



BIBLE TRUTH 3 OVERVIEW

Unit 8: The God Who Loves

Big Question and Answer: "What is God's love for His people like? It's more than they could ever deserve!"

Bible Verse: "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good. His love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

Bible Truth 3 Concept: 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.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

Meditation Version: 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."

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being willing to give up Your precious Son to save Your people.

C 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!

T 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!

S 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.

Bible Truth 3 Stories

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

Numbers 21:4-9; 2 Kings 18:4; John 3:1-1

Lesson 2: The Case of the Peace-Maker (Story of the Saints)

Lesson 3: The Case of the Matchless Marvel (New Testament)

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

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

<p>Welcome</p>	<p>“Welcome to Praise Factory. We’re so glad you’ve joined us! Here at the PFI we are investigators. (That’s what the “I” stands for!) Investigators look for answers to questions. In PFI, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God’s Word to find them.”</p>
<p>Praise Factory Theme Song</p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Praise Factory Investigator’s theme song.”</p> <p>PFI: Praise Factory Investigators <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 1</i></p> <p>We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, We’re looking for answers to very big questions, Big questions about God, If you’re looking for answers to very big questions ‘bout God, come along, Join PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word. Deep down, diggin’ down, Let’s go diggin’ down, Deep down, diggin’ down, ‘Til answers to all our Big Questions we’ve found. We’re PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word, That’s PFI: Praise Factory Investigators, Diggin’ deep down for truths in God’s Word.</p>
<p>Classroom Rules Song</p>	<p>An important part of Praise Factory is helping us worship God and love one another. Our WoGoLOA song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p>WoGoLOA Rules Song <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 2</i></p> <p>Refrain: WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another,” WoGoLOA means “Worship God and love one another.”</p> <p>WoGo means “Worship God.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Joyfully take part, Listen to others, Obey your teachers. (<i>Refrain</i>)</p> <p>LOA means “Love One Another.” Sound off, 1,2,3, Be kind, Be encouraging, Help others, help others. (<i>Refrain twice</i>)</p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued

Opening Prayer	"Let's ask God to help us obey these rules, and to help us worship Him and love one another as we learn more about Him today. Let's pray." <i>Pray.</i>
Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 8 and Songs	<p>"Now it's time to turn to today's Big Question Under Investigation.</p> <p>It's: What Is God's Love for His People Like?</p> <p>God knew and loved His people even before the world began, even though He knew they were sinners who would rebel against Him. He always planned to care for them and to save them from their sins through Jesus. He always planned to work in their hearts by His Holy Spirit so they would love Him and want to live for Him. He always planned to bring them home to live with Him in heaven forever.</p> <p>So the answer to our Big Question, 'What Is God's Love for His People Like?' is: It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!</p> <p>"Let's sing our Big Question Song(s): <i>choose one or both</i></p> <p>Big Q & A 8 Song <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 3</i> <i>(adapted version of "Baa. Baa. Black Sheep")</i> What is God's love for His people like? More than they could ever deserve! What is God's love for His people like? More than they could ever deserve!</p> <p>Big Question 8 Song <i>PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 4</i> What Is God's Love for His People Like? What is God's love for His people like? What is God's love for His people like? What is God's love for His people like? It's more than they could ever deserve.</p> <p>Verse 1 God loves His people from all places, from all times, with ev'ry kind of faces. God loves His people from ev'ry nation, And He loves them all through Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>Refrain</i> God's love for His people is more than they could ever deserve. God's love for His people is more than they could ever deserve.</p> <p>Verse 2 God loved His people before the beginning, Even before they were repenting and believing, God loved His people from ev'ry nation, And He loved them all through Jesus Christ. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Verse 3 God loved His people, He sent Jesus, To save them, so forever they would be His, God loves His people from ev'ry nation, And He always will through Jesus Christ. <i>Refrain</i></p>

1. GETTING STARTED, continued**Unit 8
Bible Verse**

"How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

1 Chronicles 16:34 tells us: "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever."

**Big Question 8 Bible Verse Song
Forever and Ever: 1 Chronicles 16:34**

PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 5

Forever and ever,
The LORD's love endures forever.
Forever and ever,
The LORD's love endures forever.
First Chronicles Sixteen, thirty-four.

God's people are sinners. Their love for God is never the same. They do not seek Him or obey Him as they should. Yet, the LORD's love for them is always steadfast. It never changes. That's because it's based on Jesus' perfect life and love, not on sinful life and unsteady love. God's people rejoice in how good God is to them! They give thanks to Him for His always faithful love. It will never, ever end. It truly is more than they could ever deserve.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story)**Bible Truth 3**

"It's time for us to dig down deeper for answers to our Big Question. We're learning **SIX** Bible Truths that all tell us something about God's love for His people. We have learned some already. Can you remember what they are? (God Blesses All People with Many Good Gift and God Loved His People Before They Loved Him.)

The Bible Truth we are going to be thinking about today is:

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 live 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.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**Bible Truth 3
Hymn**

*You might also enjoy
listening to:
God's One, Big Plan
PFI NIV Songs 8,
Track 11*

"Long ago, a woman named Fanny Crosby was thinking about this Bible truth, too. She wrote the words to a hymn called "To God Be the Glory" We're going to learn a verse from it.

To God Be the Glory

PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 10

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.

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.

**Bible Truth 3
Bible Verse
and Song**

"The Bible verse we are going to be digging down into for this Bible Truth is:

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."

We are all sinners who have rebelled against God, yet God chose to love us and do it in the deepest way possible: He sent Jesus to save us. Yes, He sent His dearly loved Son, to come to earth to be the atoning sacrifice that would pay for our sins. He would live a perfect life then offer it up as the payment that would bring the forgiveness we needed. And He chose to do this while we still were rebelling against Him! How wonderful is this free gift of God! How deep is His love! This atoning sacrifice is for us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!

This Is Love

PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 12

This is love,
Not that we loved God,
But that He, that he loved us,
He sent his Son,
And He sent His Son,
An atoning sacrifice for sin.
He sent his Son,
And He sent His Son,
An atoning sacrifice for sin.
First John, Four, ten.

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 1 STORY****Old Testament Story:****The Case of the Lifted-Up Lifesaver**

Numbers 21:4-9; 2 Kings 18:4; John 3:1-1

"Now it's time for today's story 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?** (If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the 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.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

LESSON 2 STORY**Story of the Saints:****The Case of the Peace Maker**

"Now it's time for today's story called: **The Case of the Peace-Maker.**

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

- 1. Who was at war? How did they make peace?**
- 2. How did Don use the tribes' peace maker to tell the people about Jesus?** (If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the questions.

1. Who was at war? How did they make peace? Two Sawi tribes. They made peace by giving a son from the tribe to the other tribe. As long as the son lived, the peace was kept.

2. How did Don use the tribes' peace maker to tell the people about Jesus? He told them that Jesus was God's Son, the peace child sent to make peace between sinful people and God.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

2. DIGGING DEEP DOWN, continued**LESSON 3****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*

"Now it's time for today's story called: **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)?**

(If desired, write these questions on a sheet of paper to refer to when the story is finished.)

Read story.

After reading story, ask for the children's answers to the 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.

Close in prayer. (prayer suggestions included at end of story)

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

- **ACTS Prayer Activity:** Add your own prayer requests to the ACTS prayer
- **Sneaky Snack:** Story-related snack
- **Bible Truth Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth
- **Bible Truth Hymn:** Music activities to learn a portion of a Bible Truth-related hymn
- **Bible Verse Review Activity:** Game with questions related to Bible Truth Bible verse
- **Bible Verse Song:** Music activities to learn the Bible Verse song
- **Story Review Activity:** Game with questions related to the Bible Truth and Case
- **Case RePlay, Jr. and Sr.:** Two drama activities that review the story: one for younger children, one for older children.
- **Craft:** Story-related craft
- **VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person):** Game and a coloring activity to help children learn about people in your church and how to pray for them.

(VIP resources: found online or at back of this book)

4. TAKING IT TO OTHERS *Optional presentations for the last few minutes of class***Presenting to Other Children**

If you split the children into different response activities, you can gather the children together again and have each small group make presentations to show the other children what they learned. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

Presenting to Parents

If you keep your children together for response activities, you can have them make a presentation of something they have learned to their parents when they come to pick them up from class. Presentation ideas are included in the resources for each activity.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)***PFI Pronto**

Give out the PFI Pronto for the case story as well as any other materials as the children are dismissed.