BIG IDEA 66
God's People Obey Him
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 Obey Him

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God’s people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God’s people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus as our Savior but are also obeying Him as our Lord.

Scripture Verse

Meditation Version: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: John 14:23-24
“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Big Idea ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
C  Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
T  Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.

Songs
Hymn       Take My Life and Let It Be, v.4
Scripture Song  Jesus Replied  John 14:23-24
Big Idea Concept
Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God’s people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God’s people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus our Savior but are also obeying Him as our Lord.

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T Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
Wise King Solomon Fails to Obey Deuteronomy 17; 1 Kings 1-12; 2 Chronicles 1-1
Jesus’ Words and The Two Builders Matthew 4-7
Leading Little Ones to God #57: God’s Children Obey:

Songs
Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be, Verse 4
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Hymn Connection: Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God’s good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways.

Scripture Song: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This Scripture reminds us that God’s people know they love God when they are trusting in Jesus as their Savior but are also obeying Him as their Lord.
### Big Idea 66 Scripture Song
#### Jesus Replied

Jesus replied, “If anybody loves me, He will obey my teaching,” Jesus replied. Jesus replied, “My Father will love him, And we will come and make our home with him.” Jesus replied, But that’s not all Jesus said Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching, “ Jesus replied. Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.

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### Big Idea 66 Hymn
#### Take My Life and Let It Be

**Verse 4**

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.

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**Words:** Frances Havergal  
**Music:** H. Malan  
**Public Domain**

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**CD Volume 3**  
**CD Track # 28**  

**CD Volume 3**  
**CD Track # 29-30**
The resources you will need for The Echo Chamber or the Folder Hunt are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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 66: Key Concepts Used in Echo Chamber

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WoGoLOA Rules</th>
<th>Unit Big Question</th>
<th>Unit Scripture Verse</th>
<th>Big Idea Concept</th>
<th>Big Idea Scripture Verse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always the same, see Rules and Chant on following pages</td>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse: Live a Life of Love Just as Christ Loved You. Ephesians 5:2</td>
<td>Big Idea 66 Concept: God’s People Obey Him</td>
<td>Big Idea 66 Scripture Verse: John 14:23-24</td>
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### Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
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<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
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<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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WOGO LOA RULES
Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Resource
Use all 3 weeks

**WOGOLOA RULES CHANT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### All:
- ...Love One Another!
- ...1-2-3
- ...kind
- ...couraging
- ...others!
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.” Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

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

Live a life of love,

Just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

**Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song**

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

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

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

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

#4 Tubas and Drums Have one group of children do a “Om-pah-pah” tuba or a “boom-chick, boom-chick’” drum accompaniment while the other group sings. Then switch parts.
Big Question #12 Scripture Song
Live a Life of Love
adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Ephesians Five, twelve. O-le!
Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God.

God’s people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God’s people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more.

The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus as our Savior but are also obeying Him as our Lord.
BIG IDEA 66 SCRIPTURE VERSE:
John 14:23-24

Meditation Version: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version:
John 14:23-24
“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
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.

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)
Jesus replied, “If anybody loves me,
He will obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.

Jesus replied, “My Father will love him,
And we will come and make our home with him.”

Jesus replied,

But that’s not all Jesus said

Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me,
Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.

Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me,
Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.
Jesus Replied

adapted from John 14:23-24

Constance Dever

Cm Cm Cm Cm G7

Jesus replied, "If anybody loves me, He will obey my teaching."

Cm Cm Cm G

Jesus replied, "My Father will love him, and we will come and make our home with him."

Cm Cm Fm G7 Cm

Jesus replied. But that's not all Jesus said... Jesus replied, He who does not love Me will not obey my teaching.

Fm Cm Cm G7 Cm

Jesus replied. Jesus replied.

Fm Cm Fm Cm

He who does not love Me will not obey my teaching. Jesus replied.
Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

**Replied**
Position the left hand index finger pointing out at waist height. Place right hand, index finger pointing out, at mouth and then down in a forward arc until aligned next to left hand.

**If**
With F hands, palms facing, in front of the body, move the left F hand down while moving the right F hand up.

**Anybody**
Hold right A hand in front of body, palm facing in. Rotate right wrist so that palm faces forward. Then, point right index finger up.

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

**Me**
Point inward with the right index finger.

**He, Him**
Start with right hand at forehead as if grasping the bill of a hat, and move right hand forward a short distance. Then point right index finger forward.

**Will**
Move the right flat hand from beside the right cheek, forward a short distance. Palm should be facing left.

**Obey**
Place both A hands, palms towards body, on the forehead. Move hands down and then out so that hands are flat and palms are facing up.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

Continued

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

**Teaching**
Move both D hands, palms facing each other, from each side of the head forward with a short deliberate double motion.

**Father**
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.

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

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

**Make**
Place right S hand on top of left S hand. Rotate hands inward at the same time.

**Home**
Place right hand, fingers touching, on the mouth and then move hand to the right cheek.

**With**
Bring fists together.

**But**
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.
Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

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

Said
Place the right index finger, palm down, on the lips. Move the hand forward, making a forward circle.
Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 1
Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Verse 2
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Verse 3
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 4
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Big Idea References
Big Idea #34: verse 1  Big Idea #66: verse 4  Big Idea #67: verse 1-3
Big Idea #90: verse 3  Big Idea #96: verses 1-3

Words  Frances R. Havergal  Music  Henri A.C. Malan
Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my hands and let them move in the impulse of Thy love.

2. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

3. Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

4. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Frances R. Havergal

Henri A. C. Malan
**Take**
Rapidly move cupped right hand into a fist while bringing it down towards the back of the closed left hand.

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

**Will**
Place open hands, palms up, away from the body. Pull hands toward the body.

**Make**
Place right S hand on top of left S hand. Rotate hands inward at the same time.

**Thine, Thy**
Place the right upturned hand upward.

**Shall be**
Move the right flat hand, palm facing left, from beside the right temple forward and slightly up a short distance to the front.

**No longer**
Slide the little finger side of the right flat hand, fingers pointing forward and palm facing left, along the thumb side of the left flat hand, fingers pointing forward and palm facing right. Then move the right hand straight down.

**Heart**
With index fingers form a heart shape over the heart.

**Royal**
Move the right R hand from the left shoulder to the right waist.
Throne
Place palm side of right H fingers on the back of left H fingers. Move hands down a short distance.
SESSION SCHEDULE AND PLANNING SHEET

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<td>My preparations:</td>
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<td>_______________________________________________</td>
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<td>_______________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children arrive</td>
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<td>Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Snack and Discussion Time

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

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

2.  

3.  

4.  

5.  

6.  

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

### Activity Time

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

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

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

### Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

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

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

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

## Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review the WoGoLOA Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the Unit Big Question and Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review the Big Idea Concept and Scripture Verse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question/Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea 66 Concept Sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea 66 Scripture Verse Sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)</td>
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## Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tell story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close in Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismiss to Small Group Activities</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Outline p.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Props, Costumes and Scenery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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*
**WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN**

**Discussion and Activity Time**

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

**Snack**

Peanut Butter and jelly rolled up “scrolls”. Cut crusts from white bread, flatten slightly. Spread thin layer of peanut butter and jelly on bread. Place two pretzel sticks, one on top of another in center of bread so that the ends stick out over the end of bread about one inch. Roll up the bread. 

Allergy Substitute: Use just jelly or butter for children with peanut allergies.

**ACTS Prayer**

- **A** Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
- **C** Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
- **T** Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
- **S** Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.

**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: String Along**

**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

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

**Drama Refresher:**
Introduction pp.23-25

**Snack & ACTS Prayer Refresher:**
Introduction pp.24-25
## Big Idea Game: Menagerie

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

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

## Big Idea Craft: The Scroll of God’s Law

**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: Rush to the Store

**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
Scripture Song: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

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

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be: Verse 4

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

**Resources:**
- Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, 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

VISSP Game and Clue Cards
Share Clues about VIPP
Pray for the VIPP

Scripture Verse Game
Read Scripture Verse
Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

Scripture Song
Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

Hymn
Sing Hymn with Sign Language

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

Resources:
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 66 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 66 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: Wisdom to Know, Strength to Obey  
  Deuteronomy 17, 1 Kings 1-12, 2 Chronicles 1-10
  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
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

Peanut butter and jelly rolled up “scrolls”. Cut crusts from white bread, flatten slightly. Spread thin layer of peanut butter and jelly on bread. Place two pretzel sticks, one on top of another in center of bread so that the ends stick out over the end of bread about one inch. Roll up the bread.

Allergy Substitute: Use just jelly or butter for children with peanut allergies.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.

C  Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.

T  Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.
Group 1 Activities

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

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: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

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

Group 2 Activities

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

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

**Activities:**
Act out story all together

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

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

**Activity Presentations**

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

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

**Act-It-Out**
- Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as the 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**
Wisdom to Know, Strength to Obey
Deuteronomy 17, 1 Kings 1-12, 2 Chronicles 1-10
by Connie Dever

Our story today starts about 3400 years ago, up on the high grassy plain of Moab, not too far from the Promised Land.

Moses motioned for silence from the mass of more than a million people gathered before him. Once a young man, now Moses was very, very old—120 years old to be precise. He was soon to die. Now he gathered the Israelites together to speak to them all one last time. When nothing could be heard but the sound of the wind blowing through the grasses, the old man with flowing, white beard, began to speak:

“For forty years you have wandered in the wilderness, now it is time to enter the Promised Land the Lord is giving you and your families. It is only on the other side of these mountains,” the old man said, pointing to the slopes of the Avarim mountains behind him. “I will not be going with you. Joshua will be your new leader. It is time for me to die. But before we part, there are some things I must tell you. Listen carefully so that it will go well for you in the Promised Land.”

Picking up a huge scroll, Moses began to read to them all the laws that the Lord had given him to write down: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength…. Remember all His good laws and obey them. Teach them to your children so that they will obey them, too,” he urged them.

“One day you will want to have a king like all the other nations,” Moses told them. Make sure that you have your kings write down their own copies of all the words on this scroll and read them every day, so that they will always know how to obey Me. Make sure that they do not buy lots of horses or have lots of wives. Make sure they do not save up a lot of gold and silver. For if they do these things, they will forget Me and My words and lead you astray to worship idols. The king who obeys Me will be a good king for you and I will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who does not, I will take the throne away from him.”

“The LORD has given all these good laws to you and your kings. But remember: it is not enough to just know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you.”

The people listened to all the words that Moses spoke and said, “We promise to keep the LORD’s good laws. We promise to teach them to our children. We promise to have our kings obey them, too.”

Four hundred years later, a young man dressed in royal robes and with a golden crown on his head sits crouched over a huge scroll, writing. It is Solomon, King of Israel. What is he writing down? Could it be that he was writing his own copy of the Word of God, as the LORD had told the kings to? Perhaps it was, for from the first day that Solomon became king, he longed more than anything else to rule his people well and obey the LORD, just as his father David had done.

Solomon had asked the LORD for wisdom and the LORD made him the wisest man who has ever lived. And the Lord showed him that the wisest thing he or anyone else could do was not to just to know God’s wisdom, but to obey it. He must fear (obey and honor) the Lord so that he would be a good king and so
That things would go well for God’s people. More than anyone else who has ever lived, Solomon knew what to do to obey God. God had given him wisdom to know. As a young king, he tried hard to do everything the law commanded him to do: from writing down the words of the Law to keeping all the special celebrations to the Lord and making all the right offerings to Him at the Temple.

It didn’t take long for the word to spread about the wisdom of Solomon. Kings from other parts of the world soon ordered their wise men: “Go to Solomon and listen to his wisdom and write down his words, so that my people and I can learn how to live wisely.” The Queen of Sheba didn’t even think it good enough to send her wise men. She traveled the difficult, thousands of miles herself to listen to Solomon. Everyone who came to Solomon’s throne room and listened to him was amazed at His wise words and honored him with rich gifts of wonderful things like gold, silver, horses, and even princesses as wives. Truly he did know what to do to live right and obey God.

But it is one thing to be wise and another thing to obey the wise things you know. For as Solomon got more and more famous and received more and more presents, he began to stop obeying the Lord’s laws and stop listening to the wisdom He had given him. What was the Lord’s words to kings he had written down, long ago? “Have your kings write down their own copies of all the words on this scroll and read them every day, so that they will always know how to obey Me. Make sure that they do not buy lots of horses or have lots of wives. Make sure they do not save up a lot of gold and silver. For if they do these things, they will forget Me and My words and lead you astray to worship idols. The king who obeys Me will be a good king for you and I will have his family rule for a long time over you. The king who does not, I will take the throne away from him. I have given you all these good laws, but remember: it is not enough to just know them. You need to obey them so that things will go well for you.”

But when King Solomon was given more gold and silver, he did not give it away—he kept it, until he was very, very, very rich. When he was brought new horses, he did not turn them down—he kept them all, until he had 12,000 of them! He even had 1400 chariots to go with them. And when the beautiful princesses of the kings of the world were offered to Solomon as wives, he took all 700 of them—plus 300 others who were not princesses. Solomon had been given the wisdom to know how God wanted him to live, but he did not choose to obey what he knew. Like us, Solomon was a sinner with a sinful heart. He chose to do what pleased himself, instead of God.

I am sad to say that everything turned out just exactly as the Lord’s wise words had warned they would. As Solomon grew old, his wives who worshiped other gods turned his heart to worship their gods instead of the Lord. He bowed before Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians with his Sidonian wives. With his Ammonite wives, he offered sacrifices before the terrible Molech to whom they even sacrificed their children! On a hill east of Jerusalem—the very city of the Lord’s Temple that Solomon, himself had built—Solomon built an altar to worship Chemosh with his Moabite wives. And these were only some of the gods that Solomon worshiped with his wives.

What did the Lord think about what Solomon had done? He had warned long ago through Moses what
would happen: “The king who obeys Me will be a good king for you and I will have his family rule for a
long time over you. The king who does not, I will take the throne away from him. I have given you all
these good laws, but remember: it is not enough to just know them. You need to obey them so that
things will go well for you.” What would happen next?

NIV 1 Kings 11:9-11

The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of
Israel, who had appeared to him twice [and had given him wisdom to know exactly how to obey and
please Him.] Although He had forbidden Solomon to follow others gods, Solomon did not keep the
LORD’s command. So the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my
covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you
and give it to one of your [servants when your son takes your place as king.]” And that is just what
happened. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, one of Solomon’s high officials, rose up against him and in the end
snatched almost all of Israel away from Solomon’s son.

Our Big Idea is: **God’s People Obey Him**

Our Scripture Verse is: **John 14:23-24**

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come
to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

What a sad ending for the wisest man in the world! If there were any person who knew how to please
and obey God, it was Solomon; yet, Solomon disobeyed Him. How can that be? Is it really not enough to
know how to wisely obey the Lord? No, it is not. It does not matter how wise or smart any of us are, we all
have sinful hearts that tend to stray away from God’s good ways. It was not what Solomon knew, it was
what happened in Solomon’s heart that was the problem. He was a lover of himself, not of God, in his
heart of hearts.

What about you and me? If a wise man like Solomon turned away from the Lord’s wise ways, what
hope is there for us? Aren’t we lovers of ourselves, too? Yes, we are all sinners, just like Solomon. But the
LORD is a God full of mercy! There is wonderful hope for every one of us. For the Lord still kept a promise
He made to David and Solomon: that through their family a Savior would come. Yes, through that family,
the LORD sent Someone even greater than Solomon to rescue us—the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was even
wiser than Solomon (for He is God and knows everything there is to know). He knew exactly how to
please God. Jesus was more obedient than Solomon, for He obeyed God’s laws perfectly. And He offered
up His perfect life as the perfect payment for the sins of all confess their sins, who turn away from them
and trust in Him for forgiveness. And that is only part of the wonderful news: to all who come to Him in
faith, He promises to give them new hearts, filled with His Holy Spirit who will help them
love Him more and more and obey Him more and more. He will give to them the strength they need to obey Him.

Let’s praise this God for being so merciful for offering forgiveness our disobedience through Jesus and power to love and obey Him through His Holy Spirit. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we would not just know what is wise, but have the strength to obey.
1. A very old Moses gathers the million + Israelites to hear God’s words to them one last time before they enter the Promised Land (and Moses dies)

2. Moses reminds them that they are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and strength. If they obey all His good laws, then He will bless them.

3. He gives them special rules for their kings: to write down the entire law by hand and read it daily; to not buy many horses or have many wives. If the kings do these things, the Lord will bless them. If not, He will cut them off from being king.

4. The people tell Moses they will obey all the Lord’s good laws.

5. Four hundred years later, Solomon comes to be king. The Lord made him the wisest man to ever live because he asked for wisdom to rule the Israelites. He knew that obeying the Lord was always the wisest thing to do. He tries to do everything that the Lord has told kings to do—from writing down the Lord’s commands to making all the right offerings in the Temple he built for the Lord.

6. Solomon’s wisdom is so great that kings send all their wise men to him to learn from him. Even the Queen of Sheba comes. Everyone who comes brings lavish gifts of gold and horses and princesses for wives.

7. Even though Solomon knows the Lord’s commands about not to have many horses or wives, he chooses to disobey. He keeps the horses, the wives and the riches.

8. Everything happened to Solomon as the Lord warned it would: he turned from loving and obeying the Lord only. It was not enough to be wise. He also needed to obey what he knew to do. He began to worship Molech, Ashoreth, and Chemosh; the idols of his wives.

9. In the end, the kingdom was taken away from the wisest man in the world and given to others because he did not obey the Lord.
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 3400 years ago
   Where? The plain of Moab; Solomon’s palace in Jerusalem
   What’s It Like?
   Moses
   The Israelites
   Joshua
   The law of the Lord
   King Solomon
   Scroll
   Temple
   Wise men
   Queen of Sheba
   Rich gifts
   Horses
   Princesses
   Molech, Ashoreth, Chemosh
   Jeroboam, son of Nebat

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Obey. King Solomon knew the wisest thing is always to obey God. When he did, the Lord blessed him greatly; but when he did not, the Lord finally disciplined him as He warned He would.

4. What do we call it? (Narrator 1)
   It Takes More than Wisdom to Obey

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   Beginning:
   A very old Moses gathers the million + Israelites to hear God’s words to them one last time before they enter the Promised Land (and Moses dies).
   Moses reminds them that they are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and strength. If they obey all His good laws, then He will bless them. He gives them special rules for their kings: to write down the entire law by hand and read it daily; to not buy many horses or have many wives. If the kings do these things, the Lord will bless them. If not, He will cut them off from being king. The people tell Moses they will obey all the Lord’s good laws.

   Middle:
   Four hundred years later, Solomon comes to be king. The Lord made him the wisest man to ever live because he asked for wisdom to rule the Israelites. He knew that obeying the Lord was always the wisest thing to do. He tries to do everything that the Lord has told kings to do—from writing down the Lord’s commands to making all the right offerings in the Temple he built for the Lord. Solomon’s wisdom is so great that kings send all their wise men to him to learn from him. Even the Queen of Sheba comes. Everyone who comes brings lavish gifts of gold and horses and princesses for wives.

   End:
   Even though Solomon knows the Lord’s commands about not to have many horses or wives, he chooses to disobey. He keeps the horses, the wives and the riches. Everything happened to Solomon as the Lord warned it would: he turned from loving and obeying the Lord only. It was not enough to be wise. He also needed to obey what he knew to do. He began to worship Molech, Ashoreth, and Chemosh; the idols of his wives. In the end, the kingdom was taken away from the wisest man in the world and given to others because he did not obey the Lord.
Beginning:
A very old Moses gathers the million + Israelites to hear God’s words to them one last time before they enter the Promised Land (and Moses dies).
Moses reminds them that they are to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and strength. If they obey all His good laws, then He will bless them. He gives them special rules for their kings: to write down the entire law by hand and read it daily; to not buy many horses or have many wives. If the kings do these things, the Lord will bless them. If not, He will cut them off from being king. The people tell Moses they will obey all the Lord’s good laws.

Middle:
Four hundred years later, Solomon comes to be king. The Lord made him the wisest man to ever live because he asked for wisdom to rule the Israelites. He knew that obeying the Lord was always the wisest thing to do. He tries to do everything that the Lord has told kings to do—from writing down the Lord’s commands to making all the right offerings in the Temple he built for the Lord. Solomon’s wisdom is so great that kings send all their wise men to him to learn from him. Even the Queen of Sheba comes. Everyone who comes brings lavish gifts of gold and horses and princesses for wives.

End:
Even though Solomon knows the Lord’s commands about not to have many horses or wives, he chooses to disobey. He keeps the horses, the wives and the riches. Everything happened to Solomon as the Lord warned it would: he turned from loving and obeying the Lord only. It was not enough to be wise. He also needed to obey what he knew to do. He began to worship Molech, Ashoreth, and Chemosh; the idols of his wives. In the end, the kingdom was taken away from the wisest man in the world and given to others because he did not obey the Lord.
1. Why did Moses gather the Israelites on the plain of Moab? To speak to them one last time before he died. He reviewed all of the LORD’s laws with them.
2. What did Moses tell the people to do to help their children obey the Lord? To teach them God’s laws all through the day, no matter what they were doing.
3. What did Moses tell the people to do to help their kings obey the Lord? Have them write down a copy of all of God’s laws for themselves; do not let them have lots of wives or riches.
4. What did Moses tell the people that the Lord would do if they obeyed His commands? He would bless them.
5. What did King Solomon ask the Lord for so that he might be a good king? For wisdom to know how to lead the people as the LORD wanted him to.
6. What did King Solomon do at first to please the Lord? He tried to keep all of His commands, like writing down the words of the Law and offering the right sacrifices at the Temple.
7. Why did so many wise men come to King Solomon? To hear the wise words that the LORD gave Solomon.
8. What did they bring to King Solomon? Lots of silver, gold and other rich gifts. Also, their daughters to be his wives.
9. What could King Solomon have done with all the things (and women) that were brought to him to obey the Lord? Refused the wives, given away the money.
10. What did the Lord warn would happen if a king were to keep many wives (esp. foreign ones)? His heart would be led astray to other gods; the Lord would take the kingship from his family.
11. Who did Solomon begin to worship because of his wives? Chemosh, Ashoreth, Molech.
12. Who did the Lord give (most of) the kingdom to, because of Solomon’s disobedience? Jeroboam, son of Nebat.
13. Why would the wisest man in the world want to disobey the Lord? Because even Solomon had a sinful heart that was rebellious against God.
14. Who is the only man who ever completely obeyed God? Why? Jesus. Because He was not just a man, but also the perfect Son of God. He was not born with a sinful heart like other men. And, though tempted to sin and rebel against God, just like us, He always chose to fully obey God His Father.
15. What did Jesus do for His sinful people? He chose to offer up His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him as their Savior. He took their punishment that they might be forgiven and be saved, enjoying fellowship with God forever.

**Big Idea Connections**
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? King Solomon knew the wisest thing is always to obey God. When he did, the Lord blessed him greatly; but when he did not, the Lord finally disciplined him as He warned He would.

**Scripture Verse Connections**
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **John 14:23-24**
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

**As a young king, Solomon learned God’s laws. He asked God for wisdom to rule the people wisely, as God wanted him to. Yet, as Solomon got older, his heart turned away from the LORD. He did not keep on loving God by obeying Him. Instead, he disobeyed God’s laws about having a lot of riches and wives. He turned to worship other gods. According to Jesus’ words, we have to wonder if Solomon kept on loving the LORD, since he did not obey God’s teaching, over and over and over.**
Life Application
1. What is the first way that God wants all people to obey Him? To turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior that He would save them from the punishment for their sins that they deserve.
2. How does God want us to show that we love Him? By trusting in Jesus as our Savior and by obeying His laws.
3. What is the only way for any person to live an obedient life that pleases the Lord? Through the Holy Spirit, living in their hearts, who will help them to live to please Him.
4. How can we receive the Holy Spirit to help us live obedient lives that please God? By confessing our sins to the Lord, turning from our sins and asking for forgiveness through Jesus’ death on the cross. The Lord will then send His Holy Spirit to put a new spirit in our heart, one that loves God and wants to please Him more and more.

The Gospel
Like Solomon, we know God’s laws but many times choose to disobey them. Our hearts want to do what we want to do. Is there hope for us? Yes! Because of the good news of salvation through 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 the Revealer of His Good Laws.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like Solomon, we are all sinners who deserve God’s punishment for our disobedience. 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 He offers us forgiveness for all our sins when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.
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 us with the Holy Spirit that we would obey God more and more.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Optional Closing Activity: Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
Materials
Ball of string
Scissors
A jar/bag big enough to fit all the string
Masking tape
Paper and marker
20+ Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions and other story review questions
Playing the Game

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.

Cut various lengths of string and place them in the jar, mixed up so it is not easy to see how long they are.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into 2 teams and have them line up at the masking tape line. Read Team A a Story Review question. If they can correctly answer it, then the first child in line stands up and picks a piece of string from the bag/jar without looking. He holds up the string for every one to see. The leader places the piece of string at Team’s A’s line, but lets it point away from the group. If Team A does NOT correctly answer the question, the Team B can try to correctly answer it. If they do, then the first person in the Team B line gets to pick out a string instead of Team A. Next, it is Team B’s turn. Continue as above. Each time a team gets a new piece of string, it is tied to the other strings. The goal is to see who can get the longest string by the end of the game.

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

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. When did people start to rebel against God? From the very beginning, with Adam & Eve.
2. Who did people love more than God? Themselves.
3. How do they show that they love themselves more than God? They choose to do what pleases themselves, even if it means disobeying God.
4. How are God’s people different? They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love and please God.
5. Do God’s people obey God perfectly? Why or why not? No. They are still sinners with sinful hearts.
6. Who gives God’s people the strength to obey God? The Holy Spirit living in their hearts.
7. How does the Bible say we can know if we love God? If we are trusting in Jesus as our Savior and obeying Him as our Lord.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. Did Solomon love the Lord? Yes and no. When Solomon was young, he obeyed the Lord and seemed to love Him by his obedience. Yet, true love endures to the end. Solomon did not have true, enduring love for the Lord, for he turned away from worshiping and obeying only Him when he got older and famous.
2. Why was it not enough to know that it is wise to love and obey the Lord? God gave all of us a sense of right and wrong, even if we are not as wise as Solomon. Our sinful, rebellious hearts do not want to think about what is right, but what pleases them, all too often. Only the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, giving them strength and desire to obey the Lord will be enough to keep on obeying God to the end.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
This Scripture reminds us that God’s people know they love God when they are trusting in Jesus as their Savior but are also obeying Him as their Lord.

Life Application Questions
If we want to obey God to the very end of our lives, what should we do? Turn to Him for forgiveness of sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit and give us strength each day to obey Him. God delights to answer these kinds of prayers! We can trust Him to help us to obey Him.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.*

**Gospel Question**

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

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

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

**Materials**
Small Bag/Bowl
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? Obey His teaching.
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.
3. Who is Jesus’ Father? God the Father.
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? It shows they do not love Him.
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Solomon showed that he knew more about how to love and obey God than he actually did love and obey Him. In the end, he chose to love himself and his wives more than he loved the Lord.

Life Application
How can we apply this verse to our lives? We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.

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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.

Gospel Question
None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? 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 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.
RUSH TO THE STORE
Scripture Verse Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
A toy shopping cart or shopping bag per team
Empty food or beverage containers such as milk cartons or cereal boxes—one for each word or group of words of the verse (no more than 10 per team)
Paper and marker
Masking tape
Two tables

Preparing the Game
Make a printed sign for each group with memory verse on it. Make another copy of the verse per team and cut it apart into as many parts as containers per team. Number this verse pieces in order and tape them to the containers.

Use the masking tape to mark each team’s home starting line.

Place each team’s “groceries” in separate piles with space for the leader in the middle.

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

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams and have them line up at their home lines. Explain that each team must rush to the store for a grocery item. Instead of money to pay for the grocery, a child must say the memory verse. Then they rush home with the item in their bag. The next child then goes, etc. until all items have been purchased. They the children must line up their groceries so that their verse is in the right 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. The team then says the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

Game can repeated 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.
Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

Jesus replied, “If anybody loves me, He will obey my teaching,” Jesus replied. Jesus replied, “My Father will love him, And we will come and make our home with him.” Jesus replied, But that’s not all Jesus said Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied. Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? Obey His teaching.
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.
3. Who is Jesus’ Father? God the Father.
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? It shows they do not love Him.
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Solomon showed that he knew more about how to love and obey God than he actually did love and obey Him. In the end, he chose to love himself and his wives more than he loved the Lord.

Life Application
How can we apply this verse to our lives? We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.
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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.

Gospel Question
None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? What is the good news of Jesus? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing the song.
**WORD TAKE AWAY**

**Song Game**

**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

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

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 4
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
What is a “will?” It is your desire to do something.
2. What does “Thine” mean? An old English word, meaning “Yours”, often used to show a special honor towards God.
3. Who does the song writer want his will to be instead of his own? The Lord’s.
4. How would what you do be different if you followed the Lord’s will, instead of just your own? Many times we might want (will) to be selfish or mean, while the Lord would call us to think of the needs of others or forgive. To make your will the Lord’s, would be to turn away from what your will wanted and do what He wanted you to do instead.
5. What is your heart? It is not the physical heart in your body that beats. It is your spirit—the part of you that you cannot see that can love and know God.
6. What does it mean to make your heart the Lord’s “royal throne?” It doesn’t mean that He comes and sits on your heart. A throne is the place from where a king makes good decisions for his kingdom. To give your heart to the Lord for a throne means to let His good decisions be the decisions that guide your very heart—how you will treat others, how you will live your life.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Obey Him? Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God’s good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Even though the LORD gave Solomon more wisdom that any person who has ever lived, it was not enough (by itself) to help him to keep obeying the Lord. Solomon had a sinful heart and will, just like everyone else. Only by his heart (or anyone’s heart) strengthened by the Holy Spirit, can anyone continue to obey the LORD all the days of his life. He promises to give that kind of strength by the Holy Spirit to all who truly repent of their sins, turn to Him for forgiveness, and follow Him.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God giving them the honor of obeying Him. They can ask Him to fill them with His Holy Spirit and to take their wills and their hearts and make them obedient to His good ways.
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: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
This hymn is a prayer to God that He would take our wills and help us to obey Him. This is the kind of prayer that someone prays when they turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God delights to answer this kind of prayer by sending the Holy Spirit to work in the person’s heart and help them to obey Him. He will give them close fellowship with Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the King who deserves to be obeyed by all.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to make our heart His throne. We do not want to obey Him. We want to do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for working in the hearts of His people, helping them to turn away from their sins, trust Jesus as their Savior, and fill their hearts with a desire to obey Him more and more.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would take our heart and our will and make it His, by giving us faith to trust Him as our Savior and by giving us the desire and strength to obey Him.

Gospel Question
We all are sinners. Our heart and our will choose to do things our own way, not God’s way. We deserve God’s punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is the 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!

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

Materials
None

Preparing the Game
None.

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

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

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

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

Scroll of God’s Law

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

**Where?** On the plains of Moab

**Who?** Moses

**Did What?** Told the people that their kings must write out their own Scroll of God’s Law

**Why?** So they might know them and obey them.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Obey Him. The LORD wanted the kings to know and obey God’s Word so that they would obey it and lead the people in obeying it.

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

We all need to know God’s Word if we are to obey it.
Description
The children will make and decorate a scroll containing some of the Ten Commandments in English and/or in Hebrew.

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

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out onto cardstock several copies of the scroll sheet and of the verse (in English or Hebrew) for each child.
2. Cut off the sharp end of each skewer.
3. Make an example of the craft.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have children copy down some/all of the words from the 10 Commandments, either in Hebrew or English.
3. Have the children decorate the scroll sheets around the edges with markers.
4. Tape together each child’s scroll sheets into 1 long scroll.
5. Using the packing tape or the glue gun, attach each child’s skewers/dowels to top and bottom of the scroll.
6. Roll up both ends of the scroll and tie up with the yarn.
7. If desired, you may want to glue the Hebrew or the English used as a copy sheet onto the end or the back of the scroll.
דברים 5:6-8,11-12

6

אָֽנֹכִי יְהוָ֣ה אֱלֹהֵי שֶׁיךָ אֲרָבָּא מֵאֶֽמֶרֶץ יִם מִבֵּית בָּדִיעָם׃

7

שֶׁלָּךְ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל־פָּנָֽי יַ׃

8

לֹֽא עָשְּתָם מִבֵּית אֶשְּׁתֵּךְ שֶׁהָאִשָּׁה שֶׁשָּׁמַר בַּיֵּמֵי מִמַּיִם וַאֲשֶׁרֶץ תָּמְכֻּל וַאֲשֶׁרֶץ תָּמְשַׁךְ יִם מִתָּרֶץ וַאֲשֶׁרֶץ תָּמְכֻּל לִכְרֵשׁ רֶץ׃

11

בְּשָׁמָּה יְהוָ֣ה אֶת־שֶׁיךָ אֱלֹהֶה לַשָּׁוְא׃

12

שָׁמֹאָה יֹורֵם שֶׁבַּדְּשׁוֹת לְקַיִּם וְאֲשֶׁרֶץ נַעֲלָה וְאֲשֶׁרֶץ נַעֲלָה אֶלֶּיהָ׃
Deuteronomy 5:6-8,11-12 for copying onto scroll

6 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

7 "You shall have no other gods before me.

8 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

11 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

12 "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you.
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 Obey Him. Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God's people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God's people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God if we are obeying Him. Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching." 

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

A. Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
B. Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
C. Confess ways that we haven't obeyed Him this week.
D. Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our true Savior. Ask God to use this disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our true Savior. Ask God to help us obey Him.

Yours Sincerely,

VIPP Prayer Letter Big Idea 66
**VIPP Game**

**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.

**Preparation of 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| _____ | 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><strong>Week 1 of Big Idea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 2 of Big Idea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 3 of Big Idea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>4____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.___________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.___________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong> (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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have small groups present in the following order:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 66 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 66 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: Setting Down the Porcupine Roach, 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.
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

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

**Snack**

Indian Fry Bread (use cornbread or look up a recipe online) and/or Beef Jerky (called Pemican by the Native Americans)

**ACTS Prayer**

A  Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
C  Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
T  Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.

**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: People Pins**

**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

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

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

**Drama Refresher:**
*Introduction pp.23-25 Appendix B*

**Story Review Game Refresher:**
*Introduction pp.35-36 Appendix C*
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Inspecting the Troops

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

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

Big Idea Craft: Maskipaton’s Finest Horse

**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: Paper Boot Shuffle

**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: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

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

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be: Verse 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. 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
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 66 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 66 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: Setting Down the Porcupine Roach, 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

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices 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

Indian Fry Bread (use cornbread or look up a recipe online) and/or Beef Jerky (called Pemican by the Native Americans)

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
C  Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
T  Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time

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

**Group 1 Activities**

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

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

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

**Activities:**

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

**Resources:**

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

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

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

**Activities:**

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

**Resources:**

VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group  
VIPP Prayer Letter  
VIPP Clue Cards
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: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24**

**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
## 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>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Story Review/Big Idea Game</strong></td>
<td>Ask Story Review/Big Idea Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIPP Game and Clue Cards</strong></td>
<td>Share Clues about VIPP Pray for the VIPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Act-It-Out</strong></td>
<td>Act out a few actions from Beginning, Middle, End as teacher tells the story briefly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Song</strong></td>
<td>Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Verse Game</strong></td>
<td>Read Scripture Verse Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing Prayer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Give Out Take Home Sheets</strong></td>
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Our story today takes place about 190 years ago, out on the great High Plains up in Alberta, Canada.

Galloping along through the tall grasses with wind in his face and long, black hair streaming behind him, Maskipaton gleefully urged his pony faster and faster towards the village of teepees he called home. Hunting had gone well that day. His mother would now have some plump rabbits to roast along side of the evening’s usual fry bread, already cooking over the fire. His father would be pleased with his news, too. He was becoming quite a good hunter for so young a boy. That was very important, for after all, he was the chief’s son. One day he would have to take off his buckskin cap and put on the headpiece of war—a porcupine “roach” (“roach” means hair pushed up and curled backwards. It was made from porcupine and deer tails—no quills, just hair). Then he would need all his skill and cunning to lead his braves into war.

Maskipaton burst into the family’s teepee to show him his prized catch. “Father, look at my rabbits. I shot them from far away. They had hardly a chance to wriggle their noses before I got them. And guess what! I spotted a great herd of buffalo in the distance. They must be returning from their winter’s journey in the south. Perhaps this year you’ll let me go with you when you hunt them?

But Maskipaton’s father did not respond. He was in deep and worried conversation with some of the tribe’s elders. For a far more important creature than the buffalo they depended upon for food had come to settle in their lands this spring. A creature who threatened the Cree Indians’ very existence: the kass’aq—white man!

“We were out hunting this morning,” the men reported to Maskipaton’s father, “when we saw the smoke of fires in the distance. We got as close as we dared to learn more. They were not trappers, like white men at the fort. These were families with all their belongings. What does this mean?” they asked.

“These kass’aq! First they come to take our beaver and buffalo. Now it seems they come to take our land from us, too. This is our people’s land. It has been for hundreds of years. Do they think they can have it without a fight? Ask our enemies the Blackfoot. The Crees don’t just give away their land—they fight back! Go now! Summon the braves! It is time to put on the porcupine roach. We must defend our land!” Young Maskipatootook knew now there would be no hunting of buffalo tomorrow: there would be war!

This was to be the only the first of many bloody battles fought against the kass’aq. The Crees relied on tricks of cunning and surprise to fight the white man, for their bows and arrows were little match for their guns and gun powder. But the tricks seemed to be useless, for more and more white men came and fought back, killing more and more Crees, and taking away more and more of their Crees and wanted to get rid of them. Might this just be another of their tricks?” But, what if this lands. Young Maskipaton grew up hating the white men for what they had done to his people. He struck back in raging anger upon the white man in the battle. He wanted nothing more than to see them dead.
One day, Maskipaton’s aging father, the chief came to him and said, “Maskipaton, my son, I am too old to lead my people well. It is time for you to take my place as chief of the Crees. You must lead our people now.” Handing him his porcupine roach and feather headdress he said, “You must protect them against our enemies, especially the white man.”

Maskipaton was accepted his father’s gifts with delight. “Father, I will do all I can to protect our people and our lands, just as you have. I will keep away our enemies—especially the white man,” he promised. And so it was, under Chief Maskipaton’s leadership, the hatred of Cree for white man and white man for Cree grew more fierce as he led his braves in one attack after another.

But while hatred was growing in the hearts of many, God was growing love for both in the heart of one man --Robert Rundle--far away in England. “Both white men and Cree need to hear about Jesus,” Rundle thought. “Why shouldn’t I be the one to tell them about Him?” So Rundle packed up all his things and traveled across thousands of miles of ocean and then thousands of miles of rugged, cold, wild lands until he reached a fort in Alberta in the Cree lands.

It did not take long for Rundle to see that the fort was a great place to tell the white men about Jesus, but not to tell the Cree. “These people are suspicious of all white men—and well they should be,” Rundle realized. “They have no written language or even know how to read, so they cannot learn the Bible. How can I tell them about Jesus here at the fort? They may think it’s a trick. No. If I want to reach the Cree with the good news of Jesus, there is only one thing to do: I must go to live with them—even if it costs me my life!”

Away from the safety of the fort, across the prairie, and deep into Cree territory Robert Rundle traveled. At last, spotting the smoke of Chief Maskipaton’s teepee village, Rundle turned his horse straight for it. The closer he got, the more he was certain he was being watched from thickets of bushes and trees. Would he meet death before ever having a chance to tell the Cree about Jesus? Were they wearing their porcupine roaches today? Rundle did not know, but he did know that he was in God’s hands. He would trust Him and obey what he thought the Lord wanted him to do.

As Rundle came into the village, he was quickly surrounded by Cree braves, standing ready to attack him. “Tanisi (pronounced “TAN-si)! Wachi! (How are you? Shake hands!) I come in peace to see Chief Maskipaton. I have a message for him from the great Creator God.”

“I am Maskipaton,” the chief answered him in a cold, hate-filled voice. “Tell me your message.”

“The great Creator God has sent me with an important message for you, but it is very, very long. I want to write it down for you on birch bark and teach you and your people to read it. It will take me a long time to write it all down. I will need to live here with you in your village. Will you let me?” Rundle asked.

Chief Maskipaton was suspicious of the white man’s request. The white men he knew hated the Crees. Could this just be another trick to get rid of his people or take their lands?” Maskipaton wondered. “Yet what if this white man really did have a message from the Creator God? What could it be He wanted them to know? The chief’s curiosity overcame his suspicions. For this one white man, he would set aside the
porcupine roach—at least for now. “You may stay, kass’aq, but we will be watching you. Any tricks from you and I will put on my porcupine roach and scalp you myself!”

There never were any tricks. Robert Rundle loved the Cree. He learned their customs and their language; and, he began to write down the Creator God’s message in their very own language. After much hard work, Rundle went before Maskipaton with a present. “Chief Maskipaton, here is the Creator God’s message, written down in your very own language. As chief of your people, I would like to teach you to read the message first.”

“That is good,” Maskipaton answered. He was curious about this message that Rundle had worked so hard to write down for them.

Chief Maskipaton was an eager and quick learner. Soon he could read for himself the message. He read about the perfectly holy Creator God who had made all things; but, how people had rebelled against Him, deserving eternal punishment for their sins. Then he read about Jesus, the Chief of Peace and Love and Son of the Creator God, who the Creator God sent to die for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him.

As Maskipaton read, he knew in his heart that it was true. He was proud and sinful. He had killed and hated many men, especially the white man. He went to Rundle and said, “Rundle, I believe the Creator God’s message. What must I do to be saved?”

“Oh, great chief, you have done the first thing already: you have believed,” Rundle told the chief. “But there is more: you must turn away from your sins and obey the Creator God’s good laws. There will be many times when this is very hard. You will even have to set down your porcupine roach and seek peace. You will need to love your enemies.”

“If that is what I must do, then I will never be saved,” Maskipaton answered. “How can I stop hating and killing these kass’aq or the Blackfoot who have been so terrible to my people? I’ll never be a Christian as long as there is a scalp to take or a horse to steal from the Blackfoot!” he vowed.

But the more Maskipaton read of the Creator God’s message, the more the Holy Spirit worked in his heart. “Rundle, I have changed my mind,” the chief finally said, “I want to be a Christian. I am ready to obey the Creator God’s good laws. I will even set down my porcupine roach and seek peace with my enemies.”

So Chief Maskipaton became a Christian. The Holy Spirit did an amazing work in his heart. Instead of leading his people into war with the Blackfoot and the white men, Maskipaton worked to bring peace and understanding. Instead of encouraging his people to follow the gods of wind and fire and rain, he helped them to read so that they could know the message of the Creator God and His Son Jesus, too.

But just as Robert Rundle had told him, there would times when it would be very hard to obey God’s good laws. One night soldiers came and for no reason attacked Maskipaton’s village killing many of his people, including the old chief, his father. What would Maskipaton do now? Would he put back on the porcupine roach and seek revenge on these soldiers or would he obey the Creator God’s
good laws and continue to seek peace? The Holy Spirit gave Maskipaton strength to keep obeying the Creator God. “I have set down the porcupine roach in obedience to the Creator God. I will not put it on again,“ he declared. “I will continue to work for peace between my people and the kass’aq .”

The Lord blessed Maskipaton for his obedience. For soon after this terrible attack, a great peace treaty was signed, promising peace between the Cree and the white man. Both Cree and white man gathered together at Maskipaton’s village for a big celebration. There was lots of food and dancing around the fire to the beating of drums. But right in the middle of the celebration, Chief Maskipaton received some very startling news: “The soldier who killed your father is here celebrating tonight. Now is your chance for revenge,” one of his braves told him.

At first Maskipaton’s heart filled with hate and a thirst for revenge, like in the days before he had turned to believe and obey the Creator God. But soon the Holy Spirit worked in his heart, overcoming his hate and helping him to know what to do.

“Stop the drums! Stop the dancing!” Maskipaton ordered. Everyone stopped in their place. “I have been told that the soldier who killed my very own father is here tonight. Bring him here to stand before me!”

The braves brought the trembling soldier to Maskipaton.

“Answer me! Are you the man who killed my father?” the chief demanded.

“Yes, sir,” the soldier fearfully answered.

For a minute Maskipaton just looked the man in the eyes, and then he said, “Remove this man’s outer clothes.”

This order was followed by a gasp of horror through the crowd. Everyone knew that this was how the Cree prepared their enemies for execution. “Would this be the end of the peace treaty that Maskipaton had worked so hard for?” they all wondered.

But what happened next was totally surprising, for instead of having this soldier put to death, Maskipaton gave him his very own best buckskin clothes and then set him on his very best horse.

“You are the man who killed my father,” Maskipaton told this man. “Before I came to know and obey the Creator God and His Son Jesus, the Chief of Peace and Love, I would have put on my porcupine roach and scalped you. But He has made me a different person and I obey only His desires. I have set down my porcupine roach. I forgive you. I give you my best things. You will be like my father; and I, like your son. And when you go back to your fort, tell everyone that this is how Chief Maskipaton treats his enemies because he loves and obeys the Creator God!’”

Our Big Idea is: **God’s People Obey Him**
Our Scripture Verse is: **John 14:23-24**

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

The Lord did a mighty work in Chief Maskipaton’s heart. By the Holy Spirit, He gave Maskipaton the strength to obey His good laws, even when it was very, very hard. In the end, many Cree and white men
strength to obey His good laws, even when it was very, very hard. In the end, many Cree and white men turned to the Lord because of Maskipaton’s obedience to the Lord.

What about you and me? If we are to be God’s people, we must turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We must obey his good laws, too, even when it is very hard. How will we have strength to do this? The same way Maskipaton did: by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts. Let’s ask the Lord to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit and give us strength to obey Him, just like He gave Chief Maskipaton.
1. A young Maskipaton gallops back to his father’s tribe after a successful hunt of rabbits and spotting buffalo.

2. Upon arrival at his father’s teepee he hears that more white men have come to their territory. His father prepares his men for war.

3. Maskipaton grows up hating and desiring to kill the white men. The white men also hate the Cree.

4. Robert Rundle comes from England to tell white man and Cree about the Lord.

5. He decides to live in Maskipaton’s village to learn and write down the Bible in their own language.

6. Maskipaton is now chief and only with great suspicion yet curiosity does he allow Rundle to stay in his village.

7. Maskipaton is invited to be the first to read the “Creator God’s” message to the Cree. He quickly and eagerly learns how to read. When he hears the gospel he believes, but does not want to stop hating and fighting the white man.

8. The Holy Spirit works in his heart, giving him willingness to love his enemies as well as believe about Jesus. Maskipaton begins to work for peace with the white man and other Indians.

9. A surprise attack by white men on Maskipaton’s village leaves many, including his own father dead. Maskipaton keeps obeying the Lord, even though tempted to seek revenge.

10. Maskipaton leads the Indians in making a big peace treaty with the white men. He hosts a large celebration at his village.

11. During the celebration, he is told that the man who killed his father is there. At first he wants to kill the man in revenge, but the Holy Spirit gives his strength to love and forgive him instead.

12. He gives the man his best clothes and finest horse and adopts him as his father. He wants everyone to know that this is how Maskipaton treats his enemies because he obeys God.
### Week 2 Resources

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

#### 1. Drama Group Resources

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

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

#### 2. Games Groups Resources

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

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

#### 3. Songs Groups Resources

- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
- Hymn Discussion Sheet

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

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

#### 4. Craft Resources

- Craft Instructions and Resources

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

#### 5. VIPP Resources

- VIPP Prayer Letter

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

When? About 190 years ago
Where? High Plains of Alberta, Canada
What’s it Like? Cold, grassy, flat lands. Lots of buffalo, rabbit and other wildlife. Indians lived in teepee villages. White men had begun to settle there in forts.

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)

Maskipaton
Rabbits
Buffalo
Maskipaton’s father
Maskipaton’s mother
Porcupine Roach
Cree braves
White men
Robert Rundle
Bible
Peace Treaty
Fire
Man who killed father
Horse
Best Clothes

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

Today’s Big Idea is: God’s People Obey Him. Maskipaton chose to obey God even when it meant forgiving and loving the man who killed his father.

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

Obeying God No Matter What

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

Beginning:
A young Maskipaton gallops back to his father’s tribe after a successful hunt of rabbits and spotting buffalo. Upon arrival at his father’s teepee he hears that more white men have come to their territory. His father prepares his men for war. Maskipaton grows up hating and desiring to kill the white men. The white men also hate the Cree.

Middle:
Robert Rundle comes from England to tell white man and Cree about the Lord. He decides to live in Maskipaton’s village to learn and write down the Bible in their own language. Maskipaton is now chief and only with great suspicion yet curiosity does he allow Rundle to stay in his village. Maskipaton is invited to be the first to read the “Creator God’s” message to the Cree. He quickly and eagerly learns how to read. When he hears the gospel he believes, but does not want to stop hating and fighting the white man. The Holy Spirit works in his heart, giving him willingness to love his enemies as well as believe about Jesus. Maskipaton begins to work for peace with the white man and other Indians.

End:
A surprise attack by white men on Maskipaton’s village leaves many, including his own father dead. Maskipaton keeps obeying the Lord, even though tempted to seek revenge. Maskipaton leads the Indians in making a big peace treaty with the white men. He hosts a large celebration at his village. During the celebration, he is told that the man who killed his father is there. At first he wants to kill the man in revenge, but the Holy Spirit gives his strength to love and forgive him instead. He gives the man his best clothes and finest horse and adopts him as his father. He wants everyone to know that this is how Maskipaton treats his enemies because he obeys God.
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Robert Rundle comes from England to tell white man and Cree about the Lord. He decides to live in Maskipaton’s village to learn and write down the Bible in their own language. Maskipaton is now chief and only with great suspicion yet curiosity does he allow Rundle to stay in his village. Maskipaton is invited to be the first to read the “Creator God’s” message to the Cree. He quickly and eagerly learns how to read. When he hears the gospel he believes, but does not want to stop hating and fighting the white man. The Holy Spirit works in his heart, giving him willingness to love his enemies as well as believe about Jesus. Maskipaton begins to work for peace with the white man and other Indians.

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A surprise attack by white men on Maskipaton’s village leaves many, including his own father dead. Maskipaton keeps obeying the Lord, even though tempted to seek revenge. Maskipaton leads the Indians in making a big peace treaty with the white men. He hosts a large celebration at his village. During the celebration, he is told that the man who killed his father is there. At first he wants to kill the man in revenge, but the Holy Spirit gives his strength to love and forgive him instead. He gives the man his best clothes and finest horse and adopts him as his father. He wants everyone to know that this is how Maskipaton treats his enemies because he obeys God.
1. What did Maskipaton hear his father and the braves talking about that was so disturbing? *They had seen white men near by.*

2. Why did the Indians feel it was right to kill the white man? *They were invading their territory. It was how they would treat anyone who decided to take land that was theirs.*

3. What did the Cree put on when they went to war? *The porcupine roach.*

4. Why did Robert Rundle decide to live with Maskipaton’s tribe? *It was the only way to learn their language and have them really get to hear about Jesus.*

5. What was so risky about going to live with the Cree? *They could kill him whenever they wanted to.*

6. What did Maskipaton think when he first understood the good news of Jesus? (How could he become a Christian?)

7. What made Maskipaton first decide that he would not become a Christian? *He did not want to stop hating and killing his enemies, or stealing horses from the Blackfoot.*

8. Why did Maskipaton finally become a Christian? *The Holy Spirit worked in his heart so that he turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He gave him the willingness and strength to even to stop hating his enemies.*

9. What did Maskipaton do to make things better between the Cree, other Indian tribes and the white man? *Make peace treaties.*

10. What happened terrible thing happened to Maskipaton’s people that tempted Maskipaton to seek revenge? *A surprise attack by the white soldiers that killed many, even his father.*

11. Why was there a celebration in Maskipaton’s village? *Signed a big peace treaty with the white men.*

12. Who did Maskipaton find out was at the celebration? *The man who killed his father.*

13. Why didn’t Maskipaton seek revenge on the man who killed his father? *The Holy Spirit gave him strength to keep obeying the Lord by loving and forgiving this man.*

14. How did Maskipaton show everyone that he was forgiving this man? *He gave the man his best horse, best clothes and adopted him as his father.*

15. What happened as a result of Maskipaton’s obedience? *Many white men and Indians became Christians.*

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Maskipaton chose to obey God even when it meant forgiving and loving the man who killed his father.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: *John 14:23-24*

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

*Maskipaton showed that he truly loved the Lord by obeying Him, even when it meant loving the very man who killed his father.*

**Life Application**

1. When is it hard for you to obey?
2. Have you ever tried to forgive someone who has hurt you or wronged you?
3. Who helps God’s people obey, even when it is very hard? *The Holy Spirit, working in their heart.*
4. How can we become God’s people? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that Robert Rundle risked his life to tell the Cree Indians? 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 Strength to Obey Him.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we many times, like Maskipaton, we do not want to turn away from our sins and obey God. Many times we want to keep on living our own way.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to work in His people’s heart, that they, like Maskipaton, do turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. And, that they do obey God, even when it is very hard.
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 from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the desire and strength to obey God, even when it is very hard.

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
People Pins
Story Review Game

Materials
A ball
Paper and marker
10 Safety pins
Masking Tape
20+ Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

Playing the Game
Divide the children into 2 teams, Team A and B. Team A will line up behind the bowling throw line, Team B will take their places on an x as a bowling pin. Attach with tape or safety pins on each “bowling pin”, with number 1 on the person in front and working across the rows from side to side, so that the biggest numbers will be on the last row of “pins”. Ask the first child on Team A to come up to the bowling throw line. Have the child roll the ball into the “bowling pins” Whoever is touched by the ball is considered a knocked down pin. The pin numbers on those people are added up. The bowler is then asked a question. If he can answer it correctly on his own, the team gets as many points as the value of the pins knocked down. If he can answer it with the help of his team, then the team gets half the point value. If he answers it incorrectly, it goes to the Team B for the half point value amount for a correct answer. All pins resume their positions, ready for the next player on Team A to bowl. After everyone on Team A has a turn to bowl, the two teams switch places as pins and bowlers.

Play continues until everyone has had 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.
Big Idea Discussion Questions

Understanding the Big Idea
1. When did people start to rebel against God? From the very beginning, with Adam & Eve.
2. Who did people love more than God? Themselves.
3. How do they show that they love themselves more than God? They choose to do what pleases themselves, even if it means disobeying God.
4. How are God’s people different? They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love and please God.
5. Do God’s people obey God perfectly? Why or why not? No. They are still sinners with sinful hearts.
7. How does the Bible say we can know if we love God? If we are trusting in Jesus as our Savior and obeying Him as our Lord.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. Why did Maskipaton not want to become a Christian when he first heard about Jesus? Because he knew that he would have to obey by even forgiving and seeking peace with his enemies.
2. What amazing ways did the Lord give Maskipaton strength to obey Him? He gave him strength to love his enemies, even when they killed his father. He helped him overcome the great temptation to seek revenge and even kill the man who killed his father; and instead, to treat him with complete forgiveness and love, adopting him as his own father.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
This Scripture reminds us that God’s people know they love God when they are trusting in Jesus as their Savior but are also obeying Him as their Lord.

Life Application Questions
If we want to obey God to the very end of our lives, what should we do? Turn to Him for forgiveness of sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit and give us strength each day to obey Him. God delights to answer these kinds of prayers! We can trust Him to help us to obey Him.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.*

**Gospel Question**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**

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

1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? *Obey His teaching.*
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? *To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.*
3. Who is Jesus’ Father? *God the Father.*
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? *He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.*
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? *It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.*
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? *It shows they do not love Him.*
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? *Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.*

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? *God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.*

Story Connection

What does the verse have to do with our story? *Maskipaton showed that he truly loved the Lord by obeying Him, even when it meant loving the very man who killed his father.*

Life Application

How can we apply this verse to our lives? *We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.*
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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.*
Gospel Question
None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? 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
two paper grocery bags per team
a chair per team
paper and marker
masking tape

**Preparing the Game**
Make a sign per team of the verse in easy to read print. Make another copy of the verse per team and cut into 10 or so pieces. Number each piece sequentially. If desired, you can make these into hiking boot shapes (see illustration). Mark the start line with masking tape. Place chairs with each team's verse 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 the start line. Explain to them that the first person in the line will put their feet into the bags, like shoes, and shuffle up to the chair. They will then say the verse to the leader, receive a piece of the verse and return to the line. The next person will then put on the “boots” and shuffle up for another piece of verse, etc. until all pieces are retrieved. The team 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.
Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

Jesus replied, “If anybody loves me, He will obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.
Jesus replied, “My Father will love him, And we will come and make our home with him.”
Jesus replied, But that’s not all Jesus said Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.
Jesus replied, “He who does not love Me, Will not obey my teaching,” Jesus replied.

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? **Obey His teaching.**
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? **To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.**
3. Who is Jesus’ Father? **God the Father.**
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? **He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.**
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? **It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.**
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? **It shows they do not love Him.**
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? **Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.**

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? **God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.**

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Maskipaton showed that he truly loved the Lord by obeying Him, even when it meant loving the very man who killed his father.

Life Application
How can we apply this verse to our lives? **We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.**
**Scripture Song Discussion Questions**

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.

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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.

**Gospel Question**

None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? 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.
Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 4
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
What is a “will?” It is your desire to do something.
2. What does “Thine” mean? An old English word, meaning “Yours”, often used to show a special honor towards God.
3. Who does the song writer want his will to be instead of his own? The Lord’s.
4. How would what you do be different if you followed the Lord’s will, instead of just your own? Many times we might want (will) to be selfish or mean, while the Lord would call us to think of the needs of others or forgive. To make your will the Lord’s, would be to turn away from what your will wanted and do what He wanted you to do instead.
5. What is your heart? It is not the physical heart in your body that beats. It is your spirit—the part of you that you cannot see that can love and know God.
6. What does it mean to make your heart the Lord’s “royal throne?” It doesn’t mean that He comes and sits on your heart. A throne is the place from where a king makes good decisions for his kingdom. To give your heart to the Lord for a throne means to let His good decisions be the decisions that guide your very heart—how you will treat others, how you will live your life.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Obey Him?
Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God’s good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Maskipaton knew that to be a Christian was more than just believing that the good news about Jesus was true. He knew that he would have to turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus as his own Savior. He knew he must obey God’s good laws. At first, he did not want to do this because it would mean forgiving his enemies and seeking peace with them. The Holy Spirit began to work in his heart and gave him even the desire to obey God’s good ways, even if it was not what he wanted. Even when given the chance to kill the very man who killed his father, Maskipaton still obeyed the Lord. He did not follow the desires of his heart and will because he had made them the Lord’s “royal throne.” Instead, he treated even this man with love and forgiveness.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God giving them the honor of obeying Him. They can ask Him to fill them with His Holy Spirit and to take their wills and their hearts and make them obedient to His good ways.
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: John 14:23-24

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

This hymn is a prayer to God that He would take our wills and help us to obey Him. This is the kind of prayer that someone prays when they turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God delights to answer this kind of prayer by sending the Holy Spirit to work in the person’s heart and help them to obey Him. He will give them close fellowship with Him.

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the King who deserves to be obeyed by all.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to make our heart His throne. We do not want to obey Him. We want to do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for working in the hearts of His people, helping them to turn away from their sins, trust Jesus as their Savior, and fill their hearts with a desire to obey Him more and more.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would take our heart and our will and make it His, by giving us faith to trust Him as our Savior and by giving us the desire and strength to obey Him.

Gospel Question

We all are sinners. Our heart and our will choose to do things our own way, not God’s way. We deserve God’s punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is the 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!

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 to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it… with a little help from the rest of us!”

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

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

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
# Maskipaton’s Finest Horse

## 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)

Maskipaton’s Finest Horse

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In front of all the soldiers and the Crees,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>Maskipaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did What?</td>
<td>Adopted as his father, the soldier who killed his father. He gave him his best set of clothes and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object?</td>
<td>His finest horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>To show that he had given up his old ways of revenge and had truly turned to obey the Lord.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Obey Him. God helped Maskipaton obey his command to love his enemies. Maskipaton wanted to obey God’s command because he loved God so much.

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

Loving God means to obeying God’s commands, even when they are very hard. God delights to help His people love Him by obeying Him.
Maskipaton’s Finest Horse

Description
The children will make a sand art picture of Maskipaton’s finest horse.

Materials
Template of horse
Cardstock
Markers, Colored pencils, etc.
Craft sand in various colors
Craft glue
Bowls and pans/cookie sheets/lids with lip

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out picture of Maskipaton’s horse onto cardstock.
2. Cover table with table cloth.
3. Set sand of different colors in bowls and lids/cookie sheet or 11” x 8” pan with lip.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have children color in Maskipaton with the markers/pencils.
3. Have the children spread glue onto a particular section of the horse, then sprinkle colored sand over that section. Tilt the picture so that the excess sand falls down into the lids/cookie sheet.
4. Repeat for each section until picture is finished.
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 Obey Him. Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God’s people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God’s people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus as our Savior but are also obeying Him as our Lord.

We thought about John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.""

I also prayed for you during ACTS prayer time. I also prayed for you during ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you in your 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 in your prayer time.

A) Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.

C) Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.

T) Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.

S) Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our true Savior. Ask God to give us the strength to obey Him working in their hearts.

You to pray, too.

Yours Sincerely, [Name]
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:


__Children arrive__

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>children in a discussion about it.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion</td>
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<td>questions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity Time</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is</td>
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<td></td>
<td>doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in</td>
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<td>introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to</td>
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<td></td>
<td>adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What</td>
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<td>about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span,</td>
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<td>reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:</td>
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<td>_______________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong></td>
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<td>(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer</td>
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<td>into their opening prayer, instead)</td>
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<td>Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion</td>
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<td>sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers</td>
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<td>to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group</td>
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<td>will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after</td>
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<td>Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time</strong></td>
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<td>Have small groups present in the following order:</td>
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<td>Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the</td>
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<td>Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time</td>
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<td>remains, play the Clean Up Game.</td>
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</table>
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 66 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 66 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: More than Walking and Talking**

*Matthew 4-7*

- 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

Cups of Sugar-free pudding sand (chocolate “mud” or vanilla/banana/butterscotch “sand”) with crumbling graham cracker piece walls stuck in it (can use graham cracker sticks or pieces of sheet style). Can add teddy graham “people” if you want.

### ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
C  Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
T  Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help

### 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: Yes, No & Go

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

**Resources:**
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet  pp. 65-66
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Enemy Invaders

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

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

Big Idea Craft: The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

**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: Day at the Beach

**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: Jesus Replied: John 14:23-24

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

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

### Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be: Verse 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, 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
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 66 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 66 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

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

Resources:
Story: More than Walking and Talking
Matthew 4-7
Story Outline p.63
Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

Cups of Sugar-free pudding sand (chocolate “mud” or vanilla/banana/butterscotch “sand”) with crumbling graham cracker piece walls stuck in it (can use graham cracker sticks or pieces of sheet style). Can add teddy graham “people” if you want.

**ACTS Prayer**

- **A** Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.
- **C** Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.
- **T** Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.
- **S** Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.
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

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
**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
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**
Our story today takes place about 2000 years ago, on a high, grassy ridge outside of Capernaum. Talk, talk, talk! Walk, walk, walk! It seemed that was all Jesus and his disciples had been doing lately. Up and down hill after hill, on just about every dusty, hot road after road of the thousand square miles of Galilee, Jesus had led his disciples, talking about the Kingdom of God and healing every kind of sickness imaginable. Now they were back home in Capernaum again.

Talk, talk, talk! Walk, walk, walk! Now that Jesus had amazed all of Galilee with his powerful preaching and healing, news spread far and wide about Him. All over Israel and even in the other nearby country, everyone was talking about Him:

“Did you here about Jesus, the new teacher from Galilee? He teaches like He knows exactly what God thinks—not at all like the other teachers,” someone would say.

“Yes, that’s what I’ve heard, but His healings are what amaze me!” another would answer. “I hear that He heals sicknesses that have never been healed before!”

But they did not just talk about Him, they walked to Capernaum where He was—by the hundreds! They wanted to hear Jesus themselves. They wanted to bring their sick family and friends for healing.

When Jesus saw the crowds, He led them away from Capernaum to Mt. Eremos, a broad, grassy hill that overlooked the sparkling, blue Sea of Galilee. Many people brought their sick to Him to be healed. And He did! It was just as they had heard others tell! No illness was too difficult for Jesus to heal. People who had been suffering terrible pain that would never go away neither day nor night came to Jesus—and they were freed from their endless pain! People who were paralyzed and could only get around by being carried on mats or dragging themselves along the ground came to Jesus—and they got up on their feet and could walk and jump! And people who had brain diseases that would cause their bodies to move out of control came to Jesus—and they had control over their bodies. People who were troubled by demons came to Him—and were freed from their wicked influence.

Walk, walk, walk. Talk, talk, talk. The people had walked a long distance to have Jesus heal their sick, but also to hear Him talk about God’s Kingdom. So Jesus sat down on the top of Mt. Eremos and began to teach them about how to live to please God. Some of the things Jesus told them were things everyone was pleased to hear and eager to obey:

“[Do not worry about whether you will have the things you need. You just keep seeking God’s kingdom and obey Him. He promises to take care of all your needs]… Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened…”Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a
stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give
good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask
him?” (NIV Matthew 7:7-11). No one minded hearing that God would take care of all their needs or that
He delighted to answer their prayers.

But Jesus also told them difficult things that weren’t so pleasant to think about:

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you
because of me”—but who wanted to be persecuted?….And He told them, “You’ve been told it’s wrong to
murder someone, but I tell you that when you hate someone in your heart, it’s like murdering them. Even
just calling someone a bad name like a fool, is enough of a sin to make you deserve Hell…Love your
enemies and pray for those who persecute you” –were they really to love their enemies, was it really
wrong to hate them? ….”If you do not forgive men their sins even though they do not deserve it, God will
not forgive your sins”—did they really have to stop hating their enemies, but love and forgive them,
instead? No one liked to hear things like these shocking teachings of Jesus.

Talk, talk, talk. Walk, walk, walk. Hundreds of people had walked to Jesus to have Him heal their sick.
They listened to Him talk, talk, talk, all day. They even loved to talk, talk, talk to each other about what He
said. But was that it? Was that all there was to pleasing God? No, it was not! Jesus knew that if someone
wanted to truly be one of God’s people, they had to do more than walk and talk—they needed to obey.
So Jesus told them a story to help them understand. It went something like this:

“Once there were two men, Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man,” Jesus told them. “Each had decided to
build a new house for their families down there near the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Together they found
the most beautiful spot to build. “Look here, Mr. Foolish Man, at this wonderful spot to build our houses,”
Mr. Wise Man told Mr. Foolish Man. “Not only is the view of the Sea beautiful, but there is a nice stream
near by from which we can get fresh water for our families and animals.”

“You are right, Mr. Wise Man. What more could we want than this,” Mr. Foolish Man replied. “Let’s begin
building right away.”

Each man got all the supplies he would need to build his house—wood, stone, shovel, hammer—then
began construction. First the foundation would be laid, then the stone walls, and at last the roof of flax
and wood would be put down.

Mr. Wise Man heaved his shovel up and down, working hard to penetrate the hardened sand on the
surface. This was the hardest part of building a house and it would take days and days to dig down deep
enough and wide enough to make a rock foundation for his entire house. Sweat soon drenched Mr. Wise
Man’s body. His back and arms ached terribly from so much work. He wished there was another way to
build a good house, but he knew that he would be glad that he had laid his foundation upon rock when
the strong winter storms came. So on and on he kept digging.

You can imagine the surprise Mr. Wise Man felt when he went to check up on Mr. Foolish Man’s progress
only to find that he was already laying the stone walls of his house.
“What’s this? Already finished your foundation and onto building walls? Tell me your secret?” Mr. Wise Man asked Mr. Foolish Man. “How did you ever get through that hard-packed sand so quickly? I would give anything to be done!” Mr. Wise Man said in astonishment.

“Well,” answered Mr. Foolish Man with a sheepish grin, “the truth is….I started to dig down through that sand, just like you, but it was such hard work I could hardly stand it. And then it hit me: ‘Why are you killing yourself by digging down to the rock. This ground here is every bit as hard. Why shouldn’t it support my house just fine?’ So I started laying my wall stones and look here,” he said proudly pointing to his house, “my house is nice and sturdy, as you can see. I shall be finished in no time at all. Why break your back, my friend. Build your house on the sand like me. Save yourself the backache!”

Mr. Wiseman looked back over at the measly start he had made on his house. He was discouraged with what he saw. “What a long way I have to go. Why, it will take me days if not weeks just to clear the sand off the rock,” Mr. Wise Man thought. “And then I have all the building after that! Perhaps I should listen to my neighbor here. But what will happen in winter when the rain and winds come? Will this sand really stay as solid then as it is now?” he wondered.

“Well, Mr. Foolish Man, it sure would be nice to not to have to dig down through this hard sand any more. But, this is how all the wise builders have built their houses, so I think I shall keep at it,” he finally told his neighbor.

It was not long before Mr. Foolish Man had finished building his house, and happily settled his family in their new home. But Mr. Wise Man kept on working and working and working.

It was not until much later that tired Mr. Wise Man finally put the finishing touches on his house. It had taken him such a long time to do things the Wise way, but at last the job was finished. Mr. Wise Man proudly led his family to their new house near the Sea and settled in, just as Mr. Foolish Man had done with his family.

Before long the hot, dry days of summer turned windy and rainy. Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man awoke one morning to the sound of the rain beating fiercely down on their roofs and the wind blowing hard against their walls. All day long the storm pummeled the houses. Outside the friendly, little stream that had given fresh water to their families now turned into an angry, roaring flood. It swept over its banks and swirled over the land and even threatened the walls of the houses of Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man. And all the time, it soaked deeper and deeper into the dry, hard sand, softening it up into a sloshy, wet mush.

Mr. Wise Man and his family slept dry and safe in their house all night long. No wet sand or strong winds could shake that house off its stone foundations. But it was an entirely different story for Mr. Foolish Man and his family. His house tumbled down with a crash in flooding waters and gusty winds, for the mushy sands were no real foundation at all…. and he lost everything.”
When Jesus finished his story, he looked around at the crowds listening. Did they understand the meaning of the story? “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock,” He told them. “If someone is one of God’s people,” Jesus told the crowds of disciples, “it will show in his or her life. Many people might say they are God’s people, but only those who obey really are. Don’t just walk, walk, walk to have Me heal your sick; or talk, talk, talk about what I say. Obey me. Live your lives according to what I’ve told you. If you do, will be ready for whatever hard things happen to you in this life—just like the house built on the sturdy rock could last through the storm. You won’t need to be afraid when scary things happen. But that’s not all, you will also have the comfort of God’s love inside when mean people try to hurt you. You won’t be puffed up with greed and pride when God blesses you with good things. Best of all, you will have God’s peace when you die because you know that you are one of God’s people who will enter God’s kingdom and live with Him forever.”

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Obey Him

Our Scripture Verse is: John 14:23-24

“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Walk, walk, walk. Talk, talk, talk. All the crowds walked home healed and talking about all they had seen and heard. I wonder how many of them went home and like the wise man in Jesus’ story, chose to build their lives on the only thing that would stand against anything that happened to them—obedience to Jesus’ words? How many remembered to pray, to seek God’s kingdom, to love and forgive their enemies? Or how many simply went home enjoying their healed bodies but forgetting to obey Jesus’ words, just as the foolish man chose to build his house in the sand? The Bible doesn’t tell us.

But what about you and me? We’ve heard Jesus’ words today and we have listened to stories of his amazing healings. Who will we be like: the wise man or the foolish man? Let’s praise God for giving us His words so we can know how to obey Him. Let’s ask Him to not to just listen to His words, but obey them. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Let’s ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit to give us the desire and strength to obey His good words.
1. Having journeyed all over Galilee with His disciples, healing and preaching, Jesus returns home to Capernaum.

2. Word about the amazing things Jesus has done spreads all over Israel and even to surrounding countries. Soon huge crowds are coming to Jesus, bringing their sick and wanting to hear what He has to say.

3. Jesus takes them up nearby Mt. Eremos, that overlooks the Sea of Galilee and heals all the sick and begins to teach them.

4. Jesus tells them things that they will want to know and obey, such as ask God for the things they need. He also tells them things that will not want to obey, such as love and pray for their enemies.

5. Jesus tells them a story about two builders so that the people know that they must obey His teachings, not just be healed and listen to Him.

6. Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man both decide to build new houses. Mr. Wise Man works hard to dig through the concrete-like sand on the surface so that he can build his foundation on the rock down below.

7. Mr. Foolish Man decides that it is too much work and that the sand layer is stronger enough to hold up his house.

8. Mr. Foolish Man quickly finishes his house and moves his family in, while Mr. Wise Man is still hard at work.

9. Mr. Wise Man finishes his house and moves his family in just before the winter storms hit.

10. A big storm, bringing much wind and rain, comes. The stream near the houses overflow and beat against the houses. The rain softens the sand and makes it into mush.

11. Mr. Foolish Man’s house falls down since its foundation was only on sand. He and his family run for safety to Mr. Wise Man’s house, which still stands.

12. Jesus warns the people to not just listen to His words, but obey them. Then they will be like Mr. Wise Man and his house: able to endure even the most difficult things that happen in life…and go on to enjoy eternal life with God.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources

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

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

2. Games Groups Resources

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

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

3. Songs Groups Resources

   Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   Hymn Discussion Sheet

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

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

4. Craft Resources

   Craft Instructions and Resources

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

5. VIPP Resources

   VIPP Prayer Letter

   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Narrators 2-4)
When? About 2000 years ago
Where? On Mt. Eremos, outside of Capernaum
What’s It Like? Tall, grassy hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee

2. Who’s in It? (Narrator 5)
Jesus
His Disciples
Hundreds of people from all over wanting to be healed or listen to Jesus
Mr. Wise Man
Mr. Foolish Man
Their families
Hard sand
Rock
Building supplies
Wind
Rain
Stream

3. What about the Big Idea? (Narrator 6)
Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Obey Him. Jesus healed and preached to many people, but He wanted them to know that only those who obey His words would have what they need to survive the hard times of life and finally to know eternal life with God.

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

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
Beginning:
Having journeyed all over Galilee with His disciples, healing and preaching, Jesus returns home to Capernaum. Word about the amazing things Jesus has done spreads all over Israel and even to surrounding countries. Soon huge crowds are coming to Jesus, bringing their sick and wanting to hear what He has to say. Jesus takes them up nearby Mt. Eremos, that overlooks the Sea of Galilee and heals all the sick and begins to teach them. Jesus tells them things that they will want to know and obey, such as ask God for the things they need. He also tells them things that will not want to obey, such as love and pray for their enemies.

Middle:
Jesus tells them a story about two builders so that the people know that they must obey His teachings, not just be healed and listen to Him. Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man both decide to build new houses. Mr. Wise Man works hard to dig through the concrete-like sand on the surface so that he can build his foundation on the rock down below. Mr. Foolish Man decides that it is too much work and that the sand layer is stronger enough to hold up his house. Mr. Foolish Man quickly finishes his house and moves his family in, while Mr. Wise Man is still hard at work. Mr. Wise Man finishes his house and moves his family in just before the winter storms hit.

End:
A big storm, bringing much wind and rain, comes. The stream near the houses overflow and beat against the houses. The rain softens the sand and makes it into mush. Mr. Foolish Man’s house falls down since its foundation was only on sand. He and his family run for safety to Mr. Wise Man’s house, which still stands. Jesus warns the people to not just listen to His words, but obey them. Then they will be like Mr. Wise Man and his house: able to endure even the most difficult things that happen in life…and go on to enjoy eternal life with God.
**Beginning:**

Having journeyed all over Galilee with His disciples, healing and preaching, Jesus returns home to Capernaum. Word about the amazing things Jesus has done spreads all over Israel and even to surrounding countries. Soon huge crowds are coming to Jesus, bringing their sick and wanting to hear what He has to say. Jesus takes them up nearby Mt. Eremos, that overlooks the Sea of Galilee and heals all the sick and begins to teach them. Jesus tells them things that they will want to know and obey, such as ask God for the things they need. He also tells them things that will not want to obey, such as love and pray for their enemies.

**Middle:**

Jesus tells them a story about two builders so that the people know that they must obey His teachings, not just be healed and listen to Him. Mr. Wise Man and Mr. Foolish Man both decide to build new houses. Mr. Wise Man works hard to dig through the concrete-like sand on the surface so that he can build his foundation on the rock down below. Mr. Foolish Man decides that it is too much work and that the sand layer is strong enough to hold up his house. Mr. Foolish Man quickly finishes his house and moves his family in, while Mr. Wise Man is still hard at work. Mr. Wise Man finishes his house and moves his family in just before the winter storms hit.

**End:**

A big storm, bringing much wind and rain, comes. The stream near the houses overflow and beat against the houses. The rain softens the sand and makes it into mush. Mr. Foolish Man’s house falls down since its foundation was only on sand. He and his family run for safety to Mr. Wise Man’s house, which still stands. Jesus warns the people to not just listen to His words, but obey them. Then they will be like Mr. Wise Man and his house: able to endure even the most difficult things that happen in life…and go on to enjoy eternal life with God.
1. What did Jesus do as He traveled all over Galilee? He healed people and talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

2. What happened after Jesus traveled all over Galilee? Word spread about Him and people from even other countries came to Capernaum to be healed and to hear Him speak.

3. What is the first thing that Jesus did when He took the crowds of people up to Mt. Eremos? He healed them.

4. What were some of the “easy-to-want-to-obey things” Jesus taught them? That they could ask God for what they wanted and that He was a good Father who would answer their prayers by giving them good things.

5. What were some of the “hard-to-want-to-obey things” Jesus taught them? Love their enemies; they would be blessed if they were persecuted for following Him.

6. Why did Jesus tell them the story about the two builders? Because He knew that they needed to know that they needed not just to be healed and listen to His words, but to obey them.

7. Why did Mr. Foolish Man decide it was ok to just build on the sand? Because it was very hard and he talked himself into believing that it would be strong enough even in the stormy winter season. Also, he did not want to put in the effort to do what was hard to do.

8. How are people who choose to not obey Jesus’ teachings—which may be hard to obey—like Mr. Foolish Man? They have decided that it is too much work to obey Jesus’ hard teachings and that they are doing just fine without obeying them.

9. When will someone really be glad that they chose to obey Jesus’ words? When hard things happen to them, and when they die and face God who will judge them for how they lived their lives.

10. How is obeying God like Mr. Wise Man and his house? It is sometimes very, very hard to obey God and we want to give up. It is hard like digging through that concrete-like sand. But, anyone who has turned from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior is like Mr. Wise Man. They want to obey God and His Word. By the Holy Spirit, God will give them faith to keep on believing and strength to keep on obeying Him, even when it is very hard. God will help them endure in trusting and obeying Him all their lives. And, after they die, they will know eternal life with God.

**Big Idea Connections**
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Jesus healed and preached to many people, but He wanted them to know that only those who obey His words would have what they need to survive the hard times of life and finally to know eternal life with God.

**Scripture Verse Connections**
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
Many people came to have Jesus heal them and to hear His teachings, but Jesus wanted them to know that it was only those who heard His words and obeyed them that truly loved Him and were His people.

**Life Application**
1. Do you think you are someone who is like Mr. Foolish Man or Mr. Wise Man? Which one and why?
2. What is the best first step God calls all of us to take in hearing and obeying God’s Word like Mr. Wise Man? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
What is that good news of salvation through Jesus that Jesus wanted people not just to hear but to 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 being the Giver of Strength to Obey Him.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? We can confess that many times we have heard God’s Word but do not want to obey it. We want to live life our own way. We deserve God’s punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for giving us His Word so that we can know how to obey Him. We can thank God for the Holy Spirit who lives inside His people to help them have faith in Jesus and to obey His Word.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit that we would be those who keep on obeying God’s Word all their lives.

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.
Story Review Game

**Materials**
1 chair per child, plus 4
about 24 Large index cards
Paper and marker
Masking Tape
20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

**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.

Set up the chairs in two lines, with chairs facing each other. Each chair should be spaced far enough from it’s neighboring chairs so that a child could run around it. Place at each end of the rows, two chairs that also face towards the middle. Write the words “true” and “false” on 2 index cards each and tape each to one of the chairs at the end of the rows. There should be one set of true and false chairs at one end and one set at the other end, one set for each team. With the remaining index cards, make 2 sets of numbers that correspond to the number of chairs in each long row. (If 5 chairs on a side, then number two sets of cards from 1 to 5.) Tape these numbers to the back/bottom of each chair. Have the numbers descend on one side and ascend on the other side. (i.e., if using numbers 1 to 5, then number 1 on one row be across from number 5, number 2 across from number 4, etc.) See diagram for illustration of chair set up.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into 2 teams and have them take their places in the chairs. Assign the child the number on their chair. After everyone is seated, the leader reads one of the true/false/not in the story statements and then calls out a number. The player from each team with that number is to run to sit in their team’s true or false chair. If the answer is not in the story, the children are to run around their chair and sit down in their seat with arms folded over their chest. The first of the players to make it to the correct seat scores a point for his team. Play continues as statement cards last, 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.
Big Idea Discussion Questions

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Obey Him

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God’s people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God’s people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him more and more. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus as our Savior but are also obeying Him as our Lord.

Understanding the Big Idea

When did people start to rebel against God? From the very beginning, with Adam & Eve.

Who did people love more than God? Themselves.

How do they show that they love themselves more than God? They choose to do what pleases themselves, even if it means disobeying God.

How are God’s people different? They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love and please God.

Do God’s people obey God perfectly? Why or why not? No. They are still sinners with sinful hearts.

Who gives God’s people strength to obey God? The Holy Spirit living in their hearts.

How does the Bible say we can know if we love God? If we are trusting in Jesus as our Savior and obeying Him as our Lord.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

1. Why did Jesus tell the people the story of the Two Builders? Because he knew that many people had come to Him for healing or just to be amazed by His teaching. He knew that would never be enough to make someone one of His people. They needed to obey His words.

2. According to Jesus’ story, when (in this life) will we see the greatest difference in whether we obeyed Jesus’ teachings or not? When very hard things happen to us. Those who obey Jesus will endure even through the hardest trials, while those who do not will not have the strength they need.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: John 14:23-24

“This Scripture reminds us that God’s people know they love God when they are trusting in Jesus as their Savior but are also obeying Him as their Lord.

Life Application Questions

If we want to obey God to the very end of our lives, what should we do? Turn to Him for forgiveness of sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to fill our hearts with His Holy Spirit and give us strength each day to obey Him. God delights to answer these kinds of prayers! We can trust Him to help us to obey Him.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess ways that we haven’t obeyed Him this week.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us obey Him. Ask God to help us obey Him in specific areas in which we especially need help.*

**Gospel Question**

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

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

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

**Materials**
Index cards of two different colors (or use red and black playing cards, such as hearts and spades)
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions
String or yarn
Two chairs
Masking Tape

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? Obey His teaching.
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.
3. Who is Jesus’ Father? God the Father.
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? It shows they do not love Him.
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Many people came to have Jesus heal them and to hear His teachings, but Jesus wanted them to know that it was only those who heard His words and obeyed them that truly loved Him and were His people.

Life Application
How can we apply this verse to our lives? We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.
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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.
Gospel Question

None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? 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 beach items, per team
(shells, sunglasses, beach balls, lotion bottle, fish, sand bucket, shovel, etc.)
Paper, marker
1 towel (preferably beach towel) 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 beach articles per team. Number each of the verse pieces sequentially. Use masking tape to mark starting line. Tape the verse pieces to the beach items and make a pile for each team at the far end of the relay area. Place a towel at the starting line for each team.

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. Explain that in pairs they will rush down to the other end of the relay area with the ends of the towel in each partner’s hands. The partners are to say the verse to the leader, who then places a beach item in their beach towel for them to carefully carry back to the “beach house” (start). If they drop it, they have to go all the way back and start again. When all items have been retrieved, they are to place them in verse order. The team 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.
Understanding the Scripture
1. What did Jesus say that someone will do if they love Him? Obey His teaching.
2. What sorts of things did Jesus teach God’s people should do? To love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength; to love your enemies; to do to others as you would have them do to you; etc.
3. Who is Jesus' Father? God the Father.
4. What does Jesus promise His Father will do to those who love and obey Him? He will love him and they will come to him and make their home with him.
5. What does it mean that Jesus and His Father will come to him and make their home with him? It doesn’t mean that Jesus and the Father will build a house out of wood or brick for them all to live in. It means that they will become like family to him. They will send the Holy Spirit to live in that person's heart, so that he can know God. This is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
6. If someone does not obey Jesus’ teaching, what does that show about what they think about Jesus? It shows they do not love Him.
7. Since everyone—even Christians—are sinners who disobey Jesus’ teachings, does that mean that they do not love God? Yes and no. We are all sinners and it is only by God’s work in our hearts that any of us obey Jesus’ teachings. But, Christians are different in their disobedience because they seek to obey God and are grieved when they disobey Him. It is their hearts desire to obey Him. Also, obedience rather than disobedience is what characterizes their lives—unlike people who are not Christians. Lastly, the Holy Spirit is at work in the heart of Christians to help them to obey more and more.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people obey Him because they love Him with a love that He has given them through the Holy Spirit. They no longer want to live just for themselves. They want to please and obey Him.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Many people came to have Jesus heal them and to hear His teachings, but Jesus wanted them to know that it was only those who heard His words and obeyed them that truly loved Him and were His people.

Life Application
How can we apply this verse to our lives? We can ask God work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, giving us hearts that love Him and obey Him.
ACTS Questions  
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the God Who Makes His Home with His People—Who Wants Close Fellowship with Them.  
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That we are all sinners. None of us obey God as 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 giving His people the Holy Spirit to help them to obey Him more and more.  
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 turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit that we might obey God more and more.  

Gospel Question  
None of us love God as we should. None of us deserve for God to come and make His home with us. But God in His mercy made a way for us. How can we be saved? 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.
Song Game

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

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

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

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 4
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
What is a “will”? “It is your desire to do something.”
2. What does “Thine” mean? An old English word, meaning “Yours”, often used to show a special honor towards God.
3. Who does the song writer want his will to be instead of his own? The Lord’s.
4. How would what you do be different if you followed the Lord’s will, instead of just your own? Many times we might want (will) to be selfish or mean, while the Lord would call us to think of the needs of others or forgive. To make your will the Lord’s, would be to turn away from what your will wanted and do what He wanted you to do instead.
5. What is your heart? It is not the physical heart in your body that beats. It is your spirit—the part of you that you cannot see that can love and know God.
6. What does it mean to make your heart the Lord’s “royal throne”? It doesn’t mean that He comes and sits on your heart. A throne is the place from where a king makes good decisions for his kingdom. To give your heart to the Lord for a throne means to let His good decisions be the decisions that guide your very heart—how you will treat others, how you will live your life.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Obey Him?
Obedience to God means choosing to have our wills and our hearts be guided by God’s good ways instead of following our own sinful ways. This is not something we can do in our own strength. We have to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We must ask Him to take our wills and our hearts and make them want to joyfully obey His good ways. God delights to answer prayers like these! He promises to answer them!

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Jesus knew that it was never enough to just to be healed by Him or listen to His teachings. He knew that the people needed turn away from their sins and trust Him as their Savior. They needed to obey His words: allowing their wills and hearts to be guided by His good ways rather than their own sinful ways. If they did, then they would be sustained through even the hardest “storms” of life. No matter what happened to them, they would remain safely protected by God and His people to the end of their days.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God giving them the honor of obeying Him. They can ask Him to fill them with His Holy Spirit and to take their wills and their hearts and make them obedient to His good ways.
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: John 14:23-24
“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”
This hymn is a prayer to God that He would take our wills and help us to obey Him. This is the kind of prayer that someone prays when they turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God delights to answer this kind of prayer by sending the Holy Spirit to work in the person’s heart and help them to obey Him. He will give them close fellowship with Him.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the King who deserves to be obeyed by all.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to make our heart His throne. We do not want to obey Him. We want to do things our own way. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for working in the hearts of His people, helping them to turn away from their sins, trust Jesus as their Savior, and fill their hearts with a desire to obey Him more and more.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would take our heart and our will and make it His, by giving us faith to trust Him as our Savior and by giving us the desire and strength to obey Him.

Gospel Question
We all are sinners. Our heart and our will choose to do things our own way, not God’s way. We deserve God’s punishment. Is there any hope for us? What is the 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!

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.
The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

1. What Is It? (Presenter 1)
The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

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

Where? Up above the shores of the Sea of Galilee

Who? Jesus

Did What? Told the people a story about

With the Big Idea Object? The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

Why? That they might not just hear God’s Word, but obey it, too.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Obey Him.

Many people are satisfied with just hearing God’s Word, but not obeying it. Jesus told this story to show that obeying God’s Word is what makes all the difference. By it, God will help us through even the hardest things we go through.

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

It isn’t enough that we hear God’s Word. We need to obey it, too.
The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

Description
Children will make a box “house on the rock and house on the sand” that opens up to reveal the destroyed house on the sand.

Materials
Templates for box house and patterns for sides/roof of house
White Cardstock
Scissors
Markers, colored pencils, etc.
Small pebbles
Sand
Toothpicks, broken into halves or thirds
Craft glue
Knife (preferably serrated)
Glue sticks
Optional, but highly suggested: Glue gun and glue sticks (teacher use only)

Preparing the Craft
1. Copy onto white cardstock house template, 1 per craft
2. Make a copy of the house pieces, one set per craft
3. Cut out and construct each box according to directions given on template page.
4. Glue down all the folds, preferably with glue gun.
5. Using a knife, cut through the middle of the box horizontally on three sides (front and two sides), leaving the back as a hinge.
6. Open hinge and glue a few stones on the top side of the box using the glue gun. (children will add stones to the bottom)
7. Set out other supplies.

Making the Craft
1. Show the sample of the craft you have made.
2. Have the children color in the house pieces. Cut the side/front pieces along dashed line and glue in place using the glue sticks. Glue the top and back pieces in place as is.
3. Have the children open their houses and using craft glue, glue down the rocks, sand and a few toothpick piece in the bottom part of the inside house. They can also add sand to the inside top of the house (you have already put the rocks in place.)
4. Children can practice saying something like, “Don’t be like the house on the sand, which seems strong, but which falls apart when hard things come (shake house, make storm noises and open it up to reveal the house in ruins).
   Be like the house on the rock. (Close house up again) Listen to God’s Word and obey it. Then no matter what happens (shake house and make storm noises and house stays the same), God will use His Word to help you through it.”
Pictures for Outside of House, 1 set per craft needed

Back of house

Top of house

Front of house pieces (2)

Side A house pieces (2)

Side B house pieces (2)
Instructions for House Assembly

1. Cut around all outer edges.
2. Cut from points A to B.
3. Fold all other edges inward.
4. Fold all C edges to make a square, attaching short C1 to inside of C6 end with glue (gun, preferably), forming box.
5. Fold down D pieces, then E pieces to form box top. Glue to secure.
6. Fold down F pieces, then G pieces to form box bottom. Glue to secure.
7. When box is assembled, cut with knife along horizontal dashed line (on three sides of the box) to form hinge.
House Box, 1 per craft needed
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 Obey Him. Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the beginning, people have been lovers of themselves, not of God. They do what pleases themselves most, even if it means disobeying God. God's people are different. They have been given new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. They want to love God and please Him. God's people do not obey God perfectly. They still are sinners with sinful hearts. But God gives them strength, by His Holy Spirit, to obey Him. The Bible tells us that we can know we love God is if we are not just trusting in Jesus as our Savior, but are also obeying Him as our Lord.

We thought about John 14:23-24

"Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.""

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

A
Praise God for being Perfectly Good and a Joy to Obey.

C
Confess ways that we haven't obeyed Him this week.

T
Thank God for helping His people to obey Him, through the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.

S
Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sinful disobedience towards Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to give us desire to obey Him in the acts of love which He calls us to.

I also prayed for you during Praise Factory today. What can you do to be more like God's people who obey Him?

Yours Sincerely, ______________________________

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Yours Sincerely, ______________________________

VIPP Prayer Letter Big Idea 66
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.