

## **BIBLE TRUTH 6, 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 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 6:** God Will Never Stop Loving His People

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The King of Love, v.6 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 19*

**Bible Verse:** Romans 8:31-32,35,37-39

**Bible Verse Song:** Who Shall Separate Us? *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 20*

*Extra Bible Verse Song: I Will Betroth You to Me Hosea 2:19 PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 21*

**Lesson 2 Story of the Saints:** The Case of the Giant Joy

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

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Tea, Cookies and Eleven Children!

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Squirrel and Nut

**Bible Truth Hymn:** The King of Love, v.6 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 19*

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

**Bible Verse Review:** Romans 8:31-32,35,37-39 Discussion Sheet and Game: Forceball

**Bible Verse Song:** Who Shall Separate Us? Romans 8:35,38-39 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 20*

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

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Ring Toss

**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:** Joy in God's Forever Love

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (back of book), Game: Picture Run

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

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 6, Lesson 2 **PFI NIV Prontos 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Giant Joy**

by Connie Dever

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

1. Who came to know Giant Joy? What did the joy come from?
2. How did joy help her through her whole life? What did she look forward to?

Musket shot, cannon fire, soldiers on the march, and Indian attacks. These were all part of life in New England in the early 1700's

The French and British had both begun to settle in the great, new land of America. First there were little settlements of people in colonies along the East Coast. But there was much unexplored land further inland to the west. How big was America? What secrets lay in the wilderness? Both the French and the British wondered in a greedy sort of way. If the riches they had found so far were anything like what lay in the lands beyond, both French and British wanted as much as they could get. They began to fight each other for it.

The French especially used Native Americans to carry out raids on the British. These raids often left villages burned and settlers killed. Life in America back then was not exactly safe and worry-free.

It was into this dangerous, anxious time that a little girl named Sarah Pierrepont was born in the British colony of Connecticut. Her father was the pastor of First Church in New Haven, the most important town in the colony. As a pastor's daughter, Sarah was expected to be trained in all the womanly arts and graces of the day. She had to learn everything from cultured manners and proper tea settings to good literature and fine writing.

Yet there was more to Sarah than just good training. She knew how to put people at ease and was admired for her kindness. And far more important than all these things was what Sarah's treasured in her heart. For as long as she could remember, she had loved God and had a deep sense of His faithful, everlasting love for her. Sarah loved to ramble the countryside and think of God. She sang to Him and prayed to Him as she looked at His beautiful creation around her. She thought much of His saving love shown to her through Jesus; and her

heart was filled with joy.

As Sarah grew up, she became very, very beautiful. Many a handsome young man came to her door in hopes of wooing her to be his wife. But Sarah's answer was always "no."

But then, a certain skinny, shy, awkward, young man named Jonathan came along. He wasn't that much to look at, but he had something that Sarah valued more than a good-looking face: Jonathan loved God and took joy in God's faithful, everlasting love for him just like Sarah did. He loved to study God's Word, to preach it and to write about it. This love for God made Jonathan more attractive than all the handsome men who came to her door.

Jonathan felt the same way about Sarah as she felt about him. Like the other men, he could not miss her extraordinary beauty, but it was her love for God and her joy in God's faithful, everlasting love for her that made her irresistible to him. So, at the age of just seventeen, Sarah married Jonathan and they became Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Edwards.

Sarah and Jonathan began their new married life together in Northampton, Massachusetts, where Jonathan had just recently joined his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, in pastoring the important Northampton Church that sat in the center of town.

Sarah's first Sunday at Northampton was unforgettable. The whole town awaited her arrival at the church. Pastor's wives were a very big deal back in those days. There were certain customs everyone expected her to keep. She was to wear her wedding dress to church her first Sunday, and twirl slowly around at the front of the church so everyone to get a good view of it from every side. Then, she was to take her place in the special high

**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.

seat right next to the pulpit that facing towards the congregation, so everyone could watch her during the very long services.

Watch her they did, Sunday after Sunday, for any signs of improper movement or boredom. And you can be certain that if they did see her do even the smallest thing wrong, they would be sure to talk about it. Yes, the pastor's wife was to be more than just a woman who loved God and took joy in His faithful, everlasting love. It seemed she was to be perfect.

Can you imagine what it would be like for everyone to be staring at you and looking for ways you fall short of perfection? It would be easy for Sarah to be anxious or to be angry at those people for treating her this way, but do you know what she did? Instead of getting worried or mad at people, she turned her thoughts to God. She thought of how His saving love shown to her through Jesus. She knew He loved her with a faithful, everlasting love. That was enough for her. Her heart took joy in God. Suddenly it didn't matter so much what those people thought or said about her.

Jonathan and Sarah stayed in Northampton for twenty years. The LORD blessed both their church and their home in great ways during those years. The LORD began to work powerful things when Jonathan preached. Many people became deeply convicted of their sins. They would wail loudly and ask God for mercy. As they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus, the Holy Spirit filled their hearts with such peace that they would shout for joy. This happened over and over for many years.

After a while, the same, amazing things began to happen in many other churches in New England, too. Many people became Christians. This joyful time was called "The Great Awakening" because so many people became "awake" to God—which is another way of saying they were saved.

Northampton Church grew and grew during the Great Awakening. Many weeks, thirty people would become Christians at one time. With so many people coming to church and being saved, Jonathan was busier than ever. On top of caring for church members, he would often spend thirteen hours a day studying the Bible and writing sermons!

Things were as busy at home for Sarah as they were for Jonathan at church. Sarah took care of their eleven children as well as did most of the work on the farm. She cared for the many visitors who dropped by their house and tended to guests and young apprentice pastors who would live with them, sometimes for months at a time.

Sarah did everything she could to encourage Jonathan in his preaching and writing. She and the children were up with him at 5 a.m. to read a chapter in the Bible by candlelight, then kept working hard all day and long into the night, while Jonathan worked in his study. Sarah could have easily been a grumbling, bitter woman because of all the hard work she had to do, often without much help from Jonathan; but she was not. She loved the Lord and she loved what He was doing through her husband. She was so glad that she could help him be ready to tell others about God's faithful, everlasting love that they could know, too. So instead of seeing a grumbling, bitter woman, when people talked to Sarah and watched Sarah, they saw the joy that she had in her heart.

One evening, the Lord added even more to the joy Sarah had. As she was praying, He revealed His love to her heart in an indescribably wonderful way. As she understood more of His love for her, she felt at peace with whatever He wanted to do with her life. She trusted He always knew what was best and would always be with her. More than ever she knew His faithful, everlasting love for her.

How kind it was of the Lord to give Sarah this special taste of His faithful, unfailing love! It would be her special comfort in the many hard times that were soon to come! Jerusha, their second daughter died of tuberculosis when she was only seventeen years old. Later, the Northampton Church members got mad at Jonathan for wanting only Christians to take the Lord's Supper as the Bible says. They fired him with no pay. Jonathan and Sarah had to somehow scrape together enough money to feed their large family for a whole year before Jonathan had another money-making job.

Hardest of all was the year when their daughter Esther, her husband, Aaron, and Jonathan, himself, died. Later that year Sarah became deathly sick with dysentery.

It would have been easy for Sarah to feel abandoned and discouraged through all these sad, hard times; but she was not. She was very sad and things were very hard, but, she loved the Lord and her heart was filled with the indescribably, wonderful joy of knowing His faithful, everlasting love than for her and for these others who also were His people. This was her comfort to the very last moment of her life on earth. And no doubt, it was her shout of praise in the first moments in her dear Lord's presence in heaven and even today, where she still delights in His love and will forever.

### Cracking the Case:

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

**1. Who came to know Giant Joy? What did the joy come from?**

Sarah Edwards. From knowing God and enjoying His fellowship in her heart, by the Holy Spirit.

**2. How did joy help her through her whole life? What did she look forward to?** Even when things were very hard, the joy of knowing God helped her to endure the hard things in the way that God wanted her to. She knew that one day she would go to be with God and live in His presence forever. There, she would be wonderfully happy, knowing and enjoying Him more fully than ever she would in life here on earth.

### Something for Me and You

**Our Bible Truth is: God Will Always Love His People**

**Our Bible Verse is: Romans 8:31-32,35,37-39**

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Did you know that these verses were Sarah Edward's favorite verses in the Bible? What joy Sarah Edwards took in God's everlasting love for her! How it gave her strength to make it through so many hard things!

What about you and me? Can we know the joy of God's faithful, everlasting love for us? Yes, we can; if we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior.

Let's praise God for His faithful, everlasting love for His people. Let's ask Him to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to fill our hearts with the joy of His faithful, everlasting love for us.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the God who loves Your people forever.

**C** God, we confess that many times, we are not like Sarah. We complain, become angry or bitter when hard things happen to us or those we love.

**T** God, we thank You for the wonderful gifts You give to Your people, such as Your Holy Spirit living in their hearts, filling them with Your love; and, the strength to endure joyfully, everything they must endure.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Give us hearts that take joy in You instead of grumble and complain when hard things happen to us.

### Special Words:

**New England:** The name for the group of northern, English colonies in America.

**Jonathan Edwards:** One of the most famous preachers from the days of colonial America. His sermons and books are still read by many today.

**Dysentery:** A very serious sickness of the intestines.

# **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 loving Your people forever with Your "hesed" steadfast love.

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

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

God, we confess that we are rebellious sinners who don't deserve Your forever love, but really Your forever punishment. We need Jesus to be our Savior.

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for offering Your forever love to us through Jesus, when we confess our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior

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. Be our Heavenly Father! Make us Your adopted children who You will love forever and ever.

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 relates to the story?

## Snack: Tea, Cookies and Eleven Children!

Tea (make weakly flavored with milk and sugar) like what Sarah Edwards would have learned how to properly serve (use decaffeinated "English Breakfast" tea rather than Lipton's for a good taste) with shortbread or other cookie to go with it OR serve with 11 Teddy grahams to stand for her 11 children she took care of.

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

**Case Tie-in:** Sarah was trained in how to make and serve tea, bake, as well with many other important skills for being a woman in her day. As a pastor's wife, she welcomed many into her home who needed comfort or advice from her husband or from her. Besides her indoor duties, she worked long hours in the fields to raise the food they need, as well as raised eleven children.

# 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 Will Never Stop Loving His People**

Our love for others often changes. Sometimes it is strong; sometimes it is weak. Sometimes it fades away completely. God's love for His people never changes. The Bible calls God's love "hesed:" steady love and kindness, flowing out to sinful people who don't deserve it.

God loved His people before they were created. He kept on loving them when they rebelled against Him. And He chose to send His dear Son, Jesus to save them from their sins. God will go on loving them forever and ever.

Why does God's love for His people never change? It's not because His people are so good and lovable. It's because God loves His people through Jesus, the perfect Son of God, who died for their sins. With His blood, shed on the cross, Jesus made a covenant—a forever promise—with God, His Father. His blood would be the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. He took God's punishment for their sins so they didn't have to bear it themselves.

Because of Jesus, God would forgive them and love them forever. Praise God for sending Jesus! He is why God will never stop loving His people.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What is our love for others like? *It often changes. Sometimes it's strong. Sometimes it is weak. Sometimes it fades away completely.*
2. What is God's love for His people like? *It never changes.*
3. What special word does the Bible use for God's love? *"Hesed."*
4. What does it mean? *"Hesed" means steady love and kindness flowing out to sinners who don't deserve it.*
5. Did God love His people before they were created? *Yes.*
6. Did God love His people even when they rebelled against Him? *Yes.*
7. Who did God send to save His people from their sins? *Jesus.*
8. How long will God go on loving His people? *Forever.*
9. Does God's love never change for His people because they are so good and lovable? *No.*
10. What do God's people deserve instead of God's love? *His punishment for their sins.*
11. Why does God's love for His people never change? *It is because God loves His people through Jesus.*
12. What did Jesus do so that God would love His people forever? *He shed His blood on the cross to forgive their sins and make a forever promise with God to always love them.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 8:31-32,35,37-39**: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."?

*God's people may have to go through some very hard things in this life. They may face some very powerful enemies, such as sin in their hearts, people who want to stop believing in Jesus, and even temptations and troubles from Satan, the enemy of God. But they know that none of these things will separate them from God. He has always loved them and will always love them. He will be with them as they go through the hard things and one day, He will bring them into heaven to live perfectly happy in His presence forever.*

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

1. How did Sarah respond to the way people wanted her to be perfect at church? *Instead of worrying about what they thought about her, she took joy in God's forever love for her. She thought about how He had loved her before He even created her. He loved her so much that He sent Jesus to save her. His love for her would go on and on, long after those people were gone. One day in heaven she would live in the fullness of His love for her. That was what matters most of all.*
2. Why did Sarah chose Jonathan over the other men? *He deeply loved God and took joy in God's forever love for him more than the other men.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How has God shown us His hesed love? *He has let us hear the good news of Jesus that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him. And, if we have, He has promised to keep on loving us as His people and lavish us with a wonderful inheritance when we die and go to be with Him forever.*
2. How can God's people know that God will always love them, even though they are still sinful? *Because God's love isn't based on how good they are, but on what Jesus has done for them.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*God, we praise You for loving Your people forever with Your "hesed" steadfast love.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?  
*God, we confess that we are rebellious sinners who don't deserve Your forever love, but really Your forever punishment. We need Jesus to be our Savior.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*Thank You, God for offering Your forever love to us through Jesus, when we confess our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior*
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?  
*God, work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Be our Heavenly Father! Make us Your adopted children who You will love forever and ever.*

**The Gospel**

1. How can we become one of God's people, forever loved by God? 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: Squirrel and Nut

### Materials

Marble

Chairs

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

Have children seated in chairs in a circle, with their heads down and their eyes closed. "It" is in the middle and is holding the marble. He walks around quietly and chooses someone's lap to drop the marble into. The person who receives the marble jumps up and chases "It" around the circle and tries to tag "It" before "It" gets to the chair and sits down. Either the tagged old "It" or the new "It" gets to choose a question from the bag for the class to answer. Play continues after the question is answered. Be careful about running on slick floors! You may want to ask the children to walking rapidly instead.

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

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

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

Directions:

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

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

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

### The King of Love

#### Verse 6

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never.  
Good shepherd may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 19

### Understanding the Song

1. What does "all the length of days" mean? *All the days of our life.*
2. What never fails through all the length of days? *God's goodness towards His people.*
3. Who is the "good shepherd"? *God is.*
4. To whom is God like a good shepherd? *His people.*
5. Who are God's people? *All who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
6. Can we become God's people? *Yes, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
7. How does God act like a good shepherd towards His people? *Sheep need constant watching or else they will get lost or hurt or even eaten by hungry wild animals. A good shepherd is always with His sheep, looking out for their good. He never leaves them. He always protects them. He is even willing to give up his life to keep them safe. God constantly is near His people. He always takes care of them. Jesus even was willing to give up his life to save them.*
8. What is the good shepherd's house? *Most of all, this a picture of heaven, where God's people will be gathered to live with Him forever.*
9. What will be so wonderful about being in the good shepherd's house? *Being in close fellowship with God in His presence in heaven. There is nothing better than this!*
10. What do God's people want to do in the good shepherd's house forever? Why? *Sing God's praise because of how good He is to them and how wonderful is His love.*

### Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Will Never Stop Loving His People**? *God's people praise God for being the King of love. They delight in having Him as their king because all that He does comes from His heart of love for them that will never end or fail. God takes care of His people like a good shepherd cares for his sheep. Sheep are very stupid and need someone to take care all of their needs or else they will die. God promises to always be with His people, taking care of them throughout their whole length of days--their whole lives. And He will go on caring for them even after they die. He will take them to live with Him in heaven forever. How wonderful that will be! No wonder God's people want to sing His praise forever! We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Story Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *No matter what Sarah Edwards faced, she knew that the Lord was her good shepherd. He was always with her. He was always taking care of her and leading her towards heaven, where she would enjoy Him face-to-face. She might have happy times or sad times in her life on earth, but He was always the same powerful, loving shepherd whose love and goodness towards her would never fail. . She delighted in His forever love for her that helped her through this life and in which she would delight in even more one day in His "house"--in heaven, in His wonderful presence forever.*

**Bible Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Romans 8:35,37-39**: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."?

*God's people know that the LORD is their loving King who will always be with them all the days of their lives and throughout eternity. Nothing will ever separate them from His love for them in Christ. Just like a good shepherd, He takes care of all their needs. He took care of their greatest need by sending Jesus to die on the cross to save them from their sins. God's people look forward to the day when they will dwell with God forever in heaven. There, they will sing praises to Him for being their loving King who always cared for them perfectly...and always will. His goodness to them has never failed and it never will!*

**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 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 Questions**

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

## **Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice**

### **Materials**

Song

Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards

Blindfold

### **Preparing the Game**

None.

### **Playing the Game**

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

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

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

**Meditation Version: Romans 8: 31-32,35,37-39**

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: Romans 8:38-39**

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life...neither present nor the future...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. Who or what can be strong enough to defeat God's people? Why? *No one or nothing! This is because God is for them.*
2. What does it mean for God to be "for" His people? Does this mean they will never face anything hard or suffer? *No. It does not mean they will not suffer or face anything hard. It means that God is stronger than anyone or anything they will face. He will always help them when they suffer. And, He will only let them suffer, as is for their good and His glory. And, He is always working in all things for their good.*
3. Who did God not spare in order to save His people? Why does this tell us that God will graciously give His people everything else they need? *Jesus is God's dear, beloved Son. No one means more to Him than Jesus. But, God loved His people so much that He was even willing to send this dear Son to suffer and die in their place. If He was willing to do this greatest act of love, there is no question that He loves them enough to give them everything else they need.*
4. Who is Christ? *Christ is the Greek word for Messiah, the special one sent from God to save His people. Jesus is the Christ.*
5. What does it mean to be separated from the love of Christ? *To be some place or faced with some situation where God's loving plan for His people through Jesus will fail.*
6. Who is the "us" and "we" in which nothing can separate them from the love of Christ? *God's people, all who turn from their sins and trust Jesus as their Savior.*
7. What kinds of things cannot separate God's people from the love of Christ? *Trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, the sword, death, life, angels, demons, the present, the future, any power, height, depth, anything else in all creation. NOTHING!!!*
8. What does "height" and "depth" mean? *It's not really talking about how high something is or how deep it is. Back in the days when Paul wrote this letter, these words were special words used about stars. "Height" (hupsoma) meant the highest point in the night sky a star reached and "depth" (bathos) meant the lowest point in the night sky a star reached. What Paul is saying is there is nothing from the highest point in space to the lowest point in space that can separate God's people from the love of Christ.*
9. Why is it so comforting to God's people to know that none of these very difficult things can separate them from the love of Christ? *They can know that God's loving plan for them in Christ will never fail, no matter what they face, no matter when it happens. God's love will be victorious for them forever.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Will Never Stop Loving His People?** *God's people may have to go through some very hard things in this life, but they know that none of these things will ever separate them from God. He has always loved them and will always love them. He will be with them, helping them through them all, to the very end. And one day, God will bring them into heaven where they will enjoy His love and the delight of His presence forever.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *This was Sarah Edward's favorite verse. She lived her whole life in the joy of God's forever love for her. She knew that no matter what she went through, nothing could separate her from the love of Christ and that one day she would go to live with Him forever, delighting in the fullness of His wonderful love.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What can God's people remember as they go through hard things? *That nothing can separate them from the love of Christ. No matter how hard or sad is what they have to go through, they can know they aren't going through it because God's love or plans have failed, but as part of it. And, they can know He is with them, helping them and giving them strength.*

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 from this Bible Verse?

*Praise God for loving His people so much that nothing can ever separate them from His love.*

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

*That we sometimes get angry at God when we see His people go through hard things. We act like He has stopped loving them.*

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

*We can thank God that He will never let anything separate His people from His love. We can thank Him that His love is always stronger than even the hardest thing they go through.*

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 help us know more and more of His love, even when we go through very hard things.*

**The Gospel**

1. How can we become God's people, those who are never separated from God's love? 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: Forceball

### Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see  
One kick ball or other rubber ball  
Masking tape  
Yard stick

### Preparing the Game

1. Use the tape to mark 2 lines about 3 yards apart.

### 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:  
Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind one of the lines. Players should stand side to side, with legs apart and feet touching. The two teams are facing each other. Have all the children say the verse together. Then, one team rolls (with their hands) the ball to the other team, trying to get it through the other team's legs without being blocked. The defending team cannot move their feet to block the ball. They can only block it with their hands. If the ball gets through their legs, the other team can get 2 points if they can say the verse correctly. If they do not say it correctly, then the defending team can try for 1 point. The defending team then bats the ball and tries to get it through the other team's legs. Give all to other team. Have everyone say verse together, then begin play again. Repeat. The team with the most points wins.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive option

This game is difficult to make completely non-competitive. You can, however, not keep track of points.

### 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.

**Who Shall Separate Us?**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
 Shall trouble? No! Shall Hardship? No!  
 Persecution, famine, nakedness? No!  
 Danger or sword? No!  
 In all these things we are conquerors through Him who loved us.  
 For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
 Nor anything else in all creation,  
 Will be able to separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
 Romans Eight, thirty-five, eight and nine.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 20**

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

### Materials

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

Bag or bowl

### Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

### Playing the Game

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

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

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



**STORY REVIEW**

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

**General Story Questions**

1. What kinds of things did Sarah have to learn to do as the daughter of an important family? *Learn good manners, how to serve tea, read good books, learn to write.*
2. What was the most important thing about Sarah? *She loved God and took joy in His forever love.*
3. Why were so many young men interested in Sarah? *Why did she pick Jonathan over them? She was very beautiful and came from an important family. Jonathan loved God like she did.*
4. What did the townspeople expect Sarah to do on her first Sunday in Northampton after she married Jonathan? *To wear her wedding dress to church, go up front and twirl around slowly for everyone to see.*
5. What did Sarah have to do every Sunday that was very hard? *She had to sit in the special high chair next to the pulpit and face the congregation during the whole, long service. She had to show no signs of boredom or movement or else they would criticize her.*
6. What did Sarah think about that kept her from being mad at the people in the church for expecting her to be perfect? *She took joy in God's forever love for her. That mattered most of all.*
7. What happened during Jonathan's preaching that was so special? *The Great Awakening. Many people were convicted of their sins and cried out in sadness. Then, as God forgave them, they shouted out in joy. Often 30 people would become Christians in a week.*
8. Did Jonathan Edwards spend a lot of time taking care of church members and preparing sermons? How much time did he spend? *He often spent 13 hours a day preparing for sermons and writing on top of caring for his rapidly growing church.*
9. What did Sarah do at home? *Took care of 11 children; took care of the farm and household; welcomed visitors, guests and apprentice pastors, largely by herself.*
10. Did Sarah become bitter because of all the work she had to do? *No. She delighted in her husband's work and took joy in the Lord and His forever love for her.*
11. What did God give Sarah a taste of in a special experience? What did it make Sarah even more willing to do? *The depths of His forever love for her. She was more willing than ever to do whatever He wanted her to do.*
12. What hard times did Sarah go through that her special taste of God's forever love helped her through? *Jerusha died of tuberculosis; the church fires Jonathan and he has no job for a year; their daughter Esther and her husband Aaron die; Jonathan dies, then she gets deathly ill from dysentery and dies, too.*

**Bible Truth Connection Questions**

What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God Will Never Stop Loving His People? *Sarah took comfort in knowing that nothing would ever separate her from God's love. She knew He would go on loving her forever.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Romans 8:31-32,35,38-39**: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.?"  
*This was Sarah Edward's favorite verse. She lived her whole life in the joy of God's forever love for her. She knew that no matter what she went through, nothing could separate her from the love of Christ and that one day she would go to live with Him forever, delighting in the fullness of His wonderful love.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. Can we know the joy of God's forever love for us? How? *Yes, when we turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. The Holy Spirit will fill our hearts and give us joy in God's forever love.*
2. How can knowing God's forever love for us help us through hard or sad times we go through? *We can remember that no matter how hard or sad things are that we go through now, God will be with us through them. We can remember that everything we go through now will end and that in heaven, there will never be anymore sadnesses or hard things, only God's continuous pouring out of His love upon us forever and ever until at last all the hard things we went through in this life will seem very, very short and very, very long ago.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?  
*Praise God for being the God who loves His people forever.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?  
*Confess that many times, we are not like Sarah. We complain, become angry or bitter when hard things happen to us or those we love.*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?  
*We can thank God for the wonderful gifts He gives to His people, such as His Holy Spirit living in their hearts, filling them with God's love; and, the strength to endure joyfully, everything they must endure.*
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 take joy in Him instead of grumble and complain when hard things happen to us.*

**The Gospel**

1. What was the good news of salvation that Sarah and Jonathan Edwards believed and loved to tell others? 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: Ring Toss

### Materials

Pre-made Ring toss board and rings

OR

Large piece of cardboard, popsicle sticks, and a child's plastic bracelet

Paper and marker

Masking Tape

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. Set up the ring toss board; or, cut a triangle shape from the cardboard and stick popsicle sticks into the board and assign point values for different sticks

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line and toss the ring onto the board. Each child gets three tries, adding up the total points from all three tries. The leader then reads a Story Review question. If the child answers it correctly by himself, it is worth the number of points he scored from the ring toss. If he has another team member help him, it's worth half the point value. If he cannot answer it correctly, it goes to the other team with half points for a correct answer. Play resumes as the first player from the other team takes a turn tossing.

Play continues until each child has a turn, as Story Review questions last; or as time and attention span allow.

Tip: You might find that this game works best with the board laying flat on the floor rather than standing up and tilted.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point value for the children to reach together. Tell the children that they are going to work together and see how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Have the children take turns toss the ring for points. Read a question for everyone to work together to answer. If the group gets it right, then they get to keep the points. Keep track of how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Replace all of the sticky pads and play again, seeing if the group can make the target in less turns.

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

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Giant Joy.

Our story starts out in the early 1700's in New England, in America.

The characters in our story are: Sarah and her parents; Young men; Jonathan Edwards; Jonathan's Grandfather (Stoddard); Church people; Their eleven children; Visitors; Jerusha, Esther and Aaron.

And now we present: "The Case of the Giant Joy."

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

Sarah Pierrepoint was the daughter of the pastor of First Church, New Haven, the most important town in all of Connecticut. She was trained in good manners, how to serve tea correctly, and was educated in good books and good writing.. She was also very kind and knew how to make people feel at ease. Most important of all, as just a little girl, Sarah loved God and had a deep sense of His faithful, everlasting love for her. She would take walks in the countryside, looking at the beauty and talking and singing to God. Sarah grew up to be very beautiful and many handsome young men hoped she would marry them. She turned them all down for a skinny, awkward young man named Jonathan. Jonathan had something that mattered the most to her: a love for God like hers.

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

Sarah married Jonathan when she was seventeen years old. She moved with him to Northampton, Massachusetts where he pastored the Northampton Church with his grandfather. The town was very excited to see the new pastor's wife. They expected her to wear her wedding dress the first Sunday and twirl in front of the church so everyone could get a good look. Then, she took her seat in the high chair next to the pulpit that faced the congregation so they could keep watching her all through the long services. If Sarah made any movement or showed she was bored, they noticed and talked about it. Sarah could have been angry with the people for expecting her to be perfect, but instead she took joy in God's forever love for her. That was what really mattered. Many good things happened at the Northampton Church during the 20 years Jonathan and Sarah were there. As Jonathan preached, great numbers of people became Christians. This happened in many other churches in New England and was called "The Great Awakening." Jonathan was very busy taking care of new members and spending long hours each day studying and preparing sermons. Sarah was very busy taking care of their eleven children, many visitors, as well as the farm work. She could have been angry that Jonathan had so little time to help her, but she was not. She encouraged Jonathan about the work God did through him and she took joy in God's forever love for her.

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

One day, God gave Sarah a special taste of His forever love for her. Oh, how wonderful was His love! She understood that more than ever! And this made her happier than ever to do whatever He wanted her to do. God's love comforted her in the many hard and sad times that came soon. Their daughter, Jerusha, died of tuberculosis. Then the church fired Jonathan for only wanting Christians to take the Lord's Supper, as the Bible says to do. They struggled to care and feed their big family for a whole year until Jonathan found a new job. Then came the year when another daughter, Esther, her husband Aaron, and Jonathan, her husband, died. Later that year, Sarah, herself, became deathly ill with dysentery. Even to the end, Sarah took joy in God's forever love for her and for these others she knew loved Him, too. She died and went to shout her joy in His presence.

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

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Will Never Stop Loving His People.** In hard times, Sarah took comfort in knowing that nothing would ever separate her from God's love. She knew He would go on loving her forever.

## Joy in God's Forever Love

### Description

Children will decorate a two-sided picture of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards with a thought-bubble of joy in God's forever love that pops up.

### Materials

Markers, colored pencils  
 Yarn or doll craft hair: brown and white  
 1 ½" wide lace, 6" per child  
 Glue  
 1 Toilet roll per child  
 1 long wooden skewer per child  
 Tape  
 Stapler

### Preparing the Craft

1. Make a copy of Patterns 1, 2, and 3, one per child. Cut out around shapes (or have children do this).
2. Cut out yarn into 2" lengths. This will be hair curls.
3. Cut lace into 6" lengths.
4. Set out other supplies.

### Making the Craft

1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children color in the pictures of Sarah and Jonathan Edwards. Jonathan is wearing a black robe with a white surplice (the tie). Sarah is wearing whatever color the children want.
3. Glue on white curls onto Jonathan's head in the space outside the face.
4. Glue the lace around Sarah's head in the space outside the face. Glue a few curls around her face, too.
5. Color heart and thought bubble.
6. Staple or tape the 2 heads together along the sides, leaving the bottom and the top open.
7. Slip the toilet roll in between the two figures along the bottom, leaving about 2" of the roll sticking out the bottom. Secure in place with tape. (You may need to do this for youngest children).
8. Tape heart /thought bubble to end of long skewer.
9. Insert heart in the middle of the toilet roll so that the heart rests on the top of the toilet roll (hidden inside the heads) and so the skewer end sticks out the bottom of the toilet roll.
10. Children can slide the skewer up to make the thought bubble of joy in God's forever love appear above the heads.

### 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 Jonathan and Sarah spend most of their lives together? *At a church in Northampton, Massachusetts.*
2. What helped them through the many difficult things they went through in their lives? *The joy they had in God's Forever Love for them.*
3. Why did this love help them so much? *Titus heard the good news of Jesus and was saved. They knew that nothing would ever separate them from God's love. His love would always be what controlled what they went through. That was all they needed to know.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God Will Never Stop Loving His People.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Will Never Stop Loving His People? *Sarah and Jonathan had joy in their hearts thinking about God's forever love for them, even when they went through very hard and sad times.*
6. What can our craft help us remember? *When we read God's Word, God's Holy Spirit can use it to encourage His people about how He will use Who Shall Separate Us? for their good and His glory.*

**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: Joy in God's Forever Love.
2. In New England, Jonathan and Sarah Edwards had joy in God's Forever Love as they lived through many difficult things because they knew that nothing could ever separate them from His love, and that was all that they really needed to know.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Will Never Stop Loving His People.
4. As Titus read his Braille Bible, he read God's promise to do this. God gave him courage to believe His promises and even believe that He would use his blindness for His great purposes..
5. Our craft can help us remember that God wants all His people to remember that no matter what hard things they go through, they can take joy knowing that nothing will ever separate them from His forever love.

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.



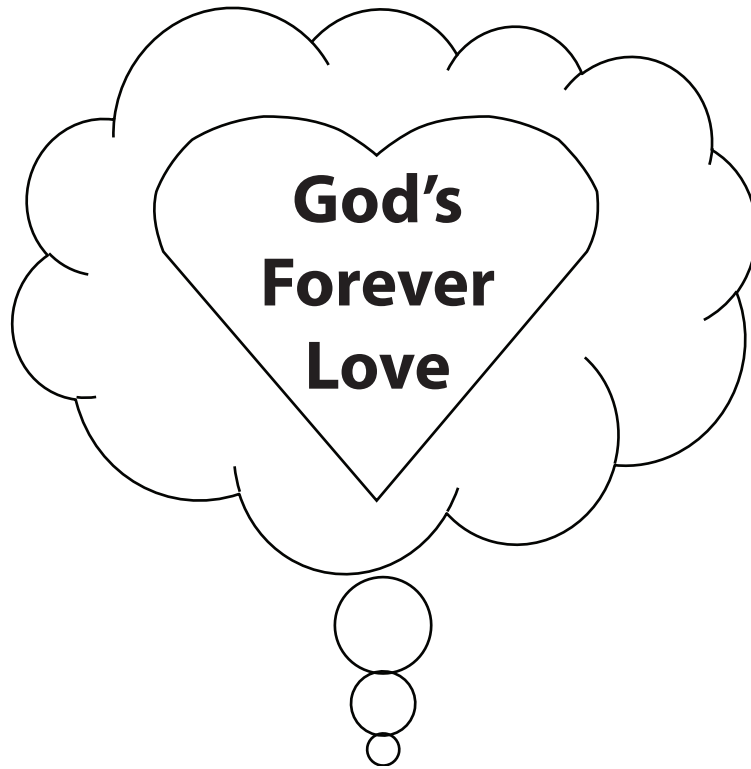
**Pattern #1 Sarah Edwards**



**Pattern #2 Jonathan Edwards**



**Pattern #3 Heart**





**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](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: Picture Run

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Sets of Clue Cards

Tape

Different color construction paper for each picture.

### Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each VIPP you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.
3. Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

### Playing the Game

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

**Review:** Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue card, show it to them, and they are to run to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. (If you have a slick floor, you may want to avoid running. Make it fun by giving them a different way to go to each picture, such as skip or hop.)

# **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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