

## **BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

**Welcome to Praise Factory:** PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 1*

**Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:** WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song  
*PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 2*

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 8 Songs *PFI ESV Songs 8, Tracks 3,4*

**Big Question Bible Verse:** 1 Chronicles 16:34 Song: *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 5*

Extra Bible Verse: Lamentations 3:22, 23 Song: The Steadfast Love of the LORD *PFI ESV Songs 8 Track 6*

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

**Bible Truth 3:** God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People

**Bible Truth Hymn:** To God Be the Glory, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 11*

Extra Song: God's One, Big Plan *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 12*

**Bible Verse:** 1 John 4:10

**Bible Verse Song:** This Is Love *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 13*

**Lesson 1 Old Testament:** The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver

Ephesians 1; Romans 8; Genesis; Exodus; 1 Kings/ 1 Chronicles; 2 Kings/2 Chronicles; Luke; Acts; Revelation 7:9

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** The Bronze Snake Lifted Up

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Omit! Obey!

**Bible Truth Hymn:** To God Be the Glory, v.1 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 11*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI ESV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** 1 John 4:10 Discussion Sheet and Game: Simon Says How

**Bible Verse Song:** This Is Love 1 John 4:10 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 13*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean? **PFI ESV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Secret Agent

**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:** Snake on a Pole

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Mix and Match

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 3, Lesson 1 **PFI ESV Prontos 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver** *Numbers 21:4-9; 2 Kings 18:4; John 3:1-1* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was lifted up long before Jesus lived? How was that used as a lifesaver?
2. How was Jesus like what was lifted up? How was He a lifesaver?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Hot rocks, shadeless, scrubby bushes and heading south! What could be worse? That's what the Israelites thought as they headed back through the wilderness toward Elith. For thirty-eight, long years they had wandered those hot, deserted lands with their parents. Why? Because of their stubborn unbelief in the LORD. They refused to believe that the same great God who rescued them from the mighty Egyptians would also help them conquer the mighty enemies who lived in the Promised Land He was giving them.

"For forty years, you will wander through the wilderness until all you unbelieving adults die," the LORD had told them. "Your children will be the ones I take into the Promised Land, not you." So wander in the wilderness they did, year after year.

Now in the thirty-eighth year, the LORD was leading them to the banks of the Jordan River. Here they would settle for the last two years before entering the Promised Land at last.

There were two ways to get to their camping spot: a long way and a short way. The long way took them through more of that terrible, hot wilderness. But the short way took them through the pleasant, green lands of Edom. I bet you can guess which way the Israelites wanted to go: the short, pleasant, green way!

But this was not to be. The King Edom refused to let them pass through his country, no matter how much they pleaded. So it was back south through hot rocks and shadeless, scrubby bushes they had to go, many hundreds miles out of their way.

The Israelites should have trusted the LORD. They should have remembered all He in love had done for them and trusted that there was a wise plan behind their journey south through the wilderness again. But they did not. Instead they spoke against the LORD and

Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable [manna]," they said.

What a terrible thing to say! What a terrible thing to do! To forget what the Lord in His love had done for them! Had He not done amazing miracles to rescue them from slavery in Egypt? Had He not loved them and made them His special people, even though there was nothing very lovable or special about them? Had He not kept His covenant promises to them even when they broke their covenant promises to Him? Had He not cared for them out in the wilderness, providing them with manna---bread from heaven--- each day to eat and making delicious water gush forth from wilderness rocks? Had He not kept their clothes and sandals from wearing out all these 38 years? Hadn't He given them Moses to be their patient and wise leader? Yes, they should have remembered His love and trusted Him. But they did not; and the LORD now disciplined them again.

So from underneath those hot rocks and scruffy, shadeless bushes, He caused lots and lots of vicious, red striped snakes to come out and bite them. The bites swelled up and hurt terribly. What was worse, these snakes were deadly poisonous. The Israelites became very sick; many of them even died!

The people immediately knew why these snakes had come. They knew it was the LORD's just punishment for complaining instead of trusting God, yet again. How sorry they were! They came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the snakes from us," they pleaded.

**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.

Now, the LORD didn't have to do anything. He would have been completely just to let them die after how they had treated Him yet again. But the LORD was still full of love for His people. He chose to not punish them as their sins deserve. He offered a way to heal their bodies and save all who would trust in Him.

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery snake like the ones biting the people and set it on a pole. Everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."

Moses did as the LORD said. He made a fiery-red snake out of reddish-colored bronze (the Hebrew actually says copper), set it on a pole and lifted it high in the sky for all to see.

Word spread quickly through the camp: "The LORD has provided a way to save us! Look at the snake lifted up on the pole and live," they said. "The LORD will save from death all those who put their trust in Him."

Those who refused to look up to the snake died of their bites; but, those who showed their faith in the LORD by looking up to the snake were healed, just as God had promised.

The people praised the LORD. They deserved to die, but once more He had saved them. Moses wrote down the story of the lifted up snake in the Bible for all to remember. Others named the snake on the pole "Nehushtan" and kept it. God's people looked at it and remembered what in His love He had done for them. Through hundreds, even thousands of years God's people looked back to the story of the lifted up snake and remembered what God, in His love did for them.

Yet God had greater plans for the story of the lifted-up snake than for people to just marvel at what He in His love had done for His people. He planned for it to be a picture of the greatest display of His love that the world would ever know. A picture of how He would save not just His people's bodies from the consequences of their sin for awhile, but would send His dear, one and only Son, Jesus to save both their bodies and souls from sin forever. Jesus explained this to a great Jewish teacher named Nicodemus, late one night. Nicodemus had heard Jesus' powerful words about God. He had seen the amazing miracles Jesus had done. Nicodemus was sure God had sent Jesus to do something, but what? He had come through the dark and empty streets of

Jerusalem to where Jesus was to find out more. Jesus told him what God in His love for His people planned to do next.

Jesus told Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man [the Messiah] must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

"Lifted up? Would the Messiah be lifted up like a snake on a pole? Who was this 'One and Only Son of God?'" Nicodemus wondered. "Was Jesus saying talking about himself?" Nicodemus tried to understand Jesus' words, but it was very hard. No one had ever spoken like Jesus did. No other rabbi (Jewish teacher) had taught that the Messiah would be lifted up."

Perhaps it became a lot clearer to Nicodemus a few years later as he and his fellow teacher, Joseph of Arimathea, looked up at Jesus' dead body lifted up high above them on the cross on the Friday Jesus died. And even clearer still, a few days later on the Sunday, when the amazing news spread that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Did Jesus' words echo in Nicodemus' head then? What had Jesus said? "...the Son of Man must be lifted up that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Did Nicodemus understand what God in His love for His people had done? That God had loved His people from every language and nation in the whole world so much that He had not even held back the One He loved most to save them from their sins?

I can't answer that question for the Bible doesn't tell us what happened to Nicodemus. Only in heaven will we know. But I certainly hope that he came to believe that Jesus was the beloved Son of God, given up by His loving Father. I hope he put his trust in Jesus as His

Savior, lifted up on the cross to suffer and die for God's people's sins.

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. Who was lifted up long before Jesus lived? How was that used as a lifesaver?** A bronze snake. The LORD promised to save from the deadly snakebites all who looked to the snake on the pole. The snake had no power. God counted it as an act of faith in Him when people obeyed His command and looked to the snake.

**2. How was Jesus like what was lifted up? How was He a lifesaver?** Jesus was lifted up on a cross. He suffered and died for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him. He is the only way any of us can be saved. He saves us for eternal life.

### Something for You and Me

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People**

**Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 4:10**

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Perhaps we can't know if Nicodemus understood what God in His great love for His people had done through Jesus; but, there is someone else who can know: you and me! God has let us hear the story of the bronze snake. He has let us understand that in His great love, He gave His only Son Jesus to be lifted up to suffer and die on the cross so that you and I, if we confess our sins, turn from them, and believe in Him, will not perish but have eternal life. Let's praise God for His great love for sinners. Let's ask Him to give us faith to believe in His Son Jesus as our own Savior.

*Close in prayer.*

share the great news of His amazing love to others that they too might turn from their sins, trust in Jesus, and become His precious children, too.

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the Great Lover and Savior of Your undeserving people.

**C** God, we confess that many times, like the Israelites, we grumble against You, even though You has treated us so much better than we deserve. We deserve Your punishment, but You have given us a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Fill our hearts with love for You and thankfulness for all You have done for Your people.

### Special Words

**Bronze:** A yellowish-brown metal made from a mixture of copper and tin.

**Promised Land:** The LORD promised Abraham to give him and his family after him the land of Canaan to be their very own. This was where the LORD would fulfill His plans to send Jesus to be the Savior who would save God's people. It became known as the land of Israel.

# **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 willing to give up Your precious Son to save Your people.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we have all rebelled and disobeyed You. We did not want to know You and Your love. We have deserved Your punishment! We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for choosing to love us, even though we have treated You so terribly. Thank You for sending Jesus to save sinners like us!

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, help us to understand more of how great Your love is and help us to love You. Work in our hearts. Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people, who love, obey and enjoy You, now and forever.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: The Bronze Snake Lifted Up**

A hot dog "pole" cut in half, length wise with a 3" x ½" portion of crescent roll dough wrapped around it like the snake. Cook according to crescent roll recipe on side on can, shortening suggested cooking time as needed.

HINT: Do not separate the triangular crescent rolls apart, but leave pairs together, making 4 rectangles per can. Cut the 3" x ½" lengths from these rectangles.

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

**Case Tie-in:** The LORD told Moses to make a bronze snake on a pole, then hold it up. All who obeyed the LORD for help by looking up at the snake, as He said, were healed. Many years later, Jesus told Nicodemus that the bronze snake lifted up was a picture of how He would be lifted up on a cross and would save all who put their faith in Him.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

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

### **God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People**

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons, but just one God. God could live forever happy, in the wonderful, perfect fellowship of love He has within Himself. He has never needed anything or anyone to be complete.

No, God didn't need anyone else to love, yet He chose to create people with a heart to know and love Him. He wanted to share Himself with these people--especially His people: all those who would ever turn and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

But even before He created the world, even before He created them, God knew that His love would be very, very costly. All people--including His people-- would rebel against Him. They would break fellowship with Him. They would deserve His punishment, not His love. Only a huge act of love on His part would rescue them. And right then, before the beginning, God chose to make it!

He chose to give His one, dear Son Jesus to take the punishment for their sins. So at just the right time, Jesus left the wonderful, perfect fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit in heaven and came to earth to live as a man. He lived the perfect life needed to please God. On the cross, He offered it up as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He took all the terrible punishment for the sins of God's people so they could be forgiven. Because of Jesus, they would get to know God and delight in His wonderful love.

God has shown His love for His people in many ways, but the greatest way He has shown His love is by giving Jesus to save them. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. In whose love is God perfectly happy in? *His love for Himself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
2. How do the Father, Son and Holy Spirit live together? *In the closest of fellowship, always delighting in each other; never needing anyone or anything else to be happy.*
3. Who did God chose to love with His very great love? How did He show His love? *Sinful people. He chose to save them by giving up His own Son Jesus to pay for their sins.*
4. Why didn't people deserve God to save them? *All people were created to know and love Him, yet they all chose to rebel against Him and live their own way. They deserved death, not for God to save them.*
5. What was so hard about what the Father chose to do? *He gave up the deepest, dearest closeness of fellowship with His Son. He crushed Him with full punishment for the sins of His people.*
6. What was so hard about what Jesus chose to do? *He gave up the deepest, dearest closeness of fellowship with His Father (and the Holy Spirit). He chose to live among sinful people in this sinful world as not just the Son of God but as a human. He chose to bear all the terrible suffering on the cross for God's people.*
7. Whose sins does God forgive? *All who confess their sins to God, turn away from their sinful lives and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*
8. What will God's people get to enjoy? *Knowing God; delighting in His love now and always.*
9. What is the greatest way God has shown His love for His people? *Sending Jesus to save them from their sins when He suffered and died on the cross.*
10. How can we become God's people, dearly loved? *By turning away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

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

1. How had God showed His love to the Israelites? *Rescued them from slavery; taken care of their needs (water, manna, shoes that didn't wear out), showing them mercy when they kept sinning against Him, such as by providing them with healing when they looked at the bronze snake.*
2. How was the love God showed by giving His Son even greater than any other loving thing He had done? *God loved His Son most of all, so giving Him up to suffer and die for His peoples sins was the greatest act of love He could do.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 John 4:10**: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.?"

*God loved His Son most of all, yet He loved His people so much that He chose to send Him to be the propitiation --the complete payment for sins, the one who satisfied God's wrath against sin--that they needed. How deep is the love of God that He would do this for them!*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Can we become God's dearly loved adopted children? *Yes! When we confess our sins to God; turn from them; and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

2. How should God's people want to live when they understand God's love for them shown through Jesus? *They should want to be thankful to God each day for what He has done for them. They should want to obey Him and please Him in everything they do. They should realize that no matter what happens to them each day, they have every reason to shout for joy to the LORD for all He has done for them...and the wonderful riches of His love forever they have to look forward to when they go to live with Him after they die.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being willing to give up His precious Son to save His people.*

2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *Confess ways that we have rebelled and disobeyed Him, not wanting to know Him and His love. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Truth? *Thank God for choosing to love us, even though we have treated Him so terribly.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from 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 help us to understand more of how great His love is and help us to love Him.*

**The Gospel**

1. How has God shown the depths of His love for His people? 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: Omit! Obey!

### Materials

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, having them line up in straight lines, arms' length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying "Obey" or "Omit" right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says "Obey", but NOT do it if they say "Omit" first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said "Omit" is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

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

NOTE: Have children who are "Out" help give you ideas for actions.

### Non-competitive Option

Let the Question Chooser immediately back into the game, even if the class misses the question. Add the missed question back into the bag for further review.

### 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.

### To God Be the Glory

#### Verse 1

To God be the glory,  
great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world  
that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life  
an atonement for sin,  
And opened the lifegate  
that all may go in.

#### Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory,  
great things He hath done.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 11

### Understanding the Song

1. What great things has God done that we should glory Him? *He has sent His Son Jesus to be the Way for sinners to come to God.*
2. How did God show how much He loved the world? *He gave His very own Son to come and suffer a terrible death to pay for the sins of His people.*
3. What does "atonement" mean? *Making peace with someone after being enemies.*
4. What does it mean that Jesus yielded His life as an atonement for sin? *To yield one's life means to give it up. Jesus gave up His life to pay for the sins of His sinful people so that there would be peace between God and them.*
5. What is a lifegate? *A lifegate is a made up word that means the way to eternal life with God.*
6. Who may have eternal life? *All may go in. Anyone who turns from their sins and trusts in Jesus as the payment for their sins may be saved.*
7. Why should the people rejoice and praise the Lord? *Because Jesus has made the way to the Father.*
8. How do we come to the Father? *Through faith in Jesus the Son's payment for our sins.*

### Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Showed the Depths of His Love by Giving His Son, Jesus, to Save His People?** *We give glory to God for giving us His Son who He loved so much to be the payment for sins. Sinners could never pay for their sins. Only by Jesus giving up His life in the place of sinners could there ever be a way for them to come to the Father.*

### Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *God showed His great love for His people in many ways. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt and even provided them with the bronze snake and healing when they deserved nothing but punishment after speaking against Him. But the bronze snake was only a picture of the greatest way God would show His love to His people. As Jesus told Nicodemus, God loved the world so much that He gave His own Son to pay for the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. . He opened the Lifegate so all who believe in Him can enter in. The whole earth should give God the glory for this greatest of all things He has done.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **1 John 4:10**: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins?"

*All of God's people are sinners. There is no reason that God should love them because of their own goodness. But God still loved them. God chose to save them through His Son Jesus. He sent Him to be the propitiation for their sins when He died on the cross. And Jesus did it! He took all the punishment for their sins! He opened the Lifegate so all could go in. We give God the glory for doing this, because He is the one who alone could do and did do it! How great is His love for His people!*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *Every day, no matter how bad things are, they always have something even greater to thank God for. Jesus has made the Lifegate, the Way to the Father so that all who turn and trust in Him can know and enjoy Him forever in heaven.*

2. How can Jesus be our Lifegate? *When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the Provider of the Lifegate of salvation for His people.*

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

*That many times we hardly even remember to thank God for all He has done through Jesus.*

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

*We can thank God that He did not give His people what they deserved, but instead gave them life through Jesus.*

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

*That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us rejoice in Him each day as we remember what He has done for His sinful people.*

**Gospel Question**

1. Our sins shut us out from God. The way to eternal life with Him is closed to us. But God has made a Lifegate to eternal life for sinful people. What is it? How can we enter in? 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: Big Voice, Little Voice**

### **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: 1 John 4:10**

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What is love? *Love is caring for someone the way God does. The Bible tells us how love thinks, speaks and acts towards others in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*
2. Why isn't our love for God a very good picture of what love is like? *Our love for God is spoiled by our sin. We have all rebelled against God and want to love ourselves more than God. Even after someone becomes a Christian and the Holy Spirit grows love for God in their heart, their love for God is still dirtied by sin and their own selfish desires.*
3. Who shows us what love is really like? *God and His love for His people.*
4. What is the greatest way God has shown His love for His people? *He sent His Son Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
5. What does propitiation mean? *To satisfy God's good and right anger against sin.*
6. Who did God give to be the propitiation for sinful people? *His Son Jesus.*
7. How was Jesus the propitiation for the sins? *He lived a perfect life--the only kind of life that truly pleases God. He offered it up as He suffered and died on the cross, taking upon Himself the punishment for the sins of God's people--all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
8. What did God give up when He sent Jesus to earth? *The deepest, dearest closeness of fellowship that He had always enjoyed from forever before.*
9. How can we become God's people and Jesus be the propitiation for our sins? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People?** *God loved sinful people in many ways as He blesses and cares for all people—most especially His own people. Yet, God sending His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sinful way of life and trust in Jesus as their Savior, shows the depths of His love. For when He sent Jesus to be our Savior by suffering and dying, He was giving up the One He loved the most to save His people.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *The Israelites knew so much of God's love in how He rescued them and continued to bear patiently with them when they kept sinning against Him. Even when He punished them—like when He sent the snakes to bite them—He showed them His love by providing them healing when they looked up at the bronze snake that Moses made and lifted up. But as great as the love He showed in doing all these things, God showed His love most of all by sending His dear Son Jesus to be lifted up on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever trust in Jesus as their Savior. Jesus explained this to Nicodemus the dark night he came to talk with Jesus.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Can we be God's adopted, chosen sons? *Yes! When we confess our sins to God; turn from them; and trust 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 Lover and Saver of His sinful people.*

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

*That we have all turned away from God. We have all chosen not to love God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God for sending Jesus to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all who turn away from disobeying God and trust in Him as their own Savior.*

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

*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**The Gospel**

1. What is the only way for sinful people to become God's people? Why did Jesus have to die for them? 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: Simon Says How

### Materials

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

A die

Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

### Preparing the Game

Make a sign as follows:

1 = Head

2 = Feet

3 = Hands

4 = Head and Feet

5 = Feet and Hands

6 = Whole Body

### Learning the Verse

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

### Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.

2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play "Simon Says How", a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that "Simon" will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions "Simon" made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, or as time and attention span allow.

### Optional **TAKING IT TO OTHERS** Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

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

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

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

**This Is Love**

This is love,  
 Not that we loved God,  
 But that He, that he loved us,  
 He sent his Son,  
 And He sent His Son,  
 The propitiation for our sins.  
 He sent his Son,  
 And He sent His Son,  
 The propitiation for our sins.  
 First John Four, ten.

**Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 13**

## Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?

### Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as "grace", "redeem", etc.

Bag or bowl

### Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

### Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we've learned in this bag/bowl and mix them up.
2. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone...but you, if they need some help.
3. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired.
4. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. If no one guesses the sign, put it back in the bowl to be picked again.
5. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word or couple of words.

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 were the Israelites disappointed about? *The King of Edom wouldn't let them pass through his country, so they had to turn around and go back the long way through the wilderness.*
2. What did the Israelites decide to do when they had to go south into the wilderness? *Speak against the LORD and Moses.*
3. What should the Israelites have done instead of speak against the LORD? *They should have trusted in Him and His good plan. They should have remembered all the ways He had shown His love towards them in the great ways He had rescued and cared for them.*
4. Why did the LORD send as punishment? *Poisonous snakes that bit them and caused many to die.*
5. What changed in the Israelites' hearts when many died from the snake bites? *They were convicted of their sin against the LORD and turned away from their sin.*
6. What did the LORD tell Moses to make heal the Israelites? *A snake.*
7. What were the Israelites supposed to do with the bronze snake? *They were to look at it.*
8. What happened when the Israelites looked at the bronze snake? Why? Was it because the snake had magical powers? *They were healed because they had trusted and obeyed the LORD. The snake had no magical powers; it was the LORD who healed the people. He saw their faith in Him and healed them.*
9. How does God show His holiness and His mercy in the punishments He chose for the Israelites? *God was right to punish the Israelites. He had shown them how very able He was to rescue them from any enemy. They were wrong to forget who He was and not trust Him to help them defeat their enemies. They were wrong to complain about having to go through the wilderness. They had seen over and over how perfect His ways were. But God was also merciful in His punishments. He never abandoned them, though they deserved for Him to. And, even with the snakes, He provided a way to be saved from their poisonous bite for all who confessed their sin and trusted in Him, by looking to the bronze snake.*
10. What did the Israelites do to remember what the LORD had done for them through the snake? *Moses wrote down the story in the Bible. Others kept the snake to remember what the LORD had done through it.*
11. Who did Jesus tell Nicodemus that the lifted up snake was like? *Himself.*
12. How would Jesus be like that snake? *God would have Him lifted up on a "pole"—the cross for all to see. All who trusted that God had sent Him to save them, God would save.*
12. How was Jesus being lifted up NOT like the bronze snake? *Many ways! Some of them are: Jesus saved people with His death. Jesus saved His people so they could have eternal life with God, not just their bodies be healed.*
13. Why was it hard for Nicodemus to understand Jesus' words? *Because the rabbis had not taught or understood that the Messiah would die on a cross.*
14. What might have Nicodemus remembered when he stood looking up at Jesus' dead body on the cross? *Jesus' words that He would be lifted up like the bronze snake.*
15. What else happened to Jesus that may have helped Nicodemus to understand and believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior, lifted up to save His people? *When Jesus' raised from the dead, the third day after He died.*
16. Do we know if Nicodemus ever believed? *No.*
17. How did Jesus dying on the cross show the depths of God's love for His People? *Jesus wasn't just some bronze snake. He wasn't even just a man. He was God's Son. God gave Him up to suffer and die for His People. There is nothing greater God could have chosen to do than to give up His dear Son for them.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *God had loved His people in many ways over all of history. The story of the bronze snake He provided to heal them of deadly snake bite was just one of them. But nothing was as great as God giving His own dear Son Jesus to be lifted up to save His people, the greatest gift, the greatest sacrifice, God could make for His people.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What should we do if want to receive eternal life? *We must believe on Jesus, the Son of God, lifted up to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: 1 John 4:10**: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins"?

*God has always shown such undeserved love to His sinful people. In the wilderness, the LORD did not punish His grumbly people as they deserved. He gave them a way to be healed of their snake bite, if they would look to the bronze snake, showing their faith in Him. But how much more did the LORD show His love to His undeserving people by sending Jesus to be lifted up on the cross and to die as the atoning sacrifice for their sins, that they might have eternal life with Him!*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for being the Great Lover and Savior of His undeserving people.*

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

*Confess that many times, like the Israelites, we grumble against God, even though He has treated us so much better than we deserve. We deserve God's punishment. He has given us a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God for promising to send a Savior to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*

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 fill our hearts with love for Him and all He has done for His people.*

**The Gospel**

1. Like the Israelites, we are sinners who do not deserve God's love. Is there any hope for us? What is the gospel?

## Game: Secret Agent

### Materials

Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)  
Paper and Marker  
Tape  
Story Review Questions

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write out the questions on small, thin strips of paper. (Or photocopy the review questions and cut them apart). Tape (or pin) each of these in secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: "on top of your hat" or "inside your hat", or "under your left shoe", etc. That makes for more of a challenge.. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Tell the children how many questions you have hidden on your outfit and challenge them to work together to find them all and answer the questions. Keep track of how many questions they've found with tally marks on a piece of paper.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

**Description:** The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

**Instructions**

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

**Description:** The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Sr. script  
White board or other large format paper  
Costumes and props

**Preparation**

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

**Instructions**

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story**

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

**CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2**

“Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver.

This is an Old Testament story. It starts out about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: “The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver.”

**Scene 1:**

**Actions:**

Again and again, the Israelites did not trust the LORD when they should have. Instead of entering the Promised Land immediately, the LORD had them wander in the surrounding wilderness for 38 years. As they wandered they came to Edom. They wanted to cut through this greener country to get to the Jordan River where they would settle for two years. But the King of Edom refused. This meant the Israelites had to go back south, through the desert and take the long way around. They were discouraged and grumbled against the LORD and Moses. They said God brought them out to the desert to die with no food or water; and that they hated the manna He gave them.

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**Scene 2:**

The Israelites should have remembered the LORD’s love shown to them by rescuing them from slavery and in taking care of them all the past 38 years, but they did not. Instead, they chose to sin against the LORD and grumble. So, the LORD sent poisonous, red-striped snakes that bit them. Many died. Others were convicted of their sins against the LORD and cried out for mercy. They asked Moses to pray to God to take the snakes away. The LORD didn’t take the snakes away, but He did tell Moses to make a bronze snake and put in high on a pole for all the Israelites to see. Whoever trusted in the LORD by looking to the bronze snake would live. Some refused to trust God and did not look at the bronze snake. They died. But many did trust God. They looked to the lifted-up snake and were healed by the LORD. The people praised God for saving them from the snake bites. Moses wrote down the story in the Bible so all could remember what the LORD had done. Others named the snake on the pole “Nehushtan” and kept it. God’s people could see it and remember what in His love He had done for them. Through hundreds, even thousands of years God’s people looked back to the story of the lifted up snake and remembered what God, in His love did for His people.

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**Scene 3**

But God also planned for the bronze snake to be a picture of the greatest way He would love His people: sending His own Son Jesus to be lifted up high on a cross to save them from their sins. Jesus told this to the great Jewish rabbi Nicodemus late one night. Nicodemus had heard Jesus’ words and seen the mighty things He did. He knew God had sent Jesus. He came that night to find out more. Jesus told him that like Moses lifted the bronze snake high up so that all who trusted in God and looked to it would be saved from their deadly snake bites, so He would one day be lifted up to save His people and bring eternal life to all who believed in Him. He would do this because God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believed in Him would not die, but have eternal life. He was this only Son of God. Nicodemus tried to understand this, but Jesus’ words were very different from anything he had heard before. But perhaps a few years later, as he looked up at Jesus’ dead body lifted high up on the cross, Jesus’ words began to make sense. And perhaps, as Nicodemus heard the news that Jesus rose from the dead and was seen alive by so many, that he fully believed that Jesus was God’s Son given as God’s greatest act of love to His people.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People.** In His great love, God healed the Israelites’ bodies by looking at the bronze snake. But nothing was as great as God giving Jesus to be lifted up to save His people for eternal life.

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

"Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver.

This is an Old Testament story. It starts out about 1400 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: King of Edom, the Israelites, Moses, Jesus, Nicodemus, and Joseph of Arimathea

And now we present: "The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver."

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

Again and again, the Israelites did not trust the LORD when they should have. Instead of entering the Promised Land immediately, the LORD had them wander in the surrounding wilderness for 38 years. As they wandered they came to Edom. They wanted to cut through this greener country to get to the Jordan River where they would settle for two years. But the King of Edom refused. This meant the Israelites had to go back south, through the desert and take the long way around. They were discouraged and grumbled against the LORD and Moses. They said God brought them out to the desert to die with no food or water; and that they hated the manna He gave them.

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

The Israelites should have remembered the LORD's love shown to them by rescuing them from slavery and in taking care of them all the past 38 years, but they did not. Instead, they chose to sin against the LORD and grumble. So, the LORD sent poisonous, red-striped snakes that bit them. Many died. Others were convicted of their sins against the LORD and cried out for mercy. They asked Moses to pray to God to take the snakes away. The LORD didn't take the snakes away, but He did tell Moses to make a bronze snake and put it high on a pole for all the Israelites to see. Whoever trusted in the LORD by looking to the bronze snake would live. Some refused to trust God and did not look at the bronze snake. They died. But many did trust God. They looked to the lifted-up snake and were healed by the LORD. The people praised God for saving them from the snake bites. Moses wrote down the story in the Bible so all could remember what the LORD had done. Others named the snake on the pole "Nehushtan" and kept it. God's people could see it and remember what in His love He had done for them. Through hundreds, even thousands of years God's people looked back to the story of the lifted up snake and remembered what God, in His love did for His people.

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

But God also planned for the bronze snake to be a picture of the greatest way He would love His people: sending His own Son Jesus to be lifted up high on a cross to save them from their sins. Jesus told this to the great Jewish rabbi Nicodemus late one night. Nicodemus had heard Jesus' words and seen the mighty things He did. He knew God had sent Jesus. He came that night to find out more. Jesus told him that like Moses lifted the bronze snake high up so that all who trusted in God and looked to it would be saved from their deadly snake bites, so He would one day be lifted up to save His people and bring eternal life to all who believed in Him. He would do this because God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believed in Him would not die, but have eternal life. He was this only Son of God. Nicodemus tried to understand this, but Jesus' words were very different from anything he had heard before. But perhaps a few years later, as he looked up at Jesus' dead body lifted high up on the cross, Jesus' words began to make sense. And perhaps, as Nicodemus heard the news that Jesus rose from the dead and was seen alive by so many, that he fully believed that Jesus was God's Son given as God's greatest act of love to His people.

### **Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People.** In His great love, God healed the Israelites' bodies by looking at the bronze snake. But nothing was as great as God giving Jesus to be lifted up to save His people for eternal life.

## The Bronze Snake on a Pole

### Description

Children will make and decorate a snake out of wire-reinforced ribbon and attach it to a paper towel (or PVC pipe) "pole."

### Materials

2' of red, wire-reinforced ribbon, 2-3" in diameter per child

Paper towel roll or 3' (per child) of 1½" diameter PVC pipe (found in 9' lengths inexpensively at home improvement stores)

Saw (if using PVC pipe)

Various decorating supplies: pom-poms, sequins, fabric scraps, markers, wiggly eyes, etc.

Craft glue (the strong kind made especially for crafts)

Glue gun and glue

### Preparing the Craft

1. Cut the ribbon into 2' lengths, shaping the tail and head of the snake as shown in Figures #1 and #2.
2. If using PVC pipe, use saw to cut the PVC pipe into 3' lengths.
3. Set out other supplies.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children decorate their ribbon snakes with decorating supplies. TEACHER-ONLY STEPS
3. Place a dab of glue with glue gun back behind neck of snake. Attach to top of pole.
4. As soon as set, gently wind the snake around the pole, then put a dab of glue about 2" from end of tail and attach it to the pole.

NOTE: You may want to let snakes that are heavily decorated dry a bit before these last two steps so that the decorations don't fall off.

### 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 were the people when the snakes bit them? *In the wilderness.*
2. What did the LORD tell Moses to make so that the people so that they would not have to die from the snakebites?  
*A bronze snake that he put on a pole.*
3. Why did the LORD tell them to do, as an act of faith in Him? How could they be healed?  
*By looking up to the bronze snake on the pole, as the LORD told them to.*
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People?  
*Like the bronze snake lifted up, God gave His Son Jesus to be lifted up to save His people from their sins.*
6. *What can this craft help us remember?*  
*Jesus was lifted up on the cross to save us. God wants us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus.*

**TAKING IT TO OTHERS****Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

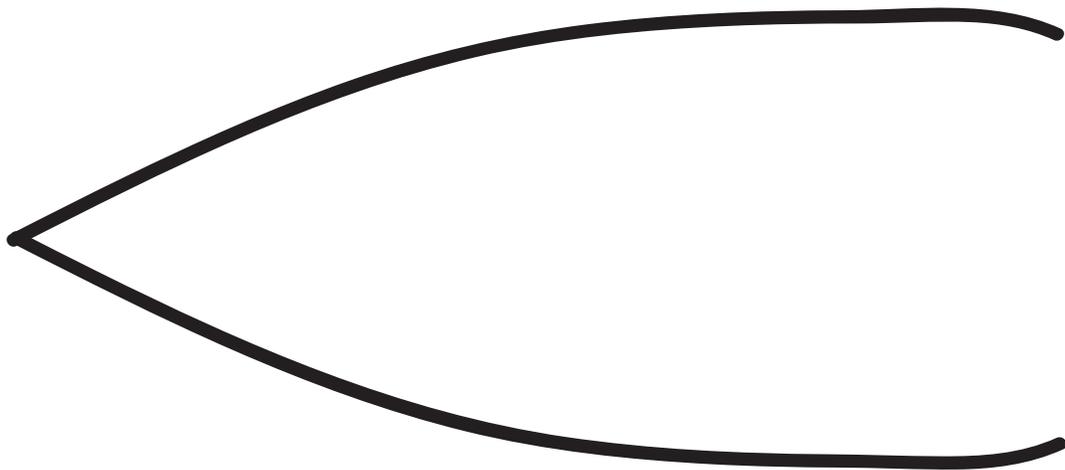
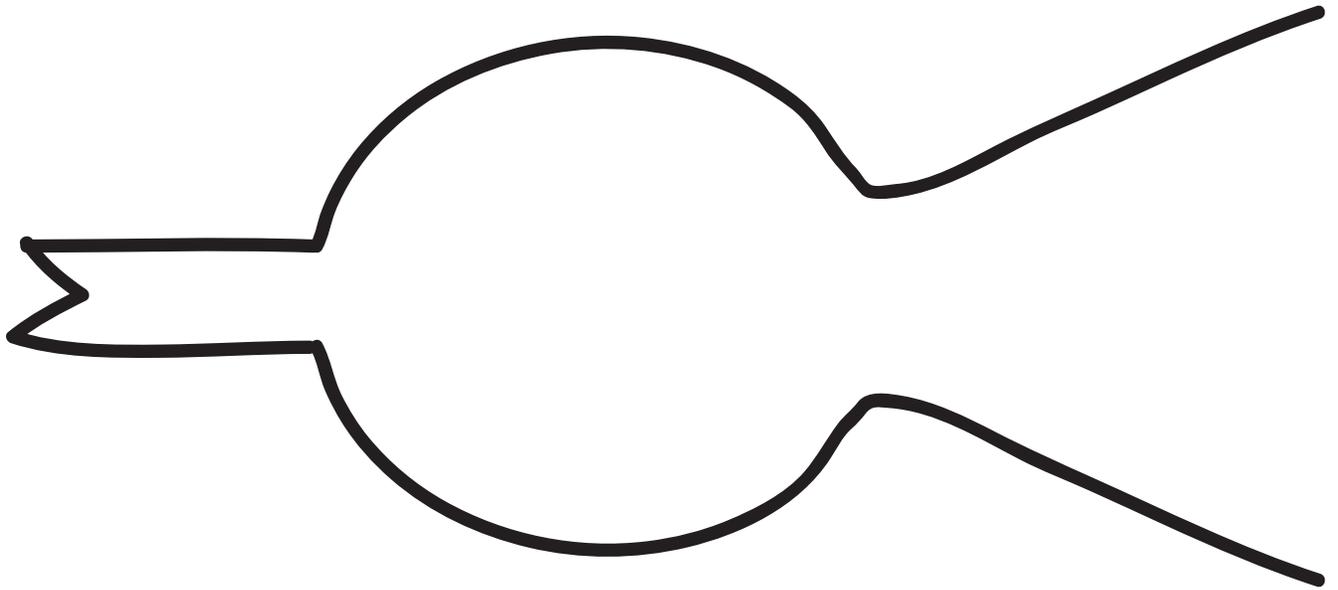
Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is: The Bronze Snake on a Pole.
2. Out in the wilderness, the LORD told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole so that the Israelites dying of snake bite might trust in the LORD, look at it and be healed.
3. Bible Truth 3 is: God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People.
4. Like the bronze snake lifted up, God gave His Son Jesus to be lifted up to save His people from their sins.
5. Our craft can help us remember that Jesus was lifted up on the cross to save us. God wants us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus.

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.

Snake Head and Tail Shapes





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

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

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Game: Mix and Match

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

### Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

# **VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**P.3**

## **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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

