Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Big Idea Overview
   A one page overview of the Big Idea key concepts taught all three weeks of curriculum.

2. The Take Home Sheet
   Give this to your children to take home at the end of the session.

3. The Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Resources
   These are materials, used at the beginning of session all three weeks, to lead the children in a review of the Big Idea key concepts. They are all marked “Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt” along the edge.

4. Music Resources
   These are the lyrics, music and sign language for the Scripture Verse song and hymn used in small group activities, all three weeks of the curriculum.

5. Week 1 Curriculum
   - Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   - Week 1 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   - Week 1 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   - Week 1 Story
   - Week 1 Small Group Resources

6. Week 2 Curriculum:
   - Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   - Week 2 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   - Week 2 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   - Week 2 Story
   - Week 2 Small Group Resources

7. Week 3 Curriculum:
   - Session Schedule and Planning Sheet
   - Week 3 Lesson Plan for Regular Praise Factory Groups
   - Week 3 Lesson Plan for Kindergarten Groups
   - Week 3 Story
   - Week 3 Small Group Resources
Directions for Teachers:

1. Let the lesson plan be your guide! It tell you through exactly where to find the resources and teaching tips for the activities you are doing.

2. Read through the lesson plan for the week. Use the Session Schedule & Planning Sheet to plan your session.

3. Prepare for either the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt review.

4. Read and prepare to tell the story for your children.

5. Prepare whatever activities you intend to use with your children. (Check the Small Group Activity Assignment Sheet your administrator may have given you with this binder.)

Directions for Administrators Preparing the Curriculum:

1. Use the pdf bookmarks to find the resources for the activities your teachers will be using.

2. Print out only what you need. There are a lot of resources since there are so many activities available for each week. You will help your teachers not feel overwhelmed if you give them only what they need.

   The curriculum is presented in color, but does not need to be printed out in color. Black and white is entirely acceptable and much cheaper! Remember that the curriculum is formatted for double-sided printing.

3. Note that many groups also use resources found in the Appendices. You will either want to also copy these for your teachers and include them with the other Small Group Resources, or make sure to include those appendices in your Teachers’ Binders. Below is a list of these other resources and the appendices in which they are found.

4. If using multiple small groups, you may want to include a Small Group Activity Assignment Sheet telling each of your teachers what activities they will be doing each week.

6. Read through the lesson plan for each week. It will tell you exactly what your teachers will need to teach their activities for any particular week.

Additional Resources Your Teachers May Need:

Appendix B Drama: Speaker Sheets (used in the play in Closing Large Group)
Appendix C Games: Directions for all Story Review, Big Idea, Scripture Verse Games
Appendix D Crafts: Presenter Sheets (used to present the craft in Closing Large Group)
Appendix E VIPP: VIPP Clue Cards and Games
Appendix F Songs: Song Games, Song Intro Sheets (used to present the songs in Closing Large Group)
Appendix G Kindergarten: VIPP Clue Cards, Song Games, Best Games for Kindergarteners
**Big Idea Concept: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus**

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

**Scripture Verse**

Meditation Version: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit..”

Shortened Games and Memory Version: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, which is the Spirit..”

**Stories**

Week 1: True Riches, True Freedom story
Week 2: The Story of John Lees
Week 3: What God Did in a Very Small Boy

**Big Idea ACTS Prayer**

**A** Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit

**C** Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.

**T** Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.

**S** Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

**Songs**

**Hymn** The Church’s One Foundation, v.1
**Scripture Song** We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory 2 Corinthians 3:18
Big Idea Concept
The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: 2 Corinthians 3:18
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Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
C Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
T Thank God for being will to forgive all our sins if we confess them and trust in Christ as our Savior.
S Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
The Story of Philemon
Leading Little Ones to God #52: God’s Children Are New Creatures

Songs
Hymn: The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Hymn Connection: Christians owe everything to Jesus, their foundation. He is the one who not only bought them with his very own blood on the cross, so they might be saved. But, He is the one who sends the Holy Spirit into their hearts, making them new and working inside them so that Christians love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This song reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.
**Big Idea 61 Hymn**  
**The Church’s One Foundation, Verse 1**

The church’s one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation,  
By Spirit and the Word:  
From heav’n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

Words    Samuel J. Stone    Music    Samuel S. Wesley
Copyright Information     Public Domain

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**Big Idea 61 Scripture Song**  
**We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory**

We, who reflect the Lord’s glory,  
Are being transformed into His likeness,  
With ever-increasing glory,  
Which comes from the Lord,  
Who is the Spirit.

Adapted from 2 Corinthians 3:18

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**Sign Language Chart**

 supposed sign language chart for the hymn and the scripture song.
# Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Resources

The resources you will need for The Echo Chamber or the Folder Hunt are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

## 1. Echo Chamber Schedule
This provides a basic script of Echo Chamber and a rotation through which key concepts are spoken and which sung to keep things fresh.

## 2. The WoGoLOA Rules
The basic Praise Factory rules that help the children know how to act to help each other worship God and to love one another during the session.

## 3. The WoGoLOA Rules Chant
A chant of the WoGoLOA Rules that can be sung antiphonally between two groups of children, or between the leaders and the children. The music for this chant is found as the first song of every CD in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs.

## 4. The Unit Big Question/Song
Each of the 16 Praise Factory Units has a Unit Big Question Song into which the Big Ideas in a particular unit fit. A review of the Big Question reminds children of the overarching concept behind the particular Big Idea they are learning. This Big Question can be spoken or sung. The music for the Unit Big Question Song is found at the beginning of each unit’s songs in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs.

## 5. The Unit Scripture Verse/Song
Each of the 16 Praise Factory Units has a Unit Scripture Verse that goes along with the Unit Big Question. A review of this Unit Scripture Verse reminds the children that the truths they are learning come from God’s Word. This Scripture Verse can be spoken or sung. The music for the Unit Scripture Verse Song is found at the beginning of each unit’s songs in the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs, immediately after the Unit Big Question Song.

## 6. The Big Idea Concept Sign
This is a sign of the meaning of the particular Big Idea you are learning. This provides the foundation for the story they hear.

## 7. The Big Idea Scripture Verse
This is the Scripture Verse that supports and clarifies the Big Idea the children are learning. It is important for the children to know that the Big Idea truths come from God’s Word, not just our own ideas.

### Other Resources You Will Need:
- Folders (if you are doing the Folder Hunt)
- CD player and The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
ECHO CHAMBER

Follow this schedule for each 3 weeks in a Big Idea

PURPOSE OF THE ECHO CHAMBER: To briefly review key concepts in a way that gets out the wiggles! Keep this section short and active!

Welcome and Transition into Echo Chamber  “Welcome to Praise Factory! Good morning, children! I’d like all the boys to sit down on the rug over here on my left; and all the girls to sit down on the rug over here on my right (or whatever groupings you choose.)”

Introduce the Echo Chamber  “We’re starting out in our Echo Chamber…a place where important things are said and repeated, sometimes in some very unusual ways!”

Review the Key Concepts  “Let review the key concepts we are learning in Praise Factory and get some wiggles out at the same time.” (Follow the schedule of activities listed below. For more interaction, choose a movement/sound for the children to make as they sing the song. See suggestions listed below and on the Big Question Song and Scripture Song sheets in your curriculum.)

BIG IDEA 61  KEY CONCEPTS USED IN ECHO CHAMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WoGoLOA Rules</th>
<th>Always the same, see Rules and Chant on following pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse: Live a Life of Love Just as Christ Loved You. Ephesians 5:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>Big Idea 61 Concept: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 3 of Big Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL OF THE RESOURCES YOU NEED ARE FOUND IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE
How to do the singing portion:
- Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
- Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
- Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Prayer  “Let’s pray.” (Lead brief prayer of praise and ask for the Spirit’s work in hearts and minds.)

Transition to Story Time  “Ok, now, it’s to be dismissed for today’s Big Idea story. I have something I want you to do. When I say the word ‘---’ (choose a word, preferably a little bit random or silly), I want everyone who is…. (choose a subset of the group, such as everyone who is six or who has pink on, etc.) to stand up and (choose an action) as you walk SLOWLY to the other room, chairs, etc for story time.” Say your cue word and dismiss them by subset until all have been dismissed.

Resources Needed:  Poster boards of Unit and Big Idea Concepts and WoGoLOA Rules & Chant
Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
CD player

Prep Needed:  Review Concepts;
Find Correct CD Track for song;
Choose actions to use for song and transition to story time
WORSHIP GOD!
joyfully take part
listen to others
obey your teachers

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WOGO LOA RULES
**WOGOLOA RULES CHANT**

Split group into Part A and Part B, turn on the music and do the chant!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**Part A:**
- WoGo means...
- Sound off...
- Joyfully....
- Listen...
- Obey...

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**Part B:**
- ...Worship God!
- ...1-2-3!
- ...take part!
- ...to others!
- ...Your teachers!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**LOA means...**
- Sound off...
- Be...
- Be en…
- Help...

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

**Part B:**
- ... Love One Another!
- ...1-2-3
- ...kind
- ...couraging
- ...others!

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!

**Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question Song**

Add clapping, stomping, or one of these movement ideas after the children have learned the song. You may want to put these movement ideas and others in a Movement Grab Bag. Each session, either you or a child can draw a movement from the Grab Bag for everyone to do.

1. **Choose an action:** Give the children an action to do as they sing the song, such as patting head, rubbing stomach, marching in place, etc.

2. **Choose a voice:** Give the children a voice to imitate, such as baby voice, old person’s voice, whisper voice, opera voice, etc. to sing the song in.

3. **Choose an animal:** Give the children an animal to imitate AS THEY STAND IN PLACE, such as a gorilla, flapping wings of a bird, horse galloping in place, etc. You will need to remind the children that they are to stand in place (unless you have a lot of room or not a lot of children). If you do allow them to move around the room, make sure you tell them to sit down in place at the end of the song or some other direction that keeps everything under control at the end of the song.

4. **Tubas and Drums** Have one group of children do a “Om-pah-pah” tuba or a “boom-chick, boom-chick’ drum accompaniment while the other group sings. Then switch parts.
Big Question #12 Song
How Should God's People Live Each Day?

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus! How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!
Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, Live a life of love,

Live a life of love,

Just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song

Add clapping, stomping, or one of these movement ideas after the children have learned the song.

#1 Choose an action: Give the children an action to do as they sing the song, such as patting head, rubbing stomach, marching in place, etc.

#2 Choose a voice: Give the children a voice to imitate, such as baby voice, old person’s voice, whisper voice, opera voice, etc. to sing the song in.

#3 Choose an animal: Give the children an animal to imitate AS THEY STAND IN PLACE, such as a gorilla, flapping wings of a bird, horse galloping in place, etc. You will need to remind the children that they are to stand in place (unless you have a lot of room or not a lot of children). If you do allow them to move around the room, make sure you tell them to sit down in place at the end of the song or some other direction that keeps everything under control at the end of the song.

#4 Tubas and Drums Have one group of children do a “Om-pah-pah” tuba or a “boom-chick, boom-chick’ drum accompaniment while the other group sings. Then switch parts.
Big Question #12 Scripture Song
Live a Life of Love

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Ephesians Five, twelve. O-le!
The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God.

Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious.

None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory.

This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.
Meditation Version:

2 Corinthians 3:18

“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit..”

Shortened Games and Memory Version:

2 Corinthians 3:18

“We, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, which is the Spirit..”
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!

The lyrics, music and sign language you will use in the Scripture Song and the Hymn Groups are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

1. Big Idea Scripture Song: Lyrics and Music
The lyrics of the song are provided on one page and the piano and guitar music included on the next. The music to this song is included on the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs by unit.

2. Big Idea Scripture Song: Sign Language Resources
These are all the signs available for use with the Scripture Song. Choose as many or as few as you think appropriate for your children to learn.

SOMETIMES:

3. Alternate Big Idea Scripture Song: Lyrics and Music
Sometimes an additional Scripture Song is included. This is either because it was a bit easier or simply because it fit the Big Idea so well. It is also included on the Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs, immediately after the regular Big Idea Scripture Song. Note: there is no discussion sheet of questions for this song.

4. Alternate Big Idea Scripture Song: Sign Language Resources
Sign language for the alternate Scripture song.

5. Hymn: Lyrics and Music
This is a hymn or portion of a hymn that reflects the Big Idea. Check the Hymn Discussion Questions in each week’s curriculum to see which verse/s are used with your Big Idea. It usually is just one or two of them.

6. Hymn: Sign Language Resources
Sign language for the hymn.

Other Resources You Will Need:
CD player
The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
Scripture Song or Hymn Discussion Sheets (found in each week’s curriculum)
We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory
2 Corinthians 3:18

We, who reflect the Lord’s glory,

Are being transformed into His likeness,

With ever-increasing glory,

Which comes from the Lord,

Who is the Spirit.
We Who Reflect the Lord's Glory
adapted from 2 Corinthians 3:18

We, who reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

**We**
Point right index finger down and move hand from the right shoulder to the left shoulder.

**Reflect**
Start with fingers of right R hand in the forward facing left flat palm. Move right R hand until pointing forward, pivoting from the wrist.

**Lord’s, Lord**
Move the right L hand from the left shoulder to the right waist.

**Glory**
Move the right down-turned hand from on top of the left upturned hand in an upward arc, while wiggling the fingers of the right hand.

**Transformed**
Start with A hands in front of the body, thumbs pointing left. Rotate hands to the right so that thumbs are pointing right.

**His**
Move right flat hand, fingers up and palm away from the body, forward a short distance.

**Likeness**
Make A hands, palms facing forward. Move both hands in unison downward in a wavy motion as if sculpting something.

**Increase**
Start with left H hand, palm down, and right H hand palm up. Place the fingers of the right H hand, now palm down, on top of the fingers of the left H hand.

**Comes**
With both index fingers pointed toward each other rotate them in circles and bring them toward the body.
Who
Make a counterclockwise circle around the mouth with the right index finger.

Spirit
Position left hand in front of the body, palm up. Move right H hand from wrist to fingertips of left hand while simultaneously opening right hand so that it is flat against left hand. Then with both F hands touching, draw the hands apart, upward and down.
The Church’s One Foundation

Verse 1

The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation,
By Spirit and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride,
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Verse 2

Elect from ev’ry nation,
Yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev’ry grace endued.

Big Idea References
Big Idea #9: verse 1  Big Idea #41: verse 1  Big Idea #61: verse 1
Big Idea #94: verse 2  Big Idea #97: verse 2

Words  Samuel J. Stone  Music  Samuel S. Wesley

Music Resources
Hymn
Lyrics, Music and Sign Language
use all 3 weeks of curriculum
1. The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation, By Spirit and the Word. From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she blesses, Partakes on holy bride, With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died. food, And to one hope she presses, With every grace endowed.
The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1

Church’s
Place right C hand on top of downturned, left S hand.

One (number)
Hold the right index finger, palm out, in front of the body.

Foundation
Tap right S hand against bottom of left S hand and then against left forearm until the palms are facing.

Jesus
Point the middle finger of each hand into the palm of the opposite hand.

Christ
Move right C hand from left shoulder to the right side of the waist.

Lord
Move the right L hand from the left shoulder to the right waist.

She, Her
Brush the thumb of the right A hand down the right cheek. Then point forward.

New
Slide the upturned, curved, right hand from fingertips to wrist of the curved, upturned left hand.

Creation
Move the right B hand, palm facing left, from just above the head, down in front of the face. Then place right S hand on top of left S hand. Rotate hands inward at the same time. Then rotate right W around left W, ending with right W on top of left W.
The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1

Continued

**Spirit**
Position left hand in front of the body, palm up. Move right hand from wrist to fingertips of left hand while simultaneously opening right hand so that it is flat against left hand. Then with both hands touching, draw the hands apart, upward and down.

**Word**
Bring palms of hands together above head, palms pointing upward. Then bring arms down to waist level and open up palms until the face upward, like opening a book.

**Heaven**
Start with hands in front of the body and palms facing in. Make a circle toward the body and above the head. Hands should end in front of the forehead, palms out and left hand behind the right hand.

**Came**
With both index fingers pointed toward each other rotate them in circles and bring them toward the body.

**Sought**
Rotate the thumb side of the right hand in a clockwise circle around the face.

**Holy**
Position left hand in front of the body, palm up. Move right hand from wrist to fingertips of left hand while simultaneously opening right hand so that it is flat against left hand.

**Bride**
Move both open hands, palms down, from above the head, down in front of face, outlining a veil.

**Own**
Place the palm of the right flat hand on the chest.

**Blood**
Touch lips with right index finger. Then with both open hands, palms facing body, wiggle the fingers of the right hand while moving hand in front of the left stationary hand.
**Bought**
Place left flat hand, faced up, in front of body. Place right hand, fingers touching, in left hand and then move right hand forward.

**Life**
Move both open hands, palms towards body, from abdomen to chest while wiggling the fingers.

**Died**
Place left hand, palm down, and right hand palm up, in front of the body. Rotate hands to the left so that left hand is up and right hand is down.
**SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ______ | **Arrive no later than this to prepare for session**  
  **My preparations:** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ______ | **Children arrive**  
  **Concept Introduction/Review** (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 1 of Big Idea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**How to do the singing portion:**
- Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
- Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
- Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

**Story time**
Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Activity

Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities

Snack and Discussion Time
- Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.
- Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”

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

2. __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________________________

- If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.
- The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.

Activity Time

Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:

____________________________________________________________________________

ACTS Prayer Time  (Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)

Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)

Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

Have small groups present in the following order:
Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.
Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
## Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

### Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Review the WoGoLOA Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources:

- *All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea*
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

## Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Tell story</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Close in Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dismiss to Small Group Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Resources:

- **Story: True Riches, True Freedom**
  - The Book of Philemon
  - Story Outline p.19
  - Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
  - Props, Costumes and Scenery

### Story-telling Refresher:

- Introduction pp.23-25
- Appendices A, B

### Don’t Forget!

Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play.
Cheese ball or pretzel nugget “rocks” with a Teddy graham Onesimus hiding behind them. You may also add a broccoli floret bushes, too.

**ACTS Prayer**

- **A**: Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
- **C**: Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
- **T**: Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
- **S**: Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

**Drama**

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Fill in Speaker Sheets
- Practice Play

**Resources:**
- Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p.20
- Speaker Sheets   Appendix B, Drama Group

**Story Review Game: Keep It Under Your Hat**

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet  pp.21-22
- Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
## Big Idea Game: Menagerie

**Activities:**
- Discuss Big Idea
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 23-24
- Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

## Big Idea Craft: A Letter for Philemon

**Activities:**
- Discuss Story
- Fill in Presenter Sheets
- Make Craft

**Resources:**
- Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p.31
- Craft Directions, p.32
- Presenter Sheets, Appendix D: Craft Group

## VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Mix and Match

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
- Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
- Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

**Resources:**
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E: VIPP Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter

## Scripture Verse Game: Hoop and Holler

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.25-26
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Word Take Away
(and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet p.25-26
Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Hymn: The Church’s One Foundation, Verse 1

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Word Take Away
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p.29-30
Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
## Activity Presentations

### Drama
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

### Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

### Big Idea Game
- Read the Big Idea
- Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

### Big Idea Craft
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

### VIPP Game and Clue Cards
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

### Scripture Verse Game
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

### Scripture Song
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

### Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

### Closing Prayer

### Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

### Give Out Take Home Sheets
OPENING LARGE GROUP TIME

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

**Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt**

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
*All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea*
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign
- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

**Story**

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**
**Story: True Riches, True Freedom**
- *The Book of Philemon*
- Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
- Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery
- the Drama Group will later use in their play
Small Group Activities: Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

Cheese ball or pretzel nugget “rocks” with a Teddy graham Onesimus hiding behind them. You may also add a broccoli floret bushes, too.

ACTS Prayer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit</th>
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<td>S</td>
<td>Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Small Group Activities:
Activity Time:
After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

Group 1 Activities
Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten group; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Story Review Game

**Activities:**
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Story Review/Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
- Best Kindergarten Games: Story Review, Appendix G Kindergarten Group

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Word Take Away

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Scripture Song Refresher:
- Introduction pp. 33-34
  Appendix F
Activity Time, continued

Group 2 Activities

Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

Resources:
Act-It-Out Sheet
Plan-a-Play Story Guide
The Story, pp. 61-63

Then, as time allows, followed by…

Group 2, Second Activity: Big Idea Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

Activities:
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for The Kindergarten groups.

Activity Presentations

**Story Review/Big Idea Game**
- Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Act-It-Out**
- Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Closing Prayer**

**Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Last week we ended our unit called: The Saving God. We learned how we must confess we are sinners to be saved, that we must know Jesus is the way to be saved, that we must trust Jesus as our OWN savior to be saved, and that the Holy Spirit changes our hearts so we can be saved. But what happens next? What happens to someone after they become a Christian? Today we are going to start a new unit to find out the answer to that very question. It is called: God’s People Live for Him. When people become Christians, they don’t just live to do what pleases themselves anymore, they live to please God. Over the next few months we will learning what living to please God looks like. Perhaps that sounds hard: living to please God rather than just pleasing yourself. Well, it’s not easy; but, the wonderful thing is that God PROMISES that His people will live lives that are more and more pleasing to Him. How can He promise that? Our first Big Idea that we will be studying tells us how. It is about Someone very powerful and very special who God gives His people to help them to live for Him: the Holy Spirit.

Story

Our story today takes place about 2000 years in the city of Colossae, nestled along the River Lycus below the great Mt. Cadmus, in what is now the country of Turkey. Colossae was a booming city of the Roman Empire with many wealthy businessmen, especially ones that produced beautiful woolen purple cloth. Our story today opens as one such wealthy businessman is returning home from a business trip to Ephesus in which he unexpectedly found riches unlike anything he had ever known before.

Tired and dusty, but full of joy, the rich businessman, Philemon turned up the walk to his beautiful, large villa in Colossae. Greeted by his slaves, then his son Archippus and wife Appia, Philemon was bursting to tell them the amazing happenings of his trip.

“You won’t believe what happened to me in Ephesus! I went on business but have come home with something worth far more than anything I could buy or sell. A man named Paul was preaching and told me the amazing good news of Jesus, God’s Son. Even though all people are sinners who deserve God’s eternal punishment for their sin,” Paul told me, “God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross as complete payment for the sins of all who would ever repent and turn and trust in Him.”

“I heard this message and knew that it was true,” Philemon exclaimed. “And oh, the changes that have already come in me! Paul explained that the change was because the Holy Spirit has cleansed my heart and has begun to transform it so that I will love Him and live for Him more and more. He promises to reflect His glory in me, so others will see through me what He is like! I thought I was rich before, with all my money, big house, slaves and everything else. But now that I know Jesus and have the Holy Spirit working in my heart, I know what TRUE riches are! I thank God for sending Paul with the message of Jesus. I owe him my life!”
Archippus and Appia heard Philemon’s good news and they believed, too. What a joyful home that beautiful villa had become!

But it wasn’t enough for just their family to know the good news. Philemon, Archippus and Appia shared about Jesus with others. Before long, there was a whole group of believers in Colossae whose hearts the Holy Spirit had cleansed and had begun to transform them so that they also would love Him and live for Him more and more. Together they would meet in the inner court of Philemon’s villa, filling it with something even more beautiful than its gardens and pools: the sound of praise of Jesus’ name.

And this was only a beginning for Philemon. The Holy Spirit worked more and more in Philemon’s heart. Philemon became well known for his love for Jesus and for his acts of love to others. Everyone noticed it. Word even reached Paul, far, far away, as to the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in Philemon’s life.

But even despite all these wonderful things that were happening around much of that beautiful villa of Philemon, not everyone was happy. One man in particular was very, very unhappy: a man named Onesimus, one of Philemon’s slaves.

In case you don’t know, a slave is a person that is bought by another person and is owned by that person, the same as a horse or a house or a chair. Slaves worked for their owners but would get no pay for their work. Few people were slaves by choice. Many slaves were people who had been kidnapped by slave traders or forced to become slaves when the Romans conquered them through war. Some slave traders even snatched babies and children when no one was looking and sold them as slaves! During Onesimus’ time, the Romans bought and sold about 500,000 new slaves a year.

Well, whether Onesimus had become a slave because he had been a conquered prisoner or kidnapped child, one thing was certain: like many slaves, Onesimus wanted his freedom! He did not want to wait years and years as he tried to save up enough money to buy his own freedom, if his master was kind enough to even allow him to do so. Onesimus was unhappy. He wanted his freedom and he wanted it now!

Furthermore, Onesimus wasn’t an unhappy GOOD slave, he was an unhappy BAD slave. His name, Onesimus—meant ‘useful’ in his language. But Onesimus was so bad at doing his work that his name should have been ‘useless’ instead. Onesiums could rarely be counted on to do what he was told to do. And it wasn’t that Philemon was a bad master to him. Onesimus, too, had heard Philemon talk about Paul and the good news of Jesus that changed his life. Onesimus could see how the Holy Spirit had begun to transform his master so that Philemon loved God and wanted to live for Him more and more. Yes, maybe Philemon was even becoming a better master, but that wasn’t enough for Onesimus. Onesiums didn’t want to have a good master. He wanted to be his OWN master. He wanted to be FREE!

“I am tired of this life as a slave! I am going to runaway!” thought Onesimus. And that was just what he did.
“Philemon, Onesimus is missing…and so is some of your money. Sir, I think he’s run away,” one of the others soon reported to Philemon.

“Go after him. Try to find him!” Philemon replied.

“Yes, sir,” the slave responded.

But Onesimus was nowhere to be found. Onesimus ran and hid, hid and ran. On and on he went, constantly on the alert. He knew the penalties for runaway slaves! Perhaps his master had changed and was known far and wide for his love for God and others. Perhaps the Holy Spirit was transforming his heart; but, according to Roman laws, masters had to right to torture and even kill their runaway slaves.

One master had been known to even keep a pool of man-eating eels to feed his disobedient or runaway slaves to! Onesimus would take no chances. No, there would be no catching him!

Onesimus traveled 1200 miles through mountains of Turkey, Greece and Italy, all the way to the mighty capitol of the Roman Empire itself: Rome! But no matter how far he ran, Onesimus never felt freed. He was a hunted man and he couldn’t forget that. He was constantly on the lookout for soldiers or someone who might get suspicious, figure out he was a runaway and have him arrested.

“What can I do?” Onesimus thought. “I can’t go back, but I can’t keep doing this! How can I get out of this terrible situation?”

Onesimus didn’t know the answer, but the Lord did. The Lord loved Onesimus and all along had a plan for rescuing him. For right there in Rome, at that very same time, was none other than the very same apostle Paul through whom his master Philemon heard and came to believe in Jesus. Like Onesimus, Paul was not exactly in Rome as a free man, either. He had been arrested and sent to Rome to face trial. He was carefully guarded by Roman soldiers but had been allowed to live in a little house instead of in a prison cell. He was even allowed visitors.

When Onesimus heard that Paul was in Rome, he got an idea: “I will go to Paul and ask him for help. Perhaps there is something he can do for me.”

Onesimus found his way to Paul’s house and gained permission to visit him. “Sir, my name is Onesimus,” he told Paul. “I am the runaway slave of a friend of yours in Colossae, a man named Philemon. He always said he owed you his life for what you did for him, perhaps you can help me, too.” Philemon’s whole story spilled out as Paul listened.

“You are in a lot of trouble, I can see that,” Paul told Onesimus. “But I do believe that I can help you, but perhaps in a way other that what you are thinking. Your real problem is much bigger than being a runaway slave. Your real problem is your sin. You need to repent of your sins. You need to believe in Jesus as your Savior.”

Paul shared with Onesimus the very same good news of Jesus that he had shared with his master; and just like with Philemon, the Holy Spirit worked in Onesimus’ heart and he believed. Now it was Onesimus who was a changed man. He was free at last from the worst kind of slavery in his life: the slavery of sin.
The Holy Spirit began to work the same kind of changes He had worked in Philemon’s heart. He began to transform Onesimus so that he loved God more and more. Onesimus wanted to live a different kind of life than he had before: one that pleased God, one that glorified Him. Onesimus began to live up to his name “useful.” He stayed in Rome and served Paul every way he could, and Paul taught him more about Jesus. Soon Paul loved Onesimus as if he were his very own son.

But as the Holy Spirit worked in Onesimus’ heart, one thing became clearer and clearer: he had wronged his master and he must go home and take whatever punishment he deserved. That was what would please God. Paul agreed that this was what Onesimus must do, even though it might be very hard and he might face great punishment.

“I have written a letter to Philemon so that he can understand everything that has happened to you,” Paul told Onesimus as he prepared to leave. “I have told him that I will pay him back for anything that you took from his house and have asked him to set you free. I am sending Tychus here, a man who loves God, to go with you on your journey, to carry this letter and give it to Philemon. I will be praying for you. But Onesimus, remember that whether Philemon releases you or not, you are always to live for God for you do not just serve an earthly master, but God who is in heaven.”

“Yes, Paul, I remember these things. Farewell!” They said a tearful goodbye and then Onesimus was on his way.

What happened when Onesimus and Philemon met and he read Paul’s letter? Did he punish him or forgive him and release him? We don’t completely know. Some say that not only did Philemon free Onesimus, but that Onesimus went on to grow and grow in the Lord so much that he became the pastor of the church in the big city of Ephesus. In the end, Onesimus was told by enemies to turn away from following Jesus or be killed. Onesimus chose to die rather than turn away from Jesus. How could he ever turn away from His Savior who had died on the cross to bring him true freedom—freedom from being a slave to sin.

Only in heaven will we know exactly what happened between Philemon and Onesimus when Onesimus returned home. But, there is something we do know for sure right now.: the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of both of those men when they met. He helped them to do what would be pleasing to God.

Our Big Idea is: **God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus**

Our Scripture Verse is: **2 Corinthians 3:18**

“We, who...reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit...”

What about us? Can the Holy Spirit do this kind of work in us? Yes, He can! If we confess and turn away from our sinful lives and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, the Holy Spirit will cleanse our hearts. Then He will begin to transform our hearts so that we will love Him and live for Him more and more. Let’s praise this God who does not just save His people, but who keeps working in their hearts by the Holy Spirit; and let’s ask Him to do that work in us so that we will become more and more like Him.
1. Philemon meets Paul while away on business in Ephesus. He believes in Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit who cleanses his heart and begins to transform his heart.

2. Philemon goes home to tell his wife and son about the “true riches” he has found because of the message he heard through Paul.

3. Appia and Archippus believe also. They all begin to tell others about Jesus.

4. Soon a little church meets in Philemon’s house.

5. Onesimus, Philemon’s slave is very unhappy and decides to runaway.

6. He takes some money and flees across Turkey, Greece and Italy to Rome to try to get away.

7. Onesimus becomes miserable in his life of constant hiding.

8. Onesimus finds out that Paul is in Rome, too, and decides to ask him to help him.

9. Onesimus talks to Paul in his prison “house” about his problems.

10. Paul shares the gospel with Onesimus and he believes.

11. The Holy Spirit begins to work in Onesimus, making him a “useful” servant to Paul.

12. Onesimus feels convicted by the Holy Spirit to go home and return to Philemon.

13. Paul writes Philemon a letter urging him to forgive and free Onesimus.

14. Paul says goodbye to Onesimus and sends Tycchus to escort him back home.

15. (Tradition says: Onesimus is forgiven, freed, and becomes the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later dies for his faith.)
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources

   Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   Act-It-Out Sheet

   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources

   Story Review Discussion Questions
   Big Idea Discussion Questions
   Scripture Verse Discussion Questions

   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources

   Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   Hymn Discussion Sheet

   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*

   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources

   Craft Instructions and Resources

   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources

   VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
True Riches, True Freedom

1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
   When? About 2000 years ago
   Where? In Colossae, Turkey (& Rome, Italy)
   What’s It Like? A city nestled in the mountains. Many rich merchants, esp. those who sell purple wool.

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)
   Paul
   Philemon
   Appia
   Archippus
   Slaves
   Other believers
   Onesimus
   Mountains
   Money
   Rome
   Roman Soldiers
   Tycchus
   Letter

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Philemon, transforming them so that they loved God and lived lives that pleased Him more and more.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)
   Our Story is called:
   Onesimus Finds Freedom

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   Beginning:
   Philemon meets Paul while away on business in Ephesus. He believes in Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit who cleanses his heart and begins to transform his heart. Philemon goes home to tell his wife and son about the “true riches” he has found because of the message he heard through Paul. Appia and Archippus believe also. They all begin to tell others about Jesus. Soon a little church meets in Philemon’s house.

   Middle:
   Onesimus, Philemon’s slave is very unhappy and decides to runaway. He takes some money and flees across Turkey, Greece and Italy to Rome to try to get away. Onesimus becomes miserable in his life of constant hiding. Onesimus finds out that Paul is in Rome, too, and decides to ask him to help him. Onesimus talks to Paul in his prison “house” about his problems. Paul shares the gospel with Onesimus and he believes.

   End:
   The Holy Spirit begins to work in Onesimus, making him a “useful” servant to Paul. Onesimus feels convicted by the Holy Spirit to go home and return to Philemon. Paul writes Philemon a letter urging him to forgive and free Onesimus. Paul says goodbye to Onesimus and sends Tycchus to escort him back home. (Tradition says: Onesimus is forgiven, freed, and becomes the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later dies for his faith.)
Beginning:
Philemon meets Paul while away on business in Ephesus. He believes in Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit who cleanses his heart and begins to transform his heart. Philemon goes home to tell his wife and son about the “true riches” he has found because of the message he heard through Paul. Appia and Archippus believe also. They all begin to tell others about Jesus. Soon a little church meets in Philemon’s house.

Middle:
Onesimus, Philemon’s slave is very unhappy and decides to run away. He takes some money and flees across Turkey, Greece and Italy to Rome to try to get away. Onesimus becomes miserable in his life of constant hiding. Onesimus finds out that Paul is in Rome, too, and decides to ask him to help him. Onesimus talks to Paul in his prison “house” about his problems. Paul shares the gospel with Onesimus and he believes.

End:
The Holy Spirit begins to work in Onesimus, making him a “useful” servant to Paul. Onesimus feels convicted by the Holy Spirit to go home and return to Philemon. Paul writes Philemon a letter urging him to forgive and free Onesimus. Paul says goodbye to Onesimus and sends Tychchus to escort him back home. (Tradition says: Onesimus is forgiven, freed, and becomes the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later dies for his faith.)
1. What did Paul tell Philemon that was even better than money to him? The good news of forgiveness of sins through repentance and faith in Jesus.

2. What did Philemon do when he went home? Told others about Jesus.

3. What did Appia and Archippus do when they heard the good news of Jesus? They believed also.

4. What did Philemon, Appia and Archippus tell others? The good news of Jesus.

5. What began to meet at Philemon’s villa? A little church of new believers.

6. What did others notice was different about Philemon? His love for God and loving way he treated others.

7. Who heard about the changes in Philemon who lived far away? Paul.

8. What did Philemon mean when he told others that he owed Paul his life? He came to believe in Jesus and was saved from eternal punishment to get to enjoy eternal life, so he owed him his life.

9. Why would Onesimus want to run away? He wanted to have his freedom.

10. What was Onesimus afraid might happen to him if he were caught? He might be punished severely or even killed.

11. Why did Onesimus never feel free? Because he had sinfully run away and because he was always on the alert for someone who might capture him.

12. Why was Paul in Rome? He had been arrested, put in jail and was waiting to be judged.

13. How did Paul help Onesimus in a surprising way? He helped him with his problem with sin when he may have just been looking for help out of his problems as a runaway slave.

14. Why was Onesimus’ problem with sin even bigger than his problem as a runaway? Sin deserves God’s eternal punishment, while running away only deserved earthly punishment.

15. How did Onesimus live up to his name “useful”? The Holy Spirit worked in his heart and changed him so that now he did good works that pleased God and helped others.

16. Why would the Holy Spirit prompt Onesimus to go home? Because he had sinned against his master and needed to seek his forgiveness and make up for his wrong-doing, if possible.

17. What do some say happened in the end when Onesimus went back to his master? Philemon forgave and freed Onesimus. Onesimus went on to be the pastor of the church in Ephesus and later died for believing in Jesus.

18. What do we know happened between Onesimus and Philemon when he returned to his master? The Holy Spirit would be working in both of their hearts, helping them to do what pleased God as the outcome of the matter.

19. Why might Paul’s letter to Philemon be helpful? Paul gave Philemon wise counsel in how to treat Onesimus now that he is a Christian. He offered to pay back any expenses caused by Onesimus. And, because Paul reminded Philemon of the debt he owed Paul for telling him the good news of Jesus.

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can Christians know that they will love God more and more? It is God’s promise to have His Holy Spirit work in them this way.

2. What can the Holy Spirit do inside us if we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior? He will work inside our hearts, changing them and filling them with love for God and a desire to please Him, more and more.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Philemon, transforming them so that they loved God and lived lives that pleased Him more and more.
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **2 Corinthians 3:18**

“We, who…reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Both Philemon and Onesimus were transformed to be more like Jesus when they became Christians. As they loved God more and more, and lived to please Him, more and more, they showed others what God is like with ever-increasing glory. Why were Philemon and Onesimus being transformed? Not because of their own goodness and strength. It came from the Lord, who sent His Holy Spirit to work powerfully in their hearts.

The Gospel
What is the good news of Jesus that Paul told Philemon and Onesimus? What is the gospel? **God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!**

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? **Praise God for being the Freer of People from their slavery to sin.**
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? **Confess that like Onesimus and Philemon we are sinners. We have all rebelled against God and like to live life our own way. Like Onesimus, we want to live life our own way and are willing to do things the wrong way to get what we want. Like Philemon, we think a lot about the good, rich things we enjoy more than God. We are all sinners who deserve God’s punishment. We all need a Savior!**
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? **We can thank God that His forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by Him. We can thank Him for working out His good plans to save His people even when they least expect it.**
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? **We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to change our hearts so that we love God and live to please Him with our lives, more and more.**

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion. **Optional Closing Activity: Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
**Materials**
Paper and pencil
5+ hats
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

**Preparing the Game**
Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Write each question on a separate, small piece of paper. Assign a point value to each question, based on difficulty. Pin a question to the underside of each hat, except one. Save the unused questions to pin to the hats when the first set have all been selected.

Place all the hats on the floor or on the table.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turns choosing one of the hats and answering the question pinned to the hat. Each question is worth the number of points indicated on the question. If the first team does not get the right answer, then the question goes to the other team who can win half the points for a correct answer.

When the blank hat is chosen, the team who chooses gets to come up with their very own question to try to stump the other team. If they can, then they get the highest point value worth on the question AND another turn. If the other team gets the right answer, then play continues as normal. When all the questions on the hats have been answered, pin a new set in, changing the empty hat.

Game continues until all children get to choose a hat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

**Optional Closing Activity:**
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Concept: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus
The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

Understanding the Big Idea
2. Does that mean that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts that beat? *No, heart is another word for our spirit, the part of us that we cannot see but that thinks, feels and can know & love God and others.*
3. What does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of God’s people? *He helps them want to love and please God each day.*
4. What does it mean to be like Jesus? Do Christians start to look just like Jesus did on the outside? *No. It means that they love God and live lives that please Him, like Jesus did.*
5. What are some things that change as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts? *The way they think, speak and act.*
6. Will God’s people be perfect here on earth? *No.*
8. Why does the Holy Spirit transform God’s people? *For their good and God’s glory.*
10. Where is the Holy Spirit preparing God’s people to live? *In heaven.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in Philemon’s life? *He loved God and others more and more. He shared with others about Jesus and offered his home as a place for the church to meet.*
2. How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in Onesimus’ life? *He loved God more, he served Paul cheerfully, he decided to go back to his master and turn himself in.*

Life Application Question
How can we have the Holy Spirit work in our lives? *We must turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit, cleansing our hearts and then working inside to help us to love God and live lives that please Him.*

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: *2 Corinthians 3:18*
“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to bring sins to our minds so that we can confess them to Him. Ask Him to help others to confess their sins to Him and be saved.*

**Gospel Question**

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to change us so that we love God and live for Him more and more? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

**Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time**

Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Big Idea Game

Materials
Small Bag/Bowl
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper 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, another correct answer to be released.

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

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in Philemon and in Onesimus? They saw Philemon’s love for God and his care for others grow. They saw Onesimus going from “useless” to “useful”; and a willingness to turn himself in to his master and accept the consequences.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.
ACTS Questions, continued
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.

Gospel Question
Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
1 hula hoop for every 2 children

**Preparing the Game**
Make up some questions about the verse and/or story.

**Learning the Verse**
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

**Playing the Game**
Have the children pair up. Give each pair a hula hoop and tell them that you are going to tell them different things that they will do with the hula-hoop while they recite the verse. Three activities are: having the children hold hands and jump in and out of the hula hoop, for each word the group recites, rolling it back and forth on each word the group recites, or having buddies take turn while one person from each group sees how far through the verse he can keep the hula hoop going. Allow the children to think up other activities.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

We, who reflect the Lord’s glory,
Are being transformed into His likeness,
With ever-increasing glory,
Which comes from the Lord,
Who is the Spirit.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in Philemon and in Onesimus? They saw Philemon’s love for God and his care for others grow. They saw Onesimus going from “useless” to “useful”; and a willingness to turn himself in to his master and accept the consequences.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.*

**Gospel Question**

*Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*}

**Closing Large Group Time**

*Sign and sing the song.*
**Word Take Away**

Song Game

**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you’ve learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.

Have the children help you choose a word to take out.

Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1

Verse 1
The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation,
By Spirit and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride,
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Understanding the Song
1. What is the church? Is it a building? No. A local church is a group of Christians who gather together. The building is a church building. But the church this hymn is talking about is The Church, meaning all Christians in all places and in all times.
2. What is a “foundation”? Something that supports everything else. Builders lay a foundation of solid concrete before they build a house so that it won’t fall down.
3. Who is the Church’s foundation? Why? Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God.
4. Who is the “she” talking about? The Church. In the Bible, God’s people are called the Church, the Bride of Christ (a “she” image), the people He loves and cares for forever.
5. Why is the Church called Jesus’ new creation? How does He do that? Jesus shed His blood on the cross (bought them with His blood) that His people might be saved. When they believe in Him, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in His people. The Holy Spirit comes into their hearts, cleansing them and making them like new—or new creations. But the Holy Spirit keeps working in their hearts, changing them so that they love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus?
Christians owe everything to Jesus, their foundation. He is the one who not only bought them with his very own blood on the cross, so they might be saved. But, He is the one who sends the Holy Spirit into their hearts, making them new and working inside them so that Christians love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Philemon and Onesimus found in Jesus Christ, true riches and true freedom. He saved them and he filled them with His Holy Spirit so that they might become more and more like Him in their hearts and how they lived their lives.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise Jesus for being the Giver of not just salvation to all who turn and trust in Him, but also the one who sends the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so that they love God more and live for Him.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."
The one foundation of God’s people, the Church, is Jesus Christ. He came from heaven to purchase His people with His blood that they might be saved from their sins. By His Spirit, He makes them new creations. He transforms them so that they reflect the Lord’s glory more and more, as they love God and live lives that please Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   Praise God for being the Purchaser of the Church, His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   That many times we do not appreciate God’s great love shown to His sinful people by sending Jesus to die and save them with His own blood.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   We can thank God for choosing to save His people. They would never have chosen Him on their own. They would have never been saved and made into new creations with Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us new creations through His Holy Spirit.

Gospel Question
Why did God’s people need saving? What have all people done? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chose to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love. He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God promises to forgive them and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
WORD TAKE AWAY
Song Game

Materials
None

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you’ve learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.

Have the children help you choose a word to take out.

Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
### 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)

A Letter for Philemon

### 2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In Rome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did What?</td>
<td>Gave Onesimus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object?</td>
<td>A letter for Philemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>To tell him about the changes that God had made in Onesimus’ heart and to ask him to forgive him for running away.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus. Paul wanted Philemon to know that Onesimus was not the same kind of man he had been when he ran away. He had become a Christian and the Holy Spirit had been working great changes in his heart ever since.

### 4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)

God’s Holy Spirit makes powerful changes in all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He can do them in us, too!
Description
The children will make and decorate a scroll containing Paul’s words to Philemon.

Materials
1 piece of cardstock per child
Template of letter
2 extra long skewers (11.5”) or 2 11.5” pieces of wooden dowels per child
Clear packing tape or glue gun and glue sticks
Markers, colored pencils, etc.
6” piece of yarn or string per child

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out onto cardstock a copy of the template for each child.
2. Cut off the sharp end of each skewer.
3. Make an example of the craft.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate the scroll around the edges with markers.
3. Using the packing tape or the glue gun, attach each child’s skewers/dowels to top and bottom of the scroll.
4. Roll up both ends of the scroll and tie up with the yarn.
5. If time allows, either you or the children can take turns reading through Paul’s letter to Philemon.
Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my son, Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
The Book of Philemon, New International Version
Dear [Name],

You are a Very Important Prayer Person! I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus:

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God's people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

We thought about 2 Corinthians 3:18: “We, who are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

I also prayed for you during ACTS prayer time. Here are four things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

- P: Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
- C: Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
- T: Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
- S: Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus

Yours Sincerely, [Your Name]
Materials
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Bag

Preparing the Game
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

Playing the Game
Reveal, then Review Version:
Reveal: Tell them about each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

Review: Put all the clip art in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

Guess: Have the children take turns pulling out the clues and have them guess who the clues go to. When the children guess correctly, review the clues.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Time Activity
________ Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
My preparations:
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

________ Children arrive

________ Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 1 of Big Idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to do the singing portion:
• Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
• Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
• Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Story time
Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
**SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | **Snack and Discussion Time**  
  - Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.  
  - Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”  
  1. What does the snack have to do with the story?  
  2. __________________________  
  3. __________________________  
  4. __________________________  
  5. __________________________  
  6. __________________________  
  - If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.  
  - The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions. |
|      | **Activity Time**  
  Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here: |
|      | **ACTS Prayer Time**  
  (Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)  
  Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests) |
|      | **Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time**  
  Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.  
  Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game. |
Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
*All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea*

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in Prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**
*Story: The Story of John Lees, pp. 39-41
Story Outline p.41
Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
Props, Costumes and Scenery*
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time
All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer, and do one or more Small Group Activities.

**Snack**

Kiwi slices or other Australian food and Gummy Worm “Snakes”

**ACTS Prayer**

**A** Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit

**C** Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.

**T** Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.

**S** Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

**Drama**

**Activities:**
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

**Resources:**
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 42
Speaker Sheets, Appendix B, Drama Group

**Story Review Game: Triple Play Baseball**

**Activities:**
Discuss story
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet pp. 43-44
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Inspecting the Troops

**Activities:**
Discuss Big Idea
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 45-46
Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

Big Idea Craft: A Poisonous Snake

**Activities:**
Discuss Story
Fill in Presenter Sheets
Make Craft

**Resources:**
Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p.53
Craft Directions, p.54
Presenter Sheets, Appendix D Crafts Group

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Picture Run

**Activities:**
Discuss story
Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

**Resources:**
VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E VIPP Group
VIPP Prayer Letter

Scripture Verse Game: Take a Step Back

**Activities:**
Discuss Scripture Verse
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 47-48
Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: **Big Voice, Little Voice**
(and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet, p.47-48
Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Hymn: The Church’s One Foundation, Verse 1

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: **Big Voice, Little Voice**
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p. 49-50
Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups make a presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity.

Activity Presentations

**Drama**
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

**Story Review Game**
- Ask Story Review Questions

**Big Idea Game**
- Read the Big Idea
- Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

**Big Idea Craft**
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Hymn**
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
*All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea)*

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**
*Story: The Story of John Lees, pp. 39-41
Story Outline p.41
Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
Props, Costumes and Scenery*
Small Group Activities: Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

Kiwi slices or other Australian food and Gummy Worm “Snakes”

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
C  Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
T  Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
S  Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

**Optional Kindergarten Group Format**

**Activity Time**

After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

**Group 1 Activities**

Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten group; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

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**Group 1, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game**

*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then, as time allows, followed by …

**Group 1, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game or VIPP Prayer Letter**

*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Clue Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pray for VIPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Clue Cards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**VIPP Refresher:**

Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E

**Scripture Verse Game Refresher:**

Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

**Activity Time, continued**

**Group 2 Activities**

*Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.*

**Group 2, First Activity: Story Review Game**

*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

**Activities:**
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**
- Story Review/Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
- Best Kindergarten Games: Story Review, Appendix G Kindergarten Group

**Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Big Voice, Little Voice**

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Then, as time allows, followed by …

---

*K4*
Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for The Kindergarten groups.

Activity Presentations

**Story Review/Big Idea Game**
- Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Act-It-Out**
- Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Closing Prayer**

**Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C**

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
The Story of John Lees
by Connie Dever

Story

Our story today does not take place in Bible times or Bible lands. It takes place about 200 years ago in the untamed wilderness of New South Wales, Australia.

When you think of Australia perhaps you think of strange animals such as kangaroos, koala bears and platypus, and you would be right. But if you were to ask English people 200 years ago what they thought of when they thought of Australia, they would have said, “Criminals!”

Why criminals? Because some time after Australia was claimed by English explorers sailing the South Seas, the English government got the idea to ship out most all of the English criminals from the crowded prisons in England and leave them far away on the other side of the world in Australia. And that’s just what they did. They sent them to Australia to live together in a settlement. They got to work during the day and didn’t even have to be in a prison cell at night, but they could never return home to England!

Perhaps as you can imagine, things might get pretty wild with a whole colony of criminals. It was not a very law-abiding place. People kept doing the kinds of things they had been put in prison for back in England. Thieves stole things, murderers killed people, and so on and so on. Not only that, but there wasn’t the right kind of metal to make Australian money, so they decided to make rum (a kind of very strong alcohol) to be their money. Many, many people wound up just getting drunk on their rum “money” instead of saving it, especially the soldiers who were the ones who were supposed to guard the supplies of rum. Saddest of all, very, very few people knew the good news about Jesus and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit to make them like Jesus, with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him. And being known as a wild place filled with dangerous criminals, even few Christians dared to come to Australia to tell them how they could be saved.

Our story today is about a man named John Lees. John Lees sailed from England not as a criminal but as a soldier in the New South Wales Corp. He went there to keep the peace, but it did not take long guarding all that rum “money” before he began drinking way too much. After just three years, he quit the army and married Mary, one of the lady criminals who were sent to Australia. John bought some land out in the lush, green, unexplored forests of Castlereagh for Mary and him to live on. He hoped they could clear it of trees and turn it into a nice farm.

At first life together were good for John and his wife. John worked hard on the farm while Mary raised their ten children. But with each passing year, John started to drink more and more and more, until at last he couldn’t stop. Alcohol cost money and the Lees didn’t have much, so John began to take what few valuable things they had and sold them for money to buy more alcohol.

Soon everything was gone, except for one last thing of value: a pig fattened and ready for market. Mary didn’t know what to do! How could she and the children live? What would John do next after he had sold that pig? She did not know. There seemed to be nothing that could change John’s life!
But there WAS something—or rather Someone—who could change John Lees’ life: God, that’s who! God, through the working of His powerful Holy Spirit, could make John Lees into someone like Jesus, with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him. And He had plans for John.

One night while John was outside getting a log of wood for the fire, a deadly snake leapt out and bit him on the wrist. John thought for sure that he would die from the bite.

“God, help me! I have been a terrible man and I know I deserve to die, but please spare me!” John prayed. “If You do, I will live for You the rest of my life!”

The Lord heard John’s prayer and John did not die from the snake bite. But even more important, John kept his promise to God. He turned away from his drinking and sinful way of life. He trusted in Jesus as his Savior.

The Holy Spirit came into John’s heart, cleansed it of sin. He began to do His powerful work in John, making him more and more like Jesus, with a greater and greater love of God and desire to please Him with his whole life.

When Mary and the children saw the changes in John, they became Christians, too. Every night they would sit together and read the Bible and pray. The more they read and prayed the hungrier they got to know more and more about God. “What we need is a teacher to come and teach us the Bible,” John said.

“But we are way out here in the middle of the wilderness! What would ever bring a teacher way out?!” Mary despaired.

“I don’t know, but God does. Let’s pray every night that God will send us a missionary preacher to come right here to Castlereagh so we can know more about Him.” The Holy Spirit had been working such powerful changes in John Lees, giving him faith like Jesus to ask for seemingly impossible things.

So every night they prayed and every day they hoped. Day after day went by and still no missionary preacher came. Three years passed. Many might give up, but not John Lees.

One night they gathered as usual around the table for evening devotions. John began their time with prayer. “Lord, we praise You for Your goodness to us. Thank you for our crops, our family and most of all for Jesus. Thank you for the way You work changes in our hearts. Thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Lord, we ask that You help us understand it tonight as we read it and we ask that one day You would send us a missionary preacher to come here and teach us more. Amen.”

Suddenly, there was a crack of a whip at the door. Who could it be at this hour of the night? Few people wandered out in these wild parts after dark. In a country of criminals, you never know what a stranger might plan to do.

“Is there anyone here who would receive a tired missionary?” the stranger asked. The Lees could not believe their ears! The door flung open and there before them, too tired to even get down from his horse, was the answer to their three long years of prayers—a man named Samuel Leigh. One of John Lees boys ran out to help Samuel Leigh.
“Sir, my father would be honored to help you,” he said as he helped the tired man stiff from riding off of his horse. Samuel Leigh came into the little wooden house and joined the family around the table, surprised to see them reading the Bible.

“Sir, we’ve been praying for three long years that the Lord would send us a missionary preacher to teach us more about Him. Perhaps you would be willing to start tonight? The Bible passage we are studying is Isaiah 35. “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” What a fitting verse! That very night the Lord had brought them a man who could teach them more about Jesus to their “wilderness” and “solitary place,” of Castlereagh so that by the Holy Spirit might use what they learned to powerfully work to make them more like Jesus—with hearts and lives blossoming with love and good works pleasing to God, every bit as beautiful as roses bursting into bloom.

Samuel Leigh stayed with the Lees for quite a while. Together they built a little chapel on the edge of Lees’ farm so that not just the Lees but everyone from all over Castlereagh could come and hear about Jesus. Before long, it was not just John Lees who knew the power of the Holy Spirit to make someone more like Jesus. Many others also came to believe in Jesus and have Him work greater and greater love for God in their hearts, and greater and greater service to Him in their lives. And what happened to John Lees? The Holy Spirit continued His work in his heart, growing him to become more and more like Jesus with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him. He became one of the most beloved men in all of Castlereagh; and, became known far and wide for his love and good works.

Who could transform a sinful man like John Lees from a drunk who didn’t take care of his family to someone who loved God so much that he would pray three years that God would send them a missionary? Only the Holy Spirit could do such a wonderful, powerful work!

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus
Our Scripture Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who…reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit…”

Maybe you and I have not done the same sinful things that John Lees did, but nonetheless, we are sinners, too. We need to turn away from our sins. We need to trust in Jesus as our Savior, just as John Lees did. We need God to send His Holy Spirit to make us like Jesus, with a heart of love for God and a life that pleases Him. Let’s praise God for sending His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His people. Let’s ask Him to work in our hearts to believe and to grow in Him, so that we might love and live for Him more and more each day, like John Lees.
1. England decides to empty its crowded prisons and send most of the criminals to Australia instead.
2. The criminals get to work during the day and did not have to go to prisons at night.
3. Many of them kept doing the bad things they got in prison for, such as stealing.
4. John Lees signs up to be a soldier in the New South Wales Corps and takes a ship to Australia.
5. He is a soldier who is supposed to keep the peace among the criminals and keep watch over the rum, which is money in Australia.
6. He starts to get drunk a lot on the rum.
7. John leaves the army, gets married to a lady criminal.
8. They get land out in Castlereagh and start a farm.
9. John starts drinking too much and doesn't take care of his farm or family.
10. He starts to sell everything to buy more alcohol.
11. Mary is worried as they get down to only a pig to sell for money.
12. John gets bit by a poisonous snake when he goes to get firewood.
13. He cries out to God to spare his life and promises to follow Him.
14. God spares his life and John becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit begins to work amazing changes in his life.
15. Three years later, right after they pray, a whip cracks upon the door.
16. John and his family begin to read the Bible and pray every night that God would send a missionary to teach them more.
17. A tired missionary is looking for a place to stay. John is overjoyed.
18. The missionary—Samuel Leigh—reads the Bible devotion that night.
19. Many others come to believe in Jesus, through John Lees' witness and as they come to the chapel to hear God's Word preached.
20. He stays on and helps John built a chapel for him to preach in.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum! The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources
   - Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   - Act-It-Out Sheet

   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources
   - Story Review Discussion Questions
   - Big Idea Discussion Questions
   - Scripture Verse Discussion Questions

   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources
   - Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   - Hymn Discussion Sheet

   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*

   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources

   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)

When? About 125 years ago
Where? In southeastern India
In London, England
What’s it Like? Busy, bustling cobblestone streets with horses, carriages, lots of people. Sooty air, beautiful little gardens, tall row houses attached to each other

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

English criminals
Prisons
Ships
Soldiers
Rum for money
Thieves
John Lees
Mary, his wife
10 children
Farm
Pig
Snake
Firewood
Bible
Samuel Leigh
Horse
Whip
Chapel

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked incredible changes in John Lees heart and life when he became a Christian.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)

A Pig, A Snake and the Holy Spirit

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)

Beginning:
England decides to empty its crowded prisons and send most of the criminals to Australia instead. The criminals get to work during the day and did not have to go to prisons at night. Many of them kept doing the bad things they got in prison for, such as stealing. John Lees signs up to be a soldier in the New South Wales Corps and takes a ship to Australia. He is a soldier who is supposed to keep the peace among the criminals and keep watch over the rum, which is money in Australia. He starts to get drunk a lot on the rum.

Middle:
John leaves the army, gets married to a lady criminal. They get land out in Castlereagh and start a farm. John starts drinking too much and doesn’t take care of his farm or family. He starts to sell everything to buy more alcohol. Mary is worried as they get down to only a pig to sell for money. John gets bit by a poisonous snake when he goes to get firewood. He cries out to God to spare his life and promises to follow Him. God spares his life and John becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit begins to work amazing changes in his life. John and his family begin to read the Bible and pray every night that God would send a missionary to teach them more.

End:
Three years later, they are still praying. Right after they pray, a whip cracks upon the door. A tired missionary is looking for a place to stay. John is overjoyed. The missionary—Samuel Leigh—reads the Bible devotion that night. He stays on and helps John built a chapel for him to preach in. Many others come to believe in Jesus, through John Lees’ witness and as they come to the chapel to hear God’s Word preached.
BEGINNING:
England decides to empty its crowded prisons and send most of the criminals to Australia instead. The criminals get to work during the day and did not have to go to prisons at night. Many of them kept doing the bad things they got in prison for, such as stealing. John Lees signs up to be a soldier in the New South Wales Corps and takes a ship to Australia. He is a soldier who is supposed to keep the peace among the criminals and keep watch over the rum, which is money in Australia. He starts to get drunk a lot on the rum.

MIDDLE:
John leaves the army, gets married to a lady criminal. They get land out in Castlereagh and start a farm. John starts drinking too much and doesn’t take care of his farm or family. He starts to sell everything to buy more alcohol. Mary is worried as they get down to only a pig to sell for money. John gets bit by a poisonous snake when he goes to get firewood. He cries out to God to spare his life and promises to follow Him. God spares his life and John becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit begins to work amazing changes in his life. John and his family begin to read the Bible and pray every night that God would send a missionary to teach them more.

END:
Three years later, they are still praying. Right after they pray, a whip cracks upon the door. A tired missionary is looking for a place to stay. John is overjoyed. The missionary—Samuel Leigh—reads the Bible devotion that night. He stays on and helps John built a chapel for him to preach in. Many others come to believe in Jesus, through John Lees’ witness and as they come to the chapel to hear God’s Word preached.
1. Why were criminals being shipped to Australia? To clear them out of England.
2. What was life like in Australia? The criminals did not have to live in prison. They could begin new lives there. But life was pretty wild. Many of the criminals kept doing the bad things they had done while they were in England. Few people knew the good news of Jesus. Few Christians wanted to go to Australia to tell them because they thought it was such a wild place.
3. What was unusual about the kind of money they used? It was not metal money, but rum—a very strong kind of alcohol.
4. Why were so many soldiers getting drunk? They were supposed to guard the “money” but wound up drinking it instead.
5. Why did John Lees come to Australia? He came as a soldier.
6. What trouble did John Lees get into when he arrived in Australia? He began to drink too much of the rum.
7. Who was John Lees' wife? Mary, a lady criminal who had been shipped to Australia from England.
8. What did John Lees do after he was a soldier? He bought forest land out in the Castlereagh Forest. He planned to clear it and make it into a farm.
9. What did John Lees do that made life so hard for his family? He started drinking so much that he used up all their money to buy more alcohol.
10. What did John do to keep getting alcohol? He sold the few good things that he and Mary had.
11. What happened to John that caused him to cry out to God? He was bitten by a poisonous snake and thought he would die.
12. What did John promise God? If God saved him from dying, he would stop drinking and would follow Him.
13. How did John change after he became a Christian? The Holy Spirit worked in his heart. He stopped drinking and took good care of his family. He loved God and lived for Him. He read the Bible and prayed with his family.
14. How was John able to change so much after he became a Christian? The Holy Spirit was working in his heart.
15. Why did John and his family want a missionary to come? So that they could learn more about God through a good Bible teacher.
16. How long did John and his family pray for a missionary? Three years.
17. Why didn’t John give up praying for a missionary? The Holy Spirit working inside him gave him faith to keep believing that God would and could supply what he wanted.
18. Why was the Bible reading so fitting that the missionary read? Because they lived in the wilderness and were so “thirsty” for God’s Word that the missionary was like one who waters wilderness ground and brings it to blossom.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? The Holy Spirit worked incredible changes in John Lees heart and life when he became a Christian.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who…..reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

John Lees became a drunk who did not love God or take care of his family. Yet after he repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus as his own Savior, the Holy Spirit did an amazing work in his heart. All could see how God was transforming this man with His Holy Spirit. He became a man who loved God tried to please Him with his whole life. He took good care of his family. He read the Bible and prayed for God to send a missionary to teach them more about God. As John Lees was changed by the Holy Spirit, he brought more and more glory to God as his family and others could see the amazing work of God in his life.
Life Application
1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus, places that Christians don’t really want to go because they are dangerous? Yes!
2. How are we like John Lees? We are sinners who need to confess our sins to God and turn away from them. We need to trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and change us.
3. Why do Christians today decide to go to dangerous places with the good news of Jesus? Because people need to hear how they can be saved. Without the gospel, they will face God’s eternal punishment!

The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that changed John Lees life? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Changer of sinful people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, like John Lees, are sinners. We all need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God saving and changing all who come to Him in repentance and faith in Jesus. No one is too bad for God to save them! There is no one God cannot change.
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 confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send His Holy Spirit into our hearts and change us, just like He changed John Lees.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
4 carpet squares or construction paper for bases
3 balls of different sizes, such as a foam ball, tennis ball, and soccer ball.
A basket or cardboard box
Masking tape
Paper and pencil
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Place the carpet squares at the four corners of a diamond, like for baseball, approximately 10 feet apart. Place the basket with the balls in it next to “Home” base.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Team A will be up to bat, Team B will be out in the field. One player from Team B stands behind the batter as catcher. The leader will read a question to the batter. If the batter answers it correctly, he then picks up all three balls from the basket and tosses them out into the “field” in rapid succession. He then tries to run as many bases as possible around the diamond, touching each base, before the Team B players in the field return all three objects to the catcher who puts the balls into the box. The batter scores as many points as bases he was able to get to: 1 point for first base, 2 points for 2nd base, etc. The next person on Team A becomes batter now, and repeats the process. A team incurs an “out” if a batter is unable to answer a question; or, if a batter is caught in between 2 bases when all the items are back in the box, then they are out. Teams switch positions after 2 outs.

Game continues until all children get to bat, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity:
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Concept: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

Understanding the Big Idea
1. Who lives within the hearts of God’s people? The Holy Spirit.
2. Does that mean that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts that beat? No, heart is another word for our spirit, the part of us that we cannot see but that thinks, feels and can know & love God and others.
3. What does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of God’s people? He helps them want to love and please God each day.
4. What does it mean to be like Jesus? Do Christians start to look just like Jesus did on the outside? No. It means that they love God and live lives that please Him, like Jesus did.
5. What are some things that change as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts? The way they think, speak and act.
6. Will God’s people be perfect here on earth? No.
8. Why does the Holy Spirit transform God’s people? For their good and God’s glory.
10. Where is the Holy Spirit preparing God’s people to live? In heaven.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in John Lee’s life? John Lee no longer was a drunk who did not care for his family. Became a man who loved God and others more and more. He had an unshakable faith that kept praying to the Lord for three years to send a missionary to teach them more about Jesus. He offered his home to the missionary and his land to build a chapel for others to hear about Jesus, too.

Life Application Question
How can we have the Holy Spirit work in our lives? We must turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit, cleansing our hearts and then working inside to help us to love God and live lives that please Him.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to bring sins to our minds so that we can confess them to Him. Ask Him to help others to confess their sins to Him and be saved.*

**Gospel Question**

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to change us so that we love God and live for Him more and more? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

**Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time**

Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Crown (if desired)
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

Preparing the Game
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper and put them in the bag/bowl.

Playing the Game
Tell the children that they are the Queen’s/King’s soldiers and are to follow her/his every command. Have the soldiers march, pretend to hold out their swords, ride their horses, etc. Then, finally have them stand at attention, very still and showing no emotion. Tell them that you are the Queen/King and have come to inspect the troops. (Put on the crown). You have to remove anyone who is not very straight and still, and show no emotion. As you inspect the troops, make faces or say things to try to get the troops to break into a smile, etc. Watch them for movement. Whoever breaks is told the Troops must answer a question correctly to reinstate the soldiers who were caught. Have one of the soldiers caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don’t get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the king/queen.

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

NOTE: Have the children who remain out help you to give commands to the troops.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in John Lees’ life? They saw him change from being a drunk who could not stop drinking and did not take care of his family to someone who loved God, cared not only for his family but for others, and who had great faith to keep praying for something that seemed almost impossible.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.

Gospel Question

Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
1 beanbag for every 2 children

Preparing the Game
None.

Learning the Verse
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

Playing the Game
Pair up the children, giving a beanbag to each pair. Line up one child from each team, then have the partners face their team partner, about one foot apart from each other, forming a second line. Have all the children say the verse together, then have the partner throw the beanbag to the other partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round. Have each child take a step back. Lead the children in saying the verse again, then have them throw the beanbag to their partner. Those who successfully catch the beanbag stay in for the next round. Have the children take another step back, and so on. Continue until only one team remains.

Alternate Play: Continue to allow all children to play the game, even if they drop their beanbag, but keep track of how many successful catches each team makes. The team with the most successful catches wins.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

We, who reflect the Lord’s glory,
Are being transformed into His likeness,
With ever-increasing glory,
Which comes from the Lord,
Who is the Spirit.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in John Lees’ life? They saw him change from being a drunk who could not stop drinking and did not take care of his family to someone who loved God, cared not only for his family but for others, and who had great faith to keep praying for something that seemed almost impossible.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.

Gospel Question
Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
**Materials**
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
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!”

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.

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.

When “It“ finds the hidden clue, another “It“ is chosen and play begins again.
The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1

Verse 1
The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation,
By Spirit and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride,
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Understanding the Song
1. What is the church? Is it a building? No. A local church is a group of Christians who gather together. The building is a church building. But the church this hymn is talking about is The Church, meaning all Christians in all places and in all times.
2. What is a “foundation”? Something that supports everything else. Builders lay a foundation of solid concrete before they build a house so that it won’t fall down.
3. Who is the Church’s foundation? Why? Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God.
4. Who is the “she” talking about? The Church. In the Bible, God’s people are called the Church, the Bride of Christ (a “she” image), the people He loves and cares for forever.
5. Why is the Church called Jesus’ new creation? How does He do that? Jesus shed His blood on the cross (bought them with His blood) that His people might be saved. When they believe in Him, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in His people. The Holy Spirit comes into their hearts, cleansing them and making them like new—or new creations. But the Holy Spirit keeps working in their hearts, changing them so that they love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus? Christians owe everything to Jesus, their foundation. He is the one who not only bought them with His very own blood on the cross, so they might be saved. But, He is the one who sends the Holy Spirit into their hearts, making them new and working inside them so that Christians love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? John Lees was grateful to Jesus for being the one who bought him with His blood and sent His Spirit to work in his heart, making him a new creation.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise Jesus for being the Giver of not just salvation to all who turn and trust in Him, but also the one who sends the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so that they love God more and live for Him.
2. How can be come God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who…reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
The one foundation of God’s people, the Church, is Jesus Christ. He came from heaven to purchase His people with His blood that they might be saved from their sins. By His Spirit, He makes them new creations. He transforms them so that they reflect the Lord’s glory more and more, as they love God and live lives that please Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Purchaser of the Church, His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not appreciate God’s great love shown to His sinful people by sending Jesus to die and save them with His own blood.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for choosing to save His people. They would never have chosen Him on their own. They would have never been saved and made into new creations with Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us new creations through His Holy Spirit.

Gospel Question
Why did God’s people need saving? What have all people done? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**Materials**
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: “Children, we are going hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it… with a little help from the rest of us!”

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.

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.

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
A Poisonous Snake

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
A Poisonous Snake

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
Where? In front of his house,
Who? John Lees
Did What? Was a changed man after being bitten by

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus. The Holy Spirit began to work in John Lees heart when he trusted in Jesus as his Savior. From that day on, John began to love God and live to please Him more and more.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
God’s Holy Spirit works amazing changes in the hearts of even the worst sinner when they turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus.

Because he turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.
A Poisonous Snake

Description
The children will decorate a curly “poisonous” snake out of cardstock, markers and other optional decorating supplies.

Materials
White cardstock
Scissors
Glue sticks
Markers, colored pencils, etc.
If desired, also sequins or glitter/glitter glue, jiggly eyes
Tape

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out the template of the snake and snake heads onto cardstock, 1 per child.
2. Print out and cut out snake heads.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate their snakes and snake heads with markers.
3. Cut out the snakes along lines. (You may need to do this for younger children.)
4. Tape/glue snake head in place.
5. If desired, let children add additional decorations with the sequins, glitter glue, etc.
Snake body and head
Dear [Name],

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus:

- The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God's people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

We thought about 2 Corinthians 3:18: "...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

I also prayed for you during ACTS prayer time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

- **A** Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
- **C** Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
- **T** Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
- **S** Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus.

Yours Sincerely,

[Name]
VIPP Game

Materials
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

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, then Review Version:
Reveal: Tell them about each of the VIPPS you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of 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 clip art clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to a 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.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Put the clues for the VIPPS in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

Guess: Have children stand together in middle of room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to 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. Review the correctly finished profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrive no later than this to prepare for session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My preparations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>______________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>______________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>______________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|      | Children arrive |
|      | Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 1 of Big Idea</td>
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<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How to do the singing portion:
• Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
• Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
• Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

Story time
Drama Group (or other designated) teacher tells story in a dramatic fashion, having decorated area with lots of props to be able to point to as they tell it. Use outline as a guide, adding in interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it! Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Time | Activity
--- | ---

**Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities**

---

**Snack and Discussion Time**
- Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.
- Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”

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

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________
   
   - If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.
   - The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.

---

**Activity Time**

Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:

---

**ACTS Prayer Time** *(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)*

Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)

---

**Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time**

Have small groups present in the following order:
Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
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Suggested Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 3 of Big Idea</th>
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SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

**Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities**

**Snack and Discussion Time**

- Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.
- Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?” If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it. The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.

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

2. __________________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________________________________

**Activity Time**

Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:

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**Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time**

Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

Activities:
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

Resources:
All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

Activities:
- Tell story,
- Close in Prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

Resources:
- Story: What God Did in a Very Small Boy 1 Samuel 1-3
- Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time
All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer, and do one or more Small Group Activities

Snack

Pretzel stick “altar”, placed in a cross-hatch pattern to look like the grate, with yellow cheese slice “fire” placed underneath the altar. On top of the altar, place 3 animal cracker “bulls” (use cheaper version, not Barnum and Bailey animal crackers because they do not look so much like the animals they represent and can pass more easily for bulls). Also, could serve grape juice “wine” to represent the wine offering they also brought with them.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
C  Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
T  Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
S  Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

Drama

Activities:
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

Resources:
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 64
Speaker Sheets  Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Chair Pile-Up

Activities:
Discuss story
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet pp. 65-66
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Enemy Invaders

Activities:
Discuss Big Idea
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 67-68
Big Idea Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups

Big Idea Craft: Little Samuel

Activities:
Discuss Story
Fill in Presenter Sheets
Make Craft

Resources:
Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide, p. 75
Craft Directions, p.76
Presenter Sheets, Appendix D: Craft Group

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Crabbin/ Around

Activities:
Discuss story
Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game
Decorate VIPP Clue Cards Pray for VIPP
Decorate VIPP Prayer Letter

Resources:
VIPP Game Directions: Appendix E: VIPP Group
VIPP Prayer Letter

Scripture Verse Game: Verse Tag

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70
Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?
(and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea

Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs

Hymn: The Church’s One Foundation, Verse 1

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

Resources:
Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.73-74
Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Week 3 Lesson Plan

Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups make a presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity.

Activity Presentations

**Drama**
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

**Story Review Game**
- Ask Story Review Questions

**Big Idea Game**
- Read the Big Idea
- Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

**Big Idea Craft**
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

**VIPP Game and Clue Cards**
- Share Clues about VIPP
- Pray for the VIPP

**Scripture Verse Game**
- Read Scripture Verse
- Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Scripture Song**
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

**Hymn**
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

- Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

- Give Out Take Home Sheets
Opening Large Group Time

All children gather together to review the key concepts and rules in Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt, listen to the story, close in prayer, then are dismissed to Small Group Activities.

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

**Activities:**
- Review the WoGoLOA Rules
- Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse
- Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse

**Resources:**
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 61 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 61 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

**Activities:**
- Tell story
- Close in prayer
- Dismiss to Small Group Activities

**Resources:**
- Story: What God Did in a Very Small Boy 1 Samuel 1-3
- Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

**Don’t Forget!**
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play

Optional Kindergarten Group Format
Small Group Activities: Snack and Discussion Time

All children have a story-related snack, pray an ACTS prayer before doing Small Group activities, listed on the next page.

Snack

Pretzel stick “altar”, placed in a cross-hatch pattern to look like the grate, with yellow cheese slice “fire” placed underneath the altar. On top of the altar, place 3 animal cracker “bulls” (use cheaper version, not Barnum and Bailey animal crackers because they do not look so much like the animals they represent and can pass more easily for bulls). Also, could serve grape juice “wine” to represent the wine offering they also brought with them.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
C  Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
T  Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
S  Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus in how we live and love.

Snack & ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

Optional Kindergarten Group Format
Activity Time

After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

Group 1 Activities

Use Group 1 Activities if you have just one Kindergarten group; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

Resources:
Act-It-Out Sheet
Plan-a-Play Story Guide
The Story, pp. 61-63

Then, as time allows, followed by...

Group 1, Second Activity: Big Idea Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

Activities:
Play Game
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

Resources:
Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G  Kindergarten Group
**Group 2 Activities**

*Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.*

**Group 2, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game**  
*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

**Activities:**  
Discuss Scripture Verse  
Play Game  
Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

**Resources:**  
Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70  
Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group

**Group 2, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game, or VIPP Prayer Letter**  
*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

**Activities:**  
Discuss story  
Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game  
Decorate VIPP Clue Cards  
Decorate VIPP Prayer Letters  
Pray for VIPP

**Resources:**  
VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group  
VIPP Prayer Letters  
VIPP Clue Cards: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group

Then, as time allows, followed by …
## Closing Large Group Time

The Small Groups can make presentation to the rest of the children related to their activity. These are optional for The Kindergarten groups.

### Activity Presentations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Story Review/Big Idea Game</strong></td>
<td>Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIPP Game and Clue Cards</strong></td>
<td>Share Clues about VIPP, Pray for the VIPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Act-It-Out</strong></td>
<td>Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Song</strong></td>
<td>Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Verse Game</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C</strong></td>
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Our story today takes place about 3100 years ago in Shiloh, a little town in the dry, grassy hills of Ephraim, Israel.

Hannah sewed busily on the ephod made of fine Egyptian cloth. What’s an ephod, you might be wondering? It was special apron that only worn by the men who served in the Tabernacle—the Tent of Meeting of the LORD. When the special apron was done, Hannah would make a beautiful robe to go with it.

There was something very strange about this ephod and the robe that went with it. They were very, very tiny—only big enough for a small child to fit in. Yet the priest Eli and his sons who served in the Tabernacle were grown men! Why would they need such a small ephod and robe as this?

The truth was, this little ephod and robe weren’t for them at all. They were for the new man—if you can call him that—who would soon be joining them in their service. Hannah’s little three year old son, Samuel.

“Why do I need an ephod, Mama? I live here with you, not at the Tabernacle?” Samuel probably asked his mother.

“Because Samuel, you are going to get to serve before the Lord in His Tabernacle!” she would have told him. “You see, long ago, I wanted a son but could not have one. Then I prayed to the LORD to give me a son. I promised Him that if He did, that I would give that little boy back to the Him to serve Him all the days of his life. Then the LORD gave me you! So you see, Samuel, the LORD has chosen you to do something very special.”

Life in the Tabernacle would be very, very different from life at home for little Samuel. How could Hannah describe it to such a little boy? Perhaps it went something like this:

“The Tabernacle and its courtyard are kept inside long walls, 150 by 75 feet (7 cars by 4 cars put end to end, or half of a football field) made of fine linen cloth. The first thing you see when you go inside the entrance on the east side is a big open courtyard with a huge bronze altar, about twice as tall as you (4.5 feet) and four times longer than you when you lie down (7.5 feet square). This is where the priests sacrifice all the offerings of birds, sheep, and bulls to the Lord. The priests are never supposed to let the fire go out, (so that it is always ready for the sacrifices, just as the Lord is always ready to receive our praise and confessions of sin). Behind the huge altar is a big bronze basin of bronze where the priests do their special washing so that they will be seen as pure before the Lord. But best of all, is what is behind the altar and the basin: the Tabernacle, itself, with the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place!

“What are they, Mama?” Samuel may have asked.

“Well, I’ve never been inside. Only priests get to go in.” his mother answered, “And it is covered with
thick coverings of goat hair, sheep skin and sea cows, so you cannot see in from the courtyard. But I am told that is has beautiful curtains of blue, purple and scarlet with cherubim woven all through them on all sides. And that in the Holy Place there are three things, all covered in pure gold. On the left is a tall golden lampstand with seven candleholders, each that look like the branch of an almond tree with buds. It is to remind the people that God is always present. On the right there is an altar where priests burn sweet-smelling incense every morning and every evening as a reminder of the prayers of God’s people going up to God. And in between them, is a golden table on which each day 12 loaves of bread-- one for each tribe of Israel-- are put out, as a reminder of the fellowship (special friendship) that God has with His people.”

“But what about the Most Holy Place, where’s that, Mama?” Samuel asked.

“The Most Holy Place is behind a beautiful curtain at the back of the Holy Place,” Hannah explained.

“Inside it is the important thing of all: a golden box called the Ark of the Covenant. It has two huge angels bending over its cover; and, inside the box are the 10 Commandments of the covenant the Lord made with our people through Moses long ago. It is a room so holy that only the most important priest, called the high priest can go in that room….and he can only go in there once a year. It’s where he takes the special offering to ask God to forgive the people’s sins.”

“Will I get to go inside the Holy Place?”

“Yes, you will, Samuel. You are going to get to do many very special things when you go to the Tabernacle.”

“But, Mama, who will take care of me at the Tabernacle?”

“Eli, the high priest, and his sons Phinehas and Hophni will. They will take care of you and teach you everything you need to know. But most of all, Samuel, remember that the Lord gave you to us and planned you for this. Even though you are just a very, very little boy, He will take care of you. It is He ‘who raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor….He will guard the feet of his [people]’ (1 Samuel 2:8,9) He will watch over you and He work inside your heart to help you to love Him and serve Him more and more, just like He does for all His people. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very little boy.”

It was not long before it was time for Hannah and Elkanah, Samuel’s father, to take Samuel to Shiloh to live at the Tabernacle. They gathered up Samuel’s few things, his little ephod and robe, plus three bulls, grain and wine to offer up to the Lord as a sacrifice. After two days of walking, the smell in the air told them they were close: it was the smell of smoke and the offerings from the Tabernacle’s altar.

In a few minutes, Shiloh came into view and up behind it on a hill, Samuel could see the curtains of the Tabernacle’s courtyard.

Samuel’s eyes took in everything as they climbed the hill and entered the outer court of the Tabernacle. It was just as his mother had described to him: the tall curtains of the outer court, the altar for sacrifices, the basin with the bulls on the bottom and the Holy Place back behind it all.

With reverent hearts, Elkanah and Hannah brought their three bulls, their flour and oil to the priests for
offering. Now a sacrifice of three bulls might not sound like a big deal to you, but Eli and his sons would have been shocked to see gift made to the LORD. Almost no one made such an outrageously large offering! It was three times bigger than the biggest offering (one bull) suggested in the Bible! (NOTE: the NIV says a three year old bull, but many scholars believe that it is really a reference to three bulls. This theory is solidified with the observation that the flour and oil offered with the bull(s) was in keeping with the bull to flour to oil ratio. That is to say, three times the usual amount of flour and oil were also offered.)

“Who are these people? Why are they making such a big offering?” the priests probably wondered. They did not have to wait long to find out, for as soon as Hannah and Elkanah made their offering, they led Samuel up to the high priest Eli. “Three years ago I stood before you praying to the LORD,” Hannah told him. “He gave me this son in answer to my prayer. I am now bringing him here to the LORD to be His for his whole life, just as I promised I would that day.” Hannah handed Samuel’s things to Eli—including the little linen ephod and the beautiful little robe she had made him—and she and Elkanah said good-bye to her little son.

How could such a very, very little boy leave his mother and father and go just like that to live with strangers at the Tabernacle? How many little boys would run back and cling to their mother or father and plead to not be left? Yet whatever fears Samuel had, the LORD was with him already, working inside his heart and giving him the desire to love and serve Him more and more each day. The Bible tells us that when his parents gave him over to Eli, he turned and bowed down, worshipping the Lord. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very little boy.

Eli took care of the little boy and taught him all the duties of being a priest, just as he had been teaching his sons Phinehas and Hophni. He learned how to fill the lampstand candle holders with oil, how to place incense on the altar of incense, how to make the special loaves of bread for the golden table, how to wash himself to stay pure before the Lord, how to make sacrifices and what prayers to say for each one, and many other things. Eli taught Samuel the right way to do things and Samuel tried hard to serve the Lord just as he had been told.

But Phinehas and Hophni, Eli’s sons, were not like Samuel. They were wicked men with greedy hearts that did not worship the LORD. When their father wasn't looking, they spoiled the people's sacrifices by forcing them to give them the best part of their sacrifice to eat themselves. They even took the fat from the sacrifices for themselves that was to be burnt up as an offering to the Lord! Samuel saw what these sons did, but did not copy them. The LORD, by His Holy Spirit, was working in Samuel's little heart already. He gave Samuel more and more love for God and a desire to please Him. He was preparing Samuel for the special job He had planned for him. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very little boy.

One night Samuel lay sleeping on his little mat beneath the beautiful golden lampstand in the Holy Place. It was almost daybreak for the oil of the lampstand was just faintly flickering with its dwindling supply of oil.

“Samuel!” Samuel heard a voice call his name.
“Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. [The time has come, Samuel. The Lord is calling you to be His prophet—a special one who listens to him and speak His words to His people.]

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

That night the Lord spoke to Samuel and gave him the first of what was to be many messages for the Israelites. Many times the Lord had hard messages of punishment for His wayward, rebellious people, but sometimes they were words of comfort. But whatever the message, Samuel always told just exactly what the LORD said. How did Samuel have the courage to always say the words the LORD gave him, even when they were very hard words of punishment? The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, working in His heart by the Holy Spirit, to love God and faithfully serve Him and to love His people more and more. God can do great things, even in the heart of a very little boy.

For over eighty years Samuel served the LORD as the prophet to His people. And all of Israel recognized that Samuel was the Lord’s prophet and they all listened to the words the Lord gave him. When Samuel died as a very old man, Israelites from Dan in the far north of Israel to ones in Beersheba in the far south, came together back at Ramah to mourn and be present for his burial. The LORD had planned to do great things for His people through Samuel and they all happened, just as He had planned. How could this be? God can do great things, even in the heart of a very little boy. From the early years of Samuel’s life as a very, very little boy to the very end of his life, the Holy Spirit had been at work in Samuel’s heart so that each day he loved God and live to please Him more and more.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus
Our Scripture Verse is: 2 Corinthians 3:18
"We, who…and reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit…"

What about you and me? God did great things, even in the heart of a very little boy. Could God have plans to work in your life? Could He work in your heart so that you would love Him more and more? Yes, He could. It is His promise to anyone who turns and trusts in Jesus that not only will He save them from their sins, but He will put His Holy Spirit in their hearts to work in them more and more love for Him and a
1 Samuel 3:4-10 (NIV):
greater and greater desire to serve Him all the days of their lives. They, like Samuel, will also reflect God’s
glory as He uses His Spirit to transform them. Let’s praise this God who saves His people and grows their
hearts by His Holy Spirit. Let’s ask Him to send His Spirit to work in us, even today.
1. Samuel’s mother, Hannah, sits making a little ephod and robe for her 3 year old son, Samuel to serve in the Tabernacle, the special Meeting Tent of the LORD.

2. This was very unusual to have so young a boy serve in the Tabernacle, but Hannah had promised to give Samuel is to serve the LORD all his days, in answer to her prayer for a son.

3. Hannah would have probably explained to Samuel what the Tabernacle was like.

4. She probably would have told him all about Eli, his sons and reassured him that Samuel wants to know the LORD who called him will take care of him.

5. Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel travel 2 days to Shiloh where the Tabernacle is.

6. First they make their huge sacrifice of bulls, wine and flour offerings in worship of the LORD.

7. They take Samuel to Eli and Hannah explains who she is and why she is leaving her son with Eli.

8. Instead of crying, Samuel responds by worshipping the LORD as they give him to Eli.

9. Samuel learns from Eli along with his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, how to be a priest.

10. Phinehas and Hophni are wicked, greedy men who take from the people’s sacrifices when they should not.

11. Samuel sees what they do but chooses not to do those things because the LORD is at work in his heart.

12. One night the LORD calls Samuel, as he lay sleeping under the lampstand in the Holy Place.

13. Eli tells Samuel it is not him, but the LORD calling him.

14. This is the first of many messages the LORD gives the people through Samuel. No matter what the message, Samuel always gave the LORD’s message as He wanted him to.

15. All the years of his life, the LORD worked in Samuel’s heart by His Holy Spirit so that he would love and serve Him more and more.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources
   - Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   - Act-It-Out Sheet

   (*Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group*)

2. Games Groups Resources
   - Story Review Discussion Questions
   - Big Idea Discussion Questions
   - Scripture Verse Discussion Questions

   (*Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups*)

3. Songs Groups Resources
   - Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   - Hymn Discussion Sheet

   (*Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea*)

   (*Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups*)

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources

   (*Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group*)

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter

   (*VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group*)
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
When? About 3100 years ago
Where? Shiloh, Israel
What's Dry, grassy hills of Ephraim;
It Like? Home of the big Tabernacle, the special meeting place of the Lord with His people

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)
Hannah
Elkanah
Samuel, young baby
Eli, Hophni, Phinehas
The Tabernacle
Worshippers
Bulls
Sheep
Israelites
Samuel, old man

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus. From just a very small boy, the Lord was already at work in Samuel’s heart, helping him want to love and serve Him.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)
Samuel Seeks the Lord

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
Beginning:
Samuel’s mother, Hannah, sits making a little ephod and robe for her 3 year old son, Samuel to serve in the Tabernacle, the special Meeting Tent of the LORD. This was very unusual to have so young a boy serve in the Tabernacle, but Hannah had promised to give Samuel is to serve the LORD all his days, in answer to her prayer for a son. Hannah would have probably explained to Samuel what the Tabernacle was like. She probably would have told him all about Eli, his sons and reassured him that Samuel wants to know the LORD who called him will take care of him.
Hannah, Elkanah and Samuel travel 2 days to Shiloh where the Tabernacle is.

Middle:
First they make their huge sacrifice of bulls, wine and flour offerings in worship of the LORD. They take Samuel to Eli and Hannah explains who she is and why she is leaving her son with Eli. Instead of crying, Samuel responds by worshiping the LORD as they give him to Eli. Samuel learns from Eli along with his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, how to be a priest. Phinehas and Hophni are wicked, greedy men who take from the people’s sacrifices when they should not. Samuel sees what they do but chooses not to do those things because the LORD is at work in his heart.

End:
One night the LORD calls Samuel, as he lay sleeping under the lampstand in the Holy Place. Eli tells Samuel it is not him, but the LORD calling him. This is the first of many messages the LORD gives the people through Samuel. No matter what the message, Samuel always gave the LORD’s message as He wanted him to.
All the years of his life, the LORD worked in Samuel’s heart by His Holy Spirit so that he would love and serve Him more and more.
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Middle:
First they make their huge sacrifice of bulls, wine and flour offerings in worship of the LORD. They take Samuel to Eli and Hannah explains who she is and why she is leaving her son with Eli. Instead of crying, Samuel responds by worshipping the LORD as they give him to Eli. Samuel learns from Eli along with his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, how to be a priest. Phinehas and Hophni are wicked, greedy men who take from the people’s sacrifices when they should not. Samuel sees what they do but chooses not to do those things because the LORD is at work in his heart.

End:
One night the LORD calls Samuel, as he lay sleeping under the lampstand in the Holy Place. Eli tells Samuel it is not him, but the LORD calling him. This is the first of many messages the LORD gives the people through Samuel. No matter what the message, Samuel always gave the LORD’s message as He wanted him to. All the years of his life, the LORD worked in Samuel’s heart by His Holy Spirit so that he would love and serve Him more and more.
1. What was Hannah making for Samuel and why? A little ephod and a little priestly robe for Samuel to wear as he served at the Tabernacle.

2. Why was Hannah taking Samuel to the Tabernacle? She had promised the LORD that if He gave her a son she would give the child to serve before the LORD all of his life. She was fulfilling her promise to the LORD by taking Samuel to the Tabernacle.

3. What was in the courtyard of the Tabernacle? The altar for sacrifices and the bronze basin for washing.

4. What was funny about the walls around the Tabernacle’s courtyard? Made of fabric!

5. What was in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle? The golden lampstand, the Altar of Incense, and the Table of Shewbread.

6. What was in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle? The Ark of the Covenant with cherubim leaning over the top and with the 10 Commandments inside.

7. Who was the only person who could go in the Most Holy Place and when? Only the high priest on the Day of Atonement when he brought a special offering for the sins of the people.

8. What was the Tabernacle? The special meeting place of God with His people during that time.

9. Who would take care of Samuel while he was at the Tabernacle? Eli, Eli’s sons and the LORD.

10. Why did Samuel not need to be afraid, even though he had to leave his mother and father? Because the Lord had made this plan for his life and He would take care of him.

11. What was unusual about Hannah and Elkanah’s sacrifice? It was three times bigger than the biggest sacrifice that people usually brought.

12. Why do you think they made such a big offering? Thankfulness, Asking the Lord’s blessing upon Samuel living at the Tabernacle.

13. What were Eli’s sons like? They were wicked. They did not treat the sacrifices to the LORD with reverence.

14. Why did Samuel not copy Eli’s sons? The LORD was at work in his heart already, to desire to love and serve Him.

15. Who did Samuel first think was calling him in the night? Eli

16. What did Samuel do with the words that the LORD gave him to speak? Always speak them as He desired.

17. Why would it have taken the Lord’s work in Samuel’s heart to always speak the Lord’s words? Because many times they were words of punishment and it would have been easy to not want to say them.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Even as a very, very young boy, he loved the Lord. When left at the Tabernacle, he did not respond by begging his parents to take him home, but by bowing down and worshiping the Lord. He did not want to do the evil things to people’s offerings like Eli’s sons did. He always told all of the Lord’s words for the people, even when it was very hard.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **2 Corinthians 3:18**

“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit..” How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in Samuel’s life? They saw a very, very young boy respond by worshiping the Lord and trusting Him rather than begging to go home with them when he had to stay at the Tabernacle. They saw him choose to be a good priest rather than do what Eli’s sons did with the offerings. They saw him hear the Lord’s word and always give it to the people the way the Lord intended, even when it was very, very hard.
Life Application Question
1. What is something about Samuel’s heart that we could ask God to do in our hearts? That He would give us hearts that desire to love God and obey Him, even when it is very hard. That our hearts would not be tempted to sin when we see others sinning, just like Samuel chose not to sin like Eli’s sons. That He would give us courage to speak His words to others, no matter what.
2. How can we become one of God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

The Gospel
Samuel lived before Jesus’ day, but he looked forward to the day when the promised Messiah would come and save God’s people. What is that good news of salvation through Jesus? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

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 speaks His words to His people and who works in His people that they are able to do what He has planned for them to do.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, like Eli’s sons, are sinners. We have learned God’s good ways yet many times we choose to rebel against them. We need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for speaking to His people throughout the ages, both long ago through His prophets, like Samuel, and still today, through His Word, the Bible.
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 them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we might love Him and obey Him more and more—and even when it might be very difficult, like it would have been for Samuel at times.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Chair Pile-Up**

Story Review Game

**Materials**
- A Chair for every two players
- Index Cards
- Paper and Marker
- Tape
- Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions
- Optional: Game “Pennies” for easy recognition for members of each team

**Preparing the Game**

Supplement the Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Story Review concepts to their lives.

Form a circle with the chairs. On the index cards, make identical two sets of numbers corresponding to the number of chairs. Use one set to tape a number onto the back of each chair.

**Playing the Game**

Divide the children into teams. Have all players select a seat and share it with one other person. (No special ordering of players needed.) The players from both teams will move from chair to chair according to the directions you give. (“If you have shoes that have Velcro, move 1 chair to your left,” “If you came to church in a mini van, move four chairs to your right;”, “If you have a sister, stay where you are, but everyone else move 1 chair to the left”, etc.) If there are too many students to sit on one chair, have them at least put their hands on the chair. After giving several directions, choose a number from the 2nd set of index cards. All the children at that particular numbered chair will answer a Story Review question. If they answer it correctly, they earn as many points for their team as team members at that particular chair, (i.e., if 2 people from Team A and 1 people from Team B are on the same chair, then Team A gets 2 points and Team B gets 1!) If they do NOT answer it correctly, then their team is DOCKED the same number points as team members at that chair. The Team with the most points at the end of play, wins.

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

**Optional Closing Activity:**

*Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.*

If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Discussion Questions

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God’s people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus in how they think, speak and act—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God’s people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

Understanding the Big Idea
2. Does that mean that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts that beat? *No, heart is another word for our spirit, the part of us that we cannot see but that thinks, feels and can know & love God and others.*
3. What does the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of God’s people? *He helps them want to love and please God each day.*
4. What does it mean to be like Jesus? Do Christians start to look just like Jesus did on the outside? *No. It means that they love God and live lives that please Him, like Jesus did.*
5. What are some things that change as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts? *The way they think, speak and act.*
6. Will God’s people be perfect here on earth? *No.*
8. Why does the Holy Spirit transform God’s people? *For their good and God’s glory.*
10. Where is the Holy Spirit preparing God’s people to live? *In heaven.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

How could others see that the Holy Spirit was working in Samuel’s life?

*Even as a very, very young boy, he loved the Lord. When left at the Tabernacle, he did not respond by begging his parents to take him home, but by bowing down and worshiping the Lord. He did not want to do the evil things to people’s offerings like Eli’s sons did. He always told all of the Lord’s words for the people, even when it was very hard.*

Life Application Question

How can we have the Holy Spirit work in our lives? *We must turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit, cleansing our hearts and then working inside to help us to love God and live lives that please Him.*

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

“We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

*This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.*
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to bring sins to our minds so that we can confess them to Him. Ask Him to help others to confess their sins to Him and be saved.

Gospel Question
Why do we need the Holy Spirit to change us so that we love God and live for Him more and more? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Materials**
Index cards of two different colors (or use red and black playing cards, such as hearts and spades)
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions
String or yarn
Two chairs
Masking Tape

**Preparing the Game**
Supplement the Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions to make up 20+ questions. See “A Guide through the Games Activities” in Appendix C at the back of this binder for more help on making up questions that challenge the children to understand and apply the Big Idea Concepts to their lives.

Write the Big Idea questions on small thin strips of paper and put them in the bag/bowl.

Tie an end of the string to each chair and draw the line across the room where the teams will be. Preferably this line will be about 4’ above the ground.

Tape a line about 6’ to 9’ from the string on each side.

Cut cards in half along the long side, making them about the same size as playing cards.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into two teams and have them stand (or kneel to make it even harder!) on their team’s line. Give each child an index card, the same color for the children on one team. At your signal, have them try to toss their cards over the line and into their “enemy’s” territory on the other side. Add up how many cards fell on each side. That is how many points they can win by answering a question. Choose a question for each team. If the team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for an extra point. Distribute the cards and play again.

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
2 Corinthians 3:18
"We, who….reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in Samuel’s life? They saw a very, very young boy respond by worshiping the Lord and trusting Him rather than begging to go home with them when he had to stay at the Tabernacle. They saw him choose to be a good priest rather than do what Eli’s sons did with the offerings. They saw him hear the Lord’s word and always give it to the people the way the Lord intended, even when it was very, very hard.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.
ACTS Questions, continued
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
_We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own._

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
_We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him._

Gospel Question
Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? _God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever._ If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder

Preparing the Game
None.

Learning the Verse
Hold up the Scripture Verse sign from the Big Idea Folder for all the children to see. Read it slowly with them reading along with you. Remind them of the meaning of the verse, noting key words that may need explaining. Practice saying the verse with the children until they are fairly confident saying it from memory, probably 4 or 5 times.

Playing the Game
Have the children spread out around the playing area. Explain to the children that the person who is “It” (start with you) will try to tag another child. If he does, then the tagged child joins hands with It, says the verse and both children are now joined together as It. When they tag someone else, all three join hands, say the verse and are the new It. Play continues until everyone is caught. Caution: Allow walking only in order to avoid injury.

Game continues until all children get to be It or as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
We Who Reflect the Lord’s Glory : 2 Corinthians 3:18

We, who reflect the Lord’s glory,
Are being transformed into His likeness,
With ever-increasing glory,
Which comes from the Lord,
Who is the Spirit.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is “we”? Christians.
2. What do Christians reflect? The Lord’s glory.
3. How do Christians reflect the Lord’s glory? By having His Holy Spirit working inside them and helping them love God and live holy lives, pleasing to Him. When people see the way Christians love and live, and hear them tell about the Lord, they reflect who He is to those around them.
4. What is happening to Christians? They are being transformed into the Lord’s likeness.
5. Does that mean that they will look like Jesus did? No, it means that their hearts and lives will show more and more of the same love for God and lives that please God like Jesus.
6. Does the glory of the Lord that Christians reflect always stay the same? No, it is ever-increasing glory—more and more of it.
7. Why does the glory keep increasing? Because the Holy Spirit is at work inside their hearts, making more and more changes in them.
8. Where does the glory and the transformation come from? From the Lord—God the Holy Spirit.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who works in God’s people so that they love God and live to please Him more and more. He is why they are being transformed. It is not just a work of their own.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How could others see the Holy Spirit’s transforming work in Samuel’s life? They saw a very, very young boy respond by worshiping the Lord and trusting Him rather than begging to go home with them when he had to stay at the Tabernacle. They saw him choose to be a good priest rather than do what Eli’s sons did with the offerings. They saw him hear the Lord’s word and always give it to the people the way the Lord intended, even when it was very, very hard.

Life Application
How can we have the Spirit’s transforming work in our lives? We can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill us with His Spirit and begin His wonderful work in our hearts.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Transformer of His People, for their good and His glory.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose to rebel against His good ways for our own sake. We want to people to think more about us instead of God. We choose to bring glory to our name instead of His. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God giving His people His Holy Spirit to transform them. They could never love God and live for Him more and more on their own.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. That He would send the Holy Spirit to transform us so that we glorify Him more and more in the way we love Him and live for Him.

Gospel Question
Why do people need to be transformed? What happened to them? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
**Song Game**

**Materials**
Sign Language signs used in song, printed out onto cards; particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.
Bag or bowl

**Preparing the Game**
Put the signs in the bag/bowl.

**Playing the Game**
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. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone…but you, if they need some help. 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. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. 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.
The Church’s One Foundation, verse 1

Verse 1
The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation,
By Spirit and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride,
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What is the church? Is it a building? No. A local church is a group of Christians who gather together. The building is a church building. But the church this hymn is talking about is The Church, meaning all Christians in all places and in all times.

2. What is a “foundation”? Something that supports everything else. Builders lay a foundation of solid concrete before they build a house so that it won’t fall down.

3. Who is the Church’s foundation? Why? Jesus Christ is the Church’s foundation because He is the only one who could save His people. Without Him, no one could ever be forgiven their sins and come to know God.

4. Who is the “she” talking about? The Church. In the Bible, God’s people are called the Church, the Bride of Christ (a “she” image), the people He loves and cares for forever.

5. Why is the Church called Jesus’ new creation? How does He do that? Jesus shed His blood on the cross (bought them with His blood) that His people might be saved. When they believe in Him, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in His people. The Holy Spirit comes into their hearts, cleansing them and making them like new—or new creations. But the Holy Spirit keeps working in their hearts, changing them so that they love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus?
Christians owe everything to Jesus, their foundation. He is the one who not only bought them with his very own blood on the cross, so they might be saved. But, He is the one who sends the Holy Spirit into their hearts, making them new and working inside them so that Christians love God and live lives pleasing to Him, more and more.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Samuel did not know Jesus, but he like all of God’s people who lived before Jesus, looked forward to His day. Watching the sacrifices for sin each day and spending years as prophet to God’s sinful people, he knew that only the Lord could save His people from their sins and change them to people who lived lives that pleased Him. He knew, even early in his life, the work of the Holy Spirit in his own heart to help him love God and live a life to please Him more and more.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song?
They can praise Jesus for being the Giver of not just salvation to all who turn and trust in Him, but also the one who sends the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so that they love God more and live for Him.

2. How can be come God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18
“We, who…reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

The one foundation of God’s people, the Church, is Jesus Christ. He came from heaven to purchase His people with His blood that they might be saved from their sins. By His Spirit, He makes them new creations. He transforms them so that they reflect the Lord’s glory more and more, as they love God and live lives that please Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Purchaser of the Church, His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not appreciate God’s great love shown to His sinful people by sending Jesus to die and save them with His own blood.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for choosing to save His people. They would never have chosen Him on their own. They would have never been saved and made into new creations with Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to make us new creations through His Holy Spirit.

Gospel Question
Why did God’s people need saving? What have all people done? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?**

Song Game

**Materials**
Sign Language signs used in song, printed out onto cards; particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.
Bag or bowl

**Preparing the Game**
Put the signs in the bag/bowl.

**Playing the Game**
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. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone... but you, if they need some help. 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. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. 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.
Little Samuel

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
   A Precious Pet Lamb

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
   Where? At the Tabernacle
   Who? Eli, the high priest
   Did What? Listened to the sad words of the LORD about his family told by
   With the Big Idea Object? Little Samuel
   Why? Because the LORD was already at work in Samuel’s heart, helping him to know and tell His words to God’s people.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
   Our Big Idea is: God’s People Grow to Be Like Jesus. For over 80 years, the LORD used Samuel to tell God’s people His words. Samuel had the courage to obey God’s commands and tell the people His words because of the LORD’s work inside of Samuel to love and obey Him more and more.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
   Some of the things God calls His people to do may be very hard, but they will always be able to do them because God is working inside of them, helping them to be able to do them.
Big Idea Craft Instructions

Little Samuel

Description
The children will make a Samuel puppet with a blue priest’s robe with scarlet and purple fringe and bells attached at the bottom.

Materials
Patterns for face and for robe
1 lunch bag per child
Cardstock
Black, scarlet (red) and purple yarn, about 2 yards of each per child
2-4 jingle bells per child
Markers or colored pencils, especially blue!!!!
Jiggly eyes
Glue sticks
Hole punches
Scissors

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out 1 copy of the face and 2 copies of the robe per child. Cut out shapes (especially for the younger children. Older children can do this themselves)
2. Cut black yarn into 2” lengths. This will be Samuel’s hair.
3. Cut the scarlet and purple yarn into 6” lengths. This will be used for the tassels along the bottom of the robe.
4. Set out hole punches. For younger children, you will probably want to punch out the holes along the bottom of the robes for them ahead of time. Older children can do this, themselves.
5. Set out other supplies.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color the robe pieces blue.
3. Decorate Samuel’s face adding hair and facial features. Use yarn and jiggly eyes.
4. If not done previously, have the children punch holes along the bottom of the robe pieces as indicated by the circles.
5. Take a strand and double it over in half. Poke the loop (the very middle of the strand) through a hole along the bottom of the robe piece. Take the ends of the strand and poke it through the loop and gently pull down, making a slip knot tassel. Continue until all the holes have been filled with fringe.
6. Thread a piece of the fringe through the loop in a jingle bell. Tie a knot to secure in place. Repeat for as many bells as each child has. Put a couple in the back and a couple in the front piece of the robe.
7. Give out a lunch bag to each child. Have them set the bag in front of them, turned upside down and with flap facing up. Glue the face to the flap section, then glue the robe pieces to the front and back of the bottom section of the bag.
8. The children can put their hand in their Samuel puppet and play with him.
Samuel’s robe, cut 2: front and back
Dear __________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus:

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God's people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

We thought about 2 Corinthians 3:18: "We, who...reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for in our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

A: Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
B: Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
C: Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
D: Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus.

Yours Sincerely, ____________________________________________

Dear __________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Grow to Be Like Jesus:

The Holy Spirit lives within the hearts of God's people. He helps them want to love and please God. Every day, the Holy Spirit is at work inside them to make them more and more like Jesus—and less and less disobedient and rebellious. None of God's people will ever be perfect here on earth, but God by the power of His Holy Spirit is transforming them bit by bit, for their good and His glory. This is how God helps them to live for Him on earth and prepares them to live with Him in heaven.

We thought about 2 Corinthians 3:18: "We, who...reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

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A: Praise God for being the Transformer of His People through the Holy Spirit
B: Thank God for His promise to transform His people to love and live for Him.
C: Confess ways that we do not live and love like Jesus.
D: Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and make us more and more like Jesus.

Yours Sincerely, ____________________________________________
CRABBIN’ AROUND
VIPP Game

Materials
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

Preparing the Game
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

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, then Review Version:
Reveal: Tell them about each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

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

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Put the clues for the VIPPS in the bag/bowl and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

Guess: Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with the front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and that they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. Review the correctly finished profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.