

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

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

**Welcome to Praise Factory:** PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 1*

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

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

**Big Question Bible Verse:** Psalm 19:7,9,10,11 Songs: *PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 5,6,7*

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

**Bible Truth 2:** God Created Us as Perfect Law-Keepers, but We Are All Lawbreakers

**Bible Truth Hymn:** At the Cross, vs.2,3 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 11,12*

**Bible Verse:** Psalm 14:2-3, HCSB

**Bible Verse Song:** The LORD Looks Down *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 13*

Extra Bible Verse Song: All We Like Sheep: Isaiah 53:6, ESV *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 14*

**Lesson 3 New Testament:** The Case of the Tiny Terror *Luke 18:35-19:11*

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Zacchaeus with His Tax Money and the Mulberry-Fig Tree

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

**Bible Truth Hymn:** At the Cross, vs.2,3 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 11,12*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 14:2-3 Discussion Sheet and Game: Frisbee Toss

**Bible Verse Song:** The LORD Looks Down: Psalm 14:2-3 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 13*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Balloon Volleyball

**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:** Down from the Tree, Into the House

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

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 2, Lesson 3 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Tiny Terror** *Luke 18:35-19:11* by Connie Dever

**Our story is: The Case of the Tiny Terror.**  
**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Tiny Terror? Who was he a terror to? Why?
2. Why could he not be in fellowship with God or God's people? How did this change?

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

In Israel, there was a city many nicknamed "Little Paradise." All year round this city enjoyed warm weather, even when the rest of Israel had snow. Springs watered the land, so that no one was ever thirsty and so crops could grow year round. There were beautiful rose gardens throughout the city, especially in the Royal Gardens of Archaelus, son of Herod the Great, who ruled that part of Israel from his splendid palace there.

But perhaps best of all was the air of Little Paradise. It was filled with the sweet smell of balsam leaves that drifted along the breeze from the large balsam plantations planted there. There were few places in the world where balsam could grow; and no where was it as fine as here at "Little Paradise." Merchants from Egypt to Arabia came to buy balsam here. Many fought and died to win Little Paradise and its balsam trees. They wanted to grow rich from selling the perfume and the healing medicine made from its leaves and sap.

At the time of our story, Little Paradise had fallen under the control of the Romans. There still were plenty of Jews who lived and worked there, but a part of just about everything that was made, bought or sold in Little Paradise went to the Romans in the form of a tax. With all those merchants coming in and out of Little Paradise to buy that priceless balsam perfume and medicine, there was a whole lot of tax money to be collected. Little Paradise was one of three richest tax collection stations in all of Israel.

Tax collecting was hard, thankless work that the Romans would rather not do. The Jews hated the tax collectors for taking their hard earned money and giving it to the Romans. They spit on them. The Jewish elders even allowed the people to break one of the Ten Commandments and lie to the tax collectors about how much they bought and sold! The Romans wanted to get

tax money without having the hassles of collecting it, so they got Jews to collect it for them. "We'll make a deal with you," the Romans would say, "You collect all our tax money and whatever extra you can squeeze out is yours. We don't care what you do to the people to get the money or how much extra you collect for yourself," they said. "Just get the job done. Soon you will be very rich. Doesn't that sound good!?" they said.

Most Jews refused, but a few who found all that money irresistible. One such man was a man named Mr. Pure-Righteous--as his parents called him.

If Mr. Pure-Righteous' parents had known what their son would grow up to be, I'm sure they would have never given him such a name. Really, it's not a good name for any person, for all people though created by God to be law-keepers, have all rebelled against God and have become lawbreakers. No one is Pure-Righteous by keeping God's laws.

But as it turned out, this name was to be a particularly bad choice for this child, for he grew up to be one of the greediest, wicked men in all of Little Paradise. A far better name would have been Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous --and so we shall call him--for this man did not just grow up to be a tax collector. He grew up to be an architelones: a chief tax collector! Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous headed up tax collection for Little Paradise as well as for goods passing through that whole part of Israel. As boss of the other tax-collectors, he encouraged them to get all the money they could from people, then he took a big, fat amount for himself before handing the rest over to the Romans.

Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous became very rich from all he had stolen in the name of tax-collecting--and also, very hated. The other Jews spit on him. He wasn't allowed in

**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 synagogue or the Temple to worship. No decent person would allow him to step foot in their house or even eat or talk with him. His wickedness made him “unclean,” as they called it—not fit for fellowship with God or with God’s people. When he made contact with them or their homes, they became “unclean”, too. Only tax collectors and other outcasts would have anything to do with him.

What a terrible life! God created us to be law keepers who know and love Him and each other. Life as a lawbreaker would never bring happiness, as Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was finding out. Only life lived with God, according to His good ways can. But what could be done now? Surely there was no hope for Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous...or was there?

On one warm, spring afternoon some exciting news spread through the streets of Little Paradise faster than balsam scent in the breeze. “He’s coming! He’s coming! The Rabbi Jesus is coming!” people exclaimed. “He and his disciples are with a crowd from Galilee headed to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. He’s just healed the blind man who begs on the road outside of town! Now they’re headed this way!” they said.

This was big news indeed! Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was just as excited as everyone else...and perhaps more so. Even he had heard about this rabbi who spoke powerfully and did amazing miracles. But perhaps there was something else besides curiosity going on inside of Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous when he heard Jesus was coming. Perhaps there was a glimmer of hope in his heart. Other Jewish teachers would have nothing to do with lawbreakers like himself, but this Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners...He forgave sins. He had even made Levi, the tax collector of Capernaum, one of His twelve closest disciples!

People often left their work and lined the streets to cheer the Jews on their way to Passover. An even larger crowd than usual gathered now just to see Jesus. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous wanted to see Him, too; but he was too short to see over the crowd and too hated to be helped.

The crowd praised God as Jesus, followed by His disciples, other Jews, and the healed blind man entered Little Paradise. But poor, tiny, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous

could see nothing! Suddenly an idea came to him. Running on down the street ahead of the crowd, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous climbed up a mulberry-fig tree as Jesus was about to pass that way.

The tree was perfect. He, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous could hide in the leaves from the eyes of Jesus—and everyone else, yet, he could see Jesus perfectly. After all, he knew he was unpure and unrighteous. He was a lawbreaker; and Jesus was a great rabbi. What would Jesus say to him, if He knew what all the people in Little Paradise knew?

But Jesus DID know what they knew and even more! He was the Son of God. He knew everything there was to know. Matter of fact, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was one of the very reasons Jesus had come to Little Paradise. Jesus had come to save lawbreakers who trusted in Him as their Savior, forgiving their sins and making them Pure and Righteous in God’s eyes, with His own Pure Righteousness. God had planned that today would be the day of salvation for this poor lawbreaker of a man.

Jesus came to mulberry-fig tree, called Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous by name, then said the most incredible thing: “Hurry and come down from the tree, for I must stay at your house today.”

“Jesus knows my name without me even telling Him! He wants to stay with me! He wants fellowship with me! A man so unpure and so unrighteous! Perhaps there is hope for a lawbreaker like me, after all.” Joyfully, he climbed down the tree and led Jesus and His disciples to his home.

Mr Unpure and Unrighteous rejoiced, but others grumbled. “Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner! He should have stayed at the priest’s house, not at the unclean house of a wicked man!” they said.

But Jesus knew they were wrong. It wasn’t just Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous who was a lawbreaker and sinner; they all were! He had come to save all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Him as his Savior. Even a man like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous could be made Pure-Righteous before God by Jesus’ Pure Righteousness.

That night Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous shared with Jesus and His disciples his fine food and luxurious home, but surely it was Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous who received the greatest gift that night. Imagine how hope must have

grown in his heart when he met Levi, the tax collector from Capernaum who had turned from his wicked ways and become one of Jesus' closest friends! Imagine how wonderful it must have been when Jesus offered him—Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous--forgiveness of sins and salvation through faith in Himself, the Messiah, the Pure-Righteous Son of God!

That very day, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous turned from his sins and believed in Jesus with joy. His sins were forgiven. At last he lived up to the name his parents had given him. Through Jesus, he was truly Mr. Pure-Righteous now!

The first thing Mr. Pure-Righteous wanted to do was to change the way he treated the people of Little Paradise. He stood up in front of Jesus and the people and said, "Lord, half of everything I have I give to the poor. And to anyone I have wronged, I will give them back four times what I wrongly took from them."

The people were amazed. "Give away half of all he has to the poor! The teachers of the law say don't give away more than one-fifth of what you have. Give back four times what he took! That's what thieves were supposed to do! Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous really is a changed man!"

This time Jesus agreed with the people of Little Paradise. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was a changed man. Just like his great-great-great-grandfather Abraham who believed in the LORD and was counted Pure-Righteous for his faith in Him, now Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous had become Mr. Pure-Righteous through his faith in Jesus. "Today, salvation has come to this house, since this man also a son of Abraham," Jesus told them, "for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. Who was the Tiny Terror? Who was he a terror to? Why?** Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous (Zachaeus). He was a terror to the people of Jericho because of the way he collected tax money from them--too much and with cruel methods.  
**2. Why could he not be in fellowship with God or God's people? How did this change?** Because of how he chose to live a life of sin and would not turn away from it (repent). Through Jesus, he learned how his sins could be forgiven. At last, he turned away from them and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He was restored in fellowship with God and His people.

### Something For You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God Created Us to Be Perfect Law-Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers**

**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 14:2-3**

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."

Who are you most like? The people of Little Paradise? Do you look at certain other people and think of them as lawbreakers and sinners, but not see that you, too, are a lawbreaker and sinner? The Bible tells us that not one of us is a perfect law keeper as God created us to be. We all deserve God's eternal punishment for our sins. Confess your sins and turn in faith to Jesus as your Savior!

Or perhaps you are more like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous. You are afraid you are too sinful to be forgiven by God? Confess your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, too. He promised that whoever comes to Him, He will never, ever drive away. He can save you, too, no matter what you have done. Let's praise God for sending His Son to seek and save sinful people like you and me. Let's ask God to give us soft hearts that see our own sin and turn and trust Him as our own Savior.

*Close in prayer.*

NOTE on story: This is the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector from Jericho. In an effort to help the children notice new things about this very familiar story, I opted to use "Little Paradise" as a nickname for how the Jews thought of Jericho; and Mr. Pure-Righteous for Zacchaeus, the meaning of his Hebrew name. Feel free to use the real names instead of these nicknames, if it will better suit your children.

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You or being our Savior! You are so merciful to sinful people.

**C** God, we confess that many times, we are like Zacchaeus. We want to have good things and are willing to harm others to get them. We need a Savior, just like Zacchaeus.

**T** God, thank You for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, no matter how sinful they have been.

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Change our lives so that we don't just say we believe in Jesus, but we show it in how we turn away from our old ways of sinning, just like Zacchaeus did.

# **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 our Creator who created us to enjoy You and keep Your perfect laws. We praise You for being so merciful to sinful lawbreakers like us.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we, like all people before us and after us, have become law breakers. Our sins grieve You. We deserve Your punishment! We need Jesus to save us!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God, for bearing with sinful, law-breaking people like us with patience. Thank You for showing us mercy and offering to save us through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

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

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: Zacchaeus with His Tax Money and the Mulberry-Fig Tree**

Ritz cracker and cheese “coins” and/or Celery leaf “mulberry-fig tree branch” with Teddy Graham “Mr. Pure-Righteous” in it.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus and also perhaps to hide from Him, too. He was a tax-collector who had chosen to treat people cruelly to get more money. He had no favor with God or with people. He was such a terrible sinner who had chosen not to repent. But after meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus was a changed man. He turned away from his sins. He received salvation through faith in Jesus. He showed that he had turned away from his law-breaking way of life by promising to re-pay all he had wronged with four times the amount he had taken from them. Because of Jesus, Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous had come to be worthy of his name. Through Jesus, he was Mr. Pure-righteous at last.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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### 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.

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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 Created Us Perfect Law-Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers**

God created Adam and Eve without sin. They kept God's laws perfectly. They loved Him as they should; and, they loved each other as they should. They pleased God with their "works." That is, they pleased God with how they lived because they loved Him perfectly in their hearts, and they obeyed Him and His good laws perfectly in their lives.

But when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their hearts and lives became sinful. No longer could they please God with their works, because no longer could they live perfectly. They were spoiled with sin.

Sin didn't stop there. It spread down to all of Adam and Eve's children, too. It even spreads down to us, too. Yes, just like Adam and Eve, we have sinful hearts. We break God's good laws with our thoughts, words, and actions.

God is good and He hates sin. God would not be good if He did not hate it. But, oh, how terrible is God fair punishment for breaking His laws! It is death: separation from Him and His good ways forever! This is what we all deserve.

Yet, God is so merciful to sinners like us! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life here on earth and offer it up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can have eternal life with God!

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. How were Adam and Eve perfect law-keepers at first? *God made them without sin.*
2. How could Adam and Eve (in the beginning) please God in a way that we cannot? *They could please Him with their works (their lives) because they lived perfect lives and did everything for God's glory.*
3. What happened to Adam and Eve and all their children after they rebelled? *They became lawbreakers, with lives spoiled with sin.*
4. How do we break God's laws? *In our hearts, thoughts, words and actions.*
5. Why does God hate sin? *Because He is good.*
6. What is God's punishment for lawbreaking? *Death.*
7. What is death? *Separation from God and His good ways forever. It is not just when our bodies die, it is also when our spirits are separated from God.*
8. How is the only way people can find forgiveness of their sins and eternal life with God? *By confessing their sins and trusting in Jesus, the Son of God who perfectly kept God's laws.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 14:2-3**: "The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."?  
*Adam and Eve were created with hearts that sought after God. They were perfect law keepers who were not corrupt and did not turn aside from God. But after they rebelled, they and all people after them did turn aside. Their hearts became corrupt and they no longer sought after God.*

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

1. Why did the people grumble that Jesus wanted to stay at Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous' house? *Because they thought he was too much of a lawbreaker to deserve attention from Jesus. Jesus, as a great teacher, should never have anything to do with him. He would only make Himself unclean.*
2. What did Jesus understand about all people that the people of Little Paradise did not? *That all people are law breakers, deserving of God's eternal punishment for their sins. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was not more in need of a Savior than them because of his wicked ways. They all needed to confess their sins and by faith in Him, be forgiven their sins and know eternal life with God.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How do we know that we are law breakers? *We know the sin and rebellion against God in our hearts. We see it in our thoughts, words and actions.*
2. Why can't we do enough good works to please God? *Only a completely perfect life lived to please God can make us acceptable to God. None of us can ever do that. We are all lawbreakers.*
3. Since we can't please God by keeping His laws perfectly, 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 our Creator who created us to enjoy Him and to keep His perfect laws.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess that we, like all people before us and after us, have become law breakers.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for sending Jesus to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior.*
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 God to send His Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to keep His good laws.*

**The Gospel**

1. We are all lawbreakers who should have been perfect lawkeepers. We choose to disobey God, even from birth. 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: 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.

**At the Cross**

**Verse 2**

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!

**Verse 3**

Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut his glories in,  
When Christ the mighty Maker died  
For man, the creature's sin. *Refrain*

**Refrain**

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 7, Tracks 11,12**

**Understanding the Song**

1. What is a crime? *A broken law.*
2. What kind of tree did Jesus groan upon? *The cross. It's not a live tree, but it is made from the wood of a tree.*
3. For whose crimes did Jesus groan (suffer painfully) upon the tree? *For all who would ever turn from their sins and trust Him as their Savior.*
4. What do "amazing pity", "grace unknown" and "love beyond degree" mean and how does Jesus' death on the cross show them? *"Amazing pity" is having such great compassion on someone else's suffering that you can hardly believe it. "Grace unknown" doesn't mean that no one knows about it. It means such treating someone with such undeserved kindness like it has never been done before. "Love beyond degree" means such great love that you can't even measure it. Jesus was the very Son of God, the perfect Law Keeper. He did nothing to deserve any suffering or any punishment. Yet on the cross, He suffered all the wrath of God for the punishment for His people's sins, that they might be restored to eternal fellowship with God. He did this because of His amazing pity, His grace greater than any ever heard of, and His love so great that you cannot even measure it.*
5. What kind of light does a believer first "see" at the cross? *Not light like from the sun or a light bulb. Light is another word for understanding the truth about something for the first time. It is when someone understands their sins and that Jesus suffered on the cross for His people's sins that they see for the first time the truth that they can have salvation through Him, if they will turn from their sins and trust in Him.*
6. What does it mean for the burden of our sins to be rolled away? *It doesn't mean that someone comes and takes them out of our heart and then rolls them off down the street somewhere. It is a way of saying that they are taken from us and removed forever, when by faith we receive Him as our Savior.*
7. What does "well might the sun in darkness hide and shut His glories in, when Christ the mighty Maker died for man, the creature's sin"? *When Jesus hung on the cross, the sun stopped shining and everything became as dark as night, as a sign of how Jesus, the Son of God, was laying aside His glory to take on all of the punishment for His people's sins.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Created Us As Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Law Breakers?** *Because we are all lawbreakers, we deserve God's eternal punishment. There will never be anything we can do to earn back eternal life with God. But at the cross where Jesus, the perfect law keeper gave up His life as the payment*

for all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him, that we can find forgiveness and eternal life. By His perfect sacrifice, all of “crimes” and “burdens” can be “rolled away” forever.

### Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous had been a very wicked man. He had a very great burden of sin and a long list of crimes he had done against many people. Yet, by faith, he came to believe in Jesus. Jesus forgave him all his sins and the burden of them rolled away. He rejoiced in his salvation and he freely offered to give away half of all his money to the poor and use the other half to repay four times what he had taken from others. He was so happy that money was nothing compared to knowing and following Jesus.*

### Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 14:2-3**: “The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.”?

*God is our mighty Maker, yet we have all sinned against Him. We deserve His punishment. But God, in His great mercy, sent Jesus to die for the sins of all those who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him. He suffered, He groaned upon the cross under the punishment for their sins. He did this so the burden of their sins would be rolled away and they could know eternal life, which is why they can be happy all the day. We, too, can be forgiven for our sins, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

### Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for not leaving them to die in our sins as we all deserve, and for sending His Son Jesus to the cross to roll away the burdens of their sins. They can pray that God would give them humble hearts that more completely understand the great depths of their sin (no matter how good they think they are) and to be more grateful for what Jesus did at the cross for them.*

2. How can we become one of God's people? *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 hymn?

*Praise God for being Our Mighty Maker and the One Who Shows Pity upon His People.*

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

*We can confess sins that we have done that could only be paid for by Jesus dying upon the cross.*

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

*We can thank God for being so full of pity and love for His people that He would send Jesus to suffer and die for them on the cross.*

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. That He might roll away the burden of our sins from our hearts.*

### Gospel Question

1. How can I have the burden of my sins rolled away from my heart? How can I know God's forgiveness? 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: 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.

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

**Meditation Version: Psalm 14:2-3**

“The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.”

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: Psalm 14:3**

“All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.”

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What does it mean that the LORD looks down from heaven? *Is the LORD and heaven really up above us? No one knows where heaven is. It is a spiritual place, not a physical place like earth, the planets and the stars. The Bible speaks of heaven and the glorious things of God being high and lifted up. It is a picture of His holiness and of God as ruler over everything. (Just like it speaks of hell being down as a way of saying it is a place completely separated from God and is unholy.) The LORD does not really look down from a particular place in heaven. The LORD is everywhere, all the time. He knows everything there is to know. He doesn't have to peek down at us to know what is going on. It is just a word picture that tells us that God notices what is going on everywhere, all the time and is judging the hearts of people.*
2. Who does the LORD look down upon? *The human race.*
3. What is the human race? *It's not a race that people run in, like it might sound. It's just another way of saying "all people."*
4. What is the LORD looking to see? *If there is one who is wise, one who seeks God.*
5. What does it mean to seek God? *To want with all your heart to know Him and to live a life that pleases Him.*
6. What does the LORD see has happened to the human race? *They have all turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, now even one.*
7. What does it mean that they have all turned away? *They no longer live for God, but live for themselves.*
8. What does it mean that people are corrupt? *Something that is corrupted is something good that has been damaged and spoiled. God created people as perfect law keepers, made in His image. When they became sinners, the sin corrupted their pure hearts and lives, making them no longer a clear image of God.*
9. How many people does the LORD see who do good? *No one.*
10. Since there is no one who does good, how can we say people do good works? *There are many things people do for each other that still reflect God's good ways. In that sense, anyone can do good. But, truly good things are things that don't just reflect God's good ways, but are done to bring glory to God. People who do not love God can't do this kind of good. Even the good works of Christians are not completely good, because they still are sinners who only love God imperfectly.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Created Us As Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Law Breakers?** *Adam and Eve were created with hearts that sought after God. They were perfect law-keepers who were not corrupt and did not turn aside from God. But after they rebelled, they and all people after them did turn aside. Their hearts became corrupt and they no longer sought after God.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous had turned far aside from doing good, everyone in Little Paradise recognized that. They thought he was too wicked to receive attention from Jesus. But Jesus knew that all people have turned aside from seeking God. No one has done good. All must be saved and He had come to seek and save the lost. Anyone who turned from his sins and in faith came to Him for forgiveness of sins could be saved—even Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Why is it so hard for us to seek God? *We have sinful hearts that want to turn away from God and live our own way.*
2. If all have turned aside and have corrupt hearts, how can any of us seek God? *We can confess our sins to God and by faith trust in Jesus to save us. He will send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and fill them with a desire to seek Him and with power to live obedient lives that please Him.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being Omniscient: for seeing and knowing everything there is to know.*

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

*We can confess 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 forgiveness of sins and to give eternal life 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 do this work in others, too.*

**The Gospel**

1. We have all turned away from God. None of us live the good lives God created us to. We 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 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 verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

**The LORD Looks Down**

The LORD looks down from heaven,  
 On the human race,  
 To see if there is one who's wise,  
 One who seeks God.  
 But all have turned away;  
 All alike have become corrupt.  
 There is no one who does good,  
 No, not even one.  
 Psalm Fourteen, two and three.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 13**

## Song Game: Word Take Away

### Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song  
 White board and marker  
 Eraser

### Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

### Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

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. What was grown in Little Paradise that was so prized? *Balsam trees.*
2. What two things were made from the balsam that people wanted? *Perfume made from its leaves and medicine from its sap.*
3. Why was Little Paradise such an important tax station? *Tax was collected on all of the expensive balsam products that were sold there as well as everything else the traders brought in to sell to the people of Little Paradise.*
4. Why could tax collectors make so much money? *The Romans let them keep any extra money over the regular tax fees that they could collect.*
5. Why was Mr. Pure-Righteous such a bad name for Mr. Pure-Righteous? *He was one of the wickedest men in Little Paradise, having squeezed way too much money out of most everyone. As a tax collector, he was considered so unrighteous that he was not allowed to worship in the synagogue or to even step foot in someone's house because his very presence would make it unclean.*
6. To where were Jesus and His disciples going? Why? *To Jerusalem for the Passover festival.*
7. What did Jesus did right before he entered Little Paradise? *He healed the blind man who was begging along the road.*
8. Why couldn't Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous see Jesus when He came into Little Paradise? *He was too short to see over the crowd of people who had already gathered and probably too hated (and considered unclean) for anyone to help him by letting him through to the front of the crowd.*
9. Why was a tree a good place for Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous to go? *He could see Jesus clearly and might go unnoticed by Him and the crowd at the same time.*
10. What was so surprising about what Jesus said to Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous? *He called him by name w/o anyone telling Him what it was; He, a great teacher, insisted on staying at his house. Everyone would have thought Jesus would stay with one of the leading priests in town. They would never think He would stay with Mr. Unpure- Unrighteous because as a tax collector he was considered unclean.*
11. What signs does Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous show that he has turned from his life of sin and trusted in Jesus for forgiveness? *No longer does he love money more than God. He promises to give half his money to the poor and to repay everyone he took money from four times what he took (what only a thief was supposed to do).*
12. What does Jesus call Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous? *A son of Abraham. That means that like Abraham, he has been accepted by God because God has counted his faith in Jesus as righteousness. No longer are his sins held against him.*
13. Who did Jesus come to seek and to save? *The lost: people who are lawbreakers and who need a Savior.*
14. How was it possible for a very sinful lawbreaker like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous be saved? *By God counting Jesus' Perfectly Pure Righteousness in the place of his own unpure-unrighteousness. This is what Jesus did on the cross for all people who turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior. God can do what we can never do on our own!*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: **God Created Us Perfect Lawkeepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers**? *The people of Little Paradise were wrong in thinking that Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was too great of a lawbreaker to be worthy of seeing Jesus. Jesus knew that all those people were lawbreakers in need of a Savior. He had come to seek and save people who knew they were lost in their sins.*

### Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 14:2-3**: "The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."?  
*Zacchaeus knew that he had turned aside from God. He knew that he was corrupt. That made him all the more thankful that Jesus would offer him forgiveness.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How might we be like the people of Little Paradise? *We might falsely judge someone as too sinful for God to save or change.*
2. How might we be like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous? *We might be tempted by things in this world like great riches, instead of wanting to obey God. We might think we are too sinful for God to help us.*
3. Is there anyone who God cannot save? *No. Anyone who truly turns from their sins and trusts Jesus as their Savior will be saved. It doesn't matter what bad things they have done.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?  
*Praise God for being so merciful to sinful people. Praise God for being the Savior of His people.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?  
*Confess that many times, we are like Zacchaeus. We want to have good things and are willing to harm others to get them. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior, just like Zacchaeus.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our 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, no matter how sinful they have been.*
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 change our lives so that we don't just say we believe in Him, but that we show it in how we obey His good ways, just like Zacchaeus did.*

**The Gospel**

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Zacchaeus came to believe? 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: Balloon Volleyball

### Materials

20+balloons  
small strips of paper  
pen  
Masking Tape  
20+ Story Review Questions and other 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. Write out each Story Review question on a small strip of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Roll it up and place it inside of the balloon. Inflate the balloon. Continue this process for each Story Review question. Make a line with masking tape across the middle of the playing area.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them spread out on each side of the masking tape line. Take one of the balloons and bat it out into the field of play. The children will bat it back and forth without letting it hit the floor. When it hits the floor, play stops and the team on the opposite side scores a point. The balloon is popped, the question is unrolled and read. The team who scored the point gets first try at answering the question. If they get it correctly, they get another point. If not, then the other team can try for a point. Play resumes by the leader batting another balloon out into the court.

Play continues as balloons last, or as time and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't keep track of points. Encourage the children to see how many times they bat the balloon back and forth, counting out loud with each hit. When the balloon hits the floor, the leader pops the balloon and reads question for all to answer.

### 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 Tiny Terror.

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

And now we present: "The Case of the Tiny Terror."

### **Scene 1:**

Little Paradise was famous for its balsam trees from which medicine and some of the world's best perfume was made. Men fought and died to own the balsam trees. Whoever owned them made a lot of money. At the time of our story, the Romans ruled over the Jews. They got lots of tax money from everything that was bought and sold in Israel. Little Paradise was the third richest tax station because of the money made from the balsam trees and all the traders who passed through there. The Jews hated the tax collectors. The Romans didn't want to deal with the Jews, so they got other Jews to be tax collectors for them. They allowed them to squeeze as much money as they could and could keep whatever extra they got. A Jewish man named Mr. Pure- Righteous was the head tax collector in Little Paradise. He became very, very rich from tax collecting...and very, very hated, too. His name should have been Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous he was so wicked. No one but other tax collectors and outcasts would come near him. He was not allowed to worship in the synagogue or in the Temple. He couldn't even eat with other Jews or step into their house w/o making them unclean—unacceptable before God—the other Jews thought. There seemed to be no hope for him.

### **Actions:**

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### **Scene 2:**

One day, exciting news spread through town. Jesus and His disciples along with other Jews were about to pass through Little Paradise on their way to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. Jesus had just healed the blind beggar who sat near the road on the edge of town. The streets filled up with crowds wanting to see Jesus, walking along with his disciples and the healed blind man. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous came out to the street to see Jesus, too, but he was too short to see over the crowds and too hated (and unclean) for anyone to let him through to the front. He became so desperate to see Jesus that he ran down the road and climbed up a mulberry-fig tree.

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### **Scene 3:**

From the tree he could see Jesus, but be hidden from Jesus and the crowd, too. After all, he was Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous. Jesus came to where he was, looked up and called him by name to come down and asked him to let stay at his house. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous rejoiced and quickly came down the tree. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous turned from his sins, believed in Jesus and was forgiven. Now he became Mr. Pure Righteous because Jesus had taken away his sins. The people grumbled that Jesus had stayed at the house of such a wicked, unclean man as Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous. Jesus knew the people were wrong. He had come to seek and save lost sinners like this man. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous stood up before them and Jesus and showed that he had become Mr. Pure-Righteous thru Jesus. He promised to give away half of his money to the poor and use the other half to pay back everyone he had wronged four times what he had taken.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:** The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created Us as Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers.** The people of Little Paradise were wrong in thinking that Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was too great of a lawbreaker to be worthy of seeing Jesus. Jesus knew that all those people were lawbreakers in need of a Savior. He had come to seek and save people who knew they were lost in their sins.

## **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 Tiny Terror.

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

The characters in our story are: Mr. Pure-Righteous; Romans; Other tax collectors and outcasts; traders; people of Little Paradise (Jericho); blind man; and, Jesus and his disciples.

And now we present: "The Case of the Tiny Terror."

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

Little Paradise was famous for its balsam trees from which medicine and some of the world's best perfume was made. Men fought and died to own the balsam trees. Whoever owned them made a lot of money. At the time of our story, the Romans ruled over the Jews. They got lots of tax money from everything that was bought and sold in Israel. Little Paradise was the third richest tax station because of the money made from the balsam trees and all the traders who passed through there. The Jews hated the tax collectors. The Romans didn't want to deal with the Jews, so they got other Jews to be tax collectors for them. They allowed them to squeeze as much money as they could and could keep whatever extra they got. A Jewish man named Mr. Pure- Righteous was the head tax collector in Little Paradise. He became very, very rich from tax collecting...and very, very hated, too. His name should have been Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous he was so wicked. No one but other tax collectors and outcasts would come near him. He was not allowed to worship in the synagogue or in the Temple. He couldn't even eat with other Jews or step into their house w/o making them unclean—unacceptable before God—the other Jews thought. There seemed to be no hope for him.

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

One day, exciting news spread through town. Jesus and His disciples along with other Jews were about to pass through Little Paradise on their way to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. Jesus had just healed the blind beggar who sat near the road on the edge of town. The streets filled up with crowds wanting to see Jesus, walking along with his disciples and the healed blind man. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous came out to the street to see Jesus, too, but he was too short to see over the crowds and too hated (and unclean) for anyone to let him through to the front. He became so desperate to see Jesus that he ran down the road and climbed up a mulberry-fig tree.

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

From the tree he could see Jesus, but be hidden from Jesus and the crowd, too. After all, he was Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous. Jesus came to where he was, looked up and called him by name to come down and asked him to let stay at his house. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous rejoiced and quickly came down the tree. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous turned from his sins, believed in Jesus and was forgiven. Now he became Mr. Pure Righteous because Jesus had taken away his sins. The people grumbled that Jesus had stayed at the house of such a wicked, unclean man as Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous. Jesus knew the people were wrong. He had come to seek and save lost sinners like this man. Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous stood up before them and Jesus and showed that he had become Mr. Pure-Righteous thru Jesus. He promised to give away half of his money to the poor and use the other half to pay back everyone he had wronged four times what he had taken.

**Bible Truth Tie-In:** The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Created Us as Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers.** The people of Little Paradise were wrong in thinking that Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was too great of a lawbreaker to be worthy of seeing Jesus. Jesus knew that all those people were lawbreakers in need of a Savior. He had come to seek and save people who knew they were lost in their sins.

## Down from the Tree and into His House

### Description

Children will make a picture of Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous coming down from the tree to take Jesus to his house.

### Materials

Copy of pictures, 1 set per child  
Cardstock  
One large  
Scissors  
Markers  
Pencils  
One butterfly paper "brad" per child  
Clear tape (optional)

### Preparing the Craft

1. Copy picture onto the cardstock (or other paper).
2. Cut out picture of Zacchaeus for youngest children.
3. Set out coloring supplies, glue and pencils.
4. Make a copy of the craft.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the children a copy of the craft.
2. Have the children color the scene and Zacchaeus. Children can color in their own leaves and other details to the scene.
3. Carefully cut out slit in paper. (teacher does this for younger children). If desired, reinforce the sides of the slit with the clear tape. (Not as necessary if you use cardstock because it is sturdy.)
4. Place "Unpure-Unrighteous" on top of the paper strip, lining up the black dots. Use the brad to pierce through both pieces of paper at the black dot, with ends coming through to the back side of the paper strip. Spread out wings of the brad to secure in place.
5. From the back side of the picture, slip Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous through the slit and into place in the tree. The paper strip stays back behind the picture. The children can slide him down the slit, out of the tree and to his house.

### 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. Who hid up in a tree? Why?

*Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous (Zacchaeus). He was too short to see over the crowd; and, he probably was happy to hide from both Jesus and the crowd because of what a great sinner he was.*

2. What surprising thing did Jesus say to Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous?

*To come down from the tree and take Him to his house to stay.*

3. What did the people of Little Paradise do when Jesus went to stay with Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous? Why? *They grumbled. They thought a great teacher like Jesus shouldn't have anything to do with a terrible sinner like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous.*

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?

*God Created Us as Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers.*

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Created Us Perfect Lawkeepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers?

*The people were wrong to think Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was too wicked for Jesus to help. It wasn't just people like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous who are lawbreakers. They—like all people—are all lawbreakers who do not deserve Jesus' help. Jesus came to seek and save any person lost in their sins who will turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior.*

6. What can our craft help us remember?

*There is never anyone—no matter how wicked—who cannot receive forgiveness and eternal life, if they truly turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as 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: Down from the Tree, Into the House.

2. In Little Paradise, the people grumbled when Jesus told Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous to come down from the tree and take Him to his house to stay. They thought a great teacher like Jesus shouldn't have anything to do with a terrible sinner like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous.

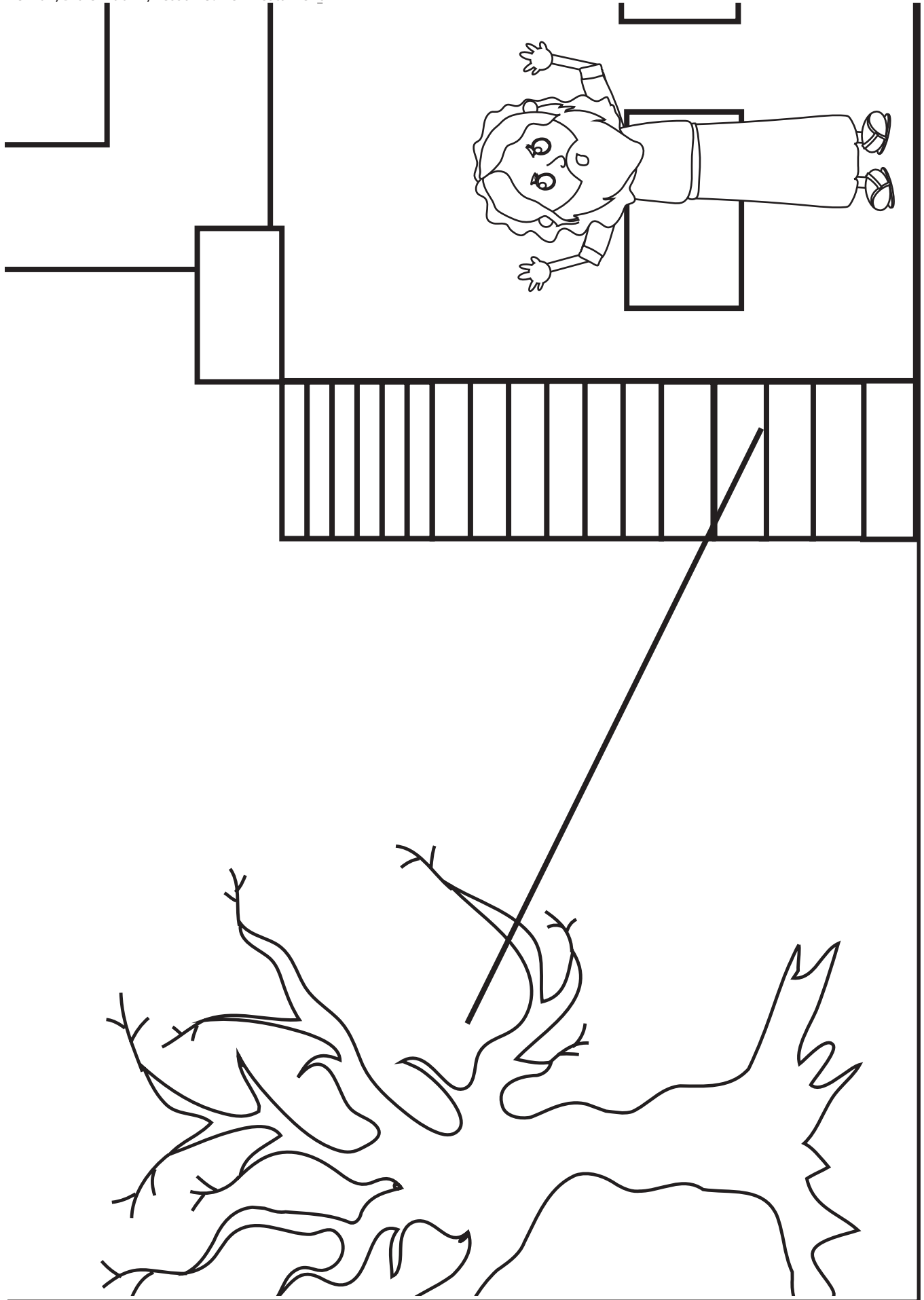
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Created Us as Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers.

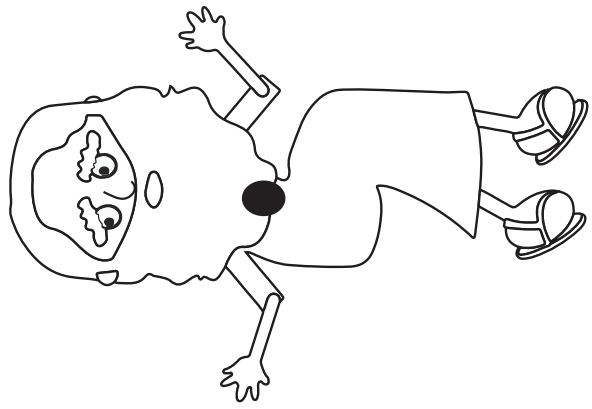
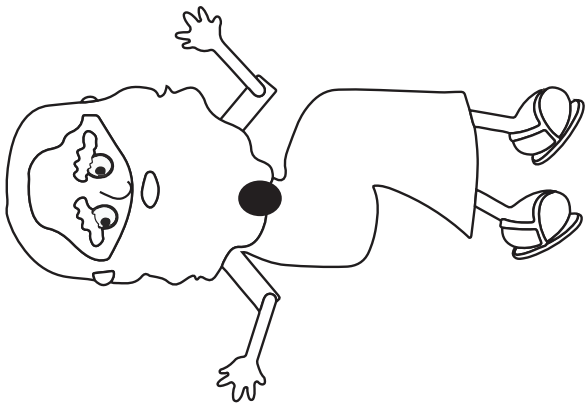
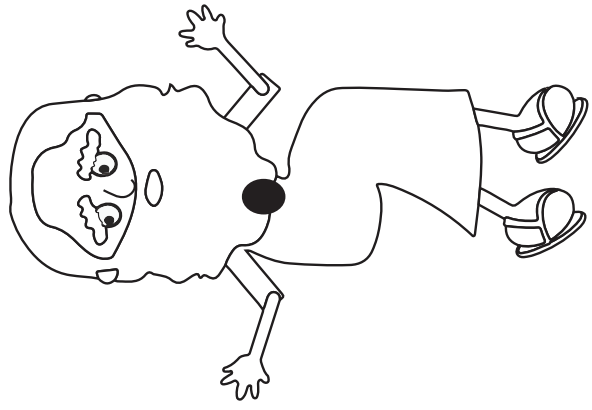
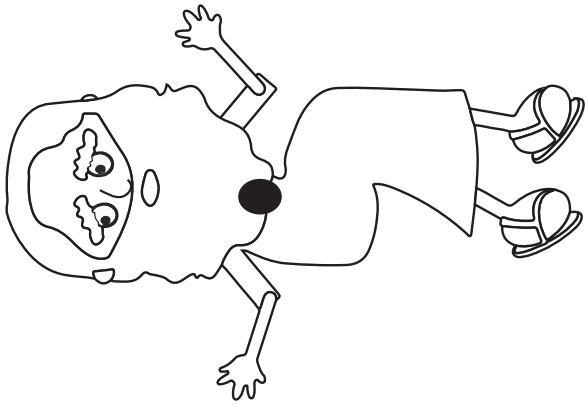
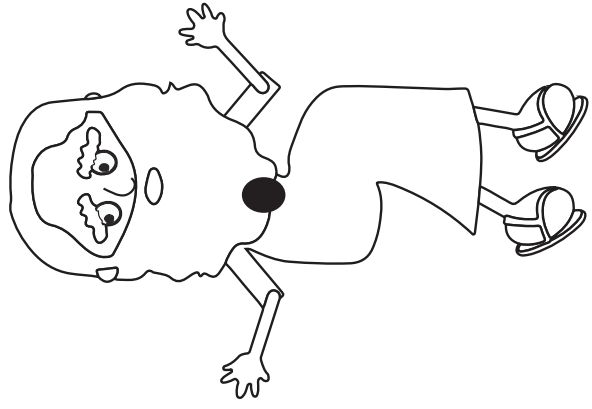
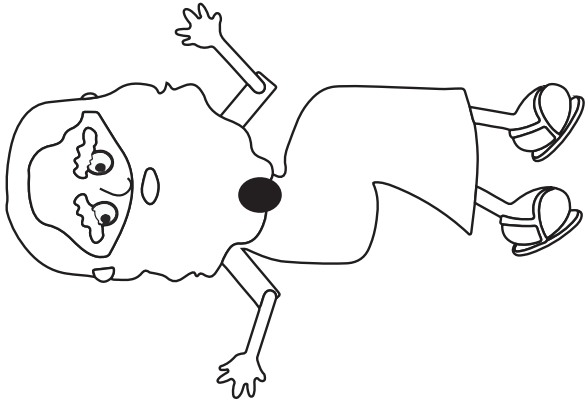
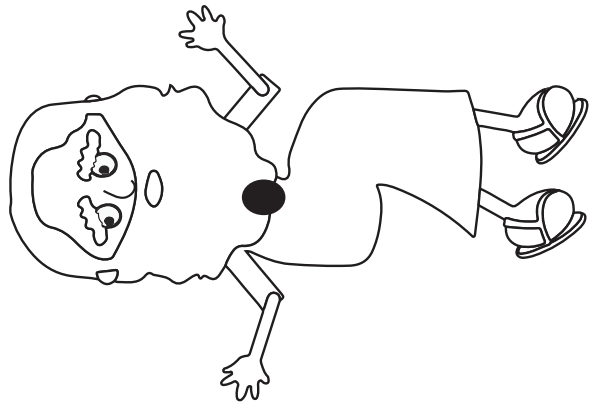
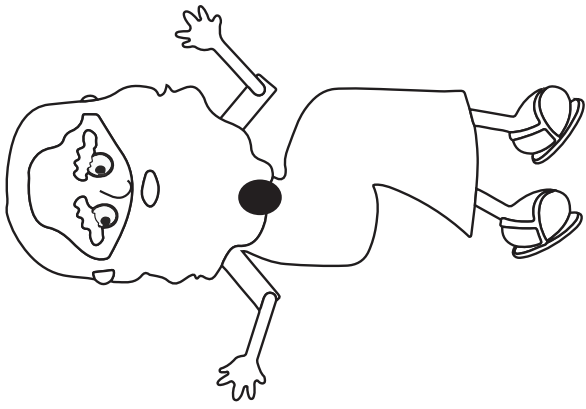
4. The people were wrong to think Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous was too wicked for Jesus to help. It wasn't just people like Mr. Unpure-Unrighteous who are lawbreakers. They—like all people—are all lawbreakers who do not deserve Jesus' help. Jesus came to seek and save any person lost in their sins who will turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior.

5. Our craft can help us remember that there is never anyone—no matter how wicked—who cannot receive forgiveness and eternal life, if they truly turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as 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.







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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Game: Crabbin' Around

### Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

### Preparing the Game

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

### Playing the Game

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

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

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

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

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

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

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

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**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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