BIG IDEA 63
God’s People Love Others
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
**Big Idea Concept: God’s People Love Others**

God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God wants His people to love, too: treating others—even their enemies— with the same love that He has shown them. While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to treat each other with that same kind of special love that He has for them. Jesus said that when God’s people love each other as He has loved them, others will know that they really are His people. God’s people know that they cannot love others as God has loved them on their own. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But, they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, helps them to love others as He has loved them.

**Scripture Verse**

Meditation Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy… it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always… perseveres. Love never fails.”

**Stories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>How Much Is Enough?</th>
<th>Matthew 18:21-35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Loving Like Jesus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Love Never Fails</td>
<td>1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Big Idea ACTS Prayer**

A  Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C  Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to.

T  Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

**Songs**

Hymn          Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs. 1-4
Scripture Song Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
**Big Idea Concept**
God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God wants His people to love, too: treating others—even their enemies—with the same love that He has shown them. While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to treat each other with that same kind of special love that He has for them. Jesus said that when God’s people love each other as He has loved them, others will know that they really are His people. God’s people know that they cannot love others as God has loved them on their own. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But, they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, helps them to love others as He has loved them.

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**Bible Story & Supplemental Reading**
Parable of the Unforgiving Servant  Matthew 18:21-35
David, Jonathan and Mephibosheth: 1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9
Leading Little Ones to God #54: God’s Children Love One Anther

**Songs**
Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, vs.1-4
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
**Big Idea Hymn Connection:** When God’s people love each other as He loved them, they share each others sorrows and joys like they were their own. This binds them together as if they had been born into the same family.

**Scripture Song:** Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
**Big Idea Scripture Song Connection:** This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.
**Big Idea 63 Scripture Song**

**Love is Patient**

Love is patient,  
Love is kind,  
It does not envy,  
It does not boast,  
Love does not delight in evil,  
But rejoices in the truth,  
Love keeps no record of wrongs,  
It is not easily angered,  
It always protects, trusts and hopes,  
It always perseveres,  
Love never fails.  
Love never fails,  
Love never fails.  
Love never fails!

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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**Big Idea 63 Hymn**

**Blest Be the Tie, verses 1-4**

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne  
We pour our ardent pray’rs;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

Words: John. Fawcett  
Music: Johann G. Nageli; arranged by Lowell Mason  
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The Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Resources You Will Need:
Folders (if you are doing the Folder Hunt)
CD player and The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
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 63 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>
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<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>Big Idea 63 Concept: God’s People Love Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Big Idea 63 Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8</td>
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</tbody>
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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>
<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>
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</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...

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

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

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

... 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!
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!

How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!

Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question Song

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

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

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

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

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

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

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

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

Live a life of love,

Just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

**Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song**

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

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

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

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

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

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you.
God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God wants His people to love, too: treating others—even their enemies—with the same love that He has shown them.

While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to treat each other with that same kind of special love that He has for them.

Jesus said that when God’s people love each other as He has loved them, others will know that they really are His people.

God’s people know that they cannot love others as God has loved them on their own. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But, they know that God’s Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, helps them to love others as He has loved them.
Meditation Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy… it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always… perseveres. Love never fails.”
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)
Love is Patient
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient,

Love is kind,

It does not envy,

It does not boast,

Love does not delight in evil,

But rejoices in the truth,

Love keeps no record of wrongs,

It is not easily angered,

It always protects, trusts and hopes,

It always perseveres,

Love never fails.

Love never fails,

Love never fails.

Love never fails.

Love never fails!
Love Is Patient

adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Constance Dever

Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. Love keeps no record of wrongs, it is not easily angered, it always protects, trusts and hopes, it always perseveres. Love never fails. Love never fails, love never fails. Love never fails!
Love
Cross hands, with left hand on top of right hand, and place hands on your heart.

Patient
Move the thumb of the right hand down over lips

Kind
Hold the left flat hand in front of the body with palm towards body and fingers pointing right. Rotate the right flat hand, palm towards body and fingers pointing left, around the left hand.

It
Jab the little finger of the right hand into the left hand, palm facing right.

Not
Place thumb of right hand under chin. Move outward in a slight arc.

Envy
Place the tip of the right index finger between the teeth and move slightly from side to side a few times.

Boast
Move both hands, knuckles down, and thumbs open, in and out from the body just above the waist.

Delight
Place open right hand on chest, palm facing body. Stroke heart repeatedly, moving up and off the heart with each stroke.

Evil, Wrongs
Point index fingers to each other, palms toward the body. Make an outward-upward circle with both hands at the same time.
Love is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Continued

**Rejoices**
With right closed hand, thumb and index finger touching, palming facing away from the body, make a circular motion above the head.

**Truth**
Place the right index finger, palm facing left, on lower lip. Move finger up and then out making an arc.

**Keeps**
Make K hands. Cross them, right above the left, pinky edges down. Move hands up and down a few times.

**No**
Bring the right index and middle fingers down to meet the right thumb.

**Record**
Move the right index finger along the left upturned palm, as if writing.

**Easily**
Rotate both upturned hands in front of the body.

**Angered**
Start with both curved hands, fingertips touching the abdomen. Move hands up and inward.

**Always**
Right index finger of D hand points away from body, palm facing inward. Make clockwise movement with arm.

**Protects**
With palms down, place the right S hand behind the left S hand. Move the hands forward a short distance in unison.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Love is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Continued

**Perseveres**
Place both A hands, palms down, in front of the body, right thumb resting on back of the left thumb. Move both hands forward in unison.

**Hope, Hopes**
Point right index finger to right side of forehead. Then place bent hands at temples and move fingers down, while keeping hands stationary.

**Never**
Outline a half circle with the right flat hand in front of the body. Then drop the hand to the right.

**Trusts**
Place right S under left S hand. Move hands up in unison towards the left shoulder.

**Fails**
Place back of V hand in upturned left palm. Move right hand away and down from left palm.
Blest Be the Tie

Verse 1
Blest be the tie that binds,
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds,
is like to that above.

Verse 2
Before our Father’s throne,
we pour our ardent pray’rs;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3
We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4
When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Big Idea References
Big Idea #63: verses 1-4  Big Idea #80: verses 1-4  Big Idea #95: verses 1-4

Words  John Fawcett  Music  Johann G. Nageli; arr. Lowell Mason
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Blest Be the Tie

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The
2. Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers; Our
3. We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear; And
4. When we a- sun-der part, It gives us in- ward pain; But

fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
of ten for each other flows The sym- pa- thiz- ing tear.
we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet a gain.
Blest Be the Tie, verses 1-4

Verse 2

Before
Hold left flat hand palm facing in, away from the body, at eye level. Move right hand up toward left hand until palms are facing.

Our
Move curved right hand from left shoulder to the right shoulder.

Father's
Place right A hand on forehead, palm facing left and the left A hand in front of the forehead, palm right, move both hands up and out toward the left, while opening hands out into “5” hands, with palms facing out.

Throne
Place palm side of right H fingers on the back of left H fingers. Move hands down a short distance.

Pour
Tap right W hand against the mouth. Then move both hands, palms down and fingers pointing forward, upward simultaneously.

Ardent
Rub the flat hands, palms facing, together in front of body.

Pray'rs
Place flat hands together, fingers up, as if praying, in front of body. Bring towards body and bow head at the same time.

Fears
Move both hands, fingers together, from sides of body, inward while simultaneously opening hands.

Hopes
Point right index finger to right side of forehead. Then place bent hands at temples and move fingers down, while keeping hands stationary.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Blest Be the Tie, verses 1-4
Verse 2 Continued

Aims
Hold the left index finger slightly above the head facing in. Move right index finger from forehead to touch the tip of the left index finger.

One
Touch the right index finger to the forehead. Bring the right index finger down next to the left index finger, palms down in front of body.

Comforts
Stroke the back of the left curved hand with the right curved hand. Then do the reverse.

Cares
Rotate both flat hands in front of head in opposite directions.

Verse 3 Begins on Next Page
Blest Be the Tie, verses 1-4

Verse 3

Share
Move the little finger edge of the right flat hand back and forth, along the upturned flat left hand between the wrist and the fingers.

Mutual, Each other
Place left A hand, thumb up and palm facing right in front of body. Make a counterclockwise circle around the right thumb with the thumb of the left A hand.

Woes
Make a circle with the A hand, palm facing body, on the chest.

Burdens
Place both curved hands on right shoulder.

Bear
Hold both slightly curved hands, palms up and facing forward. Move them in unison in an arc to the left or to the right.

Often
Start with the left palm facing up and the right bent palm facing up. Bring the right bent hand onto the left hand so that the fingertips of the right hand are touching the left palm. Then repeat.

Flows
Tap right W hand against the mouth. Then move both hands, palms down and fingers pointing forward, upward simultaneously.

Sympathizing
Stroke the right middle finger (other fingers should be separated) against the chest, up and then in a forward circular motion.

Tear
With head slightly bowed strike cheeks in downward movements with index fingers of both hands.

Verse 4 Begins on Next Page
Verse 4

**When**
Hold left “D” hand upright with palm facing body. With right index finger, make a clockwise circle around the left, ending up on the left index fingertip.

**Asunder, Part**
Place the curved hands, palms down, on the chest and move the hands to the sides.

**Gives**
Place hands, fingers touching and pointing down, in front of the body. Flip hands so that they are flat and palms are up.

**Inward**
Hold fingers of right hand closely together and push the fingers into the left C hand.

**Pain**
Slowly rotate right S hand around stationary left S hand. Use appropriate facial expression.

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

**Still**
Make a down then upward arc with the right Y hand, palm down.

**Joined**
Hold open hands in front of the body with palms facing down. Bring hands together while interlocking the thumb and index finger of both hands.

**Heart**
With index fingers form a heart shape over the heart.
Blest Be the Tie, verses 1-4

Verse 4 Continued

Hope
Point right index finger to right side of forehead. Then place bent hands at temples and move fingers down, while keeping hands stationary.

Meet
Extend index fingers up from fists, palms facing, a short distance apart. Bring together, like two people meeting.

Again
Start with the upturned left hand and the bent right hand, palm facing up. Bring the bent right hand onto the left hand so that the fingertips of the right hand are touching the left palm.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

Time | Activity
--- | ---
_____ | Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
      | My preparations:
      | _________________________________________________________
      | _________________________________________________________
      | _________________________________________________________

_____ | Children arrive

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

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

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

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

**Activity**

**Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities**

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

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

2. __________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________

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

**Activity Time**

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

**ACTS Prayer Time**

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

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

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

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

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
Opening Large Group Time

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

**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 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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 Much Is Enough?
  - Matthew 18:21-35
  - 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
Grapes, pomegranates, figs, raisins—seasonal crops coming to ripen in Capernaum at that time. And, round crackers “money” to symbolize the debt the man owed.

**ACTS Prayer**

**A** Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

**C** Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

**T** Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

**S** Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

**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: What’s in the Box?**

**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: Rush to Safety**

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

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

**Big Idea Craft: A Tax Collector In Debtor’s Prison**

**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: Ball Roll Review**

**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: Balancing Act**

**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: Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet p.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: Blest Be the Tie that Binds: Verses 1-4

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

**Resources:**
- Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p.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 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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 Much Is Enough?
  - Matthew 18:21-35
  - Story Outline p.19
  - Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
  - Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

---

### Snack

Grapes, pomegranates, figs, raisins—seasonal crops coming to ripen in Capernaum at that time. And, round crackers “money” to symbolize the debt the man owed.

---

### ACTS Prayer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Small Group Activities:
Activity Time:

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

Group 1 Activities

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

Group 1, First Activity: Story Review Game

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Group 2 Activities
Use Group 2 Activities for the other half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
How Much Is Enough?
Matthew 18:21-35
by Connie Dever

Our Big Idea and Scripture Verse tell us that God wants His people to love each other in the same way in which He has loved them. But what is love? It is just smiles and hugs? And what does it mean to love as Jesus has loved? Jesus knew that true love was far more than a warm smile and hugs. Jesus’ love was a patient, enduring kind of love that cared for others. It was not easily-angered. It kept no record of wrongs. It treated others better than they deserved, even when they have sinned against Him again and again. Jesus’ love forgave others completely, from the heart.

This kind of love is exactly what Jesus wanted to teach Peter about in our story today. It takes place about 2000 years ago in Capernaum: an important fishing town on the north side of the great Sea of Galilee that was the hometown of Jesus’ three closest disciples, Peter, James and John.

Walking, walking, walking! That’s what Jesus and his disciples had been doing for the past six months! They had been doing nothing but traveling, teaching and healing since the spring. Not only around their hometown, Capernaum, but far to the north in the foreign lands of Tyre, Sidon, and Caesarea Philippi. Now it was autumn and they were back home in Capernaum again and it surely felt good.

Summer was coming to an end in Capernaum. The desert winds of September swept down the hills and across the Sea of Galilee, ripening the dates, figs, pomegranates, and juicy clusters of grapes. Harvest time! It was a wonderful time of year!

But while the autumn air was full of dry, desert heat, there was perhaps something more like a chill in the heart of Peter that day. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about what to do when someone sins against you and Jesus’ words stirred up something inside of Peter.

“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?” Peter came to Jesus and asked. Was Peter’s question just a question of a curiosity or was it more? Had a friend or a relative in Capernaum—or perhaps even one of the other disciples—wronged Peter yet again, and he was beginning to get fed up with needing to forgive them? We do not know. But whatever the reason for the question, Peter wanted to know Jesus’ answer.

“Lord, the rabbis (Jewish teachers) say that after forgiving someone three times for the same thing, you don’t have to forgive them any more. What do you say? Would seven times be enough?” Peter asked Jesus.

“Seven times! Far from that!” Jesus answered, “Seventy-seven times would be more like it! There should never be an end to how much you forgive someone!” He could see that Peter still had so much to learn about love. God’s love was a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs. A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they have sinned against Him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart. And God’s people were to love each other like this, too.
"Let me tell you a story about the kingdom of heaven, Peter. What life lived loving people God’s way looks like,” Jesus told him.

“Once there was a king,” Jesus began, “who had servants who collected tax money for him. From time to time he would call them in and have his bookkeepers check that they had really collected and turned in the money for him that they were supposed to. As each of the tax collectors’ records were checked, it was found that one of the tax collectors had failed to give him millions of dollars that he had collected.

“Bring this scoundrel to me so that I can speak to him myself!” the king ordered a servant.

The king’s men brought the tax collector into the king’s mighty throne room. The tax collector trembled as he stood before the king, knowing that the terrible things he had done to the king deserved an equally terrible punishment.

What do you have to say for yourself, tax collector? Where are the millions of dollars of my money that you were supposed to have collected for me?” the king demanded.

The tax collector had no excuses but stood silently before the king, head bowed down.

“You and I both know how wickedly you have treated me,” the king told the tax collector. “Such a crime deserves severe punishment.”

Then the king turned to his men and said, “Guards, go to this man’s house, take everything he has and sell it. Then take this man—even his wife and children—and have them all thrown in jail! Keep them there until all of his debt to me has been paid off or until the day they die!”

The servant was horrified by the king’s words. He knew he deserved this punishment for what he had done, yet he hoped that some how the king might have mercy on him. The servant fell to his knees before the king. “Sire, be patient with me,” he begged. “I will pay back everything I owe you, just give me time.”

The king looked upon his tax collector. He knew there was no way for this servant to ever pay back such a large debt, even if he worked every day of his life. He knew that this servant had treated him terribly by taking his money and using it for his own pleasure rather than giving it to the king. This servant deserved this punishment and more. Yet this king did something never heard of: he showed mercy to this tax collector, for this king was a loving king. He had a patient, enduring kind of love that cared for others. A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs; love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him again and again. It forgave others completely, from the heart.

“Tax collector, you have treated me awfully by stealing my money for your own use; but, I have decided to treat you better than you deserve,” the king told the man. “Your debt to me is forgiven. You never have to pay me back the money you owe me. You and your family do not have to go to jail. You don’t even have to sell your things. You are completely forgiven. Now go. Your debt is cancelled.”

The tax collector could hardly believe his ears. Could it really be that the king would forgive so large a debt as his? What king had ever acted so mercifully as this! “Thank you, thank you, sire,” the grateful
servant sputtered out in shock and left the king’s throne room rejoicing.

Yet hardly had that tax collector left the presence of the king when he ran into another tax collector to whom he had loaned money. “Hey, you!” the tax collector gruffly yelled, to the other. “I’ve been looking for you. Do you remember those thousands of dollars I loaned you? It’s long past time that you pay me back. Give it to me, now!” And then he grabbed the other tax collector by the neck and began to shake him and choke him!

“But I can’t! I don’t have it yet!” the servant fell to his knees and pleaded. “Please be patient with me. I will pay you back as soon as I can. I promise.”

Hadn’t these been the very words of the tax collector had spoken to the king? He had asked the king for patience and the king had shown him mercy and forgiven his debt. Would this tax collector remember to be like his king who had treated him so lovingly? Would he have a patient, enduring, kind of love that cared for others? A love that was not easily-angered or kept a record of wrongs? A love that treated others better than they deserved, even when they had sinned against him, that forgave others completely, from the heart?

No, he would not! The king had just forgiven him that huge sum of money; yet all that greedy, selfish tax collector could think about was the much smaller amount of money that this other tax collector had failed to pay him.

“No! Why should I show you mercy? You will get what you deserve for how you’ve treated me. The money is due now and you can’t pay it. You know the punishment. It’s off to prison for you. And there you will stay until you can pay me back every bit that you owe me. Guards, throw this man in jail!” And so they did.

Well, it was not just the guards who were on hand to see how the first tax collector treated the second one. Other tax collectors saw what happened and they went and told the whole story to the king.

Once more the king’s guards paid a visit to the first tax collector. “You’ll be needing to come with us,” the guards told the man. “King’s orders. He desires to speak with you,” they told him as they escorted him back to the throne room.

Once more the tax collector stood before the king. “What is your wish, sire?” he asked the king. “What is your pleasure?”

“You wicked servant,” the king said. “I cancelled all that enormous debt of yours because you begged me to. How could you forget that? Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow tax collector for the little debt he owed you?”

‘Guards, take this man to the prison. He is to be punished and left in prison until he has paid back every penny he owes me!’ The guards grabbed the tax collector and carried him away.”

As Jesus finished the story, He looked at Peter and said, “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Now Peter could see. Like the first tax collector, we have a huge debt that we each owe to God
our great King. It is even worse than a huge debt of money: it is a huge debt of sin. And it is a debt so big that we can never pay it off. As a punishment for our sins against God, we deserve a punishment even worse than being thrown into jail with our families and having all of our things sold. We deserve to receive eternal punishment in Hell. Yet God, like the king in the story, has chosen to treat all who confess their sins to Him and ask for mercy, with love and forgiveness. His love is a patient, enduring, kind of love that cares for them. A love that chooses to treat others better than they deserve, even when they have sinned against Him again and again. A love that is not easily-angered or keeps a record of wrongs. A love that forgives others completely, from the heart.

“If I do not keep forgiving someone who wrongs me,” thought Peter, “then I am being just like that wicked tax collector! God has forgiven me my sins, Now I must love others the same way that God has loved me: with unending mercy and patience, kindness and forgiveness, even if they treat me badly over and over.” Peter understood Jesus’ lesson, now he would need to go and live it out.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Others

Our Scripture Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

They remind us of the kind of love that God has shown us and wants us to show to each other.

But what about you and me? I don’t know about you, but Jesus’ warning to Peter that “This is how my heavenly Father will treat you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart,” is scary. It’s really, really hard to love someone like that, when they’ve wronged you over and over again. How could anyone ever really obey those commands? Only with God’s help, for we are too sinful to live like that on our own. But, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior, God will forgive us our sins. And, to all who He saves, He promises to send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts. He can change their hearts. He can help them live as God wants them to live—even loving and forgiving others from our heart. Let’s praise God for not only being His people’s perfectly loving and forgiving King, but also as the One who sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to help them love each other the same way He has loved them. Let’s pray that God will be at work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins, trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that He might show us people we need to forgive and give us a love that helps us to truly forgive them from our hearts.
1. Peter asks Jesus if seven times is enough times to forgive someone who has wronged him, thinking he was giving a more generous answer than the usual three times.
2. Jesus tells him that seventy seven times is a closer answer and tells Peter a story to show what He means.
3. A king checks the records to see if his tax collectors have really given him all the money they should have and finds that one owes him millions of dollars.
4. The king has his guards bring the tax collector to him and orders him to explain himself.
5. The king threatens to sell all of his things and have he and his entire family thrown into jail until it is all paid off.
6. The tax collector begs for mercy and patience.
7. The king surprisingly forgives the man’s entire debt.
8. The man gratefully and gleefully leaves the king.
9. He immediately runs into another tax collector who owes him a few thousand dollars that he should have paid him already. He grabs him by the neck and demands it.
10. The second tax collector pleads for mercy and patience.
11. The first tax collector refuses and has him thrown into jail until he has paid him his money.
12. Other tax collectors see what happened and tell the king.
13. Guards come and bring the first tax collector back for questioning by the king.
14. The king throws the tax collector in jail for not showing the other man the same mercy and patience that he had shown him.
15. Jesus warns that God will treat this same way those who do not forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven them.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **Craft Resources**
   - Craft Instructions and Resources

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

5. **VIPP Resources**
   - VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
When? About 2000 years ago
Where? In Capernaum, Galilee in Israel
What’s In September, desert winds
It Like? from the deserts to the east
blow extremely hot winds
over the hills and down into
Galilee, ripening crops.

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

Peter
Other disciples
Jesus
King
Tax Collector with huge debt
Tax Collector with small debt
Other Tax Collectors
Tax Collector’s family
Tax Collector’s things
Guards
Money
Tax Collector’s Record books
Jail

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

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Others. Peter learned that love is patient and forgiving. It keeps no record of wrongs. He learned that we should always forgive others because of how God has forgiven us.

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

Why Love Keeps No Record of Wrongs

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

Beginning:
Peter asks Jesus if seven times is enough times to forgive someone who has wronged him, thinking he was giving a more generous answer than the usual three times. Jesus tells him that seventy seven times is a closer answer and tells Peter a story to show what He means. A king checks the records to see if his tax collectors have really given him all the money they should have and finds that one owes him millions of dollars. The king has his guards bring the tax collector to him and orders him to explain himself. The king threatens to sell all of his things and have he and his entire family thrown into jail until it is all paid off. The tax collector begs for mercy and patience. The king surprisingly forgives the man’s entire debt. The man gratefully and gleefully leaves the king.

Middle:
He immediately runs into another tax collector who owes him a few thousand dollars that he should have paid him already. He grabs him by the neck and demands it. The second tax collector pleads for mercy and patience. The first tax collector refuses and has him thrown into jail until he has paid him his money. Other tax collectors see what happened and tell the king.

End:
Guards come and bring the first tax collector back for questioning by the king. The king throws the tax collector in jail for not showing the other man the same mercy and patience that he had shown him. Jesus warns that God will treat this same way those who do not forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven them.
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Peter asks Jesus if seven times is enough times to forgive someone who has wronged him, thinking he was giving a more generous answer than the usual three times. Jesus tells him that seventy seven times is a closer answer and tells Peter a story to show what He means. A king checks the records to see if his tax collectors have really given him all the money they should have and finds that one owes him millions of dollars. The king has his guards bring the tax collector to him and orders him to explain himself. The king threatens to sell all of his things and have he and his entire family thrown into jail until it is all paid off. The tax collector begs for mercy and patience. The king surprisingly forgives the man’s entire debt. The man gratefully and gleefully leaves the king.

Middle:
He immediately runs into another tax collector who owes him a few thousand dollars that he should have paid him already. He grabs him by the neck and demands it. The second tax collector pleads for mercy and patience. The first tax collector refuses and has him thrown into jail until he has paid him his money. Other tax collectors see what happened and tell the king.

End:
Guards come and bring the first tax collector back for questioning by the king. The king throws the tax collector in jail for not showing the other man the same mercy and patience that he had shown him. Jesus warns that God will treat this same way those who do not forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven them.
1. Why did Peter think seven times was a generous number of times to forgive someone? Because three times was the number the rabbis thought was proper to forgive someone. Peter’s number was over double that amount.

2. What number of times to forgive someone did Jesus think was closer to the right answer? 490 times, literally, but He probably was conveying the idea that you should never stop forgiving someone.

3. Who is the king in Jesus’ story like in real life? Why? God because He is king over all and because He is merciful, patient and forgiving to those who ask Him for mercy.

4. Who is the first tax collector in the story like in real life? Why? Us. We have wronged God terribly with all our sins.

5. What are our debts to God, money or something else? Sin is our debt. We have rebelled against God and deserve to pay punishment for our sins.

6. How big is our debt of sin to God? It is so big that we deserve eternal punishment. It is so big that we can never pay for our sins. They deserve for us to always be punished for God, without an end.

7. How did God, the King of everything, pay the price for His people’s sins, Himself? By sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross and die for the sins of His people. He paid their debts completely. They are forgiven and can enjoy eternal life with Him, instead of the eternal punishment for their sins.

8. How can we know God’s forgiveness for our sins? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior.

9. Who is the second tax collector like in real life? Why? Others who do bad things to us and who need us to forgive them.

10. Why is it so wrong for us to not forgive others when God has forgiven us? Because if God has forgiven us all our countless sins, we should do the same for others who have only done little wrongs against us, in comparison.

11. What did Jesus say would happen to people who would not forgive their brother from their heart? They would receive a terrible punishment from God.

12. Who can we go to help us to forgive others the way Jesus wants us to? To God. He will send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us to forgive from our heart.

13. Why do you think it was so easy for the tax collector to forget to treat the other tax collector as the King had treated him? Because he, like us, is a sinner. It is all too easy for us to think a lot about ourselves and what we want others to do for us, but then forget to think about others and what we can do for them.

14. What does it mean to forgive someone from the heart? To not hold the wrongs against them any more.

15. How is forgiving someone, loving them? Much of love is treating someone better than they deserve when they are treating you unkindly. Without forgiveness people have broken friendships that can’t be fixed.

16. Can we ever forgive or love people as God wants us to on our own? No, we can’t.

17.. Who helps God’s people to forgive and love people as He wants them to? The Holy Spirit, living and working in their hearts. He gives them grace to do what they could never do on their own.

18. How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our heart and help us to forgive and love others as God wants us to? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of all who do this.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Peter learned that love is patient and forgiving. It keeps no record of wrongs. He learned that we should always forgive others because of how God has forgiven us.
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”
This verse tells us that God’s people are not to keep a record of wrongs. This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t write down the bad things people do to us. It means that in our hearts we should forgive them for the wrongs things they do and then treat them with love instead of holding a grudge against them.

Life Application
1. What does this story tell us about how God wants us to treat people who do bad things against us and ask for our forgiveness? He wants us to forgive them over and over again.
2. Do you find it hard to forgive someone when they have wronged you?
3. How can we love people as God wants us to love them? When we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, God will send the Holy Spirit to live in our heart and help us to love and forgive others as He wants us to.

The Gospel
What did God do to forgive His people’s debts—sins—against Him? 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 merciful to sinful people. Praise God for being the Forgiver of His people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like the first tax collector in the story, we often do not forgive others as God wants us to. We are all sinners who deserve God’s punishment. We all need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God that His forgiveness is so great that even the worst of sinners can be forgiven by Him. We can thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to live in His people’s hearts so that they can forgive others as He wants them to.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and help us to forgive others as He wants us to.

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
What’s in the Box?

Story Review Game

Materials
10-20 Various props or pictures with an association with the story
Paper and Marker
Large box or basket
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

Place the props/pictures in the box.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members reach into the box and pull out a story prop/picture. He will show it to his team and they will come up with an answer as to how that particular prop relates to the story. A correct answer wins 2 points for the team. The team can double their points if they can also tell something from the story they learned about God or about how He wants His people to live. If the team is unable to come up with an answer, then the other team can give an answer for 1 point.

Game continues until all children get to pull out a prop/picture, 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 Discussion Questions

Understanding the Big Idea
1. Who is God loving towards and how does He show it? Towards all; treats them with patience, mercy and kindness; takes care of their needs; forgives all who confess their sins.

2. What makes forgiveness one of the best parts of God’s love? God’s forgiveness comes at a great cost to Himself: the giving up His Son as the only sacrifice that could pay for our sins. How does God want His people to treat others? With the same kind of love He shows.

3. Why does God expect His people to treat their enemies with love? While His people were still enemies (in rebellion) to Him, He sent His Son to die for their sins. He wants them to treat others as He treated them.

4. What is different about the love that God has for His people? It is a covenant (special promise) love that will last forever.

5. What is different about the love that God wants His people to show for each other? He wants them to love each other with covenant love, too. Others will know they are His if they do.

6. Can God’s people love others as God has loved them on their own? Why not? No. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They will never love others here on earth as fully as God wants them to.

7. Who helps God’s people love others as God wants them to? God’s Holy Spirit helps them to love as God wants them to love.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. What did Peter learn about how many times he should forgive others? He should never stop forgiving others from the heart because this is how God has forgiven him.

2. What is the difference between the love God shows in forgiving us and the love we show when we forgive someone who wrongs us? God’s love has to be so much greater than ours because we have sinned against Him so much more than anyone has ever sinned against us.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.
Life Application Questions
1. Have you ever found it hard to persevere in faithful love to someone else? When?
2. What is something good for God’s people to remember when they have to forgive someone and they
don’t want to? Remember God’s forgiveness of their sins; remember that it is His command to forgive others.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

Gospel Question
God wants His people to love others as He has loved them? How has God shown His great love to His
sinful people? 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 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.
Rush To Safety

Big Idea Game

**Materials**
Construction Paper
CD and CD player
Masking Tape
Small bowl or bag
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.

Cut circles about 9” in diameter, enough for every child but one.

Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

**Playing the Game**
Point out the safety spot circles on the floor. Tell the children that you will tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, crab crawl, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they are to get to a safety spot. Show them that there is one spot too few for them all so that someone will be caught out. And they. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. The child who has no safety spot picks a question for the class to answer. If the class answers it correctly, then the child is added back into the group. If not, then the child stays out and another safety spot is removed.

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

NOTE: Have the children who are “out” help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

**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 does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.
5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.
6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.
7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Peter learned that we must be patient and persevering, not keeping a record of wrongs against others. Love means forgiving someone who sins against us time after time again.

Life Application
1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. 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 inside His people’s hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.
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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.
Gospel Question
What is the good news of God’s love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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
10 or so various balance-able items, per team
(erasers, plates, rulers, books, shoes, etc.)
Paper, marker
2 baskets/boxes per team

**Preparing the Game**
Make a clearly printed sign of the verse for each team. Make another copy of the verse per team and cut it up into as many pieces as articles per team. Number each of the verse pieces sequentially. Use masking tape to mark starting line. Tape the verse pieces to the items and make a pile for each team at the far end of the relay area. Place items for each team in a basket and place at each team’s starting point. Place the other baskets at the other end of the relay area.

**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 teams and have them line up at a start line. Explain them that the first person in line is to choose an item from the basket at the starting line. They are to put it on their head, and balance it down to the other end. If they drop the item, they just pick it up and continue from that point. When they get there, they are to put their balanced item in the basket and then say the verse to the leader. The leader will then give them a piece of the verse. They then rush back to their team with the verse piece and sit down at the back of the line. When all items have been taken down to the other end and all verse pieces retrieved, have been retrieved, they will then put all the pieces in verse order. If working with less confident readers, point out to them that they can use the sign you made and the numbers in the verse pieces as hints to help them line it up properly. After getting it in order, the team will finish by saying the verse all together. The first team to do so, wins.

Game can be played again, 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.
Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, Love is kind,
It does not envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, But rejoices in the truth,
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, trusts and hopes, It always perseveres,
Love never fails. Love never fails,
Love never fails. Love never fails!

Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.
5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.
6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.
7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? Peter learned that we must be patient and persevering, not keeping a record of wrongs against others. Love means forgiving someone who sins against us time after time again.

Life Application

1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside His people’s hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.

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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.

Gospel Question

What is the good news of God’s love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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**
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards
Blindfold

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

Choose someone to be “It” and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it’s hidden, “It” can remove the blindfold and begin to look.

The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when “It” gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when “It” gets further from the sign.

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Verse 1
Blest be the tie that binds,
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds,
is like to that above.

Verse 2
Before our Father’s throne,
we pour our ardent pray’rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3
We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4
When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Understanding the Song
1. What is the tie that “binds” the hearts of God’s people? Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God’s people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God’s family. 
2. What is the fellowship of love that binds God’s people together? “It is like to that above”—a little taste of what they will have in heaven.
3. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love in their prayers? They pray “ardently” (with great desire), they pray about each other’s fears, hopes, aims (what they hope to do) as if they are their own.
4. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love as they talk with each other? They share their woes and burdens (hard things) and care so much that they will even cry in sympathy over them.
5. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love when they “asunder part” (are apart from each other)? They are sad to have to say goodbye because they love being with them; they still care for them in their heart, and look forward to seeing each other again.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Others?
God’s People are to love everyone, but have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God’s family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Peter learned from Jesus that the special love that God’s people are to have for each other means to never stop forgiving someone when they sin against you.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song?
They can praise God gives His people the Holy Spirit to bind their hearts together in a love so special that they love each other in the same way as He has loved them. They can ask Him to put more of that kind of love in their hearts for His people.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
**Scripture Verse Connection**

How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

*The Holy Spirit is the tie that binds the hearts of Christians together in love. Through His work in their hearts, He helps them to love each other with love that is like God’s love, the love of "above", of heaven. They love each other in ways that this verse describes. They share each others’ mutual woes and they pray about each other’s cares, and bear each others’ burdens. Even when they are apart, their love for each other perseveres.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   
   *Praise God, the Holy Spirit, for being the great Worker of Love in God’s people’s hearts.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   
   *That many times we do not love God’s people as we should. We forget to pray for them. We do not care about their “woes”, or help them with their burdens. the hard things they are going through. We are too busy thinking about ourselves. 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 forgiveness for our sins. We can thank Him for the Holy Spirit’s work in His people’s hearts to help them love each other far more than they ever could on their own.*

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 send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and give us love for His people.*

**Gospel Question**

How can we become God’s people? How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts and help us to love others as God wants us to? What is the gospel?

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

**Closing Large Group Time**

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

Preparing the Game
None.

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

Choose someone to be “It” and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it’s hidden, “It” can remove the blindfold and begin to look.

The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when “It” gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when “It” gets further from the sign.

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
A Tax Collector in Debtor’s Prison

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

Where? In Capernaum,

Who? Jesus

Did What? Told Peter a story about a king who put

With the Big Idea Object? A Tax Collector in Debtor’s prison

Why? Because he refused to forgive another tax collector as the king had forgiven him.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Others. Jesus told this story about the unmerciful tax collector to show Peter that God’s people should love by forgiving others, just as God has forgiven their sins against Him.

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

God wants us to show others love by forgiving them when they wrong us. He wants us to forgive them over and over again.
Big Idea Craft Instructions

A Tax Collector in Debtor’s Prison

Description
The children will make a prisoner’s hat and chains out of paper.

Materials
Templates for hat brim and chain links
1 white 8” paper plate per craft
White Cardstock
2 ½” pieces of sticky backed velcro per craft
Black construction paper
Tape
Black markers

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out a copy of the 2 hat brim templates onto cardstock, 1 set per craft.
2. Cut along the dashed lines and fold edges of circle.
3. Print out templates for hat brim and for chain links. Cut out each.
4. Tape together the two hat brim pieces to make one long piece. (Older children can do this step as part of the craft, if desired).
5. Use the template for the chain links to cut out at least 10 links per craft onto the construction paper.
6. Set out other supplies.
7. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have them color in every other stripe on the hat brim with the black markers.
3. With tape, help the children attach the brim to the edges of the hat top “plate” (eating surface side, face down), cutting off excess of the band length, once you know exactly how much is needed. You will probably need to do this step completely for the younger children, maybe for most of your children. You can do this as they work on assembling their chain links.
4. Have the children form a set of 8 interlocking chains. Make the first chain, fastening with a piece of tape. Then slip the end of the next piece of paper through the first loop and fasten the ends of this second link with tape. Continue until you have 8 links.
5. Form the hand cuffs for each wrist using the same linking technique, but instead of using tape, attach a piece of the velcro to these links so that they can be taken on and off.
Prisoner Hat Brim Pieces (Two Pieces)

Overlap the pieces along the dashed lines and tape after coloring in.
Dear [Name],

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Love Others. God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God wants His people to love, too: treating others—even their enemies—with the same love that He has shown them. While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to treat each other with the same kind of love that He has for them. Jesus said that when God's people love each other as He loves them, the world will know that they really are His people. God's people know that they cannot love others as God has loved them on their own. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. But, they know that God's Holy Spirit, working in their hearts, helps them to love others as He has loved them.

We thought about 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

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

A. Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C. Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to love others as God has loved us. Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

T. Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S. Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

Yours Sincerely,
**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one or two VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Ball
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.

**Preparing the Game**
Put one of the 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 each of the VIPP(s) you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

*Review:* Have the children break into two even groups and sit down on the floor across from each other, with about a 6’ spread between the 2 columns. Give the ball to a child at one end and have them roll it across to the child directly across from them in the other column. Then, that child rolls it back across to the next child on the other side, then that child rolls it to the next child in the other side, alternately all the way down the line. The last child to get the ball will then pick an envelope and reveal the category. Have the children try to remember the VIPP’s answer to the category. If the class gets it right, the category is “retired”. If they get it wrong, then it gets put back in the pile of category envelopes. The child who picked then takes their place at the head of their column. Play resumes again; this time ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue. Continue until all the clues have been chosen/answered correctly.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*

*Get Clues:* Have the children break into two even groups and sit down on the floor across from each other, with about a 6’ spread between the 2 columns. Give the ball to a child at one end and have them roll it across to the child directly across from them in the other column. Then, that child rolls it back across to the next child on the other side, then that child rolls it to the next child in the other side, alternately all the way down the line. The last child to get the ball will then pick an envelope and reveal the category. The teacher will give the child the corresponding clue(s) for that category to show to the rest of the class, then takes their place at the head of their column. Play resumes again; this time ending with the last child in the other line, who gets up and chooses a clue. Continue until all the clues have been chosen.

*Guess:* Try to identify the VIPP(s) from the clues. Read the blurbs about each one when correctly identified.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

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

Children arrive

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

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

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

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

Time | Activity
--- | ---

Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities

_______ Snack and Discussion Time

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

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

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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

_______ Activity Time

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

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

Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray.

Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)

_______ Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

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

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
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 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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: Loving Like Jesus*, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- 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*
Discussion and Activity Time

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

Snack

A piece of English shortbread; and a piece of yam or plaintain to symbolize food from each country with warm milk, if desired, like what the baby would have needed to have. Alternative drink could be English “children’s tea: a little tea, a lot of milk and enough sugar to make it taste good.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

T Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

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: Egg Toss

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: Circus Lion**

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

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

**Big Idea Craft: A Baby Doll**

**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: Over, Under and Throw**

**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: Bowling Ball Verse**

**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: Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet 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: Blest Be the Tie that Binds: Verses 1-4

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

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

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

Activity Presentations

Drama

The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

Story Review Game

Ask Story Review Questions

Big Idea Game

Read the Big Idea
Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions

Big Idea Craft

Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

VI PP 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 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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: Loving Like Jesus**, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- 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

A piece of English shortbread; and a piece of yam or plaintain to symbolize food from each country with warm milk, if desired, like what the baby would have needed to have. Alternative drink could be English “children’s tea: a little tea, a lot of milk and enough sugar to make it taste good.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

T Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.
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
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: Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Activities:
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: Sign It! Say It! What Does It Mean?

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
## Closing Large Group Time

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

### Activity Presentations

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
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Loving Like Jesus
by Connie Dever

Story

Our story today does not take place in Bible lands or in Bible times. It takes place about 50 years ago in England and in Africa in a country that is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Congo is a land with lots of junghly forests. When our story took place, many people live very, very simple lives in little huts of walls made of wooden poles with straw walls and roofs. There were very few hospitals or doctors.

A young woman named Helen sat in her little room with piles of thick school books spread out around her. She sighed as she thought of all the facts she needed to learn. “I always knew I wasn’t especially smart, but I didn’t think it would be this hard to learn medicine! How will I ever get through all of this?!” she thought to herself. Another thought broke through her discouragement: “If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” That’s what C.T. Studd, the famous missionary to Africa said, years before. “I would give up this medicine if it were just for me, but now that I’ve become a Christian, I know that I’m doing this for Jesus. He will help me keep going and one day perhaps he will use me as a doctor to love others and tell them about Him.” So on Helen studied.

After lots of hard work, Helen finally finished medical school and became Dr. Helen, a full-fledged doctor. Helen began to think more and more about how she might use medicine to love people and tell them about Jesus. “I love England. It has always been my home,” Helen thought. “But there are so many people in other parts of the world who do not know about Jesus and they do not have doctors to help cure their sicknesses. Should I leave my home and help them?”

C.T. Studd’s words came back to her. ‘If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.’ Jesus loved people so much that He was willing to leave His perfect home in heaven to come to earth to be their Savior, why shouldn’t she be willing to love the people in another part of the world by leaving her beautiful home in England to help them and tell them about Jesus? It was decided. Dr. Helen would be a missionary doctor.

Dr. Helen traveled thousands and thousands of miles south to what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. She traveled far into the jungle-y forests to a place where there was no doctor and no hospital. Together with the Africans first she made a “hospital” hut out of branches and wood. Then she made bricks out of clay, hardened them in a kiln (outdoor oven fueled by fire), and then laid them brick by brick and built a proper hospital building.

“Why would this white woman come from far away and take care of our sick people and even help build with her own hands this hospital?” the people wondered.

“If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him,” was Dr. Helen’s answer. “Jesus wants me to love others as He has loved me. If Jesus wants me to build bricks out of mud to show His love to these Africans and tell them about Him, then that is what I will do.”
Before long, hundreds of people came from all over to Dr. Helen’s little hospital. For miles and miles around, her hospital was the only place that a sick person could get help. Dr. Helen took care of people who needed everything from snakebite cures to malaria medicine to help giving birth to babies. Sometimes sick parents died and the children were left with no one to take care of them.

“Look at these poor children without parents!” Dr. Helen thought. “I have so much to do taking care of this hospital, how could I possibly have time to take care of them, too?” ‘What were C.T. Studd’s words? ‘If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.’ Jesus was even busier than I was, yet He took time to love the children. I must love them, too. We will build a special house for these children to live right here near the hospital. We will take care of them and we will tell them about Jesus.” Dr. Helen and the Africans worked together to make a special house for the children.

One sad night at the hospital a woman died leaving a little tiny baby who had been born early (premature) and her little two year old sister. The baby was so tiny that it needed special machines that Dr. Helen’s little hospital in the jungle did not have.

“There’s not much we can do,” Dr. Helen told her helpers. “The night air is so cold and we don’t even have heat. This baby will die if it gets cold. Wrap up the baby best you can and fill up the hot water bottle with water and put it in with the baby.” While one helper wrapped up the baby, another one went to fill the hot water bottle. But, as the helper went to fill it up, the bottle broke!

“That was our last hot water bottle! What can we do now, Dr. Helen?” they exclaimed.

“This is very serious. That baby will die if it is not warm enough,” Dr. Helen admitted. “I know, go build up the fire in the fireplace and place the baby next to you on the floor as close to the fire as you dare. Your body will block the wind from getting to the baby and giving it a chill,” she told them.

This was a lot to ask of a helper. Can you imagine sleeping on a hard, dirt floor all night with a cold wind hitting your back? Can you imagine trying to stay awake, keeping the fire going and watching the baby to make sure it’s doing ok? Why would the helper do this? Because this helper loved Jesus, too, just like Dr. Helen. What were C.T. Studd’s words? ‘If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.’ What did Jesus do? ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have trees, yet the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.’ (Matthew 8:20, NIV) When Jesus was on earth, He spent many nights sleeping on the ground as he traveling from town to town to tell people how they could be saved. He wants me to love people the way He did. Surely I can sleep on this hard floor for one night for this baby,” thought the helper.

The helper’s love was well rewarded, for the next day the baby was still alive. Dr. Helen went to the children who lived in the special house and told them everything that had happened with the mother and the little baby and the little two year old girl.

“There is something we can do to love that baby, too. When Jesus was on earth, He spent many hours praying for people because He loved them. Sometimes he even stayed up all night just to pray. He wants us to love people the way He did. did. Let’s pray that God will keep the baby alive,
even though we have no hot water bottle.”

The children gathered around Dr. Helen and they all began to pray. One little girl named Ruth prayed, “Please, God, send us a water bottle. It’ll be no good tomorrow, God, the baby will be dead; so, please send it this afternoon…and while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she’ll know You really love her?”

Dr. Helen hardly knew what to think. Would God really answer this prayer? There in the middle of the jungle in Africa there were no stores to buy water bottles or baby dolls. They really didn’t even have hot water bottles in The Congo, unless someone sent them. The only way for a water bottle and dolly to come would be by a package that came from England…and no one from England had even sent them a package of any kind for months and months. What was worse, packages took five whole months to get from England to their jungle home. Why God would have needed to answer that prayer five months earlier, before there was even a little baby or a little girl; but Ruth didn’t think of that. Ruth was thinking about how to love those little children as God had loved her.

Yet what should come into the little village in the middle of the jungle that afternoon, but a car with a large cardboard box addressed to Dr. Helen from England. Dr. Helen gathered the children around her and excitedly opened the box. What was in the box? First Dr. Helen pulled out…..brightly colored sweaters for the children. Then…….boxes of raisins……then….what was this? Could it really be? Yes, it was!

Dr. Helen grasped it and pulled it out. “The hot water bottle!” she exclaimed. Ruth now rushed up to the box and said, “Dr. Helen, if the bottle was there, then the dolly must be there, too!” She reached her arm down in the box and burst out in a smile as she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. “Dr. Helen, can I please go over with you, and give this dolly to the little girl, so she’ll know that Jesus really loves her?”

“Yes, Ruth, of course you can,” Dr. Helen told her. Because for Ruth, the dolly was just the beginning of how she wanted to love that little girl as Jesus had loved her.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Others
Our Scripture Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

We saw today in our story how Dr. Helen, the helper, and the children loved others the way that Jesus had loved them. But what about you and me? Did you know that the Bible talks about good works that God has prepared in advance for His people to do? Every single one of those good works that God has prepared for His people have to do with loving God by loving others as He loved them. It is God’s promise to all who turn and confess their sins to him and trust in Him for forgiveness, that He will have good works
Let’s praise this amazing God who has planned good works of loving others for His people to do. Let’s ask Him to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to give us good works prepared for us to do, help us to see what they are and rejoice in doing them.
1. Helen Roseveare had to work very, very hard at studying to be a doctor because she was not especially smart. She did not give up because she wanted to use her skills as a doctor to serve Jesus.

2. Dr. Helen decided to leave her comfortable home in England to be a doctor in the D.R. of Congo because there were so few doctors and so few people knew about Jesus.

3. Dr. Helen had no hospital but one made of branches and wood. She and some Africans made their own clay bricks and built their own hospital.

4. People came from all over to have Dr. Helen help them with all their sicknesses.

5. Dr. Helen and her helpers made a special house (orphanage) for children left behind when their parents died so they could be taken care of and hear about Jesus.

6. When one woman died, she left a baby and a little girl behind.

7. The baby needed special warmth from a water bottle to stay alive, but the water bottle broke.

8. One of Dr. Helen’s helpers volunteered to lay on the floor between the fire and the baby so it would not die of a chill.

9. Dr. Helen shared with the orphans about the baby and the little girl. Ruth prayed that God would send that very day a water bottle for the baby and a dolly for the little girl, so she would know that Jesus loved her.

10. Dr. Helen knew how impossible that prayer was and had a hard time believing.

11. God answered the prayer and sent a package from England that had both the water bottle and the dolly.

12. Ruth took the dolly to the little girl.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources

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

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter

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

When? About 50 years ago
Where? The Democratic Republic of the Congo
What’s it Like? Lots of jungly forests; most people live in simple huts; few hospitals and doctors

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

Helen Roseveare
Thick school books
Doctor’s jacket and supplies
Jungles
Clay for brick-making
African people
Hut of branches and wood
Sick people with various ailments
Sick woman with little girl and baby
Dr. Helen’s helpers
Hot water bottle
Fire
Ruth and other orphans
Box of things from England
Dolly

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

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Others. Dr. Helen, her helpers and Ruth showed love for others by putting others first in what they did and by praying. Others could see God’s love in what they did.

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

The Loving Prayer of a Little Girl

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

Beginning:
Helen Roseveare had to work very, very hard at studying to be a doctor because she was not especially smart. She did not give up because she wanted to use her skills as a doctor to serve Jesus. Dr. Helen decided to leave her comfortable home in England to be a doctor in the D.R. of Congo because there were so few doctors and so few people knew about Jesus. Dr. Helen had no hospital but one made of branches and wood. She and some Africans made their own clay bricks and built their own hospital. People came from all over to have Dr. Helen help them with all their sicknesses. Dr. Helen and her helpers made a special house (orphanage) for children left behind when their parents died so they could be taken care of and hear about Jesus.

Middle:
When one woman died, she left a baby and a little girl behind. The baby needed special warmth from a water bottle to stay alive, but the water bottle broke. One of Dr. Helen’s helpers volunteered to lay on the floor between the fire and the baby so it would not die of a chill. Dr. Helen shared with the orphans about the baby and the little girl. Ruth prayed that God would send that very day a water bottle for the baby and a dolly for the little girl, so she would know that Jesus loved her.

End:
Dr. Helen knew how impossible that prayer was and had a hard time believing. God answered the prayer and sent a package from England that had both the water bottle and the dolly. Ruth took the dolly to the little girl.
Beginning:
Helen Roseveare had to work very, very hard at studying to be a doctor because she was not especially smart. She did not give up because she wanted to use her skills as a doctor to serve Jesus. Dr. Helen decided to leave her comfortable home in England to be a doctor in the D.R. of Congo because there were so few doctors and so few people knew about Jesus. Dr. Helen had no hospital but one made of branches and wood. She and some Africans made their own clay bricks and built their own hospital. People came from all over to have Dr. Helen help them with all their sicknesses. Dr. Helen and her helpers made a special house (orphanage) for children left behind when their parents died so they could be taken care of and hear about Jesus.

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Middle:
When one woman died, she left a baby and a little girl behind. The baby needed special warmth from a water bottle to stay alive, but the water bottle broke. One of Dr. Helen’s helpers volunteered to lay on the floor between the fire and the baby so it would not die of a chill. Dr. Helen shared with the orphans about the baby and the little girl. Ruth prayed that God would send that very day a water bottle for the baby and a dolly for the little girl, so she would know that Jesus loved her.

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End:
Dr. Helen knew how impossible that prayer was and had a hard time believing. God answered the prayer and sent a package from England that had both the water bottle and the dolly. Ruth took the dolly to the little girl.

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1. Why did Helen not give up studying even though it was so hard? *She wanted to use her skills to be a doctor and help people, for Jesus’ sake.*

2. Why did Dr. Helen decide to leave England and go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo? *Dr. Helen decided to leave her comfortable home in England to be a doctor in the D.R. of Congo because there were so few doctors and so few people knew about Jesus.*

3. What was Dr. Helen’s first hospital made of? *Branches and wood.*

4. What did Dr. Helen and the Africans have to do to make a proper hospital building? *Make bricks out of clay and build the building themselves.*

5. Why did people come from so far away to Dr. Helen’s hospital? *There were no other doctors.*

6. What sorts of things did people come to have Dr. Helen treat? *All of their sicknesses.*

7. What kind of special help did the baby need? *Special warmth to keep her alive.*

8. Why couldn’t they get another water bottle when theirs broke? *Because they didn’t have another one and because there was no where they could go and get one, they lived so far away from any other hospital or supply store.*

9. How did they solve the problem of keeping the baby warm? *By having a helper lay next to the baby to keep her warm.*

10. How did Dr. Helen’s helper show love to the baby? *By laying next to the baby on the hard, dirt floor all night, even though she might get very cold and she would have to get up a lot to keep the fire burning hot enough.*

11. Why did Dr. Helen build the special house for children? *Dr. Helen and her helpers made a special house (orphanage) for children left behind when their parents died so they could be taken care of and hear about Jesus.*

12. What did Dr. Helen want the children to do for the baby and little girl? To pray that God would


14. Why did Dr. Helen have a hard time believing that God would answer Ruth’s prayer? *Because God would have had to prompt someone to send the box with the water bottle and the dolly in it weeks before Ruth had even prayed for them.*

15. What came in the box that afternoon? *The hot water bottle and the dolly, among lots of other things.*

16. Why did Ruth want the little girl to have a dolly? *So she would know that Jesus loved her.*

17. How did Ruth show the little girl love…and God’s love? *By praying for her and by giving her the dolly.*

18. How did Dr. Helen show the Africans love? *By being willing to leave her own land and live in the Congo under very different conditions. She also cared for the sick people, she told them about Jesus and she helped them build a hospital. She also taught them to depend upon God for what they needed.*

19. What were some of the good works that God had prepared for Dr. Helen to do? *To be a doctor and help sick people get well; to tell them the good news of Jesus; helping them build a hospital; praying with them for sick people.*

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? *Dr. Helen, her helpers and Ruth showed love for others by putting others first in what they did and by praying. Others could see God’s love in what they did.*

**Life Application**

1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? *Yes!*

2. Who will go to tell the people in these places about Jesus? *God’s people today, maybe even you or me!*

3. What are some ways that God wants God’s people to love today that might be hard? *Forgive people who wrong them; Forgive people who make fun of them or hurt them for believing in Jesus. Being patient or kind. Being slow to anger.*

4. How can we become God’s people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” Helen Roseveare, her helpers, and Ruth and the other orphans were not self-seeking. They always hoped and always persevered.

The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that Helen wanted the people of Nigeria to know and believe? 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 All-knowing and the Perfect Planner of All Things.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like Dr. Helen, many times we do not have the faith to believe that God can do incredible things when we ask for them. We forget how great He is and that He is able to do more than we can imagine.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for preparing good works for His people to do, wonderful good works, like those that Dr. Helen and Ruth did.
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 prepare good works for us to do, help us to see what they are, and help us rejoice in doing them.

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.
Egg Toss
Story Review Game

Materials
3-5 Plastic Open-able Easter Egg of the same color(s) (that close well!) or balls of crumpled foil of the same size
Small piece of construction paper
Paper and Marker
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.

Put a small piece of construction paper in one of the eggs (or in one piece of crumpled foil, if using foil). The other eggs/foil balls remain empty.

Playing the Game
Have the children spread out randomly at about arms’ distance apart. Have the children begin to toss all the eggs around between each other. When the leader says, “Freeze” the children hold on to the eggs. Each child who has an egg opens it to see if it has the piece of paper in it. If it does, then he answers the question. Play then resumes.

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

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

**Understanding the Big Idea**

1. Who is God loving towards and how does He show it? **Towards all; treats them with patience, mercy and kindness; takes care of their needs; forgives all who confess their sins.**
2. What makes forgiveness one of the best parts of God’s love? **God’s forgiveness comes at a great cost to Himself: the giving up His Son as the only sacrifice that could pay for our sins. How does God want His people to treat others? With the same kind of love He shows.**
3. Why does God expect His people to treat their enemies with love? **While His people were still enemies (in rebellion) to Him, He sent His Son to die for their sins. He wants them to treat others as He treated them.**
4. What is different about the love that God has for His people? It is a covenant (special promise) love that will last forever.
5. What is different about the love that God wants His people to show for each other? He wants them to love each other with covenant love, too. Others will know they are His if they do.
6. Can God’s people love others as God has loved them on their own? Why not? No. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They will never love others here on earth as fully as God wants them to.
7. Who helps God’s people love others as God wants them to? God’s Holy Spirit helps them to love as God wants them to love.

**Big Idea Story Connection Questions**

1. How did Helen Roseveare show love towards the people of the Congo? **She was willing to leave her home in England; she build clay bricks herself instead of just being a doctor; she told all the people about Jesus; she prayed for the baby, etc.**
2. How might the little girl learn about the love of Jesus through Ruth? **By Ruth telling her how she prayed to God for the dolly and Him sending it to her; by playing with her and telling her about Jesus and loving her as she grew up at the orphanage.**

**Scripture Verse Connection**

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.
Life Application Questions
1. Have you ever found it hard to persevere in faithful love to someone else? When?
2. What is something good for God’s people to remember when they have to forgive someone and they don’t want to? Remember God’s forgiveness of their sins; remember that it is His command to forgive others.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea? Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea? Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea? Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea? Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

Gospel Question
God wants His people to love others as He has loved them? How has God shown His great love to His sinful people? 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.
CIRCUS LIONS

Big Idea Game

Materials
Optional funny wig, glasses, hat, etc.
Hula hoop, etc.
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

Playing the Game
Tell the children that they are circus lions. Have them get on all four and roar and roam like lions. Have them “jump” through a hula hoop, etc. Then tell them they are getting very, very sleepy and must lie down…on their backs…in their den. Tell them that sleeping lions lie very still, make no noise, and keep their eyes open! Tell them that you are the Lion Trainer and are trying to wake up the Sleeping, Lazy Lions to perform in the circus. Any lion that makes a move, a sound or smiles will have to get up! Put on your funny wig, glasses, hat, etc. and make your rounds, trying to catch the lions moving, making noise or to make them smile. Lions who are caught are asked to answer a question correctly as their circus trick to before they can go back to their den. Have one of the lions caught to pick a question. Read it to the whole class and take their answers. If they don’t get it right, then the child/children must stay out until the next round and next correct answer. If desired, let some of the children take turns being the Lion Trainer.

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

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

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture

1. What does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.

2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.

3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.

4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.

5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.

6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.

7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Helen Roseveare, her helpers, and Ruth and the other orphans were not self-seeking. They always hoped and always persevered.

Life Application
1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?

2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. 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 inside His people’s hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.

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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.
**Gospel Question**
What is the good news of God’s love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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.
Bowling Ball Verse

Scripture Verse Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
10 Plastic bowling pins or empty 2-Liter soda bottles
Playground or foam ball

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
Divide the children into 2 teams. Explain to the children that they will take turns trying to knock down bowling pins. The bowler then will recite the verse. If he can do it alone, he gets as many points for his team and pins he knocked down. If he asks for the help of another team member, then their recitation of the verse is worth half the points. If they cannot recite it, someone from the other team can try for the half point value. If a child does not knock over any pins, he can still say the verse for 1 point. The team with the most points at end of play wins.

Game continues until all children get a chance to bowl, 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.
Love is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, Love is kind,  
It does not envy, It does not boast,  
Love does not delight in evil, But rejoices in the truth,  
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,  
It always protects, trusts and hopes, It always perseveres,  
Love never fails. Love never fails,  
Love never fails. Love never fails!

Love never fails. Love never fails. Love never fails!

Understanding the Scripture
1. What does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.
5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.
6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.
7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Helen Roseveare, her helpers, and Ruth and the other orphans were not self-seeking. They always hoped and always persevered.

Life Application
1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside His people’s hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.

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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.

Gospel Question

What is the good news of God’s love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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**
Sign Language signs used in song, printed out onto cards; particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.
Bag or bowl

**Preparing the Game**
Put the signs in the bag/bowl.

**Playing the Game**
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we’ve learned in this bag/bowl and mix them up. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone…but you, if they need some help. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
Blest Be the Tie that Binds
Verse 1
Blest be the tie that binds,
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds,
is like to that above.

Verse 2
Before our Father’s throne,
we pour our ardent pray’rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3
We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4
When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What is the tie that “binds” the hearts of God’s people? Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God’s people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God’s family.

2. What is the fellowship of love that binds God’s people together? “It is like to that above”—a little taste of what they will have in heaven.

3. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love in their prayers? They pray “ardently” (with great desire), they pray about each other’s fears, hopes, aims (what they hope to do) as if they are their own.

4. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love as they talk with each other? They share their woes and burdens (hard things) and care so much that they will even cry in sympathy over them.

5. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love when they “asunder part” (are apart from each other)? They are sad to have to say goodbye because they love being with them; they still care for them in their heart, and look forward to seeing each other again.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Others? God’s People are to love everyone, but have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God’s family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each others problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Dr. Helen, her helpers, and even the orphan children who believed and followed the Lord shared the special fellowship love for God and for each other. That love caused them not only care for each other, but care for others like the baby and the little girl who did not yet know Jesus.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God gives His people the Holy Spirit to bind their hearts together in a love so special that they love each other in the same way as He has loved them. They can ask Him to put more of that kind of love in their hearts for His people.

2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

The Holy Spirit is the tie that binds the hearts of Christians together in love. Through His work in their hearts, He helps them to love each other with love that is like God’s love, the love of “above”, of heaven. They love each other in ways that this verse describes. They share each others’ mutual woes and they pray about each other’s cares, and bear each others’ burdens. Even when they are apart, their love for each other perseveres.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
   Praise God, the Holy Spirit, for being the great Worker of Love in God’s people’s hearts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   That many times we do not love God’s people as we should. We forget to pray for them. We do not care about their “woes”, or help them with their burdens. the hard things they are going through. We are too busy thinking about ourselves. 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 forgiveness for our sins. We can thank Him for the Holy Spirit’s work in His people’s hearts to help them love each other far more than they ever could on their own.
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 send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and give us love for His people.

Gospel Question
How can we become God’s people? How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts and help us to love others as God wants us to? What is the gospel?

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**Materials**
Sign Language signs used in song, printed out onto cards; particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.
Bag or bowl

**Preparing the Game**
Put the signs in the bag/bowl.

**Playing the Game**
Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then put all the signs we’ve learned in this bag/bowl and mix them up. Ask one of the children to choose a sign, but not show it to anyone… but you, if they need some help. Ask the child to do the sign for the rest of the children and see if the other children can guess which one it is. Do the sign with the child, if desired. When the children guess the sign, ask them the meaning of the word. Choose another child to pick a new sign from the bag and continue.

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
## A Baby Doll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. What Is It? (Presenter 1)</strong></th>
<th><strong>A Baby Doll</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where?</strong></td>
<td>In the jungly Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who?</strong></td>
<td>Little Ruth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Did What?</strong></td>
<td>Cried out in excitement when she saw in the box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>With the Big Idea Object?</strong></td>
<td>A baby doll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why?</strong></td>
<td>Because she had prayed for God to send one so the little girl would know that Jesus loved her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Others. Ruth showed her love for the little girl by praying that God would send her a baby doll as well as a hot water bottle to save the baby.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God wants us to love others, too. One way we can love others is by praying for them.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A Baby Doll

Description
The children will make a baby doll out of an ankle and various decorating supplies.

Materials
1 adult ankle sock per craft
Stuffing materials (cotton balls, poly-fill, or simply 5/6 paper towels per craft)
2 pipe cleaners per child
Template for doll’s “dress”
1 12” x 6” piece of fabric per craft
2 Jiggly eyes per craft
Yarn scraps for hair or craft feathers in hair color (the kinds with the fringe-like feathers, not the stiff kind)
Black, brown, red markers
Craft glue
Other decorating supplies, such as glitter glue and sequins, as desired.

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out the dress template. Cut out a “dress” for each craft, remembering to fold fabric before cutting. Cut out the diamond-shaped neck piece.
2. Set out other supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Stuff the ankle sock with stuffing.
3. Twist together one end of the pipe cleaners together to make into one long one. (You may want to do this in advance for the younger children.)
4. Have the children place their sock in front of them with the opening for the foot facing down on the table. Tightly twist the middle of the long pipe cleaner about 3” down from toe end of sock, separating the head from the body. This front becomes the front of the doll.
5. Have the children put the dress on the doll by slipping it over the neck.
6. Have the children decorate the doll’s face with yarn/feather hair along the top of the head, jiggly eyes and marker-drawn mouth and nose.
7. Let them decorate the front of the doll dress with glitter glue, etc., if desired.
Doll Dress

Place on fold of fabric

Place on fold of fabric
Dear __________________________________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Love Others. God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. While God loves all people, He shows a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to love each other with this same kind of special love that He has shown to them. Jesus said that when God's people love each other as He has loved them, others will know that they really are His people. God's people know that they cannot love others as God has loved them on their own. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They know that they have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They know that they cannot love others as God has loved them. They have been forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They know that they cannot love others as God has loved them.

We thought about 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

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 His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to love.

T Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God calls us to.

S Ask God to work in our hearts and make us like His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others as God wants them to.

Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God calls us to.

God's people love others as God wants them to.

Yours Sincerely, ____________________________________________
VIPP Game

**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one of the 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
Box or basket big enough for the envelopes to fit in and the ball to land in.

**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.
Place the envelopes in the basket, a good shooting distance from where the child at the head of the line will stand.

**Playing the Game**

*Reveal & 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 line up, all facing forward. Give the ball to the last child in line. At your signal, have them pass the ball to the next child with an overhead pass; then that child passes the ball through the legs of the next child, etc. until the ball reaches the first child. The first child in line then tries to make a basket. If he succeeds, he gets to go up and pick out an envelope to open. He opens the envelope, shows the category to the other children who try to remember the VIPP’s answer to that category. If the children get it right, the envelope is retired. If they do not, then it goes back in the envelope pile in the basket. Game continues until all the envelopes have been retired or as time or attention span allow.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*
**Get Clues:** Have the children line up, all facing forward. Give the ball to the last child in line. At your signal, have them pass the ball to the next child with an overhead pass; then that child passes the ball through the legs of the next child, etc. until the ball reaches the first child. The first child in line then tries to make a basket. If he succeeds, he gets to go up and pick out an envelope to open. He opens the envelope, shows the category to the other children and the VIPP’s clip art clue to that category.

**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

Time | Activity
--- | ---
_____ | Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
My preparations:

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity</strong></td>
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<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>•</strong></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>6.</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>
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<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> (Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)</td>
</tr>
<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>
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</tbody>
</table>
|      | Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
Opening Large Group Time

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

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

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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: Love Does Not Fail* 1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9  
Story Outline p.63  
Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Snack

Carrot stick “bow” strung with shoelace red licorice by making a small notch in each end of the carrot and inserting the licorice. String the “bow” by laying a pretzel stick “arrow” across the middle starting with the licorice. (Carrot sticks should be cut into thin sticks and then apply just enough pressure on both ends at the same time until they break almost completely through in the middle, making a hinge and a place where the pretzel arrow rests on the bow.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C  Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

T  Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

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: Forceball

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: Bean Bag Grand March
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: Food from the Royal Table
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: Stop and Go
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: Which Way Did It Go?
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: Love Is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

**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  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: Blest Be the Tie that Binds: Verses 1-4**

**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, 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
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 63 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 63 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: Love Does Not Fail** 1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9
- Story Outline p.63
- 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

---

*Story-telling Refresher: Introduction pp.23-25 Appendix A, B*
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

Carrot stick “bow” strung with shoelace red licorice by making a small notch in each end of the carrot and inserting the licorice. String the “bow” by laying a pretzel stick “arrow” across the middle starting with the licorice. (Carrot sticks should be cut into thin sticks and then apply just enough pressure on both ends at the same time until they break almost completely through in the middle, making a hinge and a place where the pretzel arrow rests on the bow.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C  Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to

T  Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.
Week 3 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: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

Act-It-Out Refresher:
Introduction pp.41-42
Appendix B

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

Big Idea Game Refresher:
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
Week 3 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: 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 2, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game, or VIPP Prayer Letter
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

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

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

VIPP Refresher:
Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E

Scripture Verse Game Refresher:
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
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
Love Does Not Fail
1 Samuel 17-20; 2 Samuel 9
by Connie Dever

Story

Our Big Idea and Scripture remind us how God’s people are to love (each other). There is so much to loving others that each week we thought about a different part of love. The first week we heard the story of the unmerciful servant that Jesus told to teach Peter that love never stops forgiving people who do have wronged you. Last week we learned how Helen Roseveare, her helper and the children knew how to love others by thinking about how Jesus had loved them. This week, we are going to hear three more things about love. Let’s see if you can figure out what they are.

Our story takes place about 3000 years ago, long before Jesus lived on earth. It starts in the Valley of Elah, a beautiful, green plain that lay not far from the border of the Israelites great enemy, the Philistines. The Philistines have been such a problem for the Israelites! Their army was so powerful and had such great generals to think up clever battle plans. Not only that, but they were the only army who knew the secret of making swords out of iron. Every one of their soldiers was armed with these strong swords, while King Saul and Prince Jonathan were the only ones who had them in all of Israel. The rest of the Israelite army had only swords of wood and stone, which splintered and broke when they clashed with iron.

Now things were even worse. The Philistines had a ferocious nine and a half foot giant who fought for them. He was so big that the Israelites looked like ants compared to them. No wonder the Israelites were losing land to the Philistines. What chance did they have against such an army?

But today, it was the Israelites who were celebrating a mighty victory, not the Philistines. A young man, with faith in God and skill with a shepherd’s sling had come forward and struck their fierce giant down with just one little stone. The Philistines fled in horror as the Israelites chased them five miles back to safety behind the walls of their cities of Gath and Ekron.

The Israelites returned overjoyed from the victory that the Lord had given them. Commander of the Forces Abner immediately brought David, the hero of the day, still holding Goliath’s head, before King Saul.

“Young man, what is your name?” King Saul asked.

“David, son of Jesse from Bethlehem, sire.”

“For your bravery and skill in battle you shall be one of my soldiers,” Saul told David. David accepted the honor graciously.

Prince Jonathan stood to the side, as David talked to his father. What was Prince Jonathan thinking? Everyone used to think of Jonathan as the great general, yet here this young lad had come and killed the giant that even he had been too scared to fight. The soldiers used to talk about Jonathan’s great deeds in battle, or King Saul’s, but now all they could talk about were David’s. It would be easy to be envious. But Jonathan looked at David and saw his faith in God and the great things that God used David to do for
Israel. He rejoiced in the good that had been done. Jonathan was not envious of David—he loved him.

“Let’s you and I make a covenant of friendship,” Jonathan said to David. “We will promise to be unfailingly faithful friends to each other. We will always treat each other with love.”

David felt the same way about Jonathan. “I will make a covenant with you. I will always be your unfailingly faithful friend. I will always love you, too.”

Then to seal the covenant, Jonathan did the most amazing thing. He took off the special belt and tunic of his war uniform and gave them to David. Then he took his very own bow and his priceless, Philistine-made iron sword and handed them to David, too. Last of all, he took off his exquisite robe—made only for the Crown Prince of Israel—and gave it to David to wear. David solemnly received these priceless gifts and swore his friendship to Jonathan.

King Saul was quick to use his new soldier in battle. Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul soon promoted him to a general in his army. Word spread about the new hero quickly around Israel. As the men marched back home from their battles with the Philistines, women came out from each town to meet King Saul and his men with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

King Saul heard this and he became very angry. Saul had a proud heart. He was envious of David. He could not rejoice in the victories the Lord was giving David. He did not love this new general anymore. He hated him.

“The people credit David with tens of thousand, but me with only thousands,” Saul thought angrily. “They think he’s better than me. They love him more than me. All that’s left for him to take from me now is the kingdom. Maybe I’ll need to get rid of this young general.”

But Prince Jonathan was not like his father. He was humble. He did not compare himself to his friend or envy him. He rejoiced in the good that the Lord did through him and always faithfully loved him.

The more and more successes the Lord gave David in battle, the more King Saul hated him. He hated him so much that he tried to kill him four times! Twice he threw his spear at him and just barely missed him. Another time, he planned to sneak up on David in bed and kill him, but David found out about his plan and fled before Saul could get to him.

David snuck back to King Saul’s great fortress palace set on the hill of Gibeah to see Prince Jonathan without King Saul seeing him. “Jonathan, your father has tried to kill me four times, and I don’t even know what I’ve done to make him mad! I need your help!”

“What are you talking about? My father tells me everything, yet he has never mentioned a word to me about wanting to kill you,” Jonathan answered in surprise.

“Your father saw us make our friendship covenant after the battle with Goliath and the Philistines. He knows not to tell you about plans to kill me. He knows that you love me and would not fail to faithfully protect me from harm,” David answered. “Jonathan, swear to me, as my covenant friend that you will find
out if your father still plans to kill me."

Jonathan could have gotten mad at David for accusing his own father of trying to kill him; but, he did not. He was humble and wanted to love his friend. "David, you know that I love you as much as I love myself. Even if my own father, the king, envies and hates you, I rejoice in what the Lord is doing in you. I will love you without fail. By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time this day after tomorrow! If he speaks favorably of you, I will let you know. If not, may the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely," Jonathan promised his friend. "David, I rejoice in knowing that it will be you who will be the next king one day after my father. I pray that the LORD will be with you as He has been with my father. There will be a day when as king you will have the power to kill me and my family along with all your enemies. Swear again your covenant of love to me and my family that you will not kill me or ever cut off your kindness from my family, even after you become king. Now go and hide until I can speak with my father. Meet me in the field by the stone Ezel in two days. I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, then I will send my servant boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then that is my signal to you that you must go, because the LORD has sent you away."

Two days later, David waited in the field by the stone Ezel. Jonathan and his servant boy came out to the field, carrying his bow and a quiver full of arrows. Jonathan skillfully strung the bow with one, two, three arrows and sent each of them zinging into the air towards Ezel. “Run and find the arrows, my boy,” he told his little servant. When the boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?” Then he shouted, “Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!”—the secret signal words to David.

After the boy had picked up the arrows and returned the arrows, Prince Jonathan dismissed him and waited for David. David came to Prince Jonathan and bowed before him three times, with his face to the ground.

“It is all as you said,” Jonathan told David. “When I spoke to my father about you he got furious and said, ‘Don’t I know that you have sided with David against us? Don’t you understand that as long as he lives you will never be king? Bring him to me, for he must die!’ But I refused. When I asked why you should be put to death, he even hurled a spear to try to kill me! David, you must go!”

Then they kissed each other on each cheek (common in the Middle Eastern cultures, even today) and wept together—but David wept most of all. How grateful he was for his friend, Prince Jonathan. He truly loved him. His humble friend had been unfailingly faithful to him even over loyalty to his very own father, the King. Prince Jonathan could have been filled with envy and plotted with his father to kill David so he could be king one day; but instead, he chose to protect David so that he would be king one day as the Lord had willed.

“Go in peace, David,” Jonathan said, “for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my
descendants forever.” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town. David and Jonathan were to 
see each other only one more time in the rest of their lives. For about ten years, King Saul kept chasing 
David, trying to kill him. One time Jonathan snuck out to Desert of Ziph where David was hiding. Once 
more they promised each other to be unfailingly faithful friends.

In the end, King Saul, along with Prince Jonathan, and Saul’s other sons were all killed in a great battle 
with the Philistines. David rose to power and was made king over all of Israel. The first thing most kings 
did when they came to power was to find all the family of the old king and have them killed so that they 
would not try to take back the rule of the land from the new king. Saul’s family expected David to do, too.

But all through those years, David never forgot his love or his promises to Prince Jonathan. Jonathan had 
been an unfailingly faithful friend. He had never envied David, but rejoiced at the Lord’s blessings in his 
life. David would be an unfailingly faithful friend, too. He would keep his promises to love Jonathan’s 
family.

“Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” David 
asked Ziba, an old servant of Saul’s.

“There is still a son of Jonathan—Mephibosheth—who is alive; but, he is crippled in both feet,” Ziba 
replied.

“Bring him to me,” David ordered.

So Mephibostheth, son of Jonathan, came to David and bowed down to pay him honor. He was 
trembling with fear. Would the new king have him killed?

“Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “For I will show you kindness for the sake of your father, Jonathan. I 
will give you back all King Saul’s lands and I want you to be like my own son, eating with me and my 
family at the king’s table the rest of your life.” And that is what he did.

Our Big Idea is:

Big Idea: God’s People Love Others

Our Scripture Verse is: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-
seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices 
with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

What new things about loving others did you learn from Jonathan and David? Jonathan and David loved 
each other by not being proud or envying others, but rejoicing in the good that the Lord did in their lives. 
They persevered with an unfailingly faithful, even in the hardest times.

And what about you and me? What is our love like? Do we envy others when something good 
happens to them that doesn’t happen to us; or when they are good at something that we are not? Do we 
have a love for others that is unfailingly faithful and perseveres even through very hard times? God
knows how hard it is to love others as He wants us to. He knows that it is impossible for us to do this without His help. And help of the most powerful kind God promises to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. To all who do this, He will save from their sins and send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts, helping them even to love others as He wants them to.

Let’s praise God for giving His people the Holy Spirit to work love in their hearts. Let’s ask Him to help us turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit so that we might love unfailingly faithfully, without envy, rejoicing in the good the Lord does in their lives, like Jonathan and David. He is the only one who can give us this kind of love for others.
1. While all the Israelites were too scared to fight the Philistine army and their giant, Goliath, David trusted in the Lord and struck him down. The Philistines fled away from the Israelites in panic.

2. King Saul calls David to his tent to praise him and make him one of his soldiers.

3. Prince Jonathan could be envious of David, but instead he rejoices in what the Lord had done through him. He gives David his princely robe, belt, tunic and special sword.

4. Jonathan and David make a covenant of friendship from that day on.

5. King Saul sends David out to fight more battles and David is victorious. He gets jealous as David gets more praise than he does from the people.

6. King Saul tries to kill David and David flees the palace at Gibeah.

7. David sneaks back and asks Jonathan why his father wants him dead.

8. Jonathan is in shock, but promises to find out from his father and meet him in the field near the Ezel Stone with what he finds out.

9. Saul tells Jonathan that he wants David killed so Jonathan will get the throne. When Jonathan defends David, Saul tries to kill him.

10. Jonathan goes to the field with his servant boy. He shoots arrows for the boy to get, but also as a signal to David that he must leave Gibeah.

11. Jonathan and David say goodbye and promise to still be faithful friends, even when David becomes king.

12. Saul continues to chase David for about 10 years. Saul, along with Jonathan and his other sons, finally die in a battle against the Philistines.

13. David becomes king of Israel and he still remembers his promise to Jonathan.

14. He finds that one of Jonathan’s sons is still alive.

15. He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul’s land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons as long as he lives.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources

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

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

2. Games Groups Resources

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

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

3. Songs Groups Resources

   Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   Hymn Discussion Sheet

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

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

4. Craft Resources

   Craft Instructions and Resources

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

5. VIPP Resources

   VIPP Prayer Letter

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

When? About 3000 years ago

Where? In the hills around Bethlehem, in Jerusalem, and in the wilderness of Judah.

What’s It Like? Very hot and dry; hilly and grassy in the Valley of Elah; King Saul’s palace in Gibeah, was a fortress (palace with tall walls) that stood on a high hill, two miles north of Jerusalem.

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

- David
- Goliath
- Jonathan
- King Saul
- Goliath
- Jonathan’s robe, belt, tunic, and sword
- Philistines
- Stone Ezel
- Bow and arrows
- Servant boy
- Ziba
- Mephibosheth

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

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Love Others. Jonathan and David loved each other with a faithful love that never failed, even in very hard times.

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

Unfailingly Faithful Friends

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

Beginning:
While all the Israelites were too scared to fight the Philistine army and their giant, Goliath, David trusted in the Lord and struck him down. The Philistines fled away from the Israelites in panic. King Saul calls David to his tent to praise him and make him one of his soldiers. Prince Jonathan could be envious of David, but instead he rejoices in what the Lord had done through him. He gives David his princely robe, belt, tunic and special sword. Jonathan and David make a covenant of friendship from that day on.

Middle:
King Saul sends David out to fight more battles and David is victorious. He gets jealous as David gets more praise than he does from the people. King Saul tries to kill David and David flees the palace at Gibeah. David sneaks back and asks Jonathan why his father wants him dead. Jonathan is in shock, but promises to find out from his father and meet him in the field near the Ezel Stone with what he finds out. Saul tells Jonathan that he wants David killed so Jonathan will get the throne. When Jonathan defends David, Saul tries to kill him. Jonathan goes to the field with his servant boy. He shoots arrows for the boy to get, but also as a signal to David that he must leave Gibeah. Jonathan and David say goodbye and promise to still be faithful friends, even when David becomes king.

End:
Saul continues to chase David for about 10 years. Saul, along with Jonathan and his other sons, finally die in a battle against the Philistines. David becomes king of Israel and he still remembers his promise to Jonathan. He finds that one of Jonathan’s sons is still alive. He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul’s land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons as long as he lives.
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End:
Saul continues to chase David for about 10 years. Saul, along with Jonathan and his other sons, finally die in a battle against the Philistines. David becomes king of Israel and he still remembers his promise to Jonathan. He finds that one of Jonathan’s sons is still alive. He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul’s land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons as long as he lives.
1. Why were the Israelites so afraid of fighting the Philistines? They were afraid of the size of Goliath and the power of their iron weapons. They failed to trust in their powerful God, but only looked at their own strength.

2. Why could have Prince Jonathan be envious of David? Because everyone was praising David for being a great warrior when previously Jonathan was the one who had been praised as such.

3. What was so amazing about the gifts that Prince Jonathan gave David? They were to be worn by the Crown Prince of Israel, that is, the man who would be the next king of Israel. Also, they were very, very valuable.

4. What did Prince Jonathan and David promise each other the day David fought Goliath? They would be unfailingly faithful friends for their whole lives.

5. Why did King Saul get jealous of David? Because the people were saying that David was a greater warrior than King Saul.

6. Why did King Saul want to kill David? He was jealous of him. He wanted Jonathan to be the next king, not David.

7. How did Prince Jonathan show his love for David when he spoke to his father about him? He could have told his father where David was hiding and led him to him to be killed. Then he might have gotten the throne instead of David. But Prince Jonathan loved David and knew that God intended for him to be the next king. He laid aside grasping the throne for himself and protected David instead.

8. What did Prince Jonathan have David promise him before he left Gibeah? That David would also be a faithful friend to Jonathan’s family.

9. How long did King Saul keep chasing David? For about 10 years.

10. How did David show his love for Jonathan when he became king? He remembered his promise to Jonathan to care for his family. He sought out any members of his family, not to kill them, but to care for them.

11. How did David bless Mephibosheth? He gives Mephibosheth back all King Saul’s land and invites him to eat with his family as if he were one of his sons as long as he lives.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? They loved without fail. They made promises to treat each other lovingly and they persevered in them, even when it was very hard. Saul tried to kill Jonathan for his loyalty to David; David might have found it hard to want to bless anyone in Saul’s family after the way he treated David for about 10 years.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

Jonathan showed David love that did not envy & was not self-seeking. It protected David from Saul & persevered in his faithful love of Him. David was not boastful or proud. He trusted in Jonathan’s promises to him. He persevered in his love for Jonathan by remembering to take care of Mephibosheth, even after Jonathan died.

Life Application
1. How should we be like David and Jonathan in how we love others? We should not be envious of the good gifts that God gives others to serve Him. We should love each other, even when it is very hard.

2. Who is the only one who truly has an unfailing love? God

3. How can God’s people become more unfailing in their love? Ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work an unfailing love in their hearts.

4. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
The people praised David for saving them the Philistines and other of their enemies, but David made sure that everyone knew that God was the one who had saved them, not him. David lived before Jesus’ day, but he looked forward to the day when Jesus would come and really save His people. Not just from an enemy like the Philistines, but the biggest enemy of all: death. Many times David wrote about the coming Savior in his Psalms. God promised David that this Savior would be one of his great, great, great, etc. grandsons. David 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 life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Giver of Faithful Love to His People, helping them to love, even when it is very hard.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, we are not like David and Jonathan. We choose not to faithfully love others. We are sinners! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for sustaining the love of His people for each other, just like He did with Jonathan and David.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. WE can ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit that we might faithfully love each other, just as David and Jonathan did.

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Frisbee
One kick ball or other rubber ball
Masking tape
Yard stick
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.

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

Playing the Game
Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind one of the lines.

Players should stand side to side, with legs apart and feet touching. The two teams are facing each other. Play starts as one team rolls (with their hands) the ball to the other team, trying to get it through the other team’s legs without being blocked. The defending team cannot move their feet to block the ball. They can only block it with their hands. IF the ball gets through their legs, the other team can get 2 points if they can answer a Story Review question correctly. If they do not say it correctly, then the defending team can try for 1 point. The defending team then bats the ball and tries to get it through the other team’s legs. The team with the most points wins.

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

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

1. Who is God loving towards and how does He show it? **Towards all; treats them with patience, mercy and kindness; takes care of their needs; forgives all who confess their sins.**

2. What makes forgiveness one of the best parts of God’s love? **God’s forgiveness comes at a great cost to Himself: the giving up His Son as the only sacrifice that could pay for our sins. How does God want His people to treat others? With the same kind of love He shows.**

3. Why does God expect His people to treat their enemies with love? **While His people were still enemies (in rebellion) to Him, He sent His Son to die for their sins. He wants them to treat others as He treated them.**

4. What is different about the love that God has for His people? **It is a covenant (special promise) love that will last forever.**

5. What is different about the love that God wants His people to show for each other? **He wants them to love each other with covenant love, too. Others will know they are His if they do.**

6. Can God’s people love others as God has loved them on their own? Why not? **No. They are forgiven by God for their sins, but they are still sinners. They will never love others here on earth as fully as God wants them to.**

7. Who helps God’s people love others as God wants them to? **God’s Holy Spirit helps them to love as God wants them to love.**

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

How did David and Jonathan love each other as God had loved them? **They loved without fail. They made promises to treat each other lovingly and they persevered in them, even when it was very hard. Saul tried to kill Jonathan for his loyalty to David; David might have found it hard to want to bless anyone in Saul’s family after the way he treated David for about 10 years.**

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.
Life Application Questions
1. Have you ever found it hard to persevere in faithful love to someone else? When?
2. What is something good for God’s people to remember when they have to forgive someone and they don’t want to? Remember God’s forgiveness of their sins; remember that it is His command to forgive others.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea? 
Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea? 
Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea? 
Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God wants them to.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea? 
Ask God to work in our hearts and make us His people. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to love others in the same way that He has loved His people.

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Materials**
- Small bowl or bag
- 1 Bean Bag per child
- CD and CD player
- 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 the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

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

NOTE: Have the children who are “out” help make up actions for the other children to do, put them in charge of the music, etc. along with you. This will keep them happily occupied as they continue.

**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 does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.
5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.
6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.
7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Jonathan showed David love that did not envy & was not self-seeking. It protected David from Saul & persevered in his faithful love of Him. David was not boastful or proud. He trusted in Jonathan’s promises to him. He persevered in his love for Jonathan by remembering to take care of Mephibosheth, even after Jonathan died.

Life Application
1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. 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 inside His people’s hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.
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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.
Gospel Question
What is the good news of God’s love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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.
**WHICH WAY DID IT GO?**

Scripture Verse Game

**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
Coin
Beanbag or other small object

**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**
Divide the children into 2 teams. Have the children sit or stand in a circle, alternating team members. Explain to the children that they will pass the beanbag, stating clockwise, around the circle. Outside the circle one person, the Coin Flipper, will flip the coin. Each time the Coin Flipper gets a tails, he yells “Change” and the children in the circle change the direction they are passing the beanbag. After 5 changes whoever has the beanbag says the verse for their team. He gets 2 points for his team if he can say it be himself. One point, if he can say it with the help of another team member. If they can't say it, then the person next to him (on the other team) can try to say it for 1 point for his team. The child who correctly recited the verse is the next Coin Flipper.

Game continues until all children get to be the Coin Flipper, 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.
Love is Patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, Love is kind,
It does not envy, It does not boast,
Love does not delight in evil, But rejoices in the truth,
Love keeps no record of wrongs, It is not easily angered,
It always protects, trusts and hopes, It always perseveres,
Love never fails. Love never fails,
Love never fails. Love never fails!

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. What does it mean to be patient with someone? To not give up on someone who is annoying you or has hurt you, but be willing to keep being their friend.
2. What does it mean to be kind to someone? To want to do good to someone and to treat them gently.
3. What does it mean to envy? Why is that not loving? To think what someone else has is good and be mad that you don’t have it. It isn’t loving because you are so busy thinking about what you don’t have that you can’t be glad that God gave them whatever they have. You don’t want what is best for them, if you don’t have it, too.
4. Why is it not loving to boast or be proud? Like envy, you are so busy comparing yourself to others that others might think best of you that you are not thinking of what is good for the others.
5. Why isn’t it loving to be easily angered or to keep a record of wrongs? If you are easily angered about what someone else does that you forget how easily you do wrong things, too. If you keep a record of wrongs, you are not forgiving someone and you are not remembering how much God has forgiven you.
6. Why would love not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth? Delighting in evil is wanting something bad for someone.
7. What does it mean to persevere? Keep loving someone without giving up.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This Scripture verse tells us ways that God’s people should love others.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Jonathan showed David love that did not envy & was not self-seeking. It protected David from Saul & persevered in his faithful love of Him. David was not boastful or proud. He trusted in Jonathan’s promises to him. He persevered in his love for Jonathan by remembering to take care of Mephibosheth, even after Jonathan died.

Life Application
1. Which of these parts of love do you find hardest to do?
2. How does show His great love to sinners like you and me? By forgiving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for love His people perfectly in all the ways this verse describes.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners. We do not love others like this verse tells us we should. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
ACTS Questions, continued
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work inside His people's hearts, helping them to love others in these ways.

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 live in our hearts and help us to love others as He wants us to.

Gospel Question
What is the good news of God's love for His people? How can they know His love, when they have not loved Him or others as He requires? 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

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.
**Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

**Verse 1**
Blest be the tie that binds,
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds,
is like to that above.

**Verse 2**
Before our Father’s throne,
we pour our ardent pray’rs;
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

**Verse 3**
We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
the sympathizing tear.

**Verse 4**
When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

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### Understanding the Song

1. What is the tie that “binds” the hearts of God’s people? *Just like a tie (string) tied around a bundle of things hold them together, there is a special fellowship that binds God’s people together. They know who God is and love Him. They love sharing about Him together. In their hearts they each have His Spirit at work, helping them to love Him and each other more. This is a fellowship of love and each other that holds them together as part of God’s family.*

2. What is the fellowship of love that binds God’s people together? *“It is like to that above”—a little taste of what they will have in heaven.*

3. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love in their prayers? *They pray “ardently” (with great desire), they pray about each other’s fears, hopes, aims (what they hope to do) as if they are their own.*

4. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love as they talk with each other? *They share their woes and burdens (hard things) and care so much that they will even cry in sympathy over them.*

5. How do God’s people show this special fellowship of love when they “asunder part” (are apart from each other)? *They are sad to have to say goodbye because they love being with them; they still care for them in their heart, and look forward to seeing each other again.*

### Big Idea Connection

How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Love Others?

*God’s People are to love everyone, but have a special love for each other, since they are like brothers and sisters in God’s family. They show this love by praying for each other, listening and caring about each other’s problems, and looking forward to meeting together again when they part.*

### Story Connection

How does this song relate to today’s story? *Jonathan and David both loved God and shared the special fellowship love that God’s people know. They cared about each other as if they were their own. It was a tie that bound their hearts together, even in very hard times. They loved each other very much and were very sad to part. They longed for a day when they would get to be together again as friends. Even after Jonathan died, David still kept his promises to him. While Jonathan never got to enjoy a time of close fellowship again with David before he died, David—for the sake of Jonathan—found Jonathan’s son and blessed him and treated him like he was one of his sons.*
**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? *They can praise God gives His people the Holy Spirit to bind their hearts together in a love so special that they love each other in the same way as He has loved them. They can ask Him to put more of that kind of love in their hearts for His people.*

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

**Scripture Verse Connection**

How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

The Holy Spirit is the tie that binds the hearts of Christians together in love. Through His work in their hearts, He helps them to love each other with love that is like God’s love, the love of “above”, of heaven. They love each other in ways that this verse describes. They share each others’ mutual woes and they pray about each other’s cares, and bear each others’ burdens. Even when they are apart, their love for each other perseveres.

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God, the Holy Spirit, for being the great Worker of Love in God’s people’s hearts.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we do not love God’s people as we should. We forget to pray for them. We do not care about their “woes”, or help them with their burdens. the hard things they are going through. We are too busy thinking about ourselves. 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 forgiveness for our sins. We can thank Him for the Holy Spirit’s work in His people’s hearts to help them love each other far more than they ever could on their own.*

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 send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and give us love for His people.*

**Gospel Question**

How can we become God’s people? How can we have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts and help us to love others as God wants us to? 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!*
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.
### 1. What Is It? (Presenter 1)

**Food from the Royal Table**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In Jerusalem,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>King David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did What?</td>
<td>Gave Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, back all his lands and gave him Food from the Royal Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Because he kept his promises to Jonathan to always care for his family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Love Others. David showed his love for Jonathan by keeping his promise to him. When new kings usually killed the children of former kings, David cared for Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, instead.

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

Even when some might choose to stop loving others, God wants His people to keep on loving instead.
**Food from the Royal Table**

**Description**
The children will decorate a royal plate with markers and place food on it.

**Materials**
- Template of plate design
- White cardstock (or regular paper)
- Markers, colored pencils, etc.
- Self-adhesive laminating sheets, 1 sheet per craft
- 10 3/8” sturdy paper plate with rim (Chinet type), 1 per craft
- Scissors
- Optional: glitter glue
- Craft glue; or glue gun and gun sticks
- Food such as grapes, olives, figs and pita bread, or other Middle Eastern food

**Preparing the Craft**
1. Print out 1 copy of the plate template per child onto cardstock.
2. Set out markers and scissors.

**Making the Craft**
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate their plates, then cut them out around the outer edge.
3. Help the children to put their plate decoration in a laminated sheet and flatten down firmly. Cut around the plate decoration again, this time about 1/4” or so from edge so that a bit of the laminating sheet is left.
4. Have the children glue their decoration onto the middle of their plate (or you do it with the glue gun.)
5. If desired, children can add a few extra decorations to the rim of their plate with the glitter glue.
6. Give the children bits of each type of food you have brought to put on their plates.
Plate decoration
Dear ______________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Love Others. God is loving toward all people, even His enemies. He treats them with patience, mercy, and kindness. He takes care of their needs. Best of all, He offers forgiveness of sins to all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God wants His people to love, too: treating others—even their enemies— with the same love that He has shown them. While God treats all people with love, He has a special love for His people. He will love them with this special love forever. God wants His people to love others as He has loved them.

We thought about 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

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

A Praise God for His great love for His people shown through sending His Son to save His people.

C Confess that we have not loved others as God calls us to love.

T Thank God for giving us people who love us. Thank God for His Holy Spirit who helps His people love others as God calls us.

S Ask God to work around our hearts and help us love and trust in our Savior. Ask God to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us.

His people love others as God wants them to.

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His people love others as God wants them to.

Yours Sincerely, ______________________________________

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His people love others as God wants them to.

Yours Sincerely, ______________________________________
**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one of the 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.
Ball
Blindfold
Bag

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

**Playing the Game**

*Reveal, then Review Version:*

**Reveal:** Tell them about 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 stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller’s “Go” command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says “Stop.” Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses an envelope, reveals the category question and asks the rest of the children for the answer. If they get it right, the category is retired. If they get it wrong, it goes back into the pile of envelopes.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*

**Get Clues:** Have the children stand or sit in a circle. Choose one child to be the Caller. The Caller stands in the center of the circle, blindfolded. Hand the ball to a child in the circle. At the Caller’s “Go” command, the ball is passed around the circle. It is passed around until the Caller says “Stop.” Whoever has the ball when the Caller says stop chooses an envelope, reveals the category question and VIPP clue. At the end of each clue, the children can guess which VIPP they think it is.

**Guess:** When all the clues have been revealed, review them, reveal the right VIPP and then read the VIPP information sheet.