

## **BIBLE TRUTH 2, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

**Welcome to Praise Factory:** PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 1*

**Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:** WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song  
*PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 2*

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 12 Songs *PFI NIV Songs 6, Tracks 3,4*

**Big Question Bible Verse:** Romans 5:12 Song *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 5*  
(*Extra Bible Verse Song: You Must Not Eat, Eat, Eat: Genesis 2,3 PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 6*)

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

**Bible Truth 2:** God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 9*

**Bible Verse:** Romans 6:23

**Bible Verse Song:** For the Wages of Sin Is Death *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 10*

**Lesson 3 New Testament:** The Case of the Happy Homecoming  
Genesis 2,3; Ezekiel 47:12; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 59:15-16; 65:17-25; Daniel 9:25;  
John 10:15-18; 11:25; 14:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Revelation 2:7; 20:7ff; 22:1-5

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** The Tree of Life with Its Fruit

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, v.1 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 9*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV Songs 6 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Romans 6:23 Discussion Sheet and Game: Ball Circle Toss

**Bible Verse Song:** For the Wages of Sin Is Death Romans 6:23 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 10*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI NIV Songs 6 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

**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:** The Tree of Life

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

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 2, Lesson 3 **PFI NIV Prontos 6 Book or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Happy Homecoming** by Connie Dever*Genesis 2,3; Ezekiel 47:12; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 59:15-16; 65:17-25; Daniel 9:25; John 10:15-18; 11:25; 14:2-3;**1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Revelation 2:7; 20:7ff; 22:1-5***Our story is: The Case of the Happy Homecoming.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was shut out of their home? Why?
2. What was the happy new home? How would they get there?

This story starts back, thousands and thousands of years ago, not long after the creation of the world.

There simply was no going home for Adam and Eve. The mighty, six-winged cherubim and the flaming sword that flashed back and forth across the entrance of the Garden made that very clear! God was sending Adam and Eve away from home. Away from the delicious fruit on the trees that had never been more than an outstretched arm away. Away from the river that watered the plants of the Garden for them. Away from the special presence of God they enjoyed. Away from the Tree of Life, through which God would have rewarded them with eternal life to enjoy Him, each other and all He had created forever. They would have had their children there; and they, too, would have grown up knowing all that perfection, too. As they filled and subdued the earth as God had told them to, the wonderful Garden would have expanded more and more and more until it reached the very ends of the earth. Ah, the home God had made for them! It had been so wonderful!

But it was not their home no longer. Now they were sinners. They had chosen to disobey God and His good ways and it was a choice that cost them dearly. They had to leave behind the Garden and the close fellowship they had with God. Now they would have to fight weeds and hard, dry soil to grow their own food. Now they would have to haul their own water to feed the thirsty plants. Now their bodies would ache, grow old and die. Now they would grumble at each other; they would be greedy and selfish. Now they would be separated from God. Their children would grow up to be just like them. Oh why, oh why, oh why, had they not trusted and obeyed the LORD?! Now Eden was gone forever; and with it, eternal life.

But was it? Actually, it was not. God's love and mercy towards these sinners continued! It wasn't only to satisfy His justice against their sin that the LORD had sent Adam and Eve from the Garden. It was His mercy, too.

God was keeping them from the Tree of Life. Eternal life was the reward for those who perfectly obeyed God. To eat from the Tree now as sinners would only bring God's immediate, eternal judgment. The LORD would not let that happen. He had far more glorious plans for His people than that. He would send His Son, Himself, to be their Savior. Jesus would live the perfect life His sinful people were unable to. Then, Jesus would offer His life up as the perfect sacrifice for their sins. To all who would ever turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their own Savior, He would give the reward of eternal life that He earned with His own perfectly obedient life.

This was amazing, but there was more! At the end of time, God would bring an end to the heavens and earth and would create new ones for His people to enjoy. It would be like Eden again...only a million times better. No sin, sorrow or death would ever come to that new world and it would last forever.

So, yes, it was true. Adam and Eve, nor any other human after them could never go back home to Eden. But they could look forward to a better home that lay ahead. They could trust in the God's promises to send a Savior to crush Satan and pay the wages of their sin. They could look forward in faith for God's gift of eternal life to come.

Many years passed and as they passed, God's people kept looking forward. They kept waiting for the Savior to come. They kept waiting for new heavens and new earth. Oh, how they wanted to go home!

It was hard living in this sinful world! Many times God's people lost their struggles with sin. Many times they suffered at the hands of others who rebelled against God. The Temple where they worshiped God

**Story-telling Tips****Ahead of time:**

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

**During your presentation:**

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

was destroyed. It was hard to keep hoping and always look forward in faith. Yet God sent them little glimmers of hope to encourage them to persevere.

Through the prophet Daniel the LORD told them: "The Savior is coming 483 years after King Cyrus orders the Temple to be rebuilt. Don't give up! Keep looking forward in faith!

Through the prophet Isaiah the LORD told them: "I, Myself, am Your Savior. It will be Me who comes to take away your sins; keep looking forward in faith! "And behold, I am preparing a wonderful home for you to come home to, My people," He told them. "I will create new heavens and a new earth for you. This old world will never even be remembered again," He promised them. "This new home will be a delight. The sound of weeping will never be heard again. No more will you toil at your work like you have since Adam and Eve rebelled. Everything you do will turn out just right. Even all the creatures will be at peace with each other again like they were in Eden. Keep looking forward in faith. Don't give up!" He urged them.

At last the Savior Jesus did come: "I am the Resurrection and the Life," He told the people. "I have come to lay down my life for God's people. Whoever believes in Me though He will die, yet will he live! I am going to heaven to prepare a place for you; then I will come back for you, so you can be with Me forever. Believe in Me! Keep looking forward in faith to what I will do!" He encouraged them.

Jesus lived a perfect life; then He died on the cross, paid the wages for their sins and offered up His perfect life as the substitute for God's people—all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. On the third day, He rose up from the dead and went to heaven in victory. At last Satan had been crushed! At last the way to the new home for God's people had been opened up!

Even more years passed. God's people's spread the good news of Jesus that many others might be saved, too! How they wanted everyone to know eternal life with God. Oh, that they, too, might go home to live with God in the new heavens and earth one day!

Sometimes people accepted their words happily, but sometimes people became very angry. Sometimes they even hurt God's people terribly for their faith in Jesus! In times like that, it was hard to keep going. So God told

them more about their new home through a special dream He gave the apostle John:

"My people! Don't stop now! Don't give up! Keep looking forward in faith! Listen to what is coming: One day, I will come back and take all My people home to be with Me. Your bodies will be raised from their graves and be changed in wonderful ways. Then, this tired, old, sin-worn world will be destroyed. Satan, the demons, and all the people who refuse to stop rebelling against Me will be put away, once and for all. But you and all the rest of My people will come at last to the new heavens and earth-- I am creating for you," the Lord told them.

"But there's even more," the Lord said. "Your new home will be more wonderful than you can imagine! It will be like the Garden of Eden, but far better in every way. Eden was a garden, but this new home will fill all of the new heavens and new earth. Eden had a river of regular water that flowed throughout it and watered the plants; but in your new home, My Spirit will flow out from My Throne and bring My Life to everything, like a great River of Life. In Eden there was one Tree of Life, but your new home will be so full of My Eternal Life and healing for your sins that it will be like a whole grove of Trees of Life, always full of fruit. There will never be a time when I will not provide for you or sustain you with My Eternal Life. I will heal your suffering and sadness forever. Together, My precious people and I will enjoy perfect fellowship and love, face to face, forever and ever.

"Never forget this picture of your new home I am giving you! Keep looking forward!" the Lord told them. "Don't give up! Look forward in faith! Soon you will be going home to be with Me forever! These hard times will be gone forever!"

God's people are still waiting today. They are still spreading the good news of Jesus that other might be saved. How that still want them to go home to live with God in the new heavens and earth one day!

Sometimes people accept their words happily, but sometimes people still become very angry. Sometimes God's people still suffer terribly for their faith in Jesus. And yes, they are still waiting and wondering: "When will we go home?" they wonder. But just like God's people long ago, they must not give up, but keep looking forward in faith. He will bring them home at just the right time. And every day, that wonderful day

is one day closer! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

### Cracking the Case:

**It's time to answer our Case Questions.**

**1. Who was shut out of their home? Why?**

Adam and Eve, and all of us with them. When they rebelled against God, they were driven out of Eden and lost their home of perfect fellowship with God. This was the consequences of their sinful disobedience. Through them, all of us lost our home of perfect fellowship with God.

**2. What was the happy new home? How would they get there?**

The happy new home is life with God in the new heaven and earth God will create at the end of time when Satan is completely defeated. All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will enjoy this happy home. He made the way for us to live there when He paid for our sins on the cross.

### Something For You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy**

**Our Bible Verse is: Romans 6:23**

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What about you and me? Do we not sometimes get tired of this old, sin-worn world? Do we not long for suffering, sin and sorrow to end? Yes, we do! Sometimes we want to give up. What is God's word to us, if we are His people—those who have turned from their sins and trust in Jesus to save them? It is the same as it has been to all of His people: "Don't give up! Look forward in faith!" One day we will be home with Him. God's gift of eternal life and healing for all for all our sorrows and sufferings awaits us, too!

Let's praise God for being so merciful to His people and for planning such a wonderful home for them to look forward to. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to encourage us to never give up, even through the hardest times; but to live today bravely for Him, looking forward in faith to the time when we will go home to be with Him forever.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being our Savior! Jesus, You are the strong, second Adam, who always said 'no' to Satan and won salvation for God's people.

**C** God, we confess that many times we give into temptation. We choose to disobey God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!

**T** Jesus, thank You for always choosing to obey God, Your Father, even when it meant terrible suffering. Thank You for being our Savior.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to say 'no' to the temptations of Satan, and say 'yes' to obeying God, even when it is very hard.

### Special Words

**Cherubim:** A kind of angel.

**Prophet:** A person, especially in Old Testament times, who the LORD spoke His words to and who then spoke those words to the people.

# **ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY**

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

## **Instructions:**

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

## **ADORATION:**

God, we praise You for hating sin and being perfectly just. And yet, also very merciful to sinners.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we, like Adam and Eve, hide our sins and blame others for things that are our fault We deserve Your punishment, too! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for not just treating us as our sins deserve, but sending us a Savior, Your Son Jesus, to save us.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, help us to be honest before You and others about our sins. Work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Have mercy on us!

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

### **Snack: The Tree of Life and its Fruit**

Broccoli piece tree of life with dried cranberry/grape fruit. (May want to have Ranch Dressing on hand for broccoli. It's whiteness could even represent the "white" spotlessness of God's people: their sins have been forgiven through Jesus, so they may live with God forever.)

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

**Case Tie-in:** In the new heavens and earth, the happy home God is preparing for His people, the Tree of Life will stand once more-- now as a whole orchard. At last they will have eternal life and close, sweet, face-to-face fellowship with God forever.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

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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 Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy**

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they received the terrible consequences of their sins, just as God had warned them they would. They had enjoyed a life without sin. Now all that changed. Their hearts used to be full of peace and love. Now they were afraid and selfish. Their work used to be a complete pleasure. Now it became frustrating and unsatisfying, filled with troubles. Their bodies had been full of health and life. Now they grew weak and sick. One day they would die. Worst of all, they used to enjoy wonderful fellowship with God, and now that fellowship was broken. This is what the Bible calls being dead in sin. How Adam and Eve and all God's creation groaned under sin!

Adam and Eve deserved no relief from their punishment, but God treated them better than they deserved. He gave them hope, even that day. He promised them that a son of Eve's would come to defeat Satan and bring salvation.

Who was that son? Jesus, the Son of God! He would live the perfect life that Adam and Eve should have lived, but did not. On the cross, He would offer it up as the perfect payment for the sins of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. God, Himself, would satisfy His justice so that He could show us mercy!

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What happened when Adam and Eve rebelled against God? *They received the terrible consequence of their sins, just as God had warned them.*
2. What was different about Adam and Eve after they sinned? *They were afraid and selfish.*
3. Would change about their work, after they sinned? *It wouldn't be sheer pleasure any more, but often be difficult, unfruitful and unsatisfying.*
4. What happened to their bodies after they sinned? *They would suffer sickness and death.*
5. What was the worst consequence of their sin? *They no longer would enjoy the wonderful fellowship with God they had enjoyed before.*
6. What does the Bible call of these consequences of sin? *Being dead in sin.*
7. How did God show His mercy to Adam and Eve? *He promised that one day a son of Eve's would come to defeat Satan and bring salvation.*

### **Bible Truth Story Connection Questions**

How does the case story point to the **Bible Truth: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy?**

1. Why did Jesus have to come first for God's people to receive eternal life? *Only someone who perfectly keeps God's laws could be rewarded eternal life based on what they do. Since Adam and Eve rebelled, they and all their children are sinners. Only through Jesus' offering of His perfect life for their sins could they be forgiven.*
2. Why will God's people understand more about the greatness of His mercy in the new heavens and earth than while they live on earth? *They will see God face to face. They will see His awesome and pure hatred of sin, the riches of His love, and the wonderful new world He has given them. Here on earth, they are still so bogged down with sin that they do not really understand just how terrible an offense their sin is to God.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the Bible Truth have to do with our Bible Verse: **Romans 6:23**: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."?

*God justly gave Adam and Eve punishments and death for their sinful working against Him and His good ways. But, He also gave them the promise of eternal life through Jesus, the son of Eve who would crush Satan once and for all.*

### **Life Application Questions**

1. How does God want us to respond to His mercy? *By confessing our sins to Him and trusting Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being perfectly just; and yet also, so very merciful.*

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

*Confess that we, like Adam and Eve, hide our sins and blame others for things that are our fault.*

*We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*Thank God for not just treating us as our sins deserve, but sending us a Savior to save us.*

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

*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. Help us be honest before Him and others with our sins and our need for mercy.*

**The Gospel**

1. God showed His just punishment of sins and His mercy through Jesus. This what the gospel is all about. Can you tell me 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: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

### Materials

Tape

Bible Truth Questions

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say "Green light" they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say "Red light" they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

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.

**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

**Verse 1**

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 9**

**Understanding the Song**

1. What is a sinner? *Someone who thinks, says and acts in ways that do not please God.*
2. What words describe a sinner? What do they mean? *Poor and needy: not that they don't have money, but that they have no way to "pay" for their sins. Weak and wounded, sick and sore: Not only are their bodies suffer under weakness, wounds, sickness or soreness, but their hearts are weak and hurt from fighting sin. They suffer from sadness and guilt.*
3. Who should a sinner come to? Why? *Jesus, because He stands ready to save you.*
4. How does Jesus receive sinners who come to Him? *He is full of pity (sad that you are suffering and desiring to help you), love and power (through His life offered up on the cross)*
5. Who is the song writer going to? How will He receive him? *Jesus. He will embrace him in His arms.*
6. What he mean when he says Jesus will embrace him in His arms? *Not that Jesus will really give him a hug, but that He will rejoice that he has come to Him for salvation, and that He loves him tenderly. In heaven, though, Jesus WILL really hug him!*
7. What does it mean that there are ten thousand charms in the arms of Jesus? *A charm is something that delights you. Knowing Jesus' love and forgiveness, being in His family, are so wonderful that it is like getting ten thousand of the things that delight you most, all rolled up into one. There is nothing as wonderful as knowing and being loved by Him.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy?** *Adam and Eve--and all people after them-- suffer the consequences of their sinful rebellion. Everyone is poor and in need of a Savior. Everyone is weak and weary, sick and sore from sin. God, in His great mercy, promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to crush Satan. Jesus paid for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him. He welcomes them tenderly to come to Him and know the ten thousand charms of His love.*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to the story? *God encouraged His people, through the prophets and through the special dream He gave to John, to look forward in faith to the day they will have eternal life with Him in the new heavens and earth. There they will truly know His embrace and live forever in face-to face fellowship with Him.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this song have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 6:23**: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." ?

*We are all sinners who deserve death. God, in His great mercy, calls us to come to Jesus for forgiveness of our sins. Jesus stands ready to save all who turn from their sins and trust Him as their own Savior. He is full of pity, love and power to give them the gift of eternal life.*

**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 the gracious God, full of pity, love and power, to save sinners.*

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

*Confess that we are weak, wounded, sick and sore, with sin. We deserve God's punishment. We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God for not treating sinners just as their sins deserve, but for standing ready to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He is so full of pity, love and power!*

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

*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 heal us of the weakness, wounds, sickness and soreness of sin in our lives. We can ask Him for His eternal life.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Why does God not just judge our sins as we deserve, but stands ready to save us? Because of what Jesus has done! Can you tell me the good news of Jesus?

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

## **Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice**

### **Materials**

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

### **Preparing the Game**

None.

### **Playing the Game**

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

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

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

**Meditation Version: Romans 6:23**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What are wages? *Something you get paid for the work you do.*
2. What is sin? *Saying, doing, thinking, being anything that does not please God.*
3. What does it mean that we get wages for sin? *Sin is working against God and His good ways. God is just and perfectly holy. He hates sin. He promises us that when we work against Him, there will be consequences. Those consequences are the wages—or the payment—you get for your sinful ways.*
4. What are the wages of sin? That is, what are the consequences God promises to those who work against Him? *Death.*
5. What is death? *Death is not just our bodies dying. It is also something that happens in our hearts. We are cut off from the fellowship of God that He made us to enjoy with Him. If we do not turn from our sins, confess them to Jesus and trust in Him to save us from our sins, then our final punishment will be eternal death. It will be punishment that never ends, away from God and everything that is good. How terrible!*
6. What is a gift? *Something someone gives to you, not because you earned it, but because they wanted to give it to you.*
7. What is the gift of God? *Eternal life.*
8. What is eternal life? When does it begin? *It is having restored fellowship with God here on earth; then, living on forever with Him after we die in perfect fellowship (and in new bodies perfectly suited for life with Him.) It starts the moment we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy?** *Because God is good and just, He punishes sin. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, He punished their sin. What is the punishment for sin? It is death—separation from God and all His good ways. Adam and Eve knew some of that separation from God that very day. When their bodies died they deserved to know complete separation from Him. But God is so very merciful. He treats sinners who repent of their sins and trust in Him so much better than they deserve! That same day God gave Adam and Eve the punishment for their sins, He also gave them the promise of eternal life through Jesus, the son of Eve who would crush Satan once and for all.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *The LORD kept the Tree of Life away from Adam and Eve that they and their children might look forward in faith to the coming of the Savior. The LORD planned for His people to be forgiven their sins through Jesus' death on the cross and receive His gift of eternal life. After they died, they would live in wonderful fellowship with Him forever in His new heavens and earth.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Can you ever do enough good things to please God? Why or why not? *We can never do enough good things to please God. Only a perfect life pleases God. We all have sinful hearts and do sinful things. Only Jesus lived the perfect life that pleases God. That's why only He can give us eternal life as a gift.*
2. God Himself has provided a way through Jesus for sinful people to receive the gift of eternal life they do not deserve. What does He call us to do? *To turn away from our sins, confess them to Him 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 the Giver of Eternal Life as His gift.*

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

*That we are all sinners who have earned death because of our disobedience to God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God that He offers eternal life to all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*

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 forgive our sins and give us eternal life, that we can know Him, enjoy Him and obey Him forever.*

**Gospel Question**

1. What have we done to deserve death? What has Jesus done to offer us the gift of eternal life? 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: Ball Circle Toss

### Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see  
Foam or other soft surface ball

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:  
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm's length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

### Alternative Game Version:

1. Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
2. No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

### 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 verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

**For the Wages of Sin Is Death**

For the wages of sin is death,  
But the gift of God is eternal life,  
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
For the wages of sin is death,  
But the gift of God is eternal life,  
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans Six, twenty-three.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 10**

## Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

### 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.

**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 couldn't Adam and Eve go back to the Garden? *God wouldn't let them go back in.*
2. Why didn't God want Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Life? *The reward of eternal life was for those who perfectly kept God's good laws. As sinners, they would only receive God's immediate, eternal punishment, were they to eat from it. God planned eternal life through the Savior.*
3. What did God have guard the entrance to the Garden? *Cherubim and a flaming sword that fl ashed back and forth.*
4. Was the Tree of Life magical? Is that why Adam and Eve could have received eternal life if they ate of its fruit? *NO! God is the only giver of eternal life. The Tree was only the means by which God would give them His Eternal Life.*
5. What difficulties did God's people before Jesus face that discouraged them? *They struggled with sin; some people made them suffer because they were God's people; the Temple where they worshiped God was destroyed.*
6. What comfort did God give His people through the prophets Daniel and Isaiah? *The Savior would come 483 years after order to rebuilt the Temple; God, Himself, would come to save them from their sins; He would create a new heaven and earth for them to live in, at the end of time.*
7. What did Jesus do when He came that opened the way to eternal life? *He lived a perfect life; offered it up on the cross for God's people's sins; gave them His reward of eternal life; rose from the dead and went to heaven; and, He crushed Satan's power.*
8. What difficulties did God's people after Jesus face? *Persecuted terribly for faith in Jesus.*
9. What did the special dream Jesus gave John tell His people about the home they would have with Him at the end of time? *New heavens and earth; like Eden only not just a garden, but fill all of the new heavens and earth; have new bodies; not just one Tree of Life, but full of God's eternal life, like a whole grove of Trees of Life; healed of all suffering and sadness; face to face fellowship with God forever and ever.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *In His amazing mercy, God satisfied His just punishment of sin through' His Son Jesus, so His people could have eternal life with Him.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 6:23**: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."?  
*God justly gave Adam and Eve punishments and death for their sinful working against Him and His good ways. But, He also gave them the promise of eternal life through Jesus, the son of Eve who would crush Satan once and for all.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What can God's people think about to comfort us as them as they go through hard times? *One day all their sufferings will be far behind them. They will live in the new heavens and earth with God forever and ever. It will be even better than Adam and Eve had in the Garden of Eden.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise God for being so merciful to sinners.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times we do not want to look forward to new heavens and a new earth, and wonderful life forever with God. Many times we want to do what we want to do right now, even if it means disobeying God. 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 the promise to His people of wonderful eternal life with Him, even better than the Garden of Eden!*
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 and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to work in us that we would long to obey Him and love Him now, and would get to be with Him forever in the new heavens and new earth.*

**The Gospel**

1. How did God promise to bring home His sinful people to live with Him forever? 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: Tell the Truth Basketball

### Materials

- 3 baskets
- A ball
- Paper and marker
- Masking Tape
- 20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

### Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review Questions to come up with 20+ statements about the story that are true, false, or not in the story.
2. Write the words "true", "false", and "not in the story" on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns making baskets and answering the questions.

### 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 Happy Homecoming.

This story starts out long, long ago, near the beginning of time.

And now we present: “The Case of the Happy Homecoming.”

**Scene 1:**

Adam and Eve could not go back home after they rebelled against God. The LORD set a guard of cherubim and a flaming, flashing sword to keep them away from the Tree of Life. As sinners, they no longer could deserve the reward of eternal life by their good lives. To eat from it would mean nothing but God’s immediate, eternal punishment. God had better plans for them and their children than that. He was sending His Son to pay for their sins and give them eternal life through Him. They must look forward in faith to this Savior.

**Actions:**

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**Scene 2:**

God’s people suffered much and kept waiting for the Savior to come. God encouraged them through the prophets. Through Daniel, He told them the Savior would come 483 years after the Temple was rebuilt. Through Isaiah, He told them that He was the Savior, Himself. He would save them from their sins. He told them about the new heavens and earth that would be their wonderful new home at the end of time. At last Jesus came. He told people that He was the Savior and whoever believed in Him would have eternal life. He lived a perfect life. He offered it up on the cross to pay for the sins of all who would ever believe in Him; died, then rose again and went to heaven. He had made the way home.

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**Scene 3**

God’s people faced terrible persecution for believing in Jesus. God sent a special dream to John to encourage them to not give up. He would punish Satan, the demons and people who followed in his ways once and for all. He told them their bodies would be raised to new life. He gave them a picture of their home in the new heavens and earth. It would be like Eden, but much better. Not just a garden, but a whole, new heavens and earth. Not just a regular river; but God’s Spirit flowing like a River of Life from His Throne. And not just one Tree of Life, but the new heavens and earth would be so filled with His gift of Eternal Life that it would be like a grove of twelve Trees of Life. He would heal all their suffering and pain. He would live with them face to face forever. He encouraged them to remember this picture of the home He would make for them, and to keep looking forward in faith. God’s people, even today, keep on looking forward in faith to the day when Jesus will come back and they will get to live with Him forever in their new home, in the new heavens and earth.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy.** The LORD punished Adam and Eve for their sins, but He had a merciful plan for them and any of their children who would believe in Him. He kept them from the Tree of Life. He sent His Son die for the sins of all who believe in Him. He will place the Tree of Life in the new heavens and earth, where they will get to eat from it and live with Him forever.

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## **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 Happy Homecoming.

This story starts out long, long ago, near the beginning of time.

The characters in our story are: Adam and Eve, Cherubim, Prophets: Daniel, Isaiah, Jesus, God's Spirit, and God's people.

And now we present: "The Case of the Happy Homecoming."

### **Scene 1: (Beginning)**

Adam and Eve could not go back home after they rebelled against God. The LORD set a guard of cherubim and a flaming, flashing sword to keep them away from the Tree of Life. As sinners, they no longer could deserve the reward of eternal life by their good lives. To eat from it would mean nothing but God's immediate, eternal punishment. God had better plans for them and their children than that. He was sending His Son to pay for their sins and give them eternal life through Him. They must look forward in faith to this Savior.

### **Scene 2: (Middle)**

God's people suffered much and kept waiting for the Savior to come. God encouraged them through the prophets. Through Daniel, He told them the Savior would come 483 years after the Temple was rebuilt. Through Isaiah, He told them that He was the Savior, Himself. He would save them from their sins. He told them about the new heavens and earth that would be their wonderful new home at the end of time. At last Jesus came. He told people that He was the Savior and whoever believed in Him would have eternal life. He lived a perfect life. He offered it up on the cross to pay for the sins of all who would ever believe in Him; died, then rose again and went to heaven. He had made the way home.

### **Scene 3: (End)**

God's people faced terrible persecution for believing in Jesus. God sent a special dream to John to encourage them to not give up. He would punish Satan, the demons and people who followed in his ways once and for all. He told them their bodies would be raised to new life. He gave them a picture of their home in the new heavens and earth. It would be like Eden, but much better. Not just a garden, but a whole, new heavens and earth. Not just a regular river; but God's Spirit flowing like a River of Life from His Throne. And not just one Tree of Life, but the new heavens and earth would be so filled with His gift of Eternal Life that it would be like a grove of twelve Trees of Life. He would heal all their suffering and pain. He would live with them face to face forever. He encouraged them to remember this picture of the home He would make for them, and to keep looking forward in faith. God's people, even today, keep on looking forward in faith to the day when Jesus will come back and they will get to live with Him forever in their new home, in the new heavens and earth.

### **Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy.** The LORD punished Adam and Eve for their sins, but He had a merciful plan for them and any of their children who would believe in Him. He kept them from the Tree of Life. He sent His Son die for the sins of all who believe in Him. He will place the Tree of Life in the new heavens and earth, where they will get to eat from it and live with Him forever.

## The Tree of Life

### Description

Children will decorate a picture from John's vision of the New Heaven and New Earth, including painting the Tree of Life using pointillism and using foam shapes to give a 3-D effect to the trunk of the tree.

### Materials

White cardstock  
Brown construction paper  
Unsharpened pencils, 1 per child  
Yellow markers/crayon  
Green and one other bright color of tempera paint  
Q-tips, 2 per child  
Glue sticks  
Brown felt or craft foam and strong glue, like Elmer's (optional)

### Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of scene onto white cardstock, 1 per child
2. If using bark effect on tree trunk, cut brown material into little ½" squares that can be glued in layers on tree.
3. Mix tempera paint, fairly thickly and place in flat dishes, so that all the children will be able to easily reach each color.
4. Set out glue and markers.
5. Make a copy of the craft yourself, noting how long it takes you to make, and what aspects of the craft might require your assistance for younger children.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have them color in the Throne and any of the background as they want. REMIND THEM NOT TO COLOR IN THE BIG TREE OF LIFE in the foreground. This will be done in a special way afterwards. Color in the bark of the trees now, too, if you are not having them do the bark effect (see next step).
3. If using bark effect, have the children layer the small pieces of brown material on the tree shape. Use strong glue to secure.
4. Dip Q-tip into the bright color paint and make a number of dots scattered throughout the leaf area of the outline of the tree. This will be the fruit on the Tree of Life.
5. Dip a new Q-tip into the green and fill in the rest of the leaf area with green. Tell the children to leave a little space between dots so they don't just run together. (This effect is called pointillism)

NOTE: By showing the children your picture before they begin their craft, it should be reminder enough that they should not color it in like everything else. However, you can have your children do the bark and the pontilism first, if you completely want to avoid this problem. The downside of that is that they will have to be careful not to smear the paint while they color in the rest of their picture. Yet another option is to just cut out the Tree of Life and not do the background at all. This would work just as well.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

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

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

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

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was hard about the lives of the new Christians in John's day? *Many were suffering terribly because they believed in Jesus.*

2. What did God give John to encourage these believers? *A special vision (dream) about their happy home where they would live with God.*

3. What special tree was in the new heavens and earth? How many were there of it? *The Tree of (Eternal) Life. There were twelve of them--a sign that the new heavens and earth would be overflowing with God's eternal life.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy.*

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy?

*In His mercy, God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden when they sinned against Him. The wages of sin is death. For Adam and Eve to have eaten from the Tree of Life would mean they would receive God's immediate, eternal punishment of death. He kept them from that tree and encouraged them to wait for the Savior who would crush Satan and bring forgiveness. That Savior has come--Jesus! He beat Satan and made the way to bring sinners to God. At last they will enjoy eternal life with Him. How God's people look forward to that day!*

6. What can our craft help us remember?

*God's people will be going home to an unimaginably wonderful place where they will have eternal life with God.*

**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 Tree of Life.

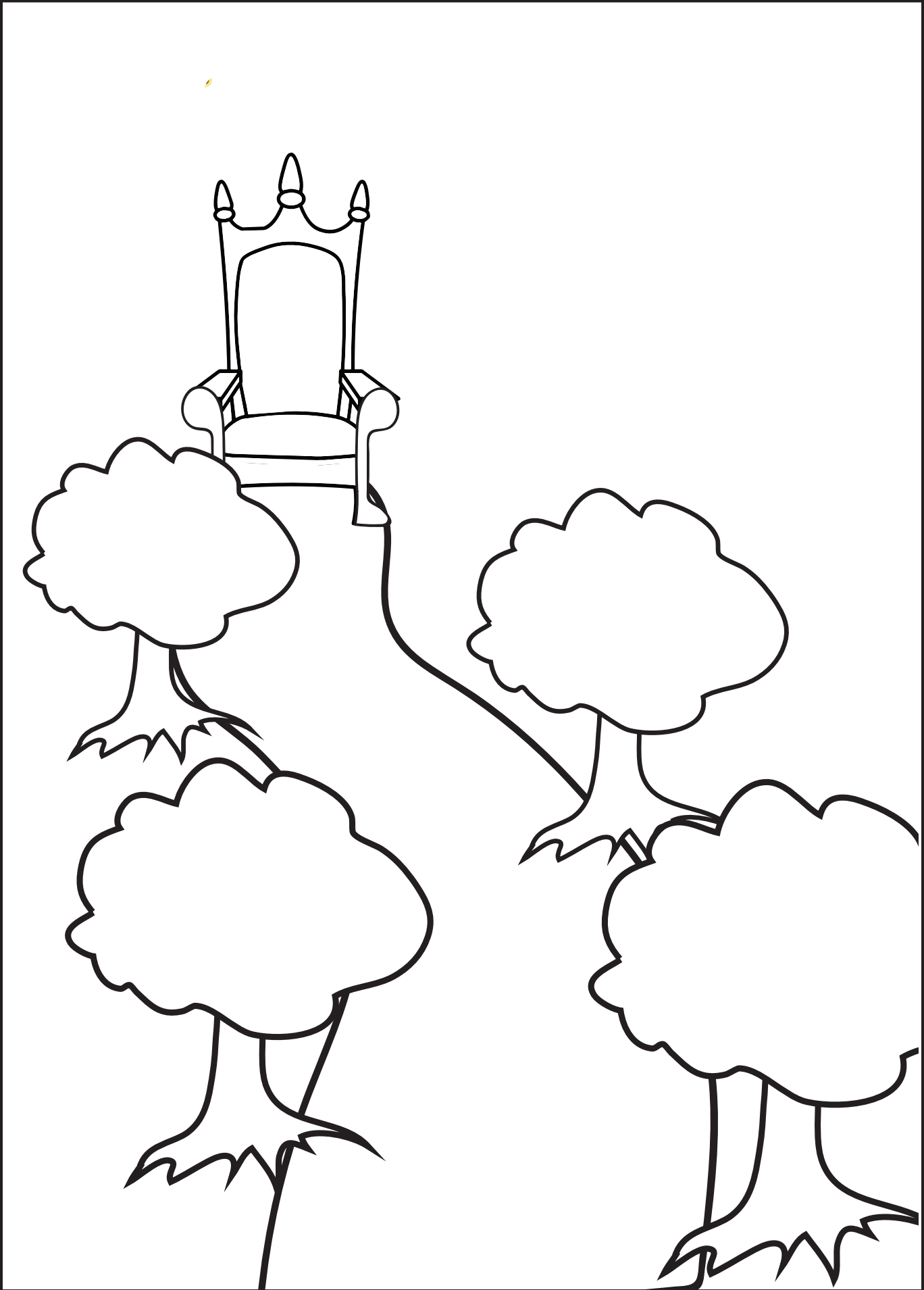
2. In a special vision of the new heavens and earth, God showed John a whole grove of the Tree of Life to encourage the Christians that one day their sufferings would be finished and they would inherit a new home: rich, wonderful, eternal life with God.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy.

4. In His mercy, God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden when they sinned against Him. The wages of sin is death. For Adam and Eve to have eaten from the Tree of Life would mean they would receive God's immediate, eternal punishment of death. He kept them from that tree and encouraged them to wait for the Savior who would crush Satan and bring forgiveness. That Savior has come--Jesus! He beat Satan and made the way to bring sinners to God. At last they will enjoy eternal life with Him. How God's people look forward to that day!

5. Our craft can help us remember that God's people will be going home to an unimaginably wonderful place where they will have eternal life with God.

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](http://praisefactory.org) with the Resources for this Bible Truth.

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

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

## Game: Crabbin' Around

### Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

Man or Woman? \_\_\_\_\_

Hair color? \_\_\_\_\_

Eye color? \_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

