

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 2: 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: Psalm 19:7,9,10,11 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 4: Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, vs.1,2 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 14,15*

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 3:18

Bible Verse Song: For Christ Died for Sin *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 16*

Extra Bible Verse Song: Observing the Law: Romans 3:20-23 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 17*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Snow Covering the Ground

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: Amazing Grace, vs.1,2 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 14,15*

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

Bible Verse Review: 1 Peter 3:18 Discussion Sheet and Game: Puzzling Wall Ball

Bible Verse Song: For Christ Died for Sin 1 Peter 3:18 *PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 16*

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

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Give These to Farmer Brown

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: White Snow Covering the Dark Earth

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book); Game: Over, Under & Throw

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was out in the snowstorm? How did he change his plans because it was so persistent? (i.e. because it wouldn't stop).
2. What did this man learn that changed his life? What did the snow remind him of?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in 1850 in Colchester, England.

Not even a shadow of hope. That's how Charles felt. How could he ever get rid of his guilty conscience? It weighed down upon him like a heavy burden. Yet nothing he did seemed to help. He got up early in the morning to read good books about God--maybe they would tell him what to do. He tried really hard to do good things and love God--maybe being a good person would help. He sought God for six months, praying: "Lord, save me!" Yet not even then was there peace. His guilty conscience remained. Still Charles felt not even a shadow of hope.

The more Charles thought about himself, the less hope he had. "God is just and holy. I am a sinner; a lawbreaker. No matter how hard I try, I still rebel against Him. Wouldn't He be unfair to save someone like me?" So on Charles went, with not even a shadow of hope.

One day Charles got caught out in a snowstorm. He watched the dark ground change to dazzling white as the flakes covered it up. "My heart is dark with sin as the ground is dark with soil. If only my sin could be covered up and my heart changed to be white as snow! But how? How could God change my heart? How will there ever be any hope for me?" he wondered.

Even though Charles felt so hopeless, he didn't give up seeking peace for his guilty conscience and forgiveness for his sins. "I will visit every church in town, a different one each Sunday," Charles decided. "Perhaps in one of them I will find what I am looking for." So that's what he did. Charles went to big churches and small churches of all kinds. He heard many good messages. One man preached about God being in control of all things; another preached that Christians should live out their love to God by obeying His Law; and yet

another about the glorious riches that await Christians in heaven with Jesus. But never did Charles hear how a he might find peace for his guilty conscience and forgiveness for his sins. "If these pastors don't give me the answer, then who can? "If the Lord won't answer my prayers, then what can be done?" Charles wondered. "Perhaps I really am beyond "even a shadow of hope."

But of course the Lord was answering Charles' prayers, but in His perfect timing. On one particular Sunday in January, just weeks after the snowstorm, the Lord at last gave Charles the answer he was seeking. Charles arose as usual and prepared to visit the next church on his list. Perhaps today would be the day where he would hear the words he longed to hear.

"Snow again!" Charles thought as he looked out the window at the heavy snow falling. "I better bundle up. It's a very long walk to the church I'm visiting today."

A blast of cold and snowflakes hit Charles in the face as he opened the door of the house. It was enough of a storm to keep many at home, but not Charles. The burden of his sins and his guilty conscience troubled him far more than any storm. So Charles went out into the storm and headed down the street towards church.

Heavier and heavier the snow fell. The cobbled streets, usually filled with people going to church, were almost completely deserted. Still Charles tramped on. He didn't like the snow, wind and cold, but he wanted nothing more than to be beyond "not even a shadow of hope."

The snow piled up onto Charles' ankles and calves now. It was getting hard to walk and he was so cold! It was still such a long way to the church he had chosen! Charles paused to decide whether to keep going or turn back. As he did, he noticed a little chapel nearby.

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.

STORY OF THE SAINTS

He had heard about this chapel but hadn't put it on his list to visit...and for very good reason, he thought. It was said that the people there sang hymns so loudly that it made your head ache-- which Charles felt he could do better without. But the thought of some place, warm, dry and nearby was worth chancing a headache, decided Charles, as headed for its door.

Inside the plain, little chapel, Charles found only a dozen or so people who had braved the storm like he. As the service began, Charles settled himself on a pew near the back. After some hardy hymn-singing and prayers, it was time for the sermon. But where was the pastor? He still had not appeared. Apparently the storm had gotten the best of him.

At last, after a long silence a very thin-looking man, a shoemaker or tailor or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. He was a very simple man with little education of any kind. He stuck closely to the short Bible verse he chose to preach upon, for he knew so little to say. "Look unto Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth," he read.

The man did not even say the words correctly, but that did not matter to Charles. "There is a glimpse of hope for me in that verse. Perhaps this man will tell me what I want to know," Charles thought as he listened.

"My dear friends," the man continued, "this is a very simple verse indeed. It says, 'Look. Now lookin' don't take a deal of pains. It ain't liftin' your foot or your finger; it is just, 'Look.' Well, you can look. A man needn't be worth a lot of money to be able to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look. But then the verse says, 'Look unto Me.' Ay!" said he, "many of you are lookin' to yourselves, but it's no use lookin' there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves. But Jesus Christ say, 'Look unto Me. I am sweatin' great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hangin' on the cross. Look unto Me; I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend to Heaven. Look unto Me; I am sittin' at the Father's right hand. O poor sinner, look unto Me! Look unto Me!" the man said.

When the thin man had gone on like that for about ten minutes he had little else to say. Then he looked straight at Charles. They were strangers; and yet, it was as if the Lord had allowed that simple man to know all

of Charles' heart. "Young man," he said to Charles, "you look very miserable. You will always be miserable in life and in death if you don't obey the words of this verse.

But, if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." Then, lifting up his hands, he shouted, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothin' to do but to look and live."

At once Charles saw the way of salvation. And oh, he looked until he could almost have looked his eyes away. There and then the cloud of sin was gone, the darkness of guilt rolled away, and that moment he knew peace from guilt and forgiveness of his sins.

Charles felt as if he could have sprung from the seat on which he sat, and called out: "I am forgiven! I am forgiven! There was no shadow of hope for me when I depended upon myself. There is no way to ever be for sinners to be good enough to satisfy the holy God with their own good deeds. But Jesus Christ, He kept God's laws perfectly. He never sinned. On the cross He offered up His life as the perfect sacrifice for my sins! By His grace, He has done for me what I could never do for myself. Through Christ, there is not only a shadow of hope; there is hope so great that no one can measure it! It is infinite; it is forever!" he knew. At last God had given Charles what he was looking for: peace for his guilty conscience; forgiveness of his sins--all through Jesus Christ.

When the service was over, Charles stepped out of the warm building and back into the wild storm. The snow had gotten much deeper while he had been at church. It would be a difficult trip home. But it wasn't the snow's depth that Charles was thinking about right then; it was its color: white! Pure, dazzling, white! Just like his heart was, now that he had looked to Christ and been forgiven. The darkness of guilt and sin were more than covered over. They were gone, once and for all! Charles felt as if he could dance through its fluffy banks all the way home. Praise God! Through Jesus, even he, Charles Spurgeon, was far beyond "not even a shadow of hope!" And he was never going back.

Charles Spurgeon grew up to be one of the greatest preachers of all time. To know God and to tell others about peace for guilty consciences and forgiveness of sins through Jesus became one of his greatest pleasures

in life. He had no fear to share this good news with the mightiest prince or the poorest beggar on the street. All people were without even a shadow of hope of salvation unless they looked to Christ for forgiveness of their sins. He wanted to make sure every person he met knew this offer of hope, too.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

- 1. Who was out in the snowstorm? How did he change his plans because it was so persistent? (i.e. because it wouldn't stop).** Charles Spurgeon. He went to a completely different church for Sunday services.
- 2. What did this man learn that changed his life? What did the snow remind him of?** He heard that God forgave sinners, not based on their works, but on Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross. The white snow that covered the dark earth reminded him of how God had covered over his sins forever through Jesus.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: Jesus Kept God's Laws Perfectly So

by His Grace He Could Save God's People

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

Thousands of people received peace of heart, forgiveness of sins and the delight of knowing the Lord through Charles Spurgeon's faithful witness. What about you and me? Who do we know who needs to hear about Jesus? Who will tell them if not us? Do we think we are not smart enough or old enough to share about Jesus? Think about the simple man who spoke in little chapel the day of the snowstorm. Do we think no one will listen when we share? Look at what the Lord did for Charles Spurgeon?

Let's praise God for offering to forgive us through Jesus. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him to help us share with boldness His wonderful offer of salvation with others, too, that they might be saved.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the worker of all things for the good of His people. We praise You for even using a bad snowstorm to bring the thin man to preach and Charles to hear to the good news of the gospel and be saved.

C God, we confess that like Charles, we are sinners. We cannot live lives that please You by our own good works. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You that You offer us salvation through Jesus. We don't have to depend upon our own good works. We can depend upon Jesus!

S God, work in our hearts that we see our sin, turn away from it and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Forgive us our sins. Make our hearts clean and fresh, like the white snow that covered the dark ground, as Charles walked through it on his way home.

Special Words

Conscience: The sense of right and wrong that God created all people with.

Chapel: A small church.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being so merciful! You, Yourself, provided the perfect sacrifice for sin.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we are lawbreakers who could never please You with our own keeping of Your laws. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, Jesus for offering up Your life as the perfect sacrifice for all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in You as their Savior.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts, that we might all turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack relates to the story?

Snack: Snow Covering the Ground

Whipped cream “snow” covering up small cup of sugar-free chocolate pudding with chocolate sandwich cookie crumbles “black soil.”!

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

Case Tie-in: Charles looked down at the white snow covering the dark ground and rejoiced that through Jesus, God had forgiven the sins of his heart and made it clean and fresh through Jesus. Jesus did for him what he could never do for himself.

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.

Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People

From the time Adam and Eve became lawbreakers, people have offered sacrifices for their sins.

God's laws tell us there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. God commanded the Israelites to offer up the blood of animals when they sinned, as a sign of their desire to turn from their sins and trust in Him to save them. God received their offerings, given in repentance and faith, and allowed them to remain in fellowship with Him.

But the blood of animals could never take away the sins of a human. Only the blood of a human who lived God's laws perfectly and offered up his life in the sinner's place could do that. God, in His mercy, did just this. He sent His Son Jesus to take on human flesh and be that perfect sacrifice for sins.

Jesus was fully God and fully human. He was perfect; He was not born with a sinful heart like us. Jesus kept all of God's laws. He loved God and others perfectly. He fulfilled all of God's Law with His life. He offered up His life on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for God's people's sins. He took upon Himself the punishment they deserved that they might be forgiven their sins once and for all. On the third day, God raised Jesus, showing that the power of sin and death had indeed been broken by His perfect sacrifice.

None of us will ever be able to earn salvation with a perfectly lived life, but each of us can have salvation through God's grace—His undeserved gift of salvation to sinners—if we come to Him in repentance and faith in Jesus.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What did people offer from the time of Adam and Eve? *Sacrifices for sin.*
2. What do God's laws tell us must be shed for there to be forgiveness of sin? *Blood.*
3. Why did God command the Israelites to offer up the blood of animals when they sinned? *As a sign of their desire to turn from their sins and trust Him to save them.*
4. What did God look for in their hearts to go with their sacrifices for sin? *Repentance (turning from their sins) and faith in Him.*
5. What did God do when He accepted the offerings of animal blood? *He allowed them to remain in fellowship with Him.*
6. What couldn't the blood of animals take away? What could? *It could never take away sins. That could only be done by the blood of a human who lived God's laws perfectly and offered up his life in the sinner's place.*
7. Why did God accept Jesus' offering of His blood as payment for the sins of His people? *Jesus was perfect. He always loved God and others. He kept God's laws perfectly.*
8. What did Jesus take upon Himself on the cross? *All the punishment for God's people's sins.*
9. How do we know that Jesus made the perfect sacrifice and broke the power of sin and death? *God raised Him from the dead.*
10. Why can't we earn our own salvation? *We are all sinners. We do not live the perfect life God justly requires of us.*
11. How can we be saved? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus, receiving God's gift of salvation through Him.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. Why did Charles think it would be unfair for God to save him? *He knew he was a sinner and God was holy. God would have to overlook his sins to save him, if He saved him just on who he was and how he lived.*
2. What did Charles understand for the first time when he heard the simple man preach? *That God offered him salvation not because of his good works, but because of Jesus. Jesus paid for his sins when He died on the cross so that Charles could receive salvation by His grace, the outpouring of His love to undeserving sinners.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 3:18**: "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."?
For hundreds of years, the people of Israel sacrificed animals to stay in fellowship with the LORD, but they never could actually take away the sins of God's people. Only Jesus could do this, as the Son of God and a perfect human. He died once for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. This is how Jesus brought God's people into true and everlasting fellowship with God.

Life Application Questions

1. Can anyone be too sinful to be saved? Why or why not? *No. Any who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be saved—no matter what they have done.*

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being so merciful that He, Himself, provided the perfect sacrifice for sin.

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

Confess ways that we have broken God's Law this week. Confess that we are lawbreakers who cannot save ourselves. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!

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

Thank Jesus for offering up His life as the perfect sacrifice for His people's sins.

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

Ask God to work in our hearts, that we might all turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who cannot please God with our lives. 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: Storks

Materials

Three large, but soft balls
Tape
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, each on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. One team is "The Hunters". The other team is "The Storks." The hunters have three balls and they are to stand about twenty feet away from the storks, who are lined up, similarly to ten bowling pins. Storks are to balance on one leg without leaning on anything. They can switch from leg to leg, but must stand on both at the same time. Read a question to the hunters. If they get it right, then one of the hunters gets three chances (3 balls) to roll the ball at the storks FAIRLY GENTLY and try to get them to put their other foot down. The Hunters score as many points as storks who lost their balance and put their foot down. Sides get switched when all the Hunters have had a turn: or, when they have been stumped by a question.

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.

Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind but now I see.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 7, Tracks 14,15

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Understanding the Song

1. What is grace? *Being treated with favor or given a gift that you could never deserve.*
2. What is a wretch? *A person who has done bad things and deserves nothing. A person who is bad trouble and can't get out of it.*
3. What was the wretch saved from? *From the punishment he deserved from God for the bad things he had done; and, from the trouble his sins had gotten him into.*
4. Who saved this wretch and how? *Jesus died on the cross to pay for his sins and the Holy Spirit worked in his heart that he might see his sins, turn from them and believe in Jesus.*
5. How is being a sinner like being "lost" and becoming one of God's people like being found? *All people were made to know and love God, yet they rebelled against Him and cut themselves off from Him. Now, unless God works in their hearts to help them believe in Jesus and receive forgiveness for sins, they will live their lives apart from God and His blessings, like someone lost out on their own away from their home. But, when someone does turn to God and believe in Jesus, they come to know God again and all the blessings that come with knowing Him. That is like being found and brought back to your wonderful home after being lost out on your own.*
6. What kind of "blindness" and "seeing" did the wretch have? *Spiritual blindness—not being able to know that you are a sinner or know God. Spiritual sight—being able to know that you are a sinner and able to know God.*
7. What three things did God in His grace "do" in the wretch's heart (verse 2)? *Made his heart to fear God's wrath against his sin; relieved his fears as he learned about Jesus' offer of forgiveness to those who believe in Him; and, worked in his heart that he would believe in Jesus as his Savior.*
8. How did God in His grace "do" these things in the wretch's heart? *By His Holy Spirit, working in his heart.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: Jesus Kept God's Laws Perfectly So That By His Grace, He Could Save God's People**? *We would all be lost in our sins and rebellion forever if it were not for God sending His Son Jesus. Jesus kept God's laws perfectly and offered up Himself as the perfect sacrifice needed for sin. Then He gives to all who repent of their sins and trust in Him the amazingly gracious gift of salvation. He first gives them "sight" to make them aware of their sinfulness and to fear His judgment, then as they turn to Him, He relieves their fears by taking away their guilt the hour they believe.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to our story? *The burden of guilt upon Charles made him feel like a wretch! He felt that he was beyond even a shadow of hope. He feared God's judgment upon his sins, knowing that he could never live in a way to deserve salvation. Charles felt his prayers for help weren't being heard, but they were. For it was God's grace that taught his heart to fear (and know his sins). One snowy day, Charles listened to a simple man preach on trusting in Christ what He did on the cross as the way to be saved. Charles felt as if he had been blind and now could see. Salvation was not to be found in himself, it was to be found by looking to Jesus and trusting Him. As he believed that day, his fears were relieved. He was filled with joy. How very precious did God's amazing grace appear to him that day!*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 Peter 3:18**: *"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*

God, in His kind grace, shows His people that they are "wretches" before Him—they are sinners deserving His punishment. When they see they deserve His punishment it causes them to fear. But God does not leave His people there. Through His Word and others sharing the good news of Jesus with them, they hear how God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. They are forgiven! They will not face God's punishment! This relieves their fears from the hour they believe. How amazing is God's grace given to them through Jesus!

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the Giver of Amazing Grace, enough to save His sinful people.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *We can confess that many times we are blind to our sins, not even seeing them. We need God's grace! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God for showing His people their sins, helping them fear His punishment, and then forgiving their sins through Jesus. We can thank God for the gift of faith, given to His people, by His grace.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *That God would work in our hearts that we might see our sins, turn from them and trust Jesus as our Savior*

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We thank God for His amazing grace shown to sinners and ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might see our sins, turn from them and believe in Jesus as our own Savior, like the person in this song.*

Gospel Question

1. What is God's amazing grace that brings salvation? 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: 1 Peter 3:18

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does Christ mean? *Christ is the Greek word that means the same thing as Messiah in Hebrew. It means “Sent One” and is the name for the special anointed one who God would send to save His people.*
2. Who is the Christ? What did He die for? *Jesus. For sins.*
3. What does it mean that He suffered once for sins “once for all?” *That no one had to die again for sins. His sacrifice was enough.*
4. What does righteous mean? *To love God and live according to His laws.*
5. Who is the righteous one who died for the unrighteous? *Christ.*
6. Who is unrighteous? *All of us. We do not love God or live according to His laws as we should.*
7. Why did Christ die for the unrighteous? *To bring us to God.*
8. What does it “bring us to God” mean? *In this life, to take away the barrier of your guilt and sin so that you can know and love God and have the Holy Spirit in your heart. After we die, it means that we are really brought to live with God in His glorious presence forever and ever.*
9. Why did we need Christ to bring us to God? *We are all lawbreakers. Our sins keep us from being able to come to God. Christ was without sin. He was righteous. Only He could offer up His life as the perfect substitute and sacrifice in our place. He is the only way we can come to God.*
10. Who is “you” in this verse? *This verse comes from a letter Peter wrote to Christians in Asia, but it applies to all believers. All who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
11. Did anyone “make” Jesus die? *God the Father and God the Son (Christ) chose for Him to do this from before the creation of the world.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: Jesus Kept God’s Laws Perfectly So That By His Grace, He Could Save God’s People?** *Jesus chose to suffer and die on the cross as the perfect substitute for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior. He alone is righteous. He alone kept God’s laws perfectly, so he alone could bring us to God. He knew none of us could never pay for our own sins. We would never be able to come to God on our own. So He chose to give up His life to give them salvation by His grace--His free gift given to undeserving sinners, like you and me. Yes, He would bring us to God.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Charles struggle to see how God could ever accept him. He knew he was a sinner and that he did not deserve to be saved. He thought God would be unfair to save him since he couldn’t be good enough. But at last, at the little chapel on that snowy Sunday, he understood that he needed to look to Christ in faith. He was completely righteous. He had come to die in the place of the unrighteous to bring them to God. Charles believed and was saved. He spent the rest of his life proclaiming Christ’s death for sinners who repent and believe in Him.*

Life Application Questions

1. Is there anyone too unrighteous for Christ to be unable to save? Why? *No. Christ’s death was enough for anyone who turns from their sins and trusts in Him, no matter how much evil they have done. We have sinful hearts that want to turn away from God and live our own way.*
2. Is there anyone so righteous that they do not need to be saved? Why? *No. Even someone who does many good things is a sinner. They can never be perfect, so they will never be able to save themselves.*
3. How do you think of yourself as righteous or unrighteous? How does God think of you? *If you are not a Christian, God thinks of you as still unrighteous in your own sins. If you are a Christian, He thinks of you as righteous through Christ. He does not hold your sins against you any more.*
4. What can we receive God’s forgiveness for our unrighteous acts? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being the Sender of Jesus to bring the unrighteous to God.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Ways that we have been unrighteous this week.. 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 not just giving His unrighteous people the punishment they deserve, but providing the righteousness of Jesus to pay for their sins.*
3. *We can thank God not just giving His unrighteous people the punishment they deserve, but providing the righteousness of Jesus to pay for their sins.*
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 unrighteousness—from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior, that we might be brought (know) to God to live forever with Him.

The Gospel

1. What did Jesus do so that sinners can be forgiven their sins instead of facing God's eternal punishment? 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: Puzzling Wall Ball

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

Three 11.5" x 17" pieces of construction paper, two pieces of one color for each team

Masking Tape

Small Nerf Ball or other soft ball

Marker

Use masking tape to lightly tape the pieces to a wall, mixing up colors

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

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

Divide the children into teams. Explain to them that they are going to take turns trying to hit pieces of their team's colored puzzle pieces with the ball. Each time they hit one of their team's pieces, that piece is removed from the wall and fit into their puzzle. Have the entire group say the verse before each child takes a turn.

Game continues until one team has completed their puzzle, or as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Use only one copy of the verse and one puzzle to make. Have everyone work together on the puzzle until completed.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

For Christ Died for Sins

For Christ died for sins, once for all,
 The righteous for the unrighteous,
 To bring you to God,
 Bring you to God,
 For Christ died to bring you to God.
 First Peter Three, eighteen..

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 7, Track 16

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 for the 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.

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. What troubled Charles? *The burden of guilt for his sins.*
2. What did Charles do to get rid of his guilt? *He tried to do lots of good works and tried to love God more.*
3. What did Charles do to find out how to get rid of his guilt? *He got up early and read books about God; he prayed to God; he made a list of churches to visit where he might hear about what to do.*
4. What did Charles pray to God? Why did he think God wasn't answering him? *To show him how to take away the guilt of his sins/to take away the guilt of his sins. He thought God wasn't answering him because in six months of praying, he still didn't have an answer.*
5. Was God really not answering Charles' prayers? Why or why not? *God was answering Charles prayers, but He was doing it according to His perfect timing.*
6. Why did Charles think it would be unfair for God to save him? *He knew he was a lawbreaker and God was holy. He knew God must punish his sins, so how could He forgive him if his sins weren't paid for?*
7. Why did Charles think when he got caught in the first snowstorm? *He wished something could cover up his sins like the snow covered up the dark earth.*
8. What were the messages like in the churches he first visited? *They were all good, but none told just how a sinner can find forgiveness of sins.*
9. Why did Charles decide to go to church even though it was snowing so hard? *The burden of guilt and sin in his heart was worse than the cold. He didn't want to miss a chance to hear how he might be saved.*
10. Why had Charles not wanted to go to the little chapel? What changed his mind this Sunday? *He had heard they sing so loud that he would get a headache. He decided he would rather be warm and would risk the headache.*
11. Why didn't the pastor show up to preach? *The snow kept him from getting there.*
12. Why did the thin man decide to preach? He decided it was better that someone said something about the good news of Jesus, even if he wasn't a pastor.
13. What was the thin man's sermon like? *Very simple; mispronounced words; repeated the same thing a lot; focused on what Jesus did on the cross and our need to look to Him (trust Him) as our Savior.*
14. What did the thin man say to Charles? *He looked very miserable and would be unless he looked to Christ.*
15. What did Charles finally understand about salvation from the thin man's sermon? *That Jesus did the work of salvation by giving up His life, so that He could give eternal life as a free gift to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. It was not about what Charles did for himself; it was about what God did for him through Jesus.*
16. What happened to Charles as he heard the thin man's sermon? *He did "look to Christ." As he trusted in Him for salvation, at last the guilt of his sins was taken away. God filled his heart with joy.*
17. What did Charles think as went back into the snowstorm after the church service? *That God had answered his prayers. He had done even more than cover up his sins, like the snow covered the ground. He had completely done away with them, once and for all.*
18. What did Charles do with the rest of his life? *He became one of the most famous preachers in the whole world. He loved to share the good news of Jesus with everyone from prince to beggar.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Charles tried many things to get rid of his guilt and deserve God's forgiveness, but nothing worked. He knew he was a lawbreaker and could never deserve salvation. He thought it would be unfair for God to save him if it meant He just forgot about his sins. It was not until he heard the simple man's message to "look to Christ" that he finally understood. Jesus kept God's law completely. He offered up His life as the perfect substitute for His people's sins. Salvation was his free gift to all who, in repentance and faith, "looked to Him" as their savior. Charles did this and God took away his guilt, forgave his sins, and filled him with the peace, joy and love of God by the Holy Spirit come to live in his heart.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 Peter 3:18**: "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."?

Charles struggle to see how God could ever accept him. He knew he was a sinner and that he did not deserve to be saved. He thought God would be unfair to save him since he couldn't be good enough. But at last, at the little chapel on that snowy Sunday, he understood that he needed to look to Christ in faith. He was completely righteous. He had come to die in the place of the unrighteous to bring them to God. Charles believed and was saved. He spent the rest of his life proclaiming Christ's death for sinners who repent and believe in Him.

Life Application Questions

1. How can the way the Lord used the simple man be an encouragement to us? *We can be encouraged that it is not just very smart people or pastors who the Lord uses to bring people to know Him. He can use the simplest person who is willing to share the good news. He can use even us; and will, if we are willing.*

2. What is the good news of salvation that God wants us to believe and to tell others? *That He saves from their sins all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?

Praise God for being the Worker of all things for the good of His people. Praise Him for using a bad snowstorm to bring the thin man to preach and Charles to listen to the good news of Jesus, that he would be saved.

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that many times, like Charles, we are sinners who cannot live lives that please God. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for offering salvation to all who come to Him in repentance and faith, like Charles... and like us!*

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 forgive our sins and make our hearts clean and fresh, like the white snow that covered the dark ground, as Charles walked through it.

The Gospel

1. We are all sinners who cannot please God by living a good enough life, just like Charles knew. What hope did Charles find? What hope can we find? 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: Give These to Farmer Brown**Materials**

Straw hat
 Small Plastic Shovel, gardening glove or other farming implement,
 Shoe box or equivalent...or play clay
 20 Drinking straws
 20 Scraps of Construction paper
 Tape
 Paper and Marker
 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. Make 20 flowers, using construction paper to make blossoms and taping them to drinking straw stems. Write a number on each flower that will correspond to each Story Review Question. Cut small slits in the top of the shoe box and stick each flower stem into one (or, take small lumps of clay and stick on bottom of stems for free-standing flowers.) Place the flowers in what will be the center of your circle.
3. Number the Story Review questions from 1-20.

Playing the Game

Have the children sit in a circle. Put the straw hat on your head and turn to the child on your right in the circle and say, "Give this to Farmer Brown!" Take the hat off and place it on the child's head. Tell him to pass it on, repeating the same phrase and taking off the hat and placing it on the next child's head. Then, put the glove/hold the shovel and turn to the child to your LEFT as say, "Give this to Farmer Brown". Take off the glove(shovel) and pass it over to the child and tell them to pass it on. That child continues to pass the glove/shovel to the left. At some point, the hat going to the right and the glove/shovel going to the right will meet at the same child. That child is " leader reads the question with the same number for the child to answer. Allow children to choose someone to help them with the answer if they are having difficulty.

Game continues until all children get to pick a flower; or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**P.1**

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 called: The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm.

Our story takes place in Colchester, England in 1850.

And now we present: "The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm."

Scene 1:

The weight of his sin and his guilty conscience weighed Charles down like a heavy burden. He felt like there was not even a shadow of hope for himself. He tried many things to find peace and forgiveness. He got up early to read books about God. He tried harder and harder to do good things and love God. He prayed to God to help him. But nothing seemed to help. He still felt there was not even a shadow of hope for himself. Watching the white snow cover up the black soil during a snowstorm made him wish that something could cover up the blackness of his sin and change his heart to clean, white as snow. He decided to visit every church in Colchester to see if anyone could tell him how a poor sinner could be forgiven his sins and find peace. He heard many good messages, but no one told just how to be saved. One Sunday another snowstorm hit. Charles didn't let the snow and wind keep him home. He was determined to visit the next church on his list, even though it was very far away. He bundled up and headed out into the storm.

Scene 2:

As the storm worsened, Charles began to think he couldn't make it. When he paused to decide what to do, he happened to see a little chapel down a side street. He had not wanted to go to that chapel because he heard they sang so loud you would get a headache; but now, he chose its closeness and warmth over any worry about a headache. There were only a dozen or so people in the chapel. Charles sat down on a pew in the back. After hearty singing and prayers, it was time for the sermon. The pastor never came forward, kept home by the storm. So a thin-looking, simple man stood up to give a message. "Look unto Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth," " he read from the Bible. He had little education and could not even pronounce words correctly, but he read his passage and then preached on it. Charles began to hope that this man would tell him how to be saved. For 10 minutes the man preached. He told how salvation came only from looking to Jesus as Savior and trusting in what He did on the cross. They would never find it by looking to themselves. He looked at Charles and saw how miserable he looked. He told him that he would stay miserable until he "looked to Christ."

Scene 3

Charles at last understood. He "looked to Christ" that very moment, trusting in His perfect sacrifice, made for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. Peace and forgiveness flooded his heart at last! He was so happy he could have jumped for joy. As he left the chapel and headed towards home in the snow, he realized that at last the black sin in his heart had been covered and made dazzling white clean, just like the snow covered the ground. By trusting in Jesus, he had come beyond "not even a shadow of hope." to have an infinite and eternal hope. Charles Spurgeon became a preacher who made it his passion to tell everyone from princes to beggars how they might find peace and forgiveness. The Lord saved thousands of people through his preaching.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People** It wasn't until the thin man preached at the little chapel that Charles understood that Jesus had paid for sins with His perfect life. Salvation was a free gift given to all who placed their trust in Jesus.

Actions:

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

Welcome to our Case Story Re-Action! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm.

Our story takes place in Colchester, England in 1850.

The characters in our story are: Charles Spurgeon, Ministers, the thin man, people in the little chapel, thousands of people, including princes and beggars

And now we present: "The Case of The Case of the Persistent Snowstorm.

Scene 1: (Beginning)

The weight of his sin and his guilty conscience weighed Charles down like a heavy burden. He felt like there was not even a shadow of hope for himself. He tried many things to find peace and forgiveness. He got up early to read books about God. He tried harder and harder to do good things and love God. He prayed to God to help him. But nothing seemed to help. He still felt there was not even a shadow of hope for himself. Watching the white snow cover up the black soil during a snowstorm made him wish that something could cover up the blackness of his sin and change his heart to clean, white as snow. He decided to visit every church in Colchester to see if anyone could tell him how a poor sinner could be forgiven his sins and find peace. He heard many good messages, but no one told just how to be saved. One Sunday another snowstorm hit. Charles didn't let the snow and wind keep him home. He was determined to visit the next church on his list, even though it was very far away. He bundled up and headed out into the storm.

Scene 2: (Middle)

As the storm worsened, Charles began to think he couldn't make it. When he paused to decide what to do, he happened to see a little chapel down a side street. He had not wanted to go to that chapel because he heard they sang so loud you would get a headache; but now, he chose its closeness and warmth over any worry about a headache. There were only a dozen or so people in the chapel. Charles sat down on a pew in the back. After hearty singing and prayers, it was time for the sermon. The pastor never came forward, kept home by the storm. So a thin-looking, simple man stood up to give a message. "Look unto Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth," he read from the Bible. He had little education and could not even pronounce words correctly, but he read his passage and then preached on it. Charles began to hope that this man would tell him how to be saved. For 10 minutes the man preached. He told how salvation came only from looking to Jesus as Savior and trusting in what He did on the cross. They would never find it by looking to themselves. He looked at Charles and saw how miserable he looked. He told him that he would stay miserable until he "looked to Christ."

Scene 3: (End)

Charles at last understood. He "looked to Christ" that very moment, trusting in His perfect sacrifice, made for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. Peace and forgiveness flooded his heart at last! He was so happy he could have jumped for joy. As he left the chapel and headed towards home in the snow, he realized that at last the black sin in his heart had been covered and made dazzling white clean, just like the snow covered the ground. By trusting in Jesus, he had come beyond "not even a shadow of hope." to have an infinite and eternal hope. Charles Spurgeon became a preacher who made it his passion to tell everyone from princes to beggars how they might find peace and forgiveness. The Lord saved thousands of people through his preaching.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People** It wasn't until the thin man preached at the little chapel that Charles understood that Jesus had paid for sins with His perfect life. Salvation was a free gift given to all who placed their trust in Jesus.

White Snow Covering the Dark Earth

Description

Children will make a pipe cleaner "Charles" and put him on the dark earth with glitter snow.

Materials

Ten pipe cleaners per child: 4 brown; 2 black; 1 white; 3 bright colored

Small Giggly eyes

A palm-sized lump of black or brown clay

White and silver glitter, a couple of tablespoons of each per child

Glue

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut one of the brown pipe cleaners in half for each child.
2. Set out supplies

Making the Craft

Charles:

1. Take one of the brown pipe cleaners and bend it into an inverted V-shape.
2. Twist together the two ends several winds, leaving a little loop in the bend of the V. This will be his body and legs.
3. Coil another brown pipe cleaner around a pencil until it is completely curled. Remove from pencil.
4. Slide the coil the first pipe cleaner and center the second curled pipe cleaner over the twisted part of the first one. This makes Charles' torso.
5. Slide another brown through the small loop. These are his arms. Twist a loop in each end to make hands.
6. Take the white pipe cleaner and wrap it around your thumb. Take it off your thumb and bunch the coils together. This is the head. Take one end of the coil and twist it around the loop through which you inserted the arms to secure it in place.
7. Wrap the black pipe cleaner around the top of the white head pipe cleaner to make a cap.
8. Twist a colored pipe cleaner around his neck and have ends hang down front like a scarf. If desired, can braid 3 together for a braided scarf effect, then twist around neck.
9. Twist a foot-sized loop on each end of his legs for feet.
10. Bend another black pipe cleaner back and forth into a rectangular shape, leaving a little leftover at the end. This is his Bible. Attach the Bible to one of his hand loops with a twist.
11. Glue giggly eyes onto head.
12. If desired, put dabs of glue on Charles and sprinkle dabs with glitter for snow effect.

Snowy ground:

1. Flatten clay into a round. Stick Charles' feet firmly into the clay. You may even want to "bury" his feet in the clay for more stability.
2. Sprinkle white and silver glitter on top of clay and firmly press it into clay.

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. Where did Charles live? *In Colchester, England.*
2. What made it so hard for Charles to get to church? *A big snowstorm.*
3. What did Charles think about as he looked at the snow covering the dark ground?
He wished for something that could cover the dark guilt of sin in his heart and make his heart clean before God.
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People .
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People ?
God did even more that answer Charles prayers for his sins to be covered over like the snow. He used the thin man to show Charles that Jesus paid for his sins so that all who put their faith in Him could have the penalty of their sins completely taken away. It was by grace that he could be saved, not by his own works.
6. What can our craft help us remember?
God can do more than cover up our sins, too. He will completely clean us of them, if we will turn from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. The gift of salvation can be ours, too.

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: *White Snow Covering the Dark Earth.*
2. In Colchester, England, Charles looked longingly at the snow covering the dark ground. He wished for something to cover over the dark guilt of sin in his heart, just like the snow covered the darkness of the ground, making everything clean and white.
3. Our Bible Truth is: *Jesus Kept God's Law Perfectly So by His Grace He Could Save God's People .*
4. God did even more than answer Charles' prayers for his sins to be covered over like the snow. He used the thin man to show Charles that Jesus paid for his sins so that all who put their faith in Him could have the penalty of their sins completely taken away. It was by grace that he could be saved, not by his own works. What wonderful news this was! *Forgiven and clean at last!*
5. Our craft can help us remember that God can do more than cover up our sins, too. He will completely clean us of them, if we will turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. The gift of salvation can be ours, too.

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 (a.k.a. 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? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

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 9 coloring sheets in which children fill in the 9 things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire.

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

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

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

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

Game: Over, Under and Throw

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP

2 Set of Clue Cards

8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes

Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

Box or basket big enough for the envelopes to fit in and the ball to land in.

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.
5. Place the envelopes in the basket, a good shooting distance from where the child at the head of the line will stand.

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 line up, all facing forward. Give the ball to the last child in line. At your signal, have them pass the ball to the next child with an overhead pass; then that child passes the ball through the legs of the next child, etc. until the ball reaches the first child. The first child in line then tries to make a basket. If he succeeds, he gets to go up and pick out an envelope to open. the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back with the Clue Cards in the basket. Game continues until all the envelopes have been retired or as time or attention span allows.

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

