BIG IDEA 62
God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves
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.

5. 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
Unit 12 Big Question: “How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!”
Unit 12 Scripture Verse: “Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves
God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people! In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Shortened Games and Memory Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Stories
Week 1: “Do You Love Me?” Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21
Week 2: What William Loved Most of All
Week 3: “How Can I Love You Today?” Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7 ; Daniel 1,6

Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
C Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T Thank God for all showing how great His love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.
S Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

Songs
Hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4
Scripture Song Hear, O Hear Deuteronomy 6:4-5
Big Idea Concept
God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people! In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
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Shortened Games and Memory Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
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T Thank God for all showing how great His love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their own Savior.
S Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
The Story of Daniel: Daniel 1, 6
Leading Little Ones to God #53: God’s Children Love Him

Songs
Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Hymn Connection: When God’s people think about the amazing love and sacrifice that Jesus made by dying for their sins on the cross, they want to love Him in return with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.
Scripture Song: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.
Big Idea 62  Scripture Song
Hear, O Hear Israel
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The Lord our God,
The Lord is one,
Love the Lord our God,
With all your heart,
Love the Lord our God,
With all your soul,
Love the Lord our God,
with all your strength.

Adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5

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Big Idea 62  Hymn
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Verse 4
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts  Music: Lowell Mason
Copyright Information: Public Domain
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
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 62 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 62 Concept: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Big Idea 62 Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:45</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>
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</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>
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<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
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<td>LEADER says verse</td>
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</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 WO GO 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!
**Unit 12 Big Question Song**

“How Should God People Live Each Day?”

Sung to the Tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

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?

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?

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus!
“Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

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.

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, twelve. O-le!
Big Idea 62:

God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins.

God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people!

In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus.

Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners.

But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.
Meditation Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Shortened Games and Memory Version: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
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)
Hear, O Hear
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O hear, O Israel,

Hear, O hear, O Israel,

The LORD our God,

The LORD is one,

Love the LORD our God,

With all your heart,

Love the LORD our God,

With all your soul,

Love the LORD our God,

with all your strength.
Hear, O Hear

adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Constance Dever

Hear, O hear, O Is-ra-el, Hear, O hear, O Is-ra-el. The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Am Dm7 Am Am Cmaj7 Am E7

Love the LORD our God with all your heart, Love the LORD your God with all your soul.

Am Dm7 Am Am Dm7 Am

E Am Dm Am E Am

all your soul, Love the LORD our God with all your strength.
**Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

**Hear**
Place cupped right hand around the right ear.

**Israel**
Touch right pinky to left side of chin, then right side.

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

**God**
Point the right G hand forward and up. Bring hand towards body while changing hand to a B position.

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

**Love**
Cross hands, with left hand on top of right hand, and place hands on your heart.

**With**
Bring fists together.

**All**
Rotate flat right hand, palm facing out around stationary flat left hand palm facing in.

**Heart**
With index fingers form a heart shape over the heart.
**Soul**
Bring fingertips of the right O hand, palm facing down, from inside the left upturned O hand and raise it up to shoulder level while forming the (right) F hand at the same time.

**Strength**
Move both S hands, palms facing together, downwards and outwards with force.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts

Lowell Mason

1. When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of glory died,
   My richest gain I count but loss,
   And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
   That were a present far too small:
   Love so amazing, so divine,
   Demands my soul, my life, my all.

3. Then I shall sing my morning hymn
   With sweet thanksgiving to thee,
   My soul shall praise its Maker
   And be my strength, my all.

4. When I survey the wondrous cross,
   On which the Prince of glory died,
   My richest gain I count but loss,
   And pour contempt on all my pride.
Whole, All
Rotate flat right hand, palm facing out around stationary flat left hand palm facing in.

Realm
Place the left fist, palm down, in front of the body. Rotate the right N hand in a clockwise circle above the left hand. Then bring the right hand down so that the fingertips are resting on the left hand.

Nature
Hold both hands in front of the body with palms up and fingers touching, as if grabbing a little dirt. Then make outward circles with both down-turned hands.

Mine, My
Place the palm of the right flat hand on the chest.

Present
Hold both A hands in front of the body palms facing. Move hands at the same time forward.

Far too
Place the right bent hand resting on the left bent hand. Move the right bent hand upward a short distance.

Small
Hold hands in front of the body, palms facing and fingers pointing forward. Move the hands closer together in short stages.

Love
Cross hands, with left hand on top of right hand, and place hands on your heart.

So
Hold hands, fingers pointing up and palms facing, in front of the body and move hands apart.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, verse 4

**Amazing**
Place closed hands at each temple, index fingers and thumbs touching. Flick index fingers upwards at the same time.

**Divine**
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.

**Demands**
Strike right index finger against left palm several times.

**Soul**
Bring fingertips of the right O hand, palm facing down, from inside the left upturned O hand and raise it up to shoulder level while forming the (right) F hand at the same time.

**Life**
Move both open hands, palms towards body, from abdomen to chest while wiggling the fingers.
Session Schedule and Planning Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Arrive no later than this to prepare for session</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>My preparations:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>______________________________________________________</td>
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<td>______________________________________________________</td>
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<td>______________________________________________________</td>
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</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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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
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**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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 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?”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong> <em>(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 1 Lesson Plan

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 62 Concept Sign
Big Idea 62 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: “Do You Love Me?”
Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21
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

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
WEEK 1 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

Fishermen Goldfish Crackers OR Cups of Sugar-Free Blue Jello “Sea of Galilee” with “Gummy Fish” Fish swimming in it

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.

C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.

S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

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: Spin the Light

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
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Help the Blind Man

**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: Upside Down on a Cross

**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: Hit the Wall

**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: Jump for Joy

**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: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign
(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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Verse 4

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign
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
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 62 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 62 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: “Do You Love Me?”**
- Mark 16; Luke 5,9,18,22; John 21
- 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
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

Fishermen Goldfish Crackers OR Cups of Sugar-Free Blue Jello “Sea of Galilee” with “Gummy Fish” Fish swimming in it

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.

C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.

S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.
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: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

- Activities:
  - Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
  - Learn Song and Sign Language
  - Play Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

- 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
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: 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
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

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
Story

Our story today takes place about 2000 years ago near the Sea of Galilee, the big lake that was 13 miles long and 7 miles wide, about 60 miles north of Jerusalem.

Weary and discouraged, Peter, James John and the other fishermen left their boats and lugged their long fishing nets to shore for cleaning. All night they had fished; all night they had thrown out and heaved in those nets; yet, it had been for nothing. “What a night!” Peter grumbled to the others. “Not a single fish!”

Wasn’t this the famous Sea of Galilee, known for its waters simply brimming with thousands and thousands of fish? Where had they all gone last night? There would be no fish to sell today at market, the fishermen would have thought, and that meant no income. But, at least they would be able to go straight to bed after they cleaned their nets, instead of carrying a heavy fresh catch to market. And perhaps they would have better luck the next night.

Looking forward to the prospect of sleep, Peter and the others gathered up the nets and turned to their work. Net cleaning and mending was important but tiresome work. Debris or scum left on them could begin to rot the carefully knotted ropes. Every part of the net had to be inspected for tears and mended to keep fish from swimming free. It was the last thing those weary, discouraged men wanted to do, but they knew they must do it.

As the fishermen worked on their nets, Jesus, followed by a crowd of people, descended upon the shore. Jesus climbed into Peter’s boat and sat down.

“Would you push the boat out from shore a little way?” he asked Peter. Peter did as Jesus asked. Then Jesus began to teach. While they continued to work on the nets, Peter and the others listened along with the crowd as Jesus spoke the word of God.

“What amazing words this teacher speaks!” they thought. “He is no ordinary teacher. He’s not at all like the other teachers we’ve heard!”

NIV Luke 5:4-11

When he had finished speaking, [Jesus] said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." [What was this Jesus was asking of them? To undo all their work on the nets by casting them out in the water again? Besides that, every fisherman knew that you fish at night, not during the day. What could this teacher know about fishing that they didn’t?! Peter doubted that much would come from Jesus’ suggestion, but something kept Peter from refusing Him.]

[Peter] answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats.
so full that they began to sink.

[Now Peter knew that there was more to Jesus than powerful words. Only someone sent from God could have the power to bring about this miraculous number of fish. Peter felt ashamed and sinful for having doubted Jesus.]...[Peter] fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, [Peter's] partners.

Then Jesus said to [Peter], "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." “Come follow me.”

What's this? Leave behind their boats, their nets, their way to make money and be His disciples? It would cost them everything to follow Jesus! But already in their hearts they had begun to love Jesus and wanted to follow Him. Yes, they would leave everything behind.] So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

That was just the beginning. For three whole years, Peter and the others followed Jesus, learning from Him and watching Him. With amazement they watched Him calm stormy seas, give sight to blind people—even raise the dead back to life. And all He did by just the command of His word! And speaking of words, oh how they loved to listen to Him speak! He spoke with authority the very words of God. What power, what wisdom, what love Peter and the others saw in Jesus!

“Jesus is no ordinary teacher, He is the Messiah, the Son of God,” Peter confessed. And the more he saw, the more he loved Jesus.

But soon it would all end. “One of you will betray me and hand me over the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will arrest me and you will all leave me. Then they will kill me. But, on the third day, I will rise,” Jesus told them as they sat together eating the Passover Feast the night before Jesus was to die.

Peter refused to believe what Jesus said. Jesus was no ordinary teacher. He was the Messiah, the Son of God and Peter loved Him so much. He would NEVER leave Jesus. This just couldn't be right! “No, Lord, I will lay down my life for you. I am ready to go with you to prison and to death. Even if all fall away on account of you, I will not.”

But Jesus knew better. Peter loved Him with his heart, but when faced with prison and death, Peter would choose to not love Him with all his heart, mind and strength. He would choose to love himself more.

“Peter, your love for me is not what you think it is. By the time the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny you even know me three times!”

Later that night, everything began to happen just as Jesus told them it would. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus very own special twelve disciples, led a throng of Temple soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was praying with the other disciples. As the soldiers stepped forward to arrest Jesus, Peter and the others forgot their love and fled to avoid being arrested, too. And by the time the rooster crowed that morning, Peter swore three times to servants of the chief priests that he had never even known
Jesus. Peter went off and wept bitterly. He had not loved Jesus like He was the Son of God, the Messiah. He had treated Him like an ordinary teacher. He had chosen to love himself and deny Jesus, just as Jesus had said he would.

Peter and the others watched in horror the next day as Jesus was crucified; but then three days later, rejoiced to see that Jesus rose from the dead, in victory over sin and death.

But even as Peter rejoiced and worshiped Jesus, something was not right. He could not forget what he had done: “I knew He was the Messiah, the Son of God. I boasted that I loved Him so much that I would die for Him; yet, I abandoned Him when He was arrested. How could my love for Jesus have been so weak?”

But Jesus wasn’t finished with Peter. He knew all about the poor love of his heart and He had plans for Peter. “Tell the disciples and Peter to go to Galilee and I will see them there,” Jesus had told the women, on the day He rose from the dead.

So that’s what they did. They went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited. One night as they waited, they decided to go fishing, like they did in the old days. It felt good to feel the nets in their hands and listen to the sound of them landing upon the water. It would be good to pull in a net full of shining, flip-flopping fish.

But strangely enough, just like that one night three years earlier, the nets came in empty, time and again. Just as the tired, discouraged men were ready to call it quits for the night, a voice called to them from the shore:

John 21:5-6, 7-18 NIV:
"Friends, haven't you any fish?"
"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

[ Immediately Peter, James and John thought back to that morning three years earlier when Jesus gave the same command and the same thing happened. “It’s the Lord!” John exclaimed.]

As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."
Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." ...Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

[After eating breakfast, Jesus pulled Peter aside. It was time to talk. Jesus said, “]"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"
"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."
Jesus said, "Feed my lambs, [that was Jesus' nickname for all the people who would soon turn to Him and trust Him as their Savior]."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"
He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep, [my people]."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"
Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" [Three times Peter had chosen to NOT love Jesus by denying he even knew Him. Now Jesus was giving him three times to tell Him that he really did love Him. Peter knew the weakness of his heart: he had left Jesus and treated Him like an ordinary teacher when He truly was the Messiah, the Son of God. But Peter knew that he did love Jesus, more than ever.] He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
[Perhaps Peter’s love for Jesus had been weak, but even so it was true love for Him. And nothing would please him more than to live the rest of his life taking care of the new believers in Jesus.]

Do you wonder what happened to Peter? Did he go on to take care of Jesus “sheep”, His new followers, or did he go on to deny Jesus again? Never again in his life did Peter treat Jesus like an ordinary teacher. Not only did Peter go on to take care of the new believers in Jesus, but by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, his love for Jesus became so strong that he loved Him with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. He was threatened and beaten and put in prison because of Jesus and this time he thanked God for the honor of suffering for the name of Jesus. And do you know how many say Peter died? He was crucified as punishment for believing in Jesus. But because he did not think he deserved to die just as Jesus did, he asked to even be crucified upside down!

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves
Our Scripture Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

What about you and me? Is it easy for us to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength? It is not! Actually, it is impossible to do on our own! There is only one way we can even begin to love God as He calls us to: by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will give us a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. And what will the Holy Spirit do? He will work powerfully in our hearts, helping us to love Him with more and more of our heart, mind, soul and strength. And oh, what a wonderful day it will be when God’s people live together with God in heaven. For then, they will
be completely changed and will truly love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength forever and ever.

Let’s praise God for sending Jesus to save sinners like us and like Peter. Let’s praise Him for promising to send the Holy Spirit into all His people’s hearts to help them to love God as He wants them to. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we might love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
1. Peter, James, John and the other fishermen were weary and discouraged from having caught no fish all night.

2. As they cleaned their nets, Jesus and a crowd came to the shore.

3. Jesus got into Peter’s boat and began to teach.

4. Peter and the others listened as they worked. They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching.

5. Jesus ask Peter to put the boat back out and let down the nets again.

6. Peter was reluctant, but obeyed. The nets filled with so many fish that the nets began to break.

7. Peter knew that this was a miracle and that Jesus must be someone sent by God. He wanted Jesus to leave him alone.

8. Jesus asked him and James and John to follow Him as disciples. They already loved Him and left everything and followed Him.

9. Peter watched Jesus heal the blind, raise the dead; he listened to Him preach over the next three years. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He loved Him more and more.

10. Jesus warns them that He is about to be arrested and put to death. One of them will betray Him, the rest will abandon Him.

11. When Peter told Jesus that he would never leave Him, Jesus told him that he would deny Him three times by rooster crow in the morning.

12. Everything happened as Jesus said: Judas I. betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, Peter denied Him, He was crucified and buried.

13. Peter and the others were overjoyed when Jesus rose from the dead, but Peter still felt awful about denying Him. They all went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited for Him, like He told them to.

14. They went fishing and did not catch any fish all night.

15. Jesus told them to put out their nets again and they caught a miraculous number of fish., just like before.

16. After a fish and bread breakfast, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him 3 times.

17. Peter said yes. Jesus told him to take care of the new believers.

18. Peter loved Jesus most the rest of his life. He took care of the new believers, was beaten and imprisoned, and then crucified upside down for His sake.
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)*
Do You Love Me?

1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
   When? About 2000 years ago
   Where? By the Sea of Galilee
   What’s It Like? Big lake, famous for teeming with thousands of fish. Many fishermen who work together, casting out large nets

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)
   Peter, James, John
   Other fishermen
   Fishing nets
   Fishing Boats
   Jesus
   Crowd of People
   Other disciples
   Blind Man
   Dead Man
   Pharisees and Sadducees
   Soldiers
   Servants of the Chief Priest
   Fire
   Fish and Bread
   Cross

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. Our story is how Peter struggled to love Jesus as he should, but how God, by the Holy Spirit, helped him to love God most of all.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)
   Peter Learns What Real Love Is

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

   **Beginning:**
   Peter, James, John and the other fishermen were weary and discouraged from having caught no fish all night. As they cleaned their nets, Jesus and a crowd came to the shore. Jesus got into Peter’s boat and began to teach. Peter and the others listened as they worked. They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. Jesus ask Peter to put the boat back out and let down the nets again. Peter was reluctant, but obeyed. The nets filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. Peter knew that this was a miracle and that Jesus must be someone sent by God. He wanted Jesus to leave him alone. Jesus asked him and James and John to follow Him as disciples. They already loved Him and left everything and followed Him.

   **Middle:**
   Peter watched Jesus heal the blind, raise the dead; he listened to Him preach over the next three years. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He loved Him more and more. Jesus warns them that He is about to be arrested and put to death. One of them will betray Him, the rest will abandon Him. When Peter told Jesus that he would never leave Him, Jesus told him that he would deny Him three times by rooster crow in the morning. Everything happened as Jesus said: Judas I. betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, Peter denied Him, He was crucified and buried. Peter and the others were overjoyed when Jesus rose from the dead, but Peter still felt awful about denying Him. They all went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited for Him, like He told them to.

   **End:**
   They went fishing and did not catch any fish all night. Jesus told them to put out their nets again and they caught a miraculous number of fish, just like before. After a fish and bread breakfast, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him 3 times. Peter said yes. Jesus told him to take care of the new believers. Peter loved Jesus most the rest of his life. He took care of the new believers, was beaten and imprisoned, and then crucified upside down for His sake.
Beginning:
Peter, James, John and the other fishermen were weary and discouraged from having caught no fish all night. As they cleaned their nets, Jesus and a crowd came to the shore. Jesus got into Peter's boat and began to teach. Peter and the others listened as they worked. They were amazed at Jesus’ teaching. Jesus ask Peter to put the boat back out and let down the nets again. Peter was reluctant, but obeyed. The nets filled with so many fish that the nets began to break. Peter knew that this was a miracle and that Jesus must be someone sent by God. He wanted Jesus to leave him alone. Jesus asked him and James and John to follow Him as disciples. They already loved Him and left everything and followed Him.

Middle:
Peter watched Jesus heal the blind, raise the dead; he listened to Him preach over the next three years. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He loved Him more and more. Jesus warns them that He is about to be arrested and put to death. One of them will betray Him, the rest will abandon Him. When Peter told Jesus that he would never leave Him, Jesus told him that he would deny Him three times by rooster crow in the morning. Everything happened as Jesus said: Judas I. betrayed Him, soldiers arrested Him, Peter denied Him, He was crucified and buried. Peter and the others were overjoyed when Jesus rose from the dead, but Peter still felt awful about denying Him. They all went back up to the Sea of Galilee and waited for Him, like He told them to.

End:
They went fishing and did not catch any fish all night. Jesus told them to put out their nets again and they caught a miraculous number of fish., just like before. After a fish and bread breakfast, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him 3 times. Peter said yes. Jesus told him to take care of the new believers. Peter loved Jesus most the rest of his life. He took care of the new believers, was beaten and imprisoned, and then crucified upside down for His sake.
1. What had happened to Peter, James, John and the other fishermen, the night before they met Jesus? They had been fishing all night and had caught nothing.

2. What did Jesus ask Peter to do for him so He could speak to the crowds? Let Him sit in the boat and push it out a little bit from the shore.

3. Why did Peter hesitate to let down the nets again? Because they were tired and it took a long time to clean the nets. If they put the nets down again, they would have to clean them again. Peter thought it very unlikely that they would catch anything since they hadn’t had any success all night.

4. What did Peter know about Jesus and think about himself after the huge catch of fish (the first time? That Jesus must be someone special sent by God; and, that Peter was a sinful man. He wanted Jesus to have nothing to do with him because of his sinfulness.

5. Why did Peter, James, & John decide to follow Jesus and leave behind their way to make money? God was already working in their hearts, helping them believe in Jesus and love Him. They wanted to know more about God and were glad to leave behind everything to answer Jesus’ invitation to follow Him.

6. What did Peter, James and John come to understand about Jesus as they followed Him as disciples? That He was the Messiah.

7. How did they feel about Him? He was the Messiah, the Son of God. They loved Him.

8. What things did Jesus do that helped them see that He was the Messiah? He did miracles, such as calm stormy seas and heal people, even raise the dead. He taught powerfully the Word of God.

9. What did Peter promise Jesus he would do when Jesus was betrayed and arrested? That he would die with Him.

10. What did Jesus tell Peter that he would really do? He would betray him.

11. What did Peter learn about his love for Jesus when he denied Him three times? It was not as strong and faithful as he thought it was. He thought more of himself than of Jesus.

12. Even after Jesus rose from the dead, not everything was right with Peter. Why? He was thinking about how he denied Jesus, after he had boasted that he loved Him so much.

13. What did Jesus ask Peter three times? What did He ask Peter to do? If Peter loved Him. For Peter to “feed His sheep”: take care of God’s people and help them grow to love and obey God.

14. Who are the “sheep” Jesus was talking about? God’s people.

15. What was different about Peter’s love for Jesus after Jesus rose from the dead? Peter did not betray Jesus or run from danger. He had seen Jesus raised from the dead. He knew Jesus had won the victory over sin and death. The Holy Spirit working in Peter’s heart made him strong.

16. What did Peter do that showed he loved Jesus with all of his heart, mind, soul and strength? He took care of God’s people. He was willing to suffer, even die for the sake of Jesus.

17. Why did Peter not want to be crucified the regular way? Because he did not feel he should have the honor of dying in the same position as Jesus did.

18. Who helped Peter love Jesus with all his heart, mind, soul and strength? The Holy Spirit working in his heart.

**Life Application Question**

1. How can Peter’s life be an encouragement to God’s people? The Lord loved him and forgave him for his weak love. He sent the Holy Spirit to work in his heart to make his love stronger. Many times God’s people’s love for Jesus is not what it should be. He will forgive them and send the Holy Spirit to help them too, if they ask Him.

2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Peter struggled to love Jesus as he should, but God, by the Holy Spirit, helped him to love God most of all.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
Peter struggled to love the LORD with all his heart, soul and strength when Jesus was being arrested and was sentenced to death on the cross. He wanted to love the LORD this way, but he feared punishment and death. But after Jesus rose from the dead, He forgave Peter. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to give him and the other believers power to love and obey the LORD as He wanted them to. The Holy Spirit did come. He gave Peter even greater love for God. He gave him courage to even die for the sake of Jesus.

The Gospel
What is the good news of Jesus that Peter gave his life to tell others?! 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 so worthy of all our love.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like Peter, we are tempted to avoid doing hard things for God, instead of loving Him as we should. 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 would even forgive His people when they choose to avoid doing hard things for Him. We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside His people, giving them greater love for Him and courage to do hard things for Him.
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 into our hearts, giving us love for Him and helping us to do even very hard things for Him.

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**
- Flashlight
- Paper and Marker
- 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.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into 2 teams. Have them sit in a close circle, alternating Team A and Team B players. Have the children sit in a circle. Put the light in the middle of the circle. Spin the light. Whoever the light points to, answers the question. If it points to a Team A player and he gets it right on his own, it is worth 2 points for his team. If he needs help from another team member, then it is worth 1 point. The question goes to the Team B player on his right for a possible 1 point if the Team A player fails to answer correctly.

Game continues until all children get to toss the Frisbee, 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 Love Him with All of Themselves

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people! In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Understanding the Big Idea

1. How did God show how much He loved His people? He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins.
2. Why did God love His people this way? Not because they deserved it. They were all sinners. He did it because He loved them and to bring glory to His name (so we could see and delight in who God is.)
3. Why did God’s people need Jesus to be sacrificed for their sins? Because they were sinners and could never pay for their sins themselves. Only the sacrifice of a perfect life, like what Jesus lived, could be the payment for sins.
4. Why does God’s gift of His Son for them cause God’s people to want to love Him in response with all their heart, mind, soul and strength? They are grateful that He would be so merciful to them and be willing to make such a huge sacrifice for them. They know His love is the most wonderful thing of all. They want to love Him completely because this is the best way to live.
5. Why is there nothing that will ever be enough to show God how much God’s people love Him? Because His gift to them is so wonderful, so huge.
6. Will God’s people ever be able to love Him with all of themselves here on earth? Why not? No. Because they are still sinners.
7. Who helps God’s people love God more? The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
8. Where will God’s people finally love God with all of themselves? In heaven.

Life Application Questions

1. What can God’s people do today that shows their grateful love to God for what He has done through Jesus? They can seek to obey Him and love Him in everything they do. (Add specific examples)
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

How did Peter’s love change after Jesus talked with him by the Sea of Galilee, after He rose from the dead? He knew that Jesus had died for his sins, even the sin of denying Him. He was grateful that Jesus would forgive him and give him work for Him. He loved Jesus enough to even suffer and die for Him.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength. That is loving Him with all of themselves.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
*Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
*Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
*Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.*
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 help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day*

Gospel Question
We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? 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.
HELP THE BLIND MAN

Big Idea Game

Materials
Blindfold
Cane
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions
Bag/Bowl

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
Children form a circle, with “It”, a blind man, in the center. The circle moves slowly to the left or to the right at the Blind Man’s command. Then, the Blind Man says, “Halt!” Everyone in the circle stands still. The Blind Man then begins walking out towards the circle of children, GENTLY touching his cane out until he touches someone. When he does, the blind man gets to choose a question from the bag for the teacher to read to the class. When they get a correct answer, the blind man gives up his blindfold to the other child who becomes the blind man, while the former blind man joins the circle.

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. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God 
called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His 
special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, 
Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved 
through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name “LORD” written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, 
Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write 
“LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New 
Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship 
the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, 
no matter what.
11. How did Peter show he loved the LORD this way after Jesus rose from the dead? He obeyed Jesus’ 
command for him to take care of God’s people and teach them about God. He was willing even to give up his 
life in order to tell others the good news of Jesus.
12. How did Peter have the strength to love God like he did? The Holy Spirit working in his heart gave him 
more and more love for God and courage to obey God.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love 
Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Peter struggled to love the LORD with all his heart, soul and 
strength when Jesus was being arrested and was sentenced to death on the cross. He wanted to love the LORD 
this way, but he feared punishment and death. But after Jesus rose from the dead, He forgave Peter. He 
promised to send the Holy Spirit to give him and the other believers power to love and obey the LORD as He 
wanted them to. The Holy Spirit did come. He gave Peter even greater love for God. He gave him courage to 
even die for the sake of Jesus.
Scripture Discussion Questions

Life Application
1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? God’s Holy Spirit.
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being worthy of all our love.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.
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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.

Gospel Question
Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!

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
A very long rope or jump robe

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 form a line. Have two people be the Rope turners for the jump rope. While the entire group recited the verse, have the children take turns trying to jump through the whole verse without stopping. For children adept at jumping rope, you can even have them try running in and jumping, jumping with a partner, etc. or other variations the children come up with.

Game continues until all children get to jump, 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.
Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The LORD our God,
The LORD is one,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your heart,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your soul,
Love the LORD our God,
with all your strength.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name “LORD” written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write “LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, no matter what.
11. How did Peter show he loved the LORD this way after Jesus rose from the dead? He obeyed Jesus’ command for him to take care of God’s people and teach them about God. He was willing even to give up his life in order to tell others the good news of Jesus.
12. How did Peter have the strength to love God like he did? The Holy Spirit working in his heart gave him more and more love for God and courage to obey God.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.
Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Peter struggled to love the LORD with all his heart, soul and strength when Jesus was being arrested and was sentenced to death on the cross. He wanted to love the LORD this way, but he feared punishment and death. But after Jesus rose from the dead, He forgave Peter. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to give him and the other believers power to love and obey the LORD as He wanted them to. The Holy Spirit did come. He gave Peter even greater love for God. He gave him courage to even die for the sake of Jesus.

Life Application
1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? God’s Holy Spirit.
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being worthy of all our love.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.
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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.

Gospel Question
Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
**PASS THE SECRET SIGN**

**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
Blindfold

**Preparing the Game**
Put the sign language in the bag/bowl and mix up.

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

Verse 4
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Understanding the Song
1. What does “realm of nature” mean? All of the nature, the whole world.
2. What is “a present far too small”? All of nature, the whole world.
3. Who is this too small of a present for? The Lord.
4. Why is the whole world too small of a present for the Lord? Because of God’s amazing love shown to His people through Jesus.
5. What does divine mean? Something that God is or does.
6. What is so amazing and so divine about God’s love? It is amazing that He would choose to give up His own Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for the sins of His sinful, rebellious, undeserving people. It is divine love because only Jesus, the Son of God, could offer that kind of sacrifice for sins; and because only God is truly good enough to even think about doing such a thing for sinful people.
7. What does this amazing, divine love demand (deserve) that is even better than all of nature as a present? To love God with your “soul, life and all.”

Life Application Question
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for sending His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for their sins. They can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to help them love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. They can remember each day to ask themselves: “How can I live to show love to God today?”
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves? When God’s people think about what Jesus did for them on the cross, they want to respond back with grateful, loving lives that love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Peter’s love for Jesus was not strong enough to be willing to go to prison and die with Him before Jesus died on the cross; but, after Jesus rose from the dead, he became someone who responded with so much love that he was even willing to suffer and die for Him.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, soul and strength. God’s people want to do this. Not just because they know that the LORD is God, but also because they think about how God sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save them and make them His people. They want to love God with all of themselves because of all He has done for them!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   Praise God for being worthy of giving us giving our whole lives, our “all” for Him.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   That many times we don’t marvel at how great God’s love is. We don’t think much about how Jesus suffered and died, taking God’s people’s punishment, so that they could be saved. We do not want to give Him our “all”, but only what we think will be good for us or easy for us to give. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   We can thank God His glorious love that would send Jesus to save His people by suffering and dying on the cross.
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 help us to come to Him and be forgiven. We can ask Him to help us wonder at His glorious love shown through Jesus. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to give our whole lives, our “all” for Him.

Gospel Question
God’s people marvel at God’s love shown to them through Jesus? What is this amazing good news of God’s love? 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.
PASS THE SECRET SIGN

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
Blindfold

Preparing the Game
Put the sign language in the bag/bowl and mix up.

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

## Upside Down on a Cross

### 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
Upside Down on a Cross

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

**Where?** At the end of his life,

**Who?** Peter

**Did What?** Chose to die

**With the Big Idea Object?** Upside down on a cross

**Why?** Because he didn’t think he deserved the honor of dying the same way as Jesus did.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter spent his whole life seeking to love God with all of himself, no matter what the cost. He even was willing to die upside down on a cross rather than denying that Jesus was the Son of God, he loved God so much.

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

God’s Holy Spirit works powerfully inside His people, helping them to love God with all of themselves, even when it is very, very hard. He can work in us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.
Upside Down on a Cross

Description
The children will make an upside down cross out of wire and nails.

Materials
Thin wire, about 2 feet per child
2 3.5” Masonry nails per child
2 2.5” Masonry nails per child
(preferably get the “Cut” kind of masonry nails with the blunt end rather than the “Fluted” kind with the sharp end)
Wire cutters or scissors

Preparing the Craft
1. Cut five pieces of 6” wire for each child with the wire cutters or scissors.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Place the two 3.5” nails next to each other with one end sticking up and one end sticking down. Wind one piece of the wire around the middle of the nails until the nails are secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
3. Place the two 2.5” nails next to each other with one end sticking up and one end sticking down. Wind one piece of the wire around the middle of the nails until the nails are secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
4. Lay the bundle of 2.5” nails on top of the bundle of 3.5” nails, in a cross fashion (perpendicular and with the bundle a bit closer to one end of the 3.5” bundle than the other end).
5. Secure the two bundles together by wrapping a piece of wire in an X fashion around the middle of the two bundles (top left and right bottom, then top right and left bottom). Wrap until secure and the wire is completely wound around the nails.
6. Take the last two pieces of wire and bend each in the middle. Then, wrap the end pieces together around the end of each of the 3.5” nails so that a loop is formed on each end.
7. Have the children hold up the cross the normal way and say, “This is the way Jesus died on the cross.” Then turn the cross upside and hold by the other loop and say, “But this is the way Peter died, because he did not think he deserved the honor of dying in exact same way as Jesus.”
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 Love Him with All of Themselves.

God's People Love Him with All of Themselves

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him.

In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus.

We thought about Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

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 completely worthy of all our love.

C - Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

T - Thank God for all showing how great His love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and live for Him.

S - Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

Yours Sincerely,
VIPP Game

**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one of VIPPS.
8 Letter sized Envelopes or folders
8 Category Pictures from the Guess Who Box Game (e.g., “What do I do for fun? What’s my favorite animal?” etc), excluding the picture of the person and their name. These are all found at the end of the listing of VIPP games in this Appendix.
Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

**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 one of the nine pictures in each of the envelopes.

Tape each to wall.

**Playing the Game**

*Reveal, then Review Version:*

**Reveal:** Tell them about the VIPP you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet.

**Review:** Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. When an envelope is hit, open it up, revealing the category. See if the child/the children can recall the right answer to the question.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*

**Get Clues:** Have the children take turns trying to hit an envelope with the ball. When an envelope is hit, open it up, revealing the category and show them the corresponding VIPP clue.

**Guess:** When the clues are all chosen, have the children guess who is the VIPP. Show them the picture and name. Read them the VIPP information blurb.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</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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<td></td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children arrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<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

**Activity**
**Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities**

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**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:

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**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)

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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.
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

**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 6 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 6 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 William Loved Most of All, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)

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

- Animal Cracker “Animals” with a Celery stalk tree
- Or Simple Indian food such as Afghan or pita bread (like naan bread) with chutney (or mangoes) and rice with a little curry added for flavor

ACTS Prayer

A: Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
C: Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T: Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.
S: Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

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: Stepping Stones

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: Squirrel and Nut

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: William Uses All His Gifts to Tell Others about Jesus

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: Bean Bag Toss In

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: Protectors

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: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Mimic Me!
(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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Verse 4

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Mimic Me!
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
Week 2 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 62 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 62 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 William Loved Most of All, pp. 39-41*
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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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

Animal Cracker “Animals” with a Celery stalk tree Or Simple Indian food such as Afghan or pita bread (like naan bread) with chutney (or mangoes) and rice with a little curry added for flavor

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.

C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.

S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.
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 groups; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, 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

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)

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

Resources:
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter
- VIPP Clue Cards
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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Activities:
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Mimic Me!

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
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

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**
What William Loved Most of All
by Connie Dever

Our story is not from Bible times or Bible places. It starts out about 230 years ago just outside of a poor little cottage in the tiny village of Paulers Pury, England. Paulers Pury was in a beautiful part of England, with lush green hills, forests and fields filled with everything a young boy might like to discover—trees, animals, birds, and bugs of all sorts. At least that is certainly what one young boy named William Carey thought.

William was a very smart and very eager young boy; and, when he loved something, he loved it with all of his heart, mind, soul, and strength. And what was it that this little boy loved most of all? Nature! William spent as much time as he could exploring the outdoors. He learned all about the plants in the fields and forests. He scrambled into every hole, looking for wild animals. He trapped every creepy crawly insect he could find; and, he crept up trees after birds. But it wasn’t enough for William to just find things. He brought them back to his room—alive! He watched them, drew pictures of them, and wrote down what he learned about them.

Like I said before, when William loved something, he loved it with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. And when he set his mind to do something, he was determined to do it. One time there was a bird’s nest high up a massive chestnut tree that William really wanted. Two times William tried to shimmy his way up that tree and grab the bird’s nest; but, each time he lost his balance and fell before he could get it. Each time he tumbled all the way back to the ground. One more time William climbed the tree, he fell out of the tree again, but this time he broke his leg when he fell.

“Oh off to bed with you!” his mother told him. And there William had to stay for a long time with his bandaged leg.

But even in bed with his leg causing him much pain, all he could think about was how he could get back up that tree to get the bird’s nest.

“I've just got to get that nest!” William thought. So he went back out to that tree, and with broken leg and all, climbed up it—this time getting the nest!

“William, you don’t mean to tell me that you climbed that tree again!” exclaimed his mother, when she saw him with the nest.

“But mother I just had to get it. When I begin a thing I must go through with it!”

William didn’t only know a lot about nature. God had made William good at just about everything he did. He was best at school and he was amazing with learning foreign languages. One day when he decided he wanted to learn French, he bought a book written in French and by studying it for just 3 weeks, he learned the whole thing. Not only that but he was good at sports and he had lots of friends. When he was seventeen and began to learn how to be a cobbler—a man who makes shoes by hand—it even turned out that he was best at making shoes. The cobbler he worked for even kept a pair of shoes
William made to show everyone just how a perfect pair of shoes should look.

But there really was something that William could not do well at all. It was to know and love the Lord with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength. He never really heard the good news of Jesus growing up. And he was very proud of how good he was at so many things, that he was full of love for himself. He did not want to love God.

But God in His great mercy had other plans for William and that heart of his. Another young man by the name of John Warr, who knew and loved the Lord, came to learn to be a cobbler, too. This young man shared with William about the sinfulness of every person’s heart and their need to confess their sins to God. They must turn and trust in Jesus for forgiveness so that they might be saved.

At first William’s proud heart refused to believe, but the Lord began to work in it and gave him a humble heart that confessed his sinful pride and turned to trust in Jesus. William’s heart that had been filled with love of nature and love of himself, now became filled with love for God.

How did William love God? He loved God the same way he had loved those other things, and even more: with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. “What can I do to know and love God better?” William thought as he worked on shoes. “I can learn the whole Bible; I can even learn to read it in Hebrew and Greek, the languages that it was first written in. That's what I will do!”

And so he did. William used that smart mind that God had given him to study long hours and learned all he could about the Bible and how to read Hebrew and Greek. What he learned, he shared with customers and with his cobbler boss, so that they, too, could know and love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

“It is not enough to just be a cobbler,” William began to think, What more can I do to help others love God? “I want to be a preacher so I can tell people every week about how to know and love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.” So William became a preacher; and, just as he hoped, many began to come to his little church and their lives were changed as they heard the word of God.

But even being a preacher in England William was not satisfied. “It’s not enough to just preach to people here in England. There are millions of people in other parts of the world who live and die without ever hearing about Jesus. They need to know and love Him with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, too. What can I do to help them know God and love Him? Jesus told us to go into all the world and tell them about Him. Isn’t that command for me, too?” William thought.

William gathered a group of men and women to pray and think about how to reach all those other peoples who didn’t know about Jesus, especially the people in India.

“We want you, your family and your friend Dr. Thomas to go to India, William” the people told him. “We will support you here by praying for you and sending money to you.”

After a long, hard five month long journey on stormy seas, William, his family and Dr. Thomas made it to Calcutta, India. As they unboarded the ship and began to explore Calcutta, they were stunned at what they saw. Many people were starving from not having enough food. Everywhere they looked three were
shrines covered with flowers and food to idol after idol. Men lay on beds of nails, walked on fiery hot coals, and gazed at the sun until they lost their sight. Some even threw their babies into the Ganges River as sacrifices, hoping that all these things would please their idols. They were shocked to see women burned alive with their dead husbands because they believed the wife should go to serve her husband in the next world. Worst of all, there was no one who knew and loved Jesus or any Bible in their languages so that they could hear about Him. Most people didn’t even know how to read, so they would not be able to read a Bible even if they did have one.

“This is horrible! Something must be done! What can I do to help them to live better lives so they will not die but have a chance to know and love God?” William and the others thought. William loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength. He would use everything God had given him to help these poor people and reach them with the good news of Jesus, so that they might know and love Him, too.

William used all that he learned about nature to teach them to grow better crops. He built a paper factory to make paper, and a printing company to print books—especially Bibles. He used all his mind to learn 40 different languages of India and write the Bible so that people could read it in their own language. Before he died more than 200,000 Bible had been printed and given out to the people. He built schools so that the people could learn how to read and be able to read the Bible on their own. He helped set up the first trains in India so that people could travel all over India and tell others about Jesus more easily. He even helped pass laws to stop the sacrifices of babies and the burning of women with their dead husbands.

William Carey loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength and shared that love with the people of India for 41 years. Because of him, many, many people came to hear about this wonderful God of William’s and turned to know and love Him, themselves.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves
Our Scripture Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

William Carey used everything he was to love God. He understood what an incredible gift God gave His people by giving up His Son as the sacrifice to pay for their sins. He wanted to use his whole life to love the Lord and say thank you for what He had done.

William Carey is most famous for saying, “Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” That means, have faith in our powerful God to do mighty things and show your love for God by trying to do great things for Him.

What about you and me? What can we do to know and love God more? What can we do to help others know and love God more? Perhaps we are not as smart or able to do so many things as William Carey could do. But if we think each day about loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength like
William Carey did, the Lord will use us to do the great things He has planned for us to do. Let’s praise this great God who is worthy of all our love. Let’s ask Him to help us love Him and even attempt great things for Him.
1. William Carey loved nature more than anything else. He trapped wild animals, insects and birds and kept them up in his room to observe.

2. One day William climbed a tree three times to get a bird’s nest and broke his leg.

3. Even with a broken leg, he climbed up the tree again and got the nest.

4. William was very smart and everybody like him. He was even a good cobbler.

5. But William was proud. He did not love the Lord.

6. John Warr, another boy learning to be a cobbler, told William about Jesus; and after God humbled his heart, William believed.

7. William studied the Bible and even learned Hebrew and Greek so he could learn how to know and love God more.

8. He decided to become a pastor so he could help others know and love God more.

9. When he heard about all the people in other countries who did not know and love the Lord, he formed a group of people to make a plan to help them.

10. They sent William, his family, and Mr. Thomas to India and prayed and sent them money.

11. William and the others were horrified at the poor way of life and the idol worship of the Indians. They were shocked people tortured themselves, threw babies in the Ganges, and burned widows with their dead husbands. Almost no one knew anything about Jesus.

12. He built a paper factory, a printing factory, schools; brought trains; taught them how to read and how to grow better crops; and helped make laws to stop the burning of widows. He gave many people Bibles and told them how to know and love God.
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)*
2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

William Carey
Forests, Fields, Hills
Birds, Animals, Bugs
William’s mother
William’s room
The tree and the bird’s nest
Bandages
Friends, Schoolbooks
Cobbler
Shoes
John Warr
Bible
Church and Congregation
Missionary Men and Women
Dr. Thomas
Carey’s family
Indians
Idols
Steam Engine
Printing Factory & Books
Schools

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

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. When William became a Christian, he loved Jesus with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength and did everything he could to tell others about Him.

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

William Loves God by Loving India

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

Beginning:
William Carey loved nature more than anything else. He trapped wild animals, insects and birds and kept them up in his room to observe. One day William climbed a tree three times to get a bird’s next and broke his leg. Even with a broken leg, he climbed up the tree again and got the nest. William was very smart and everybody like him. He was even a good cobbler.

Middle:
But William was proud. He did not love the Lord John Warr, another boy learning to be a cobbler, told William about Jesus; and after God humbled his heart, William believed. William studied the Bible and even learned Hebrew and Greek so he could learn how to know and love God more. He decided to become a pastor so he could help others know and love God more. When he heard about all the people in other countries who did not know and love the Lord, he formed a group of people to make a plan to help them.

End:
They sent William, his family, and Mr. Thomas to India and prayed and sent them money. William and the others were horrified at the poor way of life and the idol worship of the Indians. They were shocked people tortured themselves, threw babies in the Ganges, and burned widows with their dead husbands. Almost no one knew anything about Jesus. He built a paper factory, a printing factory, schools; brought trains; taught them how to read and how to grow better crops; and helped make laws to stop the burning of widows. He gave many people Bibles and told them how to know and love God.
**Beginning:**
William Carey loved nature more than anything else. He trapped wild animals, insects and birds and kept them up in his room to observe. One day William climbed a tree three times to get a bird’s nest and broke his leg. Even with a broken leg, he climbed up the tree again and got the nest. William was very smart and everybody like him. He was even a good cobbler.

**Middle:**
But William was proud. He did not love the Lord John Warr, another boy learning to be a cobbler, told William about Jesus; and after God humbled his heart, William believed. William studied the Bible and even learned Hebrew and Greek so he could learn how to know and love God more. He decided to become a pastor so he could help others know and love God more. When he heard about all the people in other countries who did not know and love the Lord, he formed a group of people to make a plan to help them.

**End:**
They sent William, his family, and Dr. Thomas to India and prayed and sent them money. William and the others were horrified at the poor way of life and the idol worship of the Indians. They were shocked people tortured themselves, threw babies in the Ganges, and burned widows with their dead husbands. Almost no one knew anything about Jesus. He built a paper factory, a printing factory, schools; brought trains; taught them how to read and how to grow better crops; and helped make laws to stop the burning of widows. He gave many people Bibles and told them how to know and love God.
1. What did William love most of all as a boy? Nature.
2. Why did William climb the tree with a broken leg? He wanted the bird’s nest in the tree.
3. What was William good at? Just about everything, especially school.
4. Why was William proud? Because he was so good and so many things.
5. Who did William not love as a boy? The Lord.
6. What did the Lord do in William’s heart so he could believe about Jesus? Lord began to work in it and gave him a humble heart that confessed his sinful pride and turned to trust in Jesus.
7. What did William do first when he became a Christian?
8. What languages did William learn and why? 40 different languages including Hebrew and Greek so that he could translate the Bible into the peoples’ own language.
9. Why did William stop being a cobbler? He wanted to spend all his time doing more things to tell others about Jesus.
10. Why did William stop being a pastor? Because he wanted to tell people in others parts of the world about Jesus.
11. What did William and the others see in India that horrified them? So much poverty; all the idols and suffering: babies thrown into the Ganges as sacrifices; the peoples did not know the good news of Jesus and did not have Bibles in their own languages.
12. What did William want to do to help the Indian’s poor way of life? Why was that important if they were to hear the good news of Jesus? If they died, they would not have a chance to hear and they would die in their sins.
13. What factories did William build because he wanted the Indians to know about Jesus? Paper making factory and printing factory.
14. How did William show that He loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength? He used all of the gifts God had given him to do the most he could to tell others about Jesus.
15. What gifts did William have even as a boy that he used to love God (and others)? His knowledge of nature; his ability to learn languages;

Big Idea Connections
What did William do to love God with all of Himself? William used all that he learned about nature to teach them to grow better crops. He built a paper factory to make paper, and a printing company to print books—especially Bibles. He used all his mind to learn 40 different languages of India and write the Bible so that people could read it in their own language. Before he died more than 200,000 Bible had been printed and given out to the people. He built schools so that the people could learn how to read and be able to read the Bible on their own. He helped set up the first trains in India so that people could travel all over India and tell others about Jesus more easily. He even helped pass laws to stop the sacrifices of babies and the burning of women with their dead husbands. William Carey loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength and shared that love with the people of India for 41 years. Because of him, many, many people came to hear about this wonderful God of William’s and turned to know and love Him, themselves.
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

*William sought to love God with all his heart, soul and strength. He gave his whole life to telling others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved and come to love Him with all of themselves, too.*

**Life Application**
1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? Yes!
2. What can God’s people do today to tell the people of the world about Jesus? They can pray for them, give them money to send others to far away places, they can tell people about Jesus right here where they live, and they can go themselves to other places in the world to share the gospel.
3. How can we become God’s people? **By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.**

**The Gospel**
What was the good news of Jesus that William Carey gave his life to tell? 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! Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people!**

**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 His people’s hearts so that they are filled with love for Him and want to give their whole lives to serve Him, even in very hard places.**
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? **Confess that even though we have heard the good news of Jesus, we often do seek to love God with all of ourselves like William Carey did.**
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? **We can thank God for His Holy Spirit that He puts in His people’s hearts to give them love for Him.**
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 fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit, that we might love Him with all of oursevles.**

**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.
Stepping Stones
Story Review Game

Materials
10 Carpet Squares or Different Colored Construction Paper
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Small paper bag or basket
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions
Optional: Cassette /CD player and music, Game “Pennies” to differentiate the teams

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.

Tape numbers on the carpet squares or make “squares” out of construction paper. Place the squares in random order on the floor, not more than 2 feet apart. (so that they can jump from stone to stone: see diagram) Write the numbers 1-10 on separate, small pieces of paper and place in bag/basket.

Playing the Game
 Divide the children into 2 teams. Tell the children that the players from both Team A and Team B are to jump from “stone to stone” until you call time (You could also play the music and they freeze when the music stops.) At that point, everyone is to freeze on their stepping stone. The leader then draws a number out of the bag/basket and then asks a Story Review question to the child/children on that stone. If he/they answer it correctly, he/they each win 2 points for their team. Play then resumes again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end 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.
Big Idea Concept: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people! In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Understanding the Big Idea

1. How did God show how much He loved His people? He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins.
2. Why did God love His people this way? Not because they deserved it. They were all sinners. He did it because He loved them and to bring glory to His name (so we could see and delight in who God is.)
3. Why did God’s people need Jesus to be sacrificed for their sins? Because they were sinners and could never pay for their sins themselves. Only the sacrifice of a perfect life, like what Jesus lived, could be the payment for sins.
4. Why does God’s gift of His Son for them cause God’s people to want to love Him in response with all their heart, mind, soul and strength? They are grateful that He would be so merciful to them and be willing to make such a huge sacrifice for them. They know His love is the most wonderful thing of all. They want to love Him completely because this is the best way to live.
5. Why is there nothing that will ever be enough to show God how much God’s people love Him? Because His gift to them is so wonderful, so huge.
6. Will God’s people ever be able to love Him with all of themselves here on earth? Why not? No. Because they are still sinners.
7. Who helps God’s people love God more? The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
8. Where will God’s people finally love God with all of themselves? In heaven.

Life Application Questions

1. What can God’s people do today that shows their grateful love to God for what He has done through Jesus? They can seek to obey Him and love Him in everything they do. (Add specific examples)
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

How did William Carey respond with his life, to all that God had done for him in Christ? He studied the Bible hard, even learned Greek & Hebrew. He became a pastor to tell others about Jesus; he went to India and did all sorts of things to help the Indian know and love God. He loved God so much, that nothing was too much to do for Him.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength. That is loving Him with all of themselves.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.
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 help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

Gospel Question
We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? 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.
Squirrel and Nut

Big Idea Game

Materials
Marble
Chairs
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
Have children seated in chairs in a circle, with their heads down and their eyes closed. “It” is in the middle and is holding the marble. He walks around quietly and chooses someone’s lap to drop the marble into. The person who receives the marble jumps up and chases “It” around the circle and tries to tag “It” before “It” gets to the chair and sits down. Either the tagged old “It” or the new “It” gets to choose a question from the bag for the class to answer. Play continues after the question is answered.

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.
Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“...if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name ‘LORD’ written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write “LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, no matter what.
11. How did Peter show he loved the LORD this way after Jesus rose from the dead? He obeyed Jesus’ command for him to take care of God’s people and teach them about God. He was willing even to give up his life in order to tell others the good news of Jesus.
12. How did Peter have the strength to love God like he did? The Holy Spirit working in his heart gave him more and more love for God and courage to obey God.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? William sought to love God with all his heart, soul and strength. He gave his whole life to telling others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved and come to love Him with all of themselves, too.
Life Application
1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? God’s Holy Spirit.
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being worthy of all our love.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.
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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.

Gospel Question
Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!

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
One paper cup for each student
Masking tape
2 or more foam or other soft-surfaced balls

Preparing the Game
Use the masking tape to divide the playing area across the middle.

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
Divide the children into two teams. Give each team member a cup and tell them to spread out over their team’s playing area. Each child is to place their cup (in an upright position) about 1/5 feet behind them, so that they are guarding it from the other team. Give a ball to someone on Team A. Play will begin as the player from Team A with the ball rolls the ball across the dividing line, trying to knock down Team B’s cups. Team B students attempt to protect their cup from being hit by blocking the ball with their hands or feet. The number of cups knocked down by Team A are counted and Team A can say the verse for as many points as cups knocked down. All of Team B’s cups are then put back in place. Which ever person on Team B caught the ball or is closest to it (or you designate) will then roll the ball back across the line and try to knock down Team A’s cups. etc. If no cups are knocked down on a particular turn, then play resumes with the other team rolling the ball.

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.
Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The LORD our God,
The LORD is one,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your heart,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your soul,
Love the LORD our God,
with all your strength.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name “LORD” written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write “LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, no matter what.
11. How did Peter show he loved the LORD this way after Jesus rose from the dead? He obeyed Jesus’ command for him to take care of God’s people and teach them about God. He was willing even to give up his life in order to tell others the good news of Jesus.
12. How did Peter have the strength to love God like he did? The Holy Spirit working in his heart gave him more and more love for God and courage to obey God.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.
Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? William sought to love God with all his heart, soul and strength. He gave his whole life to telling others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved and come to love Him with all of themselves, too.

Life Application
1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? God’s Holy Spirit.
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being worthy of all our love.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.
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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.

Gospel Question
Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
Materials
None

Preparing the Game
None.

Playing the Game
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc. Sing the song while doing the chosen action. Select another child to be the leader.

If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word “grace”, but clap your hands when you sing the word “Jesus”. Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4

Verse 4
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Understanding the Song
1. What does “realm of nature” mean? All of the nature, the whole world.
2. What is “a present far too small”? All of nature, the whole world.
3. Who is this too small of a present for? The Lord.
4. Why is the whole world too small of a present for the Lord? Because of God’s amazing love shown to His people through Jesus.
5. What does divine mean? Something that God is or does.
6. What is so amazing and so divine about God’s love? It is amazing that He would choose to give up His own Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for the sins of His sinful, rebellious, undeserving people. It is divine love because only Jesus, the Son of God, could offer that kind of sacrifice for sins; and because only God is truly good enough to even think about doing such a thing for sinful people.
7. What does this amazing, divine love demand (deserve) that is even better than all of nature as a present? To love God with your “soul, life and all.”

Life Application Question
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for sending His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for their sins. They can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to help them love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. They can remember each day to ask themselves: “How can I live to show love to God today?”
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves? When God’s people think about what Jesus did for them on the cross, they want to respond back with grateful, loving lives that love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? When William Carey became a Christian, God gave him such a strong desire to love Him with all his heart, mind, soul and strength that he studied the Bible many hours, told other people about Jesus, became a pastor, and even went overseas to India to tell the Indians about Jesus. He did many, many different things for the Indian people so that they could live better lives and have a chance to read and hear, know and love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, soul and strength. God’s people want to do this. Not just because they know that the LORD is God, but also because they think about how God sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save them and make them His people. They want to love God with all of themselves because of all He has done for them!

**ACTS Questions**
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   *Praise God for being worthy of giving us giving our whole lives, our “all” for Him.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   *That many times we don’t marvel at how great God’s love is. We don’t think much about how Jesus suffered and died, taking God’s people’s punishment, so that they could be saved. We do not want to give Him our “all”, but only what we think will be good for us or easy for us to give. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   *We can thank God His glorious love that would send Jesus to save His people by suffering and dying on the cross.*
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 help us to come to Him and be forgiven. We can ask Him to help us wonder at His glorious love shown through Jesus. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to give our whole lives, our “all” for Him.*

**Gospel Question**
God’s people marvel at God’s love shown to them through Jesus? What is this amazing good news of God’s love? 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!*
**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

**Playing the Game**
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc. Sing the song while doing the chosen action. Select another child to be the leader.

If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word “grace”, but clap your hands when you sing the word “Jesus”. Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.
William Uses All His Gifts to Tell Others about Jesus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)</th>
<th>3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Uses All His Gifts to Tell Others about Jesus</td>
<td>Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. God gave William many good gifts. William tried to love God with all of himself. That meant using all those things he was good at to serve God. That’s just what William did, and many people did come to know God and were saved by Him because of what William did.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)</th>
<th>4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where? As a boy in England</td>
<td>God wants all of His people to love Him by using the good gifts He gives them to serve Him and help other people to know Him and be saved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who? William</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did What? Was good at many things. When he became a Christian, William sought to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object? Use all his gifts to tell others about Jesus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why? Because he wanted to them to know God and be saved by Him, too.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William Uses All His Gifts to Tell Others about Jesus

**Description**
The children will make a display with opening picture flaps of gifts God gave William as a boy and how he used them to love God.

**Materials**
- 2 pieces of cardstock per child
- Template of pictures and the window frame
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencils, etc
- Glue Sticks

**Preparing the Craft**
1. Print out each template onto a piece of cardstock, one per craft.
2. Cut out the windows on the front window frame pieces on three sides, leaving the left side intact. Fold this side back. You will want to do this for at least your youngest children and you may want to do this for all the children.
3. Set out other supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

**Making the Craft**
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color in the various pictures.
3. Have them cut open the window frames on the other piece (if you have not done it ahead of time)
4. Have them rub glue on the blank areas of the piece of cardstock with the words. (Back piece)
5. Help the children place the window frame top piece in place on top of the other piece of cardstock so that the window openings are lined up correctly with the pictures.
6. Have the children practice tracing the pencil trails from what William did as a boy to how he used that gift to tell others about Jesus.
Gift 1
This gift to... things quickly, He used and figured out how to do
William was very smart.

Gift 2
These gifts to... mails as a boy; He used about plants and ani-
William learned lots.

Gift 3
This gift to... through Jesus. He used way to be salvation
Christians. He knew the became a gospel of Jesus and
William heard the

Gift 1
They might be saved. Bible and about Jesus that
England and teach the

Gift 2
Languages. Bible could be made into
printing business so that the

Gift 3
Starting people.
more food to feed
crops to make
India grow better of

William could read the
they could learn the
people to be
write the Bible in many of
learn 40 languages and

Gift 1
They might be saved. Bible and about Jesus that
England and teach the

Gift 2
Many things, especially
so they could learn
the people of India
To start schools for

Gift 3
about God'stranslat-
sable to read and learn
them for the people to be
William could read and
learn as he studied the

Gift 1
they could read the
that they one day
cally how to read, so
many things, especially
so they could learn
the people of India
To start schools for

Gift 2
they could learn the
in many of
William could read the
they could learn the
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 Love Him with All of Themselves.

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God's people are amazed at God's great love for them by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and put their faith in Jesus as their own personal Savior. In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him more and more each day. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus.

Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God's people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God's Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

We thought about Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

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 completely worthy of all our love.
C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and put their faith in Jesus as their own personal Savior.
S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

Yours Sincerely,_____________________________________

Dear______________________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we
Materials
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one of VIPPS.
8 Letter sized Envelopes or folders
8 Category Pictures from the Guess Who Box Game (e.g., “What do I do for fun? What’s my favorite animal?” etc), excluding the picture of the person and their name. These are all found at the end of the listing of VIPP games in this Appendix.
Bean Bag(s), one per child
Tape

Preparing the Game
Put one of the nine pictures in each of the envelopes.

Tape each down to the floor, fairly close together.

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

Review: At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) Open the envelope/folder revealing the category. See if the children can recall the right answer to the question.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: At your signal, have the children take toss their bean bags onto the envelopes. Then one that has the most bean bags on it./near it is the one you will open. (The children may have fun taking turns designating one as the target before tossing.) Open the envelope/folder revealing the category, then show them the corresponding clue for the VIPP.

Guess: When the clues are all chosen, have the children guess who is the VIPP. Show them the picture and name. Read them the VIPP information blurb.
Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
My preparations:

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>

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>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</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.
Week 3 Lesson Plan

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 62 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 62 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: “How Can I Love You Today?”* Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7; Daniel 1,6
- 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

Opening Large Group
Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Refresher:
Introduction pp.16-22
Appendix A
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

“Unclean” Hot dog pieces (Jews weren’t to eat pork) and “Clean” carrot sticks and/or fruit pieces.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.
S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

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: Basketball Toss

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

Choosing Activities Refresher:
Introduction pp.22-41-45

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

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

“Unclean” Hot dog pieces (Jews weren’t to eat pork) and “Clean” carrot sticks and/or fruit pieces.

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.
S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

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: Basketball Toss

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

Choosing Activities Refresher:
Introduction pp.22-41-45

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

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

“Unclean” Hot dog pieces (Jews weren’t to eat pork) and “Clean” carrot sticks and/or fruit pieces.

A  Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.
C  Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.
T  Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.
S  Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

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: Basketball Toss

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: Circle and Cross**

**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: Daniel in a Pit of Lions**

**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: Hot and Cold Hide**

**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: All Dressed Up**

**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: Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

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  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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Verse 4

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: **Word Take Away**
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
Week 3 Lesson Plan

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 62 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 62 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: “How Can I Love You Today?” Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7; Daniel 1,6
- 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
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

“Unclean” Hot dog pieces (Jews weren’t to eat pork) and “Clean” carrot sticks and/or fruit pieces.

ACTS Prayer

**A** Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.

**C** Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

**T** Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.

**S** Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.
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 groups; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

**Group 1, First Activity: Act-It-Out**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act out story all together</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Act-It-Out Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan-a-Play Story Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Story, pp. 61-63</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Group 1, Second Activity: Big Idea Game**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Act-It-Out Refresher:**

Introduction pp.41-42
Appendix B

**Big Idea Game Refresher:**

Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Clue Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Prayer Letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pray for VIPP</td>
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<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Clue Cards: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**
“How Can I Love You Today?”
Jeremiah 17:7; 29:7; Daniel 1,6
by Connie Dever

Our story today starts off about 2600 years ago in the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was one of the most beautiful cities of the world at that time. It was perched on a hill with tall, thick walls protecting its people and its greatest treasures: the magnificent Temple to the Lord that King Solomon had built, and the luxurious palace of King Jehoiakim.

King Jehoiakim, the royal family and the nobles who served at his court lived the good life in Jerusalem back in those days. They had beautiful long robes and wore bracelets made of jewels and gold. They ate the best of food and had the finest of education. And one of the young nobles, a young man only five years older than some of you—was just about the best of them all. Not only was he from a family that served the king; not only did he enjoy the best of life in Jerusalem, but the LORD also made him one of the handsomest, smartest, strongest young men in all of Jerusalem. Now you might think this young man must have been very proud because of all these wonderful gifts the Lord had given him, but he was not. Why? Because on top of all these other gifts, the Lord gave this young man the best gift of all: a heart that loved the LORD most of all.

Every morning, every noon, and every evening this boy would get up, face the Temple and repeat these words: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

How can I love You like this today, Lord? Give me wisdom to know what to do.” he would pray.

The peace and prosperity of Jehoiakim was soon to end. The Lord had warned King Jehoiakim through the prophet Jeremiah that unless he and the people stopped worshipping the idol Baal and turned back to Lord, that He would send the mighty chariots, the fierce horsemen of Babylon to destroy Jehoiakim and all Jerusalem with him. Jehoiakim refused to listen and Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian hordes descended upon Jerusalem.

Like ants raiding a picnic, the soldiers swarmed Jerusalem. They stripped the Temple of all its gold, killed many people and then took King Jehoiakim and more than 3000 of those who remained alive from the finest families of Jerusalem as captives—including our young man.

Every morning, every noon, every evening, no matter where the young man was he remembered to pray “‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength’

How can I love You like this today, Lord? How can I love you even chained like a slave and forced to walk all the way to Babylon. I’ve lost my home, my family, my beautiful things, everything that I’ve ever known. Give me wisdom to know what to do,” he would pray.

Maybe the young man remembered what the prophet Jeremiah had told them to do: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him.” Jeremiah 17:7 It may take all of his
heart, mind, soul and strength to do it, but even on that terrible day as he walked in chains to Babylon, the young man could love the LORD by trusting Him.

After the long, six hundred mile journey across parched, treeless land, the long line of captives could see the magnificent city of Babylon rising in the distance. They gaped at the idols they saw and looked at disbelief at the gigantic temple and the ziggurat tower dedicated to the god Marduk that each rose hundreds of feet in the air from the middle of the city.

“Ashpenaz, bring in the best of the captured men from Judah,” Nebuchadnezzar ordered his chief court official. “I want only the smartest, best educated, handsomest and strongest young men from the captives. Take them and train them for service in my kingdom.”

“Your wish is my command, sire,” Ashpenaz responded. Aspehaz searched through the captives and handpicked the young men who fit the King’s requirements. And who was among them, but none other than our young man.

“Congratulations, young men of Judah,” Ashpenaz welcomed the men. “You have been especially chosen to be prepared for the service before the great King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. By his orders you are all to receive a special three year training to learn to speak Babylonian and learn all about the Babylonian customs, literature and gods. You will get to eat the best of food right from the King’s table. When the three years are up, you will serve before the King in his lavish palace as his advisers.”

Now what was our young man thinking? What would he live to please the LORD in this foreign land?

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’ Every morning, every noon, every night these are the words I say. How can I love You like that today, LORD? This isn’t like Jerusalem. These people worship terrible idols like Marduk, Anu and Enlil. Am I supposed to learn about them? How can I be an adviser who is supposed to consult their gods and even do magic, and still be loving You? The king eats horse and pig and all sorts of other animals You’ve told us not to eat. How can I do that and still love You? Give me wisdom and show me what to do.”

What was it that the LORD had told the captives to do through the prophet Jeremiah? “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city [of Babylon] to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” NIV Jeremiah 29:7)

“I will love the LORD by not eating the meat, but I will also love Him with all my heart, mind, soul and strength by doing my very best to serve the Babylonians. I will consult the LORD, not their gods or use magic for advise. I will trust that this is what He wants me to do,” the young man thought.

The young man did just that: he studied hard and the LORD blessed him. He helped him to understand everything he was supposed to learn and He even gave the young man a special gift that the advisers wanted most of all: the gift of understanding dreams.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so pleased with this young man that he made him chief adviser over all—even the advisers from Babylon. The young man served King Nebuchadnezzar many years and
then later on served another great king, King Darius the Mede, who became king years after Nebuchadnezzar until our young man was no longer a young man, but a very old man.

For 66 long years the old man worked in Babylon. Babylon had been his home far longer than Jerusalem had, but still never did he forget to love the LORD. Every morning, every noon, and every evening, he would get up and face east, in the direction of where the Temple used to be, and say, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” And he would pray, “How can I love You this way today, Lord?”

While the old man’s love for the LORD pleased the LORD, it did not please the other advisers of the king for the old man had…. “so distinguished himself among the [advisers] by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the [advisers] tried to find grounds for charges against [the old man] in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this [old man] unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

So the [advisers] went … to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! The royal [advisers] have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a hole with [hungry, wild beasts]. Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered-in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Now when [the old man] learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. [“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” How can I love you like this today, Lord? I can keep honoring you as the one true God, even if I have to lose my life. Loving You is more important to me than even living,” the old man prayed.]

Then [the advisers] went … and found [the old man] praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the hole with the hungry wild beasts?"

The king answered, "The decree stands-in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

Then they said to the king, " [The old man], who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue [the old man] and made every effort until sundown to save him.

Then the [advisers] went… to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."
So the king gave the order, and they brought [the old man] and threw him into the hole with all the hungry wild beasts. The king said to [the old man], "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the hole, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that [the old man’s] situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

[“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” And he would pray, “How can I love You this way today, Lord, even here in this hole with hungry, wild beasts? I will trust You to give me courage to die or to be strong enough to save me.”]

At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the hole with the hungry, wild beasts. 20 When he came near the hole, he called to [the old man] in an anguished voice, [the old man]", servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the [hungry, wild beasts]?

[The old man] answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the hungry, wild beasts. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift [the old man] out of the hole. And when [the old man] was lifted from the hole, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly! "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of [the old man], "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued [the old man] from the power of the hungry wild beasts." So [the old man] prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian." [And he loved the LORD his God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength every day of his life.]

Daniel 6: 3-23, 25-28. NIV

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves
Our Scripture Verse is: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Did you guess the name of the man in the story today? It was Daniel. Even though Daniel lived 600
years before Jesus, he knew God’s promises to send a Messiah to save His people, and Daniel looked forward in faith to that day. Daniel truly did try to love the LORD his God every day of his life, no matter how difficult it was, and he never even knew the incredible way Jesus would die on the cross for the sins of His people. How much more should we, who know the good news of Jesus in full. Do not we have even more reason to love the LORD with all of ourselves? How can we do this? By turning from our sins and trusting Jesus as our own Savior. By asking God’s Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more and more love for God. Every moment of every day is a chance to love Him in everything we think, feel, say and do. Like Daniel, we can ask Him to show us how to love Him and ask Him to help us to. Let’s praise this God who is worthy of all our love. Let’s ask Him to help us love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength each day in everything we do.

NOTE on Story-telling: Since this is such a familiar story, I chose to call Daniel the “young man” and the “old man” so the children would not check out as soon as they heard the name “Daniel.” Feel free to substitute Daniel’s name back in if you think that is best for your particular group of children.
1. King Jehoiakim and the rich families who serve him live a good life, but most worshiped idols instead of the LORD.

2. Daniel was one of the strongest, handsomest, smartest of all these people; and best of all, he loved the LORD.

3. The LORD sent the Babylonian army to attack Jerusalem, take the gold from the Temple, and carry the king and the best of the rich families into captivity in Babylon because they refused to stop worshiping idols.

4. Even as a captive, Daniel remembered the LORD and trusted in Him.

5. In Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had his chief official, Ashpenaz, to select the best men from the captives to be trained to be his servants. Daniel was chosen.

6. Daniel refused to eat the unclean meat from the King’s table, but obeyed the LORD’s command to work for the Babylonians.

7. The LORD blessed Daniel by being the best student and by giving him the gift of interpreting dreams.

8. King Nebuchadnezzar and then later King Darius the Mede each chose Daniel to be their chief adviser, because of the wisdom the LORD gave him; yet never did Daniel forget the LORD.

9. The other advisers were jealous of Daniel and tricked the King into passing a law that would punish anyone who prayed to another god by having them thrown into the lion’s den.

10. Daniel loved the LORD most of all and still prayed to Him, even though he knew he would be punished.

11. The advisers find Daniel praying, bring him before the King and have him thrown to the lion’s.

12. Even then Daniel prays to the LORD to help him love Him even in the lion’s den.

13. The LORD shuts the lions’ mouths by an angel.

14. The King releases Daniel from the lion’s den and proclaims all his people to praise the LORD.
# WEEK 3 RESOURCES

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)*
How Can I Love You Today?

1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
   **When?** About 2600 years ago
   **Where?** In Jerusalem and in Babylon

   **What’s It Like?**
   Jerusalem: Beautiful city with huge walls and the stately palace of King Jehoiakim and the magnificent Temple to the LORD.
   Babylon: Dry, waterless land with a massive foot high temple to Marduk and a ziggurat tower; statues of many other idols. Luxurious palace of King Nebuchadnezzar

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)
   - King Jehoiakim
   - Daniel
   - Temple to the LORD
   - Prayer
   - Nobles
   - Babylonian soldiers, chariots, and horsemen
   - Chains
   - Prophet Jeremiah
   - King Nebuchadnezzar
   - Ashpenaz
   - Young, smart, handsome Jewish men
   - Other Advisors
   - Food from the King’s table
   - Hungry, Wild Beasts (Lions)
   - Angel
   - King Darius the Mede

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. Every day Daniel prayed that he would love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. He showed his love for God by even being willing to face death rather than denying Him.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)
   Daniel Lives His Love for the LORD

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   **Beginning:**
   King Jehoiakim and the rich families who serve him live a good life, but most worshiped idols instead of the LORD. Daniel was one of the strongest, handsomest, smartest of all these people; and best of all, he loved the LORD. The LORD sent the Babylonian army to attack Jerusalem, take the gold from the Temple, and carry the king and the best of the rich families into captivity in Babylon because they refused to stop worshiping idols. Even as a captive, Daniel remembered the LORD and trusted in Him.

   **Middle:**
   In Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had his chief official, Ashpenaz, to select the best men from the captives to be trained to be his servants. Daniel was chosen. Daniel refused to eat the unclean meat from the King’s table, but obeyed the LORD’s command to work for the Babylonians. The LORD blessed Daniel by being the best student and by giving him the gift of interpreting dreams. King Nebuchadnezzar and then later King Darius the Mede each chose Daniel to be their chief adviser, because of the wisdom the LORD gave him; yet never did Daniel forget the LORD.

   **End:**
   The other advisers were jealous of Daniel and tricked the King into passing a law that would punish anyone who prayed to another god by having them thrown into the lion’s den. Daniel loved the LORD most of all and still prayed to Him, even though he knew he would be punished. The advisers find Daniel praying, bring him before the King and have him thrown to the lion’s. Daniel prays to the LORD to help him love Him even in the lion’s den. The LORD shuts the lions’ mouths by an angel. The King releases Daniel from the lion’s den and proclaims all his people to praise the LORD.
Beginning:
King Jehoiakim and the rich families who serve him live a good life, but most worshiped idols instead of the LORD. Daniel was one of the strongest, handsomest, smartest of all these people; and best of all, he loved the LORD. The LORD sent the Babylonian army to attack Jerusalem, take the gold from the Temple, and carry the king and the best of the rich families into captivity in Babylon because they refused to stop worshiping idols. Even as a captive, Daniel remembered the LORD and trusted in Him.

Middle:
In Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had his chief official, Ashpenaz, to select the best men from the captives to be trained to be his servants. Daniel was chosen. Daniel refused to eat the unclean meat from the King’s table, but obeyed the LORD’s command to work for the Babylonians. The LORD blessed Daniel by being the best student and by giving him the gift of interpreting dreams. King Nebuchadnezzar and then later King Darius the Mede each chose Daniel to be their chief adviser, because of the wisdom the LORD gave him; yet never did Daniel forget the LORD.

End:
The other advisers were jealous of Daniel and tricked the King into passing a law that would punish anyone who prayed to another god by having them thrown into the lion’s den. Daniel loved the LORD most of all and still prayed to Him, even though he knew he would be punished. The advisers find Daniel praying, bring him before the King and have him thrown to the lion’s. Daniel prays to the LORD to help him love Him even in the lion’s den. The LORD shuts the lions’ mouths by an angel. The King releases Daniel from the lion’s den and proclaims all his people to praise the LORD.
1. What was life like for King Jehoiakim and the rich families that served him? *A rich life in which they had and wore the best things that people had in those days.*

2. What gifts did Daniel have that he could have been proud about? *His rich life, the importance of his family, his intelligence and his good looks.*

3. What did Daniel think was even better than all the great gifts that God had given him? *To know and love the LORD.*

4. Why do you think God made Daniel so good at so many things? *To use all those “gifts” to love the Lord and glorify Him.*

5. How was Daniel different from most of the other people in Jerusalem? *He loved the LORD.*

6. What punishment did the LORD bring on the people of Jerusalem and Judah for worshiping idols? *He sent the Babylonians to destroy their cities, the Temple and to take them to Babylon to be slaves for 70 years.*

7. What did the Babylonians take with them back to Babylon? *Many of the beautiful things from the Temples as well as the best people to be their slaves.*

8. What kind of people did King Nebuchadnezzar want Ashpenaz to train? *The most promising young men from the best families in Judah.*

9. What kind of training did the King plan to give the Jewish young men? *Training so that they would leave behind the customs and the LORD for those of Babylon. He would make them important advisers in his kingdom.*

10. Why didn’t Daniel want to have the King’s training? *He wanted to love the LORD and His people, not the Babylonian gods and their ways.*

11. Why did Daniel go ahead and take the King’s training? *Because the LORD commanded them to seek the prosperity of Babylon.*

12. What special gift did the LORD give Daniel? *The gift of knowing and interpreting dreams.*

13. How did Daniel show he loved the LORD all his years in Babylon? *He kept on praying to Him and worshipping Him, even at the risk of his own life.*

14. Why did the other advisers want to kill him? *They were envious of the high position that the king had given him.*

15. Why did the other advisers have to choose to make a law against praying to get Daniel in trouble? *Because he was such a good man that there was nothing else to get him in trouble for.*

16. What did Daniel try to do every day of his life? *Ask how he could love the LORD.*

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? *Every day Daniel prayed that he would love God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength. He showed his love for God by even being willing to face death rather than denying Him.*

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: *Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

> “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

*Daniel had many chances to turn away from the LORD and love other gods, but he chose to love the LORD his God instead. Not just in his heart, but with all his strength, too. He was willing even to die to stay faithful to the LORD.*
Life Application
1. Why do you think that God has given you the gifts that He has given you? To use them to love the LORD by serving others and knowing Him better, bringing glory to His name.
2. How can we love the LORD today, with our hearts, our minds, our strength? The first thing we can do is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. With everything we do each day, we can ask God to help us to do them in a way that loves Him.

The Gospel
Daniel lived before Jesus’ day, but knew of the LORD’s promise to send a Messiah and looked forward in faith to that day. The day when the good news of salvation through Jesus would be revealed. 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 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 one true God, alone worthy of our worship.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we too many times we choose to not love God when things are hard. We want to please ourselves, not God. We deserve God’s punishment. 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 for giving His people the courage to live for Him and to love Him, even when it is very hard. We can thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts so that we would love and live for God, even when it is very hard.

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.
Basketball Toss
Story Review Game

Materials
Small basketball or other ball
3 (or 4) baskets
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Story Review Discussion and 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.

Use tape to mark a free throw line. On the paper make three point values (starting with 2 points and going up), one for each basket, and tape them to the corresponding basket. Set out the baskets with the one worth least points, the closest to the free throw line. The one worth the most points, set the farthest out. With younger children, make sure to set one basket so close in that they are almost guaranteed to get a basket. If desired, use the extra 4th basket to make a long bomb basket that is almost unreachable, but worth a lot of points.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turns having one of their members make a shoot. Each child gets 3 tries. The highest point value being what the question will be worth. Then ask the child a Story Review question. If he gets it right, then he earns those points for his team. If the person is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for half the point values. If a child does not make a basket, he can still answer a question for 1 point.

Game continues until all children get to try to make a basket, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end 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.
Big Idea Concept: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them! That the Living God would give His Son to save them and make them His people! In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with All of Themselves is not something God’s people can do on their own. It is not something they will ever do perfectly here on earth. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But God’s Holy Spirit works in their hearts, helping them to love Him more and more. He helps them to respond back to Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength.

Understanding the Big Idea

1. How did God show how much He loved His people? *He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins.*
2. Why did God love His people this way? *Not because they deserved it. They were all sinners. He did it because He loved them and to bring glory to His name (so we could see and delight in who God is.)*
3. Why did God’s people need Jesus to be sacrificed for their sins? *Because they were sinners and could never pay for their sins themselves. Only the sacrifice of a perfect life, like what Jesus lived, could be the payment for sins.*
4. Why does God’s gift of His Son for them cause God’s people to want to love Him in response with all their heart, mind, soul and strength? *They are grateful that He would be so merciful to them and be willing to make such a huge sacrifice for them. They know His love is the most wonderful thing of all. They want to love Him completely because this is the best way to live.*
5. Why is there nothing that will ever be enough to show God how much God’s people love Him? *Because His gift to them is so wonderful, so huge.*
6. Will God’s people ever be able to love Him with all of themselves here on earth? *Why not? No. Because they are still sinners.*
7. Who helps God’s people love God more? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*
8. Where will God’s people finally love God with all of themselves? *In heaven.*

Life Application Questions

1. What can God’s people do today that shows their grateful love to God for what He has done through Jesus? *They can seek to obey Him and love Him in everything they do. (Add specific examples)*
2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

How did Daniel respond with his life, to all that God had done for him? *Three times each day he thought about loving God with all his heart, soul and strength. In everything he did he tried to do what would show the most love to God, no matter how hard it was.*

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: *Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

*This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength. That is loving Him with all of themselves.*
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being completely worthy of all our love.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.*
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for all showing how great His love for by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and sinful people trust in Him as their own Savior.*
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 help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.*

Gospel Question
We are all born sinners. None of us love God as He created us to. What hope is there for sinners like us? 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
Beanbags, 1 per child
Masking Tape
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.

Tape a circle about 2’ in diameter on the floor. Tape a large X in the middle of it.

Mark one team’s set of beanbags with a small piece of masking tape or other distinguishing mark.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into two teams, giving the members of each team a beanbag of the same color or marking. Have all the children stand outside of the circle, about 6’ back. At your signal, have the children toss their beanbags into the circle, trying to make them land on the taped X. Count up the beanbags for each team that landed on it. That’s how many points their quiz question is worth. Choose a question for each team from the bag/bowl. If a team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for 1 point, if they can get the correct answer. Gather up the beanbags and continue play.

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. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name “LORD” written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write “LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, no matter what.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Daniel had many chances to turn away from the LORD and love other gods, but he chose to love the LORD his God instead. Not just in his heart, but with all his strength, too. He was willing even to die to stay faithful to the LORD.

Life Application
1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? God’s Holy Spirit.
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?
ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being worthy of all our love.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.

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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.

Gospel Question

Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!

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.
ALL DRESSED UP
Scripture Verse Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
Various items of clothing (shirts, hats, shoes, gloves, coats, pants, dresses, etc.), about 10 per team
two baskets or boxes
masking tape

Preparing the Game
Put the clothing items for each team in a basket/box and place at far end of relay area. Mark the starting line with masking tape.

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
Divide the children into two teams and have them line up behind the starting line. Explain to them that they will run down to the leader at the other end of the relay area, recite the verse to him and then pick out a piece of clothing to put on. After getting it on, they are to run back to their team and sit down at the back. The next player then goes. This is repeated until all team members are dressed. The team is then to stand up, grab hands and chant the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

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.
Hear, O Hear: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The LORD our God,
The LORD is one,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your heart,
Love the LORD our God,
With all your soul,
Love the LORD our God,
with all your strength.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did the Lord want Israel to do? To hear.
2. Who is Israel? There are three answers to this question. Israel is the name of grandson of Abraham. God called the nation of people who were children, grandchildren, etc. of Israel, after him. They were to be His special people to obey Him and through whom the Savior Jesus would come one day. After Jesus came, Christians were called the New or True Israel because they are God’s special people, to obey Him and saved through Him. Most of the old Israel rejected Jesus.
3. Why is the name “LORD” written in all capital letters? Because it stands for the special name of God, Yahweh, that the Israelites thought was too special to say aloud or even write down. They would just write “LORD” instead.
4. What does it mean that the “LORD is one?” He is the only true God.
5. How was Israel to love the Lord? With all their heart, soul and strength.
6. Who today should love the LORD like this? All people, but especially all Christians, since they are the New Israel.
7. What is a soul? A spirit is the invisible part of us that thinks, feels, loves and knows God.
8. What is the difference between heart and soul? None. It is written twice for emphasis.
9. What sorts of things could you do today that shows you love God with all your heart and soul? Worship the Lord, pray to Him, read His word, live to obey Him.
10. What sorts of things could you do today to show that you love God with all your strength? Obey God, no matter what.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God wants His people to love Him most of all: with all of their heart, soul and strength.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Daniel had many chances to turn away from the LORD and love other gods, but he chose to love the LORD his God instead. Not just in his heart, but with all his strength, too. He was willing even to die to stay faithful to the LORD.
**Life Application**

1. Who must help God’s people to love God with all their heart, soul and strength? **God’s Holy Spirit.**
2. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts to help us love God more and more? **By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. When we do, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us more love for God.**
3. How can God’s people love God today with all their heart, mind, soul and strength?

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? **Praise God for being worthy of all our love.**
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That we are all sinners. who do not love God with all our heart, soul and strength. We choose to love other things. We choose to love ourselves, more than God. 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 for sending the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. He gives God’s people more love for God.*
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. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to grow our love for God.*

**Gospel Question**

Why don’t we love God as we should? What happened to all people? How can we be changed? What is the good news of 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!*}

**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.
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, v.4

Verse 4
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What does “realm of nature” mean? All of the nature, the whole world.
2. What is “a present far too small”? All of nature, the whole world.
3. Who is this too small of a present for? The Lord.
4. Why is the whole world too small of a present for the Lord? Because of God’s amazing love shown to His people through Jesus.
5. What does divine mean? Something that God is or does.
6. What is so amazing and so divine about God’s love? It is amazing that He would choose to give up His own Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for the sins of His sinful, rebellious, undeserving people. It is divine love because only Jesus, the Son of God, could offer that kind of sacrifice for sins; and because only God is truly good enough to even think about doing such a thing for sinful people.
7. What does this amazing, divine love demand (deserve) that is even better than all of nature as a present? To love God with your “soul, life and all.”

Life Application Question
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for sending His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for their sins. They can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to help them love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. They can remember each day to ask themselves: “How can I live to show love to God today?”
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves? When God’s people think about what Jesus did for them on the cross, they want to respond back with grateful, loving lives that love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Daniel lived before Jesus’ day, but he knew the goodness of the LORD and of His promises to send a Messiah to save God’s people. He responded to what he knew of the LORD with a love that desired to love Him with all of his heart, mind, soul and strength, even if he had to die.
Hymn Discussion Questions

Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

God calls His people to love Him with all their heart, soul and strength. God’s people want to do this. Not just because they know that the LORD is God, but also because they think about how God sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save them and make them His people. They want to love God with all of themselves because of all He has done for them!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being worthy of giving us giving our whole lives, our “all” for Him.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we don’t marvel at how great God’s love is. We don’t think much about how Jesus suffered and died, taking God’s people’s punishment, so that they could be saved. We do not want to give Him our “all”, but only what we think will be good for us or easy for us to give. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God His glorious love that would send Jesus to save His people by suffering and dying on the cross.
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 help us to come to Him and be forgiven. We can ask Him to help us wonder at His glorious love shown through Jesus. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to give our whole lives, our “all” for Him.

Gospel Question
God’s people marvel at God’s love shown to them through Jesus? What is this amazing good news of God’s love? 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.
**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.
Daniel in a Pit of Lions

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
   Daniel in a Pit of Lions

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
   Where? In Babylon,
   Who? King Nebuchadnezzar
   Did What? Threw
   With the Big Idea Object? Daniel into a pit of lions
   Why? Because Daniel would not stop worshipping the LORD.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
   Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Him with All of Themselves. Daniel chose not to hide or stop praying to the LORD, even though he thought he would risk his life if he kept doing so. He sought to love the LORD with all of himself. Not even death in a pit of lions would stop him for worshipping Him!

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
   God can give His people the courage to keep of loving Him, even when their lives are at risk for doing so. By His Holy Spirit, He can even give us that kind of courage!
Daniel in a Pit of Lions

Description
The children will make a scene of Daniel in the pit of lions using various decorating supplies.

Materials
Cardstock
1 large piece of black, brown, gray, white or cream construction paper (12" x 18")
Templates of Daniel, angel, rocks and lions
Markers or colored pencils
Glue sticks
As desired, also:
Gray or light brown craft sand and craft glue (to decorate rocks)
Brown/yellow yarn and jiggly eyes (to decorate the lions)
Silver and gold glitter/glitter glue (to decorate the angel)
Scissors

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out a copy of the pictures, 1 set per child, onto cardstock (better if using additional decorations) or regular paper (fine if just coloring and gluing pictures in place).
2. If desired, cut out the pictures. (Otherwise let the children do this.)
3. Set out any other decorating supplies you plan to use.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample,
2. If just coloring in the pictures, then have the children cut out their pictures, color them in and stick them on to the construction paper.
If adding additional decoration, follow these instructions:
Rocks: Smear craft glue on rocks and sprinkle craft sand on top. Glue rocks as desired onto the scene.
Lions: Color in with markers then add jiggly eyes and pieces of yarn to mane. Stick in place on scene.
Daniel: Color in and stick in place.
Angel: Color in and add glitter accents. Stick in place.
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 Love Him with All of Themselves.

God loved His people so much that He freely gave His own Son as the sacrifice for their sins. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and love Him. God’s people are amazed at God’s great love for them by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and love Him. 

In response, they want to honor Him with lives that love Him with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Nothing less than this is enough to show God how much they love Him and how grateful they are for Jesus. Loving God with all their heart is a way of life that honors God. 

We thought about Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

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 completely worthy of all our love.

C Confess that many times we do not love Him or live for Him as we should.

T Thank God for all showing how great His love for sinful people by sending Jesus to be the Savior of all those who would ever turn from their sins and love Him.

S Ask God to help us love Him and live for Him more and more each day.

We thought about Deuteronomy 6:4-5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Yours Sincerely, ____________________________
HOT AND COLD HIDE
VIPP Game

Materials
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for a VIPP type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
8 Letter sized Envelopes or folders
8 Category Pictures from the Guess Who Box Game (e.g., "What do I do for fun? What's my favorite animal?" etc), excluding the picture of the person and their name. These are all found at the end of the listing of VIPP games in this Appendix.
Blindfold

Preparing the Game
Put one of eight pictures in each of the envelopes.
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 the VIPP you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet.

Review: Choose one child to be “The Finder” and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the envelopes/folders. Choose another child to be “The Hider”. This child will hide the envelope/folder somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope/folder. The other children say “hot, cold, etc” as the child gets closer or further from the envelope/folder to help the child find it. When the folder is found, open it up and ask the children if they remember the answer to the category question for the day's VIPP.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Choose one child to be “The Finder” and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the envelopes/folders. Choose another child to be “The Hider”. This child will hide the envelope/folder somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope/folder. The other children say “hot, cold, etc” as the child gets closer or further from the envelope/folder to help the child find it. When the folder is found, open it up and show the children the corresponding clip art clue for category question.

Guess: When the clues are all chosen, have the children guess who is the VIPP. Show them the picture and name. Read them the VIPP information blurb.