

BIBLE TRUTH 5, 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 ESV Songs 7 CD, 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 CD, 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 5: The Heart of God's Law Is Love

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 22*

Bible Verse: Matthew 22:36-40

Bible Verse Song: Love the Lord *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 23*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Bold Bridge-Builder

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Fritz's French Bread and Water

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Inspecting the Troops

Bible Truth Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 22*

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

Bible Verse Review: Matthew 22:36-40 Discussion Sheet and Game: Take a Step Back

Bible Verse Song: Love the Lord Matthew 22:36-40 *PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 23*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Triple Play Baseball

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: Fritz's Journal

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book); Game: Picture Run

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 5, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV PRONTOS 7 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Bold Bridge-Builder by Connie Dever

Our story is called:

The Case of the Bold Bridge-Builder.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the Bold Bridge-Builder? How was he bold?
2. Why was he so bold? What was he trying to do?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It takes place in the 1760's in Germany.

Fritz Oberlin sat in his cold attic room in Strasburg, Germany, writing in his journal: "January 1, 1760. "Lord, You are God. This day I promise myself to You. I want to use all that I am to love You and others with my heart, mind, soul and strength," he wrote.

Fritz took his promise seriously. He worked hard. He studied the Bible, surgery and medicine, plant life and French in school. He made himself eat only salted bread for dinner and slept on his cold, hard attic floor. Why did he do these things? Because Fritz wanted God to call him to be a pastor in a difficult place where life would be hard and all these skills needed. He wanted to be joyful and content as well as prepared for whatever the Lord wanted him to do.

The Lord certainly was preparing Fritz to serve Him in a very difficult place, but it was not the army, as Fritz thought. And one cold night in February, only about a month after writing that promise to the Lord, Fritz was to find out what that difficult place was to be.

There was a knock at the door:

"Come in," Fritz called out.

"Hello, Mr. Oberlin. My name is Pastor Stuber. You don't know me, but I have heard of you. I've been told that you want to be a pastor in a difficult place. I believe I have the job for you," he told Fritz. I think God has been preparing you to take my place as pastor at Waldbach in the Vosges Mountains."

"But why there? And why me?" Fritz asked.

"For hundreds of years, the mountain people who live there have suffered terribly. War after war between France and Germany has left Waldbach and the other little villages in shambles. The people used to make a good living as farmers and as miners in the copper mines in the mountains, but the soldiers destroyed the roads and bridges, the crops, and the houses. The

hundred or so families who still live there barely have enough food to keep themselves alive. They do not know how to grow good crops. There are few tradesmen among them to build or repair the things they need. The bitter cold winters leave snow on the ground six months of the year and many families have to share clothes and shoes because they don't have enough of for each person to wear. A rich person in Waldbach is someone who has enough bread to eat for the year! When I came to Waldbach, they did not have Bibles. They did not know God's laws. Most of them could not read or sing. Their pastors had not even told the good news about Jesus," Pastor Stuber told him.

"For ten years I have worked with the people in Waldbach and the other poor mountain villages nearby," Pastor Stuber continued. "I have bought them Bibles and started simple, little schools. They are learning to read the Bible and sing hymns. I have taught them the good news of Jesus at school and at church. But all of this is no more than a beginning. Their living conditions are still so poor. The people are slow of heart to change. So much more needs to be done for their bodies and their souls," he said.

"I wish I could stay and help them longer, but my wife is deathly ill. I, myself, am too sick to continue. Someone else must take up the work, but I didn't know who. Then I heard about you, Fritz. God has prepared you well for it. Would you be willing to take the good news of Jesus to them in my place, and help them?" Stuber asked

"Yes, I will go," Fritz replied. "I will go and love these people, both body and soul."

In God's kindness, Fritz was not to go alone. His sister, Sophia begged their parents to let her go and keep

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

house for him. Her love for God and for these people made her eager to endure hardship for them. Their parents said yes. And so it was that Sophia and Fritz left Strasburg for Waldbach in the Vosges Mountains.

As they traveled through the mountains to Waldbach, they could see how right Pastor Stuber had been about everything. Turning off the well-traveled Rothau road, they headed for Waldbach on the only path there was—just a poor, dirt trail. When they reached the banks of the River Bruche near Waldbach, there found there was no bridge. Their only choices were to turn back or risk the cold, swirling waters. They chose the risk. Into the river went horse, luggage and all. Somehow they managed all get across safely.

When they entered Waldbach, what a sad sight it all was! How miserable looking were the little huts and the poor people who lived in them! Fritz could see why these poor living conditions had left Stuber and his wife so ill. It looked like an impossible job.

But Fritz and Sophia did not turn back. Why? Because of the great love the Holy Spirit had worked in both of their hearts for God and for others: “Lord, You are God. This day I promise myself to You. I want to use all that I am to love You and others with my heart, mind, soul and strength,” Fritz had vowed long ago. He would not give up now. Sophia agreed with him completely. They would stay and live out God’s Law among these people. They would try to show them what it meant to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love others as themselves. They would love these people, body and soul.

Fritz had come to these people first of all as their pastor. He knew more than anything else they needed to know God’s Word. From the very first Sunday, he began to preach the good news of Jesus boldly from the pulpit. “God, our Creator and King, offers forgiveness of sins through Jesus to all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Turn to Him this day and become His people,” he urged them.

But the people didn’t want to hear that they were sinners. They didn’t want to repent and believe. “This pastor wants us to change too much,” they grumbled. “We’ll teach him a thing or two,” some of them said. “When he passes by on his horse, we’ll throw water on

them and make his horse spook and run off with him. “We’ll sneak up on him and beat him up,” others decided. “That should get rid of him.”

Fritz found out about both of the plans. But instead of running him off, the threats made Fritz even bolder. He went straight up to those people and told them: “You know neither me nor my horse. My horse is too fast for you to catch. And we are here to love you body and soul. You cannot stop us from telling you the good news of Jesus. You cannot scare us into leaving, no matter what you do to me. I will even leave my horse at home and go on foot, so you can get me wet and beat me up all the more easily.”

God used Fritz’ boldness and love to change his enemies. They came to church. The Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened. Now they began to love God with their heart, mind, soul and strength and each other, too.

Fritz and Sophia didn’t only want to change the hearts of the people of Waldbach. They wanted to ease their miserable way of life, too. “These people need better education. They need to learn all about the Law of God so that they can live out their love for Him and each other as He has told them to in the Bible. They need to know how to grow better crops and make all sorts of things. They need roads and bridges to connect their village to markets in other towns to sell the good things they will grow and make,” they decided.

But once more the people grumbled about the changes Fritz planned. “We don’t have money to build school buildings. We don’t know how to build bridges or blast rocks to make roads. It would be easier to go to the moon than to do what you plan,” they told him. But Fritz and Sophia did not give up. They would keep on loving these stubborn people, body and soul! They kept trusting that God would help change these people’s lives, just like He had begun to change their heart. somehow the LORD would fulfill these plans for schools, jobs, roads and bridges. They were certain.

And sure enough He did! Christians from other places sent money to help them build the schools. Soon children were learning history, English and math, the Bible and hymns. The girls learned how to sew, weave, knit. The boys also learned how to grow good crops and care

for fruit trees. Fritz brought in craftsmen from other towns to teach the young men how to be blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, and shoemakers. The children took home what they learned at school and shared it with their parents at home. Waldbach had begun to change.

Together Fritz and the men blasted rocks, leveled ground and lay a bridge across the River Bruche. At last, Waldbach was connected to the world. Its goods could easily be taken to market and the people begin to make money enough to take good care of their families.

Fritz Oberlin stayed in Waldbach for eight years until he was called away to Pennsylvania in America to help another, even poorer village of people. But never did the villagers of Waldbach forget their dear pastor who had loved them, body and soul. Next to the bridge over the River Bruche stands a plaque that says: "Bridge of Charity," or "Bridge of Gifts Given in Love." How true it was, for this bridge, as well as everything else Fritz did in those eight years, had been Fritz Oberlin's gift of love given to the people of Waldbach.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Bold Bridge-Builder? How was he bold? Fritz Oberlin. He was bold in how he preached the gospel, helped the people and built the bridge, even when everyone was against him.

2. Why was he so bold? What was he trying to do? He was so bold because he wanted to love God with all his life. That meant he would try to love God most of all, and to love others as himself, as Jesus said summed up God's laws. He did everything he could to love the people of Waldbach, body and soul.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is: The Heart of God's Laws Is Love

Our Bible Verse is: Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Fritz longed to love God and others like our Bible Verse says. God helped Fritz to love like this and He can help us, too. How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will make us His people and send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to love God and others like this, too.

Let's thank God for His amazing power to put love like this in His people. Let's ask Him to work like this in us, even today. *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of love for You and for others. It is only by Your grace that Fritz and his sister could keep loving the people of Waldbach the way they did.

C God, we confess that many times, we are not like Fritz and his sister. We do not try to love You the most or love others as much as we love ourselves. Many times we only want to do what is easiest for us.

T God, we thank You that You care for the needs of both the bodies and the souls of people. Thank You for the powerful way You work in the hearts of Your people to selflessly care for others, even when they are mean and ungrateful.

S God, work in our hearts that we see our sin, turn away from it and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You most of all. Help us to selflessly love others, as Fritz and his sister did.

Special Words

Blacksmith: Someone who works with very hot iron and shapes it into tool and other useful things.

Carpenter: Someone who works with wood and builds buildings and furniture.

Wheelwright: Someone who makes wheels, such as for wagons and carts.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being the Giver of Loving Laws.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we have chosen not to love You or others according to Your loving laws. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God, for giving us Your laws so we might know what it means to live a life of love towards You and others.

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. Help us truly love You and others, as You have told us to in Your laws.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Fritz's French Bread and Water

"Salted" French bread and water, like what Fritz ate at dinner to prepare to be an army chaplain. You might want to sprinkle a little salt on the bread for the children to taste. If they don't like the taste, they can brush it off easily enough. You might also want to have butter on hand for them to put on the bread after trying it just with salt.

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

Case Tie-in: Fritz wanted to serve the Lord by going to some place very difficult to tell people about Jesus and show God's love to them. He prepared himself for the hard condition he would face by eating very simple meals, like French bread and water.

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.

The Heart of God's Law is Love

Love is more than just a good feeling we have inside our hearts. Real love acts in love towards others.

God gave us His laws to tell us how we should live if we would love God and others. They tell us that we should always love God most of all. They tell us to love others as much as we love ourselves. Jesus said that to love God most of all, and to love others as yourself, sums up all of God's Laws.

Jesus lived a perfect life of love that fulfilled all of God's laws. He lived this way because He loved God most of all. This is the only way He would ever want to live. He also did this as part of God's plan to save His people. He offered His life lived in perfect obedience to God's laws as the perfect sacrifice for their sins when He died on the cross. All who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior are forgiven for all the ways they break God's law. They receive eternal life with God as His free gift to them.

Jesus paid for their sins, that doesn't mean God's people don't care about God's laws anymore. God's laws are how God wants His people to live. They are always the best way to live because they are perfectly good and loving. Like Jesus, God's people want to keep God's laws because God's people love God and want to please Him. The Holy Spirit living in their hearts helps God's people keep God's laws so that they love God and others in ways they never could before.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What is real love like? *More than just a good feeling in our hearts; it acts in love towards others.*
2. What did God give us His laws to tell us? *To tell us how we should live if we would love God and others.*
3. How do God's laws tell us to love God? *Most of all.*
4. How do God's laws tell us to love others? *To love others as much as we love ourselves.*
6. What did Jesus say sums up all of God's Law? *To love God most and to love others as yourself.*
7. What kind of life did Jesus live? *A perfect life of love. He loved God most of all and others as much as Himself. He kept all of God's laws.*
8. Why was it so important that Jesus live a perfect life? *It was a part of God's plan to save His people.*
9. Did Jesus fulfilling all the requirements of God's Law for God's people's salvation mean they don't need to live by God's laws anymore? Why or Why not? *No. Because God's laws are how God wants His people to live. They are always the best way to live.*
10. Why do God's people want to keep God's laws? *Because they love God and want to please Him. Not because they have to in order to be saved.*
11. How does the Holy Spirit help God's people? *He lives in their hearts, changes them and gives them strength to keep God's laws, to love God, and to love others in better ways than they ever could before.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. How did Fritz show that in his heart he felt he wanted to keep the heart of God's law by loving God most and loving others as himself? *He wrote down his desire to live simply, give generously and to dedicate his whole life to do whatever the Lord wanted him to do.*
2. How did Fritz show with his life that he truly was seeking to keep the heart of God's law by loving God most and loving others as himself? *He actually did live simply and give generously. He was willing to accept God's call on his life to help the people of Waldbach. He was willing to endure great hardship in order to tell them the good news of Jesus and help improve their miserable way of life.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Matthew 22:37,39-40**: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." *These verses are Jesus explaining that the heart of God's Law is love for God and for others.*

Life Application Questions

1. What does the way we break God's laws tell us about ourselves? *It shows us how we are really loving ourselves more than we love God and others.*
2. What does it look like to love God most of all? *A life that chooses to please God, even when it is very hard. A life that trusts Him even when what He has planned doesn't make sense or is hard. A life that takes joy in pleasing God. It looks like Jesus!*
3. What does it look like to love others as ourselves? *To treat them in the same loving way as we would want them to treat us.*
4. If we know that God's laws are the best and most loving way to live, why is it so hard for us to keep them? *The sin in our hearts tempts us to think that God's ways are not the best and most loving way to live. Also, many times, we just want to do what seems best for us, rather than thinking about what will be best for God's glory or for the good of others.*
5. When will God's people's hearts at last live out the heart of God's love? *In heaven, when God changes their hearts to love Him most of all and to love others perfectly.*
6. How can we become one of God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the Giver of Loving Laws.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?
Confess ways that we have chosen not to love God or others according to His loving laws.
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 God's people's sins.
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. Ask God to work in our hearts and lives by His Holy Spirit that we might truly love Him and others as He has revealed in His laws.

The Gospel

1. The heart of God's Law is love, but we do not love God or others as we should. We deserve God's punishment! Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?
Yes, there is! 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: Inspecting the Troops

Materials

Crown (if desired)
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

Tell the children that they are the Queen's/King's soldiers and are to follow her/his every command. Have the soldiers march, pretend to hold out their swords, ride their horses, etc. Then, finally have them stand at attention, very still and showing no emotion. Tell them that you are the Queen/King and have come to inspect the troops. (Put on the crown). You have to remove anyone who is not very straight and still, and show no emotion. As you inspect the troops, make faces or say things to try to get the troops to break into a smile, etc. Watch them for movement. Whoever breaks a smile or moves, etc. told to step forward and must answer a question to be reinstated to the Troops. If it is just one soldier, he/she may choose two other soldiers to help them answer the question. If the soldier (and the soldiers he chose to help him) answer the question correctly, everyone goes back into the line. If they get it wrong, they must wait out one turn. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the king/queen.

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

NOTE: Have the children who remain out help you to give commands to the troops.

Non-competitive Option

Don't exclude the soldiers from the Troops, even if they get the wrong answer. Do put the answer back in the bag to be reviewed again.

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life and let it be,
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my hands and let them move
 At the impulse of Thy love,
 At the impulse of Thy love.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 22

Understanding the Song

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What is an impulse? *An desire to do something for a particular reason.*
3. What is God's love like? *God's love is greatest for Himself, since He is the most wonderful person to know. He alone is perfectly good and loving. His special love for His people endures forever. Because of His love for them, He sent Jesus to save them, covering over their many sins with His very own blood. His love for all people is patient, kind, compassionate; it is always more than we deserve. It takes no joy in evil. It rejoices with the truth.*
4. What would the impulse of God's love be like? *A desire to do things that display God's love for Himself and for others. It would be loving God most of all, and loving others as much as we love ourselves.*
5. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that more at the impulse of God's love? *To God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. To others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; write words of encouragement, etc.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: The Heart of God's Law Is Love**? *It is a prayer to God to help us keep the very heart of His Law by making everything we do with our hands an impulse of His love. God's laws show us what it means to have our hands move at the impulse of His love.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Fritz prayed that his life be consecrated to God. He wanted the Lord to take his hands, to take his life and use it however He wanted to. So Fritz went to Waldbach and loved the people with God's love. He taught them the good news of Jesus. He trained their children and even built a bridge for them.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Matthew 22:36-40**: ""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."?

All of God's Word--called the Law and the Prophets in Jesus' day--are based upon loving God most of all and loving others as we love ourselves. God's people want God to take their lives and use them to love God and others like this. They know they can't do this on their own. They need God fill their heart with His love and help them live out God's love in everything they do.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the Powerful Worker of His Will in the Hearts of His People.

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

That many times we don't want God to take our lives and consecrate them to Him. Many times we don't want to do His will, but our own. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

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

We can thank God His good plans for His people. His will never will be to do something bad. It is always loving and good.

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

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to consecrate our lives. We can ask Him to take our lives and work in them so that they move at the impulse of His love.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving us His Laws that show us how to love Him and love others. We can ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to put love for God and others in our hearts and cause our hands to move at the impulse of His love.*

Gospel Question

1. Why do all people need for God to work in their lives? Why don't they just love God as they should? 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: 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.

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

Meditation Version: Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Alternate Memory Version: Matthew 22:37,39-40

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What is a commandment? *Something God tells us that we must do.*
2. What is the Law? *The word 'law' (with a little 'l') means any set of rules that a group of people set up to live by. But when the word 'Law' (with a big 'L') is used in the Bible, it means the Law of Moses which is the name for the first five books in the Bible that the LORD had Moses write down. These books contain the 10 Commandments and the many other laws that God gave to His people to live by.*
3. Which commandment did Jesus say was the greatest commandment in the Law? *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*
4. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart? If you love Him with all your heart, does that mean there is no room to love anything or anyone else? *It means to have nothing that you love more than Him. It doesn't mean we don't love anything else, just that our love for Him comes first. Our love for others flows out of our love for Him.*
5. What is the difference between your heart and your soul? *God gave each human a soul to know and love God. Another word for soul is spirit. It never dies, even when our bodies do. We cannot see our soul, but it is inside of us. The word heart is a bit tricky. Sometimes it is used by itself in the same way as spirit. When it is used together with soul (as it is in this verse), it means your feelings and desires.*
6. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart and soul? *Soul: To worship and honor Him as God alone. Heart: To delight in knowing Him. To want everyone to praise the greatness of His name.*
7. What is a mind? What do we use our minds to do? *Our minds are our brains. We think with our minds. We use it to decide what is true; to make plans and to learn about things. We use our minds to do everything we do.*
8. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your mind? *To think about God. To learn about His great Truths, presented in the Bible. To make pleasing Him shape what we plan to do and how we do what we do.*
9. What is the second great commandment? *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*
10. Who is your neighbor? How do you love them as yourself? *Not just the person who lives next door to you, but everyone we come in contact with. We treat them with the same godly kindness, love, mercy, compassion, respect, etc. that we would want if we were in their situation.*
11. What does it mean the all the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments? *“The Law and the Prophets” means all of the Old Testament Bible (that was all they had in Jesus' day.) Jesus meant that all of God's others commandments given in the Bible all have to do with loving God and loving others.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: The Heart of God's Law Is Love?** *Loving God and loving others is what is behind every single law that God has given us to live by.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Fritz lived a life of loving God and others by being willing to endure great hardships to tell the people of Waldbach about Jesus and helping to improve their miserable lives. He taught them the words of God's Laws; he showed them the love which was the heart of them in how he cared for them.*

Life Application Questions

1. How can you love God with all your heart today? Your soul? Your mind?
2. What is the first step we each need to take to love God with all our heart, soul and mind? *We need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*
3. Can we ever love God perfectly? *No! We are sinners. Not even God's people love God perfectly because they still have sinful hearts...but they wish that they could! Only Jesus loved God perfectly.*
4. Who are your neighbors, God wants you to love as yourself?

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse? *Praise God for being worthy of our love most of all.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *Confess that we have not loved God or others as God calls us to. 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 save all those who repent of their sins and trust in Him. He will even forgive us for not loving Him and others as we should.*
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 work in our hearts that we would love Him and others as He wants us to.*

The Gospel

1. We do not love God or others as God calls us to. We deserve His punishment! Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

Yes, there is! 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: Take a Step Back

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see
1 beanbag for every 2 children

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. Pair up the children, giving a beanbag to each pair. Line up one child from each team, then have the partners face their team partner, about one foot apart from each other, forming a second line.
2. Have all the children say the verse together, then have the partner throw the beanbag to the other partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round.
3. Have each child take a step back.
4. Lead the children in saying the verse again, then have them throw the beanbag to their partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round.
5. Have the children take another step back, and so on.
6. Continue until only one team remains.

Alternate Play: Continue to allow all children to play the game, even if they drop their beanbag, but keep track of how many successful catches each team makes. The team with the most successful catches, wins.

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.

Love the Lord

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
 Love the Lord your God with all your soul,
 Love the Lord your God with all your mind,
 This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it...

Love your neighbor as yourself,
 Love your neighbor as yourself,
 Love your neighbor as yourself,
 On these two commandments depend all the Law and Prophets.
 Matthew Twenty-two, thirty-seven through forty.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 7, Track 23

Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

Materials

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

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

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

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

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 Bible truth did Fritz learn from his parents that stayed with him his whole life? *To love God and others sums up all of God's laws.*
2. What other things did Fritz study after he studied to become a pastor? Why did he study them? *Medicine, surgery, French and plants. Because he wanted to be prepared to go to a difficult place to serve God where he might need to know those things.*
3. What promises about his life did Fritz make to God? *To give up his life in complete service to Him. To live simply, eat simply and give generously that he might have more to help others with.*
4. Where did Fritz first think God wanted him to be? What would have been hard about that life? *An army chaplain. It would mean living out on the battlefields with the men, in the same hard conditions as they faced (simple food, sleeping out in all kinds of weather, etc.)*
5. Why did Fritz sleep on the floor and eat only salted bread for dinner? *To prepare himself for the hard life of an army chaplain.*
6. What did Pastor Stuber come to ask Fritz? Why did he think Fritz would be good for the job? *To go to help the people of Waldbach. Because life was very hard there. Only a man who didn't mind poor living conditions would survive. And also, because Fritz had studied extra subjects that were needed by someone to help the people of Waldbach.*
7. What did Fritz notice about Waldbach when he went there? *Road was only a poor trail; no bridge across the River Bruche; shabby huts; not enough clothes for everyone; no school; not enough food, etc.*
8. What was the first thing Fritz did when he went to Waldbach? Why did he choose to do that first? *Boldly preach the gospel b/c he knew it was most important that they love God and trusted Jesus as their Savior.*
9. What did some of the people do to try to get Fritz to stop preaching the gospel? *Some wanted to throw water to spook his horse; others wanted to beat him up.*
10. Why didn't Fritz leave when the people threatened to hurt him? *He loved God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. God wanted him to love for these people as he loved himself, so he would stay—no matter what.*
11. What happened after Fritz stood up to the people? *They listened to him preach and began to believe.*
12. What did Fritz have the children learn in the schools besides regular subjects? Why was this important? *God's laws and hymns—so that they might know how to love God and to love others. Sewing, weaving, knitting for the girls, so they could make clothes for their families and make things to sell at market. Crop and fruit tree growing; blacksmithing, carpentry, wheel righting, and shoe-making for the boys, so they could grow food and make things they needed in the village and things to sell at market.*
13. What was so important about building the road and bridge? *Without them, the people couldn't get to market to sell their things and make a better living for their families.*
14. What does "charity" mean? Why is "The Bridge of Charity" a good name for the bridge Fritz and the men built? *Charity means "Gifts Given in Love." It is a good name for the bridge b/c it was love for God and for the people of Waldbach that was why Fritz wanted the bridge built and why he did everything else he did in Waldbach.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Fritz lived a life of loving God and others by being willing to endure great hardships to tell the people of Waldbach about Jesus and helping to improve their miserable lives.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Matthew 22:36-40**: ""Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."? *This is how Fritz and his sister tried to live among the people of Waldbach.*

Life Application Questions

1. Does God want us to make the same radical vow that Fritz did? *No and yes. Fritz's vow was perfect for the very good but hard task the Lord had planned for him. He needed to make do with only the simplest of food, clothing and things if he would be ready for Waldbach. But the Lord has a different plan for each of our lives. He does want us, like Fritz, to dedicate our whole lives to loving Him and to loving others, but we must seek His wisdom from the Bible and from others who love God and love us for how each of us should live out His commands in our lives.*
2. What would you find hardest about what Fritz had to endure in Waldbach?
3. What could we do right now to prepare us to do whatever God wants us to do? *Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to give us a greater and greater love in our hearts for Him and for others. Ask God to guide us in His will for our lives. Make the most of every opportunity to learn and serve others so that we are best equipped for what He might call us to do later.*

ACTS Questions

1. What's something we can praise God for from this story? *Praise God for being the Giver of love for Him and for others to His people. It was only by God's grace that Fritz and his sister could keep loving them the way they did.*
2. What's something we can confess from this story? *Confess that many times, we are not like Fritz and his sister. We do not try to love God the most and love others as much as we love ourselves. Many times we only want to do what is easiest for us. We deserve God's punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What's something we can thank God for from this story? *We can thank God for caring for the needs of people's hearts and their bodies. We can thank Him for the powerful way He works in His people's hearts to love Him and others as He wants them to.*
4. What is something we can ask God for, from this story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to work in our hearts that we would love Him most and love others as ourselves...and that we would even be willing to do very hard things to love Him and others, like Fritz and his sister did.*

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Fritz wanted the people of Waldbach to know and 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: Triple Play Baseball

Materials

4 carpet squares or construction paper for bases
 3 balls of different sizes, such as a foam ball, tennis ball, and soccer ball.
 A basket or cardboard box
 Masking tape
 Paper and pencil
 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. Place the carpet squares at the four corners of a diamond, like for baseball, approximately 10 feet apart.
3. Place the basket with the balls in it next to "home" base.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Team A will be up to bat, Team B will be out in the field. One player from Team B stands behind the batter as catcher. The leader will read a question to the batter. If the batter answers it correctly, he then picks up all three balls from the basket and tosses them out into the "field" in rapid succession. He then tries to run as many bases as possible around the diamond, touching each base, before the Team B players in the field return all three objects to the catcher who puts the balls into the box. The batter scores as many points as bases he was able to get to: 1 point for first base, 2 points for 2nd base, etc.. The next person on Team A becomes batter now, and repeats the process. A team incurs an "out" if a batter is unable to answer a question; or, if a batter is caught in between 2 bases when all the items are back in the box, then they are out. Teams switch positions after 2 outs.

Game continues until all children get to bat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

WARNING: You may want to have the children only walk (rapidly) around the bases if you have slick floors. If you do this, you can also have the catchers have to crawl on all fours/do a crab walk to slow them down.

Non-competitive Option

This game is difficult to play in a completely non-competitive way. You can take the "edge" off of the competitive nature of it by not assigning point values and simply letting each child have a chance to see how far around the bases they get on their turn. When all the children on Team A have a turn, switch batters and catchers and let the Team B children become the batters.

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 called: The Case of the Bold Bridge-Builder.

Our story takes place in Germany in the 1760's.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bold Bridge-Builder."

Scene 1:

Fritz wanted to fulfill the very heart of God's loving laws. He wanted to love God and love others with his whole self. He wasn't satisfied to study to be a pastor at just any church. He also studied surgery, medicine, plants and French so that he might be prepared to go some difficult place where other pastors wouldn't want to do. He made a vow to dedicate his whole life to the Lord. He would live simply, give generously, and live his life for the Lord, no matter what. At first he thought he was to live the hard, outdoor life of an army chaplain, so he slept on the drafty floor of his attic room and ate salted bread and water for dinner to be ready. But God had other plans for Fritz. Pastor Stuber came to his attic room to ask him to be the pastor at Waldbach in the Vosges Mountains. He told Fritz the sad story of how these people's villages, crops, roads and bridges had been destroyed by wars, leaving them miserably poor, with no schools and not knowing the good news of Jesus. He and his wife had begun to tell them about Jesus and help them, but they were too sick now. Fritz said agreed to go. Sophia, Fritz's sister would go, too.

Actions:

Scene 2:

Fritz and Sophia went to Waldbach. They saw the road to the village was nothing but a poor trail. There was no bridge, so they had to jump in the River Bruche and swim across with their things. The little huts in the village were very poor. People had to share clothes. There was not enough food. Fritz planned to love these people, both body and soul. As a pastor, he started with their souls. He began to preach the good news of Jesus in church. Some people grumbled at his forceful preaching. Some plotted to throw water on him and his horse to spook it. Others plotted to beat him up to get him to go away. But Fritz did not go away. He told they could do what they wanted to him, but it wouldn't make him stop telling them about Jesus. The people were surprised at Fritz' boldness. They went back to church and began to listen and believe. They began to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, too.

Scene 3

Fritz love these people's bodies, too, helping them live better. He built a school for the children, using a lot of his own money. He taught the children how to read and write as well as God's laws and hymns. They also taught the girls sewing, knitting and weaving; the younger boys, how to grow crops; and the younger men, how to be blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, and shoemakers. Children went home and taught their parents. Then Fritz asked the men to help him build a good road and a bridge so they could take their things to market to sell for good money. At first only a few men agreed to help. But Fritz didn't give up. He and those men set to work with picks at the rocks in the road. More and more men joined when they saw their pastor's willingness to work for them. Before long, both the road and the bridge were built. Fritz Oberlin left Waldbach after 8 years to go to help others in America. The people of Waldbach never forgot him and put up a sign by the bridge, naming in the "Bridge of Charity—Gifts Given in Love. And indeed it was Fritz' labor of love for God and for them, that had built it.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Heart of God's Law is Love** Fritz lived a life of loving God and others by being willing to endure great hardships to tell the people of Waldbach about Jesus and helping to improve their miserable lives.

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 Bold Bridge-BUILDER.

Our story takes place in Germany in the 1760's.

The characters in our story are: Fritz and Sophia Oberlin, Pastor Stuber and his wife, and the people of Waldbach.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bold Bridge-BUILDER."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Fritz wanted to fulfill the very heart of God's loving laws. He wanted to love God and love others with his whole self. He wasn't satisfied to study to be a pastor at just any church. He also studied surgery, medicine, plants and French so that he might be prepared to go some difficult place where other pastors wouldn't want to do. He made a vow to dedicate his whole life to the Lord. He would live simply, give generously, and live his life for the Lord, no matter what. At first he thought he was to live the hard, outdoor life of an army chaplain, so he slept on the drafty floor of his attic room and ate salted bread and water for dinner to be ready. But God had other plans for Fritz. Pastor Stuber came to his attic room to ask him to be the pastor at Waldbach in the Vosges Mountains. He told Fritz the sad story of how these people's villages, crops, roads and bridges had been destroyed by wars, leaving them miserably poor, with no schools and not knowing the good news of Jesus. He and his wife had begun to tell them about Jesus and help them, but they were too sick now. Fritz said agreed to go. Sophia, Fritz's sister would go, too.

Scene 2: (Middle)

Fritz and Sophia went to Waldbach. They saw the road to the village was nothing but a poor trail. There was no bridge, so they had to jump in the River Bruche and swim across with their things. The little huts in the village were very poor. People had to share clothes. There was not enough food. Fritz planned to love these people, both body and soul. As a pastor, he started with their souls. He began to preach the good news of Jesus in church. Some people grumbled at his forceful preaching. Some plotted to throw water on him and his horse to spook it. Others plotted to beat him up to get him to go away. But Fritz did not go away. He told they could do what they wanted to him, but it wouldn't make him stop telling them about Jesus. The people were surprised at Fritz' boldness. They went back to church and began to listen and believe. They began to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, too.

Scene 3: (End)

Fritz love these people's bodies, too, helping them live better. He built a school for the children, using a lot of his own money. He taught the children how to read and write as well as God's laws and hymns. They also taught the girls sewing, knitting and weaving; the younger boys, how to grow crops; and the younger men, how to be blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, and shoemakers. Children went home and taught their parents. Then Fritz asked the men to help him build a good road and a bridge so they could take their things to market to sell for good money. At first only a few men agreed to help. But Fritz didn't give up. He and those men set to work with picks at the rocks in the road. More and more men joined when they saw their pastor's willingness to work for them. Before long, both the road and the bridge were built. Fritz Oberlin left Waldbach after 8 years to go to help others in America. The people of Waldbach never forgot him and put up a sign by the bridge, naming in the "Bridge of Charity—Gifts Given in Love. And indeed it was Fritz' labor of love for God and for them, that had built it.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **The Heart of God's Law is Love** Fritz lived a life of loving God and others by being willing to endure great hardships to tell the people of Waldbach about Jesus and helping to improve their miserable lives.

Fritz's Journal

Description

Children will make and decorate a small journal, which contains Fritz' prayer to God and a page for the children to write their own prayer to God.

Materials

White cardstock, 3-4 pieces each

Markers

Black yarn

Single hole puncher

Tapestry needles, one per child

Preparing the Craft

1. Choose which copy of Fritz' prayer you want to use: either the full version, the shorter version, or the blank version (for the children to fill in themselves). Copy onto cardstock one per child.
2. Make one copy on cardstock per child of "A Prayer for My Life."
3. Stack on top of each other a blank piece of cardstock, Fritz' prayer, "A Prayer for My Life," and one more blank piece of cardstock, printed side up. Fold them as a group down the middle along the long side. If desired, for older children cut the half pages apart along fold.
4. Take the single hole punch and make a series of holes about 1/2" from the edge. (The children will lace the journal together with these holes.)
5. Thread the needles with 4' of black yarn, knotted together at the end.

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children write out their own prayer (and Fritz's prayer, if desired to use the blank format), then decorate the frames.
3. Have the children sew the pages together by weaving the yarn in and out of the holes. Knot at each end.

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 was Fritz when he made his special promise to God? *In his cold, drafty attic in Strasburg, Germany.*

2. What did Fritz promise God to do? *To do without things he didn't need and to live his life however God wanted him to.*

3. Where did Fritz write down his promise? Why did he make this promise to God?
He wrote it down in his journal. He made this promise because this was part of how he thought he should love the Lord with all his heart, mind, soul and strength; and love others as himself.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
The Heart of God's Law is Love.

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: The Heart of God's Law is Love?
The Lord used this promise to prepare Fritz to live out God's laws among the villagers of Waldbach, to teach them to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength and to help him love them as he loved himself.

6. What can our craft help us remember?
God wants us to think about how we can dedicate our lives to loving Him and loving others, 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: Fritz's Journal.

2. In his cold, drafty attic in Strasburg, Germany, Fritz Oberlin wrote down a promise to God to do without things he did not need and to live his life however God wanted him to in his journal because this was part of how he thought he should love the Lord with all his heart, mind, soul and strength; and love others as himself.

3. Our Bible Truth is: The Heart of God's Law is Love.

4. The Lord used this promise to prepare Fritz to live out God's laws among the villagers of Waldbach, to teach them to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength and to help him love them as he loved himself.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants us to think about how we can dedicate our lives to loving Him and loving others, 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.

Fritz's Prayer for His Life

**“I desire nothing more
than to belong to You,
the holy God.**

**I give myself to You
this day in the most
solemn way.**

**I dedicate to You all
that I am and all I
have: my heart, mind,
soul, strength, my time.”**

January 1, 1760

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: Picture Run

Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each 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. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

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 the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run 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. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

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
