even scorned Him. They knew that He loved them first, before they loved Him as Savior and Lord.

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4:** "For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."?

God's people think that the name of Jesus is the sweetest name on earth because it reminds them that Yahweh Saves. Without Jesus, they would still face God's punishment for their sins. Without Jesus, they would never get to know God. How great are the works that the LORD worked by sending Jesus to save sinners! He does no wrong. He is just and upright. So, He hates sin. Yet, He Himself, did the great work of saving sinners through Jesus.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for loving them first when they were still sinners in rebellion against Him. They can ask Him to fill their hearts with greater delight in Him and all He's done for them. They can ask Him to help them to live obedient lives that please Him.*

2. How can we become God's people? *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 hymn?

Praise God for loving His people before they loved Him. He sent Jesus to save them while they were still sinners.

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

Confess that many times we do not act like we love God in our hearts or in our lives, even though He has sent Jesus to be our Savior. He needed to love us first, because we would never choose to love Him first. Oh, how we need a Savior!

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

We can thank God for sending Jesus to be the Savior for God's people—all those that confess their sins to God, turn from them and ask Jesus to be their Savior.

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

Ask God to work in our hearts and help us to confess our sins to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to give us a great love for Jesus, understanding what He has done for sinners. Help us to live out that love in all we do.

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people love to hear Jesus' name so much? 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: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

“For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

Alternate Memory Version: Deuteronomy 32:3

“For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is being proclaimed? *The name of the LORD.*
2. What does it mean to proclaim the name of the LORD? *It means more than just saying His name. It means thinking about what that name means and praising Him for the way He is.*
3. What are some of the things that could be proclaimed about the name of the LORD?
He is eternal, like no one else, the source and sustainer of all life.
4. How is the LORD great? *He is all-knowing, all-powerful, completely holy and good. He loves His people perfectly and always orders everything in their lives for their good and His glory. He always is faithful.*
5. What does it mean for God to be “the Rock”? *A big rock can't be moved from its place. It is unshakable in a big storm or lots of rain. God is the Rock of His people because He is so powerful that nothing can stop Him from doing all of His perfectly good plan. His people can always count on Him to take care of them and do exactly what He says.*
6. What does it mean that His works are perfect? *There will never be a better way to do things than how the LORD has done them. He never messes up or never is unable to do what He wants to do.*
7. What does it mean that the LORD is a God of faithfulness? *He will always keep all of His promises.*
8. What three things can be said about this faithful God, and what do they mean? *He is without iniquity, He is upright, and He is just. ‘Without iniquity’ means He never makes mistakes and never does anything evil. ‘Upright’ means that He is righteous, without sin. ‘Just’ means He is so wise that He always makes the good, right, fair decisions.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The LORD’s Names Tell Us about Him?**
Each day the LORD displays His wonderful ways and perfect care of His people. He is the LORD—the I Am Who I Am, who is eternal, like no one else, and the source and sustainer of life. He is like a Rock they can always depend on. They have nothing but praise for His name.

Story Connection Questions

1. What does this verse have to do with our story?
The shepherds rejoiced to hear and see that the LORD had sent His Messiah to save His people. While Mary was confused, Jesus’ brothers scornful, before Jesus rose from the dead, they believed in Him afterwards. They rejoiced at the perfection of the LORD’s works in sending His Son to die on the cross and save God’s people.

Life Application Questions

1. How does it help God’s people today to know that He is faithful and does no wrong? *Even today, God’s people face hard things in their lives. They suffer sickness, they have sad things happen to them and those they love; they can be afraid about the future. There are even times when people hurt them just because they believe in Jesus. During these times, God’s people think about how faithful God promises to be to them. They know He will take care of them. They think about how just they are. They know that in His perfect timing, He will see that they even get justice for ways that people have mistreated them because they love Him.*
2. How can we become God’s people? *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 being Perfect, Just and Upright in all His ways.

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

Confess that we are not like the LORD in so many ways. We are not perfect, just or upright. We are sinners who need a Savior.

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

Thank God for sending Jesus to be the perfectly just and upright offering for the sins of all God's people, that they could be saved from God's punishment. Instead, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus can have eternal life with God!

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

Ask God to work in our hearts and help us to confess our sins to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to send the Holy Spirit to live in us and change us so that we would reflect more of His perfect justice and uprightness. Ask Him to be our Rock--the one we depend upon.

Gospel Question

1. God is perfect, just and upright in all His ways, 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: Frisbee Toss

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 or more Frisbees (or bean bag)
Masking tape
marker and paper
small container

Preparing the Game

1. Divide the verse into 5 to 10 sections and place a word/verse section in each section. Write point values on the word/verse section, higher points for a word near the beginning of the verse; lower points for a word closer to the end. Tape these down.

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:

Divide the children into two teams and sit down in line. Explain that everyone will say the verse together. Then a child from one team will come up and toss the Frisbee into a word section. The leader/group will say the verse up to that word. The child can then win total point values by completing the verse on his own, or have point values by asking a team member to help him. If they are unsuccessful, the other team will have a chance to complete it for the half point amount. Have whole group say verse together again, then choose a child from the other team to toss the Frisbee.

Game continues until all children get a turn, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the Frisbee, letting the child or a child with a partner, say the rest of the verse on their own.

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.

Proclaim the Name

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 4, Track 37

Proclaim the name,
 I will proclaim,
 I will proclaim the name of the LORD;
 Ascribe to God,
 Greatness to God,
 Ascribe greatness to our God!
 The Rock, the Rock,
 His work is perfect, (was: His works are perfect)
 The Rock, the Rock,
 His ways are justice.
 A God, a God, of faithfulness,
 Without iniquity, just and upright is He.
 Deuteronomy Thirty-two, three and four.

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.

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. What did the shepherds tell Mary and Joseph they saw and heard?

They told them all the angels had announced about Jesus, the glory of the LORD and all the angels they saw.

2. Why did Mary and Joseph name the baby Jesus? What meaning did His name have?

Through an angel they were commanded by the LORD to name the baby Jesus. Jesus means "Yahweh Saves."

3. Why did the LORD want Jesus to have that name?

Because He was the Messiah, the one the LORD had promised would save His people from their sins.

4. What did Mary treasure in her heart?

All the things the shepherds told her they saw and heard out in the fields.

5. What was different about Jesus from his half-brothers and sisters?

They grew up to live regular lives and He began preaching and doing amazing miracles.

6. What did Mary think when Jesus started teaching and doing miracles? *She was confused and tried to put the pieces together about what she had been told about Him and what He was doing.*

7. What did Jesus' half-brothers think about Jesus? *They thought He was crazy.*

8. Why did Jesus' half-brothers think Jesus should go to the Feast of Tabernacles?

So that He could "show off" to an even bigger group of people and get more popular, since they did not think He really was who He said He was.

9. Why did Jesus wait to go up to the Feast of Tabernacles? *He waited for His Father's perfect timing.*

10. How was the Feast of Tabernacles the feast of "good news of great joy?"

With parades and singing, they celebrated how the LORD had led their people long ago into the Promised Land.

11. How was the Feast of Tabernacles the feast for "all the nations"?

They sacrificed 70 bulls that stood for all the nations of the world, celebrating the LORD's promise to them that one day people from every nation would come and worship Him.

12. How was the Feast of Tabernacles a festival of lights?

Four huge candelabra were raised to the top of the Temple and shone their light upon all the city of Jerusalem. Down below, Jewish leaders danced and sang to the music of the Temple orchestra while holding flaming torches.

13. Why did Jesus tell the people that He was the Light of the World during this feast?

This was the feast in which they praised the LORD for being their light. They thought about His glory. Jesus wanted people to know that He was Immanuel, God with Them. He was Yahweh, come to save them from the darkness of sin and death. All who believed in Him would know the light of life. He would save people from every nation and they would worship the LORD, just as they celebrated when they sacrificed the bulls.

14. What happened to Mary, Jesus' half-brothers and some of the Jewish leaders after Jesus rose from the dead?

They saw that He really was who He claimed to be. They put their faith in Him.

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him**? Why was Jesus the perfect name for God's Son? What did it tell others about Him?

Jesus means "Yahweh Saves." Jesus was Yahweh, Himself, come to save His people as He had promised. His name revealed exactly who He was and what He had come to do.

Life Application Questions

1. How is Jesus still the Light of the World for our world today? *He is the only Son of God. He alone is Immanuel, God with Us. He shows us what God is like. He is the one we must trust in if we are to be saved from our sins.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 32:3-4**: "For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."?

The shepherds rejoiced to hear and see that the LORD had sent His Messiah to save His people. While Mary was confused, Jesus' brothers scornful, before Jesus rose from the dead, they believed in Him afterwards. They rejoiced at the perfection of the LORD's works in sending His Son to die on the cross and save His people.

ACTS Questions

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

We can praise God for being Yahweh, the Light of the World, who takes away the darkness of sin and death for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

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

Confess many times we want to hide from the Light of the World. We don't want to confess our sins, but hide them from God and everyone else. 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 Light of the World to reveal to us what God is like and how we can be saved.

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

We can ask God to work in our hearts like a great light, showing us our sins and helping us turn from them and trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to show us more of who He is that we might know Him and love Him better.

The Gospel

1. One of the names for God that God's people love most of all is the Savior Jesus. That's because we all are sinners who deserve God's forever punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Balloon Volleyball

Materials

20+balloons
small strips of paper
pen
Masking Tape
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. Write out each Story Review question on a small strip of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Roll it up and place it inside of the balloon. Inflate the balloon. Continue this process for each Story Review question. Make a line with masking tape across the Middle of the playing area.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them spread out on each side of the masking tape line. Take one of the balloons and bat it out into the field of play. The children will bat it back and forth without letting it hit the floor. When it hits the floor, play stops and the team on the opposite side scores a point. The balloon is popped, the question is unrolled and read. The team who scored the point gets first try at answering the question. If they get it correctly, they get another point. If not, then the other team can try for a point. Play resumes by the leader batting another balloon out into the court.

Play continues as balloons last, or as time and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't keep track of points. Encourage the children to see how many times they bat the balloon back and forth, counting out loud with each hit. When the balloon hits the floor, the leader pops the balloon and reads question for all to 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.

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 Heavenly Light.

This story takes place in New Testament times, starting out near Bethlehem, when Jesus was born.

And now we present: "The Case of the Heavenly Light."

Scene 1:

Actions:

The shepherds find Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in an animal shelter on the edge of Bethlehem. They tell how the glory of the LORD suddenly lit up the fields and an angel proclaimed to them the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, and they would find Him in a manger. The sky filled up with angels rejoicing about Jesus. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus— 'Yahweh Saves' because they had been told that He would save His people from their sins. The shepherds leave and spread the news about all they've seen and heard. Mary treasures up all these things in her heart and thinks about them.

Scene 2:

Mary and Joseph eventually take Jesus to live in Galilee. They have their own children—half-brothers and sisters for Jesus. Over the next 30 years, the brothers and sisters grow up and live regular lives, but Jesus grows up to preach and do all sorts of miracles. Some people think Jesus is a great prophet or maybe the Messiah. The Jewish leaders are jealous and think He at least a teacher telling lies...and maybe even a devil. Mary is confused. Jesus' half-brothers think He is crazy and try to get Him away from the crowds and go back home. They give Him a hard time. Jesus' half-brothers make fun of Jesus and tell Him to go up to the Feast of Tabernacles to make a big name for Himself with His teachings and miracles. Jesus refuses to go with them, because He will only go when the Father tells Him to go.

Scene 3

A few days later, Jesus goes to the Feast of the Tabernacles. There in the Temple, during the celebration of God's glory with the big, lit-up candelabras and the priests dancing with lit torches, Jesus announces that He was the Light of the World. He is Yahweh, Himself, come to save God's people. The Jewish leaders were horrified that Jesus would say that He was God's Son. They try to stone Him, but He gets away. Months later, Jesus suffers and dies for the sins of God's people on the cross. He is buried and on the third day, He rises from the dead. He really was the Light of the World and really was the Savior. Mary, Jesus' brothers and even many of the Jewish leaders put their faith in Him. Here was Good News of Great Joy for all the peoples! Jesus had come to save them!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him.** Jesus' name means "Yahweh Saves." He told the people that He was the Light of Salvation for the World.

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 Heavenly Light.

This story takes place in New Testament times, starting out near Bethlehem, when Jesus was born.

The characters in our story are: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the Shepherds, Angels, People of Israel, Mary and Joseph's sons and daughters, the Jewish leaders.

And now we present: "The Case of the Heavenly Light."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The shepherds find Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in an animal shelter on the edge of Bethlehem. They tell how the glory of the LORD suddenly lit up the fields and an angel proclaimed to them the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, and they would find Him in a manger. The sky filled up with angels rejoicing about Jesus. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus—"Yahweh Saves" because they had been told that He would save His people from their sins. The shepherds leave and spread the news about all they've seen and heard. Mary treasures up all these things in her heart and thinks about them.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Mary and Joseph eventually take Jesus to live in Galilee. They have their own children—half-brothers and sisters for Jesus. Over the next 30 years, the brothers and sisters grow up and live regular lives, but Jesus grows up to preach and do all sorts of miracles. Some people think Jesus is a great prophet or maybe the Messiah. The Jewish leaders are jealous and think He at least a teacher telling lies...and maybe even a devil. Mary is confused. Jesus' half-brothers think He is crazy and try to get Him away from the crowds and go back home. They give Him a hard time. Jesus' half-brothers make fun of Jesus and tell Him to go up to the Feast of Tabernacles to make a big name for Himself with His teachings and miracles. Jesus refuses to go with them, because He will only go when the Father tells Him to go.

Scene 3: (End)

A few days later, Jesus goes to the Feast of the Tabernacles. There in the Temple, during the celebration of God's glory with the big, lit-up candelabras and the priests dancing with lit torches, Jesus announces that He was the Light of the World. He is Yahweh, Himself, come to save God's people. The Jewish leaders were horrified that Jesus would say that He was God's Son. They try to stone Him, but He gets away. Months later, Jesus suffers and dies for the sins of God's people on the cross. He is buried and on the third day, He rises from the dead. He really was the Light of the World and really was the Savior. Mary, Jesus' brothers and even many of the Jewish leaders put their faith in Him. Here was Good News of Great Joy for all the peoples! Jesus had come to save them!

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him.** Jesus' name means "Yahweh Saves." He told the people that He was the Light of Salvation for the World.

A Candelabra

Description

Children will make a seven wick candelabra out of egg cartons (or mini Dixie cups), crepe paper and fabric.

Materials

7 "cups" from an egg carton per child (each egg carton has 12 of these)

White fabric or tissue paper

Gray and Yellow Tempera paint

Construction paper: red, orange, and yellow

White poster board, card stock or cereal box backs

Scissors

Glue gun and glue sticks

1 Sturdy paper dinner plate (such as Chinet) per child

String or yarn

Single hole punch

Preparing the Craft

1. With hole punch, punch 6 holes in rim of paper plate, equidistant from each other.
2. Use the tip of the scissors to open up the hole in the center of each cup to about 5/8".
3. Cut a 4" hole out of Middle of plate, leaving a 2" ledge all the way around on the inside of the rim.
4. Cut 6 pieces of yarn, about 12" long per child.
5. Cut out the individual egg cups from the egg cartons, if using them.
6. Glue gun the 7 cups down in a circle on the ledge inside the rim of the plate, hump side up. This will form the candelabra.
7. Cut fabric or tissue paper into 2"x3" rectangles, 7 per child.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children your sample of the craft.
2. Tie each of the strings in a hole in the rim of the plate.
3. Have the children paint their candelabras grey.
4. Have the children cut narrow strips (about 1/4-1/2" by 6") out of the construction paper and poke them down into the egg cup holes.
5. Roll up and twist each piece of tissue paper along the short side making 7 2" wicks.
6. Dip one end of wicks into the yellow paint and then poke the other end into the holes in the egg carton cups.
7. Tie the strings together at the ends into a knot and hold up.

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 the big festivals take place? *At the Temple, in Jerusalem.*
2. Which festival did Jesus go up to in our story and what special things did they create for it? Why? *The Feast of the Tabernacles. They created giant candelabras to shine out from the top of the Temple. It was to stand for the glory of God, the presence of God with His people.*
3. What did Jesus call Himself? What did that mean? *He called Himself the Light of the World. He was the Son of God, the glory of God, come down to save God's people.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him? *When Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the Light of the World, the Jews were shocked. They knew that this meant He was saying that He, Himself was Yahweh.*
6. What can our craft help us remember? *Jesus is the Light of the World. When we read what Jesus did and what He was like, we are really seeing who God is and what He is like.*

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 Candelabra.
2. In Jerusalem, next to the Temple Jesus announced that He was the Light of the World, as He stood under the giant candelabras which shown out from the top of the Temple to reveal Himself to them as the Son of God.
3. Our Bible Truth is: The LORD's Names Tell Us about Him.
4. When Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the Light of the World, the Jews were shocked. They knew that this meant He was saying that He, Himself was Yahweh.
5. Our craft can help us remember that Jesus is the Light of the World. When we read what Jesus did and what He was like, we are really seeing who God is and what He is like.

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.

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: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Tape the picture and name of each VIPP to the wall, about 3 feet from the ground.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Put the Clue Cards for both VIPPS put in one bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

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
