



BIBLE TRUTH 4 OVERVIEW

Unit 5: God, the Good Creator

Big Question and Answer: "Can You Tell Me What God Made? God Made All Things Good!"

Bible Verse: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:1,31 NIV 1984

Bible Truth 4 Concept: 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.

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: Psalm 33:11

"The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations."

Bible Truth 4 ACTS Prayer

- A** Praise God for being the Maker of good and unfailing plans for all of His Creation.
- C** Confess that often we grumble against His plans for our lives, instead of praise Him for them. We need a Savior!
- T** 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!
- S** 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.

Bible Truth 4 Stories

Lesson 1: The Case of the Lost Donkeys (Old Testament)

1 Samuel 9-10

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

Lesson 3: The Case of the Beautiful Blindness (New Testament)

John 8-9

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

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"When we keep the WoGoLOA rules, we help each other worship God and love one another today. Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>
Big Question Under Investigation:	"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation . It's: Can You Tell Me What God Made?
Big Question 5 and Songs	<p>In the beginning, God created everything. And when He did, He created all things good and for His glory.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'Can You Tell Me What God Made?' is: God Made All Things Good!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Question 5 Song <i>PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "London Bridge Is Falling Down")</i> Can you tell me what God made? What God made, what God made? Can you tell me what God made? God made all things good!</p> <p>Can You Tell Me What God Made? <i>PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 4</i> Refrain: Can you tell me what God made? Can you tell me what God made? Can you tell me what God made? God made all things good, God made all things good (through Jesus/for His glory)! God made all things good, God made all things good!</p> <p>Verse 1 Manatees, bumblebees, the air we breathe, Orca whales, bunny tails and slimy snails, Furry yaks, yummy snacks, bumpy camel backs, God made all things good! Cookatoos, kangaroos, the sky so blue, Sparkly gems, cherubim and monkey limbs, Thunder clouds, peacocks proud, the lion bit and loud! God made all things good! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Verse 2 Frogs that leap, woolly sheep, the shank's big teeth, Tiny gnats, rivers fast, and chloroplasts, Mountains high, octopi, the starts up in the sky, God made all things good! Sandy dunes, sun and moon, doves that coo, Flying fish, rhinocerish, the bugs we squish! Apple trees, the wavy seas, yes, even you and me! God made all things good! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p><i>Extra Unit 5 Song: The Days of Creation</i> <i>PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 5</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 5
Bible Verse**

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Genesis 1:1,31 tells us: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."

Big Question 5 Bible Verse Song*PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 6***God Saw All that He Had Made: Genesis 1:31 NIV 1984**

God saw all that He had made,
 God saw all that He had ma-ee-ay-ee-ade,
 God saw all that He had made,
 God saw all that He had made,
 And it was very good.
 Genesis One, thirty-one.

"God made everything in our whole world, long ago in the beginning. of time. He looked at it all and called it very good. That's because He made it all just right!"

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)**Bible Truth 4**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **FOUR** Bible Truths that all tell us something about what good things God made in the beginning. We've already learned some. Can you remember any of them? (God Created All Things Good in the Beginning, God Created People Perfectly Good in the Beginning; and God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him).

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:

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.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**Bible Truth 4
Hymn**

"Long ago, a man named Joseph H. Gilmore was thinking about this Bible truth, too. He wrote the words to a hymn called, "He Leadeth Me". We're going to learn a few verses from it."

He Leadeth Me

PFI NIV Songs 5, Tracks 15,16

You may also enjoy this extra song: God's One, Big Plan PFI NIV Songs 5, Track 17

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,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

"This hymn reminds us that God's plans are good and unfailing. God's people know this best of all. They know God 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 He has woven into every single day. That is why they can be content, no matter what happens.

**Bible Truth 4
Bible Verse
and Song**

"The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:

Psalm 33:11:

"The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations."

The Bible tells us that God's good plans stand firm for His creation. Throughout all generations, throughout all of history--every single day--God will do all of His will. And because God's heart is completely wise and purely good, we can trust that His purposes, even in the things we least understand, are always good. We can count on that because He never changes.

We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!

The Plans of the LORD

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.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:**

The Case of the Lost Donkeys
2 Kings 20-21, 2 Chronicles 32-33

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Lost Donkeys.**

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

- 1. Who lost his donkeys? Who did he send to find them?**
- 2. What plan did God use the lost donkeys to fulfill? How did God show that these lost donkeys were used as part of fulfilling that good plan?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

- 1. Who lost his donkeys? Who did he send to find them?**

Kish. He sent his son, Saul, and a servant to find them.

- 2. What plan did God use the lost donkeys to fulfill? How did God show that these lost donkeys were used as part of fulfilling that good plan?**

The LORD used the lost donkeys to take Saul to Samuel to be anointed king over Israel. The LORD told Samuel what Saul was doing, when he would arrive and where the donkeys were. It was clear that He had woven His bigger plans into what happened to these donkeys.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:**

The Case of the Sickness that Brought Life

"Now it's time for today's story 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?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the 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.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****New Testament Story:****The Case of the Beautiful Blindness**
John 8-9

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Beautiful Blindness.**

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

- 1. Who was blind? Why did most people think he was blind?**
- 2. What made the blindness beautiful? What did it show?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was blind? Why did most people think he was blind? The son of a couple was born blind. Most people thought that he was blind as God's punishment for something sinful that he or his parents did.

2. Who changed the blindness? How did He make the blindness beautiful? Jesus healed the man. He explained that God planned for this blindness to bring God's glory. Some saw what Jesus did and put their faith in Him. Even today people read about how Jesus healed this blind man and see God's glory. This made even this blindness a beautiful thing.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

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

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.