

BIBLE TRUTH 4, 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 1 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 4: God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing

Bible Truth Hymn: He Leadeth Me *PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 15,16*

Extra Song: God's One, Big Plan PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 17

Bible Verse: Psalm 33:11

Bible Verse Song: The Plans of the LORD *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 18*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: A Spot of Leprosy

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Squirrel and Nut

Bible Truth Hymn: He Leadeth Me *PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 15,16*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI NIV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 33:11 : Discussion Sheet and Game: Protectors

Bible Verse Song: The Plans of the LORD *PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 18*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Stepping Stones

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: Praising God for Her Leprosy

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Beanbag Toss In

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2 **PFI NIV Prontos 5 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life

by Connie Dever

Our story is called:**The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who got sick twice? What was the second sickness and what was so bad about it?
2. How did God use both of the sicknesses to bring life to many?

This story takes place in the late 1800's, high up in the Himalayan mountains.

A young woman named Mary Reed lay sick in bed. As the light of morning flooded her room, Mary looked out her window at the snowy peaks of the mighty Himalayan Mountains. She breathed deeply of the cool, crisp, clean mountain air. "How good it is to be here in the mountains! Thank you, Lord, for bringing me here to rest!" Mary quietly prayed.

"How are you feeling today, Missie Reed?" her Indian nurse asked.

"Better, thank you, but still weak," Mary answered.

"Well, it's no wonder you're still sick with the way you've been living down in Cawmpore!" the woman replied. "Day after day you cared for the Indian women shut up in their stuffy, hot zenanas. Why there's more of death than life in those dark apartments!" she said.

Mary couldn't agree more! Four years ago she had left America and gone to Cawmpore, India to lead the zenana ministry to Indian women. A zenana was the special living area for women that Indian men built for their wives. Indian women were not supposed to come into contact with any men except those in their own family. They weren't even allowed to leave the zenanas except to worship at the Hindu temple or wash in the sacred waters of the Ganges River!

Since these women couldn't leave their zenanas, they received little medical help, little education, and most importantly, little of the good news of Jesus that missionaries had come to share. So, missionary women like Mary Reed asked to go into the zenanas to meet the Indian women. Most Indian husbands eagerly agreed. They were happy for their wives to receive education and medical help. And of course Mary and the missionary women were even more eager to tell these women the good news of Jesus.

Work in the dark, unhealthy zenanas was hard! After four years, the long hours and the poor living conditions

had finally hurt Mary. She was too sick to keep on working. Many women might have just given up and gone back home to America when they got that sick; but, not Mary. She chose to go to Pithoragarh in the Himalayas for rest and fresh air, hoping that she might get well and go back to the zenanas again.

Why did Mary do this? Because Mary chose to live on the plans of God. She knew God plans to save a people for Himself, from every people and language. She knew He had woven her life into His plans. God wanted her to tell the women of the zenanas about Him, that they might become His people, too. Mary trusted that whatever happened to her--even if it was sickness and suffering--was somehow part of His good, unfailing plans. So she stayed in India, trying to get well, so that she could go back to the women in Cawmpore one day and tell them more about Jesus.

The mountain air soon make Mary better. Soon she was out of bed and out of the house, exploring the lush, green valley of Pithoragarh and the tall mountains that surrounded it. How very different this place seemed from the poverty, sickness and darkness of the zenanas of Cawmpore! Or was it? Mary soon found out these mountains hid another people as needy as the women of the zenanas of Cawmpore. They hid over five hundred lepers!

Leprosy was a terrible illness that had no cure back then, like there is now. It could be caught from the cough or sneeze of a leper, much the same way we catch a cold. But instead of getting a runny nose or a cough, the sick person got tingling pain, then numbness in parts of their body. Large, open sores appeared on their skin that didn't heal. Many times the leprosy spread to their eyes and made them blind.

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.

Saddest of all, lepers were sent away from home so no one else would catch it. That's why the hundreds of men, women, and even children lived up in these mountains in pitiful mud huts: to suffer and die on their own!

When Mary heard about these poor lepers, she longed to help them. She wanted to bandage their wounds and give them a good place to live. Most of all, she wanted to tell them the good news of Jesus. But what could she do? The lepers refused to come near anyone who didn't have leprosy. Mary didn't know how to reach them, but God did. She lived on the plans of God. She knew the Lord planned to save His people, from every people and language on earth. Surely He had woven salvation even for lepers like these into His good, unfailing plan! So Mary began to pray for God to send someone to help them.

Before long, Mary was well enough to return to Cawmpore. Once more she made her daily trips to the zenanas. Back down the crowded streets, past the dirty animal stables, and back up the dark passageways, she went to zenana after zenana. Some opened into luxurious apartments of the rich, but most were simple rooms of terrible poverty. Some women were so afraid of this white woman that they would not look at her or even allow her shadow to fall upon them. Most happily greeted her. Mary cared for them and taught them. She loved to sit down on their beds of woven rope and tell them the good news of salvation through Jesus.

Some days, Mary went down to the banks of the Ganges River, where crowds of women came to worship and bathe. They wrongly believed that the waters of the Ganges were holy and had powers to heal. So, as the women washed in the river, Mary would sing to them about Jesus--the one in whom true hope could be found. Many of the women laughed at Mary. Some shouted mean, angry words at her, but Mary didn't care. She kept telling them about Jesus and gave them little books about Jesus to take home and read.

Mary spent many hours praying for these women, too. And as she prayed for them, she remembered the lepers of Pithoragarh, too:

"Please God, work in the hearts of the women I spoke to today, that they might believe in You and be saved. And please Lord, send someone to help the lepers of Pithoragarh, too. Send someone to bind up their wounds and take care of them. Send someone to tell

them about Jesus," she would pray. Day after day, Mary worked hard until once more her body gave out. This time, she was so sick that not even a trip to Pithoragarh would be enough to heal her.

"Mary, we're sending you home," the doctors told her.

"Your health is very bad. You will need a very long rest. You may never even get to return to Cawmpore."

Mary didn't like what the doctors had to say, but she knew she really was very sick. She would have to trust that this, too, was part of God's good and unfailing plan. She sailed back home America to see better doctors and be cared for by her family.

As hard as they tried, the doctors in America could not heal Mary. She had begun to have strange symptoms that the doctors had never seen before: tingling and numbness in her hands, then odd spots that turned into sores began to appear.

"What could this odd disease be?" the doctors wondered. Suddenly Mary realized what it was: it was leprosy!

This was terrible news! No one wants to live their life separated from family and friends to protect them from getting it! No one wants the pain of this terrible disease! But for Mary, leprosy was more than just a terrible disease. For her, it was also an answer to prayer. In this illness, she saw God's good and unfailing plans. He had answered her prayers for someone to tell the lepers about Jesus! It was her!

Mary kept the secret of her illness between herself, her father and her doctors. No one else was to know. She wrote to the London Mission to Lepers, who happily agreed to put her in charge of the Chandag Asylum for Lepers, up in the Himalayan Mountains not too far from Pithoragarh. Mary packed her bags, said a final farewell to her family and friends, then set sail back to India.

Eagerly, Mary made the long trip back up to the little mountain village of Pithoragarh, then up into the mountains where the lepers lived in their poor, makeshift, mud huts. "Listen, my friends, I have been called by God to come and help you," she called out to them. Slowly but surely, the sore-covered faces of the lepers appeared at the openings of the huts. "What was this?" they wondered. "A white lady come to help us? How can this be? No one even from our own people will help us."

"Come out! I have good news for you!" Mary urged them. Slowly a little group of lepers gathered before

her, she told them all about the Chandag Asylum where they could live and be cared for. Then she told them the wonderful good news of Jesus. He was the Son of God who Himself had touched and cared for lepers like them. Best of all, He brought salvation to all who turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. Tears fell down their cheeks as they heard all Mary had to say. Such wonderful promises she gave them! Words of kindness and hope.

Mary was as good as her promises to the lepers. She worked as hard at the Chandag Asylum as she had in the zenanas of Cawmpore. Even though she struggled with her own painful leprosy, she bandaged up the other lepers' wounds. She help to build nice homes for them to live in. She gave them food and love. Best of all, she told them about Jesus, Many heard the good news of Jesus and trusted Him as their Savior.

Mary stayed and worked in Chandag for 52 years--until she died at the age of 89. How did she die? Rejoicing in God! How good and unfaithful were His plans for her! He had even used her sickness to care for the lepers and tell them the good news of Jesus!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who got sick twice? What was the second sickness and what was so bad about it? Mary Reed. The second sickness was leprosy. It was bad because it was so painful and there was no cure. And, because she would have to live far away from her family and other loved ones to keep them from getting it.

2. How did God use both of the sicknesses to bring life to many?

The first sickness God used to show Mary Reed the lepers who lived up in the mountains. The second sickness God used to make the way for Mary Reed to care for them and to share the good news of Jesus with them. They would not let her live with them if she was not a leper.

Our Bible Truth Is:

God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 33:11

"The plans of the LORD stands firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."

Mary Reed lived a joyful life. Not because life was so easy for her, but because she lived on the plans of God. The plan might many times be woven with sickness and hardship. There might be times she didn't understand what He was doing; but, she knew that God was perfectly wise and good. Whatever He planned, it had to be good. Whatever He planned, it would never fail. More than comforts or health; even more than family and friends, Mary took joy in God weaving His good, unfaithful plans into her life. She was especially happy with those plans gave her the chance to tell others the news of Jesus!

What about you and me? What will we live our lives on? Will we live them on comforts or health, family and friends? Will we live them on our own plans? Or like Mary, will we live on the plans of God? We can, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Let's praise God for His perfectly good and unfaithful plans. Let's ask Him to work in us that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him. Let's ask Him to give us the desire to live on His plans more than anything else. Let's ask Him to help us to take joy in Him and His good plans, even when suffering or other hard things are part of it.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, praise You for being the Maker and Fulfiller of Your Perfect Plans for Creation.

C God, we confess that many times we do not react like Mary to hard things that happen to us. Many times we do not see them as a part of Your good and unfaithful plans. We grumble against You for letting them happen to us.

T Thank You for Your plan to save people from every people group on earth. You even care that people in lonely places, like these lepers, come to know You.

S God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us want to serve You in Your good plans, however You want us to.

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:

Praise God for being the Maker of good and unfailing plans for all of His Creation.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

Confess that often we grumble against His plans for our lives, instead of praise Him for them. We need a Savior!

THANKSGIVING:

Thank God for specific parts of His good plan for our lives that we can already see. Thank Him for His plans for the future, that we do not know, but can be confident that they, too, will all be a part of His good plan. Thank Him that His good plans will come about. Nothing can ever defeat Him!

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

Ask God to help us to keep trusting and praising Him for His good plans, when they include suffering or other hard things we do not understand. Ask Him 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 relates to the story?

Snack: A Spot of Leprosy

Craisin or red M&M leper spots and Indian pita bread (can have hummus, cream cheese, etc. to spread on it.) Could also use Teddy Grahams with broken off legs/arm, like lepers.

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

Case Tie-in: Mary Reed longed for someone to go to live with the lepers and tell them the good news of Jesus. When she was diagnosed with leprosy, she realized that God was using this terrible illness as part of His good plans to reach them through her. She praised God for His good and unfailing plans.

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's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing

Before the creation of the world, God planned each day from first to last. Each one would be just as He planned it to be. Every creature in it would live, grow, and reflect His glory, just as He had planned.

As part of His plans for this world, God created people each with a mind to think and a will to act. They would use these to make their own decisions, every day of their life. Yet in God's mysterious and mighty way, before even the first people were created, He had already perfectly woven His good plans into all that they would choose to think and do.

God's plans would never fail. Not even the sin and suffering that would come into the world would ruin God's good plans for His creation. God would use even these terrible things to display His great love for His people by sending His Son Jesus to save them. God's people--people from every nation and language on earth--would all choose to love and obey Him, just as He had planned. Not a one would be lost. God, Himself, by the great power of His Spirit, would make sure that these good things would happen.

There is much about God's plans we cannot understand because God is so much greater and wiser than we are. That's why God tells us not to lean on our own understanding of things, but trust in Him instead. When we remember God's perfect faithfulness in the past and His promises for the future, we can rejoice that whatever happens. It is always, only, a part of His completely good, unfailing plan.

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 and 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 one else. 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 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? *Mary Reed did not despair when she found out she had leprosy. She saw that it was part of God's good plan to tell the lepers about Jesus.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 33:11**: "The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."?
This verse reminds us that God's plans never change. It reminds us that His purposes come from His heart, which is perfectly wise and completely good. And that these wonderful plans of His will all take place, without fail, throughout all of time.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people today be comforted when they go through hard things that they don't understand? *They can remember that everything they go through is part of God's good and unfailing plans for creation. They can remember that even if they don't understand why they are going through it, that God does and is working good through it.*
2. How can we become God's people and be comforted by God's good and unfailing plans? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting 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 so good, wise and powerful, that His plans will come about without fail.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *That while God's plans are good and unfailing, many times we don't want to follow them. We want to do things our own way. Or, we doubt that His plans really are good. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Truth? *For weaving His good, unfailing plans into everything that happens in this world--even the sadness things that happen. We can thank God for sending Jesus to even turn death to life, for all of God's people, when He died on the cross to pay for their sins.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Truth? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us to keep on trusting in His good, unfailing plans, even when things don't make sense to us. And, we can ask God to use us to help bring about His wonderful plans.*

The Gospel

1. From before the beginning, God made saving sinful people a part of His good, unfailing plans. How did He do this? 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: Squirrel and Nut

Materials

Marble

Chairs

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have children seated in chairs in a circle, with their heads down and their eyes closed. "It" is in the middle and is holding the marble. He walks around quietly and chooses someone's lap to drop the marble into. The person who receives the marble jumps up and chases "It" around the circle and tries to tag "It" before "It" gets to the chair and sits down. Either the tagged old "It" or the new "It" gets to choose a question from the bag for the class to answer. Play continues after the question is answered. Be careful about running on slick floors! You may want to ask the children to walking rapidly instead.

Game continues as number of questions, 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.

He Leadeth Me

Verse 2

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me!

Verse 3

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis Thy hand that leadeth me! *Refrain*

Refrain

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 15,16

Understanding the Song

1. What does "Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes when Eden's bowers bloom" mean?
During really sad, difficult times or during days filled with so much happiness that they seem like the wonderful days in the Garden of Eden before there was any sin or suffering. (The blooming bowers of Eden is a reference to all the beauty of the flowering plants of the Garden of Eden. The songwriter uses this as a reference to life before sin entered the world.)
2. When is God leading the person singing the song? *Whatever he does, wherever he is; whether he is enduring suffering and hardship or enjoying wonderful blessings, he knows that God is leading him.*
3. What does it mean that God leads him by His own hand? *Not that God actually holds His hand, but that He is with him guiding him through everything he goes through each day.*
4. What is a faithful follower of God like? *He loves God and obeys Him, with God's help.*
5. What gives the singer confidence that he will be God's faithful follower? *He knows that he is not leading himself through all of life, but that God is leading him and helping him every day.*
6. What does it mean to 'murmur' and 'repine'? *To murmur is to complain; to repine is to be unhappy that you don't have something you want.*
7. What is a 'lot'? *What a person's life is like; what he goes through each day.*
8. Why will the singer of the song be content 'whatever lot he sees'? *He knows his lot in life is what God has planned for him, and God's plans are only good and unailing. Even if he can't understand why his life is the way it is, he still trusts that God is completely wise and His plans are completely good.*
9. Why does he choose to trust God rather than just what he himself sees and feels? *Because he know God is so much wiser and greater than him that he could not possibly understand many of the good things God has planned for him.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unailing?** *God's people know God's plans are good and unailing. As His people, they know He is always leading them through life, fulfilling His good plans for them. Whether it is something hard or sad or enjoyable and happy, it is all a part of God's good plans. That is why they can be content, no matter what happens.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to our story? *Mary Reed did not murmur or repine when she found out that she had leprosy. She knew that it was by God's own hand, His good plans that He had let her have this disease. He was leading her to answer her own prayers to send someone to help the lepers and tell them about Jesus.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 33:11**: "The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."?

God's people know that even in "scenes of deepest gloom" (hard or sad times) that God's plans stand firm. They do not need to murmur or repine (complain or stay sad) because the Lord is leading them. His plans are good and they are unfailing. God's people can be content because they know that His plans will succeed and one day they will see just what great things He was doing, even through their hardest or saddest of days.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for leading them with His good and unfailing plans. They can ask Him to help them not to complain or long for something different than what is His good plan, but to trust in Him and His good plans.*

2. What is the best first step do we need to take if we want to be a faithful follower of God? *That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to work in our hearts that we would be His faithful follower all our lives.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being faithful to always lead His people according to His good and unfailing plans.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we do not trust God to lead us. We choose to do things our own way, which seems better. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

We can thank God that we can always depend on Him to lead us, even in the hardest times, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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's people can sing this song and trust God to lead them according to His good and unfailing plans. Why? Because of all He had done already for them through Jesus, as part of His good and unfailing plan? Can you tell me what He's done through Jesus? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who 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: Word Take Away

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we’ve learned in this bag/ bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

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

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 33:11

“The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What are plans? *What someone intends to do.*
2. What are the plans of the LORD? *What He intends to do.*
3. What does it mean for the LORD’s plans to stand firm? *God’s ways are never wrong. His plans will never fail. Nothing will ever stop God from doing all of His good will! It is always best for us to obey what He tells us to do. Nothing will ever overcome His plans. No one will ever understand the world or our lives better than Him.*
4. How long will the LORD’s plans stand firm? *Forever. There will never be a time when God’s good plans will fail.*
5. Will suffering and sin be able to spoil God’s good plans? *No. God’s plans stand firm. Even though many times we do not understand how, His good plans will always triumph through suffering and sin, just as they did when Jesus died on the cross.*
6. What are the purposes of the LORD’s heart? *The LORD is only perfectly good and wise. The purposes of His heart are only good and wise, too.*
7. What is a generation? *All the people of about the same age. Your parents are one generation; your grandparents are another. You, your brothers and sisters, and your friends are one generation.*
8. What does it mean for the plans of God’s heart to stand through all generations?
From the very first people, to their children, their grandchildren, and so on and so on....all the way down to your parents, you and your friends, the children you will have one day....all the way through all of time...to the very last person who is born and lives on earth....everything God has planned will happen, just as He planned it to, full of His goodness and greatness.

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God’s Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing?** *God’s plans for His creation are unfailing throughout all of history; and that they are as good as His perfectly good and wise heart.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Mary Reed did not think that her leprosy was an accident, but was part of God’s unfailing plans that stood firm for all time, through all generations. She knew that He was gathering a people from every people and language and that included those lepers. Her leprosy would be used by God to tell these lepers about Jesus that they might be His people, too.*

Life Application Questions

1. How is it encouraging to His people to know that the LORD’s plans stand firm? *They know that no matter what they face—no matter how difficult or difficult to understand—that the LORD has woven His good, unfailing plan into it. They can trust Him and rejoice in Him.*
2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Maker of good and unfailing plans for all of His creation.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Confess that often we grumble against His plans for our lives, instead of praising Him for them. He rebel against them in what we think, say and do. We want to do things our own way. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse? *Thank God for specific parts of His good plan that He has shown us, either through the Bible or through our lives.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse? *Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help us to trust Him and praise Him for His good plans, even when they include suffering or other hard things we do not understand or like. We can ask Him to fulfill all His good plans in us and in the world around us.*

The Gospel

1. What is the greatest, most amazing plan of the LORD that He has had for His sinful people, from even before the creation of the world? 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: Protectors

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
 One paper cup for each student
 2 manila folders or 4 empty paper towel tube Masking tape
 Foam or other soft-surfaced balls, ideally one for every child.

Team A Invaders (rest of team)

X X X X X Team A Cups

Team A Protectors (1 or 2 children)

Team B Protectors (1 or 2 children)

X X X X X Team B Cups

Team B Invaders (rest of team)

Preparing the Game

1. Use the masking tape to make X's to show placement for each team's cups.
2. Cut manila folder along seam into 2 sheets. Roll up each sheet along the short side and tape seam.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Divide the children into two teams. Have the children on both teams set up their cups on the X's. Designate one or two children from each team to be the "Protectors" for their team's cups. These children will stand in front of their team's cups and ward off invading balls that the other team is ROLLING (not throwing) to knock down their cups. Arm each protector with one or two of the manila envelope/paper towel tubes. Have all the other of Team A and B stand back behind their team's cups. Give them the foam balls to ROLL at the other team's cups. Play begins as everyone says the verse together. When you say "go" both teams begin rolling and protecting the cups until you tell them to stop, gathering up the balls and rolling them back at the other team's cup when they come their direction. Allow 30 seconds or a 1 minute for each round. Maybe longer if the protectors are particularly good or the invaders are particularly unsuccessful at knocking down the cups. The number of cups knocked down are the number of points each team gets for the round. If desired, you can have each team say the verse to earn the points. Otherwise, set up the cups again, designate new protectors and have everyone say the verse. When you say "go", children begin Round 2 of rolling and protecting.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

This game is difficult to do completely non-competitively. You can choose to not keep track of points.

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.

The Plans of the Lord

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 18

The plans of the Lord stand firm forever;
 The purposes of His heart through all generations;
 His plans stand firm forever,
 The purposes of His heart through all generations;
 The plans of the Lord stand firm forever;
 The purposes of His heart through all generations.
 Psalm Thirty-three, verse eleven.

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc. Bag or bowl
 Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. Why was Mary Reed sick in bed? *She worked too hard for too long in zenanas in Cawmpore.*
2. Why did she come to the Himalayas? *The good, clean, fresh air would help her get better.*
3. What terrible secret did she find out that the beautiful Himalaya Mountains held? *500+ lepers that had been forced to live out on their own with no help.*
4. Why didn't the people take care of the lepers? *Leprosy was so contagious and there was no cure. They knew that was the only way to keep others from getting it.*
5. What did Mary want to do for the lepers? Why didn't she do it? *She wanted to help them and tell them about Jesus. She didn't help them because she knew they wouldn't let her get close to them. Also, she knew she needed to go back to the zenanas in Cawmpore.*
6. What did she do for the lepers, even though she went back to Cawmpore? *She never forgot them, but kept praying that God would send someone to help them.*
7. What were the zenanas like? *Private, separate part of a house, where no men other than those in the family could go. Sometimes luxurious, but usually very poor and dirty.*
8. Why was it so important for women like Mary to go to the zenanas? *It was the only way for these women to hear about Jesus, since they were not allowed out in public.*
9. Why did Mary go down to the Ganges River? *The women were allowed to go there and to the Temple. She could tell them about Jesus there, too.*
10. Why did Mary leave Cawmpore and go to America? *She got too sick to keep working.*
11. What disease did Mary figure out she had? *Leprosy.*
12. Why did Mary praise God for her leprosy? *At last she knew she could go help the lepers.*
13. What did she tell the lepers in Pithoragarh when she went back? *She told them about the Chandag Asylum where they could get help and about the good news of Jesus.*
14. Why do you think Mary stayed and worked so long among the lepers, even though she had to suffer with her own leprosy? *God gave her strength to keep enduring her own illness. He also encouraged her that this was His plan to bring many lepers to become His people.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our **Bible Truth: God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing?** *Mary Reed knew that everything in her life was part of God's good and unfailing plans. She had courage and took joy in things that many others would be afraid about or be sad about because she knew she was doing what He wanted her to do...and He was using her to tell others about Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 33:11:** "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."? *Mary Reed did not think that her leprosy was an accident, but was part of God's unfailing plans that stood firm for all time, through all generations. She knew that He was gathering a people from every people and language and that included those lepers. Her leprosy would be used by God to tell these lepers about Jesus that they might be His people, too.*

Life Application Questions

1. What is something difficult that God's people today have to face and how might the LORD use that as part of His good and unfailing plans? *No matter how the children answer, you can reassure them that God promises to comfort God's people and to use their trials and to be a comfort one day to others. You can also remind them that God promises to use even every hard thing His people go through to make them more like Jesus and more ready for their wonderful home in heaven.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

The Gospel

1. What was the good news about Jesus that the disciples learned from the Bible? 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: Stepping Stones

Materials

10 Carpet Squares or Different Colored Construction Paper
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Small paper bag or basket
Story Review Questions
Optional: CD player and music, Game "Pennies" to differentiate the teams

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Tape numbers on the carpet squares or make "squares" out of construction paper. Place the squares in random order on the floor, not more than 2 feet apart. (so that they can jump from stone to stone: see diagram) Write the numbers 1-10 on separate, small pieces of paper and place in bag/basket.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Tell the children that the players from both Team A and Team B are to jump from "stone to stone" until you call "time." (You could also play the music and they freeze when the music stops.) At that point, everyone is to freeze on their stepping stone. The leader then draws a number out of the bag/basket and then asks a Story Review question to the child/children on that stone. If he/they answer it correctly, he/ they each win two points for their team. Play then resumes again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Simply play the game, having the children at whatever numbered stone is chosen answer the question.

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 Sickness that Brought Life.

Our story takes place in the late 1800's in India and in America.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life."

Scene 1:

High up in the Himalaya Mountains, Mary Reed lay in her bed, sick and exhausted. She had been sharing the gospel with the Indian women who lived in zenanas in Cawmpore. At last, all the hard work in the terrible conditions had made her sick. The fresh mountain air was healing. As Mary got better, she began to explore Pithoragarh. She found there were 500+ lepers hiding in the mountains. Mary wanted to tell them about Jesus, but they wouldn't let her get near them because of their leprosy. So Mary returned to work in the zenanas in Cawmpore, but kept on praying that God would send someone to help the lepers and tell them about Jesus.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Mary began working just as hard as she had before. She visited the zenanas each day, teaching the women, tending to their medical needs, and telling them about Jesus. Some of the women received her message with joy and became Christians. Others would not even talk to her. Mary also went down to the Ganges River where the women went to bath in its waters, which they believed could heal them of illness. Mary told them about Jesus. Some listened, but others mocked her. Mary was very busy, but she never forgot to pray for the lepers. After four more years in Cawmpore, Mary got sick again. This time she was so sick that she had to go home to family and friends in America. At first the doctors couldn't figure out what is wrong with her; but, then when open sores begin to appear on her, they realized that she had leprosy.

Scene 3

Instead of only despairing that she will never again be able to live around family and friends because of her leprosy, Mary saw her leprosy as part of God's good plan for her life. Now she could go tell the lepers about Jesus. Mary tells only the doctors and her father about her leprosy. She makes contact with the London Mission to Lepers, who put her in charge of the Chandag Asylum for Lepers, up in the Himalaya Mountains not too far from Pithorogarh. Mary says goodbye to her family and goes back to Pithorogarh. She finds the lepers hiding in the mountains and tells them that she has come to help them. She tells them about the Chandag Asylum. For the next 52 years, Mary cared for the lepers. She gave them food, shelter, dressing their wounds and telling them about Jesus, even while suffering from leprosy, herself. Many lepers heard the good news of Jesus and became Christians. Mary was overjoyed that God had woven her into His plan to bring salvation to the lepers.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing.** Mary Reed did not despair when she found out she had leprosy. She saw that it was part of God's good plan to tell the lepers about Jesus.

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 Sickness that Brought Life.

Our story takes place in the late 1800's in India and in America.

The characters in our story are: Mary Reed, Indian women, lepers, doctors, her family and friends.

And now we present: "The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

High up in the Himalaya Mountains, Mary Reed lay in her bed, sick and exhausted. She had been sharing the gospel with the Indian women who lived in zenanas in Cawmpore. At last, all the hard work in the terrible conditions had made her sick. The fresh mountain air was healing. As Mary got better, she began to explore Pithoragarh. She found there were 500+ lepers hiding in the mountains. Mary wanted to tell them about Jesus, but they wouldn't let her get near them because of their leprosy. So Mary returned to work in the zenanas in Cawmpore, but kept on praying that God would send someone to help the lepers and tell them about Jesus.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Mary began working just as hard as she had before. She visited the zenanas each day, teaching the women, tending to their medical needs, and telling them about Jesus. Some of the women received her message with joy and became Christians. Others would not even talk to her. Mary also went down to the Ganges River where the women went to bath in its waters, which they believed could heal them of illness. Mary told them about Jesus. Some listened, but others mocked her. Mary was very busy, but she never forgot to pray for the lepers. After four more years in Cawmpore, Mary got sick again. This time she was so sick that she had to go home to family and friends in America. At first the doctors couldn't figure out what is wrong with her; but, then when open sores began to appear on her, they realized that she had leprosy.

Scene 3: (End)

Instead of only despairing that she will never again be able to live around family and friends because of her leprosy, Mary saw her leprosy as part of God's good plan for her life. Now she could go tell the lepers about Jesus. Mary tells only the doctors and her father about her leprosy. She makes contact with the London Mission to Lepers, who put her in charge of the Chandag Asylum for Lepers, up in the Himalaya Mountains not too far from Pithorogarh. Mary says goodbye to her family and goes back to Pithorogarh. She finds the lepers hiding in the mountains and tells them that she has come to help them. She tells them about the Chandag Asylum. For the next 52 years, Mary cared for the lepers. She gave them food, shelter, dressing their wounds and telling them about Jesus, even while suffering from leprosy, herself. Many lepers heard the good news of Jesus and became Christians. Mary was overjoyed that God had woven her into His plan to bring salvation to the lepers.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing.** Mary Reed did not despair when she found out she had leprosy. She saw that it was part of God's good plan to tell the lepers about Jesus.

Praising God for Her Leprosy

Description

Children will make a puppet of Mary Reed out of a tube sock with hands that can touch her face, pray and praise God.

Materials

1 Tube sock per child

1 Rubber band per child

Markers

If desired, felt/fabric scraps, jiggly eyes, yarn, craft glue, scissors

Preparing the Craft

1. Tie a knot in the toe end of the wrong side of the tube sock, then turn sock right side out. This will be the puppet's head.
2. Wrap the rubber band fairly tightly at base of head.
3. Cut out a hole on each side where the child's fingers will stick through as Mary Reed's arms.
4. Lay out any optional craft supplies with which to decorate Mary Reed.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Older children can complete steps 2-3 from "Preparing the Craft" section.
3. Decorate Mary Reed using the markers or other craft supplies. Use a red marker or felt to add leprous spots to her face (and/or their fingers, which will act as her arms).
4. Have children stick their middle finger past the rubber band and into the sock head. Have them use their ring finger and their pointer finger as Mary Reed's arms by sticking them through the arm holes. They can act out her praying to God for someone to help the lepers, feeling the spots on her face, and praising God for sending her to them, etc.

Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Mary Reed go the second time she got sick? *Home to America.*
2. What disease did the doctors figure out she had? *Leprosy.*
3. How did she react to hearing she had leprosy? Why? *She was both sad and praised God, too. She was sad to leave her family and friends for the rest of her life, but she was happy that God had made the way for her to tell the lepers about Jesus.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing?
Mary Reed knew that her leprosy would mean painful suffering, but she rejoiced that God intended to use it for His good and unfailing plans to tell the lepers about Jesus.
6. What can our craft help us remember?
God's people do not have to fear even the worst things that happen to them. God promises that even those things He has woven into His good and unfailing plans.

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: Praising God for Her Leprosy.
2. At home in America, Mary Reed was not just sad, but actually praised God for her leprosy, because she knew He had chosen her to bring the good news of Jesus to the lepers, as she had prayed for so long.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God's Plans for His Creation Are Good and Unfailing.
4. Mary Reed knew that her leprosy would mean painful suffering, but she rejoiced that God intended to use it for His good and unfailing plans to tell the lepers about Jesus.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people do not have to fear even the worst things that happen to them. God promises that even those things He has woven into His good and unfailing plans.

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 (a.k.a. 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? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

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 9 coloring sheets in which children fill in the 9 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: 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
