

## **BIBLE TRUTH 5, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bible Truth 5:** God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory

**Bible Truth Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation, vs.3,4 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Tracks 16,17*

**Bible Verse:** Romans 8:28-30

**Bible Verse Song:** All Things *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 18*

**Lesson 1 New Testament:** The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs *Matthew 9; Mark 4-5; Luke 8*

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** The Pigs and the Man Who Lived at the Cemetery

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Menagerie

**Bible Truth Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation, vs.3,4 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Tracks 16,17*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** Romans 8:28-30 Discussion Sheet and Game: Rush to the Store

**Bible Verse Song:** All Things: Romans 8:28-29 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 18*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: String Along

**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:** Strong, Iron Chains

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book) & Game: Ball Roll Review

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 5, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV Prontos 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs** *Matthew 9; Mark 4-5; Luke 8* by Connie Dever**Our story is called:****The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. What was wrong with man? How did this cause the pigs to dive?
2. How did Jesus use this man's struggles for God's glory and for the good of this man and many more?

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

It was getting late. "First Evening" had passed—the time of day when the sun first began to sink down into the west. "Second Evening" was upon them. The shadows were deepening and the moon was on the rise, when Jesus and His disciples beached their boat near Gadara, on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Too far from their home on the other side of lake, they would be spending night here and the disciples were probably not very happy about that. Why? Because this side of the Sea of Galilee was "the Decapolis" or "the Ten Cities," named after the ten cities the Romans had taken from Israel and put under the control of Syria, the country that lay to the east of Israel. This was Gentile country—home to non-Jews who lived life in their very non-Jewish-y way.

But this wasn't the worst of it. You see, Jesus had them put to shore near hills covered with thousands of pigs and filled with caves of dead bodies! For a Jew, it doesn't get much worse than that! Pigs and dead bodies were two things that made Jews unclean. That is, they made them unfit to be around other Jews and to worship the Lord in the Temple.

Gentiles, pigs and dead people! These were all very good reasons for a Jew to get back in the boat and row to some other place for the night, but they weren't good enough reasons for Jesus. He had plans to meet someone who lived right there among the pigs and the dead and change his life—for his good and God's glory.

Who was this someone? The only name we have for him is "The Demoniac." This poor, miserable man from Gadara, had come under the grip of Satan's power. The demons made the man stronger than a regular human. They urged him to hurt himself and hurt others. Many times he would yell out in terrible shrieks. People tried to control him. They bound his hands and feet with

strong chains and kept him under guard. But nothing worked. He broke the chains, escaped his guards and snuck away to lonely places, like this cemetery.

Many people from the Decapolis hired magic workers to chant magic spells over demon possessed people. If this man's family had done this, it hadn't worked. So they left him to live out among the tombs and to suffer by himself. While living out there, he got He had become so violent that no one could pass safely through the cemetery anymore.

It was right there, on the shores below the cemetery, where Jesus had his disciples put to shore. Full of God's power and love, He had come to change this man's terrible life for his own good and for God's glory, as all were soon to see.

Neither Jesus nor this man had ever met each other before, yet they both knew who the other was. Jesus knew by the Spirit of God; but the man, by the demons. Even from a distance, they knew it was the mighty Son of God who was on that shore—and they were terrified. The man immediately ran out of the tombs and fell down at Jesus' feet.

"Come out of this man, evil spirits!" Jesus ordered.

"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" they shrieked back through the man.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied. What a name! A legion was the largest single unit in the Roman army—up to 6000 soldiers! What a lot of demons troubled this poor man!

"Please, Jesus, don't send us out of this area! Don't send us to the Abyss," the demons pleaded with Jesus. They did not want to return to that holding place for

**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.

Satan and his demons. "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them," the demons begged Him.

Jesus gave them permission. There would be a day of final judgment when they--would be bound in the Abyss forever, but it had not come yet. Right now Jesus would use these demons to bring glory to God. He would show God's complete power over evil, rescue this poor man and encourage many to believe He was God's Son.

At Jesus' command, the demons left the man and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the Sea of Galilee and were drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. [Sure enough. Everything was just as they said: There were the bodies of the 2000 pigs, scattered along the shore, and bobbing up and down in the surf of the Sea. There was the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind. And there was Jesus, the mighty One who had done with just His words what no chain or magic spell or anything else could do.

"Tell us again what happened," the crowd of people who gathered asked.

Once more the pig herders told what they had seen. The crowd saw what Jesus had done and they should have worshiped Him. Here was a man no one could help! Here was a man dangerous to himself and to others! Here was a man whose life was ruined under the mighty grip of Satan! Yet here came Jesus, the Son of God. Full of God's power to save; full of His love! He changed this man's terrible life for his own good and for the God's glory, as all could see.

The people could see the great thing that Jesus had done, but they didn't want to believe. They were scared of Jesus and His great power. They could not believe He used it for their good and God's glory. "Please, Jesus, leave us. Go away from our lands," they pleaded with Him.

How relieved the people of Gadara were as Jesus and the others turned back to the shore to sail home! Only one of them followed Jesus down to the boat: the man who had been freed of the demons.

"Jesus, please, take me with You. I want to be Your disciple, too," he begged.

But Jesus said no. He had other plans for this man. Good plans; plans that would bring great glory to God. "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you," Jesus told him.

The man obeyed. As Jesus and the others set off across the Sea of Galilee for their home in Capernaum, the man set off across the hills to his home.

What a homecoming it must have been as neighbors, family and friends recognized him. "What happened to you? Who healed you?" they exclaimed.

"Jesus did this!" he replied. Then he told them the wonderful story: "I was a man no one could help. I was a man dangerous to myself and to others. I was a man whose life was ruined under the mighty grip of Satan. Yet here came Jesus, the Son of God. Full of God's power to save; full of His love. He changed my terrible life for my own good and for God's glory," he told them.

That man's family, neighbors and friends may have been the first to hear, but they certainly were not the last. The Bible tells us that the man traveled all over the Decapolis telling how much Jesus had done for him. And all men marveled at God's goodness shown to this man and the glory and power of Jesus' name.

### **Cracking the Case:**

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

**a. What was wrong with man? How did this cause the pigs to dive?**

The man was troubled by many demons. When Jesus healed the man, he let the demons go into the pigs and that made them dive over the edge of the cliff.

**b. How did Jesus use this man's struggles for God's glory and for the good of this man and many more?**

Jesus showed that He was God's Son, powerful enough to make all the powers of evil obey. Nothing or no one is too strong for Him! This poor man's struggle was over. He came to believe in Jesus and be saved. Many others heard what Jesus did for him and they also put their faith in Jesus.

**Something for You and Me**

**Our Bible Truth is: God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory**

**Our Bible Verse is: Romans 8:28-30**

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."

How great is our God! He truly uses all things for the good. Look how He even used the terrible work of demons for this man's good and God's glory!

But what about you and me? If Jesus could work this kind of good in this man's life and brought such great glory to God through it, could He work powerfully in our lives, too? Yes, He can! He can work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior, just as He worked in this man's life. Then we will be His people! But that is just the beginning! When we are His people, there is nothing in our lives that He will not use for our good and for His glory!

Let's praise God for being able to use absolutely everything in His people's lives for their good and His glory. Let's ask Him to make us His people. Let's ask Him to bring great glory to His name through everything in our lives.

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

**A** God, we praise You for being more powerful than anyone or anything else--even Satan.

**C** God, we confess that many times we are fearful of evil, forgetting that Jesus has broken the power of sin and death. Oh, how we need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for using even the very worse and very hardest things in Your people's lives for their good and Your glory.

**S** God, break the power of sin and death in our lives. Work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior.

**Special Words**

**Demons:** Spirits that rebelled with Satan, at the beginning of time.

**Abyss:** The name for the holding place for Satan and the demons.

**Satan:** The very powerful angel that led a rebellion against God, at the beginning of time. He not only led other angels in rebelling against God, but deceived humans so that they would desire to rebel against God, too.

# **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 powerful and wise to make all things work for Your people's good and Your own glory.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we grumble when hard things happen to us, forgetting that if we are Your people, You are using even these hard things for our good and Your glory We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for all the good things You promise to do in Your people's lives. Thank You for planning every single thing in their lives to be for their good and Your glory.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

God, work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make all the things in our lives for our good and Your glory. Transform us into people who love You and delight in You the way Jesus does.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

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

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### **Snack: The Pigs and the Man Who Lived at the Cemetery**

Bake and serve dinner roll "limestone cliff" with a Teddy graham "body" placed in middle (if desired), with piece of blue fruit roll up "shoreline" off of one side and a few little cubes of ham/hot dog/bacon bits "pigs" sprinkled on top of the shoreline. If desired, lightly butter the roll in the middle before inserting the Teddy graham.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Jesus showed His mighty power even over the powers of evil when He rid this poor man of his suffering. The demons were sent into the pigs and they ran off the cliff to their death. But the man trusted in Jesus and was saved for eternal life. God used this terrible suffering for His own glory. He used it for this man's good and the good of many others who heard his story and put their faith in Jesus.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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

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

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 Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory**

When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God becomes our Heavenly Father and we become His adopted children.

God promises His children to use everything that happens to them in their life on earth for their good and His glory. Ahead of time, God prepared special good works for each of them to do. He has also planned to carefully allow hard times and suffering in their lives for His special, good purposes.

What are these special, good purposes? To bring glory to His name, showing the world what He is like. And, to change them so that they become more like Jesus, who loves His Father completely and delights in Him and His perfectly good will. These are the two things God's people want most of all!

No one likes to suffer--not even for the best of purposes! But, God's people are so happy to know that there is nothing in their lives--from the easiest, most enjoyable thing to the very saddest, hardest thing--that their loving Father has not chosen very carefully to use for their good and His glory.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. How do we become God's adopted people and He, our Heavenly Father? *When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*
2. What does God promise to use everything that happens to His children for? *Their good and His glory.*
3. What good things has He prepared in advance for them? *Special good works for them to do.*
4. What does He promise about the hard things they go through? *He has carefully allowed them for special (and good) purposes.*
5. What does He promise to use their trials to do? *To bring glory to His name. And, to change them so that they become more like Jesus, who loves His Father completely and delights in Him and His good will.*
6. Does God expect us to like suffering? *No. Suffering is hard and painful, even if God is using it for His good purposes.*
7. What does God reassure His people about the hard times they go through? *He knows exactly what he is doing; one day their hard times will seem so light and short compared with the rich blessings he will bring from them.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 8:28-30**: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."?

*God's people are those who love Him. In His great love, He has called them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus. And when they did, He forgave their sins and saved them. This is what it means to be justified. But being justified in just the beginning of God's good, forever plans for His people. He also planned for all things in their lives—both enjoyable things and hard things—for the good purpose of making them more like Jesus. Yes, He would use all of them to prepare them for life with Him in heaven, where they would be glorified: forever freed from sin and a pure reflection of God's glory.*

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

1. What suffering did the Demoniac go through? *He didn't know or love God. He lived under the grip of demons and their terrible desires: hurting himself, hurting others; being forced to live out among the tombs.*
2. How did Jesus use this man's suffering for his good and God's glory? *Jesus did good to this man by rescuing him from the demons and helping him to know and love Him as His Savior. God was glorified as the people of Gadara and many people in Decapolis heard/saw God's power and love for sinners in how He helped this man.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How should God's people react to hard times they go through? *They may be sad, but they can trust God's good plans and praise Him for how He will use them for their good and His glory.*
2. What kinds of good works do you think God prepares in advance for His people? *Love Him and obey Him. Love others; Tell others about Jesus; Use well the gifts He gives us; praise and trust Him no matter what, etc.*
3. How can we become God's people? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Praise God for being so powerful and wise to make all things work for His people's good and His glory.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*Confess grumbling in hard times, forgetting that if we are God's people, He is using them for our good and His glory.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank God for all the good things He promises to do in His people's lives.*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Ask God to work in our hearts and help us trust Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to make all the things in our lives for our good and His glory.*

**The Gospel**

1. God has promised to use everything in His people's lives for their good and His glory. How can we become God's people so that this promise is for us? 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: Menagerie

### Materials

Small Bag/Bowl  
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 three or four teams, depending on how many children you have. Each group of children is given the name of an animal and is assigned a corner of the room. You are "It" and stand in the middle of the room. When everyone is ready, give instructions to different groups of animals, such as "I want the bears to change places with the monkeys." The bears and monkeys when then run to change places. You, as It, will try to tag bears and monkeys. Choose a question from the bag to read to your caught animals. If they get it right, they are released to be back with their fellow animals. If not, they must wait until another, correct answer to be released.

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

### Non-competitive Option

Do not exclude "caught" animals from the game, even if they get the answer wrong. Instead release them back to their fellow animals and put the question back in the bag for review again.

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

### How Firm a Foundation

#### Verse 3

"When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

#### Verse 4

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Tracks 16,17

### Understanding the Song

1. What is a "fiery trial?" *It has nothing to do with fire, but just means a really hard time of suffering we have to go through.*
2. What "pathway" do these fiery trials lie upon? *Not a real path or road that you walk on. Pathway is another way of saying things you go through in your life. So, it's talking about the times of suffering you face in life.*
3. What does "supply" mean and what shall be the believer's supply when going thro their difficult trials? *Supply means to be everything you need. God's grace—that is, His gifts of strength, faith, hope, patience, etc that He freely gives His people—will be enough for them to make it through even the hardest of sufferings.*
4. What shall not hurt the believer? *The flame.*
5. What does he mean by "flame?" *The writer has been talking about "fiery trials"—hard times the believer goes through. A flame is what burns or hurts you. He is saying that even when His people go through "fiery," hard times of suffering, they will never let the trials be anything but for the good and His glory.*
6. What does God design (plan) for the "flame" to do? *Just like fire is used to purify gold by melting out impurities (called dross) and make it more beautify and pure, so God only plans to use His people's trials to purify them of sin and strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him.*
7. What does it mean to lean on something for repose? *To rest on something peacefully, without worry.*
8. What does God promise to a person (a soul) who rests on Him, peacefully? *He will never desert (abandon) to his foes (enemies).*
9. What does it mean for "hell to endeavor to shake" a soul? *What does God promise when that happens to His people? It means for Satan to bring lots of suffering upon them and try to get them to turn away from God. God promises to never forsake them. He will always be with them, always giving them strength to endure their sufferings, no matter how hard they are.*

### Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory**? *God's people may go through very hard, "fiery" trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are "staid" on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to "consume their dross"—make them holy. That is for their good and will bring glory to His name.*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *After Jesus healed the Demoniac, he went home and traveled all over the Decapolis telling of his fiery trial he went through and how Jesus can and saved him. All hell "endeavored to shake this man" through these demons, but they had to flee at Jesus' command. Whatever other fiery trials this man may have had to face as Jesus' disciple, he knew that the Lord would never forsake him to his foes. He could lean on Jesus' power to be his firm foundation all his life.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Romans 8:28-30**: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."?

*God's people know all God has an unbreakable plan to use all things in their lives for their good. He has planned that even their "fiery trials"—the hardest things that happen to them—that God will use them all to make them like Jesus. They do not have to like the fiery trials, but they can praise God for how He will use them for their good and His glory.*

**ACTS Questions**

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

*Praise God for always giving His people the grace they need to make it through all their trials. Praise God for always using even the hardest trials of His people's lives to make them like Jesus.*

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

*That when we go through hard times, we like to grumble about them. We forget that, if we are God's people, we can trust that He will give us grace to endure them; and that He is using them to make us more like Jesus.*

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

*We can thank God always giving His people grace to endure even the hardest trials they go through.*

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 give us grace to endure even our hardest trials. We can ask Him to use them to make us more like Jesus.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God for promising to use everything they go through for their good and His glory. They can ask Him to use their trials to make them holier and stronger in their faith; and to glorify Himself through everything they go through.*

2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**Gospel Question**

1. God's people are so grateful that God will use everything in their lives for their good and His glory, even the "fieriest" trials. How can we become God's people, knowing that God will use everything in our lives for our good and His glory? 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: Pass the Secret Sign**

### **Materials**

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

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

### **Preparing the Game**

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

### **Playing the Game**

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, “It.” who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When “It” says “Pass the Secret Sign”, the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When “It” says “Stop the Passing!” the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of “It”, watch the child with the card do the sign, then have “It” guess the name of the sign. (If desired, “It” can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes “It.” Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

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

**Meditation Version: Romans 8:28-30**

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.”

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: Romans 8:28**

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Who does God work for the good of? *Those who love Him, those who have been called according to His purpose.*
2. What does it mean to be called according to God’s purpose? *It means that someone becomes one of God’s people because they heard the good news of Jesus and God worked in their hearts so that they would turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*
3. What does God use to work for the good of His people? *All things in their lives, both enjoyable and hard.*
4. Who did God foreknow and predestine to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, Jesus? *His people: those who love Him and who He called to believe in Him.*
5. What does it mean that God foreknew someone? *It means that God knew that they would become His people, that they would turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.*
6. What does predestine mean? *To choose in advance that something would happen for sure.*
7. What did God predestine to happen to His people? *That they would be called, justified (saved from their sins) and conformed to the likeness of His Son, Jesus, all according to His purpose.*
8. What does conformed mean? How are God’s people conformed into Jesus’ likeness? *Conformed means to make something act or be like something else. God’s people are conformed into Jesus’ likeness when the Holy Spirit works in their hearts. He changes them so that they love and obey God as Jesus did.*
9. Why did God predestine His people to be conformed (to be made) like Jesus? *So that they would, like Jesus, love God and obey Him.*
10. What does it mean that Jesus is the firstborn? *It means that He was the first to rise from the dead, after He took the punishment for God’s people’s sins, died on the cross, then rose from the dead.*
11. How are God’s people like brothers, who come after Jesus? *They, too, will rise from the dead one day, because of their faith in Jesus as their own Savior.*
12. What does it mean to be justified by God? *To have your sins forgiven and be made one of God’s people.*
13. What does it mean to be glorified? *To be completely free from sin so that you glorify God completely, in everything you think, say and do.*
14. When will God’s people be glorified? *In heaven.*
15. What has God predestined to happen to His people? *That they would be called (hear the good news of Jesus, and believe), justified (have their sins forgiven and made one of God’s people), and glorified (made to be without sin) one day.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Uses Everything in His People’s Lives for Their Good and His Glory?** *God’s people are those who love Him. In His great love, He has called them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. This is what it means to be justified. But being justified is just the beginning of God’s good, forever plans for His people. He also planned for all things in their lives—both enjoyable things and hard things—for the good purpose of making them more like Jesus. Yes, He would use all of them to prepare them for life with Him in heaven, where they would be glorified: forever freed from sin and a pure reflection of God’s glory. This is God’s wonderful plan for making everything in His people’s lives for their good and His glory.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *The poor man, known as the Demoniac, was held in Satan's powerful grip. But God foreknew this man. In His great love, He planned to rescue him and save him. He planned for him to turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus. And, He planned to use all of this to show people that Jesus really was the Son of God, that they would turn from their sins and trust in Him, too.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can we become those who are called, justified, and one day glorified? *By turning 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 Bible Verse? *Praise God for being able to save His people! There is nothing that can stop His plans to call them, justify them, and glorify them!*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse? *That we have all turned away from God. Our hearts are dead to God. We cannot know God on our own! We need a Savior!*

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

*We can thank God for His unbreakable plan to use all things in His people's lives for His good purposes!*

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 save us, to make us conformed to the likeness of Jesus and one day, to glorify us in heaven—free from sin forever!*

**The Gospel**

1. What was God's amazing, unbreakable plan to call, justify and glorify 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: Rush to the Store

### Materials

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

2 large pieces of paper or poster board

A toy shopping cart or shopping bag per team

Empty food or beverage containers such as milk cartons or cereal boxes—one for each word or group of words of the verse (no more than 10 per team)

Paper and marker

Bag or jar

Masking tape

Two tables

### Preparing the Game

1. Make copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as containers per team. Number this verse pieces in order and tape them to the containers.
2. Make a sign per team of the verse. If you have a lot of non- or early readers, write the verse in easy to read print, numbering each word/section that correspond to the sections on the cut-up version of the verse. If your children are all proficient readers, do not write the verse on the poster board, but simply draw lines and number them 1-10, corresponding to the 10 verse pieces.
3. Write down and cut out the numbers used on the verse pieces and put in a little bag or jar.
4. Use the masking tape to mark each team's home starting line.
5. Place each team's "groceries" in separate piles at the far end of the room with space between the two piles for the teacher to stand.

### 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:

WARNING: Limit the children to walking quickly if you have a slick floor.

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at their home lines. Explain that the class will say the Bible verse together, then you will pick a number out of your bag. The first player of each team will rush to the store to find the grocery item with that number on it. Instead of money to pay for the grocery, a child says the memory verse to the teacher. Then they rush home with the item in their bag, this place it on their team's table of groceries. The whole class will say the verse again, the teacher will choose another number and the next two children will go find that item, etc. until all items have been purchased and retrieved. Then, the children will line up their groceries so that their verse is in the right order and say the verse together. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Have only one set of groceries. Have the children take turns retrieving the item and adding it to the class groceries on the table. Together they will work to put the verse together after collecting all the groceries.

### 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.

**All Things**

All things, yes, all things,  
And we know that in all things, God works for the good,  
Of those who love Him, Who have been called,  
Called according to His purpose.

*(But why? What was God doing for His people?)*

For those God foreknew, He also predestined, He predestined,  
To be conformed, to be conformed, To the likeness of His Son.

*(But why? What was God doing for Jesus?)*

That He, That He might be, The firstborn among many, many,  
Of many, brothers, so He might be, Firstborn of many brothers.  
Romans Eight, twenty-eight and twenty-nine.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 18**

## 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.

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. Where did Jesus have His disciples beach their boats? *On the east side of the Sea of Galilee near Gadara, a town in the Decapolis.*
2. Why would most Jews not want to stay where Jesus had them land their boats? *Because it was Gentile land, there were herds of pigs grazing and dead people buried nearby. All three of these things, Jews tried to avoid.*
3. What did the disciples and others see that showed them that where they were was an “unclean” place? *Herds of pigs; the cemetery on the hills.*
4. What does unclean mean? What by Moses’ law would they have to do if they were unclean from pigs? *Makes you so you can’t worship in the Temple or be with other Jews for a day.*
5. What was wrong with the man roaming the cemetery? *He was under the powerful grip of Satan by demons.*
6. What things did the demon possessed man do? *He shrieked loudly. Was very, very strong. Hurt himself and could hurt others.*
7. Why did his family send him to the cemetery? *They tried to bind him with chains, but he was too strong. They couldn’t control him, so they finally had to send him to live there by himself.*
8. How did the demon-possessed man know Jesus even though he had never met Him before? *The demons knew Jesus was the Son of God.*
9. Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus? *Because He is the all-powerful Son of God. They knew He would one day bring final punishment on them. They knew He had power over them right then. They were afraid He would send them to the Abyss right then.*
10. What is the Abyss? *It is the terrible place of confinement for Satan and the demons.*
11. What name did the man give? What does it mean? *Legion. It means a group of up to 6000 soldiers. It meant that there were many demons inside that man.*
12. Where did Jesus allow the demons to go? *Into the herd of pigs.*
13. What happened to the pigs after the demons went into them? *They rushed over the cliff and died/drowned in the Sea of Galilee.*
14. What did the pig herders do when they saw what happened? *They went to tell everyone in the town and countryside what happened.*
15. What did the people do when they came out to see for themselves what had happened? *They were scared of Jesus. They pleaded with Him to leave.*
16. What did the man do when Jesus went to leave? *Asked Jesus to let him come and be His disciple.*
17. What did Jesus tell the man He wanted him to do? *Go home and tell his family what God had done for him.*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does our story have to do with our Bible Truth? *Jesus did good to this man by rescuing him from the demons and helping him to know and love Him as His Savior. God was glorified as the people of Gadara and many people in Decapolis heard/saw God’s power and love for sinners in how He helped this man.*

### Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 8:28-30**: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.”?

*The poor man, known as the Demoniac, was held in Satan’s powerful grip. But God foreknew this man. In His great love, He planned to rescue him and save him. He planned for him to turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus. And, He planned to use all of this to show people that Jesus really was the Son of God, that they would turn from their sins and trust in Him, too.*

2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning from our sins, confessing them to God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How does this story encourage God's people that God can use everything in their lives for their good and His glory? *If God can use even a demon-possession for the good of that man, then surely there is nothing in the lives of God's people He cannot use!*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning 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 more powerful than Satan.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?  
*Confess that many times we are fearful of evil, forgetting that Jesus has broken the power of sin and death.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?  
*We can thank God for using even the very worse and very hardest things in His people's lives for their good and His glory.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?  
*We can ask Him to break the power of sin and death in our lives. We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior.*

**The Gospel**

1. Why could Jesus free this man from the grip of Satan when others could not? Because He was God's Son, come to defeat sin and death. Why did Jesus need to do this? How did Jesus do this? 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: String Along

### Materials

- Ball of string
- Scissors
- A jar/bag big enough to fit all the string
- Masking tape
- Paper and marker
- 20+ Story Review Questions and 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. Cut various lengths of string and place them in the jar, mixed up so it is not easy to see how long they are.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the masking tape line. Read Team A a Story Review question. If they can correctly answer it, then the first child in line stands up and picks a piece of string from the bag/jar without looking. He holds up the string for every one to see. The leader places the piece of string at Team's A's line, but lets it point away from the group. If Team A does NOT correctly answer the question, the Team B can try to correctly answer it. If they do, then the first person in the Team B line gets to pick out a string instead of Team A. Next, it is Team B's turn. Continue as above. Each time a team gets a new piece of string, it is tied to the other strings. The goal is to see who can get the longest string by the end of the game.

Play continues as Story Review cards last; or, as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Mark a length along the floor, wall, etc. Tell the children this is their target string length and they will work together to see how few questions it takes the group to reach the target length. Have the children take turns pulling out a piece of string to be added to the group as the leader reads a question. If the class gets the right answer, the piece of string is added onto the group's string. Continue until the target length is reached, noting how many pieces it took. Untie the string pieces, put them back in the jar and start again, seeing if they can reach the target length with less pieces 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.

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

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

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

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

**Materials**

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

**Preparation**

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

**Instructions**

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

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

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

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

“Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs.

This is a New Testament story. It takes place while Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: “The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs.”

**Scene 1:**

**Actions:**

Jesus, His disciples and others sailed from Capernaum, across the Sea of Galilee. Just as the sun set, they reached the shores of Gadara in the Decapolis, on the east side. It took them only a few minutes to see what a very unclean place this was for Jews! Right nearby was a herd of 2000 pigs and as well as tombs where people were buried in the limestone hills. These were all things that Jews should stay away from! But there was one man who lived in that unclean place. He was called the Demoniac. He had been sent to live there because he could not be controlled, not even by strong chains. He shrieked out loudly. He hurt himself and could hurt others. Jesus and the man had never met, but they knew who each other was. The man ran down the hill and fell down before Jesus. The man shrieked back, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t hurt me!” he cried. Jesus asked him what his name was. “Legion,” he answered, because so many demons bothered him. The demons were terrified of Jesus. They knew He had complete control over them. They begged Jesus to send them into the herd of pigs instead of the Abyss, the place of confinement for them. Jesus gave them permission and would use them to be a display of God’s glory. The demons came out of the man, went into the pigs and the whole herd ran off the bank and drowned in the Sea of Galilee.

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**Scene 2:**

The pig-herders watched in horror as their pigs dove off the cliff. The men ran off and told others what they had seen. Everyone came out to see for themselves. When they saw the dead pigs, and the man sitting with Jesus, but now dressed and in his right mind, they asked to hear the whole amazing story again. They should have worshiped Jesus after all they had seen and heard, but instead they were afraid. They pleaded with Jesus to leave, and so He did.

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**Scene 3:**

Only the demon-possessed followed Jesus and asked to go with Him as His disciple. Jesus said no. He told the man to go home and tell his family how much God had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus. He went home and told not just his family, but people all over the Decapolis what Jesus had done.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Uses Everything in His People’s Lives for Their Good and His Glory.** Jesus did good to this man by rescuing him from the demons and helping him to know and love Him as His Savior. God was glorified as the people of Gadara and many people in Decapolis heard/saw God’s power and love for sinners in how He helped this man.

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## **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 Man and the Diving Pigs.

This is a New Testament story. It takes place while Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Jesus, His disciples and others who sailed with them; Pigs-herders; the poor man; People of Gadara; the man's family and friends from his hometown; and Others in the Decapolis.

And now we present: "The Case of the Man and the Diving Pigs."

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

Jesus, His disciples and others sailed from Capernaum, across the Sea of Galilee. Just as the sun set, they reached the shores of Gadara in the Decapolis, on the east side. It took them only a few minutes to see what a very unclean place this was for Jews! Right nearby was a herd of 2000 pigs and as well as tombs where people were buried in the limestone hills. These were all things that Jews should stay away from! But there was one man who lived in that unclean place. He was called the Demoniac. He had been sent to live there because he could not be controlled, not even by strong chains. He shrieked out loudly. He hurt himself and could hurt others. Jesus and the man had never met, but they knew who each other was. The man ran down the hill and fell down before Jesus. The man shrieked back, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't hurt me!" he cried. Jesus asked him what his name was. "Legion," he answered, because so many demons bothered him. The demons were terrified of Jesus. They knew He had complete control over them. They begged Jesus to send them into the herd of pigs instead of the Abyss, the place of confinement for them. Jesus gave them permission and would use them to be a display of God's glory. The demons came out of the man, went into the pigs and the whole herd ran off the bank and drowned in the Sea of Galilee.

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

The pig-herders watched in horror as their pigs dove off the cliff. The men ran off and told others what they had seen. Everyone came out to see for themselves. When they saw the dead pigs, and the man sitting with Jesus, but now dressed and in his right mind, they asked to hear the whole amazing story again. They should have worshiped Jesus after all they had seen and heard, but instead they were afraid. They pleaded with Jesus to leave, and so He did.

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

Only the demon-possessed followed Jesus and asked to go with Him as His disciple. Jesus said no. He told the man to go home and tell his family how much God had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus. He went home and told not just his family, but people all over the Decapolis what Jesus had done.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory.** Jesus did good to this man by rescuing him from the demons and helping him to know and love Him as His Savior. God was glorified as the people of Gadara and many people in Decapolis heard/saw God's power and love for sinners in how He helped this man.

## Strong, Iron Chains

### Description

Children will make “iron” ball and chains out of paper/craft foam, balloons and sand.

### Materials

1 1 ½” strip of sticky-back Velcro per child

1 8.5” x 12’ sheet of Black/grey craft foam (or construction paper), per child

If craft foam version: Staplers, packing tape or an additional 6” of sticky-back Velcro per child

If paper version: staplers or regular tape

scissors

Optional lead weight balls:

1+ Black/grey pipe cleaner per child

1+ small grey/black balloon per child

### Preparing the Craft

1. Use a rule and pen to mark 6 strips, 1.5” x 8.5” on each sheet of craft foam/construction paper for ease of cutting for the children. (For youngest children, you might want to cut strips ahead of time.)
2. If making optional lead weights, blow up balloons to size of fist and tie.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Paper version of chain: Children will cut out strips and use tape/staplers to make and fasten together links in a paper chain with 4 of the six strips of paper. Craft foam version: After cutting out strips, use staples, packing tape or pieces of sticky-back Velcro to fasten together links in a chain with 4 of the six strips of paper.
3. The last two strips will be the last link on each side of the chain and they will be chained to the wrists. Use sticky-back Velcro to fasten each of these links so that they can be attached or removed from wrists.
4. Optional lead weights: Bend the pipe cleaner in half and slip the loop of the bend over the knot of the balloon. Twist several times to secure. Attach the “lead weight” to the chain by connecting it to a link on the chain by twisting the ends of the pipe cleaners and allowing it to dangle down.

NOTE: If desired, can double materials and make a set of chains for the feet as well as the hands.

### 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 and his disciples land when they sailed across the Sea of Galilee? *At Gadara, on the east side.*
2. Who did they find among the tombs? What had the people tried to do to him?  
*A poor man bothered by demons. They had tried to bind him with strong, iron chains so he wouldn't be dangerous to anyone.*
3. What did Jesus do for the man that no one else could?  
*He sent the demons away and healed him.*
4. What is the Bible Truth that we are learning?  
*God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory?  
*After Jesus healed the poor man, he traveled all over the Decapolis telling how no chains could hold him, but Jesus came and freed him from the power of the demons and saved him. This was for his good and to glory of Jesus' name.*
6. What can this craft help us remember?  
*God is mightier than any enemy God's people will ever face. They can always trust in Him.*

**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: Strong, Iron Chains.
2. In Gadara, Jesus healed the poor man that the people tried to bind up in strong, iron chains because he had been so dangerous.
3. Bible Truth 5 is: God Uses Everything in His People's Lives for Their Good and His Glory .
4. After Jesus healed the poor man, he traveled all over the Decapolis telling how no chains could hold him, but Jesus came and freed him from the power of the demons and saved him. This was for his good and to glory of Jesus' name.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God is mightier than any enemy God's people will ever face. They can always trust in Him.

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 (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

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

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

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

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

**2. PRAY!**

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

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

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

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

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

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

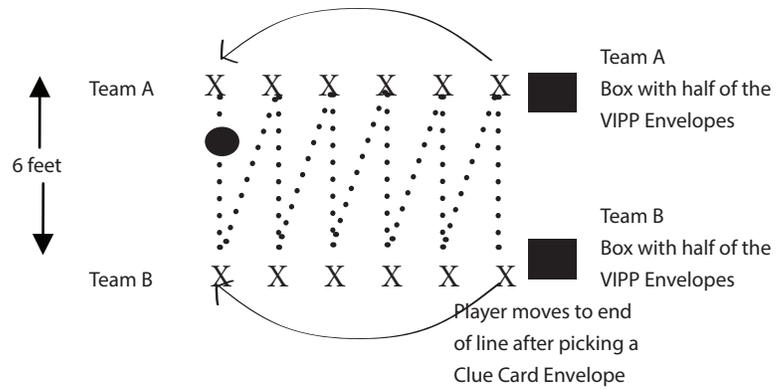
**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP**

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

## Game: Ball Roll Review

### Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP  
 2 Set of Clue Cards  
 Ball  
 8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes  
 Tape  
 Pen and Markers  
 2 Boxes



### 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. Put half the Clue Card Envelopes in one box and the other half in the other box. These are the Team A and Team B Boxes.

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** Have the children break into two even groups and sit down on the floor facing each other, with about a 6' spread between the 2 lines (see diagram above). For Round 1, Give the ball to the first child in Team A and have them roll it across to the child on Team B directly across from them. Then, that Team B child rolls it back across to the next child on Team A, etc. all the way down the line to the last child on Team B. The last child to get the ball will then pick a Clue Card envelope out of their team's box. They (or the teacher) will tell the group and the Clue Card category by looking at the picture of the Clue Card on the outside of the envelope. Have the children try to remember the VIPP's answer to the category. If the class gets it right, the category is "retired". If they get it wrong, then it gets put back in the pile of category envelopes. The child who picked the Clue Card, then takes their place at the other end of the line. They begin Round 2 by rolling the ball to the first person on Team A, etc. This time, the ball will end up with the last child in the Team A line. ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue from their Clue Card box. Continue until all the clues have been chosen/answered correctly.

**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**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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