

BIBLE TRUTH 4, LESSON 2: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

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

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI 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 4: God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs

Bible Truth Hymn: The King of Love, vs.1,4 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Tracks 14,15*

Bible Verse: Psalm 23:1-6

Bible Verse Song: The LORD Is My Shepherd *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 16*

Extra Bible Verse Song: *If God Be for Us Romans 8:31-32,35,38-39, ESV, Songs 8, Track 17*

Extra Bible Verse Song: *Who Shall Separate Us? Romans 8:31-32,35,38-39, ESV, Songs 8, Track 18*

Lesson 2 Story of the Saints: The Case of the Penniless, Rich Man

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

Snack and Discussion Planner: Sick Soup, Cannon Balls and A Hard Mat

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Storks

Bible Truth Hymn: The King of Love, vs.1,4 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Tracks 14,15*

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

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 23:1-6 Discussion Sheet and Game: Duck, Duck, Goose

Bible Verse Song: The LORD Is My Shepherd Psalm 23:1-6 *PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 16*

Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI ESV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Windssock Wall Ball

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: Dodging Cannon Balls

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (back of book) and Game: Beanbag Toss In

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

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2 **PFI ESV Prontos 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the Penniless, Rich Man

by

Our story is called:**The Case of the Penniless, Rich Man.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the Penniless, Rich Man? How did he choose to be penniless? Why?
2. Who made him rich? How?

This story doesn't take place in Bible times. It starts out in 1837 in Barnsley, England.

James Taylor sat in his library, reading one of Captain Hall's books about China. How amazing it was! It had huge mountains and massive deserts. It had rich soil and wide rivers that flowed through the land and out into the China Sea. The people wore beautiful, shiny fabric woven from worms' silk; and, held colorful holiday parades with flower-covered floats and giant, 100-foot-long dragon puppets that swerved and darted.

But it was what the Chinese worshiped that James was most interested in. Most Chinese people had not seen a Bible or heard of Jesus. In huge temples with tall, pointy roofs in their cities and little worship altars in their homes, they worshiped idols and dead family members who lived before them. They bowed before them before with slender, red, sweet-smelling incense candles in their hands. Sometimes they brought offerings of fruit, pigs and ducks. Sometimes they burned special money called "Hell Bank Notes" that they believed their dead relatives could use in the spirit world. The Chinese treated their gods well, believing that they helped them against evil spirits.

Now James loved the Lord Jesus and knew that only through believing in Him that could anyone be saved from their sins. He wanted someone to go and tell the Chinese people about Jesus. James knew that God had called him to live in Barnsley to work as a chemist and as a pastor, so he prayed for God to send someone else: "Lord, give us a son to go China and tell them the good news of Jesus," James prayed.

Life in China was hard. Only a strong, healthy man could survive there. It would take a great trust in God to take care of his needs. The few missionaries who had already gone to tell the Chinese about Jesus had been hurt or even killed. This was a big prayer that James prayed, but he believed God could answer it.

Two years later, James' wife Amelia gave birth to a little boy, naming him Hudson. Would this be the one to go to China some day? They hoped so.

Hudson grew up quickly. He loved to explore the country around Barnsley and listening to his father read about faraway places. He and his sister especially loved "Peter Parley's Tales of China." They promised each other that they would visit China one day.

You would think that Hudson's parents would have rejoiced at Hudson's love of China. Wasn't this the answer to their prayers? But Hudson's parents didn't rejoice. They had even given up praying this prayer for Hudson. Why? Because Hudson was a sickly child. He was so weak that he couldn't even go to school. If there was one thing that was clear to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, it was that Hudson would never go to China.

But that's where Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were wrong. Their faith was too small. The Lord was the God who loved His people and who could meet all their needs. Without the Lord, Hudson might just be weak and sickly. But with Him, Hudson could do whatever God wanted him to do...even go to China. So God answered Mr. and Mrs. Taylor's prayers, even though they had stopped praying them.

When Hudson was about fifteen years old, the Holy Spirit began to work in his heart, helping him repent of his sins and trust Jesus as His Savior, then stirring his heart to go to China to tell about Jesus.

"You are too weak to go to China," people told him. But Hudson didn't listen. He remembered God's promise to never leave His people. He trusted that the mighty God who called him to go would provide all he needed. Because of Him, Hudson knew that anything—even China—was possible.

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.

Hudson began to prepare for serving God in China. He exercised outside a lot to strengthen his body. He slept on a hard mat on the floor. He prayed and studied the Bible, especially the Chinese New Testament. He studied to be a doctor and worked among the poorest people in town, healing them and telling them the good news of Jesus.

Hudson also practiced depending upon God to meet all his needs. "When I go to China, God will often be the only one to take care of me. Before I leave for England, I want to learn to ask God to meet my needs so I will be ready," he thought. He began to ask God directly for help, when he would have asked others--not because it's bad to ask others for help, but so he would be ready for life in China. Every time, Hudson prayed God met his needs, often in amazing ways.

At last it was time for Hudson to go to China. He boarded a ship for China. Six weeks later he arrived in Shanghai. Hudson was overwhelmed. What a big city! How different everyone looked! He could not understand anything they were saying. And he was all alone. All he had was the names of three people who might help him...if he could find them.

"Knock! Knock! Knock!" Hudson banged on the door where the first person was supposed to live. The door opened, but it was not the person he hoped to find. "The man you are looking for died at sea just weeks ago and I can't help you," Hudson was told.

"Knock! Knock! Knock!" Hudson banged on the door where the second person was supposed to live. The door opened, but once again, it wasn't the person he hoped to find. "The man you're looking for moved to America and I can't help you," Hudson was told.

Only the third letter was left. Hudson had little hope that this last man would help him, but he didn't worry. He knew just what to do. It might look like he was all alone, but he was not. He would pray to God and trust Him to meet his needs. And as you can probably guess, the Lord did meet Hudson's need, that very day.

The man named in the last letter led Hudson to some missionaries who gave him food to eat and a room to stay in. And before long, Hudson was out in the streets with the missionaries helping them tell the Chinese people about Jesus. Hudson praised God. Already on

his very first days in China, Hudson had relied on God alone to take care of his needs and God had proven how trustworthy He was!

Those first days in China were only the first of many years in which Hudson needed to trust in God alone to meet his needs. During a terrible war in the city of Shanghai, he had to dodge cannonballs and his house was blown up. As he traveled out in the countryside, he faced angry Chinese who wanted to kill him for telling them to turn from worshiping their gods and dead family members and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Many times he didn't know where his next meal would come from. One time, the man he paid to help him even ran off with his bedding and all his money.

No friends. No family. Time after time, Hudson was left all on his own. But what did Hudson do each time? He didn't worry. He knew just what to do. It might look like he was all alone, but he was not. He would pray to God and trust Him to meet his needs. And so the Lord did--every single time!

Hudson Taylor spent all but six of the next fifty years of his life in China telling the people the good news of Jesus. By the time he died in 1905, he had translated the New Testament into Ningpo Chinese and had helped set up 205 missionary stations with hundreds of missionaries and Chinese Christians working together to tell more Chinese the good news of Jesus. Hundreds gathered together at his funeral on June 3rd in Changsha, China. They loved Hudson and were sad to see him go; yet, that was not all. Mixed in with the sadness there was much rejoicing in Hudson's great God, who had always been faithful to meet his needs. Yes, the Lord had indeed never forsaken him, all the years of his life. And now, the Lord had taken Hudson home to be with Him in heaven where there would be pleasures in His presence forevermore. This would be best of all!

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the Penniless, Rich Man? How did he choose to be penniless? Why?

Hudson Taylor. He chose to ask God in prayer for what he needed in order to grow his trust in God's ability to provide all he needed when he would be all alone in China.

2. Who made him rich? How?

God made him rich. Not rich with a lot of money, but rich by providing everything he needed when he needed it.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 23:1-6:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

No matter how impossible Hudson Taylor's situation seemed, he chose not to worry, but to trust God to take care of his needs. God never, ever failed him. What a great God is the Lord!

What about you and me? Can we trust God to take care of our needs like He took care of Hudson Taylor's? Yes, we can! If we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior, then we will be God's dearly loved people, too. Like Hudson Taylor, we will have nothing to worry about--ever! We know that God will never forsake us or fail us. He will always meet our needs in the way He knows is best.

Let's praise God for His promises to always take care of His people's needs. Let's take our needs to God. Let's ask Him to help us to trust Him as our Savior and make us His people. Let's thank Him for all the ways He has met our needs already.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Provider of all Your people's needs.

C God, we confess that while we know the good news of Jesus and we know Your promises to care for Your people, that many times we choose to not trust that You will take care of us. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for always being able to provide for the needs of Your people, even when they cannot see how You will do it.

S God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us hearts that trust You with our whole lives and hearts that desire to tell others about Jesus.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

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

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being so perfectly good, wise and powerful to always take care of all Your people's needs in the way that is best.

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

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we have worried that You cannot or will not take care of our needs. Confess that we have grumbled about ways that You has taken care of our needs that may be best for us, but that we don't like. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for all of our needs that You have taken care of already. Thank You for sending Jesus to take care of the greatest need of we have: forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, take care of our needs, according to what will bring You the most glory and will be wisest and best for us. Work in our hearts. Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

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

Snack: Sick Soup, Cannon Balls and A Hard Mat

Chicken Soup and crackers "sick soup" like what frail Hudson Taylor might have had to eat a lot of as a child OR malted milk ball "cannon balls" and cheese and cracker "hard mat."

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

Case Tie-in: Hudson Taylor was a sickly child and did not seem he would grow up to be the kind of man who could go overseas to tell others about Jesus. But the Lord can do in His people and through His people, things that would otherwise be impossible. He strengthened Hudson's body and made him able to go to China. Hudson prepared for the hard life ahead by exercising a lot and practicing living in hard conditions by sleeping on a hard mat instead of a soft featherbed. Hudson Taylor depended upon the Lord to take care of his needs in so many ways while he was in China. He even kept Hudson safe as cannon balls through the air. The Lord provided for his every need and used him to tell many about Jesus.

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 Loves His People by Caring for Their Needs

God is the most wonderful Father anyone could ever imagine. He is always good; always wise. He loves His children with the deepest of loves. He always takes care of their needs. When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior, God becomes our heavenly Father and we become His adopted children.

God's people know that God has already taken care of their greatest need of all: He sent Jesus to die for their sins. When they remember that their loving Father was willing to give up even His own dear Son to save them, they know they can trust Him to take care all the rest of their needs, too.

God delights to hear His people ask Him for what they need; and, He delights to provide them with what they need. He always gives them what He knows is the very best for them.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. What kind of Father is God? *He is the most wonderful Father anyone could ever imagine: always good; always wise; loves His children with the deepest of loves; always takes care of all their needs.*
2. What is the greatest need we have? How did God take care of it for His people? *To be forgiven their sins so they do not have to face God's eternal wrath and punishment, but can know and enjoy God forever. He took care of this need by sending Jesus to suffer and die as the full payment for their sins.*
3. How do we become God's adopted children and He our Heavenly Father? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
4. Why does thinking about God giving His own Son to save them comfort God's people about His meeting the rest of their needs? *If He was willing to give up His dear Son, who He loves most of all, to take care of their biggest need, surely He will completely take care of all their other lesser needs.*
5. How does God feel about hearing about and providing for His people's needs? What does that mean? *He delights to hear about them and provide for them. That means it brings Him pleasure.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What did Hudson Taylor do in England to practice relying on God to care for his needs? Why did he think he should do this? *He would ask God directly to meet particular needs instead asking first for the help of others. He felt this was good preparation for life in China when he would have to rely daily on God like this.*
2. What are some ways that God cared for Hudson Taylor's needs? *Protected him from being hit by cannon balls; protected him when his house blew up; guided him to a place to stay; protected him from angry Chinese; provided for him when his money and bedding were stolen; etc.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 23:1-6**: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."?
The LORD is like a shepherd to His people. He is always with them, caring for their needs and guiding them. There will never be a day when He is not caring for them. Even when they face death, itself, He will be with them. They never need to fear. They can rejoice that even on that day He will take care of them and He will bring them to live with Him forever in heaven.

Life Application Questions

1. What are needs that people have? How does God meet these needs?
2. Has God ever cared for your needs in ways other than what you prayed for/expected? Who do you think He cared for them as He did? *He is all wise and know better than us what will ultimately be best for us.*
3. God loves His people by caring for their needs. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the one true God who is able to take care all of our needs.*

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

We have worried that God won't take care of our needs or can't take care of our needs, even though He has shown us in His Word, the Bible, that He will always take care of the needs of those who turn to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

Thank God for ways He has taken care of our needs already. *We can thank Him for sending Jesus to take care of the greatest need of His sinful people: forgiveness of sins through Jesus. We can thank Him for sending Jesus to take care of the greatest need of His sinful people: forgiveness of sins through Jesus.*

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

We can ask God to take care of our greatest need: the forgiveness of our sins. We can ask Him 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 take care of other specific needs we/others have in a way that glorifies Him and is good for us.

The Gospel

1. What is every person's greatest need? What has God done to meet that need? What does He call us to do? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Storks

Materials

Three large, but soft balls

Tape

Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

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

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, each on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. One team is "The Hunters". The other team is "The Storks." The hunters have three balls and they are to stand about twenty feet away from the storks, who are lined up, similarly to ten bowling pins. Storks are to balance on one leg without leaning on anything. They can switch from leg to leg, but must not stand on both at the same time. Read a question to the hunters. If they get it right, then one of the hunters gets three chances (3 balls) to roll the ball at the storks FAIRLY GENTLY and try to get them to put their other foot down. The Hunters score as many points as storks who lost their balance and put their foot down. Sides get switched when all the Hunters have had a turn: or, when they have been stumped by a question.

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

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

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

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
3. 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.
3. 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.

The King of Love**Verse 1**

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His
and He is mine forever.

Verse 4

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With Thee dear Lord beside me.
Thy rod and staff, my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 8, Tracks 14,15

Understanding the Song

1. Who is the "King of Love"? Why is this a good name for Him? *The LORD. He alone rules with pure love in all that He does for His people.*
2. How is the LORD like a shepherd? *He cares and protects His people, as a shepherd cares and protects his sheep.*
3. What is the LORD's goodness like? *It never fails.*
4. What does "I am His and He is mine" mean? *I am one of God's people. He is my Savior.*
5. What will I lack if I am His and He is mine? *Nothing.*
6. How can we become His? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*
7. What does "death's dark vale" mean? *A vale is a valley. Sometimes people talk about scary, lonely, hard times being like valleys and good, happy times being like mountain tops. Death can be the scariest, loneliest, hardest time of all.*
8. What does "ill" mean and why don't God's people need to fear it in death's dark vale? *Ill means something evil or bad (not sick). They need fear nothing evil or bad even when they are dying because they know that the LORD is with them, caring for them, helping them and guiding them.*
9. What does a shepherd use a rod and staff for? *Rod: ward off enemies; the staff to rescue a sheep from a pit.*
10. What are God's rod and staff? *Why are they a comfort in death's dark vale? God's protection of His people from evil that will harm them; God's rescuing power. There is no greater enemy than sin and death. God's people know that God has defeated sin and death when Jesus died on the cross for them. He rescued them so they will enjoy wonderful life with Him forever. They do not need to fear death.*
11. How is the cross a guide in death's dark vale? *A guide is something we can look up to know which way to go. God's people think about how Jesus died on the cross and remember that He has saved them from their sins. It guides them to keep trusting God to save them when they die, instead of fearing.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs**? *God's people praise God for loving them, and, like a good shepherd, for caring for His people's needs totally. They lack nothing; His goodness never fails them; even when facing death, they still fear nothing "ill" because He is with them. He knows God will care for him after death by taking him to heaven to be with Him forever.*

Story Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our story? *Hudson Taylor practiced trusting God to care for his needs. Even when time after time he had no idea how his needs would be met, God's goodness never failed and he lacked nothing. God provided for him all the length of his days and when he died he went to praise God in His heavenly "house" forever.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Psalm 23:1-6**: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."?

God's people praise God for being the King of love. He is their king who they obey. It is delightful having Him as their king because all that He does comes from His heart of love for them and for the glory of His name. He takes care of them like a good shepherd does his sheep. Sheep are very stupid and need someone to take care all of their needs or else they will die. God does this for His people. They lack nothing; His goodness never fails them; even when facing death, they still fear nothing "ill" because He is with them. God's people know God will care for them after death by taking them to heaven to be with Him forever. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions

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

Praise God for being the King of Love who loves and cares for His people perfectly.

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

That we have rebellious hearts who many times do not want to follow the LORD, even though He is the good and loving King of the world. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God sending Jesus to save His people from their sins. We can thank Him for ways we have seen Him care for our needs, even this past week.*

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

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to be our shepherd and help us to follow Him all the days of our lives.

Life Application Question

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for being the Good Shepherd of His people. We can ask Him to make us His people, giving us faith to turn from our sins and trust in Him. We can ask Him to help us to trust Him as the Good Shepherd that He is.*

Gospel Question

1. How can we know God as our King of Love who cares for all our needs? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who've rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus to earth as a man to save sinners. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who's ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

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

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

Meditation Version: Psalm 23:1-6

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Shortened Memory/Games Version: Psalm 23:1,6

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want...goodness and love will follow me all the day of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. What does a shepherd do for his sheep? *He takes care of their needs and protects them from enemies.*
2. How is the LORD like a shepherd? *He takes care of and protects His people.*
3. What does it mean to be "in want?" *To not have something you need.*
4. Why won't God's people be in want because He is their shepherd? *He is all powerful, all good, all wise. He doesn't just know what they need, but He can always give it to them.*
5. What needs would "green pastures and quiet waters meet for a sheep? *Good food and water for their body. A safe place to rest. The basic needs of life.*
6. What needs of God's people are like green pastures and quiet waters? *What they need to grow and live: food, drink, rest, a home, clothes, love, and other basic needs of life.*
7. What does it mean that God restores His people's souls? *To restore something means to take something weak and tired and make it strong and full of life again, the way it's supposed to be. When our souls are weak in faith, tired in trusting and obeying God, God can make them strong to keep believing and living for Him.*
8. How does God restore our souls? *By His Holy Spirit working in our hearts;; by reading/hearing His Word, the Bible; and by encouraging us through others.*
9. What are paths of righteousness and why does God guide His people in them? *Not a real road we walk on. This is the way to say He guides them in ways to live that please and honor Him. He does this for "His name's sake;" that is, He does it so that when others see us living in ways that please God, it helps them see what God is like and gives them reason to honor Him.*
10. Why is helping God's people walk in the paths of righteousness a way that God cares for them? *God's people want to honor and glorify God in how they live. They know that His ways of righteousness are always the best way to live. By guiding them in them, He is showing them the way to live that will make them happiest (in the long run, if not the short run.)*
11. What is the valley of the shadow of death? How does God help His people there? *Not a real valley we walk through, but a picture of going through something really hard, and that might even lead to death. He is with them; He helps them fear no evil.*
12. What is a rod and staff? What are God's rod and staff? Why are they comforting to God's people? *A rod is a weapon the shepherd uses against the sheep's enemies. A staff is a long stick with a hook on one end that the shepherd uses to rescue the sheep when they fall in a hole, etc.*
13. What does it mean that God prepares a table for His people in the presence of their enemies? *A table is where food is placed for us to eat and be filled up with the food we need to keep on living. An enemy wants to harm us. He wouldn't want us to have the good things we need. This verse is telling us that God promises to always give us what we need, even in the hardest times. Nothing or no one can keep Him from taking care of His people.*
14. What does having our head anointed with oil and our cup overflowing mean? *In Bible times, having your head anointed with oil meant having a bit of oil poured upon it. It was a way of showing someone favor. Having an overflowing cup what a way of saying you will have everything you need. These expressions are ways of saying that God always blesses His people with everything they need and more.*
15. What does it mean for goodness and mercy to follow you all the days of your life? *Not that they are really walking behind you but that God is always with His people showing them mercy and goodness in how He cares for their needs every day.*

16. What is the house of the LORD and Why will God's people dwell there forever? *God's house is heaven, where God's presence is and where God's people can have close fellowship with Him. Through faith in Jesus, God's people receive eternal life, which is dwelling with God forever.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs?** *God loves His people and cares for needs completely, just like a good shepherd takes care of his sheep.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Hudson Taylor learned to trust God through many valleys of the shadow of death in China: when dodging cannonballs, having no friends, facing angry Chinese and having his money and bedding stolen. Every time, God took care of him completely. There was not a day in his life when God's goodness and love did not follow him.*

Life Application Questions

1. If God's goodness and mercy is with His people all the days of their life, how well do you think God will be meeting their needs? *Perfectly well!*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse?
Praise God for being the Shepherd of His People, all the days of their lives.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?
We have all turned away from God. We act like we do not want Him to be our shepherd. We want to live life our own way. 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 different ways we have seen Him meet our needs. We can thank Him for sending Jesus to meet the greatest need of His people: the forgiveness of sins for all who turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus 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 our Shepherd: guide us and care for us, according to His perfect love and wisdom, all the days of our lives.

The Gospel

1. How can we dwell with God forever in heaven? 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: Duck, Duck, Goose

Materials

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

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 sit in a circle, cross-legged on the floor. Choose a child to be "it". "It" will walk around behind the seated children, tapping each one on the head, the whole group recites the verse, saying one word for each head tap. The child whose head is the last one to be tapped must get up and chase "It", hoping to tag "It" before "It" can get around the circle and sit down in the open spot in the circle. If the child does tag "It" then he may take his place in the circle. If not, then the new child is "It." Repeat as frequently as desired.

Game continues until all children are out; 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.

The LORD Is My Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul,
 He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil,

Why? For You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies,
 You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me, All of the days of my life,
 And I will dwell in the house of the LORD, forever and ever and ever.
 Psalm Twenty-three.

Listen to it on PFI ESV Songs 8, Track 16

Song Game: Word Take Away

Materials

Sign Language Signs and Song
 White board and marker
 Eraser

Preparing the Game

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

Playing the Game

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign for the erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

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

STORY REVIEW

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

General Story Questions

1. Why did Mr. Taylor want his son to go to China? *Because he read about all the people who did not know Jesus and he knew only through Jesus they could be saved from their sins.*
2. What was Hudson like as a boy? *He liked to explore the countryside around Barnsley. He liked to listen to Peter Parley's book about China. He was very frail and had to be taught at home because he was too sickly to go to school with the others.*
3. Why did Mr. and Mrs. Taylor stop praying for Hudson to go to China? *They thought he was too sickly to go.*
4. Why was Hudson able to go to China, even though his parents thought he couldn't? *Because God is able to do anything. He could meet all of Hudson's needs.*
5. What did Hudson do to prepare his body for China? *Exercised outside a lot. Slept on hard mattress and did without many comforts. Started eating only what he thought they would have in China.*
6. How did Hudson prepare his mind for China? *He studied the Bible and medicine. He learned some Chinese.*
7. How did Hudson prepare his heart for China? *He prayed and read the Bible a lot. He practiced relying directly on God to meet his needs.*
8. How did Hudson use what he was learning to help people in England? *He told them the good news of Jesus; he helped the poor and sick.*
9. What happened when Hudson arrived in China so that he had to immediately depend on God? *The people he was going to live with had either moved away or died; he didn't know the language very well. It was cold and he had no place to stay.*
10. What are some other times when Hudson had to rely upon God to take care of his needs? *Cannonballs exploding around him and his house is bombed; money and bedding stolen; angry Chinese who want to hurt him for telling them to stop worshiping their gods and dead family members.*
11. When Hudson Taylor died, why were people sad? *They loved him and would miss him.*
12. Why were people rejoicing at his funeral? *Because they had seen how faithful God had been to him to take care of all his needs; and, because they knew Hudson was now in God's Presence where he would enjoy God forever.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Hudson Taylor had to depend only on God to meet his needs many times. Every single time, God took care of him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 23:1-6**: "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."?
With no family or friends to help him, Hudson Taylor knew that he would have to depend upon the LORD to be his shepherd in great ways in China. And in no way was Hudson disappointed. Time after time, he saw the LORD provide for his needs in amazing ways. Even in times of great danger, Hudson feared no evil, for he knew that the LORD was with him.

Life Application Questions

1. Is it wrong for us to ask others to meet our needs? Should we just ask God like Hudson did so often? *No. It is not wrong at all! God gave us people who love us and care for us as part of His taking care of our needs. We must remember that God was preparing Hudson to go to a place where he had no family and friends to help him. Hudson wanted to practicing depending directly upon God because he knew that was what he would have to do much of the time.*
2. Does God care for His people's needs by always giving them just what they ask for? Why not? *No. Many times God's people don't know what is really best for them. God is all wise and all good. He always knows what is the best way to care for their needs and He only gives that to them.*
3. How can we become God's people and know His care for our needs? *By turning away from our sins and trusting 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 Provider of all His people's needs.

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

Confess that while we know the good news of Jesus and we know God's promises to care for His people, that many times we choose to not trust God to care for us. 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 always being able to provide for the needs of His people, even when they cannot see how He might possibly do it.

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 give us hearts that trust Him with our lives and hearts that desire to tell others about Jesus.

The Gospel

1. What is the good news of Jesus that Hudson shared with the people of Barnsley and of China? 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: Windsack Wall Ball

Materials

Small ball such as a tennis ball, Nerf or foam ball
 The bottom half of a pantyhose leg
 16 sheets of variously colored construction paper
 Paper and marker
 Masking Tape
 Story Review Questions or other story review questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Make a windsack ball by placing the ball in the pantyhose leg and tying a knot right above the ball.
3. Choose three different point values for questions and write each value on three sheets of the construction paper. On the last four sheets draw a question mark shape. Tape these sheets of paper to the wall (or on the floor, if no wall is available) in the shape of a square, mixing up all of the point values. Make a shooting line with the masking tape.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child from Team A to come up to the throw line. Hand him the windsack ball and let him throw it at the point cards on the wall. If he hits a point value, then the leader reads a Story Review question to his team. If they answer it correctly, they get the points. If not, then Team B can get the points for a correct answer. If he hits a star instead of a point value, then Team B gets to think up a question to ask Team A. If Team A gets it right, then they get double the highest point value on the board. If Team B stumps them—and can answer the question, themselves—then THEY get the double point value.

Play then resumes as the first player for Team B throws the windsack ball. 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 until everyone gets a chance to toss the windsack ball, as Story Review questions last; or, as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Have the children take turns throwing the ball and answering the questions together. Tally up the points as a group number.

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 Penniless, Rich Man.

Our story starts out in 1837 in Barnsley, England.

And now we present: "The Case of the Penniless, Rich Man."

Scene 1:

Mr. James Taylor read a lot about China. He prayed that if he has a son one day that God would send him to China to tell the Chinese people about Jesus. Two years later, Hudson is born. James and his wife prayed that this baby boy would grow up to go to China one day. As a boy, Hudson loved to explore the countryside and to listen to his father read about China. Both Hudson and his sister hoped to go there one day. But Hudson's parents longer prayed this for their son. Hudson was very sickly. They couldn't imagine the he could ever be well enough to go to China. But his parents are wrong. God can do anything. When Hudson was fifteen, he trusted Jesus as his Savior. Soon afterwards, he felt certain God was calling him to go to China. But how?

Actions:

Scene 2:

Hudson prepared in many ways for China. He exercised outside a lot to make his body strong. He got rid of his mattress and slept on a hard mat. He prayed and studied the Bible. He learned medicine. He helped the poor and sick in Barnsley and told them about Jesus. He knew he would have to rely only on God in China with no family and friends to help him. He decided to practice this in England by praying to God to directly meet his needs. God did every time. He provided him with money when he didn't have any. He even prompted Hudson's boss to pay him when he forgot.

Scene 3:

At last Hudson sailed to China. He did have to depend on God right away. He didn't know the language well. The people he wanted to live with were dead or had moved away. He was glad he had learned to depend on God alone. God meet all his needs. He guided him to some missionaries who took care of him. Hudson had to depend on God many times in his years in China. He protected him from flying cannonballs and his house bombed; He meet his needs when all his bedding and money were stolen and when angry Chinese wanted to hurt him. All but six of the next 50 years Hudson worked in China and God always meet all his needs. When he died in 1905 in Changsha, he had translated the New Testament into Ningpo Chinese and opened 205 mission stations where hundreds of missionaries and Chinese worked to tell other Chinese about Jesus. Hundreds came to his funeral. They were sad to lose him, but rejoiced in God for always taking care of his needs; and, for bringing him into His wonderful Presence to enjoy Him forever.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs** . Hudson Taylor had to depend only on God to meet his needs many times. Every single time, God took care of him.

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 Penniless, Rich Man.

Our story starts out in 1837 in Barnsley, England.

The characters in our story are: Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor, Hudson Taylor and his sister; Poor, sick people in Barnsley; The Dumfries; Chinese people; Missionaries; and the Chinese helper

And now we present: "The Case of the Penniless, Rich Man."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Mr. James Taylor read a lot about China. He prayed that if he has a son one day that God would send him to China to tell the Chinese people about Jesus. Two years later, Hudson is born. James and his wife prayed that this baby boy would grow up to go to China one day. As a boy, Hudson loved to explore the countryside and to listen to his father read about China. Both Hudson and his sister hoped to go there one day. But Hudson's parents longer prayed this for their son. Hudson was very sickly. They couldn't imagine the he could ever be well enough to go to China. But his parents are wrong. God can do anything. When Hudson was fifteen, he trusted Jesus as his Savior. Soon afterwards, he felt certain God was calling him to go to China. But how?

Scene 2: (Middle)

Hudson prepared in many ways for China. He exercised outside a lot to make his body strong. He got rid of his mattress and slept on a hard mat. He prayed and studied the Bible. He learned medicine. He helped the poor and sick in Barnsley and told them about Jesus. He knew he would have to rely only on God in China with no family and friends to help him. He decided to practice this in England by praying to God to directly meet his needs. God did every time. He provided him with money when he didn't have any. He even prompted Hudson's boss to pay him when he forgot.

Scene 3: (End)

At last Hudson sailed to China. He did have to depend on God right away. He didn't know the language well. The people he wanted to live with were dead or had moved away. He was glad he had learned to depend on God alone. God meet all his needs. He guided him to some missionaries who took care of him. Hudson had to depend on God many times in his years in China. He protected him from flying cannonballs and his house bombed; He meet his needs when all his bedding and money were stolen and when angry Chinese wanted to hurt him. All but six of the next 50 years Hudson worked in China and God always meet all his needs. When he died in 1905 in Changsha, he had translated the New Testament into Ningpo Chinese and opened 205 mission stations where hundreds of missionaries and Chinese worked to tell other Chinese about Jesus. Hundreds came to his funeral. They were sad to lose him, but rejoiced in God for always taking care of his needs; and, for bringing him into His wonderful Presence to enjoy Him forever.

Bible Truth Tie-In:

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs** . Hudson Taylor had to depend only on God to meet his needs many times. Every single time, God took care of him.

Dodging Cannon Balls

Description

Children will make a pipe cleaner "Hudson Taylor" and clay cannonballs landing around him.

Materials

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

Small Giggly eyes

Black clay, a small handful per child

Cardstock, poster board or other stiff paper, approx. 8" X 11" per child

Glue

Preparing the Craft

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

Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.

Hudson Taylor:

1. Take one of the brown pipe cleaners and bend it into an inverted V-shape.
2. Twist together the two ends several winds, leaving a little loop in the bend of the V. This will be his body and legs.
3. Coil another brown pipe cleaner around a pencil until it is completely curled. Remove from pencil.
4. Slide the coil the first pipe cleaner and center the second curled pipe cleaner over the twisted part of the first one. This makes Hudson's torso.
5. Slide another brown through the small loop. These are his arms. Twist a loop in each end to make hands.
6. Take the white pipe cleaner and wrap it around your thumb. Take it off your thumb and bunch the coils together. This is the head. Take one end of the coil and twist it around the loop through which you inserted the arms to secure it in place.
7. Wrap the black pipe cleaner around the top of the white head pipe cleaner to make a cap.
8. Twist a foot-sized loop on each end of his legs for feet.
9. Glue giggly eyes onto head.
10. Make a mound out of the black clay and firmly press Hudson's feet into it, then press onto the cardstock.

Cannonballs:

1. Shape bits of remaining black clay into round cannonballs. Press firmly onto cardstock around Hudson.

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. In what city did Hudson Taylor have to dodge cannonballs? *In Shanghai.*

2. What could have happened to Hudson? *He easily could have been hurt or even killed if a cannonball hit him.*

3. What helped Hudson as he dodged the cannonballs?

He kept depending upon the Lord to protect him. Hudson knew that the Lord could even protect him from being hit by the cannonballs.

4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning?
God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs .

5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs ?

Hudson Taylor spent much of his life trusting God alone to meet his needs. Every time, God took care of him, many times saving him from dying.

6. What can our craft help us remember?
Even when our very lives are in danger, we know that God still can take care of all our needs.

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: Dodging Cannon Balls.

2. In Shanghai, Hudson Taylor trusted God to take care of him even when dodging cannonballs, because he knew that God alone could save his life.

3. Our Bible Truth is: God Loves His People By Caring For Their Needs .

4. Hudson Taylor spent much of his life trusting God alone to meet his needs. Every time, God took care of him, many times saving him from dying.

5. Our craft can help us remember that even when our very lives are in danger, we know that God still can take care of all our needs.

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

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

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

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

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

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

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

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Click on the list of common VIPPs and how to describe what they do to kids. See if your VIPP is one of these. It may save you some time.

2. PRAY!

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

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game: Beanbag Toss In

Materials

Information for one VIPP

2 Sets of Clue Cards

8 Letter-sized Envelopes or folders

Bean Bag(s), one per child

Tape

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.
4. Tape each down to the floor, fairly close together.

Playing the Game

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

Review: At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) The teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be tossed at.

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**
