BIG IDEA 68

God’s People Read His Word, the Bible
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directions for Administrators Preparing the Curriculum:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Resources Your Teachers May Need:

- **Appendix B Drama**: Speaker Sheets (used in the play in Closing Large Group)
- **Appendix C Games**: Directions for all Story Review, Big Idea, Scripture Verse Games
- **Appendix D Crafts**: Presenter Sheets (used to present the craft in Closing Large Group)
- **Appendix E VIPP**: VIPP Clue Cards and Games
- **Appendix F Songs**: Song Games, Song Intro Sheets (used to present the songs in Closing Large Group)
- **Appendix G Kindergarten**: VIPP Clue Cards, Song Games, Best Games for Kindergarteners
Unit 12  Big Question: “How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!”
Unit 12 Scripture Verse: “Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible
The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps their faith grow strong.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: Psalm 119:11
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you..”

Stories
Week 1  My People Must Know My Words    Deuteronomy 6, 9, 31; Ezra, Nehemiah 8-10
Week 2  The Buried Book
Week 3  To the Synagogue!     Acts 17

Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A  Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
C  Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things. Confess that we don’t love or follow His Word as we should.
T  Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
S  Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

Songs
Hymn  Trust and Obey, v.1
Scripture Song  I Have Hidden Your Word  Psalm 119:11,15-16
Big Idea Concept
The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps their faith grow strong.

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T Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
S Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use it to grow our faith in Him.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
Ezra Reads the Word of God Nehemiah 8-10
Paul, Silas and Timothy in Thessalonica Acts 17
Leading Little Ones to God #59: God’s Children Read the Bible

Songs
Hymn: Trust and Obey, Verse 1
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Hymn Connection: God’s people try to live their lives according to His Word. As they do, He blesses their lives by the wise way they live and by using their lives as a display of the glorious way He is. They read in the Bible what God’s good will is for their lives and even when hard things happen to them that they don’t understand, they keep trusting in the promises the Lord has given them in the Bible and keep obeying what He tells them to do. They know He will be with them, take care of them and show them what to do.
Scripture Song: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.
Big Idea 68 Scripture Song

I Have Hidden Your Word

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I meditate on your precepts and
consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees,
I will not neglect your word,

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

Adapted from Psalm 119:11,15-16

Verse 1
When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will;
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain
Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.

Words: John H. Sammis   Music: Daniel B. Towner
Public Domain

Walk   Lord   Word (Bible)   I   Hidden
Glory   Do   Abides   Heart   Sin
Trust   Obey   Meditate   You   Consider
Happy, Delight   Jesus   Ways   Decrees   Neglect

CD Volume 3   CD Track # 34
CD Volume 3   CD Track # 35-36
The resources you will need for The Echo Chamber or the Folder Hunt are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Resources You Will Need:
Folders (if you are doing the Folder Hunt)
CD player and The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
PURPOSE OF THE ECHO CHAMBER: To briefly review key concepts in a way that gets out the wiggles! Keep this section short and active!

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

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

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

### BIG IDEA 68  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>
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<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
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### Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Week 1 of Big Idea</th>
<th>Week 2 of Big Idea</th>
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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>
<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>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

Prep Needed:  
Review Concepts; 
Find Correct CD Track for song; 
Choose actions to use for song and transition to story time
WORSHIP GOD!

joyfully take part
listen to others
obey your teachers

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WOGO LOA RULES
**WoGoLOA Rules Chant**

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

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

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

**Part A:**

WoGo means...

Sound off...

Joyfully....

Listen...

Obey...

**Part B:**

...Worship God!

...1-2-3!

...take part!

...to others!

...Your teachers!

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

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

**Part A:**

LOA means...

Sound off...

Be...

Be en…

Help...

**Part B:**

...Love One Another!

...1-2-3

...kind

...couraging

...others!

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

**All:** WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!
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?
Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

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

Live a life of love,

Just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song

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

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

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

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

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

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Live a life of love, live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you.

Ephesians Five, twelve. O-le!
The Bible is God’s Word.

It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live.

God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us.

The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.

When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps their faith grow strong.
Meditation Version: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version:
Psalm 119:11
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!

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

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

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

SOMETIMES:

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

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

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

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

Other Resources You Will Need:
CD player
The Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
Scripture Song or Hymn Discussion Sheets (found in each week’s curriculum)
I Have Hidden Your Word
Psalm 119:11,15-16

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees,
I will not neglect your word,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.
I Have Hidden Your Word

adapted from Psalm 119:11,15-16

Constance Dever

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. I have

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees, I will

not neglect your word. I have hidden your word, in my heart that I might not sin against

you, I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

I
Place the thumb side of the right hand in the middle of the chest.

Hidden
Place thumb of right hand, palm facing left, on lips. Then draw hand down under curved, down-turned left hand.

Your
Place the right upturned hand upward.

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

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

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

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

Sin
Point index fingers to each other, palms toward the body. Make an outward circle with both hands at the same time.

Against
Firmly plant fingertips of right flat hand into left flat hand, palm facing left.
You
Place the upturned right hand to the sky, palm facing left.

Meditate
Make counterclockwise circles with the right M hand on the right side of the forehead.

Precepts
Position the left flat hand, palm forward and fingers pointing up, in front of the body. Place right C hand, thumb touching left hand, at the top of hand and move down in a small arc to the base of the left hand.

Decrees
Hold the left flat hand, palm facing right and fingers pointing up, in front of the body. Place the thumb side of the right L hand at the fingertips of the left hand and move right L hand down to wrist.

Consider
Flick the right index finger in front of the forehead, palm towards face.

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

Neglect
Start with open hands, palms facing and fingers pointing away from the body. Move hands down and to the left or right.
Trust and Obey

Verse 1
When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Verse 2
Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.  (Refrain)

Big Idea References  Big Idea #64: verse 2  Big Idea #68: verse 1

Words  John H. Sammis  Music  Daniel B. Towner
1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! Let us do His good will; He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

2. Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief or a loss, Not a grown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.

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

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

**Walk**
Place flat hands, palms down, in front of the body. Move hands forward and backward alternately.

**With**
Bring fists together.

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

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

**Light**
Start with hands, palms down, fingertips forward and touching. Bring hands up while opening fingers and palms facing out.

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

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

Trust and Obey, verse 1

Continued

What
Start with both L hands face down in front of body. Then move both hands away from each other.

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

He
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.

Shed
Place the right index finger on the chin. Then move the right hand, fingers pointing left and palm towards body, down behind the left hand, fingers pointing right and palm facing the body.

On
Place right down-turned hand on top of left down-turned hand.

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

Way
Place both hands, in front of the body with fingers pointing forward and palms facing. Move the hands forward, while simultaneously moving them side to side.

Do
Point C hands downward and move them from one side to the other, at the same time.

Good
Move flat right hand from mouth to rest in palm of upturned, flat left hand, which is positioned in front of midsection.
**Trust and Obey, verse 1**

**Continued**

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

**Abides**
Place the thumb of the down-turned right A hand on the thumb of the down-turned left A hand. Then move hands down simultaneously.

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

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

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

**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.

Refrain begins on next page.
Trust
Place right S under left S hand. Move hands up in unison towards the left shoulder.

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.

There’s
Move the right I hand, palm facing left, out from the mouth.

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

Other
Start with right thumb up. Turn hand to the right so thumb is pointing right.

Way
Place both hands, in front of the body with fingers pointing forward and palms facing. Move the hands forward, while simultaneously moving them side to side.

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

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

Jesus
Point the middle finger of each hand into the palm of the opposite hand.
But
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.
**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) |

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</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>3</td>
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<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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(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 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 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: My People Must Know My Words**
  Deuteronomy 6, 9, 31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10 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
Celebration food of “rich food and sweet drink” that the Israelites ate after hearing God’s Word the first time. They would have enjoyed something like fig cakes and wine. We can use “Fig Newton” fig cakes and white grape juice with sugar-free lemon lime soda “wine”.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C  Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T  Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.

S  Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

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: Spoon and Relay

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

Resources:
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet pp.21-22
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Rush to Safety

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

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

Big Idea Craft: Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

Activities:
Discuss Story
Fill in Presenter Sheets
Make Craft

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

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Hit the Wall

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

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

Scripture Verse Game: Memory Verse Limbo

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

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

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

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

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

Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 1

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

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

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

**Story Review Game**
Ask Story Review Questions

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

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

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

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

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

**Hymn**
Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
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 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 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: My People Must Know My Words
  - Deuteronomy 6, 9, 31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10 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

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

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

Snack

Celebration food of “rich food and sweet drink” that the Israelites ate after hearing God’s Word the first time. They would have enjoyed something like fig cakes and wine. We can use “Fig Newton” fig cakes and white grape juice with sugar-free lemon lime soda “wine”.

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.

**Group 1 Activities**

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

**Group 1, First Activity: Story Review Game**

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

**Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16**

- **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
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

Group 2 Activities

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

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

Resources:
Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet
Best Kindergarten Games:: Big Idea Games, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
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**
My People Must Know My Words
Deuteronomy 6, 9, 31; Ezra; Nehemiah 8-10
by Connie Dever

Story

Our story today takes place about 2500 years ago.

“Never forget My Word to you,” the LORD urged the Israelites through Moses, from even before they entered Canaan, the beautiful, hilly, fertile land He had promised to give them. “Keep My Words close to your hearts and teach them to your children, too, so they will know them and obey them, too,” He told them. “Do not follow other gods. Remember my commands and worship only Me. If you do, I will bless you and take care of you. If you do not, then I will discipline you by destroying Jerusalem and taking away from you all the beautiful land I have given you. Crash, bang, boom! It will all be in ruins; and you will be taken away from it as captives of a powerful, foreign people for a long, long time--until at last your hearts turn back to obey and worship Me,” he warned them. “You are my treasured people whom I love. As a father disciplines the child he loves, so I will discipline you.”

To the leaders the LORD gave special instructions about the big scroll of His Words that Moses wrote down for them: “Take good care of this copy of My Word. Keep them right next to the Ark of the Covenant. This is the only copy you have. You will need to teach it to the people. It’s up to you to see that they don’t forget everything I’ve told them. Remind them to make offerings to Me. Remind them to hold special celebrations to Me. Most importantly of all, remind them of My Words:”

“Every seven years, gather all the people together,” the LORD commanded Moses. “Have them make tabernacles for their families--tents made out of branches and leaves-- and camp out, like you used to do when you wandered in the Wilderness. When all the children, the parents and even the foreigners are all settled in their tabernacles, I want you to read this whole big scroll of my words to them, even though it will take days to read the whole thing. It will never be enough for My people to have the beautiful land I am giving them or a place to make sacrifices and hold celebrations to Me. They must know My Words if they are to obey and worship Me.”

Sometimes the Israelites obeyed and worshipped the LORD. How richly He blessed them when they did, just as He had promised He would! He gave them bountiful crops of figs and olives, pomegranates, wheat and barley. Lots of sheep and goats, lots of children and happiness. He gave them victory over all their enemies. He gave them good kings like David and Solomon to lead them and to build the jewel of all of the beautiful land He gave them: Jerusalem! It was a splendid, mighty, walled city, home of the palace of the king and the magnificent Temple to the LORD—the center of all worship to the Lord and the resting place of the very Ark of the Covenant itself. How they loved Jerusalem—the city of the kings, the city of the LORD!

But all too often, the Israelites forgot the Lord and His words to them. They did not tell them to their children, they did not remember them themselves. They began to worship the other gods the LORD
told them not to worship. Even the leaders forgot the LORD. They did not remind the people to hold celebrations to the LORD. They celebrated the other gods instead. They did not remind the people to worship Him but even set up idols in the Temple and worshipped them instead. Worst of all, they did not gather the people together to camp in tents and read His Words aloud to them. Instead, they put the big scroll of His Words away until finally almost everyone forgot about it.

The Israelites may have forgotten the LORD, but the LORD did not forget about them. They were His treasured people. He would discipline them like a good father disciplines His children, just as He had promised. Crash, Bang, Boom. Everything in the beautiful land the LORD gave His people was about to come down.

Far to the north and east a powerful, foreign people led by fierce, warrior kings had arisen. The LORD would use them to discipline His people. The kings eyed the land of Israel with interest. They demanded the Israelites obey them; and, when the Israelites refused to serve them, they sent their warriors in to attack.

“Plunder the Temple of Jerusalem! Take all of its golden finery and bring it to us!” the Babylonian kings ordered. Its golden treasures were removed and dragged away.

“Go back and destroy all of Jerusalem now!” they ordered. “Destroy the Temple buildings!” Crash, bang, boom. Down it came. All of its magnificent stones the size of two men standing on top of each other were pushed down to the ground.

“Destroy the walls of Jerusalem! Destroy all of the houses! With the wall gone, the Israelites will have no way to protect themselves. With their houses gone, they have no place to live,” the kings plotted. Crash, bang, boom! Down came the massive stones of the wall. Down came the walls and roofs of the houses.

“Take the Israelites captive! Bring them back here to Babylon. They shall be our prisoners and slaves!” ordered the Babylonian kings. The LORD had disciplined His beloved people just as He warned them He would.

For seventy long years the Israelites remained captive. Powerful, foreign kings rose in power, and they fell in power; but none would let the Israelites go home. Crash, bang, boom. Jerusalem had once been a beautiful jewel of a city. With its people captive far away, it remained desolate with little more than weeds and wild jackals dwelling among its tumbled down ruins.

While they worked and lived in Babylon, at last the hearts of the Israelites began to soften: “How we miss the beautiful land the LORD gave us!” they cried. “How we miss Jerusalem and the Temple! We have sinned against the LORD! Didn’t He warn us that this would happen to us, if we did not obey Him? We did not teach them to our children. We worshipped idols instead of Him. We did not make offerings to Him. We did not celebrate all the things He had done for us. We did not gather together to hear His Word read. We did not remember His Words or teach them to our children as He urged us to.”

“We deserve this punishment and more,” the people sadly admitted. “We have broken our solemn covenant promise with Him. We do not deserve to be rescued by Him. Yet, perhaps He will have mercy on us if we confess our sins and return to Him,” they hoped. “Perhaps He will have the king release us to
How amazing is the LORD’s mercy for His people! Always He gives them so much better than they deserve! They deserved to be cut off from His forever for the way they had treated Him. Yet, the Lord had promised to discipline them for only seventy years, and that is what He did. So at the end of those seventy years of punishment—to the very day—the LORD worked in the heart of King Cyrus to send 50,000 Israelites to return home to their land to re-build the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem.

Crash, bang, boom! What had once been the sound of destruction now is the sound of construction. The people returned to Jerusalem and worked many years to build a new Temple and homes. Crash, bang, boom! Eighty years pass and more Israelites were sent home to re-build the walls of Jerusalem. What hard work it was to move those heavy stones back into place, but how happy the people were to do it.

How happy they were to live once more in their beautiful land in their newly built houses and bountiful crops. How happy they were to look upon the new, beautiful Temple and to see Jerusalem’s strong walls in place again.

Yet, something was very wrong still. What was it? What did they need more than their land, their houses and fields, their Temple and their great walled city? “The Words of the LORD! We need to know the Words of the Lord!” they realized. “It will never be enough to have our beautiful land and our beautiful Temple. How will we ever obey and worship the Lord if we do not know His Word?” they exclaimed. “Get Ezra the scribe. He has the book of the Words of the LORD. He must read them to us!”

Crash, bang, boom. Men cut down trees and worked hard to build a high wooden platform in the big open square near the Water Gate in Jerusalem. When they finished, Ezra would be able to climb upon that platform and read the Word of the Lord from there so that everyone could see him and hear his every word.

When all was ready, Ezra and thirteen other readers climbed up the tall platform and stood before the thousands of men, women and children gathered below. All was still as everyone watched Ezra take the book of the Word of God in hand. As he opened it, the entire great crowd rose to their feet in respect for the words they were about to hear. “Praise the LORD, the great God!” Ezra exclaimed.

“Amen! Amen!” the people shouted back, and they all bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Then the people stood back up and listened as Ezra and the other readers took turns reading from the Word of God.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” Ezra said as he began at the very beginning of the Words the LORD had given them. On and on he and the others read for hour after hour, from the first rays of dawn all the way until the sun was high over head at noon, reading a section then explaining it, so that everyone would understand from the oldest to the youngest.

By noon, the Israelites who had gathered so happily first thing that morning, were now weeping and crying. “Now that we have heard God’s word we know that we have sinned terribly against Him! We have
not worshiped Him or obeyed Him as we promised we would. What are we to do?”

“Do not weep! This is a good day, one holy to the LORD!” Ezra told them. “You are wanting to please Him by hearing His Word and wanting to obey it. Go now, celebrate with rich food and sweet drinks and make sure to share with others who cannot provide for themselves. The joy of the LORD is your strength!” Then all the people went away to eat and drink to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Ezra and the leaders of the people read on in the Word of the LORD to find out what they should do next. “Every seven years have all the people gather together and camp out in tabernacles of branches and leaves and listen to all of the words of the LORD. This is how they will know how to obey and worship Him,” they read in the Bible.

“This is what we must do,” the leaders exclaimed. “The people must go out and get branches to make their tabernacles, like in the old days then listen to the whole Word of the Lord.”

Crash, bang, boom. Out into the countryside the people went, gathering olive branches and leaves and dragging them back into the city. In streets, on the tops of houses, in the courts of the Temple, itself, all of the people built their tabernacles. Then the people gathered day after day until they had heard all of the Words of God.

They told of how the first man and woman had rebelled against God and how now all people were sinners, deserving God’s punishment for their sins. They learned of God’s promise to one day send a Savior to rescue them from their sins. They learned about Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. They heard all the good laws that the Lord had given the Israelites and the wonderful blessings He promised to give them if they would obey Him. Then learned of the Israelites’ promises to always keep His good laws and worship Him only, but how they had disobeyed them time and again, until finally the Lord had sent them to Babylon as discipline for their disobedience. Saddest of all, they learned how even now they were still doing many things that the Lord had told them not to do.

Once more the Israelites cried out in sorrow for their sins. “We have sinned terribly against the Lord! We have not worshiped Him or obeyed Him as we promised we would!” they sadly exclaimed. They put on itchy sackcloth and rubbed ashes on their bodies as a sign of how terrible they felt for their sins against the Lord. They confessed their sins to the Lord and worshipped Him.

“O Lord,” the priests led the people in prayer, “now we see how we have sinned against You. You warned our people to keep your laws, but they still rebelled against You. That is why You sent them faraway to Babylon. We have now heard Your laws and know that we have sinned terribly against You, too. We now pledge to You that we will turn away from our sinful, rebellious ways and humbly ask that You will forgive us and bless our people again.”

The Lord heard their prayers and forgave them. The people rejoiced in the Lord’s forgiveness, repented of their sins and vowed to keep His Words close to their hearts that they might worship and obey Him.
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible

Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 119:11, 15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.“

That was a great day of dedication it was when the priests led the people in confessing their sins to the Lord and turning back to obeying and worshipping Him. At last the Israelites treasured the Words of God as they always should have. They knew that it was only His Words that could show them how to live for Him. They hungered to know His Words and obey them.

What about you and me? Are we more like the Israelites before they went into captivity in Babylon or afterwards? Are we bored with God’s Word or try to ignore it like the Israelites before they went into captivity in Babylon? Or, are we hungry to know what it says so that we can please the Lord, like the Israelites who stood listening to the Word of God for many long hours? Do we try to ignore how it says we should live or do we hear its words and cry out for God to forgive us for the sins in our own hearts it shows us? I’m afraid too many times our hearts are just as hard and uninterested in God’s Word as the Israelites had been. Yet God in His mercy offers to forgive us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Let’s praise God for giving us His Words so that we can know Him and live lives in worship and obedience to Him. And let’s ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to give us a hunger and thirst to know His Word and a desire to obey it.
1. The Lord told the Israelites through Moses to never forget His Words to them. They were to remember them and teach them to their children if they were to keep obeying Him. Every seven years they were all to camp in tabernacles and listen to all of God’s Words.

2. If they forgot His Words and did not obey Him, then He would discipline them by destroying Jerusalem, their land, and sending them to be captives for 70 years.

3. Sometimes the Israelites remembered His Words and the Lord blessed them. He gave them good crops, lots of children, protection for enemies, great kings, & Jerusalem with the beautiful Temple.

4. Most of the time, they forgot His Words. They worshiped other gods, even in the Lord’s Temple. They put away His Words and did not read them.

5. Finally the Lord disciplined them as He promised. The Babylonian kings came and took all the treasures out of the Temple. Then they destroyed it, all the houses of Jerusalem and its walls. They took the people as captives to be their slaves back in Babylon.

6. In Babylon, the Israelites began to be sorry for their disobedience. They cried out to the Lord and hoped He would deliver them, even though they didn’t deserve it.

7. After 70 years, the Lord began to bring them out of Babylon, just as He had promised.

8. The people went back and re-built their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem.

9. It wasn’t enough to have Jerusalem and the Temple re-built, they knew they needed God’s Word, too.

10. They built a huge platform & asked Ezra the scribe to gather all the people & read them the Words of God.

11. Ezra and the people praised the Lord and then he read to them from dawn to noon, starting at the beginning with Genesis 1:1.

12. The people wept when they heard God’s Word b/c they now knew they had sinned against Him.

13. Ezra and the others comforted the people and told them to celebrate that they had heard God’s Word. Everyone went home and celebrated.

14. Ezra and the leaders read more of the Word to find out what next they should do. They read God’s command to have the people build tabernacles and read all of His Word to them. They decided to have the people do that.

15. The people went out and got wood and leaves to build tabernacles. They stayed in them and listened to the whole Word of God. They repented of their sins by wearing sackcloth and ashes and by confessing their sins to the Lord and worshiping Him. The Lord forgave the people.
**WEEK 1 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  (Speakers 2-4)
   When?  About 2500 years ago
   Where?  Jerusalem
   What’s  Beautiful, hilly, fertile land.
   It Like?  Home of palace of Kings of Israel, home of the magnificent Temple of the Lord.

2. Who’s in It?  (Speaker 5)
   Moses
   Israelites
   Jerusalem
   Good crops
   Lots of children
   King’s palace
   Jerusalem
   Temple
   Babylonians
   Broken stones
   Platform
   Tabernacles
   Word of God
   Readers
   Rich food
   Sackcloth & Ashes

3. What about the Big Idea?  (Speaker 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Read His Word, the Bible. After many years of forgetting God’s Word and disobeying the Lord, the Israelites gladly received His Words, confessed their sins and turned to obey Him.

4. What do we call it?  (Speaker 1)
   Our Story is called: The People Hear God’s Word

5. What's it About?  
   (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   Beginning:
   The Lord told the Israelites through Moses to never forget His Words. They were to remember them and teach them to their children so they would keep obeying Him. Every 7 years they were all to camp in tabernacles & listen to all of God’s Words. If they forgot His Words and disobeyed Him, He would discipline them by destroying Jerusalem, their land, & sending them to be captives for 70 years. Sometimes the Israelites remembered His Words & the Lord blessed them. He gave them good crops, lots of children, protection for enemies, great kings, & Jerusalem with the beautiful Temple. Usually, they forgot His Words. They worshiped other gods, even in the Temple. They put away His Words & didn’t read them.
   Middle:
   Finally the Lord disciplined them as He promised. The Babylonian kings came and took all the treasures out of the Temple. Then they destroyed it, all the houses of Jerusalem and its walls. They took the people as captives to be their slaves back in Babylon. In Babylon, the Israelites began to be sorry for their disobedience. They cried out to the Lord and hoped He would deliver them, though they didn’t deserve it.
   End:
   After 70 years, the Lord began to bring them out of Babylon, just as He had promised. The people went back and re-built their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. It wasn’t enough to have Jerusalem and the Temple re-built, they knew they needed God’s Word, too. They built a huge platform & asked Ezra the scribe to gather all the people & read them the Words of God. Ezra and the people praised the Lord and then he read to them from dawn to noon, starting at the beginning with Genesis 1:1. The people wept when they heard God’s Word b/c they now knew they had sinned against Him. Ezra and the others comforted the people and told them to celebrate that they had heard God’s Word. Everyone went home and celebrated. Ezra and the leaders read more of the Word to find out what next they should do. They read God’s command to have the people build tabernacles and read all of His Word to them. They decided to have the people do that. The people went out and got wood and leaves to build tabernacles. They stayed in them and listened to the whole Word of God. They repented of their sins by wearing sackcloth and ashes and by confessing their sins to the Lord and worshiping Him. The Lord forgave the people.
**Beginning:**
The Lord told the Israelites through Moses to never forget His Words. They were to remember them and teach them to their children so they would keep obeying Him. Every 7 years they were all to camp in tabernacles & listen to all of God’s Words. If they forgot His Words and disobeyed Him, He would discipline them by destroying Jerusalem, their land, & sending them to be captives for 70 years. Sometimes the Israelites remembered His Words & the Lord blessed them. He gave them good crops, lots of children, protection for enemies, great kings, & Jerusalem with the beautiful Temple. Usually, they forgot His Words. They worshiped other gods, even in the Temple. They put away His Words & didn’t read them.

**Middle:**
Finally the Lord disciplined them as He promised. The Babylonian kings came and took all the treasures out of the Temple. Then they destroyed it, all the houses of Jerusalem and its walls. They took the people as captives to be their slaves back in Babylon. In Babylon, the Israelites began to be sorry for their disobedience. They cried out to the Lord and hoped He would deliver them, though they didn’t deserve it.

**End:**
After 70 years, the Lord began to bring them out of Babylon, just as He had promised. The people went back and re-built their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. It wasn’t enough to have Jerusalem and the Temple re-built, they knew they needed God’s Word, too. They built a huge platform & asked Ezra the scribe to gather all the people & read them the Words of God. Ezra and the people praised the Lord and then he read to them from dawn to noon, starting at the beginning with Genesis 1:1. The people wept when they heard God’s Word because they now knew they had sinned against Him. Ezra and the others comforted the people and told them to celebrate that they had heard God’s Word. Everyone went home and celebrated. Ezra and the leaders read more of the Word to find out what next they should do. They read God’s command to have the people build tabernacles and read all of His Words to them. They decided to have the people do that. The people went out and got wood and leaves to build tabernacles. They stayed in them and listened to the whole Word of God. They repented of their sins by wearing sackcloth and ashes and by confessing their sins to the Lord and worshiping Him. The Lord forgave the people.

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1. What did the Lord tell the people they would need to remember for things to go well for them in the beautiful land He was giving them? To know and obey His Word.

2. Who were they supposed to make sure to teach? Why? Their children. If they did not teach their children the Words of God, then they would not know how to obey Him. They would see what all the other peoples were doing and would follow their gods instead.

3. What were the Israelites supposed to do every seven years? Why do you think they were supposed to stay in tabernacles? Hear all of the Words of God read. All of them were supposed to gather in one place, but there was no city big enough for all the people. It would take many days to read all the Word of God, they would need places to stay. Perhaps staying outside like the Israelites had done in the Wilderness was a helpful reminder of all the Lord had done for them in the past.

4. How did God bless the Israelites when they obeyed Him? He gave them lots of good crops, children, protection from enemies, good Kings, Jerusalem, the Temple.

5. Why did the Lord allow the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem? Because the people kept forgetting God’s Word and disobeyed God.

6. What did the Israelites do that was especially terrible? They worshiped other gods, even offering sacrifices to them in the Lord’s Temple. They put the Word of God away and did not read it. For awhile it was completely lost and forgotten.

7. How was the Lord’s punishment for the Israelites kind? He did it to soften their hearts so they would turn back to Him. They deserved to be forever cut off from His b/c of breaking their covenant with Him, but He punished them for only 70 years.

8. What did the Israelites realize when they were in Babylon? How they had turned away from the Lord and His good Words. How they deserved His punishment.

9. What did the Israelites re-build when they went home? Their houses, the Temple, and the walls of Jerusalem.

10. What did the Israelites realize they needed more than their houses, the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem? The Word of God.

11. Who did they ask to read them God’s Word and what did they do to prepare for him to read it? Ezra the scribe. Built a huge platform for him to stand on and read.

12. How long did Ezra read the Word of God? About how many hours do you think that was? From dawn until noon—about six hours.

13. Why did the people cry when they heard God’s Word? They realized their sins against Him.

14. Why did Ezra tell them to celebrate instead of cry? Because the Lord had shown them their sins through His Word and they wanted to obey Him. That made the day holy to the Lord.

15. What did the people do to show their sorrow for their sins when the entire law was read? Sackcloth, ashes, confession and worship.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? After many years of forgetting God’s Word and disobeying the Lord, the Israelites gladly received His Words, confessed their sins and turned to obey Him.
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”
The LORD called the Israelites to meditate on His Word and hide it in their hearts that they might not sin against Him. He called them to hear it regularly and not neglect it so that they might live as He wanted them to live and receive His blessings.

Life Application
1. Why should we read the Word of God? To know more about Him so we can love Him & obey Him more.
2. How is it easier for us to know God’s Word than it was for the Israelites? We have our own Bibles at home.
3. What does God’s Word call all sinners to do as the best and necessary first step in knowing and obeying God? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being so merciful to sinful people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like the Israelites, we are all sinners who deserve God’s punishment. We do not love God or His Word as we should. We all need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for giving us His Word that we can know Him, obey Him and know the way to be saved.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us a love for His Word and help us to remember it and obey it.

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
**SPOON AND BALL RELAY**

*Story Review Game*

**Materials**
Spoons, one per each team  
Ping-pong Balls, one per each team  
Masking Tape  
Baskets: one small one per team; plus, one large one to be shared by all teams.  
Game Questions, one per child  
Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

**Preparing the Game**
Make up game questions related to the story. Write point values to each question, such as 5, 10 and 25 points, depending upon how difficult they are. Fold them up and place them in the large basket. For the most educational value think up questions from all three of the following categories:

- **What does it say?** Simple fact questions, such as "How did Satan tempt Jesus to disobey God, His Father?"
- **What does it mean?** Meaning questions, such as "Why was it important that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?"
- **What does it mean to me?** Life application questions, such as "What is something God wants you to do that you find especially difficult to obey?"

Place all of the questions in the larger basket at a central point in the room. Use the tape to mark starting points for each team and place the smaller baskets next to the start line. Have a spoon and ping pong ball ready for each team.

**Playing the Game**
Split the children into two teams. Have them line up behind the taped lines on the floor. Give the first person in each line a spoon and a ping pong ball. Tell the children that at your signal the first person will walk with the ball balanced in the spoon down to where the basket is. They are to drop the ball into the basket, pick up the ball again as well as a question from the basket and run back with the spoon, ball, and question to their team. They hand the spoon and ping pong ball to the next person in line and deposit their question in their smaller team basket located next to the start line. The relay continues until all children have had a turn.

**Asking Questions**
After the relay is finished, the children sit down in their groups. The leader will take a question from a team’s basket, tell them how many points it is worth and ask them the question. If the team gets it right, then they get the points. If not, then any other team has a chance to win the points. The teacher then proceeds to the next team’s basket and continues the process. At the end, add up the points and see who wins.

**Optional Closing Activity:**
*Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.*
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Big Idea
1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God’s Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God’s Words different from our words? *They don’t just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God’s people when they read the Bible? How? *The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God’s Word? *What else should we do? We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God’s people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. What happened when the Israelites didn’t read God’s Word? *They disobeyed God and turned to worship other idols. Many sad things happened to them because of their disobedience. Finally God had to punish them severely by taking them away from their land.*
2. What happened when the Israelites turned back to hear God’s Word? *They wept over their sinfulness, confessed their sins & God forgave them. He restored them to their land once more.*

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: *Psalm 119:11,15-16*
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”
*This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

Life Application Questions
1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*
2. What difference will it make if God’s people read and memorize God’s Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God’s way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?

   *Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?

   *Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?

   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.*

**Gospel Question**

The Bible is where we can read the wonderful story of God’s love and salvation for sinful people like you and me? What is the gospel? *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**
- Construction Paper
- CD and CD player
- Masking Tape
- Small bowl or bag
- Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

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

Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to memorize God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? The LORD called the Israelites to meditate on His Word and hide it in their hearts that they might not sin against Him. He called them to hear it regularly and not neglect it so that they might live as He wanted them to live and receive His blessings.

Life Application
1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose not to delight in God's Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

Gospel Question
This verse encourages us to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God's Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely… and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God's Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? 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.
**Memory Verse Limbo**

Scripture Verse Game

**Materials**
Memory Verse (Shortened Version, if desired)
A broom or other long pole

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

**Playing the Game**
Have the children line up. Start with the pole at head height and have each child say the verse before “limbo-ing” (bend backwards without touching the pole) under the pole. Feel free to help the children say the verse. After everyone has gone through at the first height, lower a few inches and repeat the process. A child is “out” when he/she can no longer limbo without falling down or touching the pole.

Give children who have a failed limbo attempt the option of being restored to the limbo line again by saying the verse a second time; or, allow them sit quietly in a line in front of the limbo line so that they can help others still “limbo-ing” saying the verse (if needed) or simply watch.

**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.
I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees,
I will not neglect your word,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to memorize God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.
**Scripture Song Discussion Questions Page 2**

**Story Connection**
What does the verse have to do with our story? The LORD called the Israelites to meditate on His Word and hide it in their hearts that they might not sin against Him. He called them to hear it regularly and not neglect it so that they might live as He wanted them to live and receive His blessings.

**Life Application**
1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.

2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.

**ACTS Questions**
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we choose not to delight in God’s Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

**Gospel Question**
This verse encourages us to hide God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God’s Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely…and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God’s Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? 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.
Trust and Obey

Verse 1
When we walk with the Lord,
in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Understanding the Song
1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn’t mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him. When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God’s good will is? *God’s good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*

6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible? *God’s people read the Bible so that they can “walk in the light of His Word”, living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.*

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? *How does this song relate to today’s story? The Israelites were all too quick to NOT walk in the light of God’s Word. They chose to worship idols and disobey His good laws. Only after being severely disciplined did they finally turn to Him and cry out to know His Word once more that they might live lives that glorify Him by their obedience*
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God’s forgiveness. But God is faithful and just….and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God’s people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions
How can we be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
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.
## Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

### 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In Jerusalem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>The People of Israelites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did</td>
<td>Camped out in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td>Tabernacles made of wood and tree branches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object?</td>
<td>Tabernacles made of wood and tree branches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>So they could listen to the Word of God read to them in entirety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
Our Big Idea is: God's People Read His Word, the Bible. The Israelites desired to hear God's Word read to help them know all of God's Law, to help them remember it and keep it.

### 4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
God wants us to regularly listen to His Word to help us remember it and keep it.
Tabernacles Made of Wood and Tree Branches

Description
The children will make a little tabernacle out of salt dough, popsicle sticks, and small twigs with leaves.

Materials
Salt
Flour
Water
Cereal box tops or poster board
28 popsicle sticks per craft
Small Twigs with leaves
If desired, 4 Teddy Graham bears (or similar figure) to be used for people.

Preparing the Craft
1. Mix up salt, flour, oil and water using salt dough recipe below. You will need about 1/2 to 3/4 cup of salt dough per child.
2. Cut cereal box/poster board into 4” x 3” pieces, one needed per craft. This will be the base for the tabernacle.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

Recipe for Salt Dough
2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup water

Mix ingredients together and knead until it reaches an even consistency. Store in an airtight container until ready to use.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children flatten their salt dough onto the top of the cereal box base until it covers it completely.
3. Have the children stick the popsicle sticks in the salt dough around the edges so that they stand up. This makes the walls of the tabernacle.
4. Have the children place the teddy graham bears in the middle of the salt dough, either standing up or laying down. (The Israelites were supposed to look up through the roof of their tabernacles and see the stars.)
5. Have the children lay twig pieces on top of the popsicle sticks, leaving gaps (in which to look up through the branches and see the stars. This was very important!)
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 Read His Word, the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps them to grow in wisdom and knowledge. He gives them strength to live for Him. The Holy Spirit works in us through the power of God’s Word to change us. God’s Word is different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God. People read His Word the way we read an important prayer today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God’s People Read His Word. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God’s People Read His Word.

We thought about Psalm 119: 11-16: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you… I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

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

A Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T Thank God for His Word that tells us about Him and how He is like and wants us to live.

S Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to help our faith grow strong.

Yours Sincerely, ________________________________________

Questions:

5 Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him.

4 God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps their faith grow strong.

3 We thought about Psalm 119: 11-16: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you… I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

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

A Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T Thank God for His Word that tells us about Him and how He is like and wants us to live.

S Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to help our faith grow strong.

You Are A Very Important Prayer Person!

VIPP Prayer Letter Big Idea 68
**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and Clue Cards for one of VIPPS.
8 Letter sized Envelopes or folders
8 Category Pictures from the Guess Who Box Game (e.g., “What do I do for fun?
What’s my favorite animal?” etc), excluding the picture of the person and their name. These are all found
at the end of the listing of VIPP games in this Appendix.
Nerf Ball or other soft ball for indoor use

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

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

Tape each to wall.

**Playing the Game**

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</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>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.
### Snack and Discussion Time

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

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

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________________________

6. _______________________________________________________________________

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

### Activity Time

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

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

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

### Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

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

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

### Opening Large Group Time

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

#### Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

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

- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

### Story

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

**Resources:**

**Story: The Buried Book**, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41

- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

Printing Press alphabet soup Either can buy the soup in cans; or, if not available, buy the pasta letters and add them to chicken noodle or some other soup.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
C Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.
T Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
S Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

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: Shoe Search and Ransom

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

Choosing Activities

Refresher:
Introduction pp.22,41-45

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

Snack & ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.22,41-45

Drama Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

Printing Press alphabet soup Either can buy the soup in cans; or, if not available, buy the pasta letters and add them to chicken noodle or some other soup.

A Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
C Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.
T Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
S Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

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: Shoe Search and Ransom

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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Week 2 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Big Idea Game: Circus Lion**

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

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

**Big Idea Craft: Pages from Their Bibles in Rice Pits**

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

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

**VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Bean Bag Toss In**

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

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

**Scripture Verse Game: Hot and Cold Hide**

**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: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

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

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

Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 1

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

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

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hymn**
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Opening Large Group Time

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

Resources:
All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 Scripture Verse Sign
- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

Story

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

Resources:
Story: The Buried Book, 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

Printing Press alphabet soup Either can buy the soup in cans; or, if not available, buy the pasta letters and add them to chicken noodle or some other soup.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
C  Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.
T  Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
S  Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Week 2 Lesson Plan

Activity Time

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

Group 1 Activities

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

Group 1, First Activity: 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

VIPP Refresher:
Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E

Scripture Verse Game Refresher:
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

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

Group 2, First Activity: Story Review Game
(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

Activities:
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Sign it, Say it, What does it Mean?**

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

K4
Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
The Buried Book
Adapted from Yarns on the Book by A.M. Chirgwin

Story

Our story today does not take place in Bible times or Bible lands. It takes place about 180 years ago on a large island called Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa.

In 1835 in the city of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, a little group of missionaries was working in feverish haste. Their house, built on a hill, commanded a wonderful view of gloriously wooded country stretching away to the mountains on the horizon. But they had no time to admire the view, for they were working as hard as they could to complete a task before being forced to leave the island—or be killed.

"Can we possibly get it done in time, Cameron?" David Jones asked.

"We simply must, even if we have to work night and day," replied Cameron with his head bent over his case of printer's type. "It is certain that Queen Ranavalona means to get rid of us sooner or later, and when we do have to go, if we can leave behind the whole Bible printed in the Malagasy tongue we shall have done something she cannot undo. Thousands of people can read, and now everything depends upon whether we can finish the Bible in time. For the Bible is not just any book. It is the very words of God. It will keep telling them what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him. Through reading it, the Holy Spirit will work to change their hearts and help them grow strong in their faith. We must finish this all-important task, no matter what!"

A few weeks previously a man had come to the home of one of the missionaries bearing the gleaming silver spear that marked the Queen's messenger, and had announced that all Christian teaching must cease, and that all missionaries must leave the island unless they could prove to the Queen within a week that they could teach the people something really useful, such as soap-making.

Not one among the missionaries knew anything about soap-making, nor was it possible for them, in the short time allowed, to get information from outside the island (Remember, this was many, many years before telephones or the internet, or television, or airplanes or fast boats.) All they could do was to make experiments with oil from plants and animal fats. They were getting desperate, when just before the week was up John Cameron found a way of doing it, by adding some alkali obtained from the ash of burnt twigs to the oil and fats, and was able to send the Queen a large bar of soap, the first ever made in Madagascar.

She was so delighted with it that she ordered a large quantity and allowed the missionaries to remain in Madagascar while it was being manufactured. This gave them a few more weeks' time to try to finish their Bible; but they knew perfectly well that at the end of that time they would have to go. So while one of them was making the soap, the others were hard at work printing the Bible. There were no computers or copy machines or even electricity back then. They made each page of the Bible by hand by setting blocks of letters (backwards) in place in a flat wooden frame to form the words that would appear on the page.
Once all the words had been put in place, they would dip them in ink and then press the moistened letters down upon paper with a heavy printing press. When the frame was lifted from the paper, the words were left behind on the paper in ink. It was hard, slow work. They had already done most of it, but there still remained part of the book of Job and all the books from Ezekiel to the end of the Old Testament. It was literally a race with time.

Everyone had their own job. David Jones worked to finish off the translation and giving the final touches on each page, Cameron set the type, while Baker worked at the heavy hand-press. Their wives took their share too, stitching the printed sheets together into book form as they came from the machine, putting on the binding (outer cover), and even relieving Baker from the strenuous work at the press by lending a hand at turning the great wheel. It was a grim fight, and in spite of their feverish haste it often looked as if they would not succeed. As they marked the days off on the calendar, and saw how near they were getting to the end of their time they worked hard and hard...hardly stopping for meals, until at last the missionary named Baker, who had charge of the printing-press, burst into his David Jones’s room with the exciting announcement, “We have finished; here is the whole Bible in Malagasy.”

David Jones took the book handling it reverently, and saying, “Thank God it is done. Now Queen Ranavalona can do her worst. Even if she turns us all out of the island there will be a great witness for Jesus left behind. For the Bible is not just any book. It is the very words of God. It will keep telling them what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him. Through reading it, the Holy Spirit will work to change their hearts and help them grow strong in their faith. None of the Queen’s threats or tortures would make them give it up. They were determined not to let this go, too.”

By the time they were forced to finally leave Madagascar they were able to leave behind hundreds of copies of the Bible and several boxes full of portions of the Bible. Many of these they buried in deep pits lest they should be destroyed by the Queen’s order.

They had finished the work only just in time, for almost immediately the troubles began. The missionaries had hardly left the island when the Queen summoned her councilors, and informed them that she was determined to stamp out Christianity.

“How that the missionaries are gone,” she said, “we can crush the Christians. Issue a command in my name that Christian prayer and worship must cease on pain of death. I swear by all that is sacred in this land and in the heavens above that if the people gather together for Christian meetings they shall surely die.”

“It shall be done, your Majesty,” said the councilors, as they bowed themselves out of the royal presence.

“Stay,” she cried, “command in my name that those who refuse to obey shall be cast from the great Rock of Hurling.

During the months that followed, scores of Christians were led up the steep hill to the rock of Hurling, bound hand and foot, and thrown over the cliff to the rocks below. Those were not killed that way were killed other equally terrible ways. But to the Queen Ranavalona’s horror, she discovered that the
Christians were not to be stamped out by her terrible threats and tortures. Rather it seemed to grow stronger.

“Tell me,” she said to her councilors and nobles, “Why is it that the Christians have not yet been crushed?”

“The reason, your Majesty, is that, though the missionaries have gone, though you have ordered them to stop praying and worshipping, you refuse to let them baptize new Christians or even share the Lord’s Supper, they still have the Bible. They believe the Bible is not just any book. They think it is the very words of God. It tells them what God was like and how He wants them to live for Him. They believe that the Holy Spirit of their God works to change their hearts and helped them grow strong in their faith when they read it. They read it daily in their homes, and they hand it round to their friends, so that many people are becoming Christians though reading its words. If your Majesty would stamp out Christianity, you must destroy all the Bibles.”

“Issue a command in my name,” replied the Queen, “That those who have Bibles shall deliver them up to the royal officers on pain of death. And I swear by all that is sacred in this land and in the heavens above that if any shall keep back so much as a single page, they shall surely die.”

The command struck terror into the hearts of the Christians. Hundreds of them had copies of the whole Bible, and hundreds more had the New Testament or the Psalms, and by reading these the Lord had worked to keep their faith in Him strong. A few were terrified by the command, and gave up their Bibles; but most refused. It was the only thing they had left. Their missionaries had been driven away; baptism and the Lord’s Supper were forbidden; meetings for worship and prayer were prohibited; the Bible was all that remained to them. They could do without these things, but they could not do without it. The Bible was not just any book. It was the very words of God. It told them what God was like and how He wanted them to live for Him. Through reading it, the Holy Spirit worked to change their hearts and helped them grow strong in their faith. None of the Queen’s threats or tortures would make them give it up. They were determined not to let this go, too.

So they hid their books. Some buried them in the rice-pits underneath the floor, or hid them in holes of the earth; others concealed them in the thatch of their roofs, or in the hollow of trees, and as the persecution became more bitter some took their Bibles to pieces, page by page, and hid the various portions in caves of the hills or even distributed the pages among their friends, who in turn sewed them into their clothes.

Sometimes the message would be whispered round the village, “Tonight we shall meet at John’s Gospel,” or, “You will find us where Romans is hidden this evening,” or, “Let us gather at Psalm 53 after the evening meal.”

One dark, starless night one just such little group of Malagasy Christians crept stealthily out of the capital and by secret paths made their way to a lonely place among the mountains. Here they entered a small cave, and soon others arrived, little groups of twos and threes who had crept under cover of
darkness to this sheltered meeting-place. A tiny lamp was lighted and its flickering flame lit up the faces of the people gathered round. One man had a hunted look in his eyes, for he had been living in dens in the mountains and forests for five long years; another, who had once been an important man, was now wearing around his neck, hands, and ankles the chains of slavery; an old woman’s head was bowed with grief, for both her children had been sold as slaves, and she did not know whether they were alive or dead; many bore marks of hot irons and terrible scourging. It did not matter to them who were rich and important and who were merely servants and country folk. They all had one thing in common: their love for God and His Word.

With hushed voices lest they should be heard and betrayed by spies, they sang a hymn which one of them had written:

Where can we find a place for rest?  
Save dens and caves, with hunger pressed?  
Yet Thy compassion is our bliss,  
Pilgrims amidst a wilderness.
O God, our God, to Thee we cry,  
Jesus our Savior be Thou nigh:  
O Sacred Spirit, hear our prayer  
And save the afflicted from despair.

When the hymn’s soft strains ceased, one of the elders spoke. “Have you got it, Rehara? It is time for the reading,” he said in a whisper.

“Yes, I have it here under my lamba.” Taking out his precious parcel, and handling it with great care, Rehara took off the leaves in which it was wrapped, and brought out his Bible, one that he had managed to conceal for many years. It was torn and mildewed and rat-eaten through being buried in the ric-pit and hidden in the thatch. Holding it close to the flickering lamp, he began to read:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident…”

After a short pause, the old man whispered, “It is your turn now, Ravelo. Have you got your with you?”

“Yes,” replied the young man coming forward, “I have a page sewn into my lamba,” and pulling open the stitches of the deep him, he revealed a page of the New Testament. Coming close to the light, and lifting his lamba near to it. He read, “Aza kivy ny fonares” (Let not your heart be troubled.)

As he read, the lined anxious faces around lit up with fresh hope and courage.

Then the old man spoke again. “My brothers and sisters,” he said, “these are bitter days, and none of us knows how long they will last. But our faith is firm, for God is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in time of trouble. Every week our numbers grow. New believers come to join us, and there are some here now who wish to become Christians."

And there in the dim light of one small flickering lamp three or four young Malagasy stood forward and in brave simple words proclaimed themselves followers of Jesus. The others greeted them in whispered words, and then the little company knelt down on the floor of the cave to commend these new believers to God’s care, praying that if any of them were called to die for their faith, they might be made brave and loyal.

Before the first streak of dawn showed over the eastern hills, they had scattered along hidden paths back to their many homes.

Queen Ranavalona’s terrible persecution of the Christians lasted for almost thirty years, until she died. Despite the worst of her efforts, the number of believers only grew throughout all of those terrible days. Perhaps she would drive away their missionaries, kill them for worshipping and praying together, perhaps they could not baptize or share the Lord’s Supper. But thanks to the hard work of David Jones and the other missionaries, the Malagasy Christians always had the one thing they needed most of all: the Bible. The Bible was not just any book. It was the very words of God. It told them what God was like and how He wanted them to live for Him. Through reading it, the Holy Spirit worked to change their hearts and helped them grow strong in their faith.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible
Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 119:11, 15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

The Malagasy Christians lived out their love and honor for the Bible. We talk about the Bible being God’s Word. We talk about it being the most important book of all, but they risked their lives for it. They knew they lived by the Word of God. If they could not have it, they would rather die. Why did risk their life for this book? That God might be glorified and sinners might be saved! That the world might know that by turning away from their sins and trusting Jesus as their Savior, they can be forgiven their sins and adopted as God’s dearly loved people. They longed to see the people of Madagascar do this! Let’s praise God for giving us His Words for us to know Him and how to please Him with our lives. Let’s praise Him for sending the Holy Spirit to use the words of the Bible to change sinful people like you and me when we read them. Let’s ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to treasure His Word as much as the Malagasy Christians and ask Him to help us to read it and grow from it every day.
1. Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country.

2. Queen Ranavalona wanted to get rid of all the missionaries. Only if they could do something useful, like make soap, would she let them stay.

3. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they discovered a way to make soap. The Queen told them they could stay in the country a bit longer to make her soap.

4. Some of the missionaries made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, then Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings and helped with the press.

5. They finished the Bible just in time. They took the Bibles they made and gave some to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn’t find them.

6. After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord’s Supper stop. Anyone who did these things would be thrown down the Rock of Hurling.

7. The Queen was surprised to see there were still many Christians. Her councilors told her it was because they had Bibles. She must get rid of them if she was to stop the Christians.

8. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hide theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

9. Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God’s word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God’s Word.

10. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people wanted to become Christians. Even to this meeting in the mountains, three young men had come to confess their faith in Christ.

11. The persecution of these Christians lasted for thirty years until Queen Ranavalona died.

12. Thanks to the hard work of those missionaries, the Christians of Madagascar had the Word of God which sustained them through all thirty of those terrible years.
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 (Speakers 2-4)

When?  About 180 years ago
Where?  Madagascar

What’s it Like?
Large island off the eastern coast of Africa. Lots of mountains and forests. A place where there has been no Bible in the people’s language and Christians are killed.

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)

Cameron
David Jones
Baker
Their wives
Printing Press
Paper, ink, needles, thread
Soap-making supplies
Missionary house
Queen Ranavalona
Her servant with a sword
Her councilors
Christians

Bibles and parts of Bibles
Caves, rice-pits
thatch for roofing
Chains

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible. The Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God’s Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

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

Our Story is called: Risking All for the Word of God.

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

Beginning:
Cameron, David Jones and Baker worked furiously to finish their work on the Madagascar Bible before they had to leave the country. Queen Ranavalona would only let them stay if they could do something useful, like make soap. They needed more time to finish the Bible, so they experimented with animal and plant oils until at last they made soap. The Queen let them stay a bit longer to make her soap. Some made soap, while the others kept working on their Bible. Everyone had their own job: David Jones wrote the translation down, Cameron set the letters in the wooden frame for each page, Baker would run the printing press and make the copies. The wives sewed the pages together, made the bindings & helped with the press. They finished the Bible just in time. They gave some of the Bibles to the Christians and hid the rest so the Queen wouldn’t find them.

Middle:
After the missionaries left, the Queen ordered that all Christian meetings, prayer, baptisms, Lord’s Supper stop or be thrown down the Rock of Hurling. The Queen was surprised to see there were still many Christians. Her councilors told her it was b/c of the Bibles. She must get rid of them. The Queen demanded the Christians give up their Bibles or be killed. Some were afraid and gave them up. Most hide theirs or chose to die, rather than give them up. They hid them in rice pits or even sewed them in their clothes. Many people tore their Bibles into parts and hide them in different places.

End:
Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God’s word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God’s Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.
Beginning:
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End:
Though it was very dangerous, groups of Christians would meet in the middle of the night to pray and hear God’s word. One group met in a cave in the mountains. Some were rich people, some were poor. Many had been tortured for their faith or lost loved ones. Some had been made into slaves. All loved the Lord and His Word more than anything else. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to keep enduring through the reading of God’s Word. Even with this terrible persecution, more and more people became Christians. At meeting that night, 3 men came to confess their faith in Christ. The persecution of these Christians lasted for 30 years when the Queen died. It was the Bible that sustained them all those years.
1. Why did the missionaries have to hurry with making their Bible for the Madagascar Christians? The Queen would soon get rid of the missionaries b/c she wanted all teaching about Jesus to cease. They wanted to get the Madagascar Bible finished so that the people could read the good news of Jesus themselves, even though the missionaries had gone.

2. What did the missionaries think it was so important to leave the Christians with a Bible? They knew it was God’s Word. The Holy Spirit would use it to save people and to strengthen the faith of the Christians even if they had to leave the island.

3. What did the missionaries make to give them more time to work on their Bible? Soap.

4. Why did the Queen want soap? Because they didn’t have any on Madagascar yet.

5. How did the missionaries keep working on the Bible and make soap? They all had different jobs—some made soap while the rest worked on making copies of the Bible.

6. Why did it take such a long time to make the Bible? There were no copy machines or computers, etc. all the letters of each page had to be set in a frame by hand and then pressed one page at a time.

7. What did the missionaries do with the copies of the Bible they made? They gave some to the Christians and hide the rest from the Queen.

8. What did the Queen do as soon as the missionaries left? She tried to get rid of all the Christians by making it illegal to meet for worship, baptize people, take the Lord’s Supper, etc. They would be thrown off the Rock of Hurling if they did.

9. What surprised the Queen about the Christians after she made her threat? She did not stamp them out.

10. What did her councilors say was the reason that there still were Christians? Because of the Bibles.

11. What did most of the Christians do when the Queen made it illegal to have a Bible? Hide their Bibles or gave up their lives to keep them.

12. Where did the Christians hide their Bibles? Rice pits, sewn in clothes, torn and hid in different places, the small pox cave, etc.

13. How did the Christians keep meeting? In the middle of the night in secret places like caves.

14. What did the Holy Spirit use to give the Christians courage to endure the terrible persecution? Meeting together for prayer and fellowship; but most of all, hearing the Word of God.

15. Why were the Christians more willing to give up anything else except the Bible? Because they knew it was God’s Word. Not only did it tell them how to live for God, but the Holy Spirit used it to give them to endure their hardships.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God’s Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”
The Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God’s Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.
Life Application
1. Are there still places in the world that need to hear about Jesus? Yes!
2. Are there still peoples who do not have the Bible written in their own language? Yes.
3. Who will go to help these people today? God’s people.
4. What can we do today to help God’s Word be translated into these other languages? We can pray and we can give money to help God’s people go to those people and give them translations of the Bible to read.
5. What is the most important message of the Bible that God calls all people, even you and me, needs to read and accept? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we do not care much about God’s Word. We don’t think that it is a very big deal to be able to hear it and read it in our own language. We need God’s forgiveness!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for giving His people courage through the Holy Spirit to risk even their lives to preserve the Bible. We can thank Him for sending His people to even dangerous places so that more may have God’s Word, believe in Jesus as their 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 confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help missionaries living in hard or dangerous situations right now so that they can give new peoples their own translation of God’s Word. We can ask God to give these new peoples faith in Jesus.

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.
**SHOE SEARCH AND RANSOM**  
*Story Review Game*

**Materials**
The children's shoes  
Masking Tape  
Game Questions, one per child  
Paper and marker/pencil for writing questions and keeping score

**Preparing the Game**
Make up game questions related to the story. Fold them up into a fairly small size. For the most educational value think up questions from all three of the following categories:

- **What does it say?**  Simple fact questions, such as "How did Satan tempt Jesus to disobey God, His Father?"
- **What does it mean?**  Meaning questions, such as "Why was it important that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?"
- **What does it mean to me?**  Life application questions, such as "What is something God wants you to do that you find especially difficult to obey?"

Hide the questions around the room. Make a line out of tape for each team, approximately long enough to place one shoe per child per team on it.

**Playing the Game**
Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Have them take off one of their shoes and give them to you to place along the taped line in front of their team and then sit back down in their groups. Tell them that in order for them to get back their shoes, they will have to do a little searching and ransoming. Explain that questions on small pieces of paper are hidden around the room. You will alternate between the two teams asking the first person in each line to get up and find a question for their team to answer. (The person hunting can ask for suggestions, if desired, from his/her seated teammates.) If the team answers it correctly, then that child's shoe is "ransomed". If not, then the question goes to the other team to answer. If they answer it correctly, then the first team member's shoe is ransomed.

Continue until all shoes are ransomed. Repeat game as time and attention spans allow.

**Optional Closing Activity:**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Big Idea Concept: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible
The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. He helps their faith grow strong.

Understanding the Big Idea
1. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? Because it is God’s Word.
2. What does the Bible tell us? About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.
3. How are God’s Words different from our words? They don’t just tell us things, they have the power to change us.
4. Who works in God’s people when they read the Bible? How? The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.
5. How often should we try to read God’s Word? What else should we do? We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.
6. What happens when God’s people do these two things? They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? The missionaries risked their lives to make the Bible and the Madagascar Christians risked their very lives to keep copies of the Bible. They knew it was God’s Word and needed it to love and obey Him.

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”
This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

Life Application Questions
1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.
2. What difference will it make if God’s people read and memorize God’s Word? He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God’s way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   
   Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.

**Gospel Question**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to hide God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

Story Connection
How did the Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God’s Word? The Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God’s Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.

Life Application
Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.

What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That many times we choose not to delight in God’s Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

Gospel Question
This verse encourages us to hide God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God’s Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely… and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God’s Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? 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
Memory Verse (Shortened Games Version, if desired)
An object to hide

Preparing the Game
None.

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

Playing the Game
Have the children sit or stand in a group. Tell them that one person will leave the room and another person will hide the object. After the object is hidden the Seeker will begin to look for the object. The rest of the children, lead by the teacher will begin to repeat the verse over and over, reciting it louder as the Seeker gets closer to the object and more quietly as the Seeker gets further from the object. When the object has been found, the leader will choose another Hider and Seeker and the game continues.

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.
I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees,
I will not neglect your word,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to memorize God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.
Story Connection
How did the Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God’s Word? The Madagascar missionaries and Christians show they refused to neglect God’s Word by risking their lives to make copies of it and to keep on reading it.

Life Application
Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.

What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That many times we choose not to delight in God’s Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

Gospel Question
This verse encourages us to hide God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God’s Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely… and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God’s Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

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

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

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

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
Trust and Obey

Verse 1
When we walk with the Lord,
in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Understanding the Song
1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? *It doesn’t mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.*
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? *To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.*
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? *He will shed His glory on our way.*
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? *He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him. When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.*
5. How can we know what God’s good will is? *God’s good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.*
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? *It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.*
7. Who does God abide with? *He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.*
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? *To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.*

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible?
*God’s people read the Bible so that they can “walk in the light of His Word”, living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.*

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? *The Madagascar Christians wanted to have the Bible to make sure that they lived lives in the light of His Word that they were willing to risk their very lives to keep them.*
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”
We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God’s forgiveness. But God is faithful and just….and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God’s people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions
1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)</th>
<th>Pages from Their Bibles in Rice Pits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)</td>
<td>Where? In Madagascar,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who? The Christians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Hid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object? Pages from their Bibles in rice pits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why? To keep them safe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible. The Madagascar Christians loved God’s Word and wanted to be able to read it. They had to hide their Bibles in sections to keep them from being taken away from their by the government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God’s people know that there is no book like God’s Word. It is worth protecting and even worth risking their lives to get to have it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pages from Their Bibles in Rice Pits

Description
The children will write down and decorate a John 3:16 in Malagasy and hide in a little cup of rice.

Materials
Copies of John 3:16 in Malagasy. (Blank version for older children, written version for youngest children)
Markers, colored pencils, etc
Pencils
1 8 oz cup per child
½ to ¾ cup of rice per child

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out whichever version of the page you are using for your children. Younger children may do better with the version in which they trace over the letter. Older children will want to write in the words on the blank version of the page. For these children, you will also want to print out copies of the words to the verse so that they can have them on hand to copy.
2. Set out supplies.

Making the Craft
1. Have the children write the letters to John 3:16 in Malagasy with pencil and then use the markers, colored pencils, etc to decorate around the outside of the page.
2. Have the children fold up their page and put it in their cup.
3. Cover the page with rice.
Jaona 3:16
Fa toy izao no nitiavan’
Andriamanitra izao
tonotolo  izao:
nomeny ny anailahy
Tokana,
mba tsy ho very
izay rehetra  mino Azy,
fa hanana  fiainana
mandrakizay.
Jaona 3:16
Fa toy izao no nitiavan’
Andriamanitra izao
tonotolo izao:
nomeny ny anailahy
Tokana,
mba tsy ho very
izay rehetra mino Azy,
fa hanana fiainana
mandrakizay.
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 Read His Word, the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. It tells us about God, who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God's Word is very different from our words. God's Word doesn't just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God's people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.

We thought about Psalm 11:11-16, "I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you...I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

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

A. Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C. Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T. Thank God for His Word that tells us about Him.

S. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us grow in our faith in Him.

When God's people read and memorize His Word each day, He helps them to know, love and obey Him. His Word helps them to grow strong.

Yours Sincerely, [Name]
**Bean Bag Toss In**

**VIPP Game**

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

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

Tape each down to the floor, fairly close together.

**Playing the Game**

**Reveal, then Review Version:**

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

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

**Get Clues, Then Guess Version:**

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

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

Time Activity

_____ Arrive no later than this to prepare for session
My preparations:
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

_____ Children arrive

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>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.
Snack and Discussion Time

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

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

2. _____________________________________________________________________________

3. _____________________________________________________________________________

4. _____________________________________________________________________________

5. _____________________________________________________________________________

6. _____________________________________________________________________________

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

Activity Time

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

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

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

Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

Have small groups present in the following order:
Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.
Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
**WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN**

Opening Large Group Time

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

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**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 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

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**Story**

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

**Resources:**
*Story: To the Synagogue!*
- Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Macedonian-flavored scrolls. Take a tortilla “scroll”, cutting off top and bottom to make straight sides. Spread hummus—traditional to Macedonia—and spread a thin coat on the tortilla. Roll up each side until the two sides meet in middle, like a rolled up scroll. Can put a slice of lunch meat on top of hummus for a nice taste. Can secure with a red licorice lace tie, if necessary.

ACTS Prayer

A. Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.
B. Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.
C. Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.
D. Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.

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: The Answer’s in the Tent

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

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

Big Idea Game: Bean Bag Grand March

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

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

Big Idea Craft: Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten

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

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

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Hot and Cold Hide

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

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

Scripture Verse Game: Balloon Find

**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: I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

Activities:
Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign
(and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

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

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

Hymn: Trust and Obey: Verse 1

Activities:
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

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

Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hymn**
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Week 3 Lesson Plan

Opening Large Group Time

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

**Resources:**
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea)
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 68 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 68 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: To the Synagogue!
  - Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians Story Outline p.63
  - Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
  - Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Snack

Macedonian-flavored scrolls. Take a tortilla “scroll”, cutting off top and bottom to make straight sides. Spread hummus—traditional to Macedonia—and spread a thin coat on the tortilla. Roll up each side until the two sides meet in middle, like a rolled up scroll. Can put a slice of lunch meat on top of hummus for a nice taste. Can secure with a red licorice lace tie, if necessary.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C  Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T  Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.

S  Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use to grow our faith in Him.
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 group; or, for half of your Kindergarten Groups, if you have more than one group.

Group 1, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

Big Idea Game Refresher:
Introduction pp. 35-36
Appendix C
Group 2 Activities

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

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

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

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

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

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

VIPP Refresher:
- Introduction pp.26-32
  Appendix E
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
To the Synagogue!
Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
by Connie Dever

Story

Our story today takes place in the hilly, rocky land of Macedonia, about 2000 years ago in the early days of the church.

Bruised and cut from the terrible beatings at the hands of the rod-bearers of the Philippians, Paul, Silas and Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way for Thessalonica, the great capitol of Macedonia, one hundred miles down the road. Some might have thought Paul was traveling far away to Thessalonica to hide himself for awhile and take time for a little rest and healing, but that wasn’t so. Jesus had once said that Paul would suffer much for telling others about Him; and as he and Silas limped down the highway, Paul certainly felt the truth of what Jesus had said. This beating had not been Paul’s first and he doubted that it would be his last. For Paul was not headed to Thessalonica to get away for some rest. He was headed to the synagogue in Thessalonica to tell more people the good news of Jesus. And to do that in a synagogue full of Jews, that almost always led to more trouble. Yet off to Thessalonica Paul went, even with more beatings likely in his future.

Thirty miles down the road, the three men came to the beautiful city of Amphipolis, set high on a hill and surrounded on three sides by the breath-taking Strymon River. Wouldn’t this be a wonderful place to heal their wounded bodies and rest their sore feet for a week or two? But, no. Paul and the others were determined to get to Thessalonica!

Seventy long, dusty miles later, Paul, Silas and Timothy passed through the gigantic Arch of Galerius and into the busy streets of Thessalonica. There was much to see and do in this bustling city. The agora—marketplace—was lined with immense, magnificent temples to the Greek gods and to the Caesar. It was filled with stalls of food and good for sale and people from all over had come to buy and sell. Paul, himself, would need to find a good place to set up his tent-making business to make money for them to live on. But, only one thing interested Paul right now: where was the synagogue?

What was so important about the synagogue, anyway, that Paul so determined to find it? Well, one thing’s for sure, it was not the building. Synagogues were plain, simple stone buildings with bare, dirt floors at best. They were empty inside except for hard, stone slab seats which lined the walls. What could be so special about a plain building like this? It was not the building, but what happened in it that was so important to Paul, for the synagogue was the one place in town where people came together to read the Bible.

You see, back in those days, people didn’t have their own Bibles like we do. Bibles were not even books back then. They were long, long scrolls, rolled up on wooden poles. Because there were no computers or copy machines or printing presses, all the words had to written down by hand. It took weeks and weeks to copy down a whole Bible; and the scribe had to check his work all the time to make sure he made no
mistakes. This wasn't just anyone's words he was writing down. These were God's words. He needed to make sure he got them right. A Bible was so precious that it was stored in a special wooden container and covered with protective cloth so no bugs, rodents, moisture or anything else could harm it. Few but the very, very rich would even dream of having their own Bibles. Everyone else had to be satisfied with listening to it being read at the synagogue and remembering it by memory.

Paul had come to tell the Thessalonians about Jesus. He looked first for the synagogue because there he would find a Bible and people who would gather to hear it read and explained. These people cared about what God's Word said. Many of them desired to love and live for God. Many might have hearts already softened by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, made ready to receive the gospel. He would read to them the prophecies about the Messiah that Jesus had all fulfilled with His life and death. When they saw how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, he hoped they would believe.

How excited Paul was when at last he found the synagogue! When Sabbath day came, many Jews as well as Greek people filled the stone slab seats to worship the Lord. They sang Psalms and prayed and then listened to the Bible read and explained.

"Does anyone have something they would like to say?" one of the rabbis asked.

This was the moment Paul was waiting for. “Friends, I have come to tell you that the Messiah has come,” Paul told them. “His name is Jesus. He suffered, died and rose victorious over sin and death, just as the Scriptures told He would. He now reigns in heaven and will one day return to judge all peoples and to establish His everlasting Kingdom. Repent of your sins and turn and trust in Him. All who do will be saved!” Then Paul went to the great scroll and read them Bible passage after passage that showed how Jesus really was the Messiah promised by God.

Paul’s words came as a huge surprise to many. “Can this be? Could the Messiah really have come? Was He really this Jesus Paul was telling them about?” No one had ever said these things before. But faith comes by hearing and hearing about Christ by the Word of God.

As Paul read the Bible to them, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of some of the Jews and many of the Greeks who listened. Their hearts were filled with faith and they turned to the Lord and were saved. Now these new believers joined together as the first little church in Thessalonica. They eagerly met together week after week to hear Paul explain more to them from the Bible. They began to do the good works that pleased the Lord: they met together to pray and worship, gathered money to give to the poor, they and one of them—a man named Jason—gave Paul, Silas and Timothy a place to stay at his home. Paul, Silas and Timothy were ecstatic at the work the Lord had done in these Thessalonians through the reading of His Word and the Holy Spirit.

But not everyone listening in the synagogue was pleased at these new teachings of Paul. Most of the Jews did not like what Paul said at all. Even when he read from the Bible the passages that showed that Jesus was the Messiah, they were hard-hearted. And then when so many people who had been worshipping the Jewish way became Christians, they became very, very jealous.
mistakes. This wasn’t just anyone’s words he was writing down. These were God’s words. He needed to make sure he got them right. A Bible was so precious that it was stored in a special wooden container and covered with protective cloth so no bugs, rodents, moisture or anything else could harm it. Few but the very, very rich would even dream of having their own Bibles. Everyone else had to be satisfied with listening to it being read at the synagogue and remembering it by memory.

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This was the moment Paul was waiting for. “Friends, I have come to tell you that the Messiah has come,” Paul told them. “His name is Jesus. He suffered, died and rose victorious over sin and death, just as the Scriptures told He would. He now reigns in heaven and will one day return to judge all peoples and to establish His everlasting Kingdom. Repent of your sins and turn and trust in Him. All who do will be saved!” Then Paul went to the great scroll and read them Bible passage after passage that showed how Jesus really was the Messiah promised by God.

Paul’s words came as a huge surprise to many. “Can this be? Could the Messiah really have come? Was He really this Jesus Paul was telling them about?” No one had ever said these things before. But faith comes by hearing and hearing about Christ by the Word of God.

As Paul read the Bible to them, the Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of some of the Jews and many of the Greeks who listened. Their hearts were filled with faith and they turned to the Lord and were saved. Now these new believers joined together as the first little church in Thessalonica. They eagerly met together week after week to hear Paul explain more to them from the Bible. They began to do the good works that pleased the Lord: they met together to pray and worship, gathered money to give to the poor, they and one of them—a man named Jason—gave Paul, Silas and Timothy a place to stay at his home. Paul, Silas and Timothy were ecstatic at the work the Lord had done in these Thessalonians through the reading of His Word and the Holy Spirit.

But not everyone listening in the synagogue was pleased at these new teachings of Paul. Most of the Jews did not like what Paul said at all. Even when he read from the Bible the passages that showed that Jesus was the Messiah, they were hard-hearted. And then when so many people who had been worshiping the Jewish way became Christians, they became very, very jealous.
They could see that faith was coming from hearing and hearing about Christ by the Word of God. They plotted to stop Paul from reading from the Bible about Jesus in their synagogue or they would lose even more people.

“We must do something about this Paul! We can’t let him keep teaching like this!” they exclaimed.

“But how?” others asked. “Let’s get him in trouble with the Romans. Surely we can think of something he’s said to use against him.”

It didn’t take long for them to come up with an evil scheme. They went down to the agora and found lots of the riff-raff who loitered around with nothing to do. They offered them money and said, “We want you to start spreading lies about this man named Paul. Tell everyone that he’s come to town to get people to follow a new King named Jesus, rather than Caesar. Make a big scene. We want a riot! Then go down to Jason’s house, beat down the door and grab Paul and his friend Silas. The crowd should know what to do with them next!” they ordered the men, with an evil chuckle.

Soon these bad men had stirred up an angry mob, full of murderous threats for Paul and Silas. They began to riot in the streets, pushing, shoving and destroying their way down to Jason’s house. Paul, Silas, Timothy and the new Thessalonians Christians were far from the last to hear what was going on. They hid Paul and his friends away, leaving only Jason and some of the others in the house. When the angry mob burst in and found no Paul, Silas and Timothy, they were determined not to leave empty-handed. They grabbed Jason and the others, dragged them out into the streets and turned them over to the Thessalonica leaders for punishment. “A man named Paul and his friends are in town telling people to follow a new King named Jesus instead of Caesar. These men have been taking care of them. Punish them!”

Jason and the others were questioned. They had to pay money to the leaders and promise to have nothing to do with Paul and his friends as punishment.

That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy came out of hiding and met with Jason and the other believers. “You must leave town immediately or the crowds will surely kill you, Paul,” they warned him. “We will sneak you out with two of our men as protection. Where do you want to go?” they asked him.

“To Berea, in the mountains about fifty miles away,” Paul answered.

If for a moment they thought Paul was fleeing to the mountains for safety, they were wrong. “Yes, to Berea we’ll go….to the synagogue there! Perhaps there will be more people gathered there with hearts softened by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. I will go to them and show them from the Bible that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah,” Paul told them.

So off they went: Paul, Silas, and Timothy along with their escorts. Slipping away from danger and death once more so that faith might come to others by hearing, and hearing about Christ by the Word of God.
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible
Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 119:11, 15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Paul knew that the Lord used His Word and the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of people and make them ready to receive the good news of Jesus. He loved to show these people from God’s Word how Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. He was overjoyed as he saw them eagerly listen and believe.

What about you and me? Do we spend time reading the Bible? God wants us to do this, too. He wants us to believe the good news of salvation written in it: that God forgives all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants us to use His Word to soften our hearts by the Holy Spirit, just like He did long ago in the people of Thessalonica. Let’s praise God for giving us His Word that can work so powerfully in our hearts and in the hearts of others. Let’s ask Him to give us hearts that hunger to read and know His Word. Let’s ask Him help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to soften our hearts as we read His Word, that we might grow us in our faith; and like Paul, be eager and ready to help others come and grow in faith, too.
1. After a terrible beating in Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way from Philippi on their way to Thessalonica.

2. They passed through the beautiful city of Amphipolis, a wonderful place to rest and heal their wounds; but they keep going towards Thessalonica.

3. Paul and his friends go through the Arch of Galerius and into Thessalonica's busy streets. They see the agora, with its temples, its many stalls of food and goods, and people from many places.

4. But Paul is only interested in finding the synagogue. That is where the Word of God will be read to the Thessalonians who are seeking after God. They may have hearts softened by His Word and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus.

5. On the Sabbath, Paul goes to the synagogue. He tells them about Jesus and shows them from the Bible that He is the Messiah promised by God in the Bible to suffer and die to save His people from their sins. Some Jews and many Gentiles hear and believe.

6. Paul keeps on teaching the new little group of believers.

7. Many of the Jews were hard-hearted and jealous. They didn't want more people to follow Jesus.

8. They paid riff-raff in the agora to spread lies about Paul's message about Jesus and start a riot.

9. The mob swarms into Jason's house in hopes of finding Paul and Silas and harming them. They are not there, but hiding. The mob drags out Jason and other believers and take them to the city leaders to have them punished for helping Paul.

10. The city leaders make Jason and the others pay a fine for helping Paul and make them promise to have nothing to do with Paul again.

11. That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy sneak out of town with 2 escorts and head for Berea in the mountains.

12. Paul knows there is a synagogue there in which he can once more share about Jesus with people who have been softened from reading the Word of 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 (Speakers 2-4)
When? About 2000 years ago
Where? Thessalonica
It Like? Thessalonica
Paul, Silas with bruises
Timothy
Amphipolis with Strymon River
Arch of Galerius
Agora with temples and food and goods for sale
People from all over buying and selling
Synagogue
Bible
Jews and Greeks gathered to hear God's Word

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
Paul, Silas with bruises
Jews who are jealous and do not believe in Jesus
Timothy
Riff-raff in the Agora
Amphipolis with Strymon River
Mob
Arch of Galerius
Jason and other believers
Agora with temples and food and goods for sale
City leaders
and food and goods for sale
Money
People from all over buying and selling
Berea
Jews and Greeks gathered to hear God's Word

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
Today's Big Idea is God's People Read God's Word. Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people's sins.

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
Our Story is called: Reading the Bible to Tell about Jesus

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
Beginning:
After a terrible beating in Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way from Philippi on their way to Thessalonica. They passed through the beautiful city of Amphipolis, a wonderful place to rest and heal their wounds; but they keep going towards Thessalonica. Paul and his friends go through the Arch of Galerius and into Thessalonica’s busy streets. They see the agora, with its temples, its many stalls of food and goods, and people from many places.

Middle:
However, Paul is only interested in finding the synagogue, where the Word of God will be read to the Thessalonians who are seeking after God. They may have hearts softened by His Word and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. On the Sabbath, Paul goes to the synagogue. He tells them about Jesus and shows them from the Bible that He is the Messiah promised by God in the Bible to suffer and die to save His people from their sins. Some Jews and many Gentiles hear and believe. Paul keeps on teaching the new little group of believers.

End:
Many of the Jews were hard-hearted and jealous. They didn’t want more people to follow Jesus. They paid riff-raff in the agora to spread lies about Paul’s message about Jesus and start a riot. The mob swarms into Jason’s house in hopes of finding Paul and Silas and harming them. They are not there, but hiding. The mob drags out Jason and other believers and take them to the city leaders to have them punished for helping Paul. The city leaders make Jason and the others pay a fine for helping Paul and make them promise to have nothing to do with Paul again. That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy sneak out of town with 2 escorts and head for Berea in the mountains. Paul knows there is a synagogue there in which he can once more share about Jesus with people who have been softened from reading the Word of God.
Beginning:
After a terrible beating in Philippi, Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, headed down the Egnatian Way from Philippi on their way to Thessalonica. They passed through the beautiful city of Amphipolis, a wonderful place to rest and heal their wounds; but they keep going towards Thessalonica. Paul and his friends go through the Arch of Galerius and into Thessalonica’s busy streets. They see the agora, with its temples, its many stalls of food and goods, and people from many places.

Middle:
However, Paul is only interested in finding the synagogue, where the Word of God will be read to the Thessalonians who are seeking after God. They may have hearts softened by His Word and the Holy Spirit, ready to receive the good news of Jesus. On the Sabbath, Paul goes to the synagogue. He tells them about Jesus and shows them from the Bible that He is the Messiah promised by God in the Bible to suffer and die to save His people from their sins. Some Jews and many Gentiles hear and believe. Paul keeps on teaching the new little group of believers.

End:
Many of the Jews were hard-hearted and jealous. They didn’t want more people to follow Jesus. They paid riff-raff in the agora to spread lies about Paul’s message about Jesus and start a riot. The mob swarms into Jason’s house in hopes of finding Paul and Silas and harming them. They are not there, but hiding. The mob drags out Jason and other believers and take them to the city leaders to have them punished for helping Paul. The city leaders make Jason and the others pay a fine for helping Paul and make them promise to have nothing to do with Paul again. That night, Paul, Silas and Timothy sneak out of town with 2 escorts and head for Berea in the mountains. Paul knows there is a synagogue there in which he can once more share about Jesus with people who have been softened from reading the Word of God.
1. Why were Paul and Silas bruised up? They had been beaten in Philippi for telling the good news of Jesus.

2. Why would Paul, Silas and Timothy might have wanted to stop in Amphipolis? It was a beautiful city and would have been a good place to heal and rest.

3. What interesting things would Paul have seen when he got to Thessalonica? The agora with its temples to the Greek gods and Caesar; all the stalls of food and goods for sale; all the people from faraway places.

4. What was Paul most interested in finding in Thessalonica and why? The synagogue because that was the one place where people gathered to worship God and hear His Word read.

5. Why did Paul want to tell the people in the synagogue about Jesus first? They already believed in the Lord and read His Word. They very well might have hearts softened by the Spirit through the reading of God’s Word, ready to receive the good news about Jesus.

6. What did the new believers do? They formed a little church. They listened to more of Paul’s teaching from the Word about Jesus. They gave hospitality to Paul.

7. Why were many of the Jews at the synagogue jealous? Because they had lost so many followers.

8. What did the Jews decide to do to stop Paul? Pay riff-raff to spread lies about Paul and what he said about Jesus; stir up a mob; try to get Paul and hurt him.

9. Why didn’t the mob get Paul and Silas at Jason’s house? They weren’t there. They were hiding.

10. What did they do to Jason and the other believers? Dragged them away and took them to the city leaders for punishment.

11. What punishment did the city leaders give Jason and the others? They were fined money and told to have nothing to do with Paul.

12. What did they do with Paul, Silas and Timothy the night after the riot? They gave them an escort and helped them escape to Berea.

13. What did Paul hope to do in Berea? Go to the synagogue and tell the people gathered there about Jesus, from the Scriptures.

14. How did Paul show that he believed that the Lord used His Word to change people’s hearts? He chose to go to people who read God’s Word first b/c their hearts would be most likely to be softened from God’s Word; He chose to use Scripture to prove to others that Jesus was the Messiah, not just his own words.

15. Why do you think it is important to read (or listen) to the Bible most every day? Because God will use it to soften and change our hearts. We will be more likely to love and obey Him, if we do.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people’s sins.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” Paul showed that he loved God’s Word and would not neglect it, no matter what. He did not rely on just his own words when speaking to others about Jesus. He went to the synagogue and read from the Bible to show the people that God’s Word showed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Life Application
1. Why do you think it is important for God’s people to read (or listen) to the Bible most every day? Because God will use it to soften and change their hearts. They will be more likely to love and obey Him, if they do.

2. How can we become God’s people? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
What is the good news of Jesus that Paul showed others through the Bible, God’s Word? What is the gospel? God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the best way 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 Sustainer of His people even through the hardest times.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we many times do not really care about God’s Word. We would rather play or do other things than listen to it.
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 Him, how to be saved and how to live lives in obedience to Him. We can thank God for all the many people who risked their lives to give us the Bible to read in our own language and that people like us might hear the good news of Jesus.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to use His Word to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to use His Word to soften our hearts to Him and His good ways. We can ask Him to give Christians even today courage to risk their lives to tell others about Jesus and to bring God’s Word to them.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Various props, objects, costumes, or even pictures from the story, enough for one idea per child at least.
A small pup tent or blanket and chairs made into a tent
Paper and pencil/pen to write down questions
Jar or bag

Preparing the Game
Make a list of main characters, objects, elements from the story. For example in the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness you could have rocks, bread, blocks (like from the Temple), a globe, a red robe/shirt, etc. (for Satan), white robe for angels who came to comfort Jesus at the end, a Bible (the word of God that Jesus used to refute Satan), a picture of a desert or the sun, the number 40 (for 40 days and nights without food). The Plan-a-Play story sheet is a good source of ideas. If desired, you can write different point values--such as 5, 10, 25 points--on questions, depending upon how hard they are. Place these objects in the tent.

Make up questions that have these props as their answers, such as: What did Satan tempt Jesus to turn the rocks into when He was so hungry? (bread)

Place the questions in a jar or bag.

Playing the Game
Have the children sit down in lines of equal teams. Tell them that in the tent are answers to the questions that you have folded up in the bag. They will take turns listening to a question and having the first person in line go into the tent and find the prop/costume piece/etc. that answers the question. If a team doesn’t get the right prop, then the first person from the other team gets to go up and see if they can find it for a point.

Continue until all have had a chance to play or all questions have been answered. Tally points. Repeat game as time and attention spans 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. Why is the Bible unlike any other book? *Because it is God’s Word.*
2. What does the Bible tell us? *About God, about who we are and why God made us. How God wants us to live.*
3. How are God’s Words different from our words? *They don’t just tell us things, they have the power to change us.*
4. Who works in God’s people when they read the Bible? *How? The Holy Spirit. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God.*
5. How often should we try to read God’s Word? *What else should we do? We should try to read (or have it read to us) every day. We should also try to memorize it.*
6. What happens when God’s people do these two things? *They will grow stronger and stronger in their faith.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? *Paul went to the people in the synagogue and read from the Bible to show them that Jesus really was the promised Messiah of God, come to suffer and die for His people’s sins.*

Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: *Psalm 119:11,15-16*

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

*This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.*

Life Application Questions
1. If reading the Bible is so good for us, why do we have such a hard time wanting to read it sometimes? *We are all sinful people who love to do things our own way, most of all. It is not surprising that we find it hard to do what God wants us to do. We need to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We need to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to give us more hunger and discipline to hear His Word.*
2. What difference will it make if God’s people read and memorize God’s Word? *He will use it to help them love and know Him better. They can know the many blessings of doing things God’s way rather than the bad consequences of sinning against Him. They can ask the Holy Spirit to use the words they hear to bear more obedience and delight in God in their hearts and lives.*
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for His Word that tells us what He is like and how He wants us to live.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to help us read the Bible more. And, that He would use it to help us grow in our faith in Him and grow in our knowledge, love and obedience to Him.*

**Gospel Question**

The Bible is where we can read the wonderful story of God's love and salvation for sinful people like you and me? What is the gospel? *Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*
**Materials**
Small bowl or bag
1 Bean Bag per child
CD and CD player
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

**Playing the Game**
Have the children form partners, then form a big double circle. Give each child a bean bag. Have them balance them on their heads. Tell the children that you will start the music and tell the children to move however you command them to move, such as march, walk, skip, tip toes, big knee bends, pat head, fly like a bird, etc. (BUT NOT RUN!!!) and try not to let their bean bag fall off their heads. When/if the bean bag falls off, a team is to sit down. When the music stops, all of the seated children are asked a question. If they get the right answer, then everyone is released to the march again. If not, then they must wait until the next time a question is asked and answered correctly.

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to memorize God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How did Paul show that he loved God’s Word and would not neglect it, no matter what? He did not rely on just his own words when speaking to others about Jesus. He went to the synagogue and read from the Bible to show the people that God’s Word showed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Life Application
1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.
ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   That many times we choose not to delight in God’s Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.

Gospel Question

This verse encourages us to hide God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God’s Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely… and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God’s Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? 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
Paper and marker/pencil
Balloons, at least one per child and up to one per word of verse per team.
Baskets or garbage bags to store balloons in until game time.
Masking Tape

Preparing the Game
Write two sets of the words of the verse onto small pieces of paper, one for each team. (For pre-readers, also number the words so they can have a hints of the correct order)

Designate particular colors/shapes of balloons for each team. You can choose to have only one color per team (i.e., Team 1 has only blue balloons); Team 2 has only red ones) or multiple colors/shapes per team (i.e., Team 1 has orange and blue balloons, Team 2 has red and blue balloons).

Roll up the pieces of paper and insert each one into each of the balloons. Make sure to have a complete set of the verse for each team. Store each set of balloons in baskets or garbage bags until game time.

Make 3 circles of masking tape: one larger one in the middle, where all the balloons will be released. Make two smaller ones, one each side, that will act as home 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
Split the children into teams and have them stand in their home circles. Tell them that all the words to the Scripture Verse are inside of the balloons. Let them know what color balloons their team will be looking for. Release all the balloons into the middle circle. At your word, let the children gather their balloons, take them back to their home circle and sit on them to pop them. After all balloons are popped, they must put their verse in order and then say it out loud. The first team to do so, wins. If working with pre or early readers, tell them to put the numbers in order. You also can give them a copy of the verse for them to match the words to. Help them say the verse together.

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.
I Have Hidden Your Word: Psalm 119:11,15-16

I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees,
I will not neglect your word,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you,
I have hidden your word in my heart,
That I might not sin against you.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose word is this verse talking about? God’s Word.
2. What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts? It means to memorize it so that we know it without someone having to read it or tell it to us.
3. What good is it to memorize God’s Word? It will help us know what God wants us to do, so that we might not sin against Him.
4. What does it mean to meditate on something? It means to slowly think about what something means and how to apply it to our lives.
5. What is a precept? A commandment or a teaching about how we should live.
6. What are God’s precepts and where can we find them? Anything God tells us He wants us to do. We find His precepts in the Bible.
7. What does it mean to meditate on God’s precepts? To know what they are and then think about how you should live your life by them.
8. What does it mean to “consider God’s ways”? To think about the way God is and to praise Him for His amazing wisdom, power, love and mercy He shows in them. To think about how we should live, in light on what He is like.
9. What are God’s decrees and how do we delight in them? God’s decrees are all that He has chosen to do in this world, and all He had told us that He wants us to do. We delight in them by trying to understand them, by praising Him for them and by trying to obey them in our lives.
10. What does it mean to neglect God’s Word? Not reading or listening to it regularly, not trying to understand what you hear or read, and ignoring it when you are deciding how to live.
11. Why was it so easy for the Israelites to neglect God’s Word? Because they were sinful and love to do things their own way, rather than God’s.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? This verse reminds us that God’s people delight in God’s Word, the Bible. They think about it and even memorize it so that they might not sin against God. They know that God’s Word is not just true. It is powerful to change them to be more like Jesus. They don’t want to neglect it, because they want to know God and please Him most of all.
Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? How did Paul show that he loved God’s Word and would not neglect it, no matter what? *He did not rely on just his own words when speaking to others about Jesus. He went to the synagogue and read from the Bible to show the people that God’s Word showed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.*

Life Application
1. Why should we be so careful to meditate, delight and not neglect the Bible? *Because it is not just anyone’s words. It is God’s Word. He made us and knows exactly how He wants us to live for His glory and our good. The Bible is not just words, but is powerful. The Holy Spirit will use the words of the Bible to work great changes in our hearts.*
2. What is the first step that God calls each of us to do to delight and obey His Word? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that God would forgive us and make us His special people.*

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being the Giver of His Word to us.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That many times we choose not to delight in God’s Word. We choose not to meditate on it or memorize it. We choose not to obey it. 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 using His Word to help His people not to sin against Him.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us delight in His Word and help us to meditate on it and memorize it. We can ask Him to work powerfully in our lives through His Word.*

Gospel Question
This verse encourages us to hide God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. This is good, however, the Bible makes it clear that hiding God’s Word in our hearts will never be enough to keep us from sinning completely… and it certainly cannot bring us forgiveness for our sins. But God’s Word also tells us the wonderful story of what God has done to save sinners like us. Can you tell me this good news, the gospel? *Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy.*

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

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

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

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

Verse 1
When we walk with the Lord,
in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What does it mean to walk with the Lord? It doesn’t mean to take a stroll or hike with Him. It means to live our lives in obedience to His Word.
2. What does it mean to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word? To do read the Bible and find out how God has told us in His Word He wants us to live, rather than just guessing how He wants us to live.
3. What will He do if we walk with Him in the light of His Word? He will shed His glory on our way.
4. What does it mean that He will shed glory on our way? He will keep us from doing sinful things that displease Him. He will help us to live a life that pleases Him. When we do, He will bless us with peace and joy in our hearts and our lives will reflect the good way that He is to others. These things will be a display of His glory both to ourselves and to others.
5. How can we know what God’s good will is? God’s good will is following all of His commands He has given us in the Bible.
6. What does it mean for God to abide with us? It means for Him to be with us in our hearts, by His Spirit.
7. Who does God abide with? He abides with His people, those who have come to Him in faith and who live their lives in trust and obedience to Him.
8. What does it mean to trust and obey? To rest joyfully in who God is and have faith that He is perfect in what He has allowed to happen and has good purposes for what He has allowed. To obey means to keep doing the things that God wants His people to do: pray, rejoice in Him, love others, keep His laws, take comfort in His Word, etc.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible?
God’s people read the Bible so that they can “walk in the light of His Word”, living lives in loving obedience to Him. They know that they glorify Him when they live this way.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Paul went to the synagogue with the message of Jesus first because he knew that they had been seeking to live their lives “in the light of His Word.” They would be most likely to have hearts softened through the Word, by the Holy Spirit to receive the good news of Jesus.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Psalm 119:11,15-16
“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you…I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God’s forgiveness. But God is faithful and just….and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God’s people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.

Life Application Questions
1. How can we be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for giving us His Word to know how to live to love and please Him. We can ask Him to give us faith to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, as His Word tells us to. We can ask Him to give us a hunger to read His Word more and live what we learn, so that His glory might be reflected out from our lives.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? Praise God for the Giver of His Word that we can know how to obey it.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? That many times we do not trust or obey God and His Word. We choose to do things our own way. We are sinners who need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? We can thank God giving His people wisdom about how He wants them to live through His Word (sheds light on their way).
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to give us faith to trust in Him and grace to obey His Word. We can ask Him to do His good will in us and through us.

Gospel Question
Each of us needs to trust and obey God, but we are sinners. What hope is there for us? What is this amazing good news of God’s love? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God’s eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus’ sacrifice.

Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

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

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

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

Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten

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

Where? From Philippi,

Who? Paul and Silas

Did What? Headed towards the synagogue in Thessalonica though

With the Big Idea Object? Wounded and beaten

Why? Because they wanted to go to read God’s Word to the Jews there and show them that Jesus really was the Savior.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Read His Word, the Bible. Paul was willing to suffer to show people from God’s Word that Jesus was the Savior. He wanted them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus that much!

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

God’s people know that God uses His Word soften people’s hearts that they might turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Even today, in some parts of the world, Christians suffer for reading God’s Word and telling the good news of Jesus to others.
Big Idea Craft Instructions

Paul and Silas, Wounded and Beaten

Description
The children will make bandages to put on their milk jug head Paul/Silas…or just on themselves.

Materials
Gauze…and lots of it
Red WASHABLE markers
Safety pins
For the Milk Jug Version also:
Empty plastic gallon water/milk jug, one per child
White cardstock
Sticky back (or regular) Felt or paper in brown, black, red
Craft glue
Markers
Scissors

Preparing the Craft
Cut out long strips of gauze.
Set out markers.

For the Milk Jug Version also:
1. Make one copies of Templates #1-5 out of paper or felt, as many as are specified on each template.
2. Turn the milk jug upside down with the handle facing you. The handle is the nose and eyebrows of the man, the eyes will be made in the space on either side of the handle.

Making the Craft
Show children your sample.
Let the color in the eyes, mouth and beard and glue in place. (or stick the pieces in place, if using the sticky back felt)
Have the children put an ample amount of glue around the forehead of the milk jug man. Wrap a piece of gauze and secure with the safety pin.
Children can add red wounds to the gauze with the marker.

Or, if just putting gauze on themselves, have the children wrap the gauze on their arms, legs, head, etc. and carefully add red marks (so as not to get on clothes) on the top layer of the gauze. Once more, fasten with safety pins.
There should be a serious air to this craft! Make sure you take time to talk about Christians suffering for the gospel and to pray for them.
Template #1
Eye
Copy 2 per child
Hair
Template #2
One per Child
Eye Brows Template #3
Cut 2 per child

Mouth Template #4
Cut 1 per child

Beard Template #5
Place on Fold
Cut 1 per child
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 Read His Word, the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God, about who we are and why God made us. It tells us how God wants us to live. God’s Word is very different from our words. God’s Word doesn’t just tell us things, it has the power to change us. The Holy Spirit works in God’s people when they read the Bible. He gives them wisdom and helps them to love and obey God. When God’s people read and memorize God’s Word each day, He helps them to grow in their faith in Him. The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us about God and helps us to grow in our faith in Him.

We thought about Psalm 11:11,15-16: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you… I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

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

A: Praise God for being the Giver of His Word, the Bible.

C: Confess that many times we do not want to read His Word. We would rather do other things.

T: Thank God for His Word that tells us how to be like and how He would rather we do other things.

S: Ask God to help us read the Bible more. Ask God to use it to help us know, love and obey Him. Ask Him to use it to grow our faith in Him.

Yours Sincerely, ________________
HOT AND COLD HIDE
VIPP Game

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

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

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

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

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

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