

BIBLE TRUTH 3, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI ESV Songs 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 3 New Testament: The Case of the Matchless Marvel

Proverbs 8:30; Isaiah 41:2; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 26-28; John 1:1-18; 3:16; 17:25; Ephesians 1:1-14

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Lovely Cookies

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

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

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI ESV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: 1 John 4:10 Discussion Sheet and Game: Ball Circle Toss

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

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

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Tell the Truth Basketball

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: When Jesus Died on the Cross

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

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

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

The Case of the Matchless Marvel by Connie Dever*Proverbs 8:30; Isaiah 41:2; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 26-28; John 1:1-18; 3:16; 17:25; Ephesians 1:1-14***Our story is: The Case of the Matchless Marvel.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was matchless in His love?
2. What did He do that was such a marvel (so amazing that we can hardly believe it)??

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus came to earth to live. It is a story like none other. It is about a love so deep, so high, and so wide that it can't be measured. A love so beautiful and perfect that no one could ever repeat it. An absolutely matchless love. Who is this love story about? It is about God the Father's love for His Son, Jesus.

From forever past--long before this world was created--God the Father loved His Son with this beautiful, perfect love. The Son was the Father's Chosen One and His Spirit delighted in Him daily. The Son rejoiced before His Father always. The Father's love for His Son was matchless--greater by far than His love for anything or anyone else. It was more than we can ever imagine. He held the Son in His bosom--the deepest, dearest part of His heart--where they could share in complete closeness. They were one; and every moment was filled with Perfect Wonderfulness.

What would you do if you loved someone with this kind of matchless love? What would you do if you enjoyed such Perfect Wonderfulness with them? You wouldn't give them up for anything, would you?

But do you know what God the Father did with His beloved Son? He gave Him up. And He didn't just give Him up to friends. He gave Him up to His enemies. And what is even more surprising, He gave Him up to His enemies to suffer all of God the Father's terrible wrath for their sins, so they could be forgiven and become His own sons and daughters!

Why would God the Father do such a thing? Did someone make Him do this? Nope. He chose to do it freely—it was His own good pleasure and will. And it wasn't just God the Father who chose to do this. God the Son loved His Father with the same, matchless love. He rejoiced to fulfill His Father's plan, even though He would have to suffer so much.

But do you see what all this means? This love story isn't just about God the Father's love for His Son. It is also about God's marvelous love for His people. Oh, how much He chose to endure and suffer to save them! So at just the right time, God gave His Son out of His bosom—the deepest, dearest part of His heart--and He began to form as a tiny human baby inside of Mary. Jesus was still completely the Son of God, but now also He was completely human, too.

So, on just the right night, Jesus was born near Bethlehem and placed in a manger of straw. Angels announced God's wonderful plan of salvation. People rejoiced at the good news of salvation. But it was not all easy and happy, this plan of salvation. Even the night Jesus was born, it was Mary's little human arms that held Jesus close to her heart. God the Father had given Jesus out of His bosom to save His people, choosing less closeness for their sake.

When Jesus grew up, it was time to tell everyone about God's Kingdom. Before He began, He went to John the Baptist to be baptized at the Jordan River. Down in the water He went, then back up again. As He came up, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. The Father watched everything His Son was doing. His heart was filled with love and perfect satisfaction for Him. He spoke from heaven saying, "This is My Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased!"

Some people agreed. They heard Jesus' words. They saw the amazing things Jesus did. They believed that He was God's Son, the Messiah, come to save them. They followed Him and learned from Him.

But many more rejected Jesus. "God has no Son. God is only God the Father," they said to Him. "You are a liar.

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.

If you are anyone's son, you are Satan's son. He's the one giving you power to do the amazing things you do." They plotted to capture Him and have Him put to death on a cross.

None of this surprised God the Father or Jesus, the Son of God. God knew this was what these people would do. God had woven it all into His good and wise plan. He would use even these wicked deeds to glorify Himself and to bring salvation to His sinful people. It was wonderful what God would do, but it was not easy or all happy. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit knew how much Jesus would suffer!

The closer the day when Jesus would die came, the harder it was for Him to keep going! The night before He was to die on the cross, Jesus fell face down to the ground and prayed: "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup—this terrible time of suffering and death—be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

Can you imagine how the Father felt? This was not just anyone suffering! This was His Son whom He had delighted in and had loved from forever past. The Father certainly had the power to rescue Jesus and remove Him from the suffering that lay before Him. Thousands of angels stood ready to come to His rescue. He could have taken Him out of the world right then and there and brought Him back into the deepest, dearest closeness of His bosom. Jesus could have chosen not to suffer, but both kept to the plan. Only this terrible path of suffering and death would save God's people. So as hard as it was, the Father and the Son were pleased to complete this glorious, wise plan; this gift of indescribable love for His people.

Judas, one of Jesus' close disciples, led soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying, greeting Him with a brotherly kiss. The soldiers seized Jesus; and all His friends ran away, leaving Him to His enemies and death.

All the rest of the night, the Jews and Romans questioned Jesus, insulted Him and hurt Him. In the morning, they gathered a crowd where the Roman leader, Pilate was making a final decision about Jesus. "What shall I do with Jesus, called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

"Crucify him! Crucify him!" they shouted angrily.

Pilate agreed. Soldiers took Jesus away. They put a scarlet robe on Him and pressed a crown of long, twisted thorns down on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on Him and took the staff and struck him with it. They took away the robe, then led him away and crucified Him.

Jesus suffered terribly! Crowds shook their heads at Him and insulted Him: "Come down from the cross, if You are the Son of God!" some said.

The worst Jesus had to suffer now came. And from whom? From God the Father, Himself-- the very One who loved Jesus with a matchless love. Just as planned, God the Father poured out His terrible wrath upon His Son. On Him, He laid all of the punishment for the sins of His people—all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

As the weight of the Father's wrath crushed His dear Son, Jesus felt completely separated from His Father. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me!" He cried out in anguish. Oh, what pain! Oh, what separation! Yes, for Jesus, but also for God the Father. This was His Son who He was separating from Himself with His wrath for His people's sins! His Son who had dwelt in His bosom—the deepest, dearest part of His love—from forever past! How great His grief must have been to treat His Son this way! Yet He loved His sinful people so much that He was even willing to do this.

At last it was over. Jesus had taken all God's punishment for His people's sins. "It is finished," Jesus cried out. "Into Your hands I commit My spirit," He told His Father as He died. Friends came and took His body. They laid it in a tomb and rolled a stone in front of it.

This seemed to be the end of the Son of God, but of course it was not. The wise and glorious plan had worked! Jesus had beaten death! It couldn't keep Him in the grave! On the third day, God the Father raised Him to life again. How His disciples rejoiced!

But there was even greater joy in heaven. For after forty days, Jesus rose to heaven to be with His Father. Once more the Father drew Jesus in His bosom—into the deepest, dearest part of His heart. Once more God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit delighted in the fullness of Perfect Wonderfulness as before.

But there was even more. For God had so loved the world that He had given His only Son that whoever believed in Him would not perish, but have eternal life. Now in Jesus, God the Father drew all of His people into His bosom—into the deepest, dearest part of His heart. All the days of their lives they would know His love in their hearts. And one day, they would go to live with Him forever, being filled up completely with enjoy Him, the wonderful, glorious, infinite God forever more.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was matchless in His love? God was matchless in His love for His Son, Jesus. But also in His love for sinners, like you and me.

2. What did He do that was such a marvel (so amazing that we can hardly believe it)? He gave His Son, whom He loved so much, to suffer and die for sinners like you and me, that all who might turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, would be forgiven their sins and be saved. He would adopt them into His family and treat them with the same love as He does His dear, Son, Jesus.

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.”

How great is the love of God the Father for His Son Jesus! How great is His love for His people, that He would endure such suffering for them! What should you and I think about this? What should we do? We should be amazed that God would love any of us like this! We should praise God for freely giving His Son to save sinful people like us. We should ask Him to forgive our sins and ask Him to be our own Savior. We should ask Him to help us never forget how deep His love is and to show us how we can live our lives to please Him as the only “thank you” we have for all that He has done for His sinful people.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Great Lover and Savior of Your undeserving people. People You wanted to make Your dearly loved people so much that You chose to send Jesus, Your dear Son to die to save them.

C God, we confess that we all choose not to love You. None of us deserve to be Your people. None of us can be saved by our own goodness. We deserve Your punishment. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for loving Your people so much that You would send Jesus to suffer more than anyone could ever suffer to save sinful people like us!

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our hearts with love for You.

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.....

Add your own Adorations:

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....

Add your own Confessions:

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...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

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...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Lovely Cookies

Mini heart-shaped pizza made from pizza dough (cans in refrigerator section or grocery) and topped with cheese, pepperoni, etc. OR heart-shaped sugar cookie (rolls in refrigerator section).

NOTE: If choose the sugar cookies, serve with milk to counteract the sugar.

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

Case Tie-in: God the Father loved His sinful people so much that He was even willing to give up His dear Son, Jesus, for them. So in love, Jesus left the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with His Father in heaven and become human. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. Oh how terribly He suffered as His Father put upon Him the punishment God's people deserved! Jesus died on the cross, but on the third day He rose from the grave in victory! Now He lives in heaven again in the wonderful fellowship of God the Father and Holy Spirit. But now, all of God's people will get to enjoy that wonderful fellowship, too!

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

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

God 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. Why did God chose to give up Jesus to save His people? *Nobody made Him do it. It was His own good pleasure and will to do it. He freely chose to.*
2. What kind of fellowship with God will God's people get to enjoy when they go to live with Him forever? *Through Jesus, they will get to enjoy all of the deepest, dearest close fellowship with God that they can possibly know (as finite humans).*

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: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

Materials

Tape

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say "Green light" they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say "Red light" they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

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

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. 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 the Father loved His Son more than anything else, yet He loved the world so much that He freely chose to give Him up to save all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. To God be all the glory for our salvation! Only Jesus could be the atonement for our sins! Only He could open up the lifegate for all who put their trust in Him to come in and enjoy eternal life with God.*

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: 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: 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? *There is no greater love than the love between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father loved His Son this much, yet He chose to give Him up to be the atoning sacrifice that would make peace between Him and His sinful people. God chose to suffer so much because He loved His people so much.*

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: Ball Circle Toss

Materials

Bible Verse written up in large print so that all can see
Foam or other soft surface ball

Preparing the Game

None.

Learning the Verse

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

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm's length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Alternative Game Version:

1. Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
2. No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

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: 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 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. How is today's story a love story? *It's a love story of God the Father's deep love for His Son, Jesus; and of His deep love for His people.*
2. When did God the Father's love for His Son begin? *It has no beginning. He has always loved Him from forever and ever before.*
3. What is God the Father's love for His Son like? *So deep, so high, so wide it can't be measured.*
4. What does it mean that Jesus was in God the Father's bosom? *God loved Him with His deepest, dearest part of His heart.*
5. Who did God the Father give His Son to? *To His enemies: sinful people--like you and me!*
6. Why did God the Father give His Son to His enemies? *To forgive their sins and save them so He could adopt them as His own children.*
7. What would Jesus have to do to save God's people? *Suffer God's punishment that they deserved for their sins.*
8. How does God the Son feel about His Father? *What did He think of His Father's plan to save sinful people? He loved His Father as much as the Father loved Him. He delighted to do His Father's will, even though He would suffer terribly.*
9. What did God the Father say when Jesus was baptized? *"This is My Son whom I love. With Him I am well pleased."*
10. What did some people do when they heard Jesus' words and saw the mighty things He did? *They believed in Him and followed Him.*
11. What did many people do when they heard Jesus' words and saw the mighty things He did? *They didn't believe. They said He wasn't God's Son, but Satan's. They plotted to arrest and kill Him.*
12. Why did Jesus ask His Father to do in the Garden of Gethsemane? *Take the cup of suffering away from Him, but to do His will, not His (Jesus').*
13. Could God the Father have taken the cup of suffering away from Jesus? Why didn't He? *Yes. His love for His people and the wisdom of His plan of salvation.*
14. Why did Jesus choose to suffer instead of being rescued by God, His Father? *To save God's people and to fulfill His Father's perfect plan.*
15. What did Jesus' enemies yell at Jesus while He was being crucified? *To come down from the cross if He was the Son of God. Ask God the Father to save Him.*
16. Who poured out the worst suffering on Jesus as He hung on the cross? Why? *God the Father. He poured out all the punishment for His people's sins on Jesus. The pain of the suffering and the terrible separation from His Father.*
17. What did God do to Jesus on the third day after He died? Why could He do this to Jesus? *Raised Him from the dead. Jesus had completely beaten death. There was no punishment of death that remained, so death could not hold Him in the grave.*
18. What was so wonderful for God the Father and Son when Jesus rose to heaven? *At last God the Father and Son could enjoy the same, deepest, dearest love and closeness as before; God rejoiced at completing His wise plan of salvation; and*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *It is the story of how much God loved His Son, but gave Him up to suffer and die to save His people.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story 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 the Father loved His Son more than a thousand worlds. Yet, He loved His sinful people so much, that He was willing to send Him away from His bosom—the deepest of fellowship—to suffer and die as the propitiation--the payment that satisfied God's good and right wrath-- for the sins of His people. Jesus, God's Son, loved His Father and God's people so much that He was willing to do this, even though it was very, very, very hard.

Life Application Questions

1. What is something that amazes you about God's love for His Son? For His people?
2. How do you think God's people should live when they understand God's great gift of His Son to save them? *They should praise Him and thank Him every day. They should want to live their lives to please Him.*
3. How can we become God's people? *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 being that we learned in our story?
Praise God for being the Great Lover and Savior of His undeserving people. People He wanted to make His dearly loved people so much that He chose to send His dear Son to die to save them.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?
Confess that we all choose not to love God. None of us deserve to be His people. None of us can be saved by our own goodness. We deserve God's punishment. We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?
We can thank God for loving His people so much that He would suffer the worst anyone could suffer to save them.
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. .

The Gospel

1. Why did God send Jesus? 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: Tell the Truth Basketball

Materials

- 3 baskets
- A ball
- Paper and marker
- Masking Tape
- 20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

Preparing the Game

1. Use the Story Review Questions to come up with 20+ statements about the story that are true, false, or not in the story.
2. Write the words "true", "false", and "not in the story" on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

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

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns making baskets and answering the questions.

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: The Case of the Matchless Marvel.

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

And now we present: "The Case of the Matchless Marvel."

Scene 1:

God the Father and God the Son have always loved each other with the deepest, most wonderful love. God's Spirit delighted in this love. The happiness they enjoyed together is more than we can ever imagine. God the Father held the Son in His bosom-- the deepest, dearest part of His heart--where they could share in complete closeness. They were one; and every moment was filled with Perfect Wonderfulness. Who can imagine ever giving away someone loved like this! But that is just what God the Father did. He chose to give His Son Jesus to His enemies so He could forgive them their sins and adopt them as His own children. Jesus loved His Father just as much as His Father loved Him. He delighted to do His will, even though He would have to suffer so much. This story is the story of God the Father for His Son, AND for His people.

Actions:

Scene 2:

At just the right time, God the Father gave Jesus to become a human. He was born to Mary and placed in the manger. God the Father had given Jesus to save His people, choosing less closeness for their sake. Jesus grew up and began to tell people about God's Kingdom. John the Baptist baptized Him and as He came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove and from heaven God the Father said: "This is my Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased." Some people agreed. They listened to Jesus, saw the great things He did and believed He was the Savior, the Son of God. Many didn't agree. They said God had no Son. They told Jesus He was a liar and Satan's son—that's how He did the great things He did. They planned to capture Him and kill Him. God knew their wicked plans, but had woven them into His perfect plan to save His people. The night before He died, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsamene to pray. He knew how much He would have to suffer and was so sad He almost died. He fell down on His face and asked God to take away this plan, but to do His will, not His own. God the Father could have rescued His Son and Jesus could have chosen not to suffer, but they both chose to save God's people instead.

Scene 3

Judas came to the garden, kissed Jesus as a sign and the soldiers seized Him. Jesus' friends all left Him. He was treated cruelly and lifted up on the cross to die. There, Jesus offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people. How He hurt, as God the Father poured out all His wrath for His people's sins upon Him. Jesus felt so separated from His Father that He cried out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?!" When at last Jesus had taken all God's punishment for sin, He gave His spirit to His Father and died. Friends took Him down and buried Him. Jesus had beaten death. God the Father raised Him to life on the third day. His disciples rejoiced as He appeared to them. Then Jesus went to heaven after forty days, where all heaven rejoiced. Into the Father's bosom, Jesus returned and they once more enjoyed the closest of fellowship like before. Even more amazing, through Jesus, all God's people will also be brought in close to God's bosom to enjoy close fellowship with Him forever in heaven.

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.** Our story today is the story of how much God loved His Son, but gave Him up to suffer and die to save His people.

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 Matchless Marvel.

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

The characters in our story are: Jesus, John the Baptist, Enemies, God's people, Judas, Disciples; Soldiers, Friends; and Angels.

And now we present: "The Case of the Matchless Marvel."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

God the Father and God the Son have always loved each other with the deepest, most wonderful love. God's Spirit delighted in this love. The happiness they enjoyed together is more than we can ever imagine. God the Father held the Son in His bosom-- the deepest, dearest part of His heart--where they could share in complete closeness. They were one; and every moment was filled with Perfect Wonderfulness. Who can imagine ever giving away someone loved like this! But that is just what God the Father did. He chose to give His Son Jesus to His enemies so He could forgive them their sins and adopt them as His own children. Jesus loved His Father just as much as His Father loved Him. He delighted to do His will, even though He would have to suffer so much. This story is the story of God the Father for His Son, *AND* for His people.

Scene 2: (Middle)

At just the right time, God the Father gave Jesus to become a human. He was born to Mary and placed in the manger. God the Father had given Jesus to save His people, choosing less closeness for their sake. Jesus grew up and began to tell people about God's Kingdom. John the Baptist baptized Him and as He came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove and from heaven God the Father said: "This is my Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased." Some people agreed. They listened to Jesus, saw the great things He did and believed He was the Savior, the Son of God. Many didn't agree. They said God had no Son. They told Jesus He was a liar and Satan's son—that's how He did the great things He did. They planned to capture Him and kill Him. God knew their wicked plans, but had woven them into His perfect plan to save His people. The night before He died, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsamene to pray. He knew how much He would have to suffer and was so sad He almost died. He fell down on His face and asked God to take away this plan, but to do His will, not His own. God the Father could have rescued His Son and Jesus could have chosen not to suffer, but they both chose to save God's people instead.

Scene 3: (End)

Judas came to the garden, kissed Jesus as a sign and the soldiers seized Him. Jesus' friends all left Him. He was treated cruelly and lifted up on the cross to die. There, Jesus offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people. How He hurt, as God the Father poured out all His wrath for His people's sins upon Him. Jesus felt so separated from His Father that He cried out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?!" When at last Jesus had taken all God's punishment for sin, He gave His spirit to His Father and died. Friends took Him down and buried Him. Jesus had beaten death. God the Father raised Him to life on the third day. His disciples rejoiced as He appeared to them. Then Jesus went to heaven after forty days, where all heaven rejoiced. Into the Father's bosom, Jesus returned and they once more enjoyed the closest of fellowship like before. Even more amazing, through Jesus, all God's people will also be brought in close to God's bosom to enjoy close fellowship with Him forever in heaven.

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.** Our story today is the story of how much God loved His Son, but gave Him up to suffer and die to save His people.

God's Love When Jesus Died on the Cross

Description

Children will a sand art decorated heart and cross.

Materials

White cardstock paper

Different colors of craft sand

Craft glue

Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of Template #1 onto cardstock, 1 per child.
2. Set out sand in jelly roll style cookie sheets (the kind with full sides) or 13"x9" baking pans, 1 per color. Set out other supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children a copy of the craft.
2. Glue a section they want colored with a particular color of sand.
3. Sprinkle sand over that section, allowing extra to slide off paper back into the cookie sheet.
4. Glue a new section, then sprinkle it with sand. Continue until all decorated.

NOTES: Encourage children to try swirls and patterns, not just to color a whole section the same color, for a more dramatic look.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. Where did Jesus die on the cross? *On a hill outside of Jerusalem.*
2. Why did Jesus die on the cross? *To save God's people from their sins.*
3. Why was Jesus dying on the cross the greatest show of God's love for His people? *Because God the Father loves Jesus most of all. He was His most precious, only Son. And He gave Him up for God's people! Wow!*
4. What is 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? *God loved His people so much that He was even willing to have His Son suffer and die for His people on the cross.*
6. What can our craft help us remember? *How very, very much God loves His people!*

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.

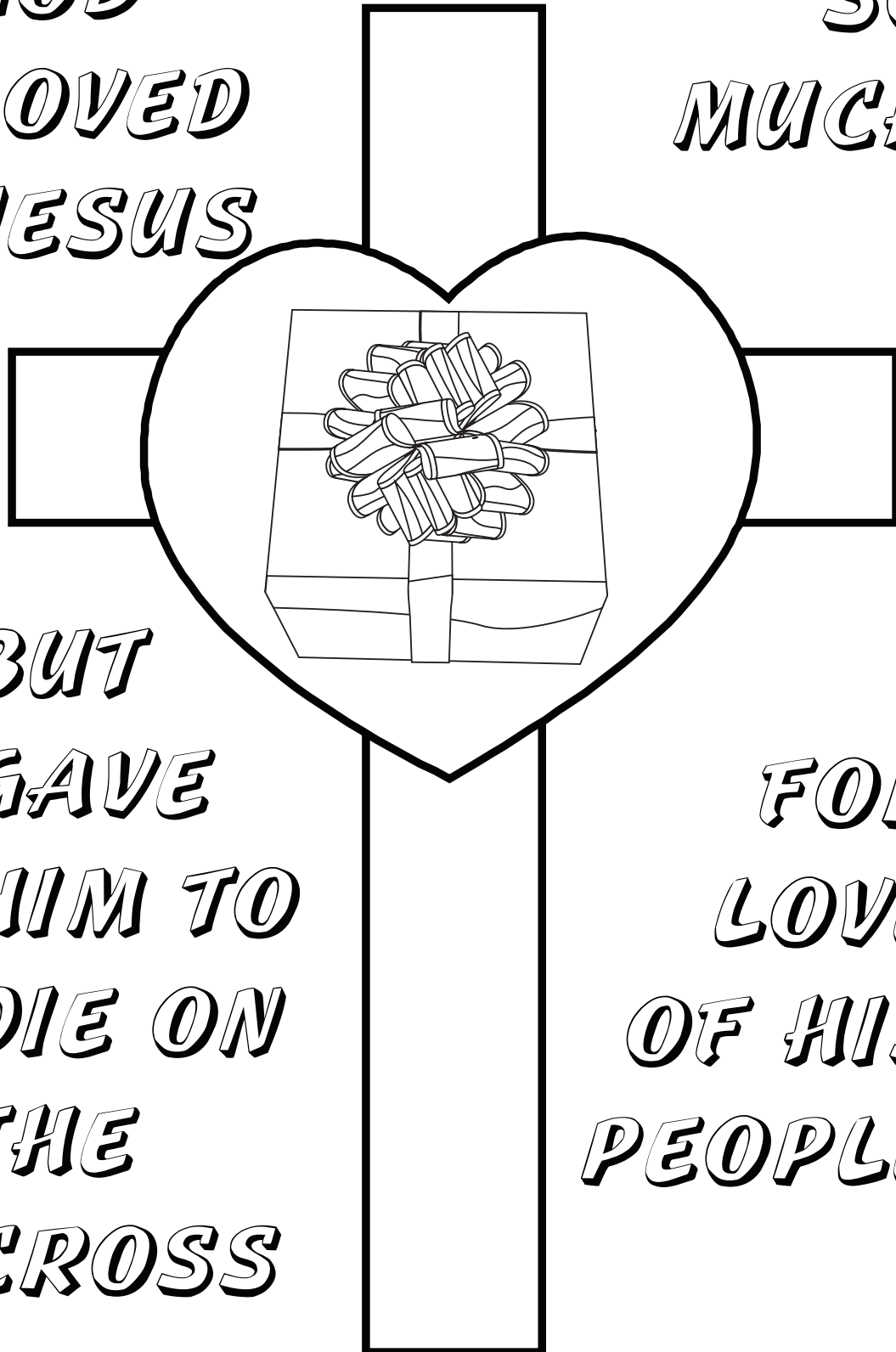
Presentation:

1. Our craft is: God's Love When Jesus Died on the Cross.
2. On a hill outside of Jerusalem, God showed how very great His love was for His people when Jesus, His most precious, only Son, died on the cross for their sins.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Showed the Depths of His Love By Giving His Son Jesus to Save His People.
4. God loved His people so much that He was even willing to have His Son suffer and die for His people on the cross.
5. Our craft can help us remember how very, very much God loves His people!

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.

**GOD
LOVED
JESUS**

**SO
MUCH**



**BUT
GAVE
HIM TO
DIE ON
THE
CROSS**

**FOR
LOVE
OF HIS
PEOPLE**

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 with the resources for this Bible Truth.

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

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

Game: Crabbin' Around

Materials

Information Sheet for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

A Bag

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

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

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

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

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
