Big Idea 72
God’s People Suffer According to His Plan
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 72 Overview**

**Unit 12 Big Question:** “How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!”

**Unit 12 Scripture Verse:** “Live a life of love just as Christ loved you.” Ephesians 5:2

**Big Idea Concept: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan**

God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use them to make God’s people holy. By His Holy Spirit, God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives. Best of all, God promises that they will rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back. God’s people do not like to suffer. Many times they do not understand why they suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They praise God for His wisdom and mercy in allowing far less suffering in their lives than they deserve. They trust His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the sufferings He has and in His power to help them through these sufferings. They rejoice in knowing He will use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. They also look forward to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

**Scripture Verse**

_Meditation Version: 1 Peter 1:6-7_

“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

_Shortened Memory/Games Version: 1 Peter 1:6-7_

“…you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

**Stories**

<table>
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<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Consider My Servant Iobi</th>
<th>The Book of Job</th>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>“Away with the Atheists!”</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Suffering Only According to God’s Plan</td>
<td>Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33</td>
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**Big Idea ACTS Prayer**

_A_ Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His People’s sufferings.

_C_ Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him and His good plans.

_T_ Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.

_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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

**Songs**

_Hymn_  How Firm a Foundation vs.3-4

_Scripture Song_  For a Little While  1 Peter 1:6-7
Big Idea Concept
God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use them to make God’s people holy. By His Holy Spirit, God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives. Best of all, God promises that they will rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back. God’s people do not like to suffer. Many times they do not understand why they suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They praise God for His wisdom and mercy in allowing far less suffering in their lives than they deserve. They trust His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the sufferings He has and in His power to help them through these sufferings. They rejoice in knowing He will use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. They also look forward to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

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Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
The Story of Job
Book of Job
Paul’s Sufferings Planned and Controlled by God
Acts 9,18, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Leading Little Ones to God #63: God’s Children Suffer

Songs
Hymn: How Firm a Foundation, Verse 2
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Hymn Connection: God’s people may go through very hard, “fiery” trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are “staid” on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to “consume their dross”—make them holy—and bring glory to His name.

Scripture Song: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7
The Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs
Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: This song reminds us that God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.
For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith, May be proved genuine, Be proved genuine. Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold, Which perishes though refined by fire. Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold, Which perishes though refined by fire. For a little while you may have had suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith may result in praise, glory and honor. Adapted from 1 Peter 1:6-7

Word: John Rippon's Selection of Hymns
Music: Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music
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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIG IDEA 72 - KEY CONCEPTS USED IN ECHO CHAMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WoGoLOA Rules</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Unit Big Question</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Big Idea Concept</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activities for Each of the 3 Weeks Spent on a Big Idea Concept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity</strong></td>
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ALL OF THE RESOURCES YOU NEED ARE FOUND IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW THIS SCHEDULE
How to do the singing portion:
• Sing/listen to the song through once without actions.
• Choose a movement (from the Movement Grab Bag, if using one) for the class to do while singing the song through once/twice more. Make this an aerobic activity to help get the wiggles out!
• Music for the WoGoLOA Chant is always the first song on each CD of the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs. The music for the Big Question and Unit Scripture Verse songs are always the first two songs of the music for each unit, also found on the Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs CDs.

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

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

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

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

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WO GO LOA RULES
**WOGOLOA RULES CHANT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**... Love One Another!**
- ...1-2-3
- ...kind
- ...couraging
- ...others!
How should God’s people live each day?
They should live like Jesus!

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

Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question Song

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

**Four Movement Ideas for the Scripture Song**
Add clapping, stomping, or one of these movement ideas after the children have learned the song.

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

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

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

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

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Live a life of love, live a life of love, live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Ephesians Five, twelve. O-le!
God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan.

God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use them to make God's people holy.

By His Holy Spirit, God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives.

Best of all, God promises that they will rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back.

God’s people do not like to suffer. Many times they do not understand why they suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer.

They praise God for His wisdom and mercy in allowing far less suffering in their lives than they deserve. They trust His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the sufferings He has and in His power to help them through these sufferings. They rejoice in knowing He will use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. They also look forward to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.
Meditation Version: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Shortened Memory/Games Version: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
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)
For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials.
These have come that your faith,
May be proved genuine,
Be proved genuine.
Faith! Faith!
Which is of greater worth than gold,
Which perishes though refined by fire.
Faith! Faith!
Which is of greater worth than gold,
Which perishes though refined by fire.
For a little while you may have had suffered grief in all kinds of trials.
These have come that your faith may result in praise, glory and honor,
Faith! Faith!
Which is greater worth than gold
Which perishes though refined by fire.
Faith! Faith!
Which is of greater worth than gold,
Which perishes though refined by fire.
Big Idea References   Big Idea #72
For a Little While

adapted from 1 Peter 1:6-7

For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith may be proved genuine, be proved genuine. Faith! Faith! which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire. For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come that your faith may result in praise, glory and honor. Faith! Faith! which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire.
Faith! Faith! which is of greater worth than gold which perish-es, though re-fined by fire.
Little
Rub the right index finger and thumb together.

While
Make a circle with the right T hand, palm facing forward, on the left flat hand, palm facing right and fingers pointing up.

You
Point the right index finger forward.

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

Grief, Trials
Rotate both flat hands, palms toward body, in front of the head in opposite directions.

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

Kinds
With right K hand, make a circle around left K hand.

These
Point the right index finger forward and then move finger to the right.

Come
With both index fingers pointed toward each other rotate them in circles and bring them toward the body.
Your: Move the flat right hand straight out, as if towards another person.

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

Proved: Place the right upturned hand in the left upturned hand.

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

Worth: Bring F hands up to the chest together while turning the hands from palms up to palms down.

Gold: Pinch right ear, then bring hand down while changing hand to a Y position, palm down.

Perishes: Place left hand, palm down, and right hand palm up, in front of the body. Rotate hands to the left so that left hand is up and right hand is down.

Though: Start with both curved hands, left hand just above the right hand. Then move the left hand up and the right hand down.

Refined: Slide the right P hand from wrist to fingertips of the left upturned hand.
For a Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7
Continued

**By**
Slide the little finger side of the right hand through the index finger and middle finger of the left hand.

**Fire**
Place open hands, palms toward the body. Move hands up and down while shaking the fingers.

**Result**
Slide the downturned R hands along and down off of the index finger edge of the left flat hand, palm facing right.

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

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

**Honor**
Hold H hands at head height, the right being slightly higher than the left, palms facing each other. Bring hands down together, towards your forehead and down chest in a slight arc.
How Firm a Foundation

Verse 1
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Verse 2
“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, And cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

Verse 3
“When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4
“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho’ all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

Big Idea References
Big Idea #39: verses 3-4  Big Idea #72: verses 3-4
Big Idea #76: verse 2  Big Idea #79: verse 1

Words  John Rippon’s Selection of Hymns  Music  Joseph Funk’s Genuine Church Music
How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to be thy supply; The flame shall not hurt thee; I only desert to his foes; That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, For I am thy God, and will stand, Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand.

3. When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient shall sign Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

4. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I will not de-

John Rippon's Selection of Hymns
Joseph Funk's Genuine Church Music
How Firm a Foundation, verses 3,4

Verse 3

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

Through
Slide the little finger side of the right hand through the index finger and middle finger of the left hand.

Fiery
Place open hands, palms toward the body. Move hands up and down while shaking the fingers.

Trials
Rotate both flat hands, palms toward body, in front of the head in opposite directions.

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

Grace
Place fingers of right open hand on the right side of the head. Pull hand up while also bringing fingers to close and touch.

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

Sufficient
Make an S hand with left hand, palm facing right. Make 5 hand with right hand. Sweep it over top of left hand and forward a couple of times.

Shall be
Move the right flat hand, palm facing left, from beside the right temple forward and slightly up a short distance to the front.
Supply  
Bring fingers of each hand together, holding them slightly up and facing towards chest. In unison, move both hand forward until horizontal, while opening up hands into flat palms.

Flame, Consume  
Place open hands, palms toward the body. Move hands up and down while shaking the fingers.

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

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

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

Only  
Hold right index finger up and in front of face, palm facing in. Move hand in a counterclockwise direction.

Design  
Hold flat hands with fingers close together, fingers pointing outward, on left side of body about a foot apart. Make up and down wave motion as move hands in unison to the right.

Dross  
Place right hand, palm down and fingers separated, under chin and wiggle fingers.

Gold  
Pinch right ear, then bring hand down while changing hand to a Y position, palm down.
Refine
Slide the right P hand from wrist to fingertips of the left upturned hand.

Verse 4 begins on next page.
Soul
Bring fingertips of the right O hand, palm facing down, from inside the left upturned O hand and raise it up to shoulder level while forming the (right) F hand at the same time.

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

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

Repose
Place the right hand on the inside of the left elbow. Place the left hand on the inside of the right elbow.

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

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

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

Foes
Start with index fingers touching. Pull hands apart. Then move both hands, palms facing and fingers pointing away from the body, down a short distance in front of the body.

All
Rotate flat right hand, palm facing out, around stationary flat left hand palm facing in.
How Firm a Foundation, verses 3,4
Verse 4

**Hell**
Point right index finger down. Then rotate shaking hands, palms up, in circles.

**Endeavor**
Move both S hands palms facing forward with force.

**Shake**
Pretend to be grasping and shaking something with both hands around it.

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

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

**Forsake**
Start with open hands, palms facing and fingers pointing away from the body. Move hands down and to the left or right.
**Session Schedule and Planning Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>____</td>
<td>Arrive no later than this to prepare for session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My preparations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_________________________________________________________</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>
<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>
<td></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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>GROUP sings verse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td>LEADER says concept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td>LEADER says verse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

2. ___________________________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________________________

4. ___________________________________________________________________________

5. ___________________________________________________________________________

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

Activity Time

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

________________________________________________________________________

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

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

Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time

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

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
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 72 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 72 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: Consider My Servant Iobi
- The Book of Job
- Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

Story-telling Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendices A, B
**Week 1 Lesson Plan**

**Discussion and Activity Time**

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

**Snack**

Feastly food, like what Job’s children might have enjoyed at their parties: Bubbly white grape juice and sugar-free fizzy lemon-line drink and assortment of grapes, cheese, bread, figs, olives, hummus, etc. like they might have eaten.

**ACTS Prayer**

- **A** Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His People’s sufferings.
- **C** Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him
- **T** Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.
- **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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

**Drama**

**Activities:**
- Discuss story
- Fill in Speaker Sheets
- Practice Play

**Resources:**
- Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p.20
- Speaker Sheets Appendix B, Drama Group

**Story Review Game: What’s in the Box?**

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

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

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Rush to Safety

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

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

Big Idea Craft: Job’s Trial of Terrible, Itchy Sores

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

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

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Ball Roll Review

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

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

Scripture Verse Game: Balancing Act

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.25-26
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
**Scripture Song: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7**

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

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

**Hymn: How Firm a Foundation: Verses 3-4**

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

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

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

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

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

**Hymn**
Sing Hymn with Sign Language

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Opening Large Group Time

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

Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt

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

Resources:
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 72 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 72 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: Consider My Servant Iobi
  - The Book of Job
  - Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

Story-telling Refresher:
- Introduction pp.23-25
- Appendices A, B
Small Group Activities: Snack and Discussion Time

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

Snack

Feastly food, like what Job’s children might have enjoyed at their parties: Bubbly white grape juice and sugar-free fizzy lemon-line drink and assortment of grapes, cheese, bread, figs, olives, hummus, etc. like they might have eaten.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being so gracious and compassionate that He chose to save sinful people from every people on earth.

C  Confess that many times we do not tell others about salvation through Jesus when we could. Confess that we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too.

T  Thank God for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus. Thank Him for choosing to use His people to tell others this best of news.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to help His people to bravely tell the peoples of the world about salvation through Jesus. Ask God to bring many people to know and love Him.
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: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7

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

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

Scripture Song Refresher:
Introduction pp.33-34
Appendix F
WEEK 1 LESSON PLAN

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

Group 2 Activities

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

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

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

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

Group 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

Big Idea Game Refresher:
Introduction pp. 35-36
Appendix C
Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
Consider My Servant, Iobi  
The Book of Job  
by Connie Dever

Story

No one really knows when this story takes place, but we do know that it was some time, thousands of years ago, in the land of Uz, a flat, dry, treeless lowland, south of the Dead Sea. In the land of Uz there lived a man named Iobi who was very, very, very rich. He wasn’t rich the way we might think of riches: with a mansion, a big car, and lots of money in the bank. He was rich the way people in his land were rich: with animals and servants. The Bible tells us that he owned 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen, 500 donkeys and many, many, many servants. Iobi had more animals than some whole countries did back then! That is how rich he was. But Iobi was blessed in some other even more important ways than his riches. Iobi was a man who was blameless and upright. He feared God (that is, he loved and obeyed Him), and he wanted nothing to do with anything evil. It didn’t mean that he was perfect, but it did mean that he tried always to please God in everything he did. And when he sinned, he confessed his sins to God, turned away from them and asked for God’s forgiveness.

Iobi even tried to make sure that his grown children lived pleasing lives to God, too. Iobi’s children love to throw big parties for each other. His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. After each big party was over, Iobi would send for them and have them purified for any sins they might have committed during the party, by accident. Not only that, but early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job’s regular custom. (Job 1:4-5, NIV)

And because he always tried to love and please God, Iobi had become very, very wise. Everyone asked him to come to the gates of the city to give them advice or help settle arguments. Everyone treated him with the greatest respect. Matter of fact, between all his riches, his love for God, and his great wisdom, Iobi became known as the greatest man in the world back then.

Iobi’s love for God was famous more than just on earth. In heaven itself, the deeds and thoughts of all people are known and considered by the LORD and the heavenly beings. And on this particular day, this godly man Iobi became the topic of a heavenly conversation.

“The angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Iobi? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

"Does Iobi fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and..."
herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 1:6-11, NIV)

Satan accused Iobi of not really loving and fearing God Himself, but only because the LORD had blessed him with so many wonderful gifts. Satan yearned for the opportunity to strip Job of all God's blessings and show that Job was really no more than a spoiled child underneath them all, but he knew he could bring no suffering upon Iobi without God's permission. The LORD, not he, was in control.

To Satan's great delight, the LORD gave His permission:

“The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." The LORD would allow suffering to come to Iobi, but only according to His perfectly good and wise plan.

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. Soon he would carry out his evil plans.

One day when Iobi’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Iobi and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” (Job 1:12-19, NIV)

What terrible suffering Satan brought upon Iobi! He had lost all of his riches and all his children! Surely this would crush Iobi’s fake faith, Satan thought. Surely no human could go through so many bad things and so much sadness.

But what Satan did not understand was God’s good purposes and perfect power in the sufferings of His people. Yes, they would face sickness, sadness and persecution for their faith in Him, but God would always use their sufferings for their good: to grow their faith and make them more holy. Never would they have to go through them alone. He promised to always be with them, giving them strength to endure them all. Satan thought it was just himself against Iobi, but it was not. It was Satan against Iobi and the almighty LORD. Satan would never, ever be victorious. These sufferings would turn out to be for Iobi’s good and as a great display of God's glorious work in His people.

So, to Satan’s disgust and surprise, Iobi was very sad, but he did not fall apart...and he did not stop believing in the LORD:

52 ... Iobi got up, tore his robe and shaved his head, [showing how sad he was at the terrible things that
had happened. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “I was born into this world with nothing and will take nothing with me when I die. My animals and my children were gifts the LORD gave me, and now He has taken them away. Either way, let the name of the LORD be praised.” (Job 1:20-21, NIV)

In all this, Iobi did not sin by accusing God of doing wrong to him through this suffering. He did not understand why all this suffering had come upon him, but the LORD gave him strength to trust His plans and reasons. He would bless the LORD’s name, not curse it.

But Satan was not done with Iobi. This first wave of suffering was not to be his last. For on another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Iobi? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited Me against him to ruin him without any reason."

"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." (Job 2:1-5, NIV)

The LORD had not let Satan harm Iobi in anyway in the first sufferings. Now Satan was asking to fill Iobi’s body with pain and sickness, hoping that would cause him to curse the LORD. Yet again, Satan knew he could not bring any suffering upon Iobi without God’s permission. The LORD, not he, was in control. To Satan’s great delight, the LORD once more gave His permission. He would allow these additional sufferings in Iobi’s life, but only according to His perfectly good and wise plan.

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Iobi with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head, [until even his friends could not recognize him.] Then Iobi took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. (Job 2:6-8, NIV) He could not eat. His sleep was filled with frightening nightmares.

Oh, what agony Iobi was in! Oh, what terrible things had happened to him! Surely now Iobi would break under the pain of his own body. Satan was pleased with what he had done to Iobi, but he was not finished. He used Iobi’s very own wife to urge him to curse the LORD:

His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9, NIV)

Surely this would crush Iobi’s fake faith, Satan thought. Surely no human could withstand so much suffering! But what Satan did not understand was God’s good purposes and power in the suffering of His people. Yes, they would face sickness, sadness and persecution for their faith in Him, but God would always use their sufferings for their good: to grow their faith and make them more holy. Never would they have go through them alone. He promised to always be with them, giving them strength to endure them all.

Satan thought it was just himself against Iobi, but it was not. It was Satan against Iobi and the almighty
LORD. Satan would never, ever be victorious. These sufferings would turn out to be for lobi’s good and as a great display of God’s glorious work in His people.

So [lobi] replied [to her], ”You are talking like a woman [with no faith in God]. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”

In all this, lobi did not sin in what he said. (Job 2:10, NIV)

As you might well imagine, word was quick to spread far and wide about the unspeakably terrible sufferings that had come upon the greatest man in the world. Everywhere from the city gate to the marketplace, the question was asked. “Did you hear the news about lobi?” one person would say. “No, tell me what happened?” the other would respond.

“Well, first the Sabeans came and killed all his oxen and donkeys, then…..” and so it would go, until the whole story was out. As people heard of lobi’s problems, they did not respond compassionately. “All these years we thought lobi was a really good and godly man, but we must have been wrong,” they thought. “Only bad people have things like this happen to them. The LORD is punishing him for his wickedness that he was hiding from us all these years.” They began to spit upon lobi when they passed by him and use his name as a curse word. So, on top of all his other sadnesses, Job endured undeserved insults.

At last news of lobi’s troubles reached the ears of three of his friends, Eliaphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite. [They immediately] set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads [as a show of their sadness.]. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was. [At last lobi poured out his heart to them]: “If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas.” (Job 5:12-13, 6:2-13, NIV)

lobi was so sad and so miserable that he wished he could die. He did not understand why the LORD had given him such terrible sufferings. He wished it was over. He cried out to God, but felt the LORD gave him no answer.

lobi’s friends listened to him and then began to give him their opinions: “God is correcting you. You have been acting holy, but all this time you have secretly been sinning against God. Now God is giving you what you deserve,” they told him. “The sooner you confess your wicked ways to the LORD, the sooner this whole thing will be over. Stop acting like you are so holy.”

But lobi’s friends had got it all wrong. lobi wasn’t suffering as punishment for secret wickedness at all! They did not understand God’s good purposes and power in the suffering of His people. Yes, they would face sickness, sadness and persecution for their faith in Him, but God would always use their sufferings for their good: to grow their faith and make them more holy. Never would they have go through them alone. He promised to always be with them, giving them strength to endure them all.
Satan delighted in what Iobi’s friends said to him. What the loss of riches, family and health had not done, perhaps their discouraging judgments would: bring Iobi to curse God at last. Satan thought it was just himself against Iobi. But it was not. It was Satan against Iobi and the almighty LORD. Satan would never, ever be victorious. These sufferings would turn out to be for Iobi’s good and as a great display of God’s glorious work in His people.

Iobi did not curse God as Satan wanted him to, but he did yearn to understand. “To God belong wisdom and power, counsel and understanding…,” Job said. “He reveals mysterious things that are hidden from everyone else. Perhaps the LORD is punishing me for something He thinks I’ve done wrong, but I don’t know what it is. I wish God would speak to me and tell me what I’ve done wrong. I want to argue my case with Him.”

For many, many long days and nights, Iobi suffered on. How desperately he wanted to known why he was suffering! How shocked Iobi would have been if he had understood the real purpose of his suffering: his own good and as a glorious display of God’s complete power over Satan.

At last the LORD spoke to Iobi out of a storm: “Iobi, you speak about things you do not understand. In your suffering have you forgotten who I am? I am the LORD—Creator and Sustainer of all things. My wisdom and power are perfect. There is nothing I do not know, nothing I cannot do. My plans are always perfectly just, good and wise. You are a mere man and cannot possibly understand all that I am doing.”

The LORD had planned these sufferings for Iobi according to His wise plan. Even thought Iobi did not understand why, the Lord reminded Iobi that he knew enough about His wisdom and power to trust Him in these sufferings.

Iobi was overwhelmed with the LORD’s answer and humbly replied, “You are right, LORD. I did speak about things I did not understand. I forgot who You are and what You are like. I had heard of You before, and now I have seen You. I have misjudged You. “Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:6, NIV). Please forgive me.” And the LORD did.

After the LORD had said these things to Iobi, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as my servant Iobi has. So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Iobi and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Iobi will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of Me what is right, as my servant Iobi has."

So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Iobi's prayer.

After Iobi had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

The LORD blessed the latter part of Iobi’s life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six
thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters. Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Iobi's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

After [his time of suffering,] Iobi lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years. (Job 42: 7-16, NIV)

How did the heavenly dialogue end? The Bible does not tell us. But we can be sure that Satan saw his utter defeat. The LORD is always victorious over him. The LORD had used Iobi's sufferings to strengthen Iobi's faith in Him and as a great display of His glory, just as He had planned.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer according to God’s Plan
Our Scripture Verse is: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Did this story sound familiar? It is the story of the man we call Job—Iobi, as they say in Hebrew. Do you think Job ever finally found out why he had gone through all those sufferings? He certainly did in heaven, if not before. How great must be the praise, glory and honor that the LORD received through giving Job faith and patience to endure of all those sufferings!

What about you and me? Is it scary to think about Satan wanting us to suffer? We don’t need to be. The LORD, the Almighty God over the whole universe, is perfectly good and is in perfect control of even Satan and his plans. God’s people can always trust Him to only allow them to suffer according to His good plans. There may be plenty of times when they do not understand why they suffer, but in heaven it will all be made clear… and God’s people will have nothing but praise for God what He has allowed in their lives. They will see that truly it was all, only, for their good and His glory.

How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. As God’s people, we can trust God to be doing these same great and glorious things with the sufferings of our lives. We can know that He will be with us, too, just like Job, sustaining us through them all.

Let’s praise God for wisely choosing sufferings for His people, and for having great plans to bless them and glorify His name through even their sufferings. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, so we can be His people. Let’s ask Him to help us to endure sufferings for Him in such a way that they would be for our good and His glory. And, that they would result in great praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ returns.
1. Job was a very rich man with more animals than some whole countries. He was very wise & everyone asked his advice. He feared God and turned away from doing evil.

2. When his 7 sons and 3 daughters had big parties, he even offered sacrifices to God to make they stayed right with God. Job was the greatest man on earth.

3. Job was also known as a godly man in heaven. On day, the Lord asked Satan to consider Job’s godliness and love for Him. Satan accused Job of loving God for only loving God b/c of God’s blessings.

4. Satan asks God to bring suffering upon Job to prove it. God allows him to destroy everything Job has but not to touch Job, himself.

5. Sabeans and Chaldeans destroy all his animals and servants. A great wind kills his children. Job is very sad, but he does not curse God.

6. The Lord has Satan consider Job again. Satan now accuses Job of loving God only b/c his own body did not suffer. The Lord allows Satan to make Job sick, but cannot kill him.

7. Job’s body is covered with sores. He sits in an ash pile scraping itching sores. He has terrible dreams. Satan uses Job’s wife to tempt Job to curse God, but he does not.

8. Everyone hears about Job’s suffering and believe God is punishing him for secret sins. They reject him, spit on him and curse him. Job’s three friends, Eliaphaz, Bildad, and Zophar don’t even recognize him at first he’s so sick. They listen to him and then tell him they also think he has sinned against God.

9. Job denies secret sins, thinks suffering is punishment from God. He cries out to God to show him what he’s done wrong to deserve all this punishment.

10. God finally speaks to him and tells him that he has forgotten who God is and what He is like. He is only a man and cannot understand God’s wisdom or plans.

11. Job repents of misunderstanding God. God rebukes Job’s friends of accusing Job of secret sins instead of comforting him. They are to make sacrifices and ask Job to pray for them.

12. The LORD blesses Job with even more animals and children than he had before he suffered.
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)
Consider My Servant Job

1. Setting (Speakers 2-4)
   When? 1000’s of years ago
   Where? The Land of Uz
   What’s Flat, treeless, dry lowland
   It Like? south of the Dead Sea

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
   Job
   Sheep, Camels,
   Donkeys, and Oxen
   Servants
   Job’s Sons & Daughters
   Feasts
   Job’s Wife
   Satan
   The LORD
   Angels
   Sabeans
   Chaldeans
   Wind storm
   House
   Sores
   Ashes
   Pottery shard
   Eliaphaz the Temanite,
   Bildad the Shuhite and
   Zophar the Naamathite

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. Satan was only allowed to bring suffering upon Job in keeping with God’s good plan to do good to Job and

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
   Job Suffers and Brings Glory to God

5. What’s it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
   Beginning:
   Job was a very rich man with more animals than some whole countries. He was very wise & everyone asked his advice. He feared God and turned away from doing evil. When his 7 sons and 3 daughters had big parties, he even offered sacrifices to God to make they stayed right with God. Job was the greatest man on earth.
   Middle:
   Job was also known as a godly man in heaven. On day, the Lord asked Satan to consider Job’s godliness and love for Him. Satan accused Job of loving God for only loving God b/c of God’s blessings. Satan asks God to bring suffering upon Job to prove it. God allows him to destroy everything Job has but not to touch Job, himself. Sabeans and Chaldeans destroy all his animals and servants. A great wind kills his children. Job is very sad, but he does not curse God. The Lord has Satan consider Job again. Satan now accuses Job of loving God only b/c his own body did not suffer. The Lord allows Satan to make Job sick, but cannot kill him. Job’s body is covered with sores. He sits in an ash pile scraping itching sores. He has terrible dreams. Satan uses Job’s wife to tempt Job to curse God, but he does not.
   End:
   Everyone hears about Job’s suffering and believe God is punishing him for secret sins. They reject him, spit on him and curse him. Job’s three friends, Eliaphaz, Bildad, and Zophar don’t even recognize him at first he’s so sick. They listen to him and then tell him they also think he has sinned against God. Job denies secret sins, thinks suffering is punishment from God. He cries out to God to show him what he’s done wrong to deserve all this punishment. God finally speaks to him and tells him that he has forgotten who God is and what He is like. He is only a man and cannot understand God’s wisdom or plans. Job repents of misunderstanding God. God rebukes Job’s friends of accusing Job of secret sins instead of comforting him. They are to make sacrifices and ask Job to pray for them. The LORD blesses Job with even more animals and children than he had before he suffered.
Beginning:
Job was a very rich man with more animals than some whole countries. He was very wise & everyone asked his advice. He feared God and turned away from doing evil. When his 7 sons and 3 daughters had big parties, he even offered sacrifices to God to make they stayed right with God. Job was the greatest man on earth.

Middle:
Job was also known as a godly man in heaven. On day, the Lord asked Satan to consider Job’s godliness and love for Him. Satan accused Job of loving God for only loving God b/c of God’s blessings. Satan asks God to bring suffering upon Job to prove it. God allows him to destroy everything Job has but not to touch Job, himself. Sabeans and Chaldeans destroy all his animals and servants. A great wind kills his children. Job is very sad, but he does not curse God. The Lord has Satan consider Job again. Satan now accuses Job of loving God only b/c his own body did not suffer. The Lord allows Satan to make Job sick, but cannot kill him. Job’s body is covered with sores. He sits in an ash pile scraping itching sores. He has terrible dreams. Satan uses Job’s wife to tempt Job to curse God, but he does not.

End:
Everyone hears about Job’s suffering and believe God is punishing him for secret sins. They reject him, spit on him and curse him. Job’s three friends, Eliaphaz, Bildad, and Zophar don’t even recognize him at first he’s so sick. They listen to him and then tell him they also think he has sinned against God. Job denies secret sins, thinks suffering is punishment from God. He cries out to God to show him what he’s done wrong to deserve all this punishment. God finally speaks to him and tells him that he has forgotten who God is and what He is like. He is only a man and cannot understand God’s wisdom or plans. Job repents of misunderstanding God. God rebukes Job’s friends of accusing Job of secret sins instead of comforting him. They are to make sacrifices and ask Job to pray for them. The LORD blesses Job with even more animals and children than he had before he suffered.
1. What kind of riches did Job have? Many cattle, sheep, oxen, sheep and servants.
2. What did the LORD think about Job? He was blameless, good, and shunned evil. No one like him in the whole world.
3. What did Job do to try to make sure his children stayed in a right relationship with God? Made sacrifices for sins, in case they might have sinned against God in their hearts or otherwise done something wrong by accident when they were feasting.
4. What did people think of Job? He was the greatest man in the world. Everyone wanted his advice. Everyone thought he loved God.
5. Why about Job did the LORD tell Satan to consider? His holy and obedient life.
6. What was the first reason did Satan give for Job’s obedience? He only obeyed God because God had protected his life and given him so many blessings. Without the blessings he would turn away from God.
7. How did the LORD limit Satan’s first request to bring suffering upon Job? Could not harm Job in any way, only his things and his family.
8. What happened to Job after Satan’s first attack? He lost all of his things and his children.
9. How did Job respond to Satan’s first attack? He accepted that all he had were gifts were from the LORD and He had the right to take them away. He would still bless His name.
10. What reason did Satan give for Job’s continued obedience after losing his things and his children? It was only because Job, himself did not have to suffer, only his family and things.
11. How did the LORD limit Satan’s second request to bring suffering upon Job? Not allowed to kill him.
12. What suffering did Satan bring up Job the second time? Covered with sores, terrible dreams, wife tempts him to curse God, friends accuse him of being sinful, everyone else scorns him.
13. How did Job respond to Satan’s second attack? He refused to curse God, but he cried out to understand what he had done wrong to deserve this punishment.
14. What did Job and his friends not understand about how God’s people suffer? They thought suffering would come only as punishment for sin. They did not understand that God uses suffering for His people’s good and His own glory.
15. What did LORD tell Job when at last He spoke to him? He told him that he had forgotten who He was and what He was like. He was just a man and could not understand all of God’s ways.
16. How did Job respond to the LORD? He realized that the LORD was right. He repented on his sin and asked forgiveness.
17. What did the LORD say to Job’s friends? They were wrong to accuse Job of really being a sinner. They needed to make sacrifices and have Job pray for the LORD to forgive them.
18. Why wasn’t Satan victorious over Job? Because he was not just fighting against Job. He was fighting against the LORD sustaining and strengthening Job. Satan can never defeat the LORD.

**Big Idea Connections**
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Even though Satan was allowed to bring suffering upon Job, the LORD always was in control of what suffering Job had to face. He was always with Job, helping him endure his suffering. He used Job’s sufferings for Job’s good and as a display of His own glory.

**Life Application**
1. When God’s people suffer today, what might be one reason for their suffering? Perhaps they are being considered and used by God as a display of godly faith, even in suffering.
2. What can God’s people think about today as they go through sufferings? That God will only allow sufferings that are for their good and His glory. And, that God can sustain them through them all.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Even though Job suffered terribly, he did not curse God, but kept believing. His sufferings made his faith purer & glorified God, just as He planned.

The Gospel
Why do we suffer in this world? Who has come to rescue God’s people from sin, death and suffering? 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 completely powerful over Satan and over His people’s sufferings.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we grumble and complain as we go through sufferings. We don’t turn to God in them. We don’t want them to be used for our good and His glory. We just want them to be over!
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God that He will always, only allow His people to suffer according to His good and perfect plan. That He will give them the strength they need to endure them.
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 use all the sufferings in our lives for our good and His glory. We can ask Him for strength to endure sufferings. We can pray for God to help His people around the world who may be facing terrible suffering even today.

Playing the Game: Use the same questions in your story review game as you used in your discussion.
Optional Closing Activity: Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
WHAT’S IN THE BOX?

Story Review Game

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

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

Place the props/pictures in the box.

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

Game continues until all children get to pull out a prop/picture, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity:
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Big Idea
1. When will God’s people suffer? Here on earth.
2. How will they suffer? In many ways, but only according to His plan.
3. What will He use their sufferings to do in them? To strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him; to make them holy.
4. What will God always, only use His people’s sufferings to do? To do good to them and to bring glory to His name.
5. What will God give His people by His Holy Spirit? The strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives.
5. What do God’s people want even more than not to suffer? To see their sufferings strengthen their faith and for them to result in praise, glory and honor.
6. What will their sufferings result in when Jesus comes back? Praise, glory and honor.
7. Why do God’s people think it is an honor to suffer for God? Because of how He sent His Son to suffer and die for them.
8. What do God’s people look forward to? The day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
1. How did the Lord limit Job’s suffering? He only allowed Satan to destroy his things and family the first time. He only allowed Satan to make Job sick, but not kill him. He only allowed Job to suffer for a while.
2. How were Job’s suffering used for his good and God’s glory? Job’s suffering taught him that God was far wiser and more than he could understand. God’s ability to strengthen His people even through such terrible sufferings as Job; and His complete control over Satan, brought glory to His name.

Life Application Questions
1. How can knowing about God being the perfect planner of their sufferings help God’s people? They can be encouraged in the middle of suffering that God will give them strength to endure through it; and they can know that God is only using their sufferings for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: **1 Peter 1:6-7**

“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

*God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His people’s sufferings.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
   *Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
   *Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.*

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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.*

**Gospel Question**

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

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

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

Big Idea Game

**Materials**
- Construction Paper
- CD and CD player
- Masking Tape
- Small bowl or bag
- Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

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

Tape the circles on the floor around the room.

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity**

Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
1 Peter 1:6-7
“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. What were these believers suffering? Grief in all kinds of trials.
2. What is grief? Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.
3. What is a trial? Hardships or troubles we go through.
4. What are some trials that believers go through? Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.
5. Why do trials come to believers? That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
6. What is their faith worth more than? God. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? Praise glory & honor.
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Even though Job suffered terribly, he did not curse God, but kept believing. His sufferings made his faith purer & glorified God, just as God planned. Already his trials have resulted in praise, glory and honor to God as God’s people have read his story throughout thousands of years and have seen how great God was to give Job strength to endure even these terrible trials. This helps them trust God and His good plans for the hard things they go through, themselves.

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
ACTS Questions, continued
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

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

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
10 or so various balance-able items, per team
(erasers, plates, rulers, books, shoes, etc.)
Paper, marker
2 baskets/boxes per team

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

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

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

Game can be played again, as time and attention span allow.

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7

For a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith, May be proved genuine, be proved genuine.

Refrain:
Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold, Which perishes though refined by fire. Faith! Faith! Which is of greater worth than gold, Which perishes though refined by fire.

Understanding the Scripture
1. What were these believers suffering? Grief in all kinds of trials.
2. What is grief? Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.
3. What is a trial? Hardships or troubles we go through.
4. What are some trials that believers go through? Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.
5. Why do trials come to believers? That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
6. What is their faith worth more than? Why? God. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? Praise glory & honor.
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.
Scripture Song Discussion Questions  Page 2

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Even though Job suffered terribly, he did not curse God, but kept believing. His sufferings made his faith purer & glorified God, just as God planned. Already his trials have resulted in praise, glory and honor to God as God’s people have read his story throughout thousands of years and have seen how great God was to give Job strength to endure even these terrible trials. This helps them trust God and His good plans for the hard things they go through, themselves.

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of 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 the perfect planner of His people’s sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.
   “…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

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

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

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

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

**How Firm a Foundation**

**Verse 3**
“When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

**Verse 4**
“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho’ all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

*Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs*

1. What is a “fiery trial?” It has nothing to do with fire, but just means a really hard time of suffering we have to go through.
2. What “pathway” do these fiery trials lie upon? Not a real path or road that you walk on. Pathway is another way of saying things you go through in your life. So, it’s talking about the times of suffering you face in life.
3. What does “supply” mean and what shall be the believer’s supply when going thro their difficult trials? Supply means to be everything you need. God’s grace—that is, His gifts of strength, faith, hope, patience, etc that He freely gives His people—will be enough for them to make it through even the hardest of sufferings.
4. What shall not hurt the believer? The flame.
5. What does he mean by “flame?” The writer has been talking about “fiery trials”—hard times the believer goes through. A flame is what burns or hurts you. He is saying that even when His people go through “fiery,” hard times of suffering, they will never let the trials be anything but for the good and His glory.
6. What does God design (plan) for the “flame” to do? Just like fire is used to purify gold by melting out impurities (called dross) and make it more beautify and pure, so God only plans to use His people’s trials to purify them of sin and strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him.
7. What does it mean to lean on something for repose? To rest on something peacefully, without worry.
8. What does God promise to a person (a soul) who rests on Him, peacefully? He will never desert (abandon) to his foes (enemies).
9. What does it mean for “hell to endeavor to shake” a soul? What does God promise when that happens to His people? It means for Satan to bring lots of suffering upon them and try to get them to turn away from God. God promises to never forsake them. He will always be with them, always giving them strength to endure their sufferings, no matter how hard they are.

**Big Idea Connection**

How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan? God’s people may go through very hard, “fiery” trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are “staid” on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to “consume their dross”—make them holy—and bring glory to His name.

**Story Connection**

How does this song relate to today’s story? Job had to go through some of the fieriest trials any human has ever had to face. Job struggled with thinking that God was punishing for some sin he didn’t know about, He felt God had forsaken him. But God was only using Job’s sufferings for good. He was strengthening his faith and he was using him to display His glory. God never abandoned Job to his enemy, Satan. He gave him strength to endure his sufferings to the end.
Scripture Verse Connection

How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7

“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

God’s people praise God that He will use all their fiery trials to refine their faith. He will never desert them or forsake. Completely the opposite is true. He will always be with them, supplying them everything they need. He will use all their trials to bring praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Life Application Questions

1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for promising to always protect the, and help them through even the worst of trials. They can ask Him to use their trials to make them holier and stronger in their faith.

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 hymn? Praise God for being the God who never deserts His people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? That many times we do not lean on Jesus or trust Him to supply us what we need when we suffer. We grumble and complain instead.

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? We can thank God for using the trials of His people to refine their faith; and, for giving them everything they need to endure their trials.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to supply us what we need to endure any trials we are going through. We can ask Him to help us to come to Him and depend upon Him as we go through them.

Gospel Question

Fiery trials are a part of everyone’s life, but God’s people take joy in God as they go through theirs? Why? What has God done for them? 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. He even will use everything in their lives for their good and His glory, making them more like Jesus! If we repent and trust in Jesus, 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! He will use all of our sufferings for our good and His glory. And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!

Closing Large Group Time

Sign and sing song.
PASS THE SECRET SIGN
Song Game

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

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

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

## Job’s Trial of Terrible, Itchy Sores

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

Job’s Trial of Terrible Itchy Sores

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In the land of Uz</th>
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<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>The Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Did</td>
<td>Sustained Job’s Through</td>
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<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td>His Trial of Terrible, Itchy Sores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Because He is always able to help His people endure whatever sufferings they face.</td>
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### 3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. Job suffered terribly, but it was always, only according to God’s good and perfect plan. Job could endure these trials in the way God wanted him to because God sustained him.

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

No matter how much God’s people suffer, they can always trust that God is able to sustain them through them. He will always use their trials for their good and His glory.
Job’s Trial of Terrible, Itchy Sores

Description
The children will make poster board arms with sores on it that they wear on top of their own arms and hands.

Materials
- 22” x 28” poster board, 1 piece per 4 crafts
- 2 paper fasteners per craft
- 3’ of thin elastic per child
- Skin-toned markers
- Red markers, sticker dots or glitter glue pens
- Small Hole punch

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out the patterns for the forearm and the upper arm. Cut them out and use them to cut out 2 of each arm part out of poster board, per craft.
2. Cut elastic/yarn into 6” strands, 6 needed per craft.
3. Use hole punch to make holes in each arm piece.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children color in the arms then add red dots for sores.
3. Line up Hole A and Hole B as indicated on the diagram on the following page. Insert the paper fastener and open wings to secure in place.
4. Insert the elastic into each set of holes. Hole the arm piece up to the child’s arm and tie elastic on the underside, tightly enough to hold in place, but not too tightly (as to be uncomfortable).
5. “Arms” can be slipped on and off using the elastic bands.
6. For purposes of the presentation, have the children put on their arms. They can wear them over their shirt sleeves, or—more effectively—slipped up under their sleeves and revealed by pushing their sleeves up at the time of presentation.
Upper Arm Part: Two per craft needed

Hole A: to be placed over Hole B in forearm piece and secured together with the paper fastener.

Holes for inserting arm band elastic. Thread through holes and tie ends on underneath side.

Forearm Part: Two per craft needed

Hole B: to be placed under Hole A in upper arm piece and secured together with the paper fastener.

Holes for inserting arm band elastic. Thread through holes and tie ends on underneath side.
Dear ________________

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good plan. God will use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, love and dependence on Him. He will use all of their sufferings to refine them and make God’s people holy. By His Holy Spirit, God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has planned for them.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Here are 4 things related to the Big Idea we prayed for you to pray, too.

1. Ask God to use all of their sufferings to bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and perfect plan. God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

2. 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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

3. Ask God to always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.

4. Confound how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting Him.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them. God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives. Best of all, God promises that they will suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sake of those who were not guilty. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus. They count it as an honor to suffer right now.

Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting Him.

Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His People’s sufferings.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Best of all, God promises that they will suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sake of those who were not guilty. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus. They count it as an honor to suffer right now.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

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

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>Arrive no later than this to prepare for session</td>
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<td>_____</td>
<td>My preparations:</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>Children arrive</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____</td>
<td>Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suggested 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</td>
<td>GROUP sings Big Question</td>
<td>LEADER says Big Question</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>
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<td>LEADER says concept</td>
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</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

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</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>
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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 72 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 72 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: “Away with the Atheists!”, pp. 39-41*
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

*Don’t Forget! Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery the Drama Group will later use in their play*
Week 2 Lesson Plan

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

Snack

Animal cracker “lions” and pretzel stick “bonfire” with candy corn “fire” in the middle. Can add Teddy graham Polycarp and Ignatius, if you want.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being so gracious and compassionate that He chose to save sinful people from every people on earth.

C Confess that many times we do not tell others about salvation through Jesus when we could. Confess that we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too.

T Thank God for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus. Thank Him for choosing to use His people to tell others this best of news.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to help His people to bravely tell the peoples of the world about salvation through Jesus. Ask God to bring many people to know and love Him.

Drama

Activities:  
Discuss story  
Fill in Speaker Sheets  
Practice Play

Resources:  
Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 42  
Speaker Sheets Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Egg Toss

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

Resources:  
Story Review Discussion Questions Sheet pp. 43-44  
Story Review Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Big Idea Game: Circus Lion**

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

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

**Big Idea Craft: A Pinch of Incense on a Roman Altar to Caesar**

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

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

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

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

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

**Scripture Verse Game: Bowling Ball Verse**

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 47-48
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Scripture Song: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7

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

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

**Hymn: How Firm a Foundation: Verses 3-4**

**Activities:**
Discuss Song
Learn Song and Sign Language
Play Song Game: **Mimic Me!**
Fill in Song Intro Sheet

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

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

### Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

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

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

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

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

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

### Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

### Closing Prayer

- Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

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

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

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**Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt**

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

**Resources:**
- All of these resources are found in the Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt Review Resources at the front of this Big Idea
- Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
- WoGoLOA Rules
- WoGoLOA Rules Chant
- Unit 12 Big Question/Song
- Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
- Big Idea 72 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 72 Scripture Verse Sign

- Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs
- Folders for Folder Hunt (Only Folder Hunt)

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**Story**

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

**Resources:**
- Story: “Away with the Atheists!”, pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

---

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

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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

Animal cracker “lions” and pretzel stick “bonfire” with candy corn “fire” in the middle. Can add Teddy graham Polycarp and Ignatius, if you want.

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being so gracious and compassionate that He chose to save sinful people from every people on earth.

C Confess that many times we do not tell others about salvation through Jesus when we could. Confess that we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too.

T Thank God for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus. Thank Him for choosing to use His people to tell others this best of news.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to help His people to bravely tell the peoples of the world about salvation through Jesus. Ask God to bring many people to know and love Him.
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

VIPP Refresher:
Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E
WEEK 2 LESSON PLAN
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

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

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

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7

| 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 |
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
“Away with the Atheists!”
by Connie Dever

Our story today takes place about 1900 years ago in the great city of Smyrna.

Today Smyrna is a big, modern city called Izmir, in the country of Turkey. But long ago when our story took place, it was part of the great Roman Empire. Smyrna was called the “Glory of Asia” back then because it was considered the most beautiful city in that entire Roman province. Smyrna had grown rich on the goods brought into its harbor from around the Roman world. Wealthy merchants lived in luxurious houses with hand-painted walls, colorful, mosaic tile floors, and beautiful, enclosed gardens, perched on the hills above Smyrna and looked down upon the city and out to the sea below. The city, itself, was filled with temples and government buildings built with massive, carved columns and adorned with statues of the famous men and Roman gods. It had a large library and the largest public theater in all of Roman Asia. Yes, it was easy to see why Smyrna was first among the cities of Asia.

But Smyrna claimed to be first in something else, too, that proved to make life very, very hard for the Christians: they were the first to worship Caesar, the Roman King, as Lord and a god. “Once a year every Roman citizen must burn a pinch of incense on the altar to our god, Caesar, proclaiming that He is Lord,” it was decreed. “Every citizen who does so will receive a certificate of his confession and will continue to enjoy the rights of a citizen in good-standing. But anyone who will not do this will be considered a traitor to his king. He will lose his rights as a citizen and will be punished.”

The Christians wanted to be good, obedient Romans, but they could never sacrifice to him or call him ‘Lord’ or a god. Yahweh was the one true God and Jesus Christ was their only Lord. They would rather be imprisoned or die than follow this new law.

The Smyrnaeans began to abuse the Christians. “Down with the atheists—you unbelievers in the Roman gods!” they would jeer. “It is bad enough that you people have refused to believe in the Roman gods and lead others to worship some dead man named Jesus instead. But now you will not even confess our Caesar as the god and Lord that he is. You are traitors to our country and we will be rid of you!”

So, the Christians were not allowed to buy food at the market, no one would hire them. Their houses and things were taken from them. They were arrested and dragged into prison. Many of them were burned in fires or even thrown to lions. As you can see, it became very difficult and dangerous to be a believer in Smyrna, but God was with them. He gave them faith in His complete control over their sufferings, joy to suffer for His name, and strength to stand courageously for Him, even to death.

The Lord gave the believers in Smyrna one more thing to help them endure their hardships. He gave them a very godly young man named Polycarp to be their pastor. Polycarp had learned about Jesus from the apostle John, himself. John spent long hours teaching Polycarp everything he had seen and learned from Jesus, when He had lived on earth. He taught Polycarp how Jesus wanted His followers to live.
Polycarp was a wonderful pastor to the believers at Smyrna. He took good care of them, teaching them and guiding them in the very things that he had learned from John. He encouraged them to trust in God and bravely confess His name over all others, even to their death. Polycarp was a very humble man, but very bold, too. He became famous among the churches scattered throughout the Roman Empire for helping confused Christians understand what Jesus really taught. He became famous among the Romans for powerfully preaching the good news of Jesus. They nicknamed him “The Destroyer of the Gods” because so many Romans turned from worshiping the Roman gods to trust in Jesus when they heard him preach.

One day, Polycarp received some sad news from the Christians in Antioch, a city about 750 miles south of Smyrna. The Romans had begun to punish the Christians there, too, for their unwillingness to worship the Roman gods. They had arrested Ignatius, the wise, old pastor of their church and had brought him before the Governor of Antioch.

“Worship the gods and live, Ignatius! Dishonor them and die!” he was ordered.

But like the Christians in Smyrna, the Lord was with Ignatius. He gave Ignatius faith in His complete control over their sufferings, joy to suffer for His name, and strength to stand courageously for Him, even to death. “I would rather die than betray Jesus!” Ignatius boldly answered the governor.

“Then to the lions of Rome you must go, you atheist!” the governor pronounced. Ignatius was chained and handed over to a company of ten Roman soldiers. These men were given orders to escort Ignatius the long journey to Rome and to deliver him at the giant stadium called the Coliseum, where thousands of Romans would watch and cheer as he was thrown to hungry lions.

Polycarp knew the route from Antioch to Rome well. He had seen many other prisoners being escorted the thousand-mile journey to Rome. “Ignatius and his guards will stop here in Smyrna on their way to Rome. I will gather the pastors from the other churches in nearby towns and we will look for him as he passes through Smyrna. Perhaps we can comfort him and encourage him to stay strong in his sufferings,” Polycarp planned.

Sure enough, before too many weeks had passed, along came Ignatius, in chains, goaded along by the company of Roman soldiers, into Smyrna. Polycarp and the other pastors gathered round Ignatius that night, bringing him good food and words of hope. Yet, it was Ignatius who wanted to encourage them.

“God has given me faith in His complete control over my suffering,” he told them. “He has given me joy to suffer for His name, and strength to stand courageously for Him, even to death. Best of all, I know that soon I will get to be in heaven with Him forever. Stay loyal to Jesus. He will help you endure your sufferings, too.”

Ignatius’s time in Smyrna was all too short. As the Roman soldiers escorted him on down the road, Polycarp and the others bade Ignatius a tearful, final farewell. Months later, the story of Ignatius’ end reached Polycarp. The old pastor had indeed died in the mouths of the lions as courageously and faithfully as he had lived. He had glorified the Lord through all his sufferings and even through this
Almost 50 years passed. Polycarp the young man became Polycarp the eighty-six year old man. For sixty years, Polycarp had taken care of the Smyrna Christians and he had preached the good news of Jesus boldly. He had guided and encouraged all the believers through times of persecution, never forgetting Ignatius and his urging that they trust God and stay loyal to Jesus, even to death.

And now, so very, very many years after the death of Ignatius, it had come his turn to stand strong in death for Jesus. In the midst of a Festival honoring Caesar as their god, a mob of the Smyrnaeans began to chant,

“Down with the Christians, the Atheists! They dishonor Caesar our god! Bring us Polycarp! He must die!”

The crowd rushed down the streets to Polycarp’s house and beat down his door. When Polycarp couldn’t be found, two servant boys were roughed up until them would tell them where he was.

“They’ve hidden him in a haystack in a farm outside of town,” at last they cried out. And sure enough, there was Polycarp, just as the boys had said.

When the soldiers found Polycarp, he went with them with no trouble. He was ready to suffer and die for Jesus. The crowd gathered in the public theatre let out a huge roar of applause as Polycarp was brought in on a donkey and led before the governor of Smyrna.

“You are an old man, Polycarp.,” the governor said to him. “Why should you die in this way? Don’t be trouble. Place your pinch of incense on the altar. Make your oath to Caesar. That’s all you have to do, and then I will release you. “ Curse Christ! Say, ‘Away with the Atheists!’ and you are a free man!” the governor promised Polycarp.

All these years Polycarp had led the Christians in Smyrna to stand strong against worshiping the Roman gods and Caesar. The governor knew that if Polycarp would but say these words once in front of the gathered crowd, it would be a huge discouragement to the Christians he had so faithfully served all those years. The governor waited hopefully for Polycarp’s reply.

For sixty years Polycarp had preached and lived his faith in God. He had told the Christians of Smyrna that God was with them. He would them faith in His complete control over their sufferings, joy to suffer for His name, and strength to stand courageously for Him, even to death. Would Polycarp keep holding on to what he had told the believers now that he, himself faced death? Yes, he would.

“…Polycarp with his face firmly set, looked at all the crowd in the stadium and waved his hand towards them, sighed, looked up to heaven, and cried: ‘Away with the godless!’ …For eighty-six years…I have been [Christ’s] servant, and he has never done me wrong: how can I [curse] my king who saved me?’

‘I have wild [lions that I will use on you],’ said the governor….. ‘If you make light of the [lions], I’ll have you destroyed by fire…..’

But Polycarp answered him: ‘The fire you threaten burns for a time and is soon extinguished; there is a fire you know nothing about—the fire of judgment to come and of eternal punishment, the fire reserved for the ungodly. But why do you hesitate? Do what you want.’
The governor was amazed, and sent the crier to stand in the middle of the arena and announce three times: “Polycarp has confessed that he is a Christian.”

Then a shout went up from every throat:
‘Polycarp must be burnt alive!’

The crowd rushed and gathered logs and [sticks]…When the [bonfire] was ready….Polycarp prayed…When he had offered up the Amen and completed his prayer, the men in charge lit the fire, and a great flame shot up.” (from Eusebius, History of the Church). And just like Ignatius, Polycarp bravely endured his suffering, glorifying God to the end.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer According to God’s Plan
Our Scripture Verse is:
Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

What about you and me? The Lord has told us that all of God’s people will face suffering that has been planned for them, according to His good plan. Many of God’s people may never know persecution like what Ignatius, Polycarp and many other Christians in the Roman Empire faced. But some, even now do face terrible sufferings like these. How can God’s people today endure sufferings like these? The same way as Ignatius and Polycarp did long ago: by remembering that they will only have to endure their good God has allowed. He will help them endure their sufferings, not by their own strength by by God’s—and He is always strong enough to give them what they need.

How can we be God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Then, like Polycarp and Ignatius and those other believers, we can know the wonderful, one, true God. And we can rest that God will be at work doing great things for our good and His glory through all our sufferings.

Let’s praise God for being so careful in what sufferings He plans for His People; and, for always giving them strength to endure them. 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 give us strength and even joy in our sufferings and to honor Him in them.
1. Smyrna is the most beautiful city in the Roman province of Asia.
2. Wealthy merchants live in rich houses. They city has many beautiful buildings and temples.
3. But life in Smyrna is very hard for Christians. Because they will not worship the Roman gods or confess Caesar as Lord, they are called atheists. They cannot get jobs or even buy food at the markets easily. They lost their rights as Roman citizens and were even tortured.
4. A young, godly man named Polycarp is made pastor over the church in Smyrna. He had been told the stories and teachings of Jesus from the apostle John, himself.
5. Polycarp was a great teacher and preacher. He helped confused Christians from all over to know what Jesus really taught. The Romans called him “The Destroyer of the Gods” because so many Romans turned from worshiping the Roman gods to worship Jesus after hearing him preach.
6. One day Polycarp heard that Ignatius, the old pastor in Antioch, had been arrested and sentenced to be thrown to lions in Rome for confessing Jesus not Caesar as Lord.
7. Polycarp knew the 10 Romans soldiers escorting Ignatius to Rome would bring him through Smyrna. He called pastors from other cities to prepare to encourage Ignatius and meet his needs when they came.
8. When Ignatius and the soldiers arrived in Smyrna, Polycarp and the pastors comforted him. Ignatius told them he was not afraid, but looked forward to getting to be with Jesus. He tells them to stay strong in suffering.
9. In a few weeks, Polycarp hears that Ignatius died bravely. He never forgets Ignatius’ courage.
11. During a Festival to Caesar, the crowds call for Polycarp to confess Caesar as Lord. They wait in the huge theatre/arena as soldiers search for Polycarp.
12. Two of Polycarp’s servant boys are forced into telling where the believers have hidden Polycarp in the haystack at a farm.
13. The soldiers find Polycarp and bring him into the arena on a donkey.
14. The governor bids Polycarp to put a pinch of incense on the altar and confess Caesar as Lord to save his life.
15. Polycarp refuses to deny Jesus, his King who has loved him for 87 years. The governor threatens throwing him to lions or burning him in a fire. Polycarp warns the governor of the fires of hell.
16. The governor pronounces Polycarp a Christian and must die by fire. The people rush to gather wood for the bonfire. Polycarp says a prayer and then the fire is lit and he dies in the flames.
### WEEK 2 RESOURCES

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

#### 1. Drama Group Resources

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

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

#### 2. Games Groups Resources

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

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

#### 3. Songs Groups Resources

- Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
- Hymn Discussion Sheet

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

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

#### 4. Craft Resources

- Craft Instructions and Resources

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

#### 5. VIPP Resources

- VIPP Prayer Letter

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

When?  About 1900 years ago
Where?  Smyrna in Roman province of Asia
What’s it Like?  Most beautiful city. Rich merchants on hills overlooking city

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)

Merchants  Caesar  Incense  Roman gods  Certificate  Jobs & Food  Smyrna Christians  Polycarp  Apostle John  Other Pastors  Ignatius  Lions  Roman Soldiers  Governor  People  Fire  Theatre/Arena

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. Ignatius & Polycarp endured their suffering as an honor. They showed them that the Lord truly did give strength to endure even these kinds of terrible trials.

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

Honored to Suffer for Jesus

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

Beginning: Smyrna is the most beautiful city in the Roman province of Asia. Wealthy merchants live in rich houses. They city has many beautiful buildings and temples. But life in Smyrna is very hard for Christians. Because they will not worship the Roman gods or confess Caesar as Lord, they are called atheists. They cannot get jobs or even buy food at the markets easily. They lost their rights as Roman citizens and were even tortured. A young, godly man named Polycarp is made pastor over the church in Smyrna. He had been told the stories and teachings of Jesus from the apostle John, himself. Polycarp was a great teacher and preacher. He helped confused Christians from all over to know what Jesus really taught. The Romans called him “The Destroyer of the Gods” because so many Romans turned from worshiping the Roman gods to worship Jesus after hearing him preach.

Middle: One day Polycarp heard that Ignatius, the old pastor in Antioch, had been arrested and sentenced to be thrown to lions in Rome for confessing Jesus not Caesar as Lord. Polycarp knew the 10 Romans soldiers escorting Ignatius to Rome would bring him through Smyrna. He called pastors from other cities to prepare to encourage Ignatius and meet his needs when they came. When Ignatius and the soldiers arrived in Smyrna, Polycarp and the pastors comforted him. Ignatius told them he was not afraid, but looked forward to getting to be with Jesus. He tells them to stay strong in suffering. In a few weeks, Polycarp hears that Ignatius died bravely. He never forgets Ignatius’ courage.

End: Polycarp stays in Smyrna for 60 years and becomes an old man. Persecutions in Smyrna gets worse. During a Festival to Caesar, the crowds call for Polycarp to confess Caesar as Lord. They wait in the huge theatre/arena as soldiers search for Polycarp. Two of Polycarp’s servant boys are forced into telling where the believers have hidden Polycarp in the haystack at a farm. The soldiers find Polycarp and bring him into the arena on a donkey. The governor bids Polycarp to put a pinch of incense on the altar and confess Caesar as Lord to save his life. Polycarp refuses to deny Jesus, his King who has loved him for 87 years. The governor threatens throwing him to lions or burning him in a fire. Polycarp warns the governor of the fires of hell. The governor pronounces Polycarp a Christian and must die by fire. The people rush to gather wood for the bonfire. Polycarp says a prayer and then the fire is lit and he dies in the flames.
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Smyrna is the most beautiful city in the Roman province of Asia. Wealthy merchants live in rich houses. They city has many beautiful buildings and temples. But life in Smyrna is very hard for Christians. Because they will not worship the Roman gods or confess Caesar as Lord, they are called atheists. They cannot get jobs or even buy food at the markets easily. They lost their rights as Roman citizens and were even tortured. A young, godly man named Polycarp is made pastor over the church in Smyrna. He had been told the stories and teachings of Jesus from the apostle John, himself. Polycarp was a great teacher and preacher. He helped confused Christians from all over to know what Jesus really taught. The Romans called him “The Destroyer of the Gods” because so many Romans turned from worshiping the Roman gods to worship Jesus after hearing him preach.

Middle:
One day Polycarp heard that Ignatius, the old pastor in Antioch, had been arrested and sentenced to be thrown to lions in Rome for confessing Jesus not Caesar as Lord. Polycarp knew the 10 Romans soldiers escorting Ignatius to Rome would bring him through Smyrna. He called pastors from other cities to prepare to encourage Ignatius and meet his needs when they came. When Ignatius and the soldiers arrived in Smyrna, Polycarp and the pastors comforted him. Ignatius told them he was not afraid, but looked forward to getting to be with Jesus. He tells them to stay strong in suffering. In a few weeks, Polycarp hears that Ignatius died bravely. He never forgets Ignatius’ courage.

End:
Polycarp stays in Smyrna for 60 years and becomes an old man. Persecutions in Smyrna gets worse. During a Festival to Caesar, the crowds call for Polycarp to confess Caesar as Lord. They wait in the huge theatre/arena as soldiers search for Polycarp. Two of Polycarp’s servant boys are forced into telling where the believers have hidden Polycarp in the haystack at a farm. The soldiers find Polycarp and bring him into the arena on a donkey. The governor bids Polycarp to put a pinch of incense on the altar and confess Caesar as Lord to save his life. Polycarp refuses to deny Jesus, his King who has loved him for 87 years. The governor threatens throwing him to lions or burning him in a fire. Polycarp warns the governor of the fires of hell. The governor pronounces Polycarp a Christian and must die by fire. The people rush to gather wood for the bonfire. Polycarp says a prayer and then the fire is lit and he dies in the flames.
1. What made life in Smyrna so hard for the Christians? Citizens were required to confess Caesar as Lord each year. If they did not, they would not get a certificate of citizenship. 
2. What happened if Christians did not have their certificate of citizenship? They were kept from getting jobs and even buying food in the market.
3. Who was Smyrna’s pastor? Polycarp.
4. What was special about how Polycarp learned the stories and teachings of Jesus? He learned them from the apostle John, himself.
6. What did Polycarp help Christians from many places with? Clearing up their confusion about what Jesus really taught.
7. Why was Ignatius arrested? What was going to happen to him? He would not confess Caesar as Lord and deny Jesus. He was to be thrown to the lions in Rome.
8. Why did Polycarp do to encourage Ignatius? Gather pastors together in Smyrna to encourage Ignatius and meet his needs as he stopped in Smyrna on his way to Rome.
10. What did the governor want Polycarp to do to go free? Deny Jesus and confess Caesar as Lord.
11. What did Polycarp give as his reason for not denying Jesus? He could not deny the King who had saved him.
13. What does this story have to do with our Big Idea? God gave the Christians in Smyrna strength to faithfully endure persecution from the Romans. They counted it an honor to suffer for Him. Polycarp and Ignatius chose to suffer and die rather than deny their Lord. This would bring great glory, praise and honor to the Lord.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Ignatius and Paul were both given the chance to deny Jesus as Lord and save their lives, yet both of them refused to do so. Ignatius knew he would face death by lions and Polycarp, by fire, but the sufferings did not lead them to deny Jesus, but to make their faith—and the faith of the people in their churches—stronger.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7

“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Polycarp, Ignatius and the other Christians suffered grief in all sorts of trials. God used those trials to refine their faith in Jesus, so that they would even be faithful to Him when facing death in a fire! They brought praise, glory and honor to God by never denying Jesus but loving Him to the very end of their lives!

**Life Application**

1. How can thinking about Polycarp and Ignatius affect the lives of God’s people? They can be encouragement to them to know that if God gave Polycarp and Ignatius strength for their sufferings, He can also give God’s people today what they need. They can pray God would work in their hearts that they would count it on honor to suffer for His name.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that Polycarp and Ignatius and the other Christians believed in and suffered for? 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 Sustainer of His people, even through the hardest trials.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that sometimes we do not act like Ignatius or Polycarp at all when we are faced others being upset about the good news of Jesus. We would rather avoid standing up and telling others about Jesus than having them make fun of us, not like us or even hurting us because of our belief in Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank Jesus for enduring the worst suffering and grief of all in order to save His people from their sins.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us courage to stand up for Him and tell others about Him, even when others might not like what we have to say.

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

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

**Story Review Game**

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

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

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

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

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

**Optional Closing Activity:**
**Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time.**
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Big Idea
1. When will God’s people suffer? Here on earth.
2. How will they suffer? In many ways, but only according to His plan.
3. What will He use their sufferings to do in them? To strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him; to make them holy.
4. What will God always, only use His people’s sufferings to do? To do good to them and to bring glory to His name.
5. What will God give His people by His Holy Spirit? The strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives.
5. What do God’s people want even more than not to suffer? To see their sufferings strengthen their faith and for them to result in praise, glory and honor.
6. What will their sufferings result in when Jesus comes back? Praise, glory and honor.
7. Why do God’s people think it is an honor to suffer for God? Because of how He sent His Son to suffer and die for them.
8. What do God’s people look forward to? The day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions
How did Ignatius and Polycarp encourage the other Christians by how they suffered? They endured their suffering as an honor. They showed the other Christians that Jesus was worth confessing, even if it meant their death. They showed them that the Lord truly did give strength to endure even these kinds of terrible trials.

Life Application Questions
1. How can knowing about God being the perfect planner of their sufferings help God’s people? They can be encouraged in the middle of suffering that God will give them strength to endure through it; and they can know that God is only using their sufferings for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His people’s sufferings.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.
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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

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

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

Big Idea Game

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

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

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

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

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

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

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
1 Peter 1:6-7
“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. What were these believers suffering? **Grief in all kinds of trials.**
2. What is grief? **Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.**
3. What is a trial? **Hardships or troubles we go through.**
4. What are some trials that believers go through? **Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.**
5. Why do trials come to believers? **That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**
6. What is their faith worth more than? Why? **Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.**
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? **This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.**
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? **We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.**
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? **Praise glory & honor.**
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? **God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.**

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? **God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.**

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? **Ignatius and Paul were both given the chance to deny Jesus as Lord and save their lives, yet both of them refused to do so. Ignatius knew he would face death by lions and Polycarp, by fire, but the sufferings did not lead them to deny Jesus, but to make their faith—and the faith of the people in their churches—stronger.**

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of 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 the perfect planner of His people’s sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.

“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

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

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Bowling Ball Verse
Scripture Verse Game

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

Preparing the Game
None.

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

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

Game continues until all children get a chance to bowl, or as time and attention span allow.

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

1. What were these believers suffering? *Grief in all kinds of trials.*
2. What is grief? Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.
3. What is a trial? Hardships or troubles we go through.
4. What are some trials that believers go through? Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.
5. Why do trials come to believers? That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
6. What is their faith worth more than? Why? God. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? Praise glory & honor.
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor will for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.

### Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.
Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Ignatius and Paul were both given the chance to deny Jesus as Lord and save their lives, yet both of them refused to do so. Ignatius knew he would face death by lions and Polycarp, by fire, but the sufferings did not lead them to deny Jesus, but to make their faith—and the faith of the people in their churches—stronger.

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of 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 the perfect planner of His people’s sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.

“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Gospel Question
What is the good news of Jesus that is the root of their faith that God promises to refine through trials?

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.
Hymn Discussion Questions

How Firm a Foundation

Verse 3
“When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4
“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho’ all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

1. What is a “fiery trial?” It has nothing to do with fire, but just means a really hard time of suffering we have to go through.
2. What “pathway” do these fiery trials lie upon? Not a real path or road that you walk on. Pathway is another way of saying things you go through in your life. So, it’s talking about the times of suffering you face in life.
3. What does “supply” mean and what shall be the believer’s supply when going thro their difficult trials? Supply means to be everything you need. God’s grace—that is, His gifts of strength, faith, hope, patience, etc that He freely gives His people—will be enough for them to make it through even the hardest of sufferings.
4. What shall not hurt the believer? The flame.
5. What does he mean by “flame?” The writer has been talking about “fiery trials”—hard times the believer goes through. A flame is what burns or hurts you. He is saying that even when His people go through “fiery,” hard times of suffering, they will never let the trials be anything but for the good and His glory.
6. What does God design (plan) for the “flame” to do? Just like fire is used to purify gold by melting out impurities (called dross) and make it more beautify and pure, so God only plans to use His people’s trials to purify them of sin and strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him.
7. What does it mean to lean on something for repose? To rest on something peacefully, without worry.
8. What does God promise to a person (a soul) who rests on Him, peacefully? He will never desert (abandon) to his foes (enemies).
9. What does it mean for “hell to endeavor to shake” a soul? What does God promise when that happens to His people? It means for Satan to bring lots of suffering upon them and try to get them to turn away from God. God promises to never forsake them. He will always be with them, always giving them strength to endure their sufferings, no matter how hard they are.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan? God’s people may go through very hard, “fiery” trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are “staid” on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to “consume their dross”—make them holy—and bring glory to His name.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Ignatius and Polycarp leaned upon Jesus for repose through their sufferings. The Lord did not forsake them but helped them to stand strong to the end. Polycarp’s life really did end with a fiery trial.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: **1 Peter 1:6-7**

“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

God’s people praise God that He will use all their fiery trials to refine their faith. He will never desert them or forsake. Completely the opposite is true. He will always be with them, supplying them everything they need. He will use all their trials to bring praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for promising to always protect them, and help them through even the worst of trials. They can ask Him to use their trials to make them holier and stronger in their faith.
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 hymn? Praise God for being the God who never deserts His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? That many times we do not lean on Jesus or trust Him to supply us what we need when we suffer. We grumble and complain instead.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? We can thank God for using the trials of His people to refine their faith; and, for giving them everything they need to endure their trials.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to supply us what we need to endure any trials we are going through. We can ask Him to help us to come to Him and depend upon Him as we go through them.

Gospel Question
Fiery trials are a part of everyone’s life, but God’s people take joy in God as they go through theirs? Why? What has God done for them? 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. He even will use everything in their lives for their good and His glory, making them more like Jesus! If we repent and trust in Jesus, 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! He will use all of our sufferings for our good and His glory. 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

**Preparation of 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.
A Pinch of Incense on a Roman Altar to Caesar

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
   A pinch of incense on a Roman altar to Caesar

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
   Where? In Smyrna
   Who? Polycarp
   Did What? Chose to die rather than offer
   With the Big Idea Object? Offer a pinch of incense on a Roman altar to Caesar
   Why? Because he refused to deny Jesus as His Savior and Lord.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
   Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. God gave Polycarp the faith and strength to keep worshiping Him and to face death bravely because God always helps His people through the suffering He allows in their lives as part of His good and perfect plan.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
   No matter how much God’s people suffer, they can always trust that God is able to sustain them through them. He will always use their trials for their good and His glory.
A Pinch of Incense on a Roman Altar to Caesar

Description
The children will make a model of the Roman governor of Smyrna and a stone altar with incense on it, using salt dough, spices and a few decorating supplies.

Materials
1 ½ -2 cups of salt dough per craft (see recipe below)
Various implements to decorate with, such as garlic presses, toothpicks, and forks
Ground cloves, ginger and cinnamon
1/3 green or gold pipe cleaner per craft
1 white tissue per craft
Jiggly eyes, if desired
Pieces of Cereal box or poster board

Preparing the Craft
1. Mix up the salt dough and put in an airtight container until ready to use.
2. Set out “carving implements”
3. Set out the spices in small bowls.
4. Cut the pipe cleaners into thirds.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Salt Dough Recipe
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup salt
1 cup cold water

Mix together flour and salt. Gradually add the water. Mix, then knead until well blended.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children shape about ½ cup of their dough into a simple rectangular altar shape and add designs on it with the implements. The garlic press makes wonderful strands, while the toothpicks and forks can be used to carve designs. They can carve the name “Caesar” into it, if they want.
3. Let the children add to the top of their altar a combination of the spices. This is a great time to talk about how meaningless sprinkling spices (incense) on an altar must has seemed, yet how it stood for so much that Polycarp would rather die rather do it.
4. Have them take the rest of their salt dough and shape it into a simple “governor” man. Again, they can use the garlic press to make hair for him.
5. Twist the pipe cleaner into a laurel (a circlet) and put it on the governor’s head.
6. Bunch up the ends of the white tissue, bring them together and then tape them together. This makes a simple toga to slip over the head of the governor and let drape diagonally from one shoulder across to his opposite thigh or so.
7. Insert jiggly eyes into his head, if desired.
8. Have the children set their governor and altar onto a suitable sized piece of cereal box/poster board. (If you use white poster board, the children could also decorate it in a mock mosaic pattern with markers, as was common on the floors of important Roman buildings and places.)
Dear______________________________________________

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

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.

1. Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.

2. Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting Him.

3. Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His People's sufferings.

4. 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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

I also decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was: God's People Suffer According to His Plan. God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and to them alone.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Ask God to use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. They count it as an honor to suffer and in His power to help them through these sufferings. They rejoice in knowing He will bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him.

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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>
</table>
| _____ | **Arrive no later than this to prepare for session**  
My preparations: |
| _____ | **Children arrive** |
| _____ | **Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)** |

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

**How to do the singing portion:**

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

**Story time**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Snack and Discussion Time | Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.  
Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”  
1. What does the snack have to do with the story?  
2. ___________________________________________________________________________________  
3. ___________________________________________________________________________________  
4. ___________________________________________________________________________________  
5. ___________________________________________________________________________________  
6. ___________________________________________________________________________________  
   • If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.  
   • The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions. |
| Activity Time | Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here: |
| ACTS Prayer Time (Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead) | Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests) |
| Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time | Have small groups present in the following order: Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups. Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game. |
**WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN**

**Opening Large Group Time**

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

**Echo Chamber/Folder Hunt**

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

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

  - Echo Chamber Schedule (Echo Chamber Only)
  - WoGoLOA Rules
  - WoGoLOA Rules Chant
  - Unit 12 Big Question/Song
  - Unit 12 Scripture Verse/Song
  - Big Idea 72 Concept Sign
  - Big Idea 72 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**
  **Only According to His Plan**
  - Acts 9, 18; 2 Corinthians
  - 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
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
Use 2 miniature puff pastry shells (in the freezer section of the grocery store in boxes of 10-12) to make a “basket” bottom and lid. Fill bottom with sugar-free pudding or other filling, stick Teddy graham “Paul” in it, and put the lid on.

ACTS Prayer
A Praise God for being so gracious and compassionate that He chose to save sinful people from every people on earth.
C Confess that many times we do not tell others about salvation through Jesus when we could. Confess that we are sinners who need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too.
T Thank God for sending people to tell us the good news of Jesus. Thank Him for choosing to use His people to tell others this best of news.
S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask Him to help His people to bravely tell the peoples of the world about salvation through Jesus. Ask God to bring many people to know and love Him.

Drama
Activities:
- Discuss story
- Fill in Speaker Sheets
- Practice Play

Resources:
- Plan-a-Play Story Guide, p. 64
- Speaker Sheets Appendix B, Drama Group

Story Review Game: Forceball
Activities:
- Discuss story
- Play Game
- Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time

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

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

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

Drama Refresher:
- Introduction pp. 23-25

Story Review Game Refresher:
- Introduction pp. 35-36
- Appendix C
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Bean Bag Grand March

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

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

Big Idea Craft: Paul’s Enemies

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

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

VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game: Stop and Go

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

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

Scripture Verse Game: Which Way Did It Go?

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

**Resources:**
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
**WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN**

**Discussion and Activity Time, continued**

**Scripture Song: For A Little While: 1 Peter 1:6-7**

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

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

**Hymn: How Firm a Foundation: Verses 3-4**

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

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

Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

Drama
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

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

Big Idea Craft
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

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

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

Scripture Song
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
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 72 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 72 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
Only According to His Plan
- Acts 9,18; 2 Corinthians
- 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

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

Use 2 miniature puff pastry shells (in the freezer section of the grocery store in boxes of 10-12) to make a “basket” bottom and lid. Fill bottom with sugar-free pudding or other filling, stick Teddy graham “Paul” in it, and put the lid on.

ACTS Prayer

P R A I S E  G O D  f o r  b e i n g  s o  g r a c i o u s  a n d  c o m p a s s i o n a t e  t h a t  H e  c h o s e  t o  s a v e  s i n f u l  p e o p l e  f r o m  e v e r y  p e o p l e  o n  e a r t h .

Con f e s s  t h a t  m a n y  t i m e s  w e  d o  n o t  t e l l  o t h e r s  a b o u t  s a v a t i o n  t h r o u g h  J e s u s  w h e n  w e  c o u l d .  C o n f e s s  t h a t  w e  a r e  s i n n e r s  w h o  n e e d  t o  t u r n  a w a y  f r o m  o u r  s i n s  a n d  t r u s t  i n  J e s u s  a s  o u r  S a v i o r ,  t o o .

T h a n k  G o d  f o r  s e n d i n g  p e o p l e  t o  t e l l  u s  t h e  g o o d  n e w s  o f  J e s u s .  T h a n k  H i m  f o r  c h o o s i n g  t o  u s e  H i s  p e o p l e  t o  t e l l  o t h e r s  t h i s  b e s t  o f  n e w s .

A s k  G o d  t o  w o r k  i n  o u r  h e a r t s  t h a t  w e  m i g h t  t u r n  f r o m  o u r  s i n s  a n d  t r u s t  i n  J e s u s  a s  o u r  o w n  S a v i o r .  A s k  H i m  t o  h e l p  H i s  p e o p l e  t o  b r a v e l y  t e l l  t h e  p e o p l e  s  o f  t h e  w o r l d  a b o u t  s a v a t i o n  t h r o u g h  J e s u s .  A s k  G o d  t o  b r i n g  m a n y  p e o p l e  t o  k n o w  a n d  l o v e  H i m .
After snack and discussion time, each group of Kindergarteners take part in one or two activities, as time allows.

**Group 1 Activities**

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

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

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

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

**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
Group 2 Activities

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

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

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by …

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

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

Resources:
VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group
VIPP Prayer Letters
VIPP Clue Cards: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group
Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
Our story today starts out about 2000 years ago in the Syrian city of Damascus, which lay about 175 miles north and east of Jerusalem.

Like a great oasis made of stone, the towering walls of Damascus rose out of the unending sand dunes of the Syrian desert. With the only fresh water source for miles around, Damascus was a welcome stop of merchants with their heavy-laden camels caravans on their way along the great trade route that stretched from Babylon in the East, down through Jerusalem, and then all the way to Egypt. Each day, hundreds of traders streamed inside the city gates seeking to be refreshed, to sell their goods and to exchange news from abroad.

These days much of the gossip from Jerusalem centered on the doings of one young, extremely zealous, Jew named Saul who was trying to cleanse the city of all Christians. He was hunting them down, throwing them in jail and even helping to have them killed. But the latest word was that now he was expanding his hunt to other cities outside of Jerusalem; and, that he was even on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians there.

You can imagine the shock and fear of one Damascus Christian named Ananias when the Lord Jesus called to him in a vision, saying,

“Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Paul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” (Acts 9:10-16, NIV)

“Could it really be,” thought Ananias, “that this murderous hater of the Christians might now have turned and become a follower of Jesus? Could it be that this man who had caused so many believers to suffer and even die was now to suffer greatly that Jews, Gentiles and even their kings might hear and believe in Jesus, too? It was almost more than Ananias could believe. But one thing was for sure, it better be true. For if it wasn’t Ananias would be walking straight into the grasp of one of the most notorious enemies of Christians there was. If the Lord had not truly changed Saul’s heart, Ananias could expect to
be arrested, beaten, sent to prison, even killed. Yet if Ananias knew one that it was that the Lord was always in control. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God’s glory. So as impossible and risky as this order seemed, Ananias believed and quickly obeyed.

Down the narrow, dark, alley-like passage called Straight Street, Ananias headed. He came to Judas’ house and there found Paul, just as the Lord had said. ‘Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Paul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19and after taking some food, he regained his strength.’ (Acts 9:17-19, NIV)

It did not take long for Ananias and the other Christians to see just how true the Lord’s words about Paul were. For ‘at once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” Yet Paul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.’ (Acts 9:20-22, NIV)

How quickly the Lord had begun to use Paul to spread His Word to Jews and Gentiles, just as He had planned. But just as quickly came the promised sufferings, too:

“Paul must be killed!” the Jews decided.

They even got the governor of Damascus to help them. “Shut down and search the whole city. No one goes in or out! Guard all the gates. Be on constant watch for this trouble-maker,” the governor ordered his men. “When you find him, arrest him and bring him to me.”

But Paul was never to be found. The Lord protected him. The believers put him in a large basket, lowered him with ropes through a window in the wall, and Paul escaped. Paul was to suffer for the Lord, but only has He had planned for Paul’s good and God’s glory. Being caught by enemies in Damascus was not part of His plan. The Lord enabled Paul to slip out of their grasp.

Damascus was only a beginning of what the Lord had planned for Paul. Paul traveled many hundreds of miles by foot and by boat, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. Many heard the good news and believed; but even more were angered by Paul’s preaching and tried to kill him. And oh, how Paul suffered, just as Jesus had said! Jews hated him for proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of God. Five times they caught him and gave him forty lashes minus one with a whip—just 1 lash short of the number that would kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. Three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned. Many times he was chained and thrown into jail by them. Three times he was shipwrecked, and once even spent a night and a day in the open sea. Constantly he was being hunted down by enemies. Many times he was hungry and thirsty, cold and even naked! In the city, in the country, from the Jews, from the Romans, Paul
suffered and faced death over and over.

There always seemed to be someone who hated Paul. Did this make him give up and stop telling others about Jesus? No, it did not. No matter who hurt him or how he suffered, Paul rejoiced. He thought about how Jesus had suffered and died to save him and he was honored that the Lord had chosen him to suffer for His sake. He was grateful that the Lord had promised to use his sufferings to grow his trust and obedience to Him. He knew that no matter how terrible were his sufferings, the Lord was in control. He would give him strength to endure them; and in the end, all these sufferings would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus came back. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for His good and to God’s glory. These sufferings only strengthened Paul’s faith and made him want to trust and obey God more.

One day, Paul came to the biggest city he had ever visited: the city of Corinth. Corinth was one of the most important cities in the whole Roman Empire, second only to Rome and Ephesus. It lay on a tiny tip of land only a few miles wide that separated the Gulf of Corinth to the west from the Saronic Gulf to the east, just below Athens in southern Greece. The Greeks built a limestone road and giant platform with wheels (called a Diolkos) that ships could be pulled onto and then wheeled those few miles from one Gulf to another. Since ships who took this short cut on their way to and from Rome could cut days off of their journeys, many captains chose to use the Diolkos. Those whose ships were too big to be dragged across on the cart would empty all of their cargo onto the cart and have it dragged to the other Gulf to be loaded onto another ship for delivery. To make it even more important, Corinth also lay right on the road that went up to Athens and other Greek cities to the north. Many ships would stop at Corinth to unpack their goods to be delivered to cities along that trade route. Paul knew that Corinth was a great crossroads for much of the Roman Empire. To bring the good news to Jesus to Corinth meant to take it to the world, Paul knew. The people in Corinth who became Christians could tell the sailors and merchants about Jesus and they in turn would take the gospel with them to people in distant lands as they continued on their journeys. Yes, Paul was excited to come to Corinth!

But it wasn’t just excitement that Paul felt as he entered the bustling streets of Corinth. It was fear, too. Corinth wasn’t only known for being one of the biggest and most important cities in the Roman Empire. It was also known for being one of the biggest and wickedest cities in the Roman Empire. There certainly were plenty of Temples to the Apollo and other Roman gods where people were encouraged to worship by doing sinful things. But not only that, when all those sailors from all over the world came into port and all those merchants came up and down the trade route from Athens and other parts of Greece to pick up goods, they came to Corinth hoping to have what they called a good time—which was really nothing more than a lot of wild parties where they did lots of sinful things that did not please God at all.

As Paul entered those terrible streets of Corinth, it was easy for him to see just how wicked it was. He had suffered terribly in other cities from the Jews and the Romans and he feared what the wicked people of Corinth might do to him if he told them to turn away from those wild parties and trust in Jesus as their
Savior. But did his fears make him leave town without telling them about Jesus? No, it did not. No matter who hurt him or how he suffered, Paul rejoiced. He thought about how Jesus had suffered and died to save him and he was honored that the Lord had chosen him to suffer for His sake. He was grateful that the Lord had promised to use his sufferings to grow his trust and obedience to Him. He knew that no matter how terrible were his sufferings, the Lord was in control. He would give him strength to endure them; and in the end, all these sufferings would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus came back. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God’s glory.

So Paul went straight into town, to the synagogue and began to tell the Jews and Greeks there about Jesus: “Confess your sins to God. Turn from your sinful ways and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He is the Messiah, God’s Son, who died on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all who come to Him for forgiveness. He will change your hearts to know, love and obey God.”

Some believed, but many did not. “We don’t believe you. Jesus is not our Messiah, our Savior. You had better stop talking about Him or we will hurt you!” the Jews threatened Paul.

Paul shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Let this be a sign to you. I have told you about Jesus, but you have rejected Him. I have told you what God wanted me tell you. Now I will only talk to the Romans about Jesus.”

With that, he left the synagogue and went next door to the home of Titus Justus, a Gentile believer, and started preaching again to all the Corinthians who would come.

Soon many Corinthians believed in Jesus and left their sinful ways of life. Paul was delighted to see so many Corinthians become Christians, but he knew enemies were watching. The Jews did not want others to believe Jesus was the Messiah. The Gentiles watched as people stopped worshiping Apollo and the other gods at their temples and they stopped having their wild parties. Surely it would not be long now before someone hatched a plot to catch Paul, beat him and maybe kill him? Surely suffering was soon to come to Paul in Corinth, he feared.

But the same God who planned so much suffering to be part of Paul’s life, also protected him from it when it was not part of His good plan. He knew of Paul’s fears and one night He spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” (Acts 18: 9-10, NIV)

What! No suffering in Corinth of all places? This seemed almost impossible to believe. Yet if Paul knew one thing it was that the Lord was in control. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God’s glory. So as impossible and risky as it seemed for Paul to stay in Corinth, Paul believed the Lord’s promise and obeyed. He stayed on right where he was and kept preaching.

As Paul kept preaching, more and more people came to follow Jesus. And as they did, the Jews just got angrier and angrier. They devised a plot to get him in trouble with the Romans for turning Corinthians
away from worshiping Venus. But even as the Jews caught him and were dragging him into the Roman court, Paul did not worry. He kept trusting in the Lord’s promise to protect him from sufferings in Corinth. And sure enough, just when the Jews thought they had him, the Roman judge rejected their complaints and let Paul go free. The Lord had promised him no attacks and no harm, and so it was.

After a year and a half, it was time for Paul to move on to new cities and new people who had never heard about Jesus. As new believers came to faith in these new places, sufferings came to Paul once again. And how did Paul face these new sufferings? Just like all the others before: no matter who hurt him or how he suffered, Paul rejoiced. He thought about how Jesus had suffered and died to save him and he was honored that the Lord had chosen him to suffer for His sake. He was grateful that the Lord had promised to use his sufferings to grow his trust and obedience to Him. He knew that no matter how terrible were his sufferings, the Lord was in control. He would give him strength to endure them; and in the end, all these sufferings would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus came back. Believing, suffering, living, dying, whatever the Lord would have him do, it would be part of His perfect plan that would both be for his good and to God’s glory.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer according to God’s Plan
Our Scripture Verse is:
Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

What about you and me? Does it sound scary to think that God’s people will suffer? It’s not surprising if it does, for no one likes to suffer. But isn’t it wonderful to know that in heaven there will be no more suffering for God’s people. And here on earth, God’s people will only ever suffer in ways that their God, who loves them so much, has chosen for them. Isn’t it wonderful to know that He will always give them strength to endure their sufferings and that He will use all of them for their good and for His glory, praise and honor when Jesus Christ comes back?

How can we be God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Then, like Paul, we can know the wonderful, one, true God. And we can rest that God will be at work doing great things for our good and His glory through all our sufferings.

Let’s praise God, the Perfect Planner of all His people’s sufferings. 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 make us—like Paul—to be people who love Him and are honored to suffer for His name.
1. News comes to Damascus that Paul is coming to arrest Christians there just like in Jerusalem.
2. The Lord tells Ananias in a vision to go to Judas's house on Straight Street to lay hands on him and restore his sight.
3. Ananias is frightened, knowing how dangerous Paul has been to the Christians in Jerusalem. But the Lord tells him that Paul is His instrument to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. He tells him that Paul will suffer much for His name.
4. Ananias believed the Lord and goes to Paul. Paul sight is restored and he is baptized.
5. Paul immediately goes to the synagogue and starts preaching about Jesus. The Jews are amazed and angered by the change in Paul. They, along with the governor of Damascus plot to kill Paul.
6. The city gates are shut and the streets are searched, but Paul is never found. God protects him from this suffering by having the believers lower him out a window in the wall and escape.
7. Paul travels to many cities preaching to Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. He suffers much, just as the Lord had said he would.
8. The Jews hate him for saying Jesus is the Son of God. They whip him 39 times, almost enough to kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. He’s beaten with rods, he is stoned. Many times he is thrown into jail. He is shipwrecked. He is hungry, thirsty, cold and even naked! He faced death many times.
9. Paul’s suffers do not make want to stop telling others about Jesus. He counts it an honor.
10. Paul goes to Corinth, a big city where many sailors and merchants from all over the world stop. He is excited to preach the gospel there, hoping that it will spread with these sailors and merchants to distant lands. He is also scared that he will be greatly persecuted in this city, known for its wickedness. Even though he is scared, he still preaches the gospel anyway.
11. Paul starts to preach in the synagogue, but he is soon rejected by the Jews. He shakes out his clothes, leaves, and goes next door to Titus Justus’ house and preaches to the Gentiles.
12. Many Corinthians become Christians and Paul begins to worry what sufferings the Jews and Romans might bring upon him. The Lord tells Paul not to fear. He won’t let him suffer in Corinth.
13. Paul stays 1 ½ years and never is he harmed. Even when the Jews try to get him in trouble with the Romans, the judge refuses to hear their case.
14. Finally Paul goes to other cities to tell them about Jesus. He faces more sufferings, but always counts it an honor for the name of Jesus.
1. Drama Group Resources

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

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

2. Games Groups Resources

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

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

3. Songs Groups Resources

Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
Hymn Discussion Sheet

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

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

4. Craft Resources

Craft Instructions and Resources

(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)

5. VIPP Resources

VIPP Prayer Letter

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

When? About 2000 years ago

Where? In Damascus, Syria & in Corinth

What's It Like? Damascus: Great, walled city in the Syrian desert with fresh water. Favorite stopping point for merchants on their way from Babylon to Jerusalem and Egypt.

2. Who's in It? (Speaker 5)

Paul
Ananias
Judas
“Scales”
Jews
Governor of Damascus
Whip
Rod
Stones
Corinthians
Venus and Temple
Titus Justus
Governor of Corinth

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

Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. Paul kept bravely telling others about Jesus even when suffering b/c he knew that God was completely in control of his sufferings.

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

No Suffering is Too Great for the Sake of Jesus

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

Beginning: News comes to Damascus that Paul is coming to arrest Christians there just like in Jerusalem. The Lord tells Ananias in a vision to go to Judas’s house on Straight Street to lay hands on him and restore his sight. Ananias is frightened, knowing how dangerous Paul has been to the Christians in Jerusalem. But the Lord tells him that Paul is His instrument to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. He tells him that Paul will suffer much for His name. Ananias believed the Lord and goes to Paul. Paul sight is restored and he is baptized. Paul immediately goes to the synagogue and starts preaching about Jesus. The Jews are amazed and angered by the change in Paul. They, along with the governor of Damascus plot to kill Paul. The city gates are shut and the streets are searched, but Paul is never found. God protects him from this suffering by having the believers lower him out a window in the wall and escape.

Middle:

Paul travels to many cities preaching to Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. He suffers much, just as the Lord had said he would. The Jews hate him for saying Jesus is the Son of God. They whip him 39 times, almost enough to kill a man. The Romans hated him for stirring up trouble and turning people from worshipping the Roman gods. He’s beaten with rods, he is stoned. Many times he is thrown into jail. He is shipwrecked. He is hungry, thirsty, cold & even naked! He faced death many times. Paul’s sufferings don’t stop him from telling others about Jesus. He counts it an honor.

End: Paul goes to Corinth, a big city where many sailors and merchants from all over the world stop. He is excited to preach the gospel there, hoping that it will spread with these sailors and merchants to distant lands. He is also scared that he will be greatly persecuted in this city, known for its wickedness. Even though he is scared, he still preaches the gospel anyway. Paul starts to preach in the synagogue, but he is soon rejected by the Jews. He shakes out his clothes, leaves, and goes next door to Titus Justus’ house and preaches to the Gentiles. Many Corinthians become Christians and Paul begins to worry what sufferings the Jews and Romans might bring upon him. The Lord tells Paul not to fear. He won’t let him suffer in Corinth. Paul stays 1 ½ years and never is he harmed. Even when the Jews try to get him in trouble with the Romans, the judge refuses to hear their case. Finally Paul goes to other cities to tell them about Jesus. He faces more sufferings, but always counts it an honor for the name of Jesus.
Beginning:

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1. What news from Jerusalem reached Damascus? **Paul was coming to arrest Christians like he had in Jerusalem.**

2. What did Jesus tell Ananias to do? **Go to Paul and lay hands on him to restore his sight.**

3. Why did Ananias not want to go to Paul? **He knew Paul had come to arrest the Christians.**

4. What did Jesus tell Ananias about Paul? **He was the Lord’s chosen instrument to tell the Jews, Gentiles and their kings about Himself. He would suffer much.**

5. What happened when Ananias went to see Paul? **Paul’s sight was restored. He was baptized.**

6. What did Paul start to do after he was baptized? **Went to the synagogue to preach to the Jews about Jesus.**

7. Why did the Jews want to kill Paul? **For preaching powerfully that Jesus was the Messiah.**

8. How did Paul escape from Damascus? **Why didn’t the Romans catch him? Through a window in the wall. They did not catch him b/c the Lord hadn’t planned for Paul to suffer that way.**

9. What happened when Paul as he began to travel and preach about Jesus? **Many people believed, but many more did not. They made him suffer in many ways.**

10. What was so bad about getting 39 lashes? **One short of death.**

11. What are some ways that Paul suffered? **Hungry, thirsty, shipwrecked, stoned, beaten with rods, many times in jail, etc.**

12. What was Corinth like as a city? **One of biggest cities in Roman Empire. Filled with merchants and sailors from around the world. Known for wickedness.**

13. What happened when Paul went to the synagogue in Corinth? **Jews got angry about Paul’s message. Paul shook out clothes and went next door to preach to the Gentiles.**

14. Why was Paul afraid about staying in Corinth? **Jews & Romans were angry at so many people coming to believe in Jesus. He knew that suffering would surely come soon.**

15. What did the Lord tell Paul that made him stop fearing in Corinth? **He told him to stay and preach. He promised him that he would not suffer there and that many people would come to believe in Himself.**

16. What does this story have to do with our Big Idea? **Paul knew that the Lord was in complete control over his sufferings. He would not allow him to suffer if it was not His will. The Lord would give him strength to endure any sufferings He did plan for him.**

**Big Idea Connections**

1. How could the Lord tell Ananias about Paul’s sufferings before they happened? **Because God was in control of all of Paul’s sufferings, just like He is in control of everything else. He knew exactly what He had planned for Paul to suffer and what He did not.**

2. Why did Paul stay in Corinth without fear of suffering? **The Lord gave him His promise and Paul knew the Lord was in control of all his sufferings.**

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: **1 Peter 1:6-7**

“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Even though Paul faced a life of terrible suffering, he would not stop preaching about Jesus. He took comfort in knowing that God was in complete control of when and how he suffered. He knew that God was using these trials to purify his faith and bring glory to Himself.

**Life Application**

1. How can God’s people today take comfort from Paul’s life of suffering? **God is also in complete control over their sufferings. He will not allow them to suffer if it is not His will. The Lord will give them strength to endure any sufferings He has planned for them.**

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 through Jesus that Paul counted it an honor to suffer for? 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 Powerful to only have His people suffer the trials He has allowed for their good and His glory.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we are not like Paul, who counted it an honor to suffer for the sake of Jesus. Many times we would rather avoid any suffering at all.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for being so able to sustain His people through whatever suffering they go through.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us count it as a honor to suffer for Him in any way He has chosen. We can ask Him to help us to endure any sufferings we go through with courage and even joy in Him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good and perfect plan. God will always, only, use their sufferings to do good to them and bring glory to His name. He will use their sufferings to strengthen their faith, their love and their dependence on Him. He will use them to make God’s people holy. By His Holy Spirit, God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives. Best of all, God promises that they will rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes back. God’s people do not like to suffer. Many times they do not understand why they suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They praise God for His wisdom and mercy in allowing far less suffering in their lives than they deserve. They trust His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the sufferings He has and in His power to help them through these sufferings. They rejoice in knowing He will use all of their sufferings for their good and His glory. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for their sins upon the cross. They also look forward to the day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.

**Understanding the Big Idea**

1. When will God’s people suffer? *Here on earth.*
2. How will they suffer? *In many ways, but only according to His plan.*
3. What will He use their sufferings to do in them? *To strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him; to make them holy.*
4. What will God always, only use His people’s sufferings to do? *To do good to them and to bring glory to His name.*
5. What will God give His people by His Holy Spirit? *The strength they need to endure all the sufferings He has chosen to allow in their lives.*
5. What do God’s people want even more than not to suffer? *To see their sufferings strengthen their faith and for them to result in praise, glory and honor.*
6. What will their sufferings result in when Jesus comes back? *Praise, glory and honor.*
7. Why do God’s people think it is an honor to suffer for God? *Because of how He sent His Son to suffer and die for them.*
8. What do God’s people look forward to? *The day when they will live with God and their sufferings and sadnesses will be gone forever.*

**Big Idea Story Connection Questions**

1. How could the Lord tell Ananias about Paul’s sufferings before they happened? *Because God was in control of all of Paul’s sufferings, just like He is in control of everything else. He knew exactly what He had planned for Paul to suffer and what He did not.*
2. Why did Paul stay in Corinth without fear of suffering? *The Lord gave him His promise and Paul knew the Lord was in control of all his sufferings.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can knowing about God being the perfect planner of their sufferings help God’s people? *They can be encouraged in the middle of suffering that God will give them strength to endure through it; and they can know that God is only using their sufferings for their good and His glory.*
2. How can we become God’s people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*
Scripture Verse Connection
What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being the perfect Planner of His people’s sufferings.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.
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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

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

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

Big Idea Game

Materials
Small bowl or bag
1 Bean Bag per child
CD and CD player
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

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

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

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

Optional Closing Activity
Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
If you have time left over, you can do the other game; or, you can have the children think up their own Quiz Questions to ask the other children during Closing Large Group Time, instead of using the ones from discussion time and the game.
Understanding the Scripture
1. What were these believers suffering? Grief in all kinds of trials.
2. What is grief? Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.
3. What is a trial? Hardships or troubles we go through.
4. What are some trials that believers go through? Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.
5. Why do trials come to believers? That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ in revealed.
6. What is their faith worth more than? Why? God. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? Praise, glory, and honor.
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.

Big Idea Connection
What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.

Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Even though Paul faced a life of terrible suffering, he would not stop preaching about Jesus. He took comfort in knowing that God was in complete control of when and how he suffered. He knew that God was using these trials to purify his faith and bring glory to Himself.

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of 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 the perfect planner of His people’s sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse? We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.
“…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

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

Preparing the Children for the Scripture Verse Game
Introduce and Practice Shortened Games version before playing game.

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
WHICH WAY DID IT GO?
Scripture Verse Game

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

Preparing the Game
None.

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

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

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

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

1. What were these believers suffering? *Grief in all kinds of trials.*
2. What is grief? *Great sadness of heart caused by pain, loss of things or people that they love.*
3. What is a trial? *Hardships or troubles we go through.*
4. What are some trials that believers go through? *Sickness, sadness, loneliness, suffering for believing in Jesus, etc.*
5. Why do trials come to believers? *That their faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*
6. What is their faith worth more than? *God. Gold is worth a lot here on earth. It lasts better than most anything—even fire does not destroy it, but only burns out any impurities that are in it, making it worth even more. But, even gold will not last forever. Through faith in Jesus, we receive eternal life with God. That is something that will last forever and is even more wonderful than anything gold could give us.*
7. What does it mean for our faith to be proved genuine? *This is a phrase that gold workers use in Bible times. Gold is put in a very hot furnace to melt away anything that isn’t gold from it and leave it completely pure. God uses suffering to make our faith in Him purer and stronger.*
8. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be revealed? *We cannot see Jesus right now b/c He is in heaven. At the end of time, He will return and be revealed for all to see. He will make an end of all sin and rebellion and His people will glorify Him.*
9. What will God’s people’s sufferings result in when Jesus Christ is revealed? *Praise glory & honor.*
10. Who will receive praise, glory and honor? *God and His people. His people will receive praise, glory and honor will for enduring suffering and for being made holier through them. Yet, not just them. For they will give God all the praise, glory and honor for they know that He perfectly chose their sufferings and gave them the strength to endure. He will always receive the greatest praise.*

Big Idea Connection

What does the verse have to do with our Big Idea? *God’s people know that God will use their sufferings to prove their faith genuine and result in praise, glory and honor because He is the one who perfectly planned their sufferings and gave them the strength to do this.*
Story Connection
What does the verse have to do with our story? Even though Paul faced a life of terrible suffering, he would not stop preaching about Jesus. He took comfort in knowing that God was in complete control of when and how he suffered. He knew that God was using these trials to purify his faith and bring glory to Himself.

Life Application
1. How can this verse be an encouragement to God’s people today? As they suffer all kinds of trials, they can remember that God promises to always be using them to refine their faith in God. This will be for their good and His glory.
2. How can we become one of 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 the perfect planner of His people’s sufferings so that they will result in praise, glory and honor. He promises their sufferings will result in these good and great things.
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times we only grumble and complain about sufferings. We do not trust God or ask God to use them for our good and His glory.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God using the sufferings of His people to refine their faith.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
   We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to use all our sufferings to refine our faith in Him and that they would result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We can ask Him to encourage God’s people around the world in their sufferings, too.
   “…for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

Gospel Question
What is the good news of Jesus that is the root of their faith that God promises to refine through trials?
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.
How Firm a Foundation
Verse 3
“When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Verse 4
“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho’ all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

1. What is a “fiery trial?” It has nothing to do with fire, but just means a really hard time of suffering we have to go through.

2. What “pathway” do these fiery trials lie upon? Not a real path or road that you walk on. Pathway is another way of saying things you go through in your life. So, it’s talking about the times of suffering you face in life.

3. What does “supply” mean and what shall be the believer’s supply when going thro their difficult trials? Supply means to be everything you need. God’s grace—that is, His gifts of strength, faith, hope, patience, etc that He freely gives His people—will be enough for them to make it through even the hardest of sufferings.

4. What shall not hurt the believer? The flame.

5. What does he mean by “flame?” The writer has been talking about “fiery trials”—hard times the believer goes through. A flame is what burns or hurts you. He is saying that even when His people go through “fiery,” hard times of suffering, they will never let the trials be anything but for the good and His glory.

6. What does God design (plan) for the “flame” to do? Just like fire is used to purify gold by melting out impurities (called dross) and make it more beautify and pure, so God only plans to use His people’s trials to purify them of sin and strengthen their faith, love and dependence upon Him.

7. What does it mean to lean on something for repose? To rest on something peacefully, without worry.

8. What does God promise to a person (a soul) who rests on Him, peacefully? He will never desert (abandon) to his foes (enemies).

9. What does it mean for “hell to endeavor to shake” a soul? What does God promise when that happens to His people? It means for Satan to bring lots of suffering upon them and try to get them to turn away from God. God promises to never forsake them. He will always be with them, always giving them strength to endure their sufferings, no matter how hard they are.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan? God’s people may go through very hard, “fiery” trials, but they know that God is their firm foundation. They are “staid” on Jesus, trusting that He always be with them and only use their trials to “consume their dross”—make them holy—and bring glory to His name.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Paul faced more trials than most believers in his life; yet, never did the Lord forsake him. He always gave him grace to endure the trials. He never deserted him to his foes. Paul knew that the Lord was always completely in control, using his trials for his good and God’s glory.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: 1 Peter 1:6-7
“...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
God’s people praise God that He will use all their fiery trials to refine their faith. He will never desert them or forsake. Completely the opposite is true. He will always be with them, supplying them everything they need. He will use all their trials to bring praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for promising to always protect them, and help them through even the worst of trials. They can ask Him to use their trials to make them holier and stronger in their faith.
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 hymn?
Praise God for being the God who never deserts His people.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
That many times we do not lean on Jesus or trust Him to supply us what we need when we suffer. We grumble and complain instead.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
We can thank God for using the trials of His people to refine their faith; and, for giving them everything they need to endure their trials.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Scripture Verse?
That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to supply us what we need to endure any trials we are going through. We can ask Him to help us to come to Him and depend upon Him as we go through them.

Gospel Question
Fiery trials are a part of everyone’s life, but God’s people take joy in God as they go through theirs? Why? What has God done for them? 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. He even will use everything in their lives for their good and His glory, making them more like Jesus! If we repent and trust in Jesus, 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! He will use all of our sufferings for our good and His glory. 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**
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.
Paul’s Enemies

1. What Is It? (Presenter 1)

Paul’s Enemies

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

Where? In Corinth,

Who? Paul

Did What? Preached the gospel without being hurt by

With the Big Idea Object? His enemies

Why? Because the LORD had promised him that He would not allow Paul to be harmed while he was in Corinth.

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Suffer According to His Plan. Wherever Paul went, he had enemies who did not want him to tell the good news of Jesus. Paul knew that his enemies could not harm him in any way or at any time that was not a part of God’s good and perfect will.

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

God keeps His people from suffering in ways other than what is part of His good and perfect will for their good and His glory.
**Paul’s Enemies**

**Description**
The children will make an angry face spoon puppet “enemy” using wooden (or plastic) spoons and various decorating supplies.

**Materials**
- 1 Wooden or white plastic spoon per craft (The benefit of wooden spoon is that you have more space to decorate per craft. The benefit of the plastic spoons is that they are much cheaper and you can have the children make multiple crafts, if desired)
- Jiggly eyes
- 1 pipe cleaner per craft
- Decorating supplies such as Sequins, buttons, glitter glue, small pom-poms, yarn scraps
- Craft Glue
- Black markers (regular kind if using wooden spoons; must be permanent (!) markers if using plastic spoons)

**Preparing the Craft**
1. Set out supplies

**Making the Craft**
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children make angry-faced puppets using the back of the spoon for the face and the handle of the spoon for the “body”.
3. Children can use the pom-poms/buttons for noses, hair or as decorations down the spoon handle for cloths. Yarn works well as hair. The markers can be used to add in angry eye brows and a frowning mouth. The pipe cleaner can be wrapped around the base of the spoon and made into arms. Make loops on the end of the arms for hands.
Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

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 use our sufferings to strengthen our faith, love and dependence on Him; and to result in the most praise, glory and honor for Him that is possible.

To them...

1. Thank God for always giving His people the strength to endure the sufferings He has planned for them.

2. Confess how many times we complain when we suffer instead of turning to God and trusting in Him.

3. Praise God for bringing the perfect Plan of His people's sufferings.

4. 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.

   - Praise God for His wisdom and mercy in allowing far less suffering in our lives than we deserve. They trust His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the sufferings He has planned for their sins. They know that God will always give His people the strength they need to endure all the sufferings and sadnesses they are given.
   - Praise God for His wisdom in allowing in their lives only the suffering that will help them grow in faith. They trust God to use their suffering to make them stronger in their faith.
   - Praise God for allowing their sufferings to be a way for them to grow in faith. They trust God to use their suffering to grow their faith.
   - Praise God for allowing their sufferings to be a way for them to grow in faith. They trust God to use their suffering to grow their faith.

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

We thought about Jesus' suffering: God's People Suffer According to His Plan. God has promised His people that while they will suffer in many ways here on earth, they will only suffer according to His good plan. God has promised His people that they will suffer the way they do. But they love God even more than they hate to suffer. They rejoice in seeing all their sufferings result in praise, glory and honor for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sins of the world. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sins of the world. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sins of the world. They count it as an honor to suffer for the name of Jesus, the One who suffered most of all, when He took the punishment for the sins of the world.

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today is revealed:

"...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

We thought about 1 Peter 1:6-7: "...for a little while you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—which is of greater worth than gold which perishes though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
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.