BIG IDEA 69
God’s People Think about Him
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directions for Administrators Preparing the Curriculum:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Additional Resources Your Teachers May Need:**

**Appendix B Drama:** Speaker Sheets (used in the play in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix C Games:** Directions for all Story Review, Big Idea, Scripture Verse Games

**Appendix D Crafts:** Presenter Sheets (used to present the craft in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix E VIPP:** VIPP Clue Cards and Games

**Appendix F Songs:** Song Games, Song Intro Sheets (used to present the songs in Closing Large Group)

**Appendix G Kindergarten:** VIPP Clue Cards, Song Games, Best Games for Kindergarteners
**Big Idea Concept: God’s People Think about Him**

God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God’s people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God’s Word, the Bible. All through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God’s people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don’t feel like spending time with God. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day, for they know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him. They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

**Scripture Verse**

Meditation Version: Psalm 63:2-4

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: Psalm 63:3-4

“My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

**Stories**

- **Week 1**  Better than a Big Meal  Luke 10:25-42
- **Week 2**  The Greatest Sneaker
- **Week 3**  Forgetting in Five  Exodus 14-15

**Big Idea ACTS Prayer**

A  Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C  Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word or pray to Him.

T  Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

**Songs**

- **Hymn**  Be Thou My Vision, v.1
- **Scripture Song**  Your Love Is Better than Life  Psalm 63:2
Big Idea Concept
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Shortened Memory/Games Version: Psalm 63:3-4
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Big Idea ACTS Prayer
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S Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
Crossing the Red Sea & the Bitter Waters of Marah Exodus 14-15
Martha and Mary Luke 10: 25-42
Leading Little Ones to God #60: God’s Children Think about Him

Songs
Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, Verse 1
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Hymn Connection: God’s people want God to be their vision—the One they think about most of all, the One who is the best thing they can think of. By day or by night, they keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying & reading, & all the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness.

Scripture Song: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs

Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This song reminds us that God’s people delight to think about God. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.
**Verse 1**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; 
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: 
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, 
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Adapted from Psalm 63:2

**Words:** Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne; versified, Eleanor H. Hull
**Music:** Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans  Public Domain
The resources you will need for The Echo Chamber or the Folder Hunt are included on the next few pages. They are used all three weeks of the curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BIG IDEA 69 KEY CONCEPTS USED IN ECHO CHAMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WoGoLOA Rules</th>
<th>Always the same, see Rules and Chant on following pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse: Live a Life of Love Just as Christ Loved You. Ephesians 5:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>Big Idea 69 Concept: God’s People Think about Him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Big Idea 69 Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WO GO LOA RULES
WOGOLOA RULES CHANT

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Part A:**
- LOA means...
- Sound off...
- Be...
- Be en...
- Help...

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

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

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

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

Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question Song

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!
God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day.

God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him.

God’s people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God’s Word, the Bible.

All through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing.

Sometimes God’s people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don’t feel like spending time with God.

They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day, for they know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him.

They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.
Meditation Version: Psalm 63:2-4

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version:

Psalm 63:3-4

“My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”
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)
Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.

Music Resources
Big Idea Scripture Song
Music, Lyrics and
Sign Language
use all 3 weeks of
curriculum
Your Love is Better than Life

adapted from Psalm 63:2

Constance Dever

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Because your love is better than life, because your love is better than life.
Your Love is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2

Because
Start with the index finger of the right hand, palm facing down, touching right side of forehead. Bring the hand up and to the right, while changing the hand to the A position.

Your
Place the right upturned hand upward.

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

Is
Move the right I hand, palm facing left, out from the mouth.

Better
Touch lips with the flat right hand, fingers pointing left. Move hand up above head while closing the right hand into an A position.

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

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

Lips
Make a circle around the lips with the index finger.

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

You
Place the upturned right hand to the sky, palm facing left.

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

Praise
Clap hands, right hand on top of left hand.

As long as
Position both hands’ index fingers pointed forward and palms facing down. Move hands in unison down, forward and then up.

Name
Cross the right H fingers over the left H fingers.

Lift up
Lift down-turned, bent hands from shoulders up a short distance.

Hands
Stroke from wrist to fingertips of left hand with right hand. Then do the reverse.
Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, or man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Big Idea References
Big Idea #35: verse 3  Big Idea #65: verse 2  Big Idea #69: verse 1

Words  Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne; versified, Eleanor H. Hull
Music  Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans
Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me save that Thou art;
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise, Thou my inheritance, now and always,

9

G E5 Bm D6 F#m C# Dm7 C#o Bm Em A

Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,

13

Bm A5 F#sus4 D D5 G6 Bm Em7 D

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Be Thou My Vision, verse 1

Thou
Place the upturned right hand to the sky, palm facing left.

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

Vision
Start with right V hand palm toward face and fingers pointing to eyes. Move right hand, palm down forward and down while bringing left V hand in the same position.

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

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

Naught
Place both O hands, with fingertips touching , in front of the body. Move the hands apart, while opening fingers.

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

Me
Point inward with the right index finger.

Save
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.
Be Thou My Vision, verse 1
Continued

**Art**
Move the right A hand forward from the mouth.

**Best**
Touch lips with the flat right hand, fingers pointing left. Move hand up above head while closing the right hand into an A position.

**Thought**
Make a small circle with the right index finger on the forehead.

**Day**
Place left arm across midsection, index finger pointing out. Rest right elbow on left index finger. Pivot right hand, with index finger pointed upward, down in a partial arc towards left forearm.

**Night**
Place the right bent hand over the wrist of the left flat hand. Both hands should be faced down

**Waking**
With eyes closed, place both Q hands with index finger and thumb touching next to the corner of the eyes. Open the eyes and fingers simultaneously.

**Sleeping**
Draw the right open hand down in front of the face, while simultaneously closing the fingers.

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

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

Time Activity

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

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

_____ Children arrive

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>GROUP sings the Chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says the Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question &amp; Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity Time**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

**Resources:**
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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: Better than a Big Meal
  - 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
### Week 1 Lesson Plan

#### Discussion and Activity Time

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

**Snack**

Have a variety of foods, like what Martha would have wanted to serve: sliced cucumber; grapes or melon or dates or pomegranates; “goldfish” fish; and pita “flatbread”, etc.

**ACTS Prayer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: Frisbee Toss n’ Quiz**

**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

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

### ACTS Prayer Refresher: Introduction pp.24-25

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

### Story Review Game Refresher: Introduction pp.35-36

### Snack & ACTS Prayer Refresher: Introduction pp.24-25
## WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

### Discussion and Activity Time, continued

#### Big Idea Game: Bean Bag Scramble

**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: Food for the Meal

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

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

#### VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Ball Roll Review

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

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

#### Scripture Verse Game: Who’s Got the Penny?

**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: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Scripture Verse and Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Mimic Me!**
  (and Scripture Verse Game, see above)
- Fill in Song Intro Sheet

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet p.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: Be Thou My Vision: Verse 1**

**Activities:**
- Discuss Song
- Learn Song and Sign Language
- Play Song Game: **Mimic Me!**
- 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
Week 1 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 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:**
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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: Better than a Big Meal
  - Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Snack

Have a variety of foods, like what Martha would have wanted to serve: sliced cucumber; grapes or melon or dates or pomegranates; “goldfish” fish; and pita “flatbread”, etc.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
C  Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
T  Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
S  Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.
Week 1 Lesson Plan
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Small Group Activities:
Activity Time:

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

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

Group 1, First Activity: Story Review Game

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

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

Resources:
- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72
- Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
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
Our story today takes place about 2000 years ago, in the little village of Bethany, in the hills that stood only a couple of miles outside of Jerusalem.

Big sister had a lot to do, no one could doubt that. No one would say it was easy to feed an extra thirteen, hungry men who stopped in unannounced around meal time in those days. After all, there were no grocery stores or restaurants like we have. While you could buy some lamb freshly grilled or fish freshly fried, most everything had to be made from scratch. Women would go to the outdoor market stalls in the center of town to haggle with local farmers and merchants for the fruit, vegetables, grains, and live animals they needed, lug it all back home on foot, then kill, pluck, clean, chop, mix and cook it all up into a fresh meal. There were no modern ovens or microwaves or stoves: only an outdoor, beehive-shaped clay oven in the courtyard, heated by fire to bake flatbread; and another fire over which to cook everything else. An ordinary, simple dinner of vegetable and lentil stew with some flatbread to scoop it out, could take quite some time to prepare for an extra thirteen hungry men.

But who said this was an ordinary meal? Big sister was planning a meal as special as her guests: Jesus and His twelve closest disciples. As she thought about Jesus, the usual vegetable-lentil stew didn't seem good enough to show the honor she had for Him. Only her very best would do. She would make lots of different dishes for Him. What herbs should she put with the vegetables? Should she have lentils, barley or Egyptian rice? She could serve cakes sweetened with figs and dates as well as the usual flatbread. Maybe she would even splurge and boil some dove or lamb along with fish... Big Sister's head swam with the details of the meal, as she tried to figure out what to have and how she would work out cooking all the different dishes so they would all be hot and ready to serve at the same time.

“It was a good thing that I have Little Sister to help me,” Big Sister thought. “There would be no way I could pull off this meal without her help!”

As Big Sister and Little Sister sweated over the meal preparations in the courtyard, Jesus and His disciples made themselves comfortable in the main room of the house. Jesus reclined in one of the few chairs and began teaching His disciples, while they sat at His feet, as serious disciples were supposed to do. Perhaps some would have filled up the time leading up to the evening meal with relaxing, idle talk, but not Jesus. He was always thinking about His Father in heaven and doing what pleased Him. He knew how short His time would be with His disciples and wanted to make the most of the moments He had by teaching them something important.

We don't know what Jesus taught His disciples that evening. Perhaps he talked to them more about the events of their day. “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” an expert in the law had asked Him earlier.

“What does the Bible say?” Jesus had replied.
“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’” the expert answered back.

Jesus had been pleased with the man’s answer. “You have answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.” Jesus knew that someone who truly loved the Lord and others like this had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies hungry for food, their hearts were hungry to know and love God more. They thought about God. They prayed to Him and wanted to know His Word, the Bible. They lived each day thinking about how they could please God with loving service to Him and to others.

Whether it was snatches of this conversation with the expert in the law or something else, Little Sister heard enough of what Jesus said over her chopping, plucking and kneading to make her very, very curious. Before long, the little morsels of Jesus’ words she tried to piece together from the other room just weren’t enough to satisfy her. Little Sister had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry for food, her heart grew hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others.

Unknown to Big Sister, Little Sister set down the food she was supposed to be preparing, slipped out of the courtyard and joined the twelve disciples, sitting at Jesus’ feet where she would catch every crumb of what He had to say. Big Sister was so distracted with her own work on the meal that she did not at first notice that she had lost her helper. Was it burning vegetables left untended or fish found still uncleaned of head, tail and bones, or bread that still needed cooking that was her first clue that Little Sister was no longer doing her part?

“Where has that girl gone?!” Big Sister wondered, a bit exasperated. “Here we are in the middle of making this fine meal for Jesus and His disciples, and she decides to get up to go who knows where! How unthinking she is being of our guests and of me! How will I ever get everything for this meal properly cooked without her help?” Big Sister worried. “I must find her!”

Big Sister didn’t have to go far before she found Little Sister. She could hardly believe her eyes when she found Little Sister sitting none other than among Jesus’ disciples. Not only had Little Sister abandoned her to prepare the elaborate meal alone, but she had even come in and settled herself at Jesus’ feet. Why everyone knew that was no place for a woman! Only men disciples who were training to follow after their teacher were supposed to do that!

Upset and flustered, Big Sister blurted out to Jesus, “Lord, don’t you care that Little Sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” Surely Jesus would see things her way, she thought. Little Sister’s place was in the courtyard with her preparing dinner, not at His feet like a disciple! What was Little Sister thinking?

Jesus knew just exactly what Big Sister was thinking: Big Sister was doing a good thing by preparing a good meal for Him and His disciples’ hungry bodies. She was thinking about who Jesus was and wanted to make a meal she thought would be worthy of Him.
But Jesus also knew what Little Sister was thinking, too. She was thinking about Jesus, too, as she left food preparations to listen at His feet. Yes, Little Sister was thinking about Him: and in even a better way than fixing a fancy meal to honor Him. She had a hungry heart for God. Just like bodies grow hungry for food, Little Sister’s heart had grown hungry to know more about God. She wanted to think about Him. She wanted to know and love Him more. She wanted to know how to live out her life each day to please Him with loving service to Him and to others. She longed to follow Jesus as much as any of His men disciples. Jesus wanted all of His disciples to think about Him like Little Sister did. He would not have this taken away from her.

“Big Sister, Big Sister,” Jesus answered her, “you are worried and upset about your many dishes you are making, but only one is needed. Little Sister has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Big Sister had a lot to think about as she turned to the courtyard and somehow finished the meal by herself. Perhaps she had been thinking about Jesus in her service to Him, but Little Sister was thinking about Him, too, by taking time to learn from Him.

How did the meal turn out that night? Were the vegetables soggy? Did the bread burn? Were there bones in the fish? Did all the dishes get prepared? The Bible does not tell us. But even if the vegetables were to come out soggy, the bread a little burnt; even if there were bones in the fish or the rice didn’t get made, Big Sister, Little Sister and Jesus’ disciples all learned that feeding a hungry heart, eager to think about God, eager to know and love Him more was even more important than anything they ate at that dinner. For from hungry hearts, craving to think about God, come lives that seek to keep pleasing Him throughout the day with loving service to Him and to others.

Our Big Idea is: People Think about Him
Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Perhaps you recognized that this was the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus’ good friends. They learned much that evening about what was truly important in God’s eyes. What about you and me? Are our hearts hungry to know and love God like Mary? Do we long to think about Him so much that we even want to set down our work and the things we love to do to spend time with Him? Our Scripture Verse tells us that when we do spend time thinking about Him, praying to Him and reading about Him in the Bible, He satisfies our hearts as with the richest of foods. Let’s praise God for being so wonderfully satisfying to our hearts. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior—the great, first step in loving God, knowing God and being saved by God that God calls all people to make. And let’s ask Him to give us a great hunger to spend special time each day thinking about Him and to help us to keep thinking about Him in everything we do, all through each day.
Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary’s house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best.

She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc.

Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven.

Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do.

Mary could hear bits of Jesus’ teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus’ feet.

Martha finally noticed Mary’s absence, and began to look for her. She knew she couldn’t make the meal on her own.

Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus’ feet. She blurted out to Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner.

Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him., it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching.

Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.
### 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)*
Better than a Big Meal

1. Setting (Speakers 2-4)
   When?  About 2000 years ago
   Where?  Bethany
   What’s It Like?  Little village set in the hills, only two miles outside of Jerusalem. Lots of trees, market in center of town to buy food, rather than a grocery store. No restaurants. No ovens, stoves, microwaves. Everything made in courtyard over fires, from scratch.

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
   Martha
   Mary
   Jesus
   12 disciples
   Market
   Fruit, Vegetables,
   Fish, Dove, Lamb, etc.
   Courtyard with fire and oven
   Chair
   House
   Dishes Martha is preparing

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Think about Him. Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
   Our Story is called:
   Thinking about Jesus

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   Beginning:
   Jesus and his twelve disciples were eating dinner at Martha and Mary’s house that evening. Martha could have served them the regular one-dish dinner with bread, but she thought Jesus was worthy of only her best. She planned to have many dishes and went to the market in the center of town to get all the things she would need—fish, vegetables, fruit, rice, etc. Martha knew it would be difficult to make the big meal, but she had Mary to help her.

   Middle:
   Martha and Mary worked in the courtyard of their house, preparing all the dishes and cooking them over the fire and in the bread oven. Jesus reclined in the house and taught his disciples while they waiting for the meal to be ready. The disciples sat at his feet, as they were supposed to do. Mary could hear bits of Jesus’ teaching and soon became so hungry to hear more that she put down the food she was preparing and slipped in among the disciples at Jesus’ feet.

   End:
   Martha finally noticed Mary’s absence, and began to look for her. She knew she couldn’t make the meal on her own. Martha was exasperated to find Mary sitting like a man disciples at Jesus’ feet. She blurted out to Jesus to make her to get up and help her make the dinner. Jesus would not. As good as it was of Martha to make a fancy meal to show she was thinking about Him, it was even better that Mary wanted to just sit at his feet, thinking about Him and what He was teaching. Martha went back to the courtyard to finish the dinner on her own, with much to think about.
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Middle:
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End:
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1. Why would it have been so hard to quickly make a meal for an extra 13 people, in Jesus’ day? Everything made from scratch, no grocery stores, no electric ovens or stoves, etc.

2. Why did Martha want to make something better than the normal one dish meal for Jesus? She thought about who He was and thought that only her best, fancy meal was good enough to properly honor Him.

3. What kinds of things would Martha have thought about making? Flatbread, melons, cucumbers, rice, lamb, dove, fish.

4. Where did Martha and Mary prepare the dinner? Why there? Out in the courtyard (in the center of the house) b/c they cooked over fires.

5. What did Jesus and his disciples do while Martha and Mary prepared the meal? Jesus reclined in a chair, teaching. His disciples sat at his feet, listening.

6. Why did Mary stop helping Martha? She heard Jesus’ teaching and wanted to hear everything He had to say.

7. How did Martha show she was thinking about Jesus? She wanted to give Him only her best meal b/c she knew He was so important.

8. How did Mary show she was thinking about Jesus? She wanted to hear what He had to say so much that she even gave up helping her sister just to listen. She sat at His feet, like a serious disciple, showing she hoped to understand and obey what He was teaching.

9. Why was Martha so upset with Mary? B/c she needed help to make the big meal. It would be very difficult for it to come out right without her help.

10. Why was Martha shocked that Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet? Only men who were serious disciples of a teacher were supposed to sit there.

11. Why did Jesus think what Mary was doing was even more important than what Martha wanted her to do? Mary wanted to think about Jesus and learn how to follow Him. Martha had chosen to make a meal bigger than she needed to that would keep Mary from learning from Jesus. Growing hearts that love God is always the most important thing of all. If something is getting in the way of that, it would be better to not do it at all.

Big Idea Connections
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Martha showed she was thinking about Jesus by wanting to prepare a big meal in His honor; but Mary thought about Jesus in an even more important way: she took time to stop and think about Him and what He was teaching.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.” Mary’s heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important that thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.

Life Application
1. What are some things that God’s people can do today that will help them think about God? Read the Bible, pray, learn in church and Sunday School, etc.; talk to our parents or others about how they are growing as Christians.

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

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

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being worthy of all our thoughts!
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we do not choose to spend time with God. We would rather be busy doing other things and forget that He wants us to spend time with Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God that He has given us Jesus not just to save His people from their sins, but saved them to be able to have wonderful fellowship (spend time) with Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to spend time with Him each day and to think about Him as we go about doing things all day.

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
Frisbee Toss N’ Quiz

Story Review Game

Materials
Frisbee
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

Tape sections on the floor and designate each with a point value that you write on a piece of paper and tape to each section. Make the higher point sections smaller and more difficult to hit; the lower point sections easier. You may even decide to make a target shape.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members toss the Frisbee into the sectioned areas. A correct answer to a question wins the designated points for the team. If the person is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

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

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

Understanding the Big Idea
1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? *Food, exercise, sleep.*
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? *Our bodies will stay strong.*
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? *Special time to pray and hear God's Word, the Bible.*
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? *Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.*
5. Why do God's people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? *They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don't feel like it.*
6. Who do God's people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? *They ask God to help them.*
7. Why do God's people want to spend time and think about God even when they don't feel like it? *Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.*

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. How did Mary show she cared about the needs of her heart? She choose to listen to Jesus rather than work on the fancy dinner. She sat at Jesus' feet, like a serious disciple, showing that she wanted to learn how to be one of His disciples, who kept doing each day the things that He wanted His people to do.
2. Usually Jesus wants His people to help and serve others. Why did He want Mary to listen to Him, even more than help her sister? Because taking care of the needs of Mary's heart were of first importance, even over making dinner.

Life Application Questions
1. What difference will it make if God's people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? *He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.*
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don't feel like it? Why? *Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don't feel like it.*
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? *To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”
This verse reminds us that God’s people delight to think about God. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

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

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

Big Idea Game

Materials
Beanbags, enough for all the children, minus 1
Drum, guitar or just your hands!
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.

Playing the Game
Beanbags are placed in a circle on the floor, with children forming a circle just outside the beanbags. Tell the children that you will beat a beat on the drum, strum a strum on the guitar, or clap your hands and they are to march to the beat. As the beat gets faster, they march faster. As it gets slower, they march slower, etc. Suddenly stop the music and the children scramble for the beanbags. The child who has no beanbag picks a question for the class to answer. If the class answers it correctly, then the child is added back into the march. If not, then the child stays out and another bean bag is removed.

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

NOTE: Have the children who are “out” be the Beatmakers with you. This will keep them happily occupied as the others march.

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 love is better than life? What does that mean? 
   God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? 
   To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? 
   The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? 
   Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? 
   He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? 
   He thinks about God.
7. What are “the watches of the night?” 
   In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? 
The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? 
Mary’s heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important that thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.

Life Application
1. When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? 
   When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
2. How can we become God’s people? 
   By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? 
   Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? 
   That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   *We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.*

Gospel Question

What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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!*  

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.
WHO’S GOT THE PENNY?
Scripture Verse Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
a Penny or other small object

Preparing the Game
None.

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

Playing the Game
Have the children spread out in a circle. Explain to them that you are the Penny Detective and you have come to find the missing penny. Blindfold yourself, count to 10, while the children quietly and quickly pass the penny around the circle. At the count of 10, tell the child who has the penny to hold onto. Take off the blindfold and tell them that you have 2/3 guesses to guess who has the penny. If you guess correctly, then the child who has the penny will need to say the verse, and you will stay the Penny Detective. If you did not guess correctly, then you have to say the verse and the person with the penny identifies himself and becomes the new Penny Detective. (All players can have one other person help them say the verse, if desired.)

Game continues until all children get to be the Penny Detective, or as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? He thinks about God.
7. What is are “the watches of the night?” In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Mary’s heart was so hungry to think about God that she even left the dinner that would feed her own body as well as their important guests. She could think of nothing more important that thinking about God. Jesus agreed with her decision.

Life Application
1. When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.*

Gospel Question
What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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 the song.
**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word “grace”, but clap your hands when you sing the word “Jesus”. Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.
Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; 
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art: 
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, 
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Understanding the Song
1. What does “Thou” mean? Old English word for “you,” often used to show respect to God.
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He’s talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on— or think about— in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people’s hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.
4. What does “naught” mean? Another word for “nothing.”
5. What does “naught be all else to me, save that Thou art”? There is nothing else that means as much to him as the Lord.
6. What does it mean that God is his “best thought, by day or by night”? God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night— anytime.
7. What does mean for God’s presence to be his light? Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Think about Him? God’s people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. By day or by night, they keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Mary left her preparations on the fancy dinner so that she could spend time just thinking about the Lord. As important as it was to help her sister, nothing was as important as thinking about Jesus that afternoon. She sat as His feet, showing that she was a serious disciple of His—she wanted to live her life, thinking about Him and trying to obey Him, both by day and by night.

Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4 “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my
Scripture Verse Connection, continued
mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”
God’s love means more to God’s people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life.
That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise
Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions
1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for being so wonderful
to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of
our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our
best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about
Him.
2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? To turn away from
our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our hearts. Many times we want to do things our way
instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with
thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.
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. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to think of Him and love Him, and
be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question
Why do God’s people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them.
What is this amazing good news of God’s love? How can we know it ourselves? 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**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)

Food for the Meal

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

Where? In the courtyard,

Who? Mary

Did Did What? Left behind helping Martha prepare

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him. As important as it was for Mary to be a help to her big sister, it was even more important for her to think about God.

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

God’s people today are busy doing many things and that is good, but they should never be too busy to spend time with God.

Why? Because she wanted to hear what Jesus was teaching His disciples.
Food for the Meal

Description
The children will decorate fish with tissue paper as a very likely part of the meal that Martha would have served Jesus and His disciples.

Materials
Fish template
Tissue paper of various colors
Glue sticks

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out fish templates onto white cardstock, one per craft.
2. Cut tissue paper into scale-like circles of various sizes.
3. Set out the glue sticks.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children stick the tissue paper onto the fish in scale-like patterns.

NOTE: You may want to make several fish per child available for decoration.
Dear ________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Think about Him. God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. 

God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. All through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with God. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day, for they know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him.

We thought about Psalm 63:2-4, "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

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

A. Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C. Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word.

T. Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and obey Him.

S. Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him.

Yours Sincerely, ________________________
**Ball Roll Review**

**VIPP Game**

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

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

**Playing the Game**
**Reveal, then Review Version:**

**Reveal:** Tell them about each of the VIPP(s) you are using in the game, showing them the clues and reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

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

**Get Clues, Then Guess Version:**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      | *Arrive no later than this to prepare for session*  
  *My preparations:* |
|      | [Activities listed below] |
|      | **Children arrive** |
|      | **Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)** |

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

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

**How to do the singing portion:**

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

**Story time**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3______________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4______________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5______________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6______________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong> <em>(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)</em></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>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.


**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 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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 Greatest Sneaker**, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery
**WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN**

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

**Snack**

Gingerbread cookies, Ginger snaps, or Gingerbread (looks like Banana bread; can buy box mixes in the grocery store.)

**ACTS Prayer**

A  Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C  Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word

T  Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

**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: Give These to Farmer Brown**

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

**Resources:**
- Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet  pp. 43-44
- Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Storks

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: Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books

Activities:
Discuss Story
Fill in Presenter Sheets
Make Craft

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

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Over, Under and Throw

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

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

Scripture Verse Game: Puzzling Wall Ball

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: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

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

Resources:
Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet p.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: Be Thou My Vision: Verse 1

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

Resources:
Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drama</strong></td>
<td>The Play, Introduced by the Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Story Review Game</strong></td>
<td>Ask Story Review Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big Idea Game</strong></td>
<td>Read the Big Idea, Ask Big Idea Quiz Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big Idea Craft</strong></td>
<td>Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VI PP Game and Clue Cards</strong></td>
<td>Share Clues about VIPP, Pray for the VIPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Verse Game</strong></td>
<td>Read Scripture Verse, Ask Scripture Verse Quiz Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture Song</strong></td>
<td>Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hymn</strong></td>
<td>Sing Hymn with Sign Language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Closing Prayer

- Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

- Give Out Take Home Sheets
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 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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 Greatest Sneaker, 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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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

Gingerbread cookies, Ginger snaps, or Gingerbread (looks like Banana bread; can buy box mixes in the grocery store.)

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word

T Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.
**Week 2 Lesson Plan**

**Optional Kindergarten Group Format**

**Activity Time**

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

**Group 1 Activities**

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

---

### Group 1, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game
*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

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

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

---

Then, as time allows, followed by …

### Group 1, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game or VIPP Prayer Letter
*(Choose Game from Best Kindergarten Games, Appendix G)*

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

**Resources:**
- VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group
- VIPP Prayer Letter
- VIPP Clue Cards
Activity Time, continued

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

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

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

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

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

Story Review Game Refresher
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C

Scripture Song Refresher:
Introduction pp. 33-34
Appendix F
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 Greatest Sneaker
By Connie Dever

Story

Our story takes place about 60 years ago in the little village of Sint Pancras, in Holland, the land of windmills, wooden clogs and tulips.

Young Andy van der Bijl snickered quietly to himself as he crouched among the daffodils outside of the Whetstra’s cottage. Eagerly he waited and listened for signs that his prank had its desired effect. The Whetstras were one of the godliest couples in the village and Andy was usually annoyed at the way they seemed to think about God and talk about God all the time. He wanted to see if this couple would still act so holy when faced with the surprise and annoyance of his little prank. Andy had climbed up on their thatched roof and laid a glass pane over the smoking chimney. It wouldn’t be long now before the smoke backed up out of Mrs. Whetstra’s oven, filled her kitchen with smoke, and spoil the food she was baking.

“Ahh!!! Smoke! Smoke! Help me, husband!” Mrs. Whetstra soon squealed. Mr. Whetstra quickly came to her aid, pulling both of them out of the smoke-filled house, sputtering and coughing. “My fresh gingerbread is ruined now!” Mrs. Whetstra despaired.

“I can only imagine who might be responsible for this little joke,” said Mr. Whetstra, finding the window pane on top of the chimney. “Andy van der Bijl, no doubt!” he said, looking around the garden for the crouching boy. But Andy, of course, had long ago snuck off through the woods and deep, water ditches called canals that were all over Holland. If there was one thing young Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could get in and out of all sorts of unimaginable places without being seen by the keenest of eyes.

And if there was any place or anyone Andy wanted to sneak away from most of all, it was any place or person that had anything to do with God. Andy’s family believed in Jesus and sought to live as Christians. They prayed before meals, they listened to preachers on the radio, they read their Bibles and they went to church. They thought about how to live their lives to please Him. But Andy had no desire to think about God at all. Whenever God was brought up, Andy tried to sneak away.

Even on Sundays, Andy found a way to sneak out at the beginning of the service and wander around the windmills and canals of his village, only to sneak back unnoticed by his family at the very end. After all, if there was one thing young Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could get in and out of all sorts of unimaginable places without being seen by the keenest of eyes.

As Andy grew up, World War II swept through Europe. Adolph Hitler, the German leader sent troops of soldiers into every country in Europe, including Holland. Andy’s town, like the rest of Europe, was soon occupied by German soldiers who began to take away many freedoms from the Dutch people.

“No bikes! No radios! No Jewish people! Only as much food as we say you can have!” they ordered.

Andy joined the Dutch Underground, a group of people who vowed to secretly do everything they could to get rid of the Germans. He snuck messages back and forth between Underground leaders, he snuck food from the Germans to feed starving Dutch people, and even snuck up to German army cars and
sabotaged them by pouring sugar into their gas tanks. Andy was great in the Underground. After all, if there was one thing young Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could get in and out of all sorts of unimaginable places without being seen by the keenest of eyes.

All the suffering that came through the war only hardened Andy’s heart more towards God. He thought it showed that God didn’t care about suffering. More than ever, Andy did not want to think about God.

When the war ended, Andy decided to join the Dutch army. He was sent faraway to Bali, an island in the South Pacific, where he was a commando. Andy was trained to crawl through the thick, jungle underground on his belly, armed with knives, guns and hobnailed boots in search of enemy rebels who were trying to overthrow the Dutch government. Andy soon became the best of all the commandoes, daring to do things no one else would dream of doing. After all, if there was one thing Andy was good at, it was sneaking. He could get in and out of all sorts of unimaginable places without being seen by the keenest of eyes.

But deep inside Andy’s heart, there were things that Andy could not sneak away from. Many times, Andy and the commandoes did things soldiers should not do. They didn’t just kill the rebels, but they hurt village people who were not fighting them. Andy felt terribly guilty inside. Now, not only did he not want to think about God, he didn’t even want to live anymore. Instead of sneaking around like he was supposed to, Andy put on a bright yellow hat and would run out in full view of the enemy. “Shoot me if you can!” he would taunt them. Showers of bullets fell all around him as the enemy soldiers were all too eager to strike this cocky Dutchman.

One day they got what they wanted. Surrounded on three sides, Andy and his team had no place to hide. Suddenly a burning pain shot through Andy’s ankle. He was hit. Rushed to the hospital immediately, the doctors did what they could. “You’re a lucky young man. We won’t have to amputate your leg, but you will walk with a limp the rest of your life. We’re sending you home to Holland as soon as you are well enough to travel. There is no use for you here anymore,” they told him. “Your sneaking days are over.”

While Andy didn’t want to think about the Lord, the Lord was certainly thinking about him. He loved Andy and had great plans for him. In the hospital, some Christian nurses urged Andy to think about God. With nothing else to do on the long sea voyage home, Andy decided to listen to their advice. He pulled out the Bible his mother had forced him to take with him and began to read it, from start to finish. When he got home, he began to go to church. He heard about the great love of God the Father who sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die for the sins of all who would ever trust in Him for forgiveness. As he heard, he believed. His life was completely changed. Now, not only did he want to think about God and know Him better, but he wanted others to, as well.

Andy began to share with everyone he could about the wonderful good news of Jesus. He began to get up early each morning for a special time of prayer and Bible reading. “I need to start each day by thinking about God and ask for His help, if I am to do and say what God wants me to today,” Andy thought.
The Lord blessed Andy as he thought about Him in his special morning times with Him. He began to guide Andy to a special work, just right for a great sneaker, like him. The Lord was going to use this gift to help others think about Him.

Andy learned about the thousands of Christians in Eastern Europe who were allowed few, if any, Bibles and Christian books. Many of them lived in constant fear of harm from the Communist officials who ruled in their countries. The Communist didn’t want people to think about God or place their hope in Jesus anymore. They wanted them to think about their Communist ideas and place their hope in their Communist government instead.

“Who will help those Christians get the Word of God? They need daily times in His Word, as much as I do. They need to think about Him and for His help according to His Word. They need Bibles to tell others about Jesus. But how can they if they have so few Bibles or Christian books?” Andy thought. “Well, perhaps their governments will not give them Bibles, but I am a good sneaker. I will find a way to sneak Bibles and Christian books into them. After all, if there was one thing I am good at, it is sneaking. I have been able to get in and out of all sorts of unimaginable places without being seen by the keenest of eyes.”

Andy shared his ambitious plan with other Christians and asked for their help. When his old, godly neighbors, the Whetstras, heard his plan, they generously gave him their old, blue Volkswagen Beetle. Andy filled every nook and cranny of the little car with Bibles and other little Christian books that told the good news of Jesus.

“Vroom, vroom, vroom,” off across Europe, six hundred miles, Andy went. Through Holland, West Germany, Austria and then straight towards the border of Yugoslavia, Andy traveled. As he approached the border, he was forced to stop by the Yugoslavian border guards. They had orders to search every car entering their country and remove anything not allowed in by their government—including Bibles and Christian books, of course.

As the two guards approached his little, blue beetle, Andy prayed, “Lord, in my luggage I have Scriptures that I want to take to Your people across this border. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see.” Andy was a good sneaker, but he knew that he could not sneak his way around these guards. The Lord would have to do this sneaking for him.

“What do you have to declare?” the guards questioned.
“Camera, money, wristwatch,” Andy answered them.
“Anything else?” they demanded.
“Only little things,” Andy responded. After all, the Bibles and the books were little. “We will have to search your car,” the soldiers told him. Andy couldn’t watch as the guards poked through the car’s front seat, back seats and even under the hood. Everywhere they looked was stuffed full of Bibles and Christian books. He expected them to arrest
him any moment, but nothing happened. Just as he had prayed, their seeing eyes saw nothing!

“OK, you are free to cross,” the guards finally moved out of the way and let Andy’s little VW full of its precious cargo into Yugoslavia.

The Lord, Andy now knew, was a better sneaker than even he was.

Andy’s little blue Volkswagen Beetle was to sneak Bibles and Christian books across Eastern European borders many, many more times before finally dying, each time with the Lord making the seeing eyes of the border guards blind to the Bibles. Andy snuck the Bibles and Christian books to Christians hunger for Bibles they would not have gotten any other way. They could use them to have daily times in His Word; use them to think about God and ask for His help according to His Word. They had Bibles to use to tell others about Jesus.

Even today, today many people work with Brother Andrew—as Andy is now called-- as part of Open Doors, International. Brother Andrew is too old to sneak around anymore, but still he works hard each day with others in Open Doors, International to help get Bibles into the hands of those who wouldn’t have them otherwise, so that they can think about God, come to know Him and lovingly serve Him.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him
Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 63:2-4

“How did Andy find courage to face those border guards each time? By spending special daily time with the Lord, reading His Word, thinking about Him and praying for guidance and courage.

What about you and me? Are we sneakers from God like Andy was? God calls us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too. He will forgive our sins. He will make us His dearly loved people, just like He did Andy. And when we become God’s people we can know that God will have good plans for us to do...and that as we spend time with Him in His Word and in prayer, He will give us everything we need to do whatever it is He wants us to do.

Let’s praise God for giving us His Word to help us think about Him. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to spend time with Him each day that we might be ready to do and say all that He wants us to.
1. Andy hid outside of the Whetstra’s house waiting to see what they would do when their clogged chimney filled Mrs. Whetstra’s kitchen with smoke. The Whetstra’s were godly Christians and Andy did not like how they talked about Jesus so much. He was trying to get them to react sinfully to his prank, but they did not.

2. Andy didn’t like to think about God at all. He even snuck out of church until the end of the service so that he wouldn’t have to hear about Him.

3. During WWII, Andy joined the Dutch Underground to secretly help to get rid of the Germans. He used his skills in sneaking and in pranks. He would sneak messages to other people in the Underground and poured sugar into gas tanks so their cars wouldn’t work.

4. After the war, Andy became a commando in Bali for the Dutch army. He snuck around, trying to protect the Dutch government from enemies there.

5. Andy and the other commandos many times hurt not just enemy soldiers, but village people. Andy felt so guilty about this that he wanted to die. He began to wear a yellow hat and yell to the enemies so they would see him and try to shoot him.

6. When surrounded by enemies, Andy got shot in the ankle.

7. When in the hospital, nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God. On the ship’s voyage back home, Andy began reading his Bible and thinking about God. When he got home, he went to church.

8. The Holy Spirit worked in Andy’s heart as he thought and read more and more about God. Andy became a Christian.

9. Andy began having daily special times with God. He wanted to live his life for God.

10. When Andy heard about the many Eastern European Christians with few or no Bibles, Andy believed the Lord was leading him to use his sneaking skills to get Bibles to them.

11. The Whetstra’s gave Andy their VW car. Andy filled the car with Bibles and Christian books. He drove hundreds of miles to the border of Yugoslavia.

12. As he approached the border guards, Andy prayed that the Lord would make them blind to his literature. He knew that he could not sneak past the guards, only the Lord would make it possible.

13. The Lord answered Andy’s prayer. The guards did not see the books, even though they completely searched the car.

14. Andy made many more trips to Eastern Europe, bringing Bible and Christian books. Today, he still is at work getting Bibles to those who wouldn’t have them otherwise, but now has the help of many, many others in Open Doors, International.
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)*
The Greatest Sneaker

1. Setting (Speakers 2-4)

When? About 60 years ago
Where? Holland, Bali, and Eastern Europe
What’s it Like? Holland: land of windmills, tulips and deep water ditches, called canals. Bali: Jungly island in the Pacific Ocean; Eastern Europe: Ruled by Communists who don’t want people to believe in God. Very few Bibles..

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)

Andy
The Whetstra’s
Chimney
Gingerbread
Church
Andy’s family
Germans
Underground people
Commandoes
Enemy soldiers

Village people
Yellow hat
Nurses & hospital
Ship
Bible
Eastern Europeans
VW Bug
Border Guards
Bibles & books

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him. Andy changed from someone who never wanted to think about God to someone who risked his life many times so that others could have Bibles to help them think about God.

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

Andy Thinks about God.

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

Beginning:
Andy hid outside of the Whetstra’s house waiting to see what they would do when their clogged chimney filled Mrs. Whetstra’s kitchen w/ smoke. The Whetstra’s were godly Christians and Andy did not like how they talked about Jesus so much. He was trying to get them to react sinfully to his prank, but they did not. Andy didn’t like to think about God at all. He even snuck out of church until the end of the service so that he wouldn’t have to hear about Him. During WWII, Andy joined the Dutch Underground to secretly help to get rid of the Germans. He used his skills in sneaking and in pranks. He would sneak messages to other people in the Underground and poured sugar into gas tanks so their cars wouldn’t work.

Middle:
After the war, Andy became a commando in Bali for the Dutch army. He snuck around the jungles, trying to protect the Dutch government from enemies there. Andy and the other commandos many times hurt not just enemy soldiers, but village people. Andy felt so guilty about this that he wanted to die. He began to wear a yellow hat and yell to the enemies so they would see him and try to shoot him. When surrounded by enemies, Andy got shot in the ankle. When in the hospital, nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God. On the ship’s voyage back home, Andy began reading his Bible and thinking about God. When he got home, he went to church.

End:
The Holy Spirit worked in Andy’s heart as he thought and read more and more about God. Andy became a Christian. Andy began having daily special times with God. He wanted to live his life for God. When Andy heard about the many Eastern European Christians with few or no Bibles, Andy believed the Lord was leading him to use his sneaking skills to get Bibles to them. The Whetstra’s gave Andy their VW car. Andy filled the car w/ Bibles and Christian books. He drove hundreds of miles to the border of Yugoslavia. As he approached the border guards, Andy prayed that the Lord would make them blind to his literature. He knew that he could not sneak past the guards, only the Lord would make it possible. The Lord answered Andy’s prayer. The guards did not see the books, even though they completely searched the car. Andy made many more trips to Easter Europe, bringing Bible and Christian books. Today, he still works to get Bibles with others in Open Doors, Int’l.
Beginning:
Andy hid outside of the Whetstra’s house waiting to see what they would do when their clogged chimney filled Mrs. Whetstra’s kitchen w/ smoke. The Whetstra’s were godly Christians and Andy did not like how they talked about Jesus so much. He was trying to get them to react sinfully to his prank, but they did not. Andy didn’t like to think about God at all. He even snuck out of church until the end of the service so that he wouldn’t have to hear about Him. During WWII, Andy joined the Dutch Underground to secretly help to get rid of the Germans. He used his skills in sneaking and in pranks. He would sneak messages to other people in the Underground and poured sugar into gas tanks so their cars wouldn’t work.

Middle:
After the war, Andy became a commando in Bali for the Dutch army. He snuck around the jungles, trying to protect the Dutch government from enemies there. Andy and the other commandos many times hurt not just enemy soldiers, but village people. Andy felt so guilty about this that he wanted to die. He began to wear a yellow hat and yell to the enemies so they would see him and try to shoot him. When surrounded by enemies, Andy got shot in the ankle. When in the hospital, nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God. On the ship’s voyage back home, Andy began reading his Bible and thinking about God. When he got home, he went to church.

End:
The Holy Spirit worked in Andy’s heart as he thought and read more and more about God. Andy became a Christian. Andy began having daily special times with God. He wanted to live his life for God. When Andy heard about the many Eastern European Christians with few or no Bibles, Andy believed the Lord was leading him to use his sneaking skills to get Bibles to them. The Whetstra’s gave Andy their VW car. Andy filled the car w/ Bibles and Christian books. He drove hundreds of miles to the border of Yugoslavia. As he approached the border guards, Andy prayed that the Lord would make them blind to his literature. He knew that he could not sneak past the guards, only the Lord would make it possible. The Lord answered Andy’s prayer. The guards did not see the books, even though they completely searched the car. Andy made many more trips to Easter Europe, bringing Bible and Christian books. Today, he still works to get Bibles with others in Open Doors, Inter’l.
1. Why did Andy especially want to play a prank on the Whetstra’s? They were godly Christians and he wanted to make them react sinfully, if he could. He didn’t their godliness.

2. What did Andy do each week to avoid thinking about God? Snuck out of church until the end of the service.

3. How did Andy use his sneaking ability in the war to fight against the Germans? Snuck messages between Underground leaders; put sugar in the German’s gas tanks so their cars wouldn’t run.

4. Why did Andy want to be a commando in Java? He would get to use his sneaking around to fight against enemy soldiers.

5. What did Andy do in Java that he felt guilty about? Hurt villagers that he wasn’t supposed to hurt, instead of just soldiers.

6. Why did Andy start wearing a yellow hat and shouting to the enemy soldiers? He felt so guilty that he didn’t want to live anymore.

7. What happened in the hospital that began to change Andy’s life? The Christian nurses encouraged him to start thinking about God.

8. What happened on the ship that caused Andy to think more and more about God? He read the Bible from beginning to end.

9. What happened when Andy got home that caused Andy to think even more about God? He went to church and listened to sermons from God’s Word.

10. What did Andy decide to do to help him think more about God when he became a Christian? He got up early each morning and had a special time of prayer and Bible reading.

11. What did Andy hear about the Eastern European Christians that made him want to help them? They had few if any Bibles.

12. What did Andy plan to do to help the Eastern European Christians? Sneak Bibles across the border to give to them.

13. Why did Andy pray before he would come to the border guards? He knew that only the Lord would make it possible for him to sneak the Bibles in.

14. What does Andy do today? He runs Open Doors International, an organization that still works to get Bibles in the hands of people who would not have them otherwise.

15. Why did Andy risk his life to get Bibles to the Eastern Europeans? He knew they wanted to think about God, love Him and cheerfully obey Him. They needed God’s Word to know what God was like, so they would think about Him the right way.

**Big Idea Connections**
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Andy changed from someone who never wanted to think about God to someone who risked his life many times so that others could have Bibles to help them think about God.

**Scripture Verse Connections**
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

For years Andy did not want to think about God at all; but when finally he did turn to the Lord, it was what he wanted to do, most of all. He showed that God’s love was better than life by risking his life, over and again, so that others might have Bible’s so that they could think about God, praise His and have their hearts satisfied by Him, too.
Life Application
Why do you think Andy felt it was so important to have a special time of praying and reading the Bible each day? He knew that he would need all the courage and guidance the Lord could give him in order to be prepared for the dangerous work he did each day.
What kinds of things do God’s people today need courage and guidance from the Lord about? (Answers vary)
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

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

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being the Protector and Sustainer of His people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, like Andy deserve God’s punishment for our sinful rebellion against God and His good ways. Many times we have been sneakers who do not want to know God and obey His good ways. We all need to confess our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God His great patience and mercy shown to sinners who choose to rebel against Him by working in their hearts and giving them the gift of faith in Jesus.
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 us to think about Him and spend time with Him each day, that we might depend upon Him and obey Him in all we do.

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
Straw hat
Small Plastic Shovel, gardening glove or other farming implement,
Shoe box or equivalent…or play clay
20 Drinking straws
20 Scraps of Construction paper
Tape
Paper and Marker
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

Make 20 flowers, using construction paper to make blossoms and taping them to drinking straw stems. Write a number on each flower that will correspond to each Story Review Question. Cut small slits in the top of the shoe box and stick each flower stem into one (or, take small lumps of clay and stick on bottom of stems for free-standing flowers.) Place the flowers in what will be the center of your circle.

Number the Story Review questions from 1-20.

Playing the Game
Have the children sit in a circle. Put the straw hat on your head and turn to the child on your right in the circle and say, “Give this to Farmer Brown!” Take the hat off and place it on the child’s head. Tell him to pass it on, repeating the same phrase and taking off the hat and placing it on the next child’s head. Then, put the glove/hold the shovel and turn to the child to your LEFT as say “Give this to Farmer Brown”. Take off the glove(shovel) and pass it over to the child and tell them to pass it on. That child continues to pass the glove/shovel to the left. At some point, the hat going to the right and the glove/shovel going to the right will meet at the same child. That child is “leader reads the question with the same number for the child to answer. Allow children to choose someone to help them with the answer if they are having difficulty.

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

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

1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? Food, exercise, sleep.
2. Want happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? Our bodies will stay strong.
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? Special time to pray and hear God’s Word, the Bible.
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.
5. Why do God’s people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? They get very busy, they are lazy, or they just don’t feel like spending time with God.
6. Who do God’s people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? They ask God to help them.
7. Why do God’s people want to spend time and think about God even when they don’t feel like it? Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

1. How did Andy show she cared about the needs of his heart? He got up early every morning to take time to pray and read God’s Word. He kept thinking about the Lord and what would please Him throughout the day.
2. What about Andy’s work made him realize how important it was for him to think about God every day, all day? Andy spent most of his life as a Christian in impossible situations in which he could easily be arrested, punished and die. He knew that there was no way that he could do things like sneak Bibles by the guards or get them to the Christians in Eastern Europe, if he did not depend on the Lord.

Life Application Questions

1. What difference will it make if God’s people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don’t feel like it? Why? Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don’t feel like it.
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”
This verse reminds us that God’s people delight to think about God. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

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

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**
Three large, but soft balls
Tape
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into teams, each on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. One team is “The Hunters”. The other team is “The Storks.” The hunters have three balls and they are to stand about twenty feet away from the storks, who are lined up, similarly to ten bowling pins. Storks are to balance on one leg without leaning on anything. They can switch from leg to leg, but must not stand on both at the same time. Read a question to the hunters. If they get it right, then one of the hunters gets three chances (3 balls) to roll the ball at the storks FAIRLY GENTLY and try to get them to put their other foot down. The Hunters score as many points as storks who lost their balance and put their foot down. Sides get switched when all the Hunters have had a turn: or, when they have been stumped by a question.

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

**Optional Closing Activity**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Psalm 63:2-4

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to chose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? He thinks about God.
7. What is are “the watches of the night?” In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? For years Andy did not want to think about God at all; but when finally he did turn to the Lord, it was what he wanted to do, most of all. He showed that God’s love was better than life by risking his life, over and again, so that others might have Bible’s so that they could think about God, praise His and have their hearts satisfied by Him, too.

Life Application
1. When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
ACTS Questions, continued
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.

Gospel Question
What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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!

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 Big Idea Folder
3 11.5” x 17” pieces of construction paper, two pieces of one color for each team
Masking Tape
Small Nerf Ball or other soft ball
Marker
Use masking tape to lightly tape the pieces to a wall, mixing up colors

Preparing the Game
None.

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

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Explain to them that they are going to take turns trying to hit pieces of their team’s colored puzzle pieces with the ball. Each time they hit one of their team’s pieces, that piece is removed from the wall and fit into their puzzle. The entire class will say the verse before each child takes a turn.

Game continues until one team has completed their puzzle, or as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? He thinks about God.
7. What is are “the watches of the night?” In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? For years Andy did not want to think about God at all; but when finally he did turn to the Lord, it was what he wanted to do, most of all. He showed that God’s love was better than life by risking his life, over and again, so that others might have Bible’s so that they could think about God, praise His and have their hearts satisfied by Him, too.

Life Application
1. When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something, God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*

   

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? *That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.*

**Gospel Question**

What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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 the song.
**Word Take Away**

**Song Game**

**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

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

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
1. What does “Thou” mean? Old English word for “you,” often used to show respect to God.
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He’s talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on— or think about—in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people’s hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.
4. What does “naught” mean? Another word for “nothing.”
5. What does “naught be all else to me, save that Thou art”? There is nothing else that means as much to him as the Lord.
6. What does it mean that God is his “best thought, by day or by night”? God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.
7. What does mean for God’s presence to be his light? Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Think about Him?
God’s people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. By day or by night, they keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? After years of not wanting to think about God, when Andy did become a Christian, thinking about the Lord became his “best thoughts.” When Andy found out about Christians in Eastern Europe who had few if any Bibles, he wanted to risk his life so that they, too, could have Bibles to be able to think about the Lord. Just like he knew for himself, he knew that for them, thinking about the Lord, loving and obeying Him, would be the best thing they could think about, too.

Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my
Scripture Verse Connection, continued
mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."
God’s love means more to God’s people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life. That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions
1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for being so wonderful to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about Him.
2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?
Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our hearts. Many times we want to do things our way instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.
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. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to think of Him and love Him, and be with us, by day or by night.

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**Word Take Away**

Song Game

**Materials**
None

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

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

Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.
## Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books

### 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
Crossing the border with his car full of Bibles and Christian books

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

| Where? | On the border of Eastern Europe |
| Who? | Andy |
| Did What? | Spent time with God, asking Him for guidance and praying for help before Crossing the border with his car full of Bibles and Christian books |
| Why? | Because he knew he must rely upon God to get them safely across into Eastern Europe |

### 3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him. Andy thought about God in prayer and in reading the Bible every day. He loved God and he sought God’s help to get the Bibles past the guard and into Eastern Europe.

### 4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
God wants His people today to think about Him in prayer and in reading the Bible each day. He will help them do whatever He calls them to do.
Big Idea Craft Instructions

Crossing the Border with a Car Full of Bibles and Christian Books

Description
The children will make a scene of border crossing guard and his car with a flap that lifts up and reveals Bibles.

Materials
1 picture of Guard and Andy’s car per craft
Book pictures
Scissors
Pencils, Markers and colored pencils
1 Lunch sized plastic bag per craft
Clear tape

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out pictures of guard and car onto cardstock, 1 per craft.
2. Print out a page of rectangles per craft. Cut out around them, if desired, for youngest children. These will become books.
3. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children use markers to decorate the picture and the books, adding details to the books, like the word “Bible” or pictures, etc. (probably best to use pencils to add words)
3. Fold the books in the middle to give a book-like appearance.
4. Cut out around the sides and bottom of the trunk of the car, leaving the top section in place. You may want to do this for the children, especially the younger children. If desired, you can even cut around the trunk as a preparation step ahead of time.
5. Turn the picture over and tape the edges of the plastic bag in place around the trunk opening.
6. Have the children put their books in the pouch by opening the flap from the front side.
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 Think about Him. God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God's people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God's Word, the Bible. All through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God's people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don't feel like spending time with God. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day, for they know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him.

They know that God uses the time they spend with Him to strengthen their faith in Him, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

We thought about Psalm 63:2-4: "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."

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

A) Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
B) Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word.
C) Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
D) Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

Yours Sincerely,
VIPP Game

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

Preparing the Game
Put one of eight pictures in each of the envelopes.
Fill in the clue sheets for the VIPPs you are using. If desired, use a photocopier to reduce down the size of
each clue sheet to a smaller size for easier use. Put the clue sheets for the VIPPS in a bag, except for the
sheets with the names and pictures. Mix up.
Place the envelopes in the basket, a good shooting distance from where the child at the head of the line
will stand.

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

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

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

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

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

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

______ Children arrive

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
</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 interested details from the text. Practice story. Do not just read it!
Do not let it run more than 15 minutes.
### Session Schedule and Planning Sheet

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

**Snack and Discussion Time**

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

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

2. ________________________________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________________________________

4. ________________________________________________________________________

5. ________________________________________________________________________

6. ________________________________________________________________________

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

**Activity Time**

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

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

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

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

Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
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 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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: Forgetting in Five   Exodus 14-15
- Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery
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

Blue sugar-free jello “bitter water” with pretzel or graham cracker stick “wood” like what the Lord gave Moses to make the waters sweet at Marah

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word.

T Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

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: Bean Bag in the Hole

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

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

Choosing Activities Refresher:
Introduction pp. 22-41

ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp. 24-25

Drama Refresher:
Introduction pp. 23-25
Appendix B

Story Review Game Refresher:
Introduction pp. 35-36
Appendix C
## Week 3 Lesson Plan

### Discussion and Activity Time, continued

### Big Idea Game: Silly 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: Parting the Red Sea

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

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

### VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Stop and Go

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

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

### Scripture Verse Game: Verse Hi-Lo

**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: Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4**

**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  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: Be Thou My Vision: 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, pp.73-74
- Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
  - Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
  - Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
  - Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Activity Presentations

Drama
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

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

Big Idea Craft
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

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

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

Scripture Song
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
**WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN**

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

**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 69 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 69 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: Forgetting in Five**  Exodus 14-15
- 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

- 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

Blue sugar-free jello “bitter water” with pretzel or graham cracker stick “wood” like what the Lord gave Moses to make the waters sweet at Marah

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C  Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word

T  Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.
After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

**Group 1 Activities**

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

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

**Activities:**
- Act out story all together

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

**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
Activity Time, continued

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

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)

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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)

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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**
Forgetting in Five
Exodus 14-15
by Connie Dever

Story

Our story today takes place about 3500 years ago in the desert wilderness, east and south of Egypt.

“What have we done?” exclaimed Pharaoh to his officials. “How could we have been so foolish as to let those Israelite slaves go? Who will build my grand buildings now? We cannot let them get away so easily. Make ready my chariot! Make ready my army!” he ordered. “We will go after them and bring them back!”

Quickly Pharaoh and his men gathered together and were ready to set out. How splendid and fierce did their beautifully painted chariots and spirited horses in their brightly colored finery look! How formidable did those rows and rows of Egyptian soldiers look! “Forward, men! Off to the eastern wilderness and to capture our slaves!” he ordered, and suddenly the air was filled with the thundering sound of foot soldiers, chariots and galloping horses.

While Pharaoh and his men made steady progress across the wilderness, the Israelites—a two days’ walk ahead—were settled into their camping spot for the night, right by the shores of the Red Sea, near Pi Hahiroth. What a wonderful couple of days it had been! At last they were free from their Egyptian taskmasters! No more bricks to make, no more buildings to build, no more whips to bear on their backs. The Lord had been their mighty deliverer. He had saved their lives by miracles so great that no one would have even dreamed possible. Who had ever heard of a God who sent plagues upon His people’s enemies? Or who led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night? Or promised a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? How sweet were their thoughts of the Lord that evening!

But for how long would the people keep thinking about the LORD? I am sad to say, that they stopped thinking of Him only two days after He delivered them from the Egyptians! For as soon as the Israelites looked up and saw Pharaoh and his army quickly approaching, they became terrified and seemed to forget what He was like and what He had done for them.

They cried out to the Lord and to Moses, not in a trusting faith for deliverance, but bitter anger: "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ’Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Moses urged the Israelites to think about the Lord as they should. The Lord had been their mighty deliverer. He had saved their lives by miracles so great that no one would have even dreamed possible. Who had ever heard of a God who sent plagues upon His people’s enemies? Or who led His people with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night? Or promised a land flowing with milk and honey to His people?

"Do not be afraid,” Moses told them. “Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” (Exodus 14;11-13, NIV)
The LORD told Moses: “Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” Then, the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them; and, the pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind until the waters were completely divided. On a path of dry ground, the Israelites safely crossed the sea, with a towering wall of sea water on each side.

But it was a completely different story for all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen who followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving.

"Let’s get away from the Israelites!” the Egyptians cried. “The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” But it was too late.

"Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen,” the LORD commanded Moses. As the sun began to rise in the east, the Israelites watched as the walls of water were released and fell back into place, swallowing up the entire Egyptian army in its swirling waters.

When the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

“Who is like our God, who hurls both horse and rider into the sea? The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him…Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling…” (Exodus 15:11-13)

Once more the Lord had been their mighty deliverer. Once more He had saved their lives by miracles so great that no one would have even dreamed possible. Who had ever heard of a God who parted seas for His people? Or promised a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? How sweet were their thoughts of the Lord that evening!

But for how long would the people keep thinking about the Lord? I am sad to say, that they stopped thinking of Him only three days after He delivered them from the Egyptians!

Drip, drip, drip. The last few drops of water trickled out of the sheep’s bladder water bottles the Israelites had carried with them from Egypt. This was not good news, for the last time anyone had spotted water was three days ago at the Red Sea. Now, out in the hard, sun-baked, barren wilderness, there seemed to be no water to be found.

“Hey, look over there, in the distance! Aren’t those palm trees and grasses?” someone shouted.

“Why, yes, those are! It must be an oasis!” someone else confirmed.
In excited relief, the Israelites headed straight for the little oasis and the water it promised. Some plunged their water bottles into the spring while others used their hands and brought overflowing handfuls of sparkling water to their dry mouths.

But halfway into the first swallow, the Israelites began coughing and choking. “Bleeack! This water’s no good! It’s bitter!” they exclaimed. “We can’t drink it!”

Once more the Israelites were in a seemingly impossible situation. They needed water soon or they would die; yet, there was none to be found. What would they do? The Lord had been their might deliverer. He had saved their lives by miracles so great that no one would have even dreamed possible. Who had ever heard of a God who parted seas for His people? Or promised a land flowing with milk and honey to His people? Couldn’t He provide water for them? They should have thought about Him and all the mighty wonders He had done for them in other impossible situations. They should have cried out to Him in faith, but I am sad to say that only five days after being freed from Egypt and two days after the Red Sea being parted, they once more decided to simply forget Him.

“What are we to drink?” they bitterly grumbled. How terrible the Israelites were to the Lord! Oh, but how merciful and patient He was to them! As soon as Moses cried out to Him about the water, the LORD showed Moses a tree with special bark that he could throw into the water and make it sweet.

Once more the LORD had delivered them. What a shame that they could not keep thinking about Him as they should.

“Listen to me!” The LORD told the people through Moses, “Think about Me and do what is right. Keep all the good laws I am giving you. If you do, I will not bring on you any of the diseases you saw Me bring on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you,” He promised them. He was their mighty deliverer. They were His people. He wanted to bless them, but they would need to keep thinking about Him and obeying Him. This would be a hard, slow lesson for these stubborn-hearted people He loved.

Having made His point yet again with the bitter spring at Marah, now the Lord showed them also showed them once more how richly He would supply for their every need. He led them to the lush, palm-tree shaded oasis of Elim, where there was not just one spring of water, but twelve. And there He had them camp until they were refreshed.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him]
Our Scripture Verse is: Psalm 63:2-4

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

How quick the Israelites were to forget who the Lord was! It only took five days! Perhaps it is easy to think that we would be different, if it had been us who witnessed the Lord’s ten plagues upon Egypt, or the parting of the Red Sea and the destruction of the Egyptians; but are the hearts of Gods people today really that different from the Israelites? I am sad to say that they are not! Many times even today, God’s
people are all too quick to stop thinking about the Lord when hard things happen to them. And in some ways, what they do is even worse than what the Israelites did. For while the Israelites forgot to remember the amazing way that the Lord delivered them from the Egyptians, God’s people today are too quick to forget the even more amazing way that the Lord has delivered them from sin and death through Jesus’ death on the cross?

What about you and me? We have heard about God’s mighty faithful to His people long ago. We have heard how we can become God’s people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus. What will we do? Will we forget about God or will we think about Him? Will we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus? Will we ask Him to help us to think about Him as we go through every day of life He gives us? Let’s pray right now that He will. Let’s praise God for His great mercy and patience with His stubborn, forgetful people. Let’s pray that by His Holy Spirit, God would help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Let’s ask Him to help us to think about Him more and more. Let’s pray that when we are faced with difficult—even seemingly impossible—situations that He would help us to remember His powerful deliverance and to cry out in faith that He would rescue us.
1. Pharaoh re-thinks freeing the Israelite slaves. He orders his officials ready his army ready to go after them.
2. The Israelites, rejoicing in the freedom the Lord has given them, set up camp next to the Red Sea.
3. As they see the Egyptians coming after them, they quickly forget the Lord and cry out in anger.
4. The Lord has Moses to stretch out his hand over the Sea. The angel of the Lord and the pillar of fire keep the Egyptians away, while the Lord pushes back the Red Sea and sends a east wind to dry the ground.
5. The Israelites pass through the Red Sea safely. The Egyptians follow them, but the Lord destroys them in the Red Sea after the Israelites has passed thro’ safely.
6. The Israelites rejoice in the Lord again.
7. Three days later, the Israelites are thirsty in the desert and out of water. They come to an oasis, hopeful that they have found water at last.
8. When the water is bitter and undrinkable, the Israelites once more forget the Lord. They grumble against Him and Moses.
9. The Lord once more has mercy on them. He shows Moses wood of a tree that he can throw in and make the water sweet.
10. The Lord tells the Israelites to keep thinking about Him and His commands. If they do, they can be assured He will take care of them and not bring the plagues on them that He brought on the Egyptians.
11. He then leads them to Elim, where there are 12 springs of good water and lots of palm trees.
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 3500 years ago
Where? In the wilderness, southeast of Egypt
What’s It Like? Desert with only small, scruffy bushes and grasses; once past the Red Sea, there is little water or shade, except at the occasional oasis, where springs flow up from the ground, bringing water for people and for palm trees and other plants.

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
Pharaoh & his army
Chariots and horses
Pharaoh’s officials
Israelites
Red Sea
Moses
Angel of the Lord
Pillar of fire
Mighty wind from the east
Walls of water
Desert wilderness
Water bottles
Bitter water of Marah
Piece of wood
Palm trees, 12 springs of Elim oasis

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Think about Him. The Israelites had plenty things about the Lord to think about to give them hope in seemingly impossible situations, but each time they chose to forget the Lord, stop trusting Him and grumble.

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
Our Story is called: Lots to Think about, but Choosing to Forget

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
Beginning:
Pharaoh re-thinks freeing the Israelite slaves. He orders his officials ready his army ready to go after them. The Israelites, rejoicing in the freedom the Lord has given them, set up camp next to the Red Sea.

Middle:
As they see the Egyptians coming after them, they quickly forget the Lord and cry out in anger. The Lord has Moses to stretch out his hand over the Sea. The angel of the Lord and the pillar of fire keep the Egyptians away, while the Lord pushes back the Red Sea and sends a east wind to dry the ground.

The Israelites pass through the Red Sea safely. The Egyptians follow them, but the Lord destroys them in the Red Sea after the Israelites has passed thro’ safely. The Israelites rejoice in the Lord again.

End:
Three days later, the Israelites are thirsty in the desert and out of water. They come to an oasis, hopeful that they have found water at last. When the water is bitter and undrinkable, the Israelites once more forget the Lord. They grumble against Him and Moses. The Lord once more has mercy on them. He shows Moses wood of a tree that he can throw in and make the water sweet. The Lord tells the Israelites to keep thinking about Him and His commands. If they do, they can be assured He will take care of them and not bring the plagues on them that He brought on the Egyptians. He then leads them to Elim, where there are 12 springs of good water and lots of palm trees.
### ACT-IT-OUT SHEET WEEK 3 - OPTIONAL KINDERGARTEN FORMAT

**Beginning:**
Pharaoh re-thinks freeing the Israelite slaves. He orders his officials ready his army ready to go after them. The Israelites, rejoicing in the freedom the Lord has given them, set up camp next to the Red Sea.

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**Middle:**
As they see the Egyptians coming after them, they quickly forget the Lord and cry out in anger. The Lord has Moses to stretch out his hand over the Sea. The angel of the Lord and the pillar of fire keep the Egyptians away, while the Lord pushes back the Red Sea and sends a east wind to dry the ground. The Israelites pass through the Red Sea safely. The Egyptians follow them, but the Lord destroys them in the Red Sea after the Israelites has passed thro’ safely. The Israelites rejoice in the Lord again.

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**End:**
Three days later, the Israelites are thirsty in the desert and out of water. They come to an oasis, hopeful that they have found water at last. When the water is bitter and undrinkable, the Israelites once more forget the Lord. They grumble against Him and Moses. The Lord once more has mercy on them. He shows Moses wood of a tree that he can throw in and make the water sweet. The Lord tells the Israelites to keep thinking about Him and His commands. If they do, they can be assured He will take care of them and not bring the plagues on them that He brought on the Egyptians. He then leads them to Elim, where there are 12 springs of good water and lots of palm trees.

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1. What did the Pharaoh regret doing? Releasing the Israelite slaves.

2. What were the Israelites thinking about as they enjoyed their first two days of freedom? They rejoiced in the Lord. They thought about the land He promised to them.

3. Where did the Israelites camp on their second night? Next to the Red Sea.

4. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians coming towards them? They did not remember the Lord’s great works on their behalf. They got angry and accused Moses of bringing them out to the wilderness to die.

5. What could the Israelites have done when they saw the Egyptian soldiers? They could have remembered the Lord’s great works on their behalf and cried out in faith to Him, believing that somehow He would rescue them.

6. What did the Lord do to rescue the Israelites? He had the angel of the Lord and the pillar of fire be between the Egyptians and them so they could not be found. He parted the Red Sea, into 2 great walls of water and sent a strong wind from the east to dry up the sea bed so they wouldn’t even have to walk through mud!

7. What happened to the Egyptian soldiers? They were destroyed when the waters of the Red Sea came down upon them.

8. What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptians were destroyed? They rejoiced in the Lord again, proclaiming as the God unlike all others.

9. What happened to the Israelites in the desert that worried them? They had run out of water and had seen no water for 3 days, since the Red Sea.

10. What did the Israelites do when they found out that the water of the first oasis were bitter and undrinkable? They grumbled and did not trust the Lord.

11. What should they have done? They should have remembered the Lord’s great deliverances on their behalf and His promises to take care of them, and cried out to Him in faith.

12. What did the Lord do to make the water sweet? Showed Moses wood to throw in the water.

13. What did the Lord tell the Israelites He wanted them to do? He wanted them to think about Him and remember His laws. He wanted them to obey Him. If they did, He would take care of them and not send plagues on them, like the Egyptians.

14. Where did the Lord take the Israelites in the end? Why? He took them to Elim, the wonderful oasis with 12 springs of water and lots of palm trees. He was showing them that they should keep thinking about Him. They should always trust Him. He would take care of them.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? The Israelites had plenty things about the Lord to think about to give them hope in seemingly impossible situations, but each time they chose to forget the Lord, stop trusting Him and grumble.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4

“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Over and over again the Israelites chose to NOT think about God. When faced with dangers they chose NOT to glorify Him or think that His love was better than life, even though He had shown Himself to be their faithful, loving God through many amazing miracles.
Life Application
How are God’s people today like the Israelites? They are sinners who all too quickly forget to think about the Lord and all He has done for them when they are in seemingly impossible situations.

Who can help God’s people today to help them think about God? God can help them! He can work in their hearts by His Holy Spirit, that they would think about & trust Him, not forget Him & grumble.

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

The Gospel
God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but He has provided a way to rescue us from slavery to sin and death. How has He done this? 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 Patient with His sinful people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that we, like the Israelites forget God and do things our own way instead of His good way. We need Him to save us through Jesus!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for always being able to help His people, no matter what they go through. They can always count on Him to be able to do His good and perfect will for them. They never need to fear.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to think about and trust Him, even in impossible looking situations.

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
Paper and pencil
Markers
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions
Beanbag
2’ by 2’ piece of cardboard
Tape

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

Bend back about 3” along 2 opposite sides of the cardboard. Cut 3 to 5 holes in the main part of the cardboard that are just large enough for the beanbag to be thrown in easily. Use the tape along the top and bottom to hold back in place the bend sides of the cardboard, making a stand for the target. Use the markers to write point values for each hole in the target.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turns tossing the beanbag at the target board. Each child gets three chances to get the beanbag in a hole. If he does, the leader reads a question to the child/team. A correct answer is worth as many points as is indicated on the target hole. If answered incorrectly, the question goes to the other team who can get half the point value for a correct answer.

Play continues until everyone has had a chance to bowl, or as time and attention span allow.

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

Understanding the Big Idea
1. With what daily needs did God make our bodies? Food, exercise, sleep.
2. What happens if we take care of the daily needs of our bodies? Our bodies will stay strong.
3. With what daily needs did God make our hearts? Special time to pray and hear God’s Word, the Bible.
4. What does God want us to do the rest of the day? Keep thinking about Him and how we can best please Him in whatever we are doing.
5. Why do God’s people sometimes find it hard to spend time with God each day? They get very busy, they are lazy or they just don’t feel like it.
6. Who do God’s people ask to help them spend time with God and to think about Him? They ask God to help them.
7. Why do God’s people want to spend time and think about God even when they don’t feel like it? Because they know that God uses those times to strengthen them in their faith in God, their love for Him and their cheerful obedience to Him.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. How could thinking about God have helped the Israelites in their difficult situations? They could have remembered all the plagues He sent upon the Egyptians to free them from slavery. They would have remembered His promises to make them His treasured people and bring them into the Promised Land.
2. Why do you think the Israelites were so quick to forget the Lord? Because they had sinful hearts—just like us. Sinful hearts always tend to forget God and not trust Him. That is why they—and we—need to keep thinking about God each day. That is how we remind ourselves what He is like and how we should always trust Him, even in seemingly impossible situations.

Life Application Questions
1. What difference will it make if God’s people today take time each day to think about God by praying and reading His Word? He will strengthen their faith in Him and their love for Him. He will guide them in what He wants them to do and prepare their hearts to react to even difficult situations the way He wants them to.
2. Should we take time to think about God by praying and reading His Word, even when we don’t feel like it? Why? Yes. Because we are sinful people, there are many times that we may not feel like wanting to think about God. Every day is the right day to spend special time with God, no matter how much we don’t feel like it.
3. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take in knowing, loving and obeying Him? To turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Psalm 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”
This verse reminds us that God’s people delight to think about God. They cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night. This is because they know that He loves them so much and because there is no one more wonderful than God.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day. Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
- CD and CD player
- 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 D 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. 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!!!) when you play the music. But when the music stops, they and their partner are to grab hands and sit down as quickly as possibly. The last pair to sit down become the question choosers for the class. If the class answers it correctly, then the pair is added back into the group immediately. If not, then the pair stays out until another round when a correct answer is given to a question. (Feel free to add back incorrectly answered questions into the bag).

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 63:2-4
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to chose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? He thinks about God.
7. What is are “the watches of the night?” In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? The Psalmist delights to think about God. He cannot think of anything better than thinking about God and praising Him, whether it is during the day or during the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Over and over again the Israelites chose to NOT think about God. When faced with dangers they chose NOT to glorify Him or think that His love was better than life, even though He had shown Himself to be their faithful, loving God through many amazing miracles.

Life Application
When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.
ACTS Questions, continued

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
*We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.*

Gospel Question

What has God done for sinners that they might know His love and be forever satisfied with His 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!*  

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.
VERSE Hi-Lo
Scripture Verse  Game

Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
A long pieces of rope

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

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

Playing the Game
Have the children line up in a straight line behind the leader. Explain to them that they will recite the Scripture Verse and then have a chance to see how high they can jump. After each round, the rope will be raised a little higher. Jump across. For caution sake, don’t raise it so high that most children will likely trip. One foot high is a good stopping height. Help younger children by holding one of their hands while they jump over. If a child can’t make it over, he can answer one of the questions about the verse you prepared to get another chance to jump.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Your Love Is Better than Life: Psalm 63:2-4

Because your love is better than life,
My lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
And in your name I will lift up my hands,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life,
Because your love is better than life.

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Scripture
1. Whose love is better than life? What does that mean? God’s love. To know God is better than anything else in life. If we have to choose between knowing God’s love or living, it would be better to choose knowing God’s love.
2. What is the Psalmist planning to do? To glorify God with his lips; praise Him all his life; lift up his hands in God’s name.
3. What does he mean by lifting up his hands in God’s name? The Jews often lifted up their hands when they were praying to God, instead of folding them like we do. He is planning to praise God and pray to Him.
4. What does thinking about God do for the Psalmist? Fills up and satisfies his heart that is hungry to know God so much that it is like a feast.
5. What else does he do with his lips? He sings songs of praise to the Lord.
6. What does he do while he is in bed, and still awake? He thinks about God.
7. What is are “the watches of the night?” In Bible times, guards stood watch over the city in three shifts, so make sure no enemies attacked the city. If they wanted to say that they thought about something all night long, they could say that they thought about it through the watches of the night.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Over and over again the Israelites chose to NOT think about God. When faced with dangers they chose NOT to glorify Him or think that His love was better than life, even though He had shown Himself to be their faithful, loving God through many amazing miracles.

Life Application
1. When might God’s people think about God through the watches of the night, instead of sleep? Why would this be good? When they are in some kind of difficulty, like being sick or worried about something. God is the best one to think about when we are having a problem. We know that He is all-powerful and is always able to help us, no matter what the problem.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? *Praise God for being so wonderful that His love is better than life.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
   *That many times we think many other things in life are better than His love. We like to do things our ways. We would rather do other things than spend time with Him.*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
   *We can thank God for promising to satisfy His people with His love. We can thank Him for always being with them, even in the middle of the night when they are all alone or tempted to worry about things.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
   *We can ask God to give us hearts that think about Him and long to be satisfied by His wonderful love, the way He created us to be. We can ask Him to help us to remember Him all day and all night.*

**Gospel Question**

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

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

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

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
Be Thou My Vision

Verse 1
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Understanding the Song
1. What does “Thou” mean? *Old English word for “you,” often used to show respect to God.*
2. What does it mean to want God to be your vision? *We think of vision as what you see or focus on with your eyes.. This person is not talking about what he sees with his eyes. He’s talking about what he thinks about in his heart. The vision of your heart is what you focus on –or think about– in your heart. If God is the vision of your heart, He is the one you think about most of all.*
3. What does it mean for God to be the Lord of your heart? *A Lord is like a king. A king rules over his kingdom. His people serve him and he tells them what he wants them to do and they try to do it. God is the Lord of His people’s hearts. They serve Him. He tells them what He wants them to do and they try to do it.*
4. What does “naught” mean? *Another word for “nothing.”*
5. What does “naught be all else to me, save that Thou art”? *There is nothing else that means as much to him as the Lord.*
6. What does it mean that God is his “best thought, by day or by night”? *God is the best thing of everything that he can think about, day or night—anytime.*
7. What does mean for God’s presence to be his light? *Not that God is like a night light so that he will never have to be in the dark. It means that God is always with him. He is always guiding him in what he should do, just like a light shines in a dark room and lets you see where you should go.*

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Think about Him? *God’s people want God to be their vision—the one they think about most of all, the one who is the best thing they can think of. By day or by night, they keep thinking about Him, both in a special time of praying and reading and all through the rest of the day and night. They think about Him and know He is with them. His presence guides them, like a light in darkness.*

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? *The Lord freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt in amazing ways. When they faced other troubles, they should have kept thinking about all the Lord had done for them. If they had loved Him above all other things, if they had kept thinking about Him as their best thought, by day or by night, then they would have had the strength to keep trusting Him, even in seemingly impossible situations.*

Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: *Psalm 63:2-4*
“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my
Scripture Verse Connection, continued
mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."
God’s love means more to God’s people than anything else. That is why they think His love is better than life.
That is why their souls are satisfied with Him. They want to praise Him as long as they live. They want to praise
Him by day or even in the watches of the night.

Life Application Questions
1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? We can praise God for being so wonderful
to think about that He truly is the very best thing we can think about. We can ask Him to be the Lord of
our hearts. We can ask Him to work in our hearts a desire for Him to be the one we truly think of as our
best thought, by day or by night. We can ask Him to help us spend special time each day thinking about
Him.
2. What is the first step God calls us and all people to take to know, love and obey God? To turn away from
our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? 
Praise God for being the Lord of the hearts of His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not want God to be the Lord of our hearts. Many times we want to do things our way
instead of His. We are sinners in need of a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for always being with His people by day or by night. They know He can comfort them with
thoughts of Him at anything. They are never alone.
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. That God would be the Lord of our hearts and that He would help us to think of Him and love Him, and
be with us, by day or by night.

Gospel Question
Why do God’s people call God their best thought by day or by night? Because of all He has done for them.
What is this amazing good news of God’s love? How can we know it ourselves? 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.
**Song Game**

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

**Preparing the Game**
None.

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

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

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

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
Big Idea-Craft Connection Guide

Parting the Red Sea

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
   Parting the Red Sea

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
   Where? In the Wilderness
   Who? The thirsty Israelites
   Did What? grumbled about the bitter water instead of remembering how God delivered them by
   With the Big Idea Object? Parting the Red Sea
   Why? Because they stopped thinking about who their God was and looked only at how impossible things looked.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
   Our Big Idea is: God’s People Think about Him. The Israelites had every reason to trust that God could take care of their need for water if they would only think about all that He had already done to deliver them.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
   God wants His people today to think about how He has taken care of them in the past and trust Him instead of worry or grumble about whatever hard things they are going through. He took care of them before. He can take care of them now.
**Parting the Red Sea**

**Description**
The children will make a picture of the Israelites crossing the parted Red Sea using craft sand, markers and little stand up people.

**Materials**
Cardstock  
Natural colored craft sand  
Craft Glue  
Markers or colored pencils  
Scissors  
Empty paper towel/toilet paper rolls  
Cookie sheets or plates, if desired

**Preparing the Craft**
1. Print out 1 copy of the Red Sea backdrop and the standup people per child onto cardstock.  
2. For youngest children, cut out around each pair of stand up figures, using the rectangle edges as a guide.  
3. Set out markers.

**Making the Craft**
1. Show children your sample.  
2. Have the children color with blue markers the outer two areas of the Red Sea background and color in the figures as desired.  
3. Have them cut along the dashed lines on both sides. These sides will resemble fringe when finished.  
4. Using the paper towel/toilet paper roll, curl up the fringed sides until they stand up in a curl like waves.  
5. Have the children add glue to the middle, uncurled section of the background. Sprinkle sand on top of glue, letting excess fall off onto a plate or cookie sheet.  
6. Fold the figures in the middle and stand up in place on the sand.
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 Think about Him. God made our bodies with daily needs. Each day our bodies need food, exercise, and sleep. Our bodies stay strong when we take care of them each day. God made our hearts with daily needs, too. God made us to need time with Him each day to stay close to Him, and to grow in knowing and loving Him. God’s people know this. They try to take special time out each day to pray to God and read God’s Word, the Bible. All through the rest of the day, they keep thinking about Him and how they can best please Him in whatever they are doing. Sometimes God’s people find it hard to spend time with God each day. Sometimes it is because they get very busy, or because they are lazy, or they just don’t feel like spending time with God. They ask God to help them spend time with Him and to think about Him each day, for they know that no matter how they feel or how busy they are, it is still very important to keep thinking about God and keep spending time with Him.

We thought about Psalm 63:2-4 “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

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

A Praise God for being perfectly Good. He is so wonderfully worthy of all our thoughts.

C Confess that many times we choose to not think about God each day. We choose not to read His Word.

T Thank God for giving us His Word and for being able to pray to Him. Thank God for giving us these ways to strengthen our faith in Him, grow our love for Him and cheerfully obey Him.

S Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to help us to have a special time each day to think about Him, and to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day.

Ask Him to use our time reading His Word and in praying to Him to know, love and obey Him more.

Ask Him to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day.

Yours Sincerely, ____________________________________________

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Ask Him to help us to keep thinking about Him throughout the rest of the day.

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

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

**Playing the Game**

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

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

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

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