

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 3: All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy

Bible Truth Hymn: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 11*

Bible Verse: Romans 5:17

Bible Verse Song: For If by the Trespass *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 12*
Extra Bible Verse: The LORD Looks Down: Psalm 14:2-3 PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 13

Lesson 1 Old Testament: The Case of the Gift No One Wanted *Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Offerings of Cain and Abel

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Beanbag Scramble

Bible Truth Hymn: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 11*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 6 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Romans 5:17 Discussion Sheet and Game: Cross the Raging River

Bible Verse Song: For If by the Trespass: Romans 5:17 *PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 12*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 6 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Go Fish

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 Fat, Firstborn Flocks of Abel

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Hit the Wall

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 6 Book or ONLINE**

The Case of the Gift No One Wanted *Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Gift No One Wanted.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was the gift no one wanted? Who gave it? Who received it?
2. What did Jesus do to get rid of it?

Our story today takes place back in the beginning, when Adam and Eve rebelled against God.

What a terrible day it had been! How much Adam and Eve had lost! Their beautiful garden home, the pureness of love in their hearts; and all the dreams of unending, perfect life with God in the beautiful world He had made for them. How sweet had in been inside the Garden, in perfect fellowship with God and each other! And how sad it was already, outside the Garden, out of perfect fellowship with God and each other.

Sad, it was; but, there was no getting around it. This was the new normal. So, Adam and Eve set out to live in the world outside the Garden, armed with nothing more than the animal skin clothes that God had mercifully made them.

It didn't take long for Adam and Eve to see the effects of their sin, both upon themselves and the world around them. What would it be like to see the curse of sin slowly ruin every part of God's perfect creation and know it was your fault? Horrible, I imagine. Well, that is exactly what Adam and Eve faced the day they were sent out of the Garden!

Because of their sinful choices, Adam now had to fight weeds and thorns that choked the food crops he tried to grow. He had to fight off animals that now had turned wild and fierce. With pain, Eve gave birth to her sons, Cain and Abel. Both Adam and Eve felt an awful selfishness and wickedness grow in their hearts. It was all just as God had said it would be, and oh, how terrible it was to bear the consequences of their sin!

Adam and Eve hated the choices they made and they hated Satan for tempting them to rebel against God; but now there was nothing they could do. Nothing, that is, except have faith in God's promises. And that is what they did.

Adam showed his faith as he named his wife, Eve—the mother of the living. He believed God's promise to give Eve children who would fight against sin and

strive to love God. He believed that one day, one of these children would be the promised Savior who would bring Life—eternal life—to God's people by crushing Satan's power.

Eve showed her faith at the birth of her first son, Cain. "With the LORD's help I have brought forth a man," she exclaimed. She could see that God had begun to fulfill His promises to them. Cain was the first child of many to come into the world. One of them, Eve believed, would be the Savior God would send to defeat Satan once and for all.

God never told them how long they would have to wait for this special son of hers who would crush Satan. But Adam and Eve believed the Savior would come. They knew how good and merciful God was. They knew how much He loved them. Perhaps they even thought that Cain or Abel might be the promised Savior.

But if they did, it became clear all too quickly that neither these boys were not the Savior! Even while the boys were just young children, Adam and Eve could see that the hearts of Cain and Abel were filled with selfishness and wickedness. No. Eve had not given birth to a Savior; she had given birth to more sinful people who needed saving, just like themselves. Adam and Eve had passed their sin down to their children!

But if Adam and Eve passed down their sin, there was something else they could pass down, too: the promises of God. They could tell Cain and Abel of the perfect world they had known and of the perfect fellowship with God and each other they had shared. They could tell them of the serpent's tricks, of their sinful choices and how their sin meant they would die. But they could comfort them with God's promise to send a Savior to

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.

crush Satan one day. They could never be sinless themselves here on earth, but they could become children of God's promise and be saved through faith in Him.

Abel must have listened to Adam and Eve and believed. He knew he was a sinner like his parents and had no hope other than God for salvation. He was a child of the Promise. He looked forward in faith to the day God would send the promised Savior. Abel was a keeper of flocks—sheep and goats. When his animals gave birth to their firstborn, Abel would look among the new little animals for the best, the fattest, most perfect ones to present to God. God looked on Abel's sacrifice and saw how it reflected Abel's heart. Yes, it was a heart full of sin, but it was also full of desire to honor God above all else and trust in Him for salvation. The LORD accepted Abel's offering and counted him as righteous—clean of sin through his faith in God.

But then there was Cain. Cain would have heard the same stories about God as Abel did. He would have known the same promises of a Savior God had made to them. And he certainly felt the same tug of sinful desires in his heart. But unlike Abel, Cain refused to believe. Cain was a farmer. And yes, Cain made offerings to God from the crops he grew, but he did not make sure to give God the first and best of his crops. He only gave Him "some" of his crops, and held back the best for himself. Cain did not honor the LORD in his heart or with his life.

When the LORD warned Adam and Eve about the "offspring of the serpent" that would be their enemies, it wasn't baby serpents or baby Satans (angels/demons can't even have children) that the LORD was speaking of. He was talking about people, like Cain, who would hold on to their sin and rebellion instead of turning to faith in God. These people would fight God and against the people who put their faith in God.

God looked at Cain's offering and saw right into Cain's unworshipful heart. He rejected his offering. This made Cain furious! He walked away from the altar downcast. God had accepted his brother Abel's offering, but refused his!

Then the LORD said to Cain: Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you don't do what is right, sin is waiting for you, it wants to have you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:6-7)

God was making it clear: He would accept Cain and his sacrifice if Cain would repent of his sin and worship God in his heart and with his first fruits. God was warning Cain to turn from the sinful desires of his heart and trust in Him that he might be saved.

But there was to be no turning in Cain. Cain didn't want to master his evil desires. He wanted to give in to them. Cain invited Abel to go out in the field with him, then attacked him and killed him! Instead of mastering the sin that tempted him, Cain had allowed his sin to master him. He had murdered someone—the very first murder in the world.

Much like He had done with Adam and Eve after they had sinned in the Garden, the LORD now came to question Cain: "Where is your brother Abel?" the LORD asked Cain.

"I don't know. Am I supposed to know where he is all the time? Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain lied, trying to hide his sin, just like his parents had before him.

But nothing can be hidden from God. The LORD revealed what Cain wanted to hide, then gave him his punishment.

"What have you done?" the LORD said to Cain. "Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.

"LORD, "my punishment is more than I can bear," Cain cried out. "Today You are driving me from the land, hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me," Cain groaned. Cain didn't like his punishment, but never once did he confess his sin and ask God's forgiveness. How hard and selfish his heart was!

Yet even to this hard-hearted man God once more showed mercy. Cain had killed his very own brother. He deserved to be killed himself; but instead the LORD told him: "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will be punished himself seven times more than you." Then LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Cain was to be only the first of a long line of sinful children of Adam and Eve who each chose to reject God and His merciful offer of salvation. Until Jesus comes back at the end of time, there will always be unrepentant sinners like him.

But what of God's promise that there would also be a long line of sinful children of Adam and Eve who would turn from their sins and have faith in God? What about these children of God's Promise, as they are called? Adam and Eve had lost both sons in a single day: one murdered and one sent away to wander far from them and from God all the days of his life. Would there be no more children of the Promise? And what of God's promise to send a Savior? How could there be a Savior with no children?

God in His faithfulness and mercy gave Adam and Eve another son, a boy named Seth. And though Seth was of course a sinner, he was a child of the Promise, too. Like Abel, he called upon the name of the LORD. He loved God and looked forward in faith to the promised Savior that God would send. Here was a son, through which God would bring even more children. Here was a son through whom God would even send Jesus one day, to crush Satan's power and bring salvation. And of course, that is just what the LORD did, just as He promised He would, at just the right time, to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior. How faithful God is to His sinful people!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. What was the gift no one wanted? Who gave it? Who received it? Sin! Adam and Eve passed it down to all their children. That's all of us!

2. What did Jesus do to get rid of it? Jesus, the Son of God, came to be our Savior. He was human, but He never sinned. He lived a perfect life and offered it up as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him. He suffered and died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day in victory. Because of Him, we can be saved from our sins even now. And when we die, we can be free from sin and live in God's presence forever!

Something for You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy

Our Bible Verse is: Romans 5:17

"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."

What about you and me? We are children of Adam and Eve, too. Like Cain, Abel and Seth, there is much sin in our hearts, in what we do and say, and in how we treat God. And just like them, we have a choice to make. We can harden our hearts against God and be an "offspring of the serpent" like Cain. Or, like Abel and Seth, we can become children of the Promise who humbly confess our sins to God, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Let's praise God for mercifully making a way to save us through the Savior Jesus. Let's ask Him to soften our hearts and the hearts of all children of Adam and Eve to turn in faith to Him.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so merciful to sinful people, like us! We praise You for being our Savior!

C God, we confess that, like Cain, we do not honor You as we should. We do not give You the best and highest honor that You deserve. We too often give You only what we want to give You...often our leftovers. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to save sinners, just as You promised.

S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us children of Your Promise: those who love You and want to live their lives to please You.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being so loving and merciful! You sent Your own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die in the place of sinful people like us!

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that even this week we have sinned against You! We see that we disobey You in what we do, what we say and what we think. Our very hearts are sinful! We are children of Adam and Eve! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

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...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

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...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: The Offerings of Cain and Abel

Apple slices with mini chocolate chip “bad spots” stuck into them. OR, could give shriveled looking dried fruits like dried apples, raisins, apricots, peaches, etc. plus, animal cracker “fat flock offerings” on small crackers “altar” (to make the animal look big and fat).

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

Case Tie-in: Cain and Abel’s offerings both reflect what Adam and Eve passed down to all their children, including us. Cain’s offering reflected his sinful desire to keep the best for himself, rather than offering it to God, as he should. Abel, too, was a sinner, but his offering reflected the heart of a sinner who has put his hope in God and worships Him. He chose to give God the best of his flock as an expression of thanks and praise to Him, the one, true God and giver of all the good things that he enjoyed.

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.

All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy

Adam and Eve did not just disobey God once and stop. They had become sinners with sinful hearts that rebelled against God again and again. But sin didn't stop with Adam and Eve. They passed down the consequences of their sin to all their children.

Each and every one of us come from Adam and Eve's family--we are all their children. And because we are their children, we are all born sinners with sinful hearts and with bodies that will suffer and die. And also like Adam and Eve, we all deserve eternal punishment for our sins, too.

Yet God, in His great mercy, always planned to send His Son Jesus to save His sinful people by taking the punishment for their sins upon Himself. Jesus did this when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death.

God promises to forgive all who confess their sins to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He will give them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit--a heart that knows and loves Him more and more. And one day, when they die, they will not receive the eternal punishment they deserve for their sins, but eternal life with God forever. How great is God's mercy through Jesus to sinful people like us!

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did Adam and Eve become after they disobeyed God? *Sinners. People with sinful hearts and lives that keep disobeying God, over and over.*
2. To whom did Adam and Eve pass their sinfulness? *All of their children.*
3. What happens to all of us because we are sinners? *We all are born with sinful hearts and with bodies that suffer and die. We all deserve God's eternal punishment.*
4. How has God shown His mercy upon us? *By always planning to send His Son Jesus to save His sinful people by taking the punishment for their sins upon Himself.*
5. What is God's promise to all who confess their sins to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior? *To forgive their sins.*
6. What does God give to those who trust in Him? *A new heart that loves Him; He will raise them from the dead to live with Him as His special people forever and ever.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. How did God show mercy on Cain and Abel, even though they were born sinners? *He offered salvation through faith in Him to both of them. He warned Cain to turn from his sinful desires before they turned into something worse. He punished Cain for murdering Abel, yet He did not allow anyone to kill him. He counted Abel's sacrifice as righteousness and saved him.*
2. What ways did God show His mercy to Adam and Eve? *He gave Adam and Eve another son through whom He would fulfill His promise to send a Savior to crush Satan.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with the Bible Verse: Romans 5:17: "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ." ?
Adam and Eve passed on their sinful hearts to their children--all of us! That means that we all are born sinners. How terrible! But God promised to show mercy to all who look in faith to the Savior who would crush Satan's power. Yes! All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus are saved from the punishment they deserve from God for their sins. Sin came through one man, Adam. But Jesus, the Son of God and the son of man, gives His grace and perfect righteousness--everything they need to be saved!

Life Application Questions

1. How do we know that we need God's mercy, too? *Because like Cain and Abel, we have been born sinners. Only by trusting in Jesus will we ever be forgiven our sins and know eternal life with God.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

Praise God for being so loving and faithful as to send His own Son to die for this world full of sinful people.

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

Confess ways this week we sinned against God in our hearts, with our words and actions.

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth? Thank God for the forgiveness we can have through Jesus.

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. We can ask Him to give us hearts that honor and love Him most of all.

The Gospel

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

Game: Beanbag Scramble

Materials

Beanbags, enough for the all the children, minus 1
Drum, guitar or just your hands!
Tape
Small bowl or bag
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

Beanbags are placed in a circle on the floor, with children forming a circle just outside the beanbags. Tell the children that you will beat a beat on the drum, strum a strum on the guitar, or clap your hands and they are to march to the beat. As the beat gets faster, they march faster. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. The child who has no beanbag picks a question for the class to answer.

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 3

Come ye weary, heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the Fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 11

Understanding the Song

1. What does heavy-laden mean? *To be carrying something too heavy for you.*
2. What kind of weary and heavy-laden is the songwriter talking about? *Being tired and weighed down by sins.*
3. What is sin and how does it weigh us down? *Sin is thinking, saying and acting in ways that do not please God. Sin brings suffering, pain and guilt. It separates us from the wonderful fellowship with God we were created to have. It makes our lives miserable.*
4. What is "the Fall"? *The Fall is what we call when sin and death entered God's perfect world through Adam and Eve's rebellion. Adam and Eve "falling" from their wonderful lives of perfectly sinless fellowship with God in a perfect, sinless world to a life filled with sin and death.*
5. How are we lost and ruined by The Fall? *This kind of lost means to be completely separated from God and unable to make our own way back to Him. We have all been "ruined" through the Fall because now our lives are spoiled with sin and death.*
6. What does it mean to tarry? *To tarry means to wait and put something off until later.*
7. What shouldn't we tarry about doing? Why? *We should not wait to come to Jesus for forgiveness of our sins. We should never wait to accept God's gift of eternal life because we love sin and it is easy to put off turning away from sin until later. But if we do tarry, there is a chance that we will never come at all because of our own hard hearts or because we do not know when we will die and then it will be too late.*
8. Who is the song writer going to? How will He receive him? *Jesus. He will embrace him in His arms.*
9. 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 very well WILL really hug him!*
10. 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: All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy**? *We all are weary and heavy-laden with sin; but God, in His great mercy, offers all who are ruined by the Fall to find forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Adam and Eve watched with their own eyes the ruin caused by the Fall. They saw it in the world around them, in their own hearts, and in the sinfulness of their children. Their only happiness was in knowing that God would send a Savior to crush Satan's power one day. He gave them hope that He would free them from being weary and heavy-laden from sin and death.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this song have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 5:17**: "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.?"

All people were ruined by the Fall, when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Sin has been passed down to us through Adam and Eve. We are all heavy-laden with sin and there is no way we can make ourselves better. But, we can go to Jesus. He offers abundant grace and righteousness through faith in Him. When we turn from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior, He will give us the gift of eternal life.

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God who has not left the children of Adam and Eve in their sins, but offers mercy and forgiveness through Jesus. We can ask God to help us not to tarry, but come to Him even today for salvation.*

2. How can we know the mercy and forgiveness through Jesus that God offers sinners? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the merciful God who calls sinners to Himself for forgiveness of their sins!

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

That many times we think we can make ourselves better. We can somehow please God by our good deeds, when there is really no way for us to please God except through Jesus.

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God sending Jesus to save His people from their sins.*

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 help us to come to Him and be forgiven.

Gospel Question

1. We are heavy-laden with sins. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

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

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

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.

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

Meditation Version: Romans 5:17

“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is a trespass? *A breaking of a law.*
2. Who is the “one man” who trespassed against God’s law, bringing death to the world? *Adam.*
3. What law did Adam break? *God’s law to not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*
4. What is another word for trespass? *Sin.*
5. What is sin? *Saying, doing, thinking, being anything that does not please God.*
6. 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 punishment that never ends, away from God and everything that is good.*
7. How does death now reign in our world? *All people are sinners. Only people without sin—as Adam and Eve were in the beginning—can be accepted by God on their own merit. Since people are only sinners, they all deserve death. Death “reigns” here, because there is nothing we can do on our own to get out of dying.*
8. If death “reigns” here on earth, how will anyone know eternal life with God? *By God’s abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ.*
9. What is God’s “abundant provision of grace”? *Grace means a free gift we do not deserve. An abundant provision means to provide someone with more than they need. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, God gives to all the free gift of forgiveness of sins even more than we need.*
10. How is righteousness and how does the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ? *Righteousness is being completely without sin before God. We are all sinners. We can never be righteous before God on our own. But Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to live as a man—fully God and fully man. He is the only human to ever live a completely perfect life. He offered it up on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who will ever turn and trust in Him. He gives it to them as a gift. No longer will they have to suffer the punishment of death like others. They will “reign” in life—eternal life— with God forever because of what Jesus has done for them.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does the verse have to do with our Bible Truth? *Adam and Eve passed on their sinful hearts to their children--all of us! That means that we all are born sinners. How terrible! But God promised to show mercy to all who look in faith to the Savior who would crush Satan’s power. Yes! All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus are saved from the punishment they deserve from God for their sins. Sin came through one man, Adam. But Jesus, the Son of God and the son of man, gives His grace and perfect righteousness--everything they need to be saved!*

Story Connection Questions

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *Adam and Eve didn’t just sin once then stop sinning. Their sin brought the reign of death into the world for all. They could see that in their children...and it would keep on spreading. But God gave them a promise of hope. He would send them a Savior. They looked forward in faith to this Savior who could crush Satan and bring the reign of life to those who trust in Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can we do to fight the “reign of death” in ourselves? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
2. What can we do to help fight the reign of death in our world? *Tell others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of Grace and Righteousness to sinners.*

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

That we have all turned away from 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 for sending Jesus to bring God's abundant grace and righteousness to all who turn away from disobeying God 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. We can ask Him to give us His abundant grace and righteousness through faith in Jesus.

The Gospel

1. Why do we need God's abundant grace and righteousness? How can we receive it? 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: Cross the Raging River

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
Two yardsticks or long pieces of rope

Preparing the Game

Make up some questions about the verse and/or story (use the Bible verse Discussion and Story Review Discussion Questions).

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 line up in a straight line behind the leader. Explain to them that there's a river to cross and they get to jump the bank without getting wet. Each child will say the verse and then jump across the two yardsticks/ropes lying next to each other on the floor. After each round, the sticks/ropes will be separated by more space, making it a wider river to jump across. As the river gets wider, some children will not make it but "fall in". Explain to them that they are stuck in the river unless they can answer a question (that you make up) about the Bible verse or the story. Feel free to let a child "stuck in the river" ask another child for a "lifeline" and help them answer their question.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Caution: Avoid accidents by not letting the "river" get too wide.

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.

For If by the Trespass

“For if, by the trespass of the one man,
 death reigned through one man,
 For if, by the trespass of the one man,
 death reigned through one man,
 Then how much more will those who receive
 God’s abundant grace and righteousness
 Reign in life, Reign in life,
 Through one man, Jesus Christ.”
 Romans Five, seventeen.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 12

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
 Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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. How did Adam and Eve see the consequences of their sin in creation? *Thorns, weeds, wild animals in God's creation. Pain in childbirth for Eve. Sin in their own hearts. Sin in the hearts of their children.*
2. How did Adam show his faith in God? *He called his wife "Eve"—mother of the Living—believing that God would send His Savior to crush Satan and bring Life to those who trust in Him.*
3. How did Eve show her faith in God? *By praising Him for helping her to bring forth a son. She could see He was fulfilling His promise to send the Savior through one of her children.*
4. What did Adam and Eve pass onto their children that they did not want to pass on? *Their sinful hearts.*
5. What hope could Adam and Eve give their sinful children? *They could tell them the story of God's creation, their rebellion, God's punishment for sin, and His promise to send a Savior to crush Satan.*
6. How did Abel show that he worshiped the LORD? *He gave Him the best of his firstborn flocks. He counted the LORD more important than himself.*
7. How did Cain show that he did NOT worship the LORD? *He only gave some of his crops. He didn't make sure to give God the best. He was showing that he didn't really think God was more important than himself.*
8. Why didn't God accept Cain's sacrifice? *He did not truly worship God in his heart.*
9. How did Cain react to God's rejection of his sacrifice? *Very angry and downcast.*
10. What did God urge Cain to do to be accepted? *Offer the right sacrifice; Master sin before it mastered him.*
11. What did Cain do instead of listening to God's warning? *He killed Abel out in a field.*
12. What did Cain do when God asked him what happened? *Tried to hide his sin.*
13. What punishment did God give Cain? *Cursed the ground so it would not grow crops for him; sent him to be a wanderer all the rest of his life.*
14. How was God merciful to Cain in his punishment? *Put a mark on him so no person would kill him.*
15. How did God renew His promise to Adam and Eve? *He gave them another son named Seth who trusted in the LORD.*
16. Who is a child of the Promise? *A person who believes God's promise to save them through the Savior Jesus.*
17. Why are people who do not put their trust in Jesus as their Savior "offspring of the serpent?" *Like Satan, they choose to harden their hearts and keep rebelling against God, even though they know the truth.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does our story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Adam and Eve who were sinless at first, but Cain and Abel were born sinners. Their parents had passed their sinfulness down to them.*
2. How did we get our sinful hearts? *They were passed down to us from Adam and Eve, generation after generation.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: Romans 5:17: "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.?"
Adam and Eve didn't just sin once then stop sinning. Their sin brought the reign of death into the world for all. They could see that in their children...and it would keep on spreading. But God gave them a promise of hope. He would send them a Savior. They looked forward in faith to this Savior who could crush Satan and bring the reign of life to those who trust in Him.

Life Application Questions

1. How can we become children of the Promise? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise God for being so merciful to sinful people. Praise God for being the Savior of His people.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times, like Cain, we do not honor as we should. We do not give Him the best and highest honor that He deserves. We give Him only what we want to give Him. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to make us children of the Promise, who love Him and want to live lives that please Him.*

The Gospel

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

Game: Go Fish

Materials

Broom stick or pole
String
U-shaped magnet
Paper clips, 1 per question
Construction paper
Scissors
Basket/Pail
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Cut out fish (different sizes and shapes, if desired), one per question. Write a question on each fish. And assign a point value to each fish based on difficulty. Attach a paper clip to the mouth of each fish. Place the fish in the basket. Attach the magnet to one end of the string and the pole to the other end.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns catching fish by hooking them with the magnet and the paper clip. The question is then read to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the fish. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team for a possible one point.

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns catching fish and answering the questions together.

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 Gift No One Wanted.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place in the Garden of Eden, back in the beginning of the world.

And now we present: “The Case of the Gift No One Wanted.”

Actions:

Scene 1:

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Oh, how quickly they felt the consequences of their sin! God sent them out of their wonderful home in the Garden. Adam struggled to work the ground for their food. Many of the animals became wild and dangerous to them. Eve suffered as she was pregnant and had children. All around them and inside their hearts, they could see sin’s sad effects... and they knew it was all their fault! How good it was that they had God’s promise to send a Savior to trust in! Adam calls his wife “Eve”—the Living—believing child of Eve will one day crush Satan. Eve praises God for helping her give birth, seeing her child as the beginning of His answered promises.

Scene 2:

Adam and Eve soon see they have passed their sinfulness down to their sons, Cain and Abel. Neither of these boys certainly was the Savior God promised to send. All Adam and Eve can do to encourage their sons to put their faith in God, too. Abel turns to the LORD in faith. He shows his worship and faith in God by offering the best of his firstborn flocks to Him. The LORD accepts his sacrifice and counts Abel as righteous— clean of sin before Him—because of his faith in Him. Cain does not turn to the LORD in faith. He brings the LORD an offering from his crops, but it is not the best of the harvest. He shows that he does not truly worship God. The LORD does not accept Cain’s sacrifice. Cain is furious and downcast. The LORD urges him to do what is right so that he would be accepted. He warns Cain that sin is wanting to master him.

Scene 3

Cain rejects the LORD’s words. Instead, Cain walks with Abel out into a field with him and kills him. The LORD asks Cain where Abel is, but Cain tries to hide the truth from Him. Nothing can be hidden from God. The LORD tells Cain He knows he killed Abel. The LORD punishes Cain by cursing the ground so it will not grow his crops and sending him away from Eden to be a wanderer forever. Cain despairs that he can not bear being sent out of God’s presence and made a wanderer. Someone will kill him. The LORD shows mercy on Cain by placing a mark on him for all to know that they are not to kill him. The LORD renews His promise to Adam and Eve to send the Savior by giving her another child. Seth is a child of the Promise, like Abel was: a sinner, yet looking forward in faith to the Savior.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God’s Mercy.** Adam and Eve’s sin didn’t just affect them, they passed down their sinfulness to their children. Like Adam and Eve, their children’s only hope of salvation was through the promised Savior.

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 Gift No One Wanted.

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place in the Garden of Eden, back in the beginning of the world.

The characters in our story are: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and people.

And now we present: "The Case of the Gift No One Wanted."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Oh, how quickly they felt the consequences of their sin! God sent them out of their wonderful home in the Garden. Adam struggled to work the ground for their food. Many of the animals became wild and dangerous to them. Eve suffered as she was pregnant and had children. All around them and inside their hearts, they could see sin's sad effects... and they knew it was all their fault! How good it was that they had God's promise to send a Savior to trust in! Adam calls his wife "Eve"—the Living—believing child of Eve will one day crush Satan. Eve praises God for helping her give birth, seeing her child as the beginning of His answered promises.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Adam and Eve soon see they have passed their sinfulness down to their sons, Cain and Abel. Neither of these boys certainly was the Savior God promised to send. All Adam and Eve can do to encourage their sons to put their faith in God, too. Abel turns to the LORD in faith. He shows his worship and faith in God by offering the best of his firstborn flocks to Him. The LORD accepts his sacrifice and counts Abel as righteous— clean of sin before Him— because of his faith in Him. Cain does not turn to the LORD in faith. He brings the LORD an offering from his crops, but it is not the best of the harvest. He shows that he does not truly worship God. The LORD does not accept Cain's sacrifice. Cain is furious and downcast. The LORD urges him to do what is right so that he would be accepted. He warns Cain that sin is wanting to master him.

Scene 3: (End)

Cain rejects the LORD's words. Instead, Cain walks with Abel out into a field with him and kills him. The LORD asks Cain where Abel is, but Cain tries to hide the truth from Him. Nothing can be hidden from God. The LORD tells Cain He knows he killed Abel. The LORD punishes Cain by cursing the ground so it will not grow his crops and sending him away from Eden to be a wanderer forever. Cain despairs that he can not bear being sent out of God's presence and made a wanderer. Someone will kill him. The LORD shows mercy on Cain by placing a mark on him for all to know that they are not to kill him. The LORD renews His promise to Adam and Eve to send the Savior by giving her another child. Seth is a child of the Promise, like Abel was: a sinner, yet looking forward in faith to the Savior.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy.** Adam and Eve's sin didn't just affect them, they passed down their sinfulness to their children. Like Adam and Eve, their children's only hope of salvation was through the promised Savior.

The Fat, Firstborn Flocks of Abel

Description

Children will make fat sheep out of eggshells and cotton swab tips.

Materials

Black construction paper

Eggs, 1 or more per child

Cotton swabs tips or mini pom-poms, enough for each child to cover their sheep egg(s).

Strong craft glue

Jiggly eyes

Needle or ice pick

Toothpicks or sponge pieces

Pencils

Paper punch

Hot glue gun and glue sticks (optional)

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut out strips of black construction paper, 1" by 3", four per each sheep.
2. Cut 2 of Pattern #1 (ears) per sheep out of black construction paper.
3. Use paper punch to make lots of black dots out of the construction paper, about 8 or 10 per sheep.
4. Use the needle or ice pick to bore a 1/8" hole in each end of each egg. Blow into one hole, blowing the yoke out the other end. Alternately, you could just hard-boil the eggs and decorate them like that. If you use the hard-boil approach, make sure to keep the eggs refrigerated until ready to use.
5. Cut ends off of the cotton swabs.
6. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children use toothpicks or sponge pieces to spread glue onto the egg.
3. Have them glue a circle of the hole punch dots into one end of the egg.
4. Fold down base of ears and glue base down to the egg. Then, fill in the rest of the egg with cotton swab tips or with pom-poms, leaving space on the bottom of sheep for legs.
5. Glue two jiggly eyes in place over the black dots.
6. Make legs for sheep by wrapping the strips of black construction paper tightly around a pencil and gluing down the end. Slip off of pencil and use glue to stick each leg onto the sheep. You may need to remove a few cotton swabs/pom-poms to make room for the legs. You may find that the legs stay most firmly in place by using a glue gun to secure them in place. Do this for the children.

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 Abel's worship gift to the Lord like?

It was from his best flocks--the fattest, firstborn.

2. Why did Abel give the Lord an offering like this?

Abel was showing that he worshiped the Lord above all.

3. What sad thing did Abel know about himself? What did he deserve? Who did he trust to help him?

Abel knew himself to be a sinner, deserving God's judgment. He put his faith in the Lord to save him. He looked forward to the day of the promised Savior.

4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning? *All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy.*

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy?

Abel knew that he was a sinner deserving nothing but punishment from the Lord. Yet, he believed the Lord's promise to send a Savior to save him. The LORD counted Abel's faith as righteousness—made clean of sin before God.

6. What can this craft help us remember?

We are sinners who God will accept as clean of sin if we trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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 Fat, Firstborn Flocks of Abel.

2. On an altar outside the Garden of Eden, Abel offered the Lord a worship gift from the fattest, firstborn of his flocks. He worshiped the Lord by giving Him his best. He knew himself to be a sinner and put his faith in the Lord to save him. He looked forward to the day of the promised Savior.

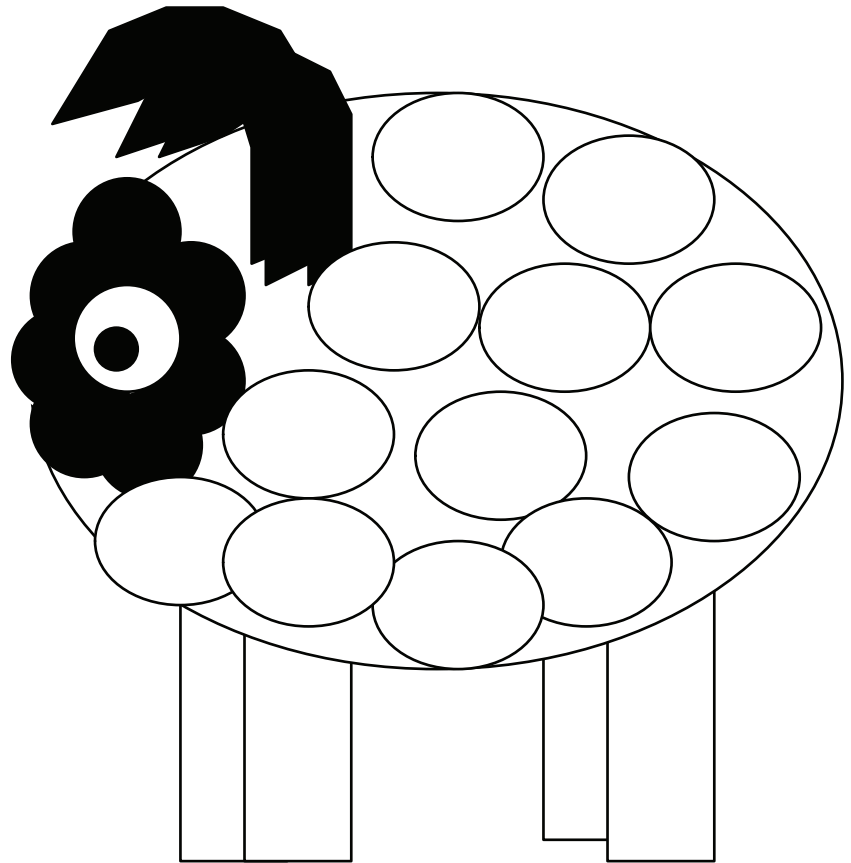
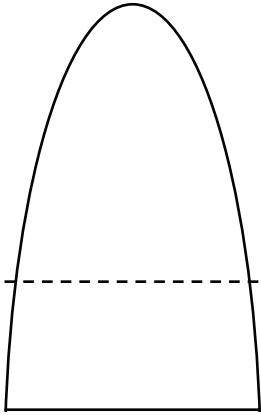
3. Bible Truth 3 is: All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God's Mercy.

4. Abel knew that he was a sinner deserving nothing but punishment from the Lord. Yet, he believed the Lord's promise to send a Savior to save him. The LORD counted Abel's faith as righteousness—made clean of sin before God.

5. Our craft can help us remember that we are sinners who God will accept as clean of sin if we trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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.

Craft Pattern #1
Sheep Ears



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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

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

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Hit the Wall

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

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 the envelopes to the wall.

Playing the Game

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

Review: Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. 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 aimed 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
