

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 2: 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 5, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love Others: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 2*

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 5 Songs *PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 3,4*

Extra Song: The Days of Creation PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 5

Big Question Bible Verse: Genesis 1:31 Song *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 6*

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

Bible Truth 1: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 7*

Bible Verse: Nehemiah 9:6

Bible Verse Song: You Alone Are the LORD *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 8*

Extra Song: I Am the LORD (Isaiah 44:24) PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 9

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints Story: The Case of the Swordless Samurai

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Neesima's Two Treasures (His Samurai Sword and His Bible)

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circus Lions

Bible Truth Hymn: O Worship the King, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 7*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Nehemiah 9:6: Discussion Sheet and Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Bible Verse Song: You Alone Are the LORD *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 8*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Shoe Search and Ransom

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: Genesis 1 from the Chinese Bible

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) and Game: Beanbag Toss In

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 2 **PFI NIV Prontos 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Swordless Samurai

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who was the Samurai? What was important about his sword?
2. What did he want even more than his sword? Did he find what he was looking for?

Our story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place about 140 years ago in Tokyo, Japan.

Excited and a little nervous, Neesima Shimeta rose up off the floor to face his great, Samurai master. This was one of the most important days in his life: his Gembuhu, the Samurai ceremony of manhood.

"Neesima," the Samurai master began, "for a thousand years, we Samurai have risked our lives to protect our Honorable Emperor and the sacred land of our forefathers from all enemies. Now it is time for you to take the vows of the Samurai and join us.

A Samurai must follow the Code of Bushido—the Way of the Warrior. He must promise to be just, sincere, honest, self-controlled and completely faithful. He must be good and loving. Above all, a Samurai must keep constantly in mind, by day and by night, that he has to die. Do you promise to live this way?" the Master asked.

"Yes, Master, I do," Neesima promised.

"Then you are now no longer, a boy," the master announced. You are a man and a Samurai."

Taking a sharp razor, the master cut off Neesima's long, black forelocks. The rest of his hair the master pulled back into a ponytail. Metal arm and leg protectors and a breastplate were strapped in position. A helmet was placed on his head. Last of all, Neesima received his most precious gift—the daito katan, the 2-foot-long sword of the Samurai.

"Wear this sword at all times," the Master told him. "It is the badge of your high calling. It is your protection. Treat it honorably. The daito katan is sacred and we believe it has the life of the gods in it. To lose it or give it away is to give away your very self. Never do that," he warned.

Neesima bowed low as he took the sword and fastened it to his belt. His heart swelled with pride. Now he was a Samurai!

After the ceremony, Neesima went to the Shinto Temple to offer sacrifices and prayers to his ancestors, whom he worshiped as gods. "You have been Samurai before me," he said to them. "Help me to honor by and dying as a faithful Samurai like you," he prayed.

Now Neesima went into training. He learned sword-play and horseback riding to train his body for battle. He read books by great men of Japan and China to train his mind and spirit to be calm and clear in battle. A Samurai had to prepare body, mind and spirit for battle.

But one day, Neesima found a very different book to read. It was a book so hated that it was against the Japanese law to own or even read. It was God's Word, the Bible—written in Chinese.

Neesima snuck the Bible away where he could read it in secret. Excitedly he opened it up to the first page and started reading: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God saw all that He made, and it was very good," Neesima read.

Neesima was shocked. "I've never heard anything like this before! A God who is more than just a powerful force or ancestors who lived long ago?" he thought. "I must read more!"

So Neesima read the rest of the story, learning how God created everything in the whole universe—even people. He put down the Bible and looked all around him as if seeing the world differently than ever before. New questions—then new answers—filled Neesima's mind. "Who made me, my parents? No, it was God," he could see that now. "God made my parents and let them make me. And who made this wooden table? A carpenter?" thought Neesima. "No, it was God! God

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.

created trees and the carpenter used them to make this table," Neesima realized.

The words Neesima read were about to completely change his life: "If God is the creator of this world, I must be thankful to Him," Neesima decided. "I must believe Him and I must find out His good purposes for my life so I can live to please Him," he decided. "But how?" Neesima wondered.

"Christians are not allowed in Japan and I am not allowed to out! Japanese people caught leaving the country are killed, but I must learn more about the Creator God!" Neesima thought. "I know! I will ask the Creator God for His help," he decided. So Neesima closed his eyes and prayed: "Oh, God. Look upon me and listen to me. Help me know what to do."

God soon answered his prayer. Neesima traveled the Japanese seaport where an American captain, Captain Savory, helped him. He hid Neesima in the supplies closet of his ship and snuck him out of Japan to Shanghai, China. Neesima was free!

Shanghai was so different from anything Neesima had ever seen before. There were many new things to do and to buy. But, there was only two things that Neesima wanted: a Chinese Bible and a boat ticket to America, where he could learn more about the Creator God.

It didn't take Neesima long to find a Bible, but oh, how expensive it was! He had hardly any money--certainly too little to buy a Bible. There was only one way for Neesima to get that Bible: he would have to sell his precious Samurai sword!

"I made a promise to always serve the Emperor and Japan," Neesima remembered. "Without my sword I will break that promise. This sword is the sign of my noble family and calling. They told me it even had the life of our gods in it. Not a day has passed when it was at my side. Should I really break that promise? Should I dishonor my family?" Neesima wondered.

It was a big decision, but Neesima knew what he should do. He sold his sword and bought the Chinese Bible. Now he would have the Creator God's words to read over and over again. What could be more important than that?

Next Neesima headed down to the docks of Shanghai in search of the other thing he wanted most of all: a

boat to take him to America.

"Want learn Bible. Take me?" Neesima Shimeta asked captain after captain, using the little English he knew.

At last, Captain Taylor of the Wild Rover agreed to help him. "Serve as my cabin boy and I will take you to Boston (America)," he offered Neesima. Neesima quickly agreed. At last he was on his way to America!

The voyage from Shanghai to Boston took eight, long months. Neesima spent every free moment either reading his Chinese Bible or learning English from the other sailors. The more he read, the more Neesima saw what he didn't know. He needed a teacher, if he was to really understand about the Creator God, but how would he get one? Teachers were expensive and he had no money.

"I will ask the Creator God to help me again," Neesima decided. "He helped me before, He will help me now."

God answered Neesima's prayer as soon as he arrived in Boston. Captain Taylor took Neesima to see Mr. Hardy, the owner of Wild Rover. Hardy was a Christian and as soon as he heard Neesima's story, he wanted to help.

"Neesima, I want to help you learn all you can about the Creator God and His message," Mr. Hardy told him. "I want to pay for your food, your housing, your clothes, your schooling and anything else you might need. I want you to be like a son to me while you live in America."

"Praise God! And thank you, sir!" Neesima exclaimed. How amazing was this Creator God! There was nothing He had not provided him. He had answered Neesima's prayers better than he could have hoped for!

At school, Neesima learned so much about the Creator God and His message. It was here that he understood the Creator God's offer of salvation through Jesus, to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. He learned how the Creator God created a new heart in all who do, filling them with Holy Spirit, that they might know and love Him.

"What wonderful news this is," Neesima exclaimed. He eagerly turned away from his sins, trusted in Jesus as His Savior and was baptized.

Neesima loved his time in America, but soon he wanted to go home. Many changes had come to Japan. No longer was it against the law to be a Christian. A

new government had been formed and the Samurai were the leaders of it. As a Samurai himself, perhaps Nessima would be allowed to tell many the good news of Jesus.

Neesima went to Mr. Hardy and said, "I must go back home. I want to tell my people about the Creator God. I want to start a Christian school for Samurai boys. They are the future leaders of Japan. What great things God might do in Japan, if there are more Samurai Christians like me. Will you help me?" Nessima asked.

Mr. Hardy was happy to help. He collected \$5000 for Nessima to use to start his school.

Back in Japan, Neesima had to fight hard to start his school. Many people still did not like Christianity, even though it was not against Japanese law anymore. But at last Neesima had his first class of thirty, Samurai young boys.

Oh, how God blessed Nessima's work. As these boys heard about the Creator God and the message of salvation through His Son, Jesus, each and every one of them believed and were saved! They all grew up to be pastors and important leaders in the Japanese government and helped many others hear about Jesus, just as Neesima had hoped.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Samurai? What was important about his sword? Neesima Shimeta. A Samurai is a special soldier. His sword is not just his weapon, but the symbol of who he was. They believed it had the life of the gods in it. A Samurai never got rid of his sword.

2. What did he want even more than his sword? Did he find what he was looking for? To learn more about the Creator God who created everything in the beginning. Yes, he did! Not only learned more about the Creator God, but he trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He came to know God in his heart!

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Created All Things Good in the Beginning

Our Bible Verse is: Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

God didn't just create the multitudes of heaven to worship Him, but as Neesima learned, God created people--like you and me-- to worship Him, too. How can we do that? Like Neesima, we can turn away from living a life just for ourselves and turn to live for God. We can ask Jesus to be our Savior and forgive us of our sins. And when we do, God's Holy Spirit will live in our hearts, helping us not only worship God, but enjoy knowing Him and loving forever--and that is best of all!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Creator God who made heaven and earth.

C God, we confess that we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, just as Neesima did.

T God, we thank You for letting us hear about You, the Creator God, through Your Word, the Bible, just like You did Neesima.

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. Please help us to want to learn more about You, like Neesima did. Help us to want to know You so much that we would even be willing to give up the thing that was most important to us in order to know You.

Special Words

Samurai: A especially trained and honored Japanese warrior.

Emperor: The ruler of a country; like a king.

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 the good Creator of all things.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that we disobey You in our hearts, in our words, in our thoughts, in the things we do. We do not live the perfect way You created as to live. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for making so many good things for us to enjoy and see what You is like. Thank You for making us.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, help us see what You are like as we enjoy the wonderful things You created. Help us to be more thankful for Your good creations. Help us to joyfully obey You as our Creator. Work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: Neesima's Two Treasures (His Samurai Sword and His Bible)

Samurai sword made by inserting a bread stick, thin pretzel stick or thin piece of celery "blade" through a "handle" made of cheese. And/or, a Chinese Bible made with a folded over American cheese slice "pages" inserted into a piece of bread (can be buttered on inside) folded over as a "Bible cover". If you really want to go all out, buy decorator icing or gel that comes in the tubes, cut the smallest nozzle hole possible, and make a Chinese word/symbol on the "cover" of your Bible.

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

Case Tie-in: Neesima wanted to know more about the Creator God so much that he was willing to even sell his Samurai sword to buy a Bible.

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.

God Created All Things Good in the Beginning

God created everything in the beginning. There was nothing but Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then He spoke, and it all came to be. He created everything in the world around us and everything in the great universe of stars and planets we see in the sky. He created all the creatures of heaven, too. He created it all through Jesus and for Jesus.

When God made everything, He called it very good. It was delightful to Him. It was pure and perfect. It was all exactly made according to His perfectly wise plan. There was nothing wrong or bad in God's creations when He created them. Nothing got sick or died. Nothing disobeyed Him. Everything did what He created them to do, and they did it joyfully. They did everything without wearing out or even making mistakes.

Everything God created points back to Him, their Creator. They are little pictures of something about Him. Look around you. What do God's creations tell you about Him?

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who created everything? *God did.*
2. When did God create everything? *In the very beginning.*
3. What was there before God created the world? *Nothing but Him: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
4. What things God create? *Everything in the world around us; everything in the universe; all the creatures of heaven.*
5. Who was everything created through? *Jesus.*
6. Who was everything created for? *Jesus.*
7. What did God call everything when He finished creating it? *Very good.*
8. Why was all His creation very good? *Because it was delightful to Him. It was pure and perfect. It was exactly as He planned it to be. Nothing was wrong or bad. Nothing got sick or died. Nothing disobeyed Him.*
9. By what did God create everything? *His perfectly wise plan. by His word.*
10. What were God's creations like when He created them. *They were pure and perfect. There was nothing bad or wrong in them. They did not get sick or die. They did not disobey God. They joyfully obeyed God and served Him without wearing out or even making mistakes.*
11. What are all of God's creation little pictures of? *Something about God. They all displayed something about God in the way they looked and/or by did what God created each to do.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. How did learning that God was Creator of the world affect Neesima? *Neesima was surprised to learn from the Bible that God was the Creator of all things. He left his life as a Samurai warrior to find out more about the Creator God and the Bible. And, in seeking to learn more about the Creator God, Neesima found Himself and was saved!*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Nehemiah 9:6**: "You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."?
There is nothing that God did not make in the heavens or the earth in the beginning. He made all things and He gave life to it all. He did it only with His mighty word.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we use God's creation to worship God? *We can look around at all God has created and look for how every part of it has its own special way of reflecting who He is. We can then praise Him for all the wonderful ways we see that He is from His creation.*
2. How can we worship God in a different way from all the rest of His earthly creations? *We have a spirit to worship God, know Him and love Him.*
3. What do we each need to do if we are to worship God? *We each need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Truth? *For God's perfect wisdom and power shown in creating the world.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *That while God created the world perfectly good, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Truth? *For creating everything good, according to His perfectly wise plan. And, that even though we sinned against Him, He knew it and had already planned to send Jesus to save His people from their sins.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Truth? *To help us be grateful for all His beautiful creations; and to see Him and praise Him as we look at everything He has made.*

The Gospel

1. God created the world perfectly good, but we have all sinned against God. We deserve His eternal punishment, now instead of wonderful fellowship with Him. 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: Circus Lions

Materials

Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.

Hula hoop, etc.

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

Tell the children that they are circus lions. Have them get on all four and roar and roam like lions. Have them “jump” through a hula hoop, etc. Then tell them they are getting very, very sleepy and must lie down....on their backs... in their den. Tell them that sleeping lions lie very still, make no noise, and keep their eyes open! Tell them that you are the Lion Trainer and are trying to wake up the Sleeping, Lazy Lions to perform in the circus. Any lion that makes a move, a sound or smiles will have to get up! Put on your funny wig, glasses, hat, etc. and make your rounds, trying to catch the lions moving, making noise or to make them smile. Lions who are caught are asked to answer a question correctly as their circus trick to before they can go back to their den. Have one of the lions caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don't get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the Lion Trainer.

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

Non-competitive Option

Let all the caught lions join back into the circus, even if the class answers a question incorrectly. Put the question back in the bag for further review.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

O Worship the King

Verse 3

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hill,
It descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 7

Understanding the Song

1. According to what did God create everything? *His perfectly wise plan.*
2. What did God call everything when He finished creating it? *Very good.*
3. Why was all His creation very good? *Because it was made exactly as He planned it to be; and, because He created it without any imperfections. Nothing got sick or died. Nothing disobeyed Him.*
4. How did everything do what it was created to do? *It did it joyfully, without falling apart or mistakes.*
5. What was all of creation a display of? *God.*
6. How was everything a glorious display of God? *Not by being just like ALL of Him, but by reflecting something about Him in the way it looked and did what God created it to do.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning**? *All of creation reflects God's goodness to us. We see His goodness in the bountiful way He cares for us. When we look at the light streaming down from heaven to give us warmth and light; when we see the dew and the rain that feeds thirsty plants so we will have food to eat; in the beautiful hills God gives us to look at; in the flat plains that make good ground to grow crops. Seeing His goodness in His creation makes His people want to worship and praise Him.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to our story? *When Neesima read in the Chinese Bible that God created the heavens and the earth in the beginning, he began to look around him and realize that everything belonged to God. He saw that everything belonged to God and everything was taken care of by God. He longed to know more about the Creator God and His message in the Bible.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Nehemiah 9:6**: "You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."?
When God's people look at the things God created, such as the hills, the plains, the dew and rain, they think about how they were made by God and they are used by God to care for them. They see so much about God and His care for His in all His creations that it is more than their tongues can recite! There just isn't time enough to say them all.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for not just creating them, but providing for their every need, every day, so that they stay alive. They can ask God to help them to know and love Him more as they look at His creations. They can ask Him to make them more grateful for all He is and gives them 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? *For God the God who Cares and shows how He cares by His creation we see around us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we do not worship Him when we look at the hills and the rain and the other things God has created. We forget Him as our God and creator. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
For different ways we see His care for us in the creations around us.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *To help us be grateful for His care shown in all His beautiful creations; and to see Him and worship Him as we look at everything He has made.*

Gospel Question

1. God is the creator of everything. He created us to worship Him and thank Him for His care, but we have all chosen to turn away from Him and disobey Him and His good ways. 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 have 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 to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language

Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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

Bible Truth 1 BIBLE VERSE**Meditation Version: Nehemiah 9:6**

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

Alternate Memory Version: Nehemiah 9:6

"You made the heavens... and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does "You alone are the LORD" mean? *There is only one true God, who is the LORD.*
2. What does "LORD" mean with all capitals? *It is different from "Lord" with little letters. "LORD" is another way of saying "Yahweh" the name of the true God. The Jews would write/say "LORD" instead of "Yahweh" because they believed God's true name was too holy for them to say. ("Lord" means ruler or master.)*
3. What did the LORD make? *Everything: the heavens, the starry host, the earth and everything in it, the seas and all that is in them.*
4. What are the highest heavens? *That was the Jewish way of saying heaven, which was especially full of God's presence and where the angels lived.*
5. What are starry host? *Another way of say all the stars and planets.*
6. What did He give to everything He made? *Life.*
7. Who worships the LORD in this verse? What are they? *The multitudes of heaven. Multitudes is a lot of something. The multitude of heaven are the angels and other heavenly creatures God created.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning?** *There is nothing that God did not make in the heavens or the earth in the beginning. He made all things and He gave life to it all. He did it only with His mighty word.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *When Neesima read in the Chinese Bible that God created the heavens and the earth in the beginning, he began to look around him and realize that everything belonged to God. He saw that everything belonged to God and everything lived only because of He gave it life. He longed to know more about the Creator God and His message in the Bible. He wanted to live the life God gave him in a way that pleased Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. What difference does it make to you to know that you were created by God rather than just by chance or some accident?
2. How can we know God the way He created us to? *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? *That the LORD alone is God. He is the creator of all things.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible verse? *That many times we do not praise Him, like the multitudes of heaven. We forget Him as our God and creator. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible verse? *For all of the different and amazing things He created.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible verse? *To help us be grateful for all His beautiful creations; and to see Him and praise Him as we look at everything He has made.*

Gospel Question

1. God is the creator of everything. He created us, but we have all chosen to turn away from Him and disobey Him and His good ways. 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 have 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 to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has 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: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
An object to hide

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, led by the teacher, will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

Game continues as time or attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

You Alone Are the LORD

You alone are the LORD.
 You made the heavens, the highest heavens
 and all their starry host, and all their starry host.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You,
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.

You, alone are the LORD.
 You made the earth and all that is in it,
 the seas and all that is in it, the seas and all that is
 in it.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.
 You give life to everything,
 and the multitude of heaven worship You.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 8

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.

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 special ceremony did Neesima take part when he was fourteen? Why was it important? *Gembuhu. It was the Samurai ceremony of manhood.*
2. What did Neesima have to promise to do in the Gembuhu ceremony? *To protect the Emperor and his country, be ready to die, keep the Code of Bushido.*
3. What did the Samurai master tell Neesima about his sword? *They believed it had the life of the gods in it, never to be without it or sell it, treat it with respect.*
4. Where did Neesima go after his ceremony? What did he do there? *He went to the Shinto temple to make sacrifices and pray to his gods, his ancestors.*
5. What did he ask his ancestors to help him do? *Be a good Samurai who would honor them.*
6. What was Neesima's training like as a Samurai? *Horse-back riding, sword-play, reading books of Chinese and Japanese wise men.*
7. Why did Neesima have to read in secret the Chinese Bible he found? *Because Christians and Bibles were illegal in Japan.*
8. What did Neesima read in the Chinese Bible that he never knew before? *That there was a Creator God who created everything in the beginning. As one of His creatures, Neesima belonged to Him.*
9. Why would it be hard for Neesima to learn more about the Creator God? *Christians and Bibles were not allowed in, Japanese were not allowed out of the country.*
10. How did Neesima escape Japan? *He went to the seaport Harodote and talked an American captain into sneaking to Shanghai.*
11. What two things did Neesima want most in Shanghai? *A Chinese Bible of his own; a way to get to America so he could learn more about the Creator God and the Bible.*
12. How did Neesima get a Chinese Bible of his own? Why was this so hard? *He sold his sword. It was his most precious possession. He never was without it. He had promised to never sell it.*
13. What did the Captain of the Wild Rover offer to do for Neesima? *Take him to Boston in America, if he would be his cabin boy.*
14. What did Neesima do in his free time on the voyage to Boston? *Read his Chinese Bible and learn English.*
15. Who helped Neesima in America? *The ship's owner, Alpheus Hardy.*
16. What did Mr. Hardy do for Neesima when he heard his story? *Gave him money to go to school and pay all of his expenses so he could learn more about the Creator God and the Bible. Also, he told him the good news of Jesus.*
17. What did Neesima do when he heard the good news of Jesus? *He believed, turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He was baptized.*
18. Why did Neesima want to go back to Japan to start a school for Samurai? *He wanted them to know about Jesus, then to teach the other Japanese people about Him.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning**? *Neesima was surprised to learn from the Bible that God was the Creator of all things. He left his life as a Samurai warrior to find out more about the Creator God and the Bible.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Nehemiah 9:6**: "You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." *When Neesima read in the Chinese Bible that God created the heavens and the earth in the beginning, he began to look around him and realize that everything belonged to God. He saw that everything belonged to God and everything lived only because of He gave it life. He longed to know more about the Creator God and His message in the Bible. He wanted to live the life God gave him in a way that pleased Him*

Life Application Questions

1. Neesima wanted to know more about the Creator God and the Bible so much that he was even willing to give up the things that meant the most to him in order to do so. Are there any costs that people like you and me might have to make if we are to know more about the Creator God and the Bible?
2. How can we know God our Savior, just as Neesima did? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *For being the God who is able to work out His plans for His people, even when they seem impossible—like Joe leaving Japan, being helped by the Christian ship owner and being educated so he could go back to Japan and tell others about Jesus.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *That many times we do not care about telling others about Jesus, like Joe did. Many times we would just rather keep quiet.*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *For giving us the Bible so that we, like Neesima, can know that He is the Creator and He is the Savior of all who say sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, turning to live their lives for Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *That God would work in our hearts the same love of Him and of others who have not heard about Him, as Neesima had. That people would hear the good news of Jesus who have not yet heard...and be saved.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Neesima heard and believed? *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 have 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 to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has 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: Shoe Search and Ransom

Materials

The children's shoes

Masking Tape

Story Review Questions, one per child

Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Hide the questions around the room. Make a line out of tape for each team, approximately long enough to place one shoe per child per team on it.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Have them take off one of their shoes and give them to you to place along the taped line in front of their team and then sit back down in their groups. Tell them that in order for them to get back their shoes, they will have to do a little searching and ransoming. Explain that questions on small pieces of paper are hidden around the room. You will alternate between the two teams asking the first person in each line to get up and find a question for their team to answer. (The person hunting can ask for suggestions, if desired, from his/her seated teammates.) If the team answers it correctly, then that child's shoe is "ransomed". If not, then the question goes to the other team to answer. If they answer it correctly, then the first team member's shoe is ransomed.

Continue until all shoes are ransomed. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children sit down in a circle around the pile of shoes. Let one or two children at a time search for a question for the teacher to ask the group. If the group gets it right, then the child/children can ransom one of their shoes. Continue until everyone has their shoes ransomed.

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 Swordless Samurai.

Our story takes place in the late 1800's in Tokyo, Japan.

And now we present: "The Case of the Swordless Samurai."

Scene 1:

Neesima Shimeta was so excited as he stood before the Samurai master at his Gembuhu—Samurai ceremony of manhood. He promised to protect the Emperor and Japan, to follow the Code of Bushido, and to be ready to die for them. Neesima's forelocks were cut off, rest of his hair pulled back, and had his Samurai armor put on. The Samurai master handed him his first daito katan—2' long sword of Samurai. He told Nessima never to be without it or sell it. He must treat it honorably since it has the life of the gods in it. Neesima promised. Neesima began his training to be a Samurai. He worked hard to learn sword-play, horseback riding, and the wisdom of the great Chinese and Japanese thinkers. He wanted to be the best Samurai he could. One day Neesima picked up an illegal Chinese Bible and read it in a secret place. He was surprised to read about the Creator God who created all things in the beginning. He had never heard of Him before. Neesima wanted to know more about Him and to hear all of His message, but doesn't know how he can. Christians and Bible were not allowed in Japan. Japanese were not allowed to leave their country. He prayed for God to help him.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Neesima goes down to the seaport called Harodate to sneak out of the country on a boat. The captain of the ship called the Berlin helps him by hiding him in the ship's storeroom and locking the door. He takes Neesima to Shanghai, China. There, Neesima sells his sword for a Chinese Bible. He talks Captain Taylor of the Wild Rover about going to America. The Captain hires him as his cabin boy. The voyage to America takes eight months. Neesima spends all his free time on the ship reading his Bible and learning English. He wants to go to school in America to learn more about God, but how, since he has no money. He prays to God to help him again. In Boston, Neesima meets Mr. Hardy, the ship's owner who was a very rich and godly man. When Mr. Hardy decides to pay for Neesima's school and living costs. In school, Joe learns more about the Creator God and the Bible. Neesima hears the good news of Jesus and trusts in Jesus as his Savior. He is baptized..

Scene 3

Many changes come to Japan while Neesima is in America. The Samurai have become leaders in the government. Now Christians and Bibles are allowed in the country. Joe wants to go back to Japan to teach the Samurai about Jesus so that they can teach the rest of the Japanese people. Mr. Hardy and other Christians give him the \$5000 he needs to do it. Joe goes back and starts his school. Thirty Samurai young men come to learn. They become Christian pastors and godly leaders in the Japanese government.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created All Things Good in the Beginning.** Neesima was surprised to learn from the Bible that God was the Creator of all things. He left his life as a Samurai warrior to find out more about the Creator God and the Bible.

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 Swordless Samurai.

Our story takes place in the late 1800's in Tokyo, Japan.

The characters in our story are: Neesima Shimeta, the Samurai master, other Samurai students, Captain and sailors of the The Berlin, Captain Taylor and the sailors of the Wild Rose, Mr. Hardy and other American Christians, and Samurai young men.

And now we present: "The Case of the Swordless Samurai."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Neesima Shimeta was so excited as he stood before the Samurai master at his Gembuhu—Samurai ceremony of manhood. He promised to protect the Emperor and Japan, to follow the Code of Bushido, and to be ready to die for them. Neesima's forelocks were cut off, rest of his hair pulled back, and had his Samurai armor put on. The Samurai master handed him his first daito katan—2' long sword of Samurai. He told Neesima never to be without it or sell it. He must treat it honorably since it has the life of the gods in it. Neesima promised. Neesima began his training to be a Samurai. He worked hard to learn sword-play, horseback riding, and the wisdom of the great Chinese and Japanese thinkers. He wanted to be the best Samurai he could. One day Neesima picked up an illegal Chinese Bible and read it in a secret place. He was surprised to read about the Creator God who created all things in the beginning. He had never heard of Him before. Neesima wanted to know more about Him and to hear all of His message, but doesn't know how he can. Christians and Bible were not allowed in Japan. Japanese were not allowed to leave their country. He prayed for God to help him.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Neesima goes down to the seaport called Harodate to sneak out of the country on a boat. The captain of the ship called the Berlin helps him by hiding him in the ship's storeroom and locking the door. He takes Neesima to Shanghai, China. There, Neesima sells his sword for a Chinese Bible. He talks Captain Taylor of the Wild Rover about going to America. The Captain hires him as his cabin boy. The voyage to America takes eight months. Neesima spends all his free time on the ship reading his Bible and learning English. He wants to go to school in America to learn more about God, but how, since he has no money. He prays to God to help him again. In Boston, Neesima meets Mr. Hardy, the ship's owner who was a very rich and godly man. When Mr. Hardy decides to pay for Neesima's school and living costs. In school, Joe learns more about the Creator God and the Bible. Neesima hears the good news of Jesus and trusts in Jesus as his Savior. He is baptized..

Scene 3: (End)

Many changes come to Japan while Neesima is in America. The Samurai have become leaders in the government. Now Christians and Bibles are allowed in the country. Joe wants to go back to Japan to teach the Samurai about Jesus so that they can teach the rest of the Japanese people. Mr. Hardy and other Christians give him the \$5000 he needs to do it. Joe goes back and starts his school. Thirty Samurai young men come to learn. They become Christian pastors and godly leaders in the Japanese government.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created All Things Good in the Beginning.** Neesima was surprised to learn from the Bible that God was the Creator of all things. He left his life as a Samurai warrior to find out more about the Creator God and the Bible.

Genesis 1 from a Chinese Bible

Description

Children will decorate a “page” from a Chinese Bible.

Materials

White card stock or regular paper

Markers

Pens or pencils

Preparing the Craft

1. Make copies of the design with writing and without. For youngest children just beginning to write, you might want to have on hand extra copies of the frames with writing, in case they get frustrated.
2. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children decorate the frames and write the Chinese symbols.

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. What kind of special school did Neesima attend?
A Samurai school.

2. What did Neesima find and read that changed his life? *Genesis 1:1 in a Chinese Bible.*

3. What did Neesima do after reading Genesis 1:1? What did he want to find out? *He snuck out of Japan so that he could learn more about the Creator God the Bible told about.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
God Created All Things Good in the Beginning.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning?
Neesima was taught to worship his ancestors. When he found out that there was a Creator God who made everything, he wanted nothing more than to know Him. He even sold his prized sword to get a Bible.

6. What can our craft help us remember?
Knowing God is worth leaving everything behind.

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: Genesis 1:1 in a Chinese Bible.

2. While going to Samurai school, Neesima decided to sneak out of Japan and leave his life as a Samurai after reading Genesis 1:1 in a Chinese Bible because he wanted to know more about the Creator God.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Created All Things Good in the Beginning.

4. Neesima was taught to worship his ancestors. When he found out that there was a Creator God who made everything, he wanted nothing more than to know Him. He even sold his prized sword to get a Bible.

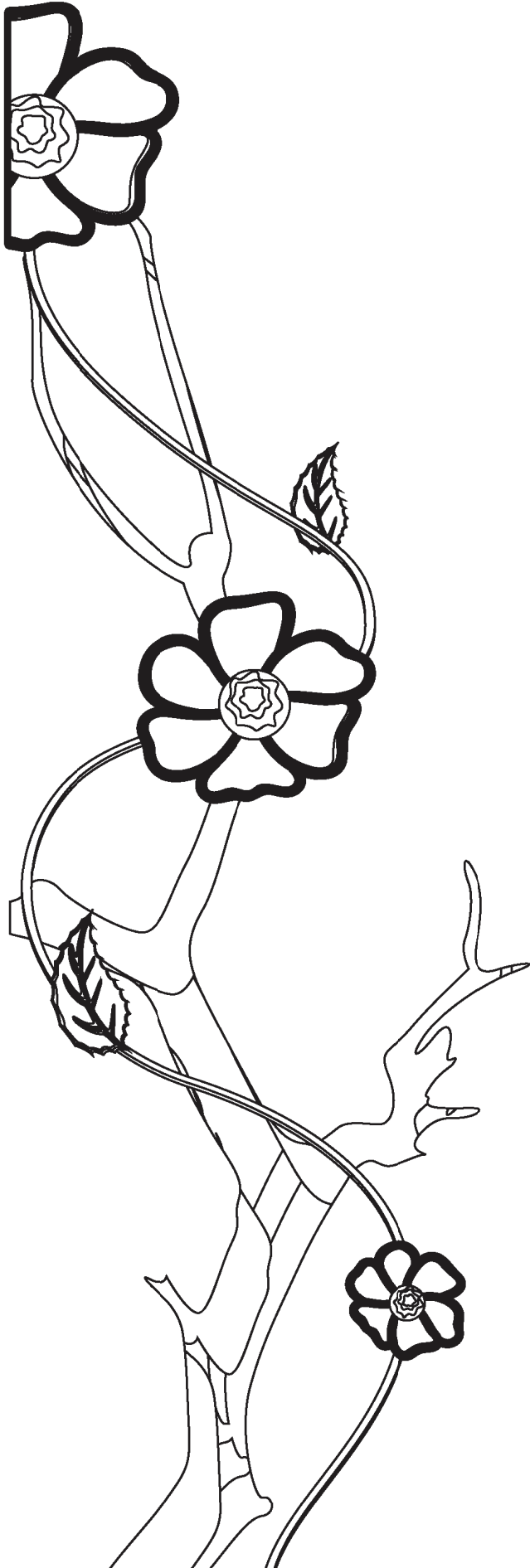
5. Our craft can help us remember that knowing God is worth leaving everything behind.

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.

創世記 1, 31



1 起初，
神創造天地。
31 神看著一切
所造的都甚好。
有晚上，
有早晨，
是第六日。



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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Beanbag Toss In

Materials

Information for one VIPP

2 Sets of Clue Cards

8 Letter-sized Envelopes or folders

Bean Bag(s), one per child

Tape

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 manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape each down to the floor, fairly close together.

Playing the Game

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

Review: At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be tossed at.

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**
