

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 1*

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

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 5 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 5, Tracks 3,4*
Extra Song: The Days of Creation PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 5

Big Question Bible Verse: Genesis 1:1,31 Song *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 6*
Extra Song: God Saw Everything PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 7

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

Bible Truth 3: God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him

Bible Truth Hymn: Doxology *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 14*

Bible Verse: Psalm 148:7-10

Bible Verse Song: Praise the LORD, from the Earth *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 15*

Lesson 1 Old Testament Story: The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise
2 Kings 20-21, 2 Chronicles 32-33

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Manasseh with a Nose Hook

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

Bible Truth Hymn: Doxology *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 14*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 148:7-10: Discussion Sheet and Game: Hoop & Holler

Bible Verse Song: Praise the LORD, from the Earth *PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 15*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Keep It Under Your Hat

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: Palm Branches, Cloaks & Hosanna

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

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise *2 Kings 20-21, 2 Chronicles 32-33*

by Connie Dever

Our story is:**The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the king? Who would he not praise?
2. How did he change? Why?

Our story takes place in Old Testament times, about 700 years before Jesus lived on earth. And it starts out in a graveyard...the Royal Cemetery of King David.

Great, King Hezekiah was dead and the people mourned his passing. Hezekiah had been a good king. He tried to do away with the terrible things his father, wicked King Ahaz, had brought to Judah. He got rid of the worship places to the false gods, Baal and Ashtoreth, Ahaz had set up. He stopped the terrible sacrifices by fire to the idol Molech Ahaz had allowed. Then he restored worship of the LORD in His Temple. With cymbals, trumpets and loud singing, Hezekiah had led the people in praising and glorifying the LORD again.

"We praise You, LORD, as the Creator of this world and Giver of all good things! Thank You for your good gifts! Thank You for being our God!" they sang in their celebrations. This was what Judah was meant to be: a land that praised the LORD. A little picture of how the whole world was meant to live.

And oh, how the LORD was worthy of that praise! He protected Judah and blessed King Hezekiah and the people. He even crushed the fierce armies of mighty King Sennacherib of Assyria who tried to capture Judah. Who had ever seen anything like this! A God who Himself comes to the rescue of His people! Should He not be praised? Should He not be glorified? Yes, He should! So many brought rich gifts to the LORD, and gave presents to King Hezekiah, too, for the LORD's great victory. For the rest of Hezekiah's life, kings and peoples honored him.

But now King Hezekiah was gone and it was the turn of this twelve-year-old boy, who stood by his father's tomb, to rule Judah. He was not too much older than some of you, yet now it was time for him to put away his boyish ways and to put on the manly crown of a king.

Everyone watched and waited to see what young Prince Manasseh would do. Would he be a good king like his father, or not?

Such a young boy as little King Manasseh would need others to help him. He couldn't possibly rule a nation like Judah on his own yet. But who would he turn to? Would it be the good prophet Isaiah and others who encouraged King Hezekiah to follow the LORD? If so, Judah would enjoy many more years of blessings under the LORD's protection. Or, would it be those others who had remained at court quietly, in the shadows, waiting for Hezekiah to die and for a chance to restore the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth, and to re-light the fires of Molech in the garden of the kings, as it had been in wicked King Ahaz's day.

We do not know how or why it happened, but Manasseh chose the advice of wicked men over the good men who had helped his father. Hezekiah had brought back the praise and glory of the LORD to Judah. He had made it a little picture of how the whole world was meant to live. But now, Manasseh tried to choke out the God's praise again and cover up His glory.

Away went the the good and holy laws of God's Word, stashed away in some dusty corner to be forgotten. In Manasseh brought magicians and witches. Away went the beautiful worship things of the Temple! And in Manasseh brought idols to worship the starry host--the sun, moon and stars-- as well as Baal and Ashtoreth. And in the gardens of the kings, Manasseh re-lit the fires of Molech. He, himself, sacrificed in them! Manasseh ordered the people of Judah to follow him in worshiping these gods. Those who refused were killed.

What would happen now? Would the LORD allow His

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.

praise to be cut off by King Manasseh forever? Would He allow His glory not to be seen by the world? No, He would not! The LORD sent prophets to warn Manasseh and those who followed him. "Turn away from doing these terrible things! Turn back to worshipping Me," the LORD told them through His messengers, the prophets. "If you do not, then I will allow your enemies to come in and destroy your cities."

Did Manasseh or the people listen? Did they repent? No, they did not! They just kept right on praising and glorifying other gods, and killing those who wouldn't. So just as He had promised, the LORD allowed the same mighty army He had protected them from during King Hezekiah's time. In marched the Assyrian soldiers. They smashed Jerusalem and carried away its riches. And in typical, cruel, Assyrian style, they pierced King Manasseh's nose, and put a hook through it like a pig. They bound him with heavy, bronze shackles and dragged him off to prison in Babylon.

King Manasseh had plenty of time in that miserable prison cell in Babylon. Plenty of time to think about all of the evil he had done: the people he had killed, the idols he had worshiped, The people he had sacrificed in the fires of Molech! Now all of it paraded before him in his mind's eye.

He remembered the LORD his God and in his distress, he cried out to God. "Forgive me, LORD! Rescue me! No longer will I worship those other gods. You alone deserve the glory and praise," Manasseh prayed.

The LORD was moved by Manasseh's prayer and forgave him. He caused the Assyrians to free him and let him return to Jerusalem. When did cruel Assyrians ever give up a captured king like that! Manasseh knew only the LORD could have done this. He knew and believed that He is God. He was a changed man.

The new King Manasseh must have been a big surprise to the people. The very man who had forced them to worship other gods, now worked hard to make Judah a land full of the praise and glory of the LORD again.

"Rebuild the outer wall of Jerusalem and make it much higher," he commanded his builders. "Station military commanders in every walled city in Judah," he told his generals. "We must strengthen our country against

the powerful Assyrians.

"Get rid of the Baals and the Ashtoreth poles!" he ordered. "Take down the carved image I put in the

Temple and the altars to the starry hosts in the courtyards. Go around Jerusalem and find every altar and throw them outside the city in the dump. Put out the fires of Molech!" Manasseh commanded.

Then Manasseh restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it. Once more, with cymbals, trumpets and loud singing, the king of Judah led the people in praising and glorifying the LORD. "We praise You, LORD, as the Creator of this world and Giver of all good things! Thank You for your good gifts! Thank You for being our God!" they sang in their celebrations.

Manasseh could never un-do the terrible things he had done, that was true. Sadly, some of the people still refused to turn away from the idols he had told them to worship. But at least now he had begun to bring Judah to be the little picture of how the whole world was meant to live. A land for the praise and glory of God, as God created it--and all things--to be.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the king? Who did he praise and who would he not praise? King Manasseh. He would praise terrible idols instead of the LORD.

2. How did he change? Why? He repented of his sins and turned to worship the LORD after he was put in prison in Assyria. The LORD forgave him, had him released and Manasseh went home and got rid of the idols.

Something For You and Me**Special Words****Our Bible Truth is:****God Created All Things to Praise and Glorify Him****Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 148:7-13**

"Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens."

Prince Manasseh is not that different from you, in some ways. He learned about the LORD as a child and so are you. And, like Manasseh, you have a choice before you: to serve the LORD or to do things your own way. Let's ask God to help us to learn from Manasseh's story. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts and help us to turn TO Him, not from Him. Let's ask Him to help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. God was powerful to save Manasseh and He is powerful to save us, if we ask Him to!

Let's pray right now and ask God to work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let's praise Him for being the great Creator who gave us hearts to know and love Him and who sent Jesus that we might know and love Him, even today

Close in prayer.

Baal, Molech and Ashtoreth: Idols worshiped by the peoples who lived around Israel.

Assyria: A country north of Israel, that conquered many other countries and became a great empire.

Sennacherib: King of the Assyrian empire.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being merciful to sinners, even terrible sinners like Manasseh.

C God, we confess that, like Manasseh, many times we choose to turn away from God and His good ways and live life our own way. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that you provide forgiveness through Jesus. There is no sinner too great that You cannot forgive them through Him.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to be full of Your praise and glory!

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 for being our great Creator who is worthy of all our praise. His glory is in all the earth!

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess we often forget You and do not praise You as we should. We too often are trying to get other people to glorify us for good things we do, instead of You. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for making us in Your image so that we, more than any other creature, can have the pleasure of enjoying and praising You.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts that we might love, know and obey You, as You created us to, know Him and obey Him as we were created to. 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 ties in with our case?

Snack: Manasseh with a Nose Hook

Tortilla Manasseh "Head" with shredded cheese "hair", pepperoni "eyes" and pineapple "mouth" with pretzel piece "hook" through his nose. (To make the hook, break a twisted pretzel in the shape of a hook. Poke one end down and back up through two holes in the tortilla where the nose would be. Do this before decorating the face. If desired, you can spread some pizza sauce on the tortilla as cheeks.)

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

Case Tie-in: Manasseh refused to praise the LORD. He worshiped terrible idols and made the people of Israel worship them, too. When Manasseh would not repent, the LORD allowed the Assyrians to attack Israel. They captured Manasseh, putting a hook through his nose and chains on his feet. They took him to Babylon and put him in prison. There, at last, Manasseh confessed his sins and praised the LORD as the one, true God. The LORD forgave him and eventually had him freed to return to Jerusalem and get rid of all the idols.

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 the World to Praise and Glorify Him

God did not create the world because He was lonely or bored. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have always been perfectly happy, enjoying each other in perfect fellowship. He had no need for anyone or anything else to be happy. God created the world because He wanted to. He created it all as a display of His glory (who He is).

Everything God created praises and glorifies Him by being little pictures of what He is like. Because God made people in His image, we have the greatest ability to praise and glorify Him. To people alone, of all the earthly creatures, did God give a spirit to know and love Him. Only we can understand how His creations tell us about Him as we look at them.

God placed us in this wonderful world of His creation to enjoy it, and for the pleasure of praising, glorifying and enjoying God, as we see what it shows us about Him.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Did God create people and the universe because He was bored or lonely? Why or why not? *God did not create them because He was bored or lonely. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have always been perfectly happy, enjoying each other in perfect fellowship.*
2. Why did God make the universe? *For His own pleasure, as a display of His glory. For us to enjoy.*
3. How do all things praise & glorify the LORD? *By being little pictures of what He is like.*
4. What is special about how people can praise and glorify God? *God made them in His own image. Of all the earthly creatures, they alone can see how God's creations reflect the great way He is and praise Him for it.*
5. Why did God place people in His creation? *To enjoy creation and to enjoy God. And, for the pleasure of praising and glorifying God even more, by what God's creations shows them about Him.*
6. Why would it be selfish for us to do things for our own glory, but good for God to do things for His own glory? *We are just creatures. We were never meant to be worshiped or glorified for what we do. We can accept people's encourage when we do a good job, but we know that everything talent we have, every good thing we do is a gift that God has given us. In the end, God should be praised for the good things we do. But God is different. He is the like no other. He is completely good and loving. He is far wiser and far more powerful than anyone else. No one helps Him do what He does. It is right for Him to do things for His own pleasure and for the praise of His name because He is the God. It would be wrong for Him NOT to seek His own glory or pleasure.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What does our story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Manasseh was not just a king over just any nation on earth. He was the king of Judah, the Israelites God had called to be His special people. Of all kings, Manasseh should have heeded this verse's call to praise the LORD, but he did not. Instead he worshiped idols and even some of the creations God had made. But the LORD humbled Manasseh. He repented of his sins and turned to praise the LORD as he was created to.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 148:7-10**: "Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens."?

This verse is a call for all of God's creatures to praise Him, as they were created to.

Life Application Questions

1. How can you praise and glorify God today?
2. What is the first thing we should do if we want to praise and glorify God? *We should turn from our sins, confess them to God, and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the great Creator who is worthy of all of our praise and glory.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *Confess that we often forget Him and do not praise Him as we should. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Truth? *Thank God for creating us so that we can have the pleasure of enjoying Him and praising Him. Thank Him for making us able to see how wonderful He is through the things He has created.*

The Gospel

1. God created us to praise and glorify Him, but we have all chosen not to. We deserve God's punishment! Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

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

Game: Menagerie

Materials

Small Bag/Bowl
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

Non-competitive Option

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures, here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 14

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to praise God? *To tell of the greatness of who He is and what He does.*
2. What is a blessing? *Good things that we enjoy that have been given to us, particularly from God.*
3. From whom do all blessings "flow" (come from)? *From God.*
4. Who should praise God? *All creatures here below; the heavenly host above.*
5. What does "here below" mean? What creatures are here below? *Creatures that live below heaven; that is, earthly creatures. This would include everything God created in the universe.*
6. Who is supposed to praise God above? Who are they? *The heavenly host, which are all the different kinds of angels of heaven.*
7. Who are the creatures below and heavenly host above supposed to praise? *God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost*
8. What can we praise the Father especially for? *For His great plan of creation and salvation. For His great love in sending His Son to save sinful people, like you and me.*
9. What can we praise the Son especially for? *For being willing to leave the close fellowship with the Father and the Holy Spirit to come to earth, that He could suffer and die that His people would be saved from their sins.*
10. Is the Holy Ghost really a ghost? *No. That's just another way of saying Spirit.*
11. What can we praise the Holy Ghost especially for? *For coming to live within the hearts of God's people when they turn to trust Jesus as their Savior. For changing them and giving them more and more love for God and a greater desire to serve Him.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Created All Things to Praise and Glorify Him**? *All creatures here below on the earth and all the heavenly host above in heaven should praise God. He is their Creator and He made them to praise and glorify Him. All the good blessings they enjoy come from Him.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to our story? *For many years, King Manasseh stubbornly refused to praise God for any of the blessings he enjoyed. He glorified Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech, and even the sun, moon and stars in the sky as the ones who gave him his blessings. But in His great mercy, the LORD humbled Manasseh. He came to see that it was the LORD alone who should be praised for the blessings he enjoyed. He repented of his sins and restored the worship of the LORD to all of Judah.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 148:7-13**: "Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens." ?

This hymn calls us, along with all creatures to praise God, as He created us to. He is our God and He is the one from whom all the blessings we enjoy come from.

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 "folk", His people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the Giver of all blessings that all creatures enjoy.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't thank God for His many blessings or praise Him for being our good Creator. We think too much about ourselves and forget Him and who He is. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank Him for all His blessings, especially the blessing of forgiveness of our sins through Jesus.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *We can ask Him to work in our hearts that we might want to receive the greatest blessing of salvation, by turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us eyes to see the many blessings He gives us every day and become more grateful for them.*

Life Application Questions

1. What are some blessings that the LORD has given you?
2. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *We can think of blessings that we have and praise God for giving them to us. We can ask God to help bring to mind the blessings He gives us each day and thank Him for them.*
3. What is the greatest blessing that God offers to sinful people like you and me? *The forgiveness of our sins when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Gospel Question

1. Why do God's people of all creatures have great blessings to praise God for? What is the good news of Jesus? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who 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 3 BIBLE VERSE**Meditation Version: Psalm 148:7-13, NIV 1984**

"Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens."

Shortened Memory Version: Psalm 148:7,9,10,11, NIV 1984

"Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures ...you mountains and trees, wild animals...and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations. Let them praise the name of the LORD."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is being called on to praise the LORD in this psalm? *The sea and everything in it; the weather; the trees; the land; the animals; and, all sorts of people.*
2. How can people praise the LORD differently than all the rest of God's earthly creations? *They, alone, are made in His image. They can know Him and see Him reflected in creation. They know right from wrong and can talk with Him. All the rest of God's creations can only praise Him by reflecting the way He is in the way He made them.*
3. What does it mean to praise the name of the LORD? *It doesn't mean to talk about how pretty the name sounds when you say it. In Bible times, to talk about someone's name meant to talk about what they were like. Praising the name of the LORD means to praise Him for the wonderful ways He is and the wonderful things He does.*
4. Why should all creatures praise the LORD? *His name is exalted & His splendor is above the earth & the heavens.*
5. What does 'exalted' mean? *He is greater and better than anything else.*
6. What does it mean that His splendor is above the earth and the heavens? *He is more wonderfully glorious than anything in all of heaven and earth.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Created All Things to Praise and Glorify Him?** *These verses are a call for all of God's creatures to praise Him as they were created to.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How do these verses relate to our story? *Manasseh was not just a king over just any nation on earth. He was the king of Judah, the Israelites God had called to be His special people. Of all kings, Manasseh should have heeded this verse's call to praise the LORD, but he did not. Instead he worshiped idols and even some of the creations God had made (the sun, moon and stars). But the LORD humbled Manasseh. He repented of his sins and turned to praise the LORD as he was created to.*

Life Application Questions

1. What are things God's people can praise Him for today?
2. What is first step we must take if we want to truly praise God? *We need to turn away from our sins, confess them to God, and trust 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 our Creator, who created us with hearts that can know and praise Him.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *That we are all sinners made to praise God, but we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good ways. We praise ourselves and others, instead of Him. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *We can thank God for all the wonderful, good ways His name tell us about Him. We can thank Him that there is nothing about Him that is NOT worthy of being praised.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That God would help us to praise Him with our whole hearts.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of salvation that reflects God's holiness and His merciful love?
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: Hoop 'n' Holler

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 hula hoop for every 2 children

Preparing the Game

1. Make up some questions about the verse and/or story. Use the Bible verse and Story Review Discussion questions, if desired.

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 pair up. Give each pair a hula hoop and tell them that you are going to tell them different things that they will do with the hula-hoop after they say the verse all together. Three activities might be: having the children hold hands and jump in and out of the hula hoop, for each word the group recites, rolling it back and forth on each word the group recites,; or having buddies take turn while one person from each group sees how far through the verse he can keep the hula hoop going. Allow the children to think up other activities. Repeat the verse again after each activity.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

Praise the LORD, from the Earth

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 5, Track 15

Praise the Lord, from the earth,
All you creatures of the sea,
and all ocean depths,
lightning, hail, snow and clouds,
Stormy winds that do his bidding.
Praise the Lord, from the earth, Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, from the earth, Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, from the earth,
you mountains and all hills,
you fruit trees and cedars,
animals, flying birds, kings and rulers, men and maidens,
Praise the Lord, from the earth, Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, from the earth, Praise the Lord.
Psalm One-forty-eight, verses seven through twelve.

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 had God already made before Day Six? *Everything but earthly animals and humans.*
2. Why were field plants still just seeds in the ground? *God had not yet made someone to work the land.*
3. What did the LORD command the land to produce? *Living creatures that crawl, wild animals and farm animals, each according to their own kind.*
4. What did God call all the animals He made? Why? *Good. Because they were all made exactly as He planned them to be.*
5. In whose image did God make humans? *In His image.*
6. What does it mean that humans were made in God's image? *Humans were a special reflection of God, unlike any of the other creatures. He had a mind and heart that could love and know God and others. He had an everlasting spirit. He could see how God's glory was reflected in creation. He could know right from wrong.*
7. What did God make man's body from? *The "dust" of the earth.*
8. How did God give man the breath of life? *Breathed it into his nostrils.*
9. Where did God put man when He made him? *The Garden of Eden.*
10. What was the Garden of Eden like? *In the east; trees pretty to look at and good for food. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life in the middle. A river ran through it and watered it.*
11. What did the Lord tell man to do in the Garden of Eden? *Enjoy it and take care of it. Eat from any of the plants except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*
12. From what creatures did Adam look for a suitable helper? *The birds and the animals.*
13. What did God have Adam do for the birds and animals? *As he looked for a suitable helper, he gave them each names.*
14. Why weren't any of the birds and animals a suitable helper for Adam? *None were made in God's image. They were made after their own kind. None had a mind and spirit that could know and love God and others.*
15. How did God make woman? *From the rib of Adam.*
16. What did God tell the man and woman to do? *Have children, fill the earth, subdue and conquer it, rule over the creatures of the earth.*
17. What did God call all of creation? *Very good.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him**? *Manasseh was not just a king over just any nation on earth. He was the king of Judah, the Israelites God had called to be His special people. Of all kings, Manasseh should have heeded this verse's call to praise the LORD, but he did not. Instead he worshiped idols and even some of the creations God had made. But the LORD humbled Manasseh. He repented of his sins and turned to praise the LORD as he was created to.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 148:7-10**: "Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens."? *Manasseh was not just a king over just any nation on earth. He was the king of Judah, the Israelites God had called to be His special people. Of all kings, Manasseh should have heeded this verse's call to praise the LORD, but he did not. Instead he worshiped idols and even some of the creations God had made. But the LORD humbled Manasseh. He repented of his sins and turned to praise the LORD as he was created to.*

Life Application Questions

1. How are we like Manasseh? *We have sinful, rebellious hearts like him. We too often seek the praise of other things—even ourselves—rather than the praise of the LORD.*
2. What—like Manasseh, should we do because of our sins? *Turn away from our sins, confess them to Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise God for being merciful to sinners, even terrible sinners like Manasseh.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that like Manasseh, many times we choose to turn away from God and His good ways and live life our own way. We deserve God's punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for forgiving those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins, like Manasseh. We can ask Him to help us to trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to praise Him as He created us to.*

The Gospel

1. All people, not just Manasseh have rebelled against God. None of us praise God as He created us to. Is there any hope? What is the good news of Jesus? What is the gospel?
Yes, there is hope! 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: Keep It Under Your Hat

Materials

Paper and pencil
5+ hats
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 each question on a separate, small piece of paper. Assign a point value to each question, based on difficulty. Pin a question to the underside of each hat, except one. Save the unused questions to pin to the hats when the first set have all been selected.
3. Place all the hats on the floor or on the table.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing one of the hats and answering the question pinned to the hat. Each question is worth the number of points indicated on the question. If the first team does not get the right answer, then the question goes to the other team who can win half the points for a correct answer.

When the blank hat is chosen, the team who chooses gets to come up with their very own question to try to stump the other team. If they can, then they get the highest point value worth on the question AND another turn. If the other team gets the right answer, then play continues as normal. When all the questions on the hats have been answered, pin a new set in, changing the empty hat.

Game continues until all children get to choose a hat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Divide the children into two groups. Set a target point number for whole group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have one set of children be the hat wearers and the other set be the hat pickers. Once one set of children have had a turn, switch out hat wearers and the hat pickers. If someone chooses the blank hat, they make up a question to ask the rest of the children. Tally number of turns on a piece of paper. When the target number has been reached, start over and try to reach the target number in fewer turns.

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 King Who Would Not Praise.

Our story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 700 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise."

Scene 1:

Actions:

Twelve-year-old Manasseh stood at his father's tomb, knowing that now he must take his place as king. Manasseh's godly father, Hezekiah, had raised him under the worship of the LORD, but Manasseh chose to reject the LORD and Hezekiah's godly advisers. He chose to worship idols and follow wicked advisers, instead. Manasseh filled Jerusalem and the whole kingdom with altars to Baal and with Asherah poles. He made sacrifices in the terrible fires of Molech. He set up a carved image in the Temple and altars to the starry hosts (sun, moon and stars) in the Temple courtyards. He brought in witches and magicians. He led the people of Judah to worship the idols with him and killed whoever refuses to worship them, too. What a terrible king! What a terrible man!

Scene 2:

But the LORD did not let Manasseh go on being so wicked. Through the prophets, the LORD warned Manasseh to stop worshipping idols or He else He would punish him... and the people with him. Manasseh refused to repent. The people refuse to repent, too. So, the LORD sent the mighty Assyrian army down to Jerusalem. They captured King Manasseh, pierced his nose with a hook, tied him up in bronze chains and dragged him to prison in Babylon. In prison, Manasseh at last began to see how wicked he has been. He cries out to the LORD to forgive him and rescue him. The LORD hears his prayer. He forgives his sins and has him freed.

Scene 3

Manasseh goes back to Jerusalem a changed man. Now he serves the LORD. He has Jerusalem's walls made stronger and sets up military commanders in all Judah's walled cities. He orders all the Baals, the Asherah poles, the carved images, the fires of Molech, and the altars to the starry hosts removed. He restores the worship of the LORD in the Temple and throughout the land.

Bible Truth Tie-in:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him.** Manasseh was a wicked king who worshiped idols for many years. But in His mercy, the LORD humbled him in prison, so he would cry out to Him for help. Then Manasseh became a good king who led his people in praising the LORD as they were created to.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise.

Our story is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 700 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Manasseh, good advisors, wicked advisors, the Assyrian soldiers, and the people of Israel.

And now we present: "The Case of the King Who Would Not Praise."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Twelve-year-old Manasseh stood at his father's tomb, knowing that now he must take his place as king. Manasseh's godly father, Hezekiah, had raised him under the worship of the LORD, but Manasseh chose to reject the LORD and Hezekiah's godly advisers. He chose to worship idols and follow wicked advisers, instead. Manasseh filled Jerusalem and the whole kingdom with altars to Baal and with Asherah poles. He made sacrifices in the terrible fires of Molech. He set up a carved image in the Temple and altars to the starry hosts (sun, moon and stars) in the Temple courtyards. He brought in witches and magicians. He led the people of Judah to worship the idols with him and killed whoever refuses to worship them, too. What a terrible king! What a terrible man!

Scene 2: (Middle)

But the LORD did not let Manasseh go on being so wicked. Through the prophets, the LORD warned Manasseh to stop worshipping idols or He else He would punish him... and the people with him. Manasseh refused to repent. The people refuse to repent, too. So, the LORD sent the mighty Assyrian army down to Jerusalem. They captured King Manasseh, pierced his nose with a hook, tied him up in bronze chains and dragged him to prison in Babylon. In prison, Manasseh at last began to see how wicked he has been. He cries out to the LORD to forgive him and rescue him. The LORD hears his prayer. He forgives his sins and has him freed.

Scene 3: (End)

Manasseh goes back to Jerusalem a changed man. Now he serves the LORD. He has Jerusalem's walls made stronger and sets up military commanders in all Judah's walled cities. He orders all the Baals, the Asherah poles, the carved images, the fires of Molech, and the altars to the starry hosts removed. He restores the worship of the LORD in the Temple and throughout the land.

Bible Truth Tie-in:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him.** Manasseh was a wicked king who worshiped idols for many years. But in His mercy, the LORD humbled him in prison, so he would cry out to Him for help. Then Manasseh became a good king who led his people in praising the LORD as they were created to.

Manasseh in Hook and Shackles

Description

Children will make Manasseh with his hook and chains.

Materials

White Cardstock

Markers

Paper Fasteners

Glittery Brown (or plain brown/black) Chenille pipe cleaners, about 5 per child

Sharp point to poke holes (scissors, small hole punch, etc.)

Scissors or wire cutters

Preparing the Craft

1. Copy out of cardstock one pair of arms and legs per child. Cut out pieces for children, if desired. Copy out of cardstock and cut out one of Manasseh's body per child.
2. Cut brown chenille pipe cleaners into 2" pieces.
3. Punch holes as indicated on the moveable pieces.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have children decorate the pieces of their King Manasseh with the markers.
3. Assemble the pieces, using the paper fasteners to make joints.
4. Set aside one pipe cleaner. Form a loop with a pipe cleaner and twist the ends together. Fold down ends. Take another pipe cleaner, insert it in the first, then twist ends and fold down. Continue in this way to make Manasseh's chains. Form a circle in the chain by attaching the ends of the chains together with a pipe cleaner.
5. Use the last pipe cleaner to shape into a hook shape. Twist the straight end of the hook around one of the chain links. Stick the hook through Manasseh's nose, draping the chain circle around his body.

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. Who did King Manasseh refuse to worship? *The LORD.*
2. Who did Manasseh worship instead? *Idols and God's creations, especially the sun, moon and stars.*
3. Why did the LORD send the Assyrian soldiers? What did they do? *Because Manasseh refused to praise the LORD, but keep on worshipping idols, He allowed the Assyrian soldiers to attack Jerusalem, capture King Manasseh, and drag him to prison with a hook in his nose and tied up with heavy, bronze shackles.*
4. What is Bible Truth 3, that we are learning? *God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him?
As a little boy, Manasseh had seen his good father lead Israel back to worship the LORD as the true God and Creator. But when he became king, he turned back to worshipping idols. The LORD in His mercy, used the Assyrians to discipline Manasseh so that he would turn to worship Him as he should.
6. What can this craft help us remember?
The LORD is loving to us when He disciplines us. He wants us to praise Him as He created us to because He alone should be worshiped and because He knows that is best for us, too.

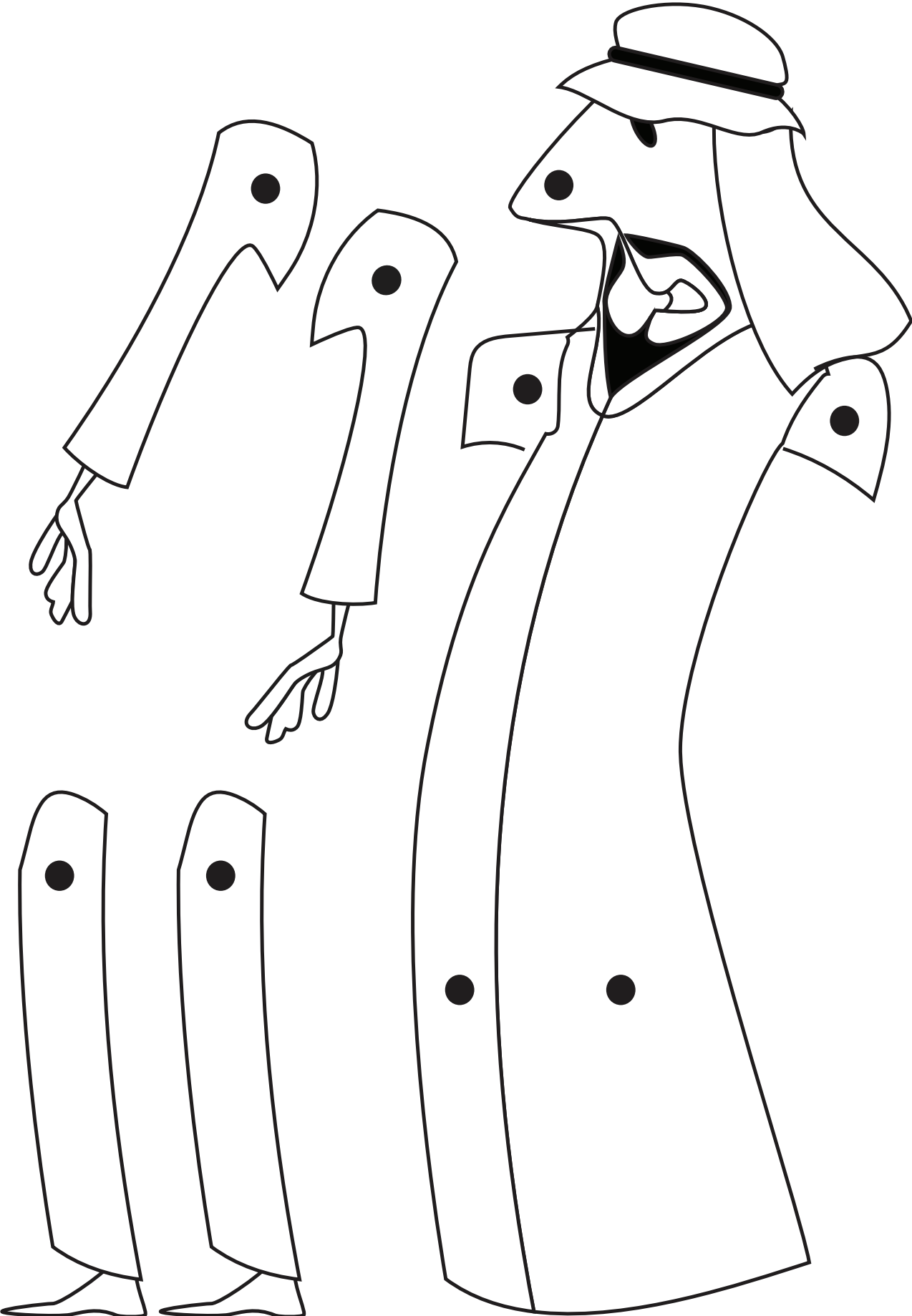
TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

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

Presentation:

1. Our craft is the Manasseh in Hook and Shackles.
2. In Jerusalem, the LORD allowed the Assyrian soldiers to capture and drag to prison King Manasseh. They took him away with a hook in his nose and tied up with heavy bronze shackles. The LORD allowed this because Manasseh refused to praise the LORD as the True God and Creator, and instead chose to worship His creations--especially the sun, moon and stars.
3. Bible Truth 3 is: God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him.
4. As a little boy, Manasseh had seen his good father lead Israel back to worship the LORD as the true God and Creator. But when he became king, he turned back to worshipping idols. The LORD in His mercy, used the Assyrians to discipline Manasseh so that he would turn to worship Him as he should.
5. Our craft can help us remember that the LORD is loving to us when He disciplines us. He wants us to praise Him as He created us to because He alone should be worshiped and because He knows that is best for us, too.

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: Mix and Match

Materials

Information for two VIPPs
2 Set of Clue Cards
Bag

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Church Member | Deacon |
| Elder | Church Staff |
| Special Volunteer | Supported Worker
(Missionary) |

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK
