

BIBLE TRUTH 1, 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 7, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 7 Songs *PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:1-2 Song *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 5*

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

Bible Truth 1: God's Laws Are Written in the Bible

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 6*

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21

Bible Verse Song: Hear, O Israel *PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 7,8*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws *Matthew 14-15; Mark 7*

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: The Pharisees' Special Hand Washing

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Enemy Invaders

Bible Truth Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise, v.2 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 6*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21 Discussion Sheet and Game: Day at the Beach

Bible Verse Song: Hear, O Israel: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 7,8*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Yes, No & Go!

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: Netilat Yadayim Cup

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of book) & Game: Stop and Go

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 3 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Lousy Little Laws *Matthew 14-15; Mark 7*

by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who loved the lousy, little laws? Who did not?
2. How were the laws different from God's laws?

"Did you wash your hands?" Isn't that the question your parents ask you before sitting down to eat? Why do they want you to wash your hands? Because of that nice collection of germs on them that might just get on food you touch, into your body, then make you sick. Your parents have you wash your hands to keep that from happening.

This story is about some people who lived back in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth; and, who cared a lot about hand washing, too. They were the Pharisees and teachers of the law. But these men didn't just care about IF you washed your hands. They cared about HOW you washed your hands. They had a special name for the right way to wash hands. It was called Netilat Yadayim—ceremonial washing. They believed that Jews should only wash their hands with cleansing water kept in special jars. Before Jews ate, they were supposed to hold their fingertips up, pour at least an egg shell and a half of this special water out of a special washing cup onto their fingertips, then let it run all the way down over their wrists. After they ate, they were to wash again. They took another egg shell and a half of the special water, but this time they were to hold their hands with fingertips down, pouring the water onto their wrists and letting it flow down off their fingertips. They were supposed to wash their hands exactly like this or they weren't really considered washed. And what would happen if they didn't do it just right? This is the most incredible thing of all. These men believed that Jews who didn't do wash their hands just right should be cut off from God and His God's people. That means going to hell! Wow!

Now let's get something straight. Nowhere in the Bible, does God give a law like this. Nowhere does it say that God's people will go to hell if they don't wash their hands right. But if God's law doesn't say this, then where in the world did these Jews get this crazy idea?

Well, it happened over a lot of years. The greatest Jewish teachers—called the elders--began to pass down their own ideas about how the Ten Commandments and the

other laws that God gave them should be carried out in everyday life. Sometimes, they came up with very good ideas. But, I'm sad to say, all too many times, these teachers came up with new itty, bitty rules that really had nothing to do with God's laws at all. After a while, people began to think that the elders' ideas were just as important as God's laws written in the Bible. These rules about hand washing were some of those itty, bitty rules. And that's how, by Jesus' day, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come to think that not washing your hands according to Netilat Yadayim, deserved the punishment of hell. Nobody wanted that, so most did just as their teachers told them to and carefully washed their hands according to Netilat Yadayim.

Then along came Jesus. He wasn't like any other teacher the people had ever known. He taught so powerfully about God. He healed every sickness. He calmed great storms with just His words....and....He didn't wash his hands according to Netilat Yadayim! Before long the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Jerusalem heard about everything this new teacher Jesus up in Galilee. And while they should have been amazed at his teachings and his healings, instead they were furious that Jesus didn't wash His hands properly. And, to make matters worse, He didn't teach His disciples or the huge crowds who followed Him to wash their hands either! One day Jesus used fives loaves of bread and two fish to feed thousands of people, but did He make them wash their hands first? Not as far as we know. Yet they all ate, just the same. How shocking!

"We must go see this Jesus, ourselves," the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Jerusalem decided. "We must find out what He is up to. We can't let Him encourage

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.

the people not to follow the teachings of the elders. This Jesus is breaking all the itty bitty rules and He must be stopped." So off the Pharisees and teachers of the law went on the long journey to Galilee...looking for Jesus.

Somewhere in Gennesaret, along the west side of the Sea of Galilee, they found Jesus. He and His disciples had just sailed there and already a huge crowd swarmed around Him, eager to hear Him teach and heal their sicknesses. The Pharisees and teachers of the law joined the crowds. They listened to Jesus teach. They watched Him heal sick person after sick person. Why, Jesus was so filled with God's power, that if a sick person just touched the hem of His cloak, they would be healed! This Jesus was amazing, these teachers couldn't deny it. But was His power from God or the devil? A man from God would keep God's laws AND the teachings of the elders, they believed. A man from the devil wouldn't. Which kind of man was Jesus? That's what they had come to find out.

They didn't have to wait long to find out. They watched in disgust as Jesus and His disciples picked up their food and ate it without washing their hands. No Netilat Yadayim! How outrageous!

"Jesus, why don't your disciples live according to the traditions of the elders? Why do they eat their food with unclean hands?!" the Pharisees demanded to know. "Here you set yourself up as a teacher of the people, yet you are letting them commit this terrible sin! Don't you care that the elders say they are in danger of hell if they don't wash their hands properly?"

But Jesus saw things completely differently. It was the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who were sinning by making their little, itty bitty traditions just as important as God's laws. They were the ones leading people into sin, not He. Jesus said to them, "The prophet Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding onto the traditions of men," Jesus told them.

"You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!" Jesus

continued. "God's Law says, 'Honor your father and your mother,' showing them respect and taking care of their needs when they are old. But you say that a man can dedicate the money he would have used to help his old parents to the Temple and then he can't help them out anymore. You do away with the Word of God by your traditions the elders have handed down to you. And you do many other things like this. You accuse me of doing wrong by breaking the elders' traditions, but you are the ones who sin by breaking the laws of the Lord."

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

Jesus' disciples could hardly believe Jesus' bold correction of these powerful men. They were the leaders of the Jewish people! No one talked to them like this! They watched the Pharisees storm away. After the Pharisees and teachers of the Law had gone, the disciples asked Jesus, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

"Those men are supposed to be the teachers of Israel who study God's Word and lead His people in keeping His laws," Jesus told them. "But they have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit. In the same way, if you follow the teachers of the Law, they will lead you to destruction."

Jesus had given them much to think about. Were the teachers really the ones who misunderstood God's laws? Was Jesus really telling them to stop keeping the elders itty bitty rules? Would they really NOT go to hell, if they didn't keep them? And what exactly did Jesus mean when He said "nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"? Peter just had to know. After the crowds had gone he asked Jesus, "Teacher, tell us what your parable means," Peter asked Jesus.

"Don't you see," Jesus explained, "whatever enters the mouth—that is, what you eat-- goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth—things you say-- come from the heart,

and these make a man 'unclean,'—sinful before God. For out of a sinful heart come the evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander—the things that break God's Ten Commandments. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who loved the lousy, little laws? Who did not?

The teachers of the law loved the little laws. Jesus did not.

2. How were these laws different from God's laws?

These laws were made up by men, instead of by God. These laws weighed down people and did not point them to God or help them love Him. These laws only made it harder to follow God's good and right ways. But God's laws DO point people to God and help them love and obey Him. They are God's good and right ways to live.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God's Laws Are Written in the Bible

Our Bible Verse is: Deuteronomy 5:1, 6-21

"Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them...You shall have no other gods before me. You shall anything...You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...Honor your father and your mother...You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet ...anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The little rules of washing cups and hands seem very different from these Ten Commandments of God, don't they? The Pharisees had left behind the main point of God's Laws: to love God and to love others. These men studied God's laws every day and washed their hands thinking they were pleasing God,, but they had such hard, unclean hearts. They stubbornly held onto to their traditions and would one day even choose to break God's command not to murder by nailing Jesus, the very Son of God, to the cross.

But what about you and me? Perhaps it seems silly to think that washing your hands before eating your food

was more important than keeping God's laws, written in the Bible. But let's look closer at ourselves. Are we really so different from the Pharisees? The Pharisees chose to keep lots of little itty-bitty rules that looked good on the outside, but did not have anything to do with the sin in their heart and lives that broke God's good and holy commands He wrote down in the Bible. Aren't we often perfectly happy to look good on the outside and never deal with the sin inside, just like those Pharisees? Just like them, we are lawbreakers who deserve God's punishment. We need a Savior! And to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus , God will save!

Let's praise God for giving us His perfect laws that show us how to live holy lives. Let's ask Him to give us hearts that remember His commands and lives that are "clean" with His holiness. Let's ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being for being the Giver of Perfectly Good Laws.

C God, we confess that we break the good laws You have given us to live by. Like the Pharisees, it's much easier for us to keep itty, bitty rules and not look at our sinful hearts and how we fail to keep your laws. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for not just giving us Your good laws, but for sending Jesus to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in You as their Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live inside us and help us love You and obey Your laws.

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 the God who gives us Your laws. You show us how You want us to live.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

We confess that none of us have chosen not to obey Your laws as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

God, thank You for Your laws that tell us how we should live. Thank You for sending Jesus, who kept Your laws perfectly and offers to save us as His free gift to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts by Your Holy Spirit. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to obey Your laws.

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 Pharisees' Special Hand Washing

Have a pitcher of water and a bowl for the children to try washing their hands the way they should according to the tradition of the elders. Have towels for them to dry off afterwards. Cut a heart and hand shape out of sugar cookie dough (purchased in refrigerator section of grocery store) using a cookie cutter or freehand, using a paring knife. Sprinkle chocolate sprinkles onto each to stand for uncleanness of each. Cook according to package directions. If you want to avoid sugar, you could cut the shapes out of deli meat or cheese slices and put bits of a dark colored cracker on top of each.

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

Case Tie-in: The Pharisees depended upon their lousy, little laws--such as those about hand-washing before meals-- to be pleasing to God. Jesus warned His listeners that God looks at our hearts and our lives-- what we think, say and do. Sin comes from there, not from dirty hands! And, because we are all sinners, only when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus, our perfect Savior, can we truly be found pleasing before God. He delights to cleanse us and make us God's people!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God's Laws Are Written in the Bible

A law is something we are told to do or not to do by someone in authority over us. God is our maker and the king over everything. He has authority over all. He has given us all His laws to obey. They show us how to live lives that please Him: lives that show His holiness and are filled with love for Him and for each other.

God gave the Ten Commandments and many other laws through Moses. Some of those laws were special laws God gave to the Israelites to follow until Jesus came. But many of them were laws that God gave to all people, in all places and all times to obey. Later, God gave us more commandments to live by through His prophets, through Jesus and through Jesus' first followers, the apostles.

We should all learn God's laws. They are written in the Bible, God's perfect Word, for us to learn and obey. God's laws are unlike any other rules. They are always perfect and good. They always show us the best, most loving and God-pleasing way to live.

God's laws are perfect, but we are not! We are sinners. No matter how hard we try, we will never keep God's laws perfectly. We can never please God with just our good works--only Jesus could do that. That's why God offers us forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus, when we turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is a law? *Something we are told to do or not to do by someone in authority over us.*
2. Who is God that we should obey His laws? *He is our maker and king of everything. He has authority over all.*
3. Why has God given us His laws? *That we might know how to live lives pleasing to Him. Lives that reflect His holiness and are filled with love for Him and for each other.*
4. What two different types of laws did God give the Israelites through Moses? *Laws that all people in all times should keep; and, some special laws that only they were to keep until Jesus came (laws about sacrifices and living as God's special nation).*
5. Through whom else besides Moses did the Lord give His commandments? *The prophets, Jesus and Jesus' first followers, the apostles.*
6. Why did God have His laws written in the Bible? *For people of all time to be able to learn and live by, not just the Israelites.*
7. What is special about the Bible? *It is God's perfect Word. There is no other book like it.*
8. Why do God's laws show us the best way to live? *Because God made us and is perfectly wise. He knows the best way for us to live.*
9. Can we ever please God with keeping God's laws? Why or why not? *We cannot. We are sinners who break God's laws. Only by keeping God's laws perfectly can we please Him with our own good works. No one does that—except Jesus!*
10. Why can't we ever keep God's laws perfectly? *Because we are sinners.*
11. What must we do to be saved? *Turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21**: "Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them... You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything... You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God... Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor." ?
Our Bible verse is the Ten Commandments: some of the most important laws God has given us that tell us how to love Him and to love others. He told them aloud to the Israelites, but He also had Moses write them down. They became part of the Bible, so that we all might read them, know them, and obey them.

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What did Jesus criticize the Pharisees for doing? *Breaking the commands of God for the sake of keeping to the traditions of the elders, such as washing their hands a special way.*
2. Why did Jesus think washing hands a certain way was not what pleased God? *He knew that is not from dirty hands that we sin against God and others. It is from heart "dirty" with sin. It is our hearts that need to be made clean (from sin), not our hands.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can you and I do to know God's laws better? Why is this important? *Reading them in the Bible ourselves or listen to others read them; memorizing them. This is important because God made us to live for Him, according to His laws. If we want to please Him, we need to know how He wants us to live.*
2. Knowing and keeping God's laws pleases God, but it will never save us because we are all sinners. What must we do to be saved? *Turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the God who speaks to us so we can know Him and what pleases Him.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth? *Confess that we choose to not obey His laws, even though we know about them. 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 His laws so that we can know how He wants us to live.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth? *Ask God to work in our hearts by His Holy Spirit that we might hunger to read, know and obey His laws.*

The Gospel

1. We have God's good laws to read and know because they are written in the Bible. Yet, we all disobey them. 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: Enemy Invaders

Materials

Index cards of two different colors (or use red and black playing cards, such as hearts and spades)
 Bible Truth Questions
 String or yarn
 Two chairs
 Masking Tape

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. Tie an end of the string to each chair and draw the line across the room where the teams will be. Preferably this line will be about 4' above the ground.
4. Tape a line about 6' to 9' from the string on each side.
5. Cut cards in half along the long side, making them about the same size as playing cards.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them stand (or kneel to make it even harder!) on their team's line. Give each child an index card, the same color for the children on one team. At your signal, have them try to toss their cards over the line and into their "enemy's" territory on the other side. Add up how many cards fell on each side. That is how many points they can win by answering a question. Choose a question for each team. If the team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for an extra point. Distribute the cards and play again.

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

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

The God of Abraham Praise

Verse 2

His Spirit floweth free, High surging where it will:
In prophet's word He spoke of old, He speaketh still.
Established is His law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 6

Understanding the Song

1. Who is "His Spirit?" *The Holy Spirit of God.*
2. Where does the Holy Spirit go and why? *He flows freely, where He wills to go, with the power to do to will of God the Father and the Son, like a surging, powerful wave.*
3. How did the Holy Spirit flow in prophet's word? *By giving the prophet God's words to speak and to write down.*
4. How does God speak still? *By the Holy Spirit working in our hearts as we hear the words of the Bible spoken and explained.*
5. What does it mean for God's law to be established and changeless? *To be established means that it is firmly in place and cannot be taken away. God's law—another name for the Bible—has been put in place by God. No one can change one of His laws that they don't like and make a new one instead. His law is changeless, always true.*
6. How is God's law written upon the human heart? *It is NOT written with a pen or pencil. It means that God made people to know deep down in their hearts that there is a God and to know what He has set up as right and wrong.*
7. What does it mean that God's laws is written upon the human heart on sea or land? *There is nowhere in the whole world where people do not know deep down in their hearts that there is a God and what He has set up as right and wrong, even if they have never heard or seen God's laws written in the Bible.*
8. If God made all peoples with a sense that there is a God and of His laws, why is it so important that God's laws are written in the Bible? *Having a sense about something is nothing like reading the complete laws themselves and learning more fully about the God who made them. Also, only the Bible makes it clear that each person's sin keeps them from being able to keep God's laws perfectly as He requires. It teaches that we must confess and turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus to save us.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God's Laws Are Written in the Bible**? *How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: God's Laws Are Written in the Bible? By the Holy Spirit, Moses and the prophets wrote down God's laws perfectly in the Bible for people of all time to know and obey. God's laws are perfect and changeless because God is perfect and changeless.*

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our story? *Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and the teachers of the law for holding to the traditions of the elders rather than the changeless laws of God given to God's people through the prophets.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21**: “Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them...You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything...You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God...Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... Honor your father and your mother...You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet ...anything that belongs to your neighbor.”?

Long ago, God gave these laws through Moses, who acted as a prophet, a spokesman for God, to the people of Israel. God established these good laws, the 10 Commandments, as laws He wants all people to keep. He established them from the beginning and they shall stand as laws for all people in all times to keep. He spoke these laws long ago, but they “speak” still, as we read them in God’s Word, the Bible.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for speaking to us, even today through the words of the prophets written in the Bible, through His law, and even by the way He made our hearts to know Him. They can ask Him to have His Holy Spirit fill them with understanding and desire to please Him.*

2. God speaking through the words of His prophets, tell us that we can never be saved by keeping God’s laws, no matter how hard we try. What must we do to be saved? *Turn from our sins and trust 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 Establisher of His Perfect Laws for all people in all times.

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

Though God has spoken through the prophets and by His Word how He wants us to act, we still choose to disobey Him and His good laws. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

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

We can thank God for not just giving us His good laws to know how to love Him and others, but also sending the Savior we need: Jesus.

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 write His laws upon our hearts and give us the grace to obey them.

Gospel Question

1. God has written His laws upon the hearts of all people. They know how He wants them to live, but they choose to disobey Him. They deserve His punishment. Is there any hope? 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.

BIBLE VERSE REVIEW

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

Meditation Version: 2 Corinthians 3:18

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. Who is speaking to the Israelites in these verses? *Moses.*
2. What do we call these laws? *The 10 Commandments.*
3. What does the LORD want the Israelites to do? *To learn the decrees and laws and be sure to follow them.*
4. Who is the LORD that the Israelites should be sure to learn and follow these laws? *Not only is He their creator and deserves their obedience, but He made a covenant with them to bless them and love them as His treasured possession. They promised Him to obey His laws as His people.*
5. What does “have no other gods before me” mean? *To not love or treat anything more important than the LORD.*
6. Which of these commands have to do directly with how we worship God? *No other gods before Him, make no idols, do not misuse His name, observe the Sabbath day.*
7. Which of these commands have to do directly with how we love others? *Honor father and mother; do not murder, commit adultery, steal, give false testimony, covet.*
8. Why does keeping commands about how to love others also show we worship God? *Many times we are tempted to break these commands. When we do not give into those temptations, but treat people as God’s law tells us to, we show we honor and love Him most of all.*
9. What does the verse have to do with our Bible Truth? *The 10 commandments are some of the very important laws God had Moses write down in the Book of the Covenant (part of our Bible).*
10. What does the verse have to do with our story? *The LORD descended upon Mt. Sinai with dense cloud, billowing smoke and consuming fire and spoke the words of the 10 Commandments to the Israelites.*
11. Why should we keep the 10 Commandments even though we might not be Israelites (Jews)? *The LORD is our Creator and is King over everything He has made. The 10 Commandments reflect His perfectly holy and loving ways. If we are to love Him and others as He created us to, we will keep the 10 Commandments.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God’s Laws Are Written in the Bible?** *The LORD descended upon Mt. Sinai with dense cloud, billowing smoke and consuming fire and spoke the words of the 10 Commandments to the Israelites.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and teachers of the law for breaking the commandments of God for the sake of keeping the traditions of their elders. They were famous for knowing all of God’s commandments, but they did not really honor God in the hearts by keeping them.*

Life Application Questions

1. Why should we keep the 10 Commandments even though we are not Israelites? *The LORD is our Creator and is King over everything He has made. The 10 Commandments reflect His perfectly holy and loving ways. If we are to love Him and others as He created us to, we will keep the 10 Commandments.*
2. Can we keep God’s laws perfectly? If not, how can we be saved? *We cannot. We can only be saved by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

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

The Gospel

1. God's laws tell us how to live to please God, but we disobey them and displease God. How can we be saved? 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: Frisbee Toss

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 or more Frisbees (or bean bag)
Masking tape
marker and paper
small container

Preparing the Game

1. Divide the verse into 5 to 10 sections and place a word/verse section in each section. Write point values on the word/verse section, higher points for a word near the beginning of the verse; lower points for a word closer to the end. Tape these down.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

Divide the children into two teams and sit down in line. Explain that everyone will say the verse together. Then a child from one team will come up and toss the Frisbee into a word section. The leader/group will say the verse up to that word. The child can then win total point values by completing the verse on his own, or have point values by asking a team member to help him. If they are unsuccessful, the other team will have a chance to complete it for the half point amount. Have whole group say verse together again, then choose a child from the other team to toss the Frisbee.

Game continues until all children get a turn, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the Frisbee, letting the child or a child with a partner, say the rest of the verse on their own.

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.

Hear, O Israel: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 7,8

Refrain:

Hear, O Israel, the decrees and the laws I declare,
Learn them and be sure to follow them,
be sure to follow them.

You shall have no gods before Me,
You shall not make an idol,
You shall not misuse the name of the LORD,
Observe the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy,
Honor your mother and your father. *Refrain*

You shall not murder,
You shall not commit adult'ry,
You shall not steal,
You shall not give false testimony,
You shall not covet anything. *Refrain*
Deuteronomy Five, verses one, six through twenty-one

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.

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. Where did the traditions of the elders come from? *Jewish leaders long ago began to make extra rules about how to obey God's laws in their everyday life.*
2. What was their tradition about washing hands? *1 ½ 1/2 eggshells worth of special water fingertips to wrist before eating; 1 ½ 1/2 1/2 eggshells worth from wrist to fingertips after eating.*
3. What did they think the washing of hands did? *Kept you from becoming defiled (unpleasing before God) from what you ate.*
4. What did they think people who did not wash properly deserved? *To be cut off from being one of God's people and even to go to Hell.*
5. What did the Pharisees and teachers of the Law hear about Jesus that made them travel from Jerusalem to Galilee to see Him? *They heard that He was not making His disciples wash their hands according to the tradition of the elders.*
6. What was Jesus doing when the Pharisees found Him? *Teaching/healing a great crowd.*
7. What did Jesus' disciples do that upset the Pharisees? *They began to eat without first washing their hands the special way.*
8. What did Jesus give as His reason for not making His disciples wash their hands? *He rebuked them for holding onto the traditions of the elders but letting go of the laws of God.*
9. What did Jesus say about the Pharisees' hearts and lips? What does that mean? *Their lips honored God, but their hearts were far from Him. They said they loved God and honored Him, but in their hearts they did not really love Him.*
10. How did the lives of the Pharisees show that their hearts were far from God? *They were willing to give up God's laws that showed true love for God and others in order to keep their own little, itty-bitty traditions.*
11. From where to the things come that make people "unclean" (sinful) before God? *From the sin in their heart.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for holding onto their meaningless traditions and forgetting God's Laws. He wanted His disciples to know there are no laws that men make up that are as important as God's Laws written in the Bible.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 5:1,6-21**: "Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them... You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything... You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God... Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor." ?
These are the laws of God that Jesus taught His disciples to keep. We break these laws out the sinfulness in our hearts. This is the uncleanness that Jesus was talking about that comes from inside a person. How very different these laws are from the Pharisees' itty bitty rules, like about washing hands.

Life Application Questions

1. How is it easy for us to be like the Pharisees? *We can do and say things that make us look like we love God on the outside, while really in our hearts we do not love God or His laws.*
2. Like the Pharisees, we can never please God by keeping all of His law. How can we be saved? *By turning from our sins and trusting Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise God for being the Giver of Perfectly Good Laws.*

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?

Confess that we break the good laws gave us to live by. Confess that like the Pharisees, we like to keep itty biity rules and not look at our sinful heart or how we break God's laws. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?

We can thank God not just giving us His good laws, but sending Jesus to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our 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 send the Holy Spirit to live inside us that we might love God and obey His good laws.

The Gospel

1. God has given us His good laws. He tells us how He wants us to live, but we all disobey them. We all have sinful hearts that make us unclean before God. We deserve God's punishment! 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: Yes, No & Go!**Materials**

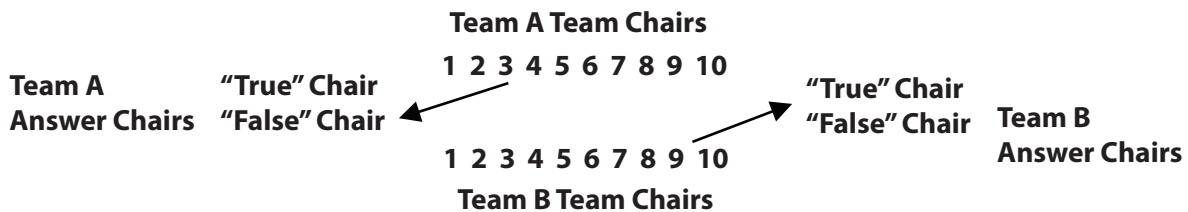
Paper and Marker

Tape

Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review questions for ideas to come up with 20+ statements that are true, false, or not in the story.
2. Set up the chairs in two lines, with chairs facing each other. Each chair should be spaced far enough from its neighboring chairs so that a child could run around it. Place at each end of the rows, two chairs that also face towards the middle. Write the words "true" and "false" on 2 index cards each and tape each to one of the chairs at the end of the rows. There should be one set of true and false chairs at one end and one set at the other end, one set for each team. With the remaining index cards, make 2 sets of numbers that correspond to the number of chairs in each long row. (If 5 chairs on a side, then number two sets of cards from 1 to 5.) Tape these numbers to the back/bottom of each chair. Have the numbers descend on one side and ascend on the other side. (i.e., if using numbers 1 to 5, then number 1 on one row be across from number 5, number 2 across from number 4, etc.) See diagram for illustration of chair set up.

**Playing the Game**

Divide the children into two teams and have them take their places in the chairs. Assign the child the number on their chair. After everyone is seated, the leader reads one of the true/false/not in the story statements and then calls out a number. The player from each team with that number is to run to sit in their team's true or false chair. If the answer is not in the story, the children are to run around their chair and sit down in their seat with arms folded over their chest. The first of the players to make it to the correct seat scores a point for his team.

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

Non-competitive Option

Instead of using two sets of the same numbers for each "team," use only one set of numbers. (For example, instead of having two sets of chairs numbered from 1-10, number the chairs from 1-20). And, have only one true/false chair. The child whose number is called runs to the right chair.

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 Case Story Re-Action! The name of our story is: The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws.

Our story takes place in New Testament times, while Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws."

Scene 1:

Over the many years since the LORD gave His laws through Moses and the prophets, important Jewish teachers called elders began to decide just exactly how the LORD's laws should be lived out. These traditions were passed down until finally the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law believed that they were just as important as God's laws in the Bible. They thought anyone who broke the elders' traditions was not really a follower of God and deserved hell. Some of the traditions were good, but too many of them completely missed the point of God's laws written in the Bible. One bad one was special hand-washing that the elders said must happen before and after you ate. You poured 1½ eggshells of water from fingertips to wrist before you ate; and 1½ from wrists to fingertips afterwards. They believed that God considered you purified if you did this.

Actions:

Scene 2:

But oh, how angry the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were when Jesus started teaching! Jesus knew these lousy, little laws weren't God's laws. They were bad for the people and He told them so. They heard that Jesus wasn't teaching His disciples do the special hand-washing or any of the other made-up laws. And they believed this meant Jesus was from the devil, not from God at all. They set off from Jerusalem to Galilee to find Him and talk to Him about it. They found Jesus at Genneseret, teaching a huge crowd of people and healing their sick. They watched as people begged Jesus to let the sick just touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched Him were healed. The Pharisees and Teachers of the Law should have been amazed by these miracles, but their minds were focused on whether the disciples washed their hands or not.

Scene 3:

And sure enough, at meal time, Jesus' disciples took out food and ate it without washing their hands the special way. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were outraged! Jesus rebuked them. He told them they knew all of God's Laws, but broke them just to keep the elders' traditions. Even when they did keep the laws, they were not doing it out of a heart of love for God. Jesus turned to His disciples and told them that nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" The Pharisees were furious and stormed off. Jesus told His disciples not to use the Pharisees as guides to how to live God's way b/c their way was leading to destruction and God's judgment. Jesus took His disciples away from the crowds and explained to them that nothing that a person eats or no way that washing hands can make him clean before God. Sin comes from our sinful hearts inside of us. Our hearts must be changed if we are to be made "clean" before God.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Laws Are Written in the Bible.** Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for letting go of God's laws written in the Bible to keep the traditions of the elders. They acted like they cared for God's laws, but in their hearts they did not love Him or His laws.

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

Welcome to our Case Story Re-Action! The name of our story is: The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws.

Our story takes place in New Testament times, while Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: The Jewish elders; the Pharisees and teachers of the Law; Jesus; His disciples; crowds of sick people and others come to listen to Jesus.

And now we present: "The Case of the Lousy, Little Laws."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Over the many years since the LORD gave His laws through Moses and the prophets, important Jewish teachers called elders began to decide just exactly how the LORD's laws should be lived out. These traditions were passed down until finally the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law believed that they were just as important as God's laws in the Bible. They thought anyone who broke the elders' traditions was not really a follower of God and deserved hell. Some of the traditions were good, but too many of them completely missed the point of God's laws written in the Bible. One bad one was special hand-washing that the elders said must happen before and after you ate. You poured 1½ eggshells of water from fingertips to wrist before you ate; and 1½ from wrists to fingertips afterwards. They believed that God considered you purified if you did this.

Scene 2: (Middle)

But oh, how angry the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were when Jesus started teaching! Jesus knew these lousy, little laws weren't God's laws. They were bad for the people and He told them so. They heard that Jesus wasn't teaching His disciples do the special hand-washing or any of the other made-up laws. And they believed this meant Jesus was from the devil, not from God at all. They set off from Jerusalem to Galilee to find Him and talk to Him about it. They found Jesus at Genneseret, teaching a huge crowd of people and healing their sick. They watched as people begged Jesus to let the sick just touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched Him were healed. The Pharisees and Teachers of the Law should have been amazed by these miracles, but their minds were focused on whether the disciples washed their hands or not.

Scene 3: (End)

And sure enough, at meal time, Jesus' disciples took out food and ate it without washing their hands the special way. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were outraged! Jesus rebuked them. He told them they knew all of God's Laws, but broke them just to keep the elders' traditions. Even when they did keep the laws, they were not doing it out of a heart of love for God. Jesus turned to His disciples and told them that nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" The Pharisees were furious and stormed off. Jesus told His disciples not to use the Pharisees as guides to how to live God's way b/c their way was leading to destruction and God's judgment. Jesus took His disciples away from the crowds and explained to them that nothing that a person eats or no way that washing hands can make him clean before God. Sin comes from our sinful hearts inside of us. Our hearts must be changed if we are to be made "clean" before God.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's Laws Are Written in the Bible.** Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for letting go of God's laws written in the Bible to keep the traditions of the elders. They acted like they cared for God's laws, but in their hearts they did not love Him or His laws.

Netilat Yadayim Cup

Description

Children will make a netilat yadayim (ceremonial washing cup) out of clay.

Materials

Self-hardening terracotta colored clay (modelling clay), about a handful and a half, per child

Stones, shells, sticks with a pointed end, 1 per child

Paper cup

Preparing the Craft

1. Set out clay and pointed utensils for each child.
2. May want to get old shirts for children to wear as smocks to protect their clothing.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children the picture of a typical Netilat Yadayim Cup. (See picture below)
2. Have the children first make the handles of the cup (there are two, coming off at angles on the same side of the cup), by taking a portion of the clay and rolling in back and forth on the table surface with the palm(s) of their hands to make 2 cylinder shapes. Set aside.
3. Have the children flatten the rest of their clay and then gather it up into a cup shape around the paper cup and making a lip that fans out as shown in picture below.
4. Add handles to one side of the cup, smoothing into body of clay.
5. Use stones, shells, sticks to make designs in the clay. Tell the children that this is how potters made designs in their pots in Jesus' day.
6. Tell children to be careful with their pots until dried. When dried, they can put water into their cups and try to do the ceremonial washing as the Pharisees would have done.

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. Why did the Pharisees and teachers of the Law travel from Jerusalem to Galilee? *To find Jesus and see if He was really doing the things they had heard He was doing.*
2. What did they see Jesus do that upset them so much? *Jesus let his disciples eat without first doing the special hand-washing with a netilat yadayim cup.*
3. Why were they so disgusted by what they saw? *Jesus was letting His disciples break the traditions of the elders. They believed these traditions (little laws) kept God's people from becoming defiled (made displeasing to God) when eating their food.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God's Laws Are Written in the Bible.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God's Laws Are Written in the Bible. *Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for putting aside God's Laws written in the Bible and holding onto the little itty-bitty traditions of the elders. God's laws were what God's people were to love and obey from their heart, not these traditions.*
6. *What can our craft help us remember?*
It is easy to do the right things and look good on the outside, but not really love God in our hearts. We must ask God to change our hearts and help us to truly love Him and His laws.

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: A Netilat Yadayim Cup
2. In Galilee, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were disgusted that Jesus' disciples ate their food without first washing their hands with special water from a netilat yadayim cup because the traditions of the elders said God's people should do that to keep from becoming defiled (made displeasing to God) when eating their food.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God's Laws Are Written in the Bible.
4. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for putting aside God's Laws written in the Bible and holding onto the little itty-bitty traditions of the elders. God's laws were what God's people were to love and obey from their heart, not these traditions.
5. Our craft can help us remember that it is easy to do the right things and look good on the outside, but not really love God in our hearts. We must ask God to change our hearts and help us to truly love Him and His laws.

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. Clue Cards found at the back of this book.

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: Stop and Go

Materials

Information for one VIPP
2 Sets of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Ball
Blindfold
Bag

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. Put all the Clue Cards envelopes in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

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 stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller's "Go" command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says "Stop." Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses a Clue Card envelope. The child (or the teacher) tells the class the Clue Card category and asks them if they can remember the answer for the VIPP. The envelope is opened to see what the answer is. If the children get it right, the category is retired. If they get it wrong, it goes back into the pile of envelopes.

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

