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.

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

**Additional Resources Your Teachers May Need:**

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

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

Big Idea Concept: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home

Jesus is God’s Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to earth as a man (yet still fully God, too!) to save His people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins. When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people. But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day. There are also many times when God’s people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven; and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine. And the best thing of all will be living in His Presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Scripture Verse

Meditation Version: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Shortened Memory Version: Philippians 3:18,19,20
“…many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction…Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Stories

Week 1  There’s No Place Like Home

Week 2  Hope and Home for Ishii

Week 3  Bound for the Promised Land
Exodus 2-3; Hebrews 11:16,23-27

Big Idea ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

Songs

Hymn We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes vs.1,3
Scripture Song Our Citizenship Is in Heaven Philippians 3:18,19,20
Alternate Scripture Song You were Publicly Exposed Hebrews 10:32-36
**Big Idea Concept**

Jesus is God’s Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to earth as a man (yet still fully God, too!) to save His people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins. When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people. But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day. There are also many times when God’s people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven; and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine. And the best thing of all will be living in His Presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

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“…many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction…Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Big Idea ACTS Prayer**

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C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T Thank God for being willing to forgive all our sins, when we confess them and trust in Christ as our Savior

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

**Bible Story & Supplemental Reading**

Moses Gives Up the Riches and Fame of Egypt for a Better Land Ex. 2-3; Acts 7: 20-43; Heb. 11:16,23-27

Leading Little Ones to God #64: God’s Children Look for What Is Coming

**Songs**

Hymn: We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes, Verses 1,3

**Big Idea Hymn Connection:** God has a special calling here on earth for each of His adopted children. Many times they may have to do without good things, struggle against sinful desires and suffer as a part of His plan. But they joyfully work for Him no matter what, looking forward to the far greater riches and life of heaven they will enjoy when they die and go to heaven or when Jesus comes back. Then they will be home forever and how wonderful that will be!

Scripture Song: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20

**Big Idea Scripture Song Connection:** This song reminds us that God’s people are different from other people. They no longer live as enemies of the cross of Christ. They have turned from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They are God’s adopted children. They want to live to please Him. They look forward to the day when they will live with God and all of God’s people in heaven. They know that heaven is their real home now. What a great day that will be when they get to be there! They eagerly await the day when Jesus comes back to take them there to be with Him forever.
**Big Idea 73 Scripture Song**
**Our Citizenship is in Heaven**

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind’s on earthly things,
But what about God’s people?

But our citizenship is in heav’n,
Yes, our citizenship is in heav’n,
And we eagerly, we eagerly,
Await a savior from there.

Adapted from Philippians 3:18, 19, 20
Big Idea Concept
Jesus is God’s Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to earth as a man (yet still fully God, too!) to save His people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins. When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people. But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day. There are also many times when God’s people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven; and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine. And the best thing of all will be living in His Presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Scripture Verse
Meditation Version: Philippians 3:18-20
“...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction...Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Shortened Memory Version: Philippians 3:18,19,20
“...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction...Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Big Idea ACTS Prayer
A Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.
C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.
T Thank God for being willing to forgive all our sins, when we confess them and trust in Christ as our Savior
S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

Bible Story & Supplemental Reading
Moses Gives Up the Riches and Fame of Egypt for a Better Land  Ex. 2-3; Acts 7: 20-43; Heb. 11:16,23-27
Leading Little Ones to God #64: God’s Children Look for What Is Coming

Songs
Hymn: We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes, Verses 1,3
Big Idea Hymn Connection: God has a special calling here on earth for each of His adopted children. Many times they may have to do without good things, struggle against sinful desires and suffer as a part of His plan. But they joyfully work for Him no matter what, looking forward to the far greater riches and life of heaven they will enjoy when they die and go to heaven or when Jesus comes back. Then they will be home forever and how wonderful that will be!
Scripture Song: You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36
Big Idea Scripture Song Connection: God’s people may have to endure many hardships and do without good things as they obey God’s plan for their lives here on earth. But they have joy b/c they know that when they come home to heaven, they will have rich rewards and close fellowship with God forever.
Big Idea 73 Alternate Scripture Song
You Were Publicly Exposed
You were publicly exposed to insult and persecution,
You sympathized with those in prison,
And joyfully accepted confiscation of your property.
Why? Because you knew,
You knew yourselves,
That you had better possessions,
You knew, you knew you had better possessions.
So... Do not throw away your confidence;
it will be richly rewarded.
Persevere so when you've done the will of God,
You will receive what he has promised.

Adapted from Hebrews 10:32-36

Big Idea 73 Hymn
We'll Work Till Jesus Comes, verses 1, 3
Verse 1
O land of rest, for thee I sigh!
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by
And dwell in peace at home?

Refrain
We'll work till Jesus comes, We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes, And we'll be gathered home.

Verse 3
I sought at once my Savior's side,
No more my steps to roam:
With Him I'll brave death's chilling tide,
And reach my heav'nly home.

Words Elizabeth Mills  Music William Miller  Public Domain

CD Volume 3  CD Track # 49  CD Volume 3  CD Track # 51
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 73</th>
<th>KEY CONCEPTS USED IN ECHO CHAMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WoGoLOA Rules</td>
<td>Always the same, see Rules and Chant on following pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Big Question</td>
<td>Unit 12 Big Question: How Should God’s People Live Each Day? They Should Live Like Jesus!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Unit 12 Scripture Verse: Live a Life of Love Just as Christ Loved You. Ephesians 5:2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Concept</td>
<td>Big Idea 73 Concept: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Big Idea 73 Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
be kind
be encouraging
help others

THE WO GO LOA RULES
WOGOLOA RULES CHANT

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

All: WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

Part A:

WoGo means...
Sound off...
Joyfully....
Listen...
Obey...

All: WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

Part B:

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

All: WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

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

All: WoGoLOA means Worship God and Love One Another!

... Love One Another!
...1-2-3
...kind
...couraging
...others!

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

Four Movement Ideas for the Big Question 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 Song

How Should God's People Live Each Day?

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

Ephesians Five, Two. O-le!

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

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

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

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

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

adapted from Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love just as Christ loved you. Live a life of love 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!
**BIG IDEA 73:**

**God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home**

Jesus is God’s Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came to earth as a man (yet still fully God, too!) to save His people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins.

When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people.

But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day.

There are also many times when God’s people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children.

Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven; and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine. And the best thing of all will be living in His Presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.
Meditation Version: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Shortened Memory Version:
Philippians 3:18,19,20
“…many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction…Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
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)
Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind’s on earthly things,
Theirs mind’s on earthly things.

*But what about God’s people?*

But our citizenship is in heav’n,
Yes, our citizenship is in heav’n,
And we eagerly, we eagerly,
Await a Savior from there.
Our Citizenship Is in Heaven

adapted from Philippians 3:18,19,20

Constance Dever

Ma - ny live as e - ne-mies of the cross of Christ, Ma - ny live as e - ne-mies of the
cross of Christ, Their de - stin - y is de - struc - tion, Their mind's on earth-ly things, their mind's on
earth-ly things. But what about God's people? But our ci - ti - zen - ship is in heav'n Yes, our
ci - ti - zen - ship is in heav'n, And we eag-er - ly, we eag-er - ly, a-wait a Sav - ior from there.
Our Citizenship is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18,19,20

Many
Hold both S hands, palms up, in front of the body. Open and close hands a few times.

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

Enemies
Start with index fingers pointing to each other. 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.

Cross
Using the right C hand outline a cross by making a motion down and then a motion from left to right.

Christ
Move right C hand from left shoulder to the right side of the waist.

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

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

Destruction
Place both open hands in front of body, palms facing and the right hand lower than the left. Reverse position of the hands while making A hands at the same time. Reverse A hands position again (motion ends with right A hand lower than left A hand).

Mind’s
Touch right index finger on forehead several times.
Our Citizenship is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18,19,20

Continued

**Earthly**
Hold left down-turned S hand stationary. Rock the right hand, thumb and index finger touching hand, on top of left hand.

**Things**
Move the curved, upturned right hand to the right in small arcs.

**But**
Cross the index fingers of both hands in front of the body. Then pull the hands apart.

**God’s**
Point the right G hand forward and up. Bring hand towards body while changing hand to a B position.

**People**
Make forward circles with both P hands.

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

**Citizenship**
Make the point of a triangle with the fingers of both flat hands. Pull hands apart and then down outlining the shape of a house.

**In**
Push the fingers of the right hand into the left C hand.

**Heav’n**
Start with hands in front of the body and palms facing in. Make a circle toward the body and above the head. Hands should end in front of the forehead, palms out and left hand behind the right hand.
Praise Factory Hymns & Scripture Songs

Our Citizenship is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18,19,20

Continued

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

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

Await
Wiggle the fingers of both upturned, curved hands. The right hand should be slightly behind the left hand.

Savior
Start with S hands crossed in front of chest, palms toward body. Move hands apart so that palms are facing out. Then move both hands, palms facing each other and fingers pointing forward, down a short distance.

From
Touch upturned left index finger with the knuckles of right X index finger, then move right hand slightly downwards and backwards in an arc.

There
Point the right index finger forward.
You were publicly exposed to insult and persecution,
You sympathized with those in prison,
And joyfully accepted confiscation of your property.
Why? Because you knew,
You knew yourselves,
That you had better possessions,
You knew, you knew you had better possessions.
So…Do not throw away your confidence;
it will be richly rewarded.
Persevere so when you’ve done the will of God,
You will receive what he has promised.
You Were Publicly Exposed

You were publicly exposed to insult and persecution.

You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted confiscation of your property.

Why? Because you knew, you knew your selves, that you had better possessions, you knew, you knew you had better possessions. So... Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. Persevere so when you've
done the will of God. You will receive what He has promised.
You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36

You
Point the right index finger forward.

Publicly
Make forward circles with both P hands.

Exposed
Point the right index finger in the middle of the left flat hand, palm forward and fingers up, and move hands forward at the same time.

Insult
Thrust right index finger forward and up, twisting slightly.

Persecution
Place both open hands in front of body, palms facing and the right hand lower than the left. Reverse position of the hands while making A hands at the same time. Reverse A hands position again (motion ends with right A hand lower than left A hand).

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

With
Bring fists together.

Those
Point the right index finger to a few imaginary people.

In
Push the fingers of the right hand into the left C hand.
You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36
Continued

**Prison**
Spread apart fingers of both hands and place fingers of right upturned hand palm facing in across the fingers of left hand, also with palm facing in.

**And**
Start with the right open hand in front of the left side of the body. Move the hand across the body. Bring the fingertips to touch.

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

**Accepted**
Move both open hands, palms down, toward chest while simultaneously closing hands so fingertips are resting on the chest.

**Confiscation**
Rapidly move cupped right hand into a fist while bringing it down towards the back of the closed left hand.

**Your**
Move the flat right hand straight out, as if towards another person.

**Property, Possessions, Had**
Place fingers of both hands on chest.

**Why**
Touch forehead with right hand fingers, then move hand forward while forming a Y hand at the same time, palm facing in.

**Because**
Start with the index finger of the right hand, palm facing down, touching right side of forehead. Bring the hand up and to the right, while changing the hand to the A position.
Knew
Touch the forehead a few times with the right hand, palm towards body.

Yourselves
Hold right A hand thumb up and make several short movements in the direction of the person spoken to.

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

So
Open both hands, palms upward, on each side of the body. At the same time slightly nod head and lower shoulders.

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

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

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

Richly
Place the upturned right hand, fingers all touching, in the left upturned hand. Then lift the right down-turned S hand up from the left hand.

Rewarded
Make A hands, knuckles facing up, with index fingers encircling the thumb tips. Then pivot hands down so that the knuckles face out.
You Were Publicly Exposed: Hebrews 10:32-36

Continued

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

**So That**
Start with index finger of right hand palm facing down touching right side of forehead. Bring hand up and to the right while changing hand to an A hand.

**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.

**Done**
Start with index fingers pointing toward the head at shoulder level. While moving hands upward, draw a circle with both index fingers, ending with index fingers pointing up.

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

**God**
Point the right G hand forward and up. Bring hand towards body while changing hand to a B position.

**Receive**
Move open hands together while simultaneously forming S hands with right hands over left hand; then bring both hands towards body.

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

**Promised**
Place right index finger on the lips. Then bring hand down so that it is flat on top of left S hand.
We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes

Verse 1

O land of rest, for thee I sigh!
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by
And dwell in peace at home?

Refrain:
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
And we’ll be gathered home.

Verse 3

I sought at once my Savior’s side,
No more my steps to roam:
With Him I’ll brave death’s chilling tide,
And reach my heav’nly home. (Refrain)
We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

1. O land of rest, for thee I sigh! When will the moment come, When I shall lay me
   To Jesus Christ I fled for rest; He bade me cease to roam, And lean for comfort
   I sought at once my Savior's side, No more my steps to roam: With Him I'll brave death's

2. armor by And dwell in peace at home? We'll work till Jesus comes, We'll
   on His breast Till He conducts me home. chill-ing tide And reach my heav'n-ly home.

3. work till Jesus comes, We'll work till Jesus comes and we'll be gathered home.
We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes, verses 1,3

Verse 1

O
Sign the letter O with the right hand.

Land
Hold both hands in front of the body with palms up and fingers touching, as if grabbing a little dirt. Then make outward circles with both down-turned hands.

Rest
Cross arms in front of the chest.

Thee
Point the right index finger forward.

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

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

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.

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

Moment
Place the right index finger against the left palm, fingers up and palm facing right. Move the right index finger towards the pinky finger.
Verse 1

**Come**
Place the right flat hand in front of right shoulder, palm facing the body. Then move it down into the palm of the left flat hand.

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

**Armor**
Position the palm side of the right A hand over the heart and the palm side of the left A hand below the right hand, above the waist.

**Dwell**
Bring both A hands with thumbs pointing up from waist to chest simultaneously.

**Peace**
Place the down-turned right hand on top of the upturned left hand. Then do the reverse. Then drop the hands down so that palms are down.

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

Refrain begins on next page.
**We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes, verses 1,3**

**Refrain**

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

*Work*
Make fists with both hands. Rap the back of the left wrist with the inside of the right wrist a couple of times.

*Till*
Start with both hands, index fingers pointing up. Then move the right index finger so that it touches the left index finger.

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

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

*And*
Start with the right open hand in front of the left side of the body. Move the hand across the body bringing the fingertips to touch.

*Gathered*
Bring curved hands, palms facing, from side of body together. Then place A hands together in front of body and make a circle.

*Home*
Place right hand, fingers touching, on the mouth and then move hand to the right cheek.
Verse 3

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

Sought
Rotate the thumb side of the right C hand in a clockwise circle around the face.

At once
Move right H hand, palm facing left, forward in small arcs.

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

Savior’s
Start with S hands crossed in front of chest, palms toward body. Move hands apart so that palms are facing out. Then move both hands, palms facing each other and fingers pointing forward, down a short distance.

Side
Move the right curved hand from close to the body to touch the palm side of the left hand. Both hands should have palms facing the body.

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

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

Roam
Hold the left index finger, pointing out and palm down, stationary. Then move the right index finger from beside the left finger, forward and to the right a short distance.
Verse 3

Refrain begins on next page.

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

Brave
Start with fingertips of both hands touching chest. Draw both hands away from the body while simultaneously forming the S position with both hands.

Death’s
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.

Chilling
Hold both S hands near the chest and shake them as if you are cold.

Tide
Place right W hand, palm facing left, in front of the mouth.

Reach
Place the right flat hand in front of right shoulder, palm facing the body. Then move it down into the palm of the left flat hand.

Heavenly
Start with hands in front of the body and palms facing in. Make a circle toward the body and above the head. Hands should end in front of the forehead, palms out and left hand behind the right hand.

Home
Place right hand, fingers touching, on the mouth and then move hand to the right cheek.
We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes, verses 1,3

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

Work
Make fists with both hands. Rap the back of the left wrist with the inside of the right wrist a couple of times.

Till
Start with both hands, index fingers pointing up. Then move the right index finger so that it touches the left index finger.

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

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

And
Start with the right open hand in front of the left side of the body. Move the hand across the body bringing the fingertips to touch.

Gathered
Bring curved hands, palms facing, from side of body together. Then place A hands together in front of body and make a circle.

Home
Place right hand, fingers touching, on the mouth and then move hand to the right cheek.
**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>
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<td></td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
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<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>
</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>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Snack and Discussion Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pray, thanking God for the time together. Ask God to help your group to learn more about Him during your small group time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Choose 6 questions that you want the children to think about, using the story and your discussion sheets as your guides. The first question is always: “What does the snack have to do with the story?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. What does the snack have to do with the story?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>3________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>4________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>5________________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.________________________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If doing the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn activity, you will want to read the Scripture Verse, Big Idea or Hymn before leading the children in a discussion about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Drama group will fill in the Speaker Sheets as their discussion questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Activity Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead the children in the particular small group activity your group is doing. See the lesson plan for each activity for detailed instructions. Review tips for how to lead your activity, if necessary (found in introduction and appendices of the Teacher Binder). Always feel free to adapt or change an activity to fit the needs of your children. What about this activity might need to change to fit their attention span, reading ability or other particular needs? Note the changes here:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ACTS Prayer Time</strong> <em>(Exception: Drama group leader will incorporate a brief ACTS prayer into their opening prayer, instead)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead the children in an ACTS prayer incorporating an ACTS related to the Big Idea, Scripture verse or story, (see lesson plan and discussion sheets for ideas) AS WELL AS any personal prayers. Ask for volunteers to pray the prayer, but never force a child to pray. Note: Drama Group will probably want to do this before Activity time, instead of after Activity Time, as this schedule suggests)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group Time</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 73 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 73 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: There’s No Place Like Home
- Story Outline p.19
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

Don’t Forget!
Decorate story-telling area with props, costumes and scenery
the Drama Group will later use in their play
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time

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

Snack

Goldfish (or fish sticks) and pita bread, like the food Jesus miraculously multiplied for the crowd of 5000.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

C  Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T  Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

Drama

Activities:
Discuss story
Fill in Speaker Sheets
Practice Play

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

Story Review Game: Secret Agent

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

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

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

Snack 
ACTS Prayer Refresher:
Introduction pp.24-25

Drama Refresher:
Introduction pp.23-25
Appendix B

Story Review Game Refresher:
Introduction pp.35-36
Appendix C
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Big Idea Game: Obey! Omit!**

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

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

**Big Idea Craft: The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings**

**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: Mix and Match**

**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: Simon Says How**

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

**Resources:**
Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp.25-26
Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Week 1 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Scripture Song: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20

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

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

Hymn: We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes: Verses 1,3

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

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

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

Activity Presentations

Drama
- The Play, Introduced by the Speakers

Story Review Game
- Ask Story Review Questions

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

Big Idea Craft
- Present Craft, Using the Presenter Sheets

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

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

Scripture Song
- Sing Scripture Verse Song with Sign Language

Hymn
- Sing Hymn with Sign Language

Closing Prayer

Play Clean Up Game, Appendix B, C

Give Out Take Home Sheets
Opening Large Group Time

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

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Resources:
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- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Snack

Goldfish (or fish sticks) and pita bread, like the food Jesus miraculously multiplied for the crowd of 5000.

ACTS Prayer

A  Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

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S  Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.
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

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<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions</td>
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<td>for Closing Large Group Time</td>
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Then, as time allows, followed by …

Group 1, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20

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<tr>
<td>Play Song Game: <strong>Big Voice, Little Voice</strong></td>
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Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time, continued

Group 2 Activities

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

Group 2, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
There’s No Place Like Home


Story

Imagine a home filled with glorious light and indescribably beautiful things, far more wonderful than anything you could dream of. Imagine a home where there is never sadness or sin, where there is no pain or loneliness, emptiness or death. Imagine a home where there is only goodness and love, so deep and so delightful that they fill you up completely, spill over and fill up everyone else, too, leaving no room for anything else in anyone’s heart. Then imagine not just a home, but an entire, endless home-land like this. A place where the Kingdom of God was already in full blossom. If you try really hard, perhaps you can snatch a glimpse of an idea of how wonderful this place would be.

Do you think this is a pretend place? Well, it is not. It is heaven—home of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

No one would ever really want to leave a home like this, yet Jesus, the Son of God did! He didn’t leave it because He didn’t like it or because He was looking for some place better. He left because He was being sent on a mission by His Father: a mission to save sinful people and adopt them as His special people so that they could come and live with Him forever in the Perfect Wonderfulness of the presence of God.

What would Jesus do on this mission? He was going to show people what God is like and to tell them how they could have eternal life. He was going there to live a perfect life and offer Himself up to God the Father on the cross as the only acceptable sacrifice for His people’s sins. He was going to rise from the dead to show His complete victory over sin and death.

And where would Jesus go when His mission was finished? Right back to His home in heaven, where once more He would enjoy the full riches of the love and fellowship of God the Father and the Holy Spirit. For you see, heaven, where God’s presence dwells most fully, was the place Jesus most wanted to be.

So down to earth went the Son of God on His mission. He was born a human baby boy, the son of Mary, yet still the Son of God. And He was given the name, Jesus.

When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. “Repent—turn away from your sins—for the Kingdom of God is near. Believe in Me. I am the One who was promised to come save you from your sins and bring you into wonderful fellowship with God. If you do, then your home will be with Me in heaven, in God’s presence, forever and ever.

As Jesus preached, He also did amazing miracles that showed He really was who He said He was. Huge crowds of sick people came to Him; and no matter what their illness, Jesus healed them. The blind came to Him, and He made them see. The deaf came, and He made them hear. The paralyzed came, and He made them walk. He healed the lepers and those who had seemed hopelessly troubled with evil spirits. Sometimes, He even chose to bring dead people back to life.
But Jesus didn’t just heal people, He did other astonishing miracles, too. Once, on a grassy hillside on the far side of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus fed over 5000 men and their families with just five small barley loaves of bread and two little fish, with baskets full of food left over!

The people were thrilled and amazed at what Jesus was saying and doing: “Who has ever seen such mighty works or heard such powerful teaching?” they exclaimed to each other. “Surely this must be the Prophet, the Messiah, the King, who God promised would come to destroy our enemies and bring God’s Kingdom to Israel!”

Crowds of hundreds and even thousands began to gather around Jesus. They praised Him and they planned to overthrow the Romans and make Jesus king of Israel.

What was Jesus thinking as He heard their plans? How easy it would be for Him to imagine a life of fame and glory and riches as king of Israel right here on earth! He could leave behind His life as a wandering teacher and live instead in a luxurious palace as the Jews’ wise, good and powerful king. He could get rid of the Romans and bring peace and happiness to Israel like back in the good old days of King David. The best this world had to offer surely would be His and the Jews, if He were to become their earthly king as the people wanted Him to be. Satan had once tempted Jesus with these very kinds of thoughts.

But even if these tempting thoughts came into Jesus’ mind right then, they had no power over Him, for Jesus thought about something even better than the world’s best—His home in heaven. Earthly kingdoms, fame, riches and honor might seem glorious now, but they would soon pass away. But oh, how very different was Jesus’ home, the heavenly Kingdom of God! There, God’s reign was already in full blossom. There, there was no sin, no rebellion, no sadness, no death already. There, the glory of God’s presence dwelled in fullness already. There, Jesus had fullest fellowship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. heaven, already.

If that were not enough, there were God’s people to think about. An earthly kingdom would never rescue them from their sins. Only if Jesus kept to His mission, to pay for their sins as their Savior, would God’s people know eternal life in God’s presence forever. No, for Jesus, nothing on earth could compare to His home in heaven. There was no place like home, for Him or for His people. So, instead of encouraging the crowds to make Him their earthly king, Jesus withdrew from them and prayed to His Father.

Perhaps you might have guessed, most people didn’t like what Jesus chose to do. They didn’t want to wait for some heavenly kingdom or home they had never seen or known. They wanted a kingdom on earth, free from enemies and filled with happiness and peace now. And it did not take very long before the crowds who had loved Jesus, turned against Him.

“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” they yelled when Jesus was arrested by the Jewish leaders and sentenced to death on a cross by the Romans.

Up on a cross, Jesus was nailed. “Above his head [the Roman soldiers] placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one
on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, …“Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”

In the same way the [Jewish leaders] mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'”

(Matthew 27:37-43, NIV)

What was Jesus thinking as they mocked and taunted Him? He knew that thousands upon thousands of angels stood by and would come to His aid, if He but gave the command. He knew He had the power to end His suffering whenever He wanted to. He could come down from the cross and show His enemies who He was. But as easy as it might have been to want to stop suffering or to prove to those men who He really was, the Bible tells us that Jesus thought about something even better than these things: the joy set before Him: the joy of His home in heaven, where the kingdom of God was in full blossom. There, there was no sin, no rebellion, no sadness, no death already. There, the glory of God's presence dwelled in fullness already. There, Jesus had fullest fellowship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. heaven, already.

If that were not enough, there were God's people to think about. An earthly kingdom would never rescue them from their sins. Only if Jesus kept to His mission, to pay for their sins as their Savior, would God's people know eternal life in God's presence forever. Shocking those men and coming down from the cross might have been satisfying for a moment, but the thrill would quickly pass away. But if Jesus kept to His mission and endured the cross, He knew soon be praised as King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever in heaven when His suffering was over. God's people would be saved from their sins and know eternal peace and happiness with God forever in heaven. No, for Jesus, nothing on earth could compare to His home in heaven. There was no place like home, for Him or for His people. So, instead of responding to their jeers, Jesus kept suffering silently on the cross, knowing that soon He would be home forever.

One of the criminals who hung there [next to Jesus also began to hurl] insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" [he said to Jesus.]

But the other criminal rebuked him. [He believed Jesus was truly the Son of God come to save people that they might know eternal fellowship with God in His heavenly kingdom.] "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." [You will be coming home to heaven with Me!"


Three hours later, it was over. Jesus called out in a loud voice, “It is finished,” and died.

Straight to heaven went the spirits of Jesus and the believing thief who died on the cross next to Him. The thief could hardly believe the rich beauty of his new home. Never, ever had he imagined any place
could be so wonderful. And oh, the roar of praise, the blazing light of glory, and the flood of love and joy
that burst upon Jesus as He entered His heavenly home! He had done without many good things. He had
struggled against sinful desires. He had suffered more than anyone had suffered to complete the mission
His Father had given Him. And now He had won the victory over death! Highest glory, honor and praise
would be His now and forever, proclaimed millions of angels.

Jesus, Himself, delighted once more to be home in heaven, where the kingdom of God was in full
blossom. There, there was no sin, no rebellion, no sadness, no death already. There, the glory of God’s
presence dwelled in fullness already. And there, Jesus once more enjoyed the fullest fellowship with God
the Father and God the Holy Spirit. And because of Him, there God’s people would live with Him, too, in
their heavenly home. There really was no place like home!

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home
Our Scripture Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of
Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind
is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord
Jesus Christ.”

What about you and me? Like the thief who turned from his sins and believed in Jesus while dying on
the cross, so we, too, can turn from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior and be saved. Then we will
become God’s adopted people. The Holy Spirit will come and live in our hearts and through His
wonderful fellowship in our hearts, we can already begin to have a taste of life in God’s Kingdom even
today!

But, of course, that is only the beginning, for if we become God’s people, we can look forward to the
day when we die and go to be in heaven, where we will get to be in God’s wonderful presence at last. And
even that is not all, for one day Jesus will come back to this earth. He will bring an end to sin and death in
this world and He will make new heavens and earth. At last God’s kingdom here on earth will be in full
blossom just like it is already in heaven now. Everywhere Jesus reign and everyone will rejoice in His glory
and goodness and beauty. And God’s people will enjoy all the pleasures of eternal life with God forever.

Let’s praise this God who delights to make sinful people like us His dearly loved people who He will
bring to live in His wonderful home with Him forever. Let’s ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins
and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let’s ask Him to help us to remember the eternal rewards and pleasures of
heaven that we might take joy in obeying His will for our lives here on earth, no matter what He calls us to
give up or endure according to His good and wise plan.
Jesus lived in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Heaven was a home more wonderful than anything anyone could possibly imagine. There was no sin, sadness or death. Everything was exquisitely beautiful. There is nothing but pure goodness and love in the hearts of all. It is more than just a home, but a homeland where everyone and everything is so wonderful.

Jesus chose to leave this wonderful home and come to earth. He was sent on a mission by God the Father to save sinful people from their sins so they could live in fellowship with Him in heaven forever. Jesus was born as the son of Mary, yet was still the Son of God.

When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. He called people to repent and believe in Him that they could live in fellowship with God in heaven forever.

He did great miracles, too, that showed He was really who He said He was. He healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers and those troubled by evil spirits. Sometimes He even raised the dead.

He took five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 men and their families, w/ basketsful left over.

The people were amazed at what Jesus did and said. They thought He must be the promised Messiah and wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him king of Israel.

Jesus would have enjoyed great fame and a luxurious life as king of the Jews, but He thought about His home in heaven. He did not let them make Him king. He would do without these good things here on earth so that He could fulfill the mission God gave Him. He chose to wait for the better things of heaven.

The people did not like Jesus’ choice. They quickly turned on Him. When the Jewish leaders arrested Him and the Romans sentenced Him to crucifixion, they shouted for Him to be crucified.

Jesus and two thieves were hung on crosses. Many people came and mocked Jesus. They told Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was God’s Son, the Messiah.

Jesus thought about heaven rather than proving to them He was really the Messiah. He knew there He would receive far greater praise and honor than these men would give them. And, His people would be saved from their sins by His death on the cross.

One of the thieves mocked Jesus, too, but the other one believed in Jesus and what He had taught about His Kingdom in heaven. He asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom in heaven. Jesus promised him that he would be in heaven with Him that very day.

Within hours, Jesus and the thief had both died. Their spirits rose to heaven.

The thief was amazed at his new home in heaven. The voices of thousands and thousands of angels filled their ears with praise for Jesus and what He had done. Jesus once more soaked up the fullness of love and joy of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.
Welcome to The Praise Factory curriculum!
The resources within week of every Big Idea are ordered in exactly the same way:

1. Drama Group Resources
   - Plan-a-Play Story Guide
   - Act-It-Out Sheet
   
   *(Speaker Sheets are found in Appendix B: Drama Group)*

2. Games Groups Resources
   - Story Review Discussion Questions
   - Big Idea Discussion Questions
   - Scripture Verse Discussion Questions
   
   *(Directions to Games are found in Appendix C: Games Groups)*

3. Songs Groups Resources
   - Scripture Verse Song Discussion Sheet
   - Hymn Discussion Sheet
   
   *(Lyrics, Music and Sign Language for both songs found Big Idea Music Resources, at the front of the curriculum this Big Idea)*
   
   *(Song Intro Sheet is found in Appendix F: Songs Groups)*

4. Craft Resources
   - Craft Instructions and Resources
   
   *(Presenter Sheets found in Appendix E: Craft Group)*

5. VIPP Resources
   - VIPP Prayer Letter
   
   *(VIPP Clue Cards and Directions for VIPP Games are found in Appendix E: VIPP Group)*
1. Setting (Speakers 2-4)
When? About 2000 years ago
Where? Heaven and around Israel
What’s It Like?
Heaven: More beautiful than anything we can imagine. Filled with the light of God’s glory. There is no sin, sadness, or death; only love, goodness and wonderful fellowship with God.
Israel: Romans rule over the Jews and they want to overthrow them.

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
Heaven
God, the Father, Son & Holy Spirit
Earth
Jesus as a baby
Jesus as a man
Crowds of people
Sick People
Romans
Kingly Palace
Jewish Leaders
Crosses
Thieves

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Jesus was willing to do without good things, to struggle against sinful desires, and even to suffer terribly here on earth because He knew that heaven was His home. There He would receive far greater rewards, praise and love than anything earth could offer.

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
Jesus Never Forgot His Home

5. What's it About? (Leader’s Narration Guide)
Beginning:
Jesus lived in heaven with God the Father and Holy Spirit. Heaven was a home more wonderful than anything anyone could possibly imagine. There was no sin, sadness or death. Everything was exquisitely beautiful. There was only pure goodness and love. It is not just a home, but a homeland where everyone & everything was so wonderful. Jesus chose to leave this wonderful home and come to earth. He was sent on a mission by God the Father to save sinful people from their sins so they could live in fellowship with Him in heaven forever.

Middle:
Jesus was born as the son of Mary, yet was still the Son of God. When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. He called people to repent & believe in Him that they could live in fellowship w/ God in heaven forever. He did great miracles, too, that showed He was really who He said He was. He healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers & those troubled by evil spirits. He even raised the dead. He took five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 men and their families, with basketsful left over. The people were amazed at what Jesus did and said. They thought He must be the promised Messiah and wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him king of Israel. Jesus would have enjoyed great fame and a luxurious life as king of the Jews, but He thought about His home in heaven. He did not let them make Him king. He would do w/o these good things here on earth so He could fulfill the mission God gave Him. He chose to wait for the better things of heaven.

End:
The people did not like Jesus’ choice. They quickly turned on Him. When the Jewish leaders arrested Him and the Romans sentenced Him to crucifixion, they shouted for Him to be crucified. Jesus and two thieves were hung on crosses. Many people came and mocked Jesus. They told Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was God’s Son, the Messiah. Jesus thought about heaven rather than proving to them He was really the Messiah. He knew there He would receive far greater praise and honor than these men would give them. And, His people would be saved from their sins by His death on the cross. One of the thieves mocked Jesus, too, but the other one believed in Jesus and what He had taught about His Kingdom in heaven. He asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom in heaven. Jesus promised him that he would be in heaven with Him that very day. Within hours, Jesus and the thief had both died. Their spirits rose to heaven. The thief was amazed at his new home in heaven. The voices of countless angels filled their ears with praise for Jesus and what He had done. Jesus once more soaked up the fullness of love and joy of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.
Beginning:
Jesus lived in heaven with God the Father and Holy Spirit. Heaven was a home more wonderful than anything anyone could possibly imagine. There was no sin, sadness or death. Everything was exquisitely beautiful. There was only pure goodness and love. It is not just a home, but a homeland where everyone & everything was so wonderful. Jesus chose to leave this wonderful home and come to earth. He was sent on a mission by God the Father to save sinful people from their sins so they could live in fellowship with Him in heaven forever.

Middle:
Jesus was born as the son of Mary, yet was still the Son of God. When Jesus grew up, He began to preach the message of His mission. He called people to repent & believe in Him that they could live in fellowship w/ God in heaven forever. He did great miracles, too, that showed He was really who He said He was. He healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, the lepers & those troubled by evil spirits. He even raised the dead. He took five loaves and two fish and fed over 5000 men and their families, with basketsful left over. The people were amazed at what Jesus did and said. They thought He must be the promised Messiah and wanted to overthrow the Romans and make Him king of Israel. Jesus would have enjoyed great fame and a luxurious life as king of the Jews, but He thought about His home in heaven. He did not let them make Him king. He would do w/o these good things here on earth so He could fulfill the mission God gave Him. He chose to wait for the better things of heaven.

End:
The people did not like Jesus’ choice. They quickly turned on Him. When the Jewish leaders arrested Him and the Romans sentenced Him to crucifixion, they shouted for Him to be crucified. Jesus and two thieves were hung on crosses. Many people came and mocked Jesus. They told Him to come down from the cross and prove that He was God’s Son, the Messiah. Jesus thought about heaven rather than proving to them He was really the Messiah. He knew there He would receive far greater praise and honor than these men would give them. And, His people would be saved from their sins by His death on the cross. One of the thieves mocked Jesus, too, but the other one believed in Jesus and what He had taught about His Kingdom in heaven. He asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom in heaven. Jesus promised him that he would be in heaven with Him that very day. Within hours, Jesus and the thief had both died. Their spirits rose to heaven. The thief was amazed at his new home in heaven. The voices of countless angels filled their ears with praise for Jesus and what He had done. Jesus once more soaked up the fullness of love and joy of fellowship with God the Father and Holy Spirit.
1. What was heaven not have? Sadness, loneliness, death, sin, etc.
2. What good things did heaven have? Perfect love and goodness, things more beautiful than you can ever imagine, the close fellowship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, glorious light.
3. How was heaven like a homeland, not just a home? Everyone and everything lives perfectly under God's reign. It is not just a house, but a whole land, filled with the glorious presence of God.
4. Why did Jesus, the Son of God, leave heaven? To do the mission His Father had for Him.
5. What was the message of Jesus' mission on earth? To tell people to repent of their sins and trust in Him for forgiveness. If they did, they would have close fellowship with God and live with Him forever in heaven.
6. What did Jesus do that showed He was really who He said He was? Many miracles.
7. What did people think when they heard Jesus talk and see what He did? They thought He must be the King God promised them would come and save them.
8. Why did they want to make Jesus their earthly king? They wanted happiness and peace here on earth. They didn't understand/want to wait for the kingdom of heaven.
9. Why did Jesus not encourage the people to make Him their earthly king? He knew that wasn't what His Father had planned for Him. He knew that the people would not be saved from their sins if He was just their earthly king. He had to suffer and die for that to happen.
10. Why did the people turn on Jesus? He would not do what they wanted Him to do.
11. What did Jesus' enemies say to Him while He hung on the cross? They mocked Him for saying He was the King of Israel. They told Him to prove He was the Son of God by coming down from the cross.
12. Why did Jesus choose to keep suffering on the cross, instead of proving to the leaders and the people who He was? B/c He thought about His home in heaven & knew that what He would soon have there was far more wonderful than anything He might have on Earth.

Big Idea Connections
What does this story have to do with our Big Idea? Jesus was willing to do without good things, to struggle against sinful desires, and even to suffer terribly here on earth because He knew that heaven was His home. There He would receive far greater rewards, praise and love than anything earth could offer.

Scripture Verse Connections
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

When the people rejected Jesus for not being an earthly king, they showed that they were living as enemies of the cross. Their destiny was destruction. Their minds were on earthly things, not heavenly things. But Jesus knew His citizenship was in heaven. As He endured the cross, He looked forward with joy to the day when He would be there once more, with God His Father and God the Holy Spirit. He looked forward with joy to bringing His people to live with Him there forever.

Life Application
1. How can know heaven is their home help God's people through hard times? They can know that their hard times will not last forever; and that in heaven they will never no sadness again and will enjoy love and things far greater than anything they could have had on earth.
2. How can we become God's people? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
3. Do you ever think about heaven? When?
The Gospel

Why did Jesus leave His home in heaven?! 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 Jesus for loving His God’s people so much that He would leave His wonderful home in heaven to save them.

What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we do not appreciate all that Jesus left behind in order to save sinful people like us. We grumble at things we know God might want us to do, but forget all that He has done to save people like us!

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God that He, Himself, made a way for sinful people like us to live with Him in His wonderful heavenly home.

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 fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

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

Optional Closing Activity: Make Your Own Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time
Materials
Various detective looking items (a hat, dark glasses, tie, suit, watch, etc)
Paper and Marker
Tape
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.

Write the Story Review questions on small thin strips of paper. Tape (or pin) these to all sorts of secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. Teams will take turn having one of their members guess where a location of a Story Review question on your detective outfit. A team gets a point for finding a question and a point for answering the question correctly. Have the children be specific in their guesses, such as: “on top of your hat” or “inside your hat”, or “under your left shoe”, etc. That makes for more of a challenge. If a team is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for a point.

Game continues until the children find all the questions, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

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

Understanding the Big Idea
1. Who is Jesus? God’s Son.

2. Where is Jesus’ home and why did He leave it? Heaven. He left it to come to earth and save His people from their sins.

3. What was hard about what Jesus had to do to complete what God called Him to do? Many times He did w/o good things, struggled against sinful desires, and suffered.

4. Why wasn’t Jesus surprised or pity Himself b/c of the hard things He went through? He knew heaven was His home. There He would have eternal happiness & would receive praise.

5. What does it mean that God has adopted those who believe and live for Him as His children? They become part of His family. He will love and care for them as their Father. Heaven with God is their new, real home.

6. What about heaven helps God’s people endure their hardships with joy? They will have eternal happiness there with God. He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

7. What does God promise His children/people they will have when they go home to live with Him in heaven? Eternal happiness.

8. What will God give His people in heaven? Many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

9. What is the best thing of all that God’s people will enjoy in heaven? Living in God’s presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

What about heaven did Jesus look forward to enjoying again? The joy set before Him. The joy of being fully in fellowship again with God the Father and Holy Spirit; having His people be with Him there; and, receiving the praise due His name.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.
Life Application Questions
1. How can knowing heaven is their home help God’s people through their hardships? They can know that one day the hardships will end and they will enjoy close fellowship with God forever. They know that in heaven, God will give them far greater treasures than anything they gave up here.
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 because of this Big Idea? Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea? Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea? Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea? Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

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

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

**Materials**
Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into two teams, having them line up in straight lines, arms’ length apart, side to side. The leader stands at one end of the two lines and tells the children that he/she will tell them to do a certain action, saying “Obey” or “Omit” right before doing it. Children are to do the action if the leader says “Obey”, but NOT do it if they say “Omit” first. Any child caught moving when the leader has said “Omit” is identified and is the Question Chooser for the class. If the class answers the question correctly, then the child resumes play. If not, then the child must sit out until another round when a correct answer is given.

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

NOTE: Have children who are “Out” help give you ideas for actions.

**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. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.

2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

3. What does it mean to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.

4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.

5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.

6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.

7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.

8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.

9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.

10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.

11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.

12. What does it mean for God’s people to have their citizenship in heaven? It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.

13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.

14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.
Big Idea Connection
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Story Connection
What does this verse have to do with our story today? When the people rejected Jesus for not being an earthly king, they showed that they were living as enemies of the cross. Their minds were on earthly things, not heavenly things. But Jesus knew His citizenship was in heaven. As He endured the cross, He looked forward with joy to the day when He would be there once more, with God His Father and God the Holy Spirit. He looked forward with joy to bringing His people to live with Him there forever.

Life Application
1. How can God’s people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God’s presence forever.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
A die
Die Number and Action Chart (see below)

Preparing the Game
Make a sign as follows:
1 = Head
2 = Feet
3 = Hands
4 = Head and Feet
5 = Feet and Hands
6 = Whole Body

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

Playing the Game
Have the children spread out facing the leader. Tell the children that they are going to play “Simon Says How”, a game in which everyone will take turns making up different actions that they will try to do while trying to say the verse. Explain that “Simon” will roll the die and make up actions that use the parts of the body that correspond to the number on the chart. Everyone else will then recite the verse while doing the actions “Simon” made up. Simon will then choose another person to be Simon in his place.

Game continues until all children get to be Simon, 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.
Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,
Their destiny is destruction,
Their mind’s on earthly things,
Their citizenship is in heaven,
But our citizenship is in heav’n,
But what about God’s people?

Understanding the Scripture

1. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.
2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
3. What does it mean to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.
4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.
5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.
6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.
7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.
8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.
9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.
10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.
11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.
12. What does it mean for God’s people to have their citizenship in heaven? It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.
13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.
14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.

**Big Idea Connection**
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God's people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

**Story Connection**
What does this verse have to do with our story today? When the people rejected Jesus for not being an earthly king, they showed that they were living as enemies of the cross. Their destiny was destruction. Their minds were on earthly things, not heavenly things. But Jesus knew His citizenship was in heaven. As He endured the cross, He looked forward with joy to the day when He would be there once more, with God His Father and God the Holy Spirit. He looked forward with joy to bringing His people to live with Him there forever.

**Life Application**
1. How can God's people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God's presence forever.
2. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

**ACTS Questions**
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

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

Preparing the Game
None.

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

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

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

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

Verse 1
O land of rest, for thee I sigh!  
When will the moment come  
When I shall lay my armor by  
And dwell in peace at home?

Refrain:  
We'll work till Jesus comes,  
We'll work till Jesus comes,  
We'll work till Jesus comes,  
And we'll be gathered home.

Verse 3
I sought at once my Savior's side,  
No more my steps to roam:  
With Him I'll brave death's chilling tide,  
And reach my heav'nly home. (Refrain)

Understanding the Song
What is the “land of rest?” Why is it called that? Heaven is the land of rest because in heaven, God's people will rest from struggling against sin and suffering. They will not ever have to do without any good thing again.

2. What kind of armor does a Christian have? Not real armor like what a soldier wears. Living as a Christian is a fight against sin. This is talking about not having to fight against sin anymore when a Christian is in heaven.

3. What is the home where the Christian will dwell in peace? Heaven.

4. What kind of work do Christians do? When will they stop working? They obey God by loving Him and others. They are even willing to do w/o good things, struggle against sin and suffer as part of the work God may call them to. This work will end when Jesus comes back and He takes His people home to heaven; or, until they die (and go to heaven).

5. What does it mean to “seek my Savior’s side, no more my steps to roam?” It doesn’t mean trying to stand next to Jesus. It means spending time with Him in prayer & trying to obey everything He wants you to do.

6. What does it mean to ‘brave death’s chilling tide’? “Chilling tide” means cold water. Just like people don’t like to swim in cold water, people don’t like to die. Some people think of dying, like the Israelites crossing the water (or tide) of River Jordan into the Promised Land. Being alive in this world is like being in one land. Death is like crossing the River Jordan to get to the Promised Land of heaven on the other side. To brave something means to face something bravely.

7. What helps God’s people brave death? Jesus, who will be with them even through death.

8. What will God’s people reach after facing death? Their heavenly home.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home? God’s people know that life here on earth is often not easy. Many times they have to do w/o good things, struggle against sin, and suffer to do what God has called them to do. They look forward to the day their work is done and they will get to be in their heavenly home forever. Their they will have close fellowship with God and He will bless them with good things far better than anything they can imagine.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today's story? Jesus’ work on earth was harder than anyone who has ever and will ever live on earth. He endured His work joyfully b/c He looked forward to dwelling in peace at home with God the Father and the Holy Spirit when it was done. He looked forward to His people living forever with them, too.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song?
   They can praise God for preparing for them a “land of rest.” They can ask Him to help them to keep doing with joy whatever work He has for them by helping them remember the heavenly home that awaits them.
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 Giver of Peace and Rest for His people in the heavenly home He provides for them.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   That many times we don’t think about heaven or about working for God. Many times we just think about ourselves and what we want right now.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   We can thank God for the promise of a heavenly home for all His people, all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
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 help us to think about Him each day as we work—think about how we can love and obey Him in what we do. And, we can ask Him to fit us for heaven and give us hearts that long to be with Him forever.

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
Song Game

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

Preparing the Game
None.

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

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

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

When “It” finds the hidden clue, another “It” is chosen and play begins again.
### 1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)

The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>In Israel,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did What?</td>
<td>Rejected the people's desire for Him to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With the Big Idea Object?</td>
<td>The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Because He was the Son of God come to bring the Kingdom of God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Our Big Idea is: God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home. It would have been easier for Jesus to give into the people's desire for Him to be their earthly king, but Jesus knew that heaven was His home. He chose suffering and death on the cross to bring salvation to God’s people and victory for God’s Kingdom, instead. He would be the heavenly King of Kings, just as God had planned.

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

How great Jesus' love is for His people, that He would choose to do what would cause Him the most pain, so that they could be saved!
Big Idea Craft Instructions

The Earthly King of Israel to be the Heavenly King of Kings

Description
The children will make and decorate a reversible crown out of poster board, one side representing the earthly King of Israel, the other side representing the heavenly King of Kings.

Materials
22’ x 28” poster board
Crown templates
Markers, colored pencils, etc.
Craft jewels, sequins and glitter/glitter glue, feathers, other decorating supplies
Craft glue
Scissors
Sticky back velcro, 2” per craft

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out templates for crown, cut them out and tape them together as indicated. This is your pattern for cutting out the crown.
2. Cut out crowns out of the poster board.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Cut velcro into 1” pieces.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children write the words “King of Israel” on one side of the poster board and decorate only with markers, colored pencils or crayons.
3. Have the children turn over their crowns to the other side and write the words “King of Kings” on that side, decorating with the special decorating supplies. Let dry.
4. Stick velcro on each side of both ends of crown. Don’t forget to alternate hook and loop sides of the velcro so that on one end, the hook side is on the outside and the loop side is on the inside; and on the other end, the loop side is on the outside and the hook side is on the inside!
5. When the children make their presentation, they can tell the others that Jesus rejected the people’s desire for Him to be their earthly King of Israel (while showing the plain “King of Israel” side of the crown). Then, they can tell the others that He chose instead to suffer and die on the cross to save God’s people, bring victory to God’s Kingdom and to be the heavenly King of Kings (now reverse crown and show “King of Kings” side).
Crown Patterns: Tape End A to End B and use as pattern for crowns

Velcro goes here on each side. Make sure to alternate hook and loop pieces so that the velcro will stick properly.
Crown Patterns: Tape End A to End B and use as pattern for crowns

Velcro goes here on each side. Make sure to alternate hook and loop pieces so that the velcro will stick properly.
Dear ___________________________________

VIPP Prayer Letter Big Idea 73

You Are A Very Important Prayer Person!

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

You are a very important prayer person! God is counting on you to pray for people and ask Him to work in us to help us love God, obey Him, and long to be with Him.

God can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him, and long to be with Him. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him, and long to be with Him.

Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children. Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

The heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here. The heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don't get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heaven with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

We thought about Philippians 3:18-20. We thought about Philippians 3:18-20. They will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven. The Father and God the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. God had called Him to do for His people. But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people. Now our real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven. Our adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

We decorated this card for you during ACTS time. There 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.

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 being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven. Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from our ACTS prayer time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children. Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

Wonderfulness as we possibly can be. The heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here. The heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior.

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

You are a Very Important Prayer Person!

Dear ___________________________________

VIPP Prayer Letter Big Idea 73
**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same
type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
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 each of the VIPPs you are using in the game, showing them the clues and
reading the blurb on the VIPP information sheet for each of them.

**Review:** Put all the clip art in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and
have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by
splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in
the right place.

*Get Clues, Then Guess Version:*
**Get Clues:** Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or
to make it even harder, don’t!).

**Guess:** Have the children take turns pulling out the clues and have them guess who the clues go to.
When the children guess correctly, review the clues.
Session Schedule and Planning Sheet

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

_____ | Children arrive

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

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

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

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

**Time**  
**Activity**

Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities

---

**Snack and Discussion Time**

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

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

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________________________

6. _______________________________________________________________________

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

---

**Activity Time**

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

---

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

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

---

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

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

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
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 73 Concept Sign
Big Idea 73 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: “Hope and Home for Ishii” 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**
A carrot round “coin” with a little hole made in the middle to thread through red licorice lace “necklace” and/or Ishii’s “book” made with a folded over American cheese slice “pages” inserted into a piece of bread (can be buttered on inside) folded over as a “book cover”. If you really want to go all out, buy decorator icing or gel that comes in the tubes, cut the smallest nozzle hole possible, and make a Japanese word/symbol on the “cover” of your book.

**ACTS Prayer**

A Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with 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: Four Corners**

**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: Sit Ball

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 Packet for Miss MacDonald of Ishii’s Life Story a Letter and a Coin

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: Picture Run

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: Scrambled Eggs

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

Resources:
- Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 47-48
- Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix C Games Groups
Week 2 Lesson Plan

Discussion and Activity Time, continued

**Scripture Song: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20**

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

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

**Hymn: We'll Work Till Jesus Comes: Verses 1,3**

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

**Resources:**
- Hymn Discussion Questions Sheet, p. 49-50
- Hymn Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea
- Song Game Directions, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Song Intro Sheet, Appendix F Songs Groups
- Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs
Week 2 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 73 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 73 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:** “Hope and Home for Ishii” pp. 39-41
- Story Outline p.41
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)

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

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

**Snack**

A carrot round “coin” with a little hole made in the middle to thread through red licorice lace “necklace” and/or Ishii’s “book” made with a folded over American cheese slice “pages” inserted into a piece of bread (can be buttered on inside) folded over as a “book cover”. If you really want to go all out, buy decorator icing or gel that comes in the tubes, cut the smallest nozzle hole possible, and make a Japanese word/symbol on the “cover” of your book.

**ACTS Prayer**

A Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with 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)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Activities:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Resources:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse</td>
<td>Scripture Verse Discussion Questions Sheet, pp. 69-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
<td>Scripture Verse Game Directions: Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Activities:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Resources:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss story</td>
<td>VIPP Game Directions: Appendix G: Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about VIPP/Play VIPP Game</td>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate VIPP Clue Cards</td>
<td>VIPP Clue Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pray for VIPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIPP Prayer Letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIPP Refresher:
Introduction pp.26-32
Appendix E
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)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose Quiz Questions for Closing Large Group Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Story Review/Big Idea Discussion Questions Sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Kindergarten Games: Story Review, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Then, as time allows, followed by …*

**Group 2, Second Activity: Scripture Song: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Scripture Verse and Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn Song and Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Song Game: <em>Sign It, Say It, What Does it Mean?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Song Discussion Questions Sheet pp.71-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture Verse Lyrics and Sign Language, Music Resources in front of this Big Idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Game Directions, Appendix G Kindergarten Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise Factory Scripture Songs and Hymns CDs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 takes place about 90 years ago. It starts out on board the great passenger ship called the Empress of Russia.

The Empress of Russia was famous for speeding its passengers across the Pacific in record time and in luxury. Fine dining, elegant rooms, and prompt service were all part of the crews’ promise to make their passengers’ eight-day voyage from Tokyo to Vancouver, Canada as enjoyable as possible. Yet even with all their dedicated service, there was one thing the ship’s crew could not do for their passengers: control the weather. And on this particular trip, storm clouds, blustery winds and bone-chilling ocean spray greeted the ship’s passengers day after day. The bad weather forced them to cluster together indoors and find entertainment in conversation and games in one of the ship’s grand drawing rooms, rather than enjoy the fresh, sea air and beautiful views of the open ocean on deck.

On one of these stormy days, a particularly large group of passengers eagerly gathered around a little Canadian woman named Caroline MacDonald, as she told the amazing story behind the simple coin she wore on a chain around her neck.

She told them…..

“In the wild and lonely mountains near Okazaki, the darkness of the Japanese night sheltered from view a small group of policemen who were crouching down behind some great rocks. Following their leader they began to crawl, as stealthily as cats, around the rocks, until they had spread themselves around an open space, in the middle of which stood an armed man.

“Robber! Robber!” The shout rang through the night, and in a few seconds a band of Japanese police appeared as it were from nowhere, and began to close in upon the desperate fellow who stood, dagger in hand, glaring at them. There was a moment’s pause, and then at a word of command the policemen rushed upon him. The robber fought like a tiger, striking out with his dagger in all directions. Before long several policemen were wounded, and one was lying on the ground, injured. With one might leap, the burglar jumped clear and ran for his life, the police hot upon his heels. After a sharp run he came to a deep river sixty yards wide; throwing away his dagger, he dived in and swam to safety.

“What’s this?” said one of the police as something clinked on the ground at his foot. “It’s his dagger. Good! That’s a find!”

“Leave it there,” said another. “The rascal is sure to come back for it, especially when he finds he is not being followed. Let’s all hide.”

Hour after hour passed, and still there was no sound. The police were thinking of giving up, when they heard a stealthy movement. They crouched down in their hiding-places, and presently a big man came up on tiptoe, glancing round in all directions, and stopping every now and then to listen. He moved cautiously towards the sot where the dagger lay, and just as he was stooping to pick it up, four policemen
sprang out of the darkness and leaped upon him.

But the robber was desperate, and he fought wildly for his life. One of the policemen fell back badly wounded, and again the hunted man got away, plunged into the river and was lost in the darkness.

“It was that villain Ishii,” said one of the policemen.

“Are you sure?” asked another.

“As sure as you are standing there. I saw his face quite clearly,” the first policeman replied.

“Who is Ishii?” asked another policeman, who was new to the force.

“Tokichi Ishii is the wickedest scoundrel in Japan. He has already spent twenty years in prison for thefts, burglaries and stabbings. Even now, he is suspected in a number of murders; but as you can see, he is very hard to catch. Once more he has escaped our clutches!” one of the policemen explained.

But the day came when Ishii was captured and put in jail. He confessed robbing and murdering people. This time, Ishii was sentenced to be hung. Then Japan would be rid of this terrible criminal, once and for all.

Ishii was taken to a special cell and awaited the day he would be hung. As he sat in his cell, Ishii began to think about his life. He had spent much of his life selfishly and wickedly. He had wanted the good things of life so much that he had been willing to do whatever it took to get them---even robbing and murdering. Now as he faced death, Ishii began to think about what would happen to him after he died.

‘I wonder if there such a thing as a soul that goes on living after the body dies?’ Ishii thought. ‘I wonder if there is a God who judges us for what we have done? If there is, surely I deserve hell for all the wicked things I have done. I wish I knew the answers.’

“Even though Ishii knew nothing about God and didn’t even know to pray for wisdom, the LORD heard him and was already at work bringing answers and the good news of Jesus to him,” Miss MacDonald continued. “On New Years’ Day, Annie West and I, were visiting Ishii’s prison, giving out Bibles and sharing the good news of forgiveness through Jesus to all who would listen. We spoke with Ishii, too, that day: ‘There is a God in heaven who forgives sins,’ we told him. ‘He sent His Son Jesus to be Savior for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. It does not matter what you have done, you can be forgiven through Jesus. He will clean your heart of sin and make you a new person. God will adopt you as His very own child and when you die, He will take you to heaven and there you will be at home with Him forever. Here, take this book,’ we said, handing him a New Testament through the bars of his cell. ‘It’s God’s Word and you can learn much more about Jesus from it.’ Ishii thanked us for the book and then we left.

On the outside Ishii looked the same as every other prisoner we had talked to. Little did we know, what amazing things the Lord was about to do in Ishii’s life.

Here was the Book with answers to the very questions Ishii was asking, yet Ishii put it away on a shelf instead of reading it for quite some time. At last, one day he was so bored that he decided he had nothing better to do than to see what the book said. Taking it down from the shelf, Ishii began to read the story of Jesus. When Ishii got to the part where Jesus was tried unjustly and put to death on the cross, he began
to get really interested. ‘Here was a man who knew something of the world he lived in,’ Ishii told himself. But it was when Ishii read how Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” asking for forgiveness for His enemies, that Ishii finally understood the good news of Jesus.

‘Lord Jesus, your amazing love and forgiveness stab me to the heart, as if they were five inch nails,’ Ishii prayed. ‘Surely if You were able to forgive those wicked men for treating You so terribly, then I believe that You will even forgive me for all the wicked things I have done.’ And with that prayer, the Lord forgave Ishii all of his sins and made him His very own adopted child.

The Lord made Ishii like a new man. Though he was under sentence of death and might be led out to execution any morning, he became completely changed, and soon was known as the most cheerful man in the whole prison. Prison officers and even the Governor of Tokyo came to see this wonder.

‘What makes you so happy?’ asked the Governor one day when he came to Ishii’s cell.

‘I have become a Christian,’ said Ishii. ‘I know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins,’ Ishii told him.

‘He sent His Son Jesus to be Savior for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. It does not matter what you have done, you can be forgiven through Jesus. He will clean your heart of sin and make you a new person. God will adopt you as His very own child and when you die, He will take you to heaven and there you will be at home with Him forever. This is what He has done for me. That is what He can do for you, too,’ he told the governor.

Another who came to see Ishii was the prison chaplain, a Buddhist priest who knew nothing about Jesus. ‘Ishii,’ he said, ‘I have been talking to the other prisoners who are waiting to be hung. They tell me they wake every morning and wait in agony until 9 a.m. when they will hear if it is their day to die. Every day is filled with dread that it is their last. How do you spend your days?’

‘I do not feel a bit like that, priest,’ said Ishii. ‘There is not the slightest distress in my mind. When morning breaks I welcome the day with gladness.’ Holding up his New Testament in his hand Ishii told him, “In this book, the words of Christ are written, and through them I know that He is here in this very cell. Although I cannot see Him with my outward eye, I talk with Him every day. I know that when I die He will take me to my heavenly home to live with Him forever. It is no wonder that I am happy!’

“It was a wonderful thing, watching what how the Lord worked in Ishii’s life,” Miss MacDonald told the other passengers, eagerly listening to her story. “From time to time, Miss West and I got to visit him and encourage him for a few minutes. And each time, the Lord seemed to have changed him even more. One time when we spoke with him, he told us some exciting news: ‘Dear friends, I know my time is short. Any day now, I will be called to gallows to die. Before I go, I have something I want to do. I want to write down the story of how the Lord forgave and adopted as His own child a wicked man like myself. It has been over forty years since I went to school and I have forgotten much. Pray for me that God would help me to write down this story in time,’ he asked us.

It became a race against the clock. Each day, Ishii was relieved when 9 o’clock passed and the jailer had not come for him. Day and night, he wrote and wrote. Finally he laid down his pen and said, ‘I am done.
Now perhaps others will read my story and find their hope in Jesus. I want them to know there is a God in heaven who forgives sins, even of someone as wicked as me. He sent His Son Jesus to be Savior for all who turn from their sins and trust in Him. I want them to know that it does not matter what they have done, they can be forgiven through Jesus. He will clean their heart of sin and make them a new person. God will adopt them as His very own child and when they die, He will take them to heaven and there they will be at home with Him forever.’

One morning, not long after Ishii finished, the jailer came at 9 o’clock to Ishii’s cell. ‘The time has come, Ishii. Are you ready?’

‘I am quite ready,’ replied Ishii, and there was an eager light in his eyes, ‘I am quite ready and I am not afraid.’

‘You are a brave man,’ said the jailer, ‘most men crouch in terror when I come for them, but you seem almost glad. Here comes the Buddhist priest. We must go now.’

‘This way, Ishii, my friend,’ said the jailer as he led him across the yard to the scaffold, the Buddhist priest following them.

Ishii walked with as firm a step as if he were being led out to freedom, rather than to his death on the scaffold. With his foot on the first step he turned and said, ‘Be not sad on my account. I am not sad. How can I be, since this morning I have read the words of Jesus, ‘Let not your heart be troubled…I am going ahead of you to prepare a place for you.’ I die without fear. The good news of Jesus tells me that there is forgiveness even for me, the worst of criminals. I am going home.’ Turning to the jailer he said, ‘Please give Miss MacDonald the book I have written along with all my other things.’

In a few minutes all was over.

The next day, the prison officials delivered a small package to me. It contained Ishii’s book, this copper coin you see around my neck, and one last little message. It said: ‘Today I am sitting in my small, dirty, prison cell, and yet I am far more contented than in the days of my freedom out in the world. In this prison cell, only nine feet by six feet in size, I am happier than if I was living in the largest house I ever knew. Then he closed with this little verse:

My name is defiled,  
My body dies in prison  
But my soul, purified,  
Today goes to the City of God.’

Ishii knew that here on earth he was thought of as a wicked person, he had had to live over half his life in small, damp prison cell, and he faced death. But Jesus had forgiven him; and that very day, Ishii would be face to face with Jesus in his heavenly home, forever. And that was far better than anything he could have in this world, by far.”

All was silent as Miss MacDonald finished her story. All the passengers were deeply moved by Ishii’s
story. What were they thinking about? Only God’s work in Ishii’s life…or perhaps were they thinking about what He might do in their lives, too?

“Ishii would be happy to know that God was using his story to give others the hope of forgiveness and an eternal home with God in heaven,” Miss MacDonald thought. “This was what he hoped would happen. And praise God, it begun to do just that already.”

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home
Our Scripture Verse is: Phileippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ishii’s destiny had been destruction, but no longer, thanks to His Savior Jesus. Now his citizenship was in heaven and happy he was to go there!

What about you and me? Perhaps we have not robbed or murdered anyone as Ishii did, but we are sinners needing God’s forgiveness, nonetheless. To Ishii it was clear that nothing in this world could compare with being forgiven, being adopted by God and getting to be at home with Jesus forever. Even today, God calls us to turn way from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Even day, our citizenship can be in heaven!

Let’s praise God for offering forgiveness of sins through Jesus. Let’s praise Him for delighting to adopt sinful people like you and me as His very own children. Let’s ask Him to help us to confess our sins to Him, turn away from them and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might be forgiven. Let’s ask Him to help us look forward to home in heaven and use each day of our lives on earth as preparation for being forever with Him.
1. Passengers on the Empress of Russia gather around Miss MacDonald as she tells them the story behind her coin necklace.

2. Policemen are hiding near a robber in hopes of catching Tokichi Ishii, the worst criminal in Japan. They surprise him, but after a fight he gets away. Later, he comes back for his dagger, but gets away from them once more.

3. Ishii is finally arrested for murder and sentenced to be hung.

4. In prison, he begins to think about his soul and that he surely deserves hell. He wonders if there is any hope for himself.

5. Miss MacDonald and Miss West go to Ishii’s prison to tell prisoners about Jesus. They talk to Ishii, telling him the good news that there is complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus. They leave him with a New Testament to read.

6. At first Ishii just puts the Bible away on his shelf, then he finally starts reading it. When he reads how Jesus forgave the men who had Him unjustly killed, he believes that Jesus would forgive him, too. He becomes a Christian.

7. Everyone notices the amazing changes in Ishii. He is happy. He does not worry about dying.

8. He explains to the governor of Tokyo and to the Buddhist priest that he can be so happy, though facing death b/c he knows Jesus has forgiven him and he will be going to heaven to live with him forever.

9. When the 2 women visit Ishii again, he tells them he is going to write his story so others might come to believe in Jesus, too.

10. Ishii works as fast as he can, knowing that any day at 9 a.m. he will be called to be hung.

11. Ishii finishes just in time.

12. The jailer calls for him to come with him to the gallows. Ishii peacefully goes and asks the jailer to give Miss MacDonald his book and his things. Ishii dies peacefully.

13. Miss MacDonald receives a package the next day from the jailer including his book and the coin that she now wears around her neck.

14. The passengers are deeply moved by the story and Miss MacDonald knows Ishii would be pleased to see that the story of his life might help to bring some of these people to know Jesus.
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 90 years ago
Where? On the Pacific Ocean on the Empress of Russia and in a prison cell in Tokyo
What’s it Like? Empress of Russia: elegant passenger ocean liner with fine food, good service, and beautiful rooms
Tokyo prison: Damp, cold, 6'x9' cell

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)

Miss MacDonald
Empress of Russia
Other Passengers
Coin necklace
Policemen
Tokichi Ishii
Dagger
Prison Cell
Miss West

New Testament
Governor of Tokyo
Buddhist Priest
Other prisoners
Jailer
Pen and paper
Gallows
Note

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

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Ishii began a changed man when Jesus forgave his sins. He was peaceful and happy and looked forward to the day he would go home to heaven.

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

Why Ishii Was Not Scared to Die

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

Beginning:
Passengers on the Empress of Russia gather around Miss MacDonald as she tells them the story behind her coin necklace. Policemen are hiding near a robber in hopes of catching Tokichi Ishii, the worst criminal in Japan. They surprise him, but after a fight he gets away. Later, he comes back for his dagger, but gets away from them once more. Ishii is finally arrested for murder and sentenced to be hung. In prison, he begins to think about his soul and that he surely deserves hell. He wonders if there is any hope for himself. When the 2 women visit Ishii again, he tells them he is going to write his story so others might come to believe in Jesus, too.

Middle:
Miss MacDonald and Miss West go to the Ishii’s prison to tell prisoners about Jesus. They talk to Ishii, telling him the good news that there is complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus. They leave him with a New Testament to read. At first Ishii just puts the Bible away on his shelf, then he finally starts reading it. When he reads how Jesus forgave the men who had Him unjustly killed, he believes that Jesus would forgive him, too. He becomes a Christian. Everyone notices the amazing changes in Ishii. He is happy. He does not worry about dying. He explains to the governor of Tokyo and to the Buddhist priest that he can be so happy, though facing death b/c he knows Jesus has forgiven him and he will be going to heaven to live with him forever.

End:
Ishii works as fast as he can, knowing that any day at 9 a.m. he will be called to be hung. Ishii finishes just in time. The jailer calls for him to come with him to the gallows. Ishii peacefully goes and asks the jailer to give Miss MacDonald his book and his things. Ishii dies peacefully. Miss MacDonald receives a package the next day from the jailer including his book, a note telling her that he is happy to be going home to heaven, and the coin that she now wears around her neck. The passengers are deeply moved by the story and Miss MacDonald knows Ishii would be pleased to see that the story of his life might help to bring some of these people to know Jesus.
### Beginning:
Passengers on the Empress of Russia gather around Miss MacDonald as she tells them the story behind her coin necklace. Policemen are hiding near a robber in hopes of catching Tokichi Ishii, the worst criminal in Japan. They surprise him, but after a fight he gets away. Later, he comes back for his dagger, but gets away from them once more. Ishii is finally arrested for murder and sentenced to be hung. In prison, he begins to think about his soul and that he surely deserves hell. He wonders if there is any hope for himself. When the 2 women visit Ishii again, he tells them he is going to write his story so others might come to believe in Jesus, too.

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### Middle:
Miss MacDonald and Miss West go the Ishii’s prison to tell prisoners about Jesus. They talk to Ishii, telling him the good news that there is complete forgiveness through faith in Jesus. They leave him with a New Testament to read. At first Ishii just puts the Bible away on his shelf, then he finally starts reading it. When he reads how Jesus forgave the men who had Him unjustly killed, he believes that Jesus would forgive him, too. He becomes a Christian. Everyone notices the amazing changes in Ishii. He is happy. He does not worry about dying. He explains to the governor of Tokyo and to the Buddhist priest that he can be so happy, though facing death b/c he knows Jesus has forgiven him and he will be going to heaven to live with him forever.

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### End:
Ishii works as fast as he can, knowing that any day at 9 a.m. he will be called to be hung. Ishii finishes just in time. The jailer calls for him to come with him to the gallows. Ishii peacefully goes and asks the jailer to give Miss MacDonald his book and his things. Ishii dies peacefully. Miss MacDonald receives a package the next day from the jailer including his book, a note telling her that he is happy to be going home to heaven, and the coin that she now wears around her neck. The passengers are deeply moved by the story and Miss MacDonald knows Ishii would be pleased to see that the story of his life might help to bring some of these people to know Jesus.

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1. Why were the passengers on the Empress of Russia staying inside? Bad weather.
2. Why did the policemen have such a hard time catching Ishii? He was so good at getting away.
3. How much of his life did Ishii spend in jail? Over twenty years.
4. What did Ishii start to think about when he was in jail? If he had a soul and if he would go to hell.
5. How did the Lord help Ishii, even though Ishii never even prayed to Him for help? He sent Miss MacDonald and Miss West to tell the prisoners about Jesus and give them New Testaments.
6. What did Ishii read that helped him believe that Jesus would forgive even him, though he had done so many terrible things? He forgave His enemies while He was dying on the cross.
7. What differences did others notice about Ishii after he became a Christian? He was happy and peaceful. He was not scared to die.
8. Why did the governor of Tokyo come to see Ishii? Because he had heard about the big change that had happened in him and wanted to know why.
9. Why did Ishii decide to write his story? So that others might read it and turn to believe in Jesus, too.
10. Why did Ishii have to work so quickly? Because any day it could be his day to be hung.
11. What was the jailer surprised about when he came to take him to be hung? That he was not hiding in the corner of his cell, scared, but very willing to go with him.
12. What did Ishii put in his note to Miss MacDonald? That he was happy to be going home to heaven and be with Jesus.
13. Why would Ishii have been happy to hear that Miss MacDonald was telling his story? Because perhaps the Lord would use it to bring others to know Him.
14. What does this story have to do with our Big Idea?

**Big Idea Connections**
What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Ishii began a changed man when Jesus forgave his sins. He was peaceful and happy and looked forward to the day he would go home to heaven.

**Scripture Verse Connections**
What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ishii was not in jail b/c of suffering for Jesus, but for wrong things he had done. But Ishii did face death w/ joy & confidence, knowing his sins were forgiven. As God’s adopted child: he would get to be with Jesus forever & God would give him better and lasting possessions than anything he had would ever have on earth.

**Life Application**
1. Many people might look at Ishii’ life and see it as a failure b/c he did so many bad things, went to jail, and was put to death for them. Do you think the Lord sees Ishii’ life as a failure? No, God does not! God used all the bad things in Ishii’ life as an amazing display of His great mercy and love for sinners. Many people heard about Jesus and turned to Him to be saved b/c of what God did in Ishii’ life.
2. Ishii hoped that God would use the story of his life to save others. What must we do if we are to be saved? Turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
The Gospel
What was the good news of Jesus that Ishii read and believed? 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 Sender of His People to tell others about Him that they might be saved.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that like Ishii we are sinners who deserve God’s punishment for our sins and who need a Savior.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for saving all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior—even if they have done really bad things like Ishii did.
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to help us to desire to be with Him in heaven, like Ishii did.

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Have your small group ask some of the questions used in their discussion and game as their quiz questions for Closing Large Group Time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
Materials
Red and Green Construction paper
2 rulers
4 Large pieces of paper and a Marker
Masking Tape
Four small pieces of paper
Cup or bag
Story Review Discussion & Quiz Questions
Optional: Team Pennies to differentiate each team

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.

Write the Story Review questions on small thin strips of paper. Tape (or pin) these to all sorts of secret places on the detective outfit, such as on the bottom of your shoe, underneath your watch band, inside the hat, on the side of the glasses, etc.

Playing the Game
Divide the children into teams. At the leader’s signal, all the children will run to one of the four signs and place their hand on it or near it. When leader yells “Freeze” then the children must stay at their station. The leader then pulls one of the pieces of paper out of the cup and asks the children at that particular station a Story Review question. If they get it right, then they gain as many points as children from that team who were at that station. Play then resumes again.

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

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

Understanding the Big Idea

Who is Jesus? God’s Son.

Where is Jesus’ home and why did He leave it? Heaven. He left it to come to earth and save His people from their sins.

What was hard about what Jesus had to do to complete what God called Him to do? Many times He did w/o good things, struggled against sinful desires, and suffered.

Why wasn’t Jesus surprised or pity Himself b/c of the hard things He went through? He knew heaven was His home. There He would have eternal happiness & would receive praise.

What does it mean that God has adopted those who believe and live for Him as His children? They become part of His family. He will love and care for them as their Father. Heaven with God is their new, real home.

What about heaven helps God’s people endure their hardships with joy? They will have eternal happiness there with God. He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

What does God promise His children/people they will have when they go home to live with Him in heaven? Eternal happiness.

What will God give His people in heaven? Many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

What is the best thing of all that God’s people will enjoy in heaven? Living in God’s presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

Why was Ishii not scared of dying like the other prisoners where? Ishii knew that Jesus had forgiven his sins. He did not have to face God’s wrath when he died. He was peaceful and happy, not scared. He knew he would be going home to be forever in heaven with Jesus when he died.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.
Life Application Questions
1. How can knowing heaven is their home help God’s people through their hardships? They can know that one day the hardships will end and they will enjoy close fellowship with God forever. They know that in heaven, God will give them far greater treasures than anything they gave up here.
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 because of this Big Idea?
Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea?
Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea?
Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea?
Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

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

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

Materials
Two or Three soft baseball sized balls. Or, could use beach balls

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 children sit is a circle on the ground, with about 2’ spacing. Give them two or three soft indoor baseballs and are to throw them from one to another, avoiding “It” who is moving around trying to catch one. When a ball is caught, the child who threw the ball chooses a question for the class to answer. If correctly answered, the player becomes the new “It”. If not, then the old “It” remains in place.

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.
Phileippians 3:18-20

“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Understanding the Scripture

1. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.

2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

3. What does it mean to live as a enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.

4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.

5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.

6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.

7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.

8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.

9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.

10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.

11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.

12. What does it mean for God’s people to have their citizenship in heaven? It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.

13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.

14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.
Big Idea Connection
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Story Connection
What does this verse have to do with our story today? Ishii’s destiny had been destruction, but he turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. As God’s adopted child, Ishii knew that his citizenship was in heaven. He died in peace and eager to be with his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Life Application
1. How can God’s people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God’s presence forever.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

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

Choosing Quiz Question for Closing Large Group Time
Read the Scripture Verse to the Large Group & have your small group ask some of the Scripture verse questions used in discussion time. Or, if time allows, have the children make up their own.
**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder  
Plastic Hollow Easter Eggs, 10 of one color for each team  
Pen and paper  
2 carpet squares or other base marker

**Preparing the Game**
Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.

Hide the eggs around the classroom. Place the two carpet squares down in opposite ends of the classroom.

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

**Playing the Game**
Have the children form two teams seated at their bases. Give each team a written out copy of the verse and place it on their base. Assign each team a particular color of Easter egg and tell them that pieces to the verse are hidden in eggs around the room. They are to find all their eggs, remove the verse section from the egg and put it in order. They can use the copy of the verse (and numbers on each section—especially helpful for pre- and early readers) to help them put it in order. The first team to find all the verse, put it in order and recite it as a group wins.

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

1. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.

2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

3. What does it mean to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.

4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.

5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.

6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.

7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.

8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.

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10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.

11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.

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13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.
14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.

**Big Idea Connection**
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

**Story Connection**
What does this verse have to do with our story today? Ishii’s destiny had been destruction, but he turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. As God’s adopted child, Ishii knew that his citizenship was in heaven. He died in peace and eager to be with his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Life Application**
1. How can God’s people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God’s presence forever.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

**ACTS Questions**
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

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

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

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

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
We'll Work Till Jesus Comes
Verse 1
O land of rest, for thee I sigh!
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by
And dwell in peace at home?

Refrain:
We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes,
We'll work till Jesus comes,
And we'll be gathered home.

Verse 3
I sought at once my Savior’s side,
No more my steps to roam:
With Him I’ll brave death’s chilling tide,
And reach my heav’nly home. (Refrain)

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song
What is the “land of rest?” Why is it called that? Heaven is the land of rest because in heaven, God’s people will rest from struggling against sin and suffering. They will not ever have to do without any good thing again.
2. What kind of armor does a Christian have? Not real armor like what a soldier wears. Living as a Christian is a fight against sin. This is talking about not having to fight against sin anymore when a Christian is in heaven.
3. What is the home where the Christian will dwell in peace? Heaven.
4. What kind of work do Christians do? When will they stop working? They obey God by loving Him and others. They are even willing to do w/o good things, struggle against sin and suffer as part of the work God may call them to. This work will end when Jesus comes back and He takes His people home to heaven; or, until they die (and go to heaven).
5. What does it mean to “seek my Savior’s side, no more my steps to roam?” It doesn’t mean trying to stand next to Jesus. It means spending time with Him in prayer & trying to obey everything He wants you to do.
6. What does it mean to ‘brave death’s chilling tide’? “Chilling tide” means cold water. Just like people don’t like to swim in cold water, people don’t like to die. Some people think of dying, like the Israelites crossing the water (or tide) of River Jordan into the Promised Land. Being alive in this world is like being in one land. Death is like crossing the River Jordan to get to the Promised Land of heaven on the other side. To brave something means to face something bravely.
7. What helps God’s people brave death? Jesus, who will be with them even through death.
8. What will God’s people reach after facing death? Their heavenly home.

Big Idea Connection
How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home?
God’s people know that life here on earth is often not easy. Many times they have to do w/o good things, struggle against sin, and suffer to do what God has called them to do. They look forward to the day their work is done and they will get to be in their heavenly home forever. Their they will have close fellowship with God and He will bless them with good things far better than anything they can imagine.

Story Connection
How does this song relate to today’s story? Ishii worked day and night on his story until the day he was to be hung. He joyfully went to the gallows, and was peaceful even as he was “crossing death’s chilling tide”. He knew that day he was being “gathered home” to be with Jesus in heaven.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song? They can praise God for preparing for them a “land of rest.” They can ask Him to help them to keep doing with joy whatever work He has for them by helping them remember the heavenly home that awaits them.
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 Giver of Peace and Rest for His people in the heavenly home He provides for them.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? That many times we don’t think about heaven or about working for God. Many times we just think about ourselves and what we want right now.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? We can thank God for the promise of a heavenly home for all His people, all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.
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 help us to think about Him each day as we work—think about how we can love and obey Him in what we do. And, we can ask Him to fit us for heaven and give us hearts that long to be with Him forever.

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**Sign It, Say It, What Does It Mean?**  
Song Game

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

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

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

NOTE: You might want to sing the song after you do each word.
1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
A Packet for Miss MacDonald of Ishii’s Life Story, a Letter and a Coin

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
Where? In his prison cell,

Who? Ishii

Did What? Left

With the Big Idea Object? A packet for Miss MacDonald of his life story, a letter and a coin

Why? Because he was going home to heaven and he wanted others to know that they might trust in Jesus as their Savior, too.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Ishii had done many bad things, but God forgave all his sins through Jesus when Ishii read the good news of Jesus, turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as His Savior. Ishii no longer feared dying because he knew he was going home to heaven to be with Jesus forever.

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
No one is too bad to be forgiven their sins by God through Jesus!
**BIG IDEA CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS**

**A Packet for Miss MacDonald** of Ishii’s Life Story, a Letter and a Coin

**Description**
The children will make a little packet of a decorated copy of this story and a Japanese coin.

**Materials**
- Copies of the story, 1 per craft
- Templates of the story cover and the coin
- Cardstock
- 1 manilla folder per craft
- Markers, colored pencils or crayons
- 1 piece of yarn or string, about 30” per child
- Glue Sticks
- Stapler
- Scissors

**Preparing the Craft**
1. Print out the coins (two per craft) and story cover on regular paper. Cut out coins as pairs.
2. Print out plain coin circles on cardstock. Cut out and poke a hole in the middle as indicated.
3. Set out decorating supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

**Making the Craft**
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children decorate the cover for Ishii’s book and glue the front and backs of the coin in place on the cardstock coin.
3. Glue the cover on the front of the manilla folder.
4. Staple the pages to the story in place, preferably with 3 staples down the left side of the cover.
5. Thread the string through the middle of the coin (breaking through the thin paper of the coin front and back) and tie ends together with a double knot.
With Him.

Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be
home with Him. If we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children. 

heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we
don't get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly
home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That

A prayer for you during ACTS time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

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

There mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from

I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross

We thought about Philippians 3:18-20. "I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross

and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven;

wondefulness as we possibly can. And the best thing of all will be living in His presence being filled up with as much of His Perfect

and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

looked forward to that day. There are also many times when God's People will endure hardships

Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there the would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He

Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from

of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.

We have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross

I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross

Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times

people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins. When

God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Jesus is God's Son and His home is in heaven with God

I decorated this card for you during Praise Factory today. The Big Idea we learned about today was:
**VIPP Game**

**Materials**
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

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

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different location/wall around the room.

**Playing the Game**

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

*Review:* Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children stand together in middle of the room. Tell them that you will pull out a clip art clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to a picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up.

**Get Clues, Then Guess Version:**
*Get Clues:* Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag and mix up. Read them the VIPP information sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

*Guess:* Have children stand together in middle of room. Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and they are to run to picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. Review the correctly finished profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.
## 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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________</td>
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<td></td>
<td>_______________________________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children arrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Concept Introduction/Review (The Echo Chamber or Folder Hunt)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**How to do the singing portion:**

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

### Story time

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

**Activity**

**Dismiss by group to Small Group Activities**

**Snack and Discussion Time**

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

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

2. __________________________________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________________________________

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

**Activity Time**

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

____________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

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

Have small groups present in the following order:

Drama, Song/s Groups, Craft Group, then Games Groups.

Make sure the Big Idea Games and Scripture Verse Games groups READ the Big Idea/Scripture Verse BEFORE asking their questions. If extra time remains, play the Clean Up Game.
WE E K 3 L E S S O N 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 73 Concept Sign
- Big Idea 73 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**

*Bound for the Promised Land*

- Exodus 2-3; Numbers 20,27:12-23; Deuteronomy 32:44-52, 34; Acts 7:20-43;
- Hebrews 11:16,23-27
- Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery
Discussion and Activity Time

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

**Snack**

Dinner roll “rock” with a pretzel stick “staff” striking it (stuck in the top of it.) Serve with “water from the rock.” (You might also want to have a little butter or some other spread to put on the roll.)

**ACTS Prayer**

**A** Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

**C** Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

**T** Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

**S** Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with 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: Tell the Truth Basketball**

**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

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

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

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

Appendix B

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

Appendix C
WEEK 3 LESSON PLAN
Discussion and Activity Time, continued

Big Idea Game: Red Light, Green Light for Storks

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

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

Big Idea Craft: The Promised Land from Mount Nebo

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: Crabbin’ Around

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: Ball Circle Toss

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: Our Citizenship Is in Heaven: Philippians 3:18-20**

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

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

**Hymn: We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes: Verses 1,3**

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

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

- **Bound for the Promised Land**
  - Exodus 2-3; Numbers 20,27:12-23; Deuteronomy 32:44-52, 34;
  - Story Outline p.63
- Big Idea Story Cheat Sheet (for story-telling “how-to” tips)
- Props, Costumes and Scenery

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

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

Snack

Dinner roll “rock” with a pretzel stick “staff” striking it (stuck in the top of it.) Serve with “water from the rock.” (You might also want to have a little butter or some other spread to put on the roll.)

ACTS Prayer

A Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.

C Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

T Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.

S Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.
Week 3 Lesson Plan

Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Activity Time

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

Group 1 Activities

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

Group 1, First Activity: Act-It-Out

Activities:
Act out story all together

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

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

Then, as time allows, followed by...

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

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

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

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

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

**Group 2, First Activity: Scripture Verse Game**

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

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

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

*Scripture Verse Game Refresher:  
Introduction pp.35-36  
Appendix C*

Then, as time allows, followed by …

**Group 2, Second Activity: VIPP Clue Cards, VIPP Game, or VIPP Prayer Letter**

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

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

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

*VIPP Refresher:  
Introduction pp.26-32  
Appendix E*
Optional Kindergarten Group Format

Closing Large Group Time

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

Activity Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Give Out Take Home Sheets**
Our story today takes place about 3500 years ago in Egypt, the richest, greatest land in the world at that time.

The young man strode into the palace and confidently towards the aging princess. How fine he looked in his papyrus and gold sandals; his fine, white, linen kilt; and his princely headdress atop of his perfect black wig. Yes, the princess was proud of this young man who came towards her. How could she not be. This was her was her adopted son.

Forty years ago, she had rescued him from the Nile River as an abandoned baby of a Hebrew slave. She drew him from the water, named him Moses, and adopted him as her own son. She saw that he was got the best of educations, like all the other young princes. He learned art, speech, science, literature and law from the Pharaoh's own royal tutors. War tactics, archery and chariot driving from Pharaoh's generals. Hieroglyphics and the Egyptian gods from the priests. All of Egypt’s wisdom was his. He was powerful in speech and in action. At forty years old, her adopted son, Prince Moses, was all an Egyptian prince should be.

Or was he? For as refined, royal and Egyptian as Moses may have looked to his adopted mother and the Egyptian world, in his heart he was still a Hebrew. He loved his people and put his faith not in the Egyptian idols, but the LORD—the true, yet unseen God of Israel. He lived in Pharaoh's palace, enjoying the best of Egyptian life, but his heart struggled with thoughts of his people's sufferings. For hundreds of years now they had suffered and died as slaves, building monuments to honor the Egyptian idols or his adopted grandfather, the Pharaoh. Moses knew that long ago the LORD promised to free the Israelites from slavery and take them to a homeland so rich that it was said to flow with milk and honey. Neither Moses nor any of the Israelite slaves had ever seen this land, where their fathers had once lived, but they believed in the LORD's promise and longed for the day when it would come true.

“Could it be that the LORD has made me a prince of Egypt to help rescue His people and lead them to the unseen Promised Land?” Moses wondered. “If He did, then it will mean I will have to leave behind my luxurious life as an Egyptian prince and suffer with them…and that would be very, very hard.” Moses was 40 years old: the age of a full grown man in Egypt. It was time to make a decision. Would he go on living as a prince of Egypt and ignore his people's pain? Or would he try to rescue them? Would he find his joy and his reward in the riches of Egypt he could see and taste and touch; or, would he give them to take God's people to their rich, unseen promised homeland? Would he give them up for the joys and rewards His unseen God had for him? It was a lot to give up.

At last Moses made his decision: “No longer can I be a son of Pharaoh's daughter. No longer can I delight in the treasures and pleasures of Egypt while my people are being tortured and the name of the
LORD suffering disgrace. I must help rescue my people.” So Moses began to look for ways to help his people.

One day [Moses] went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people, [and he decided to come to his rescue.] Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. [Then] the next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He [came in between them and] asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew? [You are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?]"

The man [pushed Moses aside and] said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." (Exodus 2:11-14, NIV) [He was right, for in no time at all,] Pharaoh got news of what his adopted grandson had done and was furious. He sent his soldiers out to find Moses and kill him.

Moses fled from Pharaoh and out into the barren, desert sands for his life. This wasn’t what Moses had planned at all! His people were supposed to see God had sent him to rescue them, but they had rejected him. Had he given up the riches of Egypt for nothing? Had he placed his trust in his unseen God and promises to lead them to an unseen land for nothing? Would he keep finding his joy and reward in what was unseen? Moses could have given up, but he did not. God gave him faith to keep trusting Him, and to wait for His timing.

Forty years passed. Now the forty year old Moses who had fled across the barren desert sands away from Egypt, came back over them to Egypt once more, as an eighty year old man. He gathered the Israelites together and told them:

“I have heard from the LORD, our unseen God, on Mount Sinai. He says that now is the time He has chosen for me to lead you out of Egypt and to the unseen land He promised to give you long ago. Will you give up your life here in Egypt and follow Him to the Promised Land?” he asked them.

“Yes, we will!” the people eagerly promised.

After many, mighty displays of God’s power, the Egyptians released the Israelites. Through Moses, the LORD led them away from Egypt, across the desert sands. How they were looking forward to their rich, promised homeland!

But while the Promised Land was so close that it could have taken the Israelites no more than a couple weeks to walk straight there, would you believe that another forty YEARS would pass before they would set even one foot there? For though Moses kept urging the Israelites to trust in God to provide for their needs and bring them safely into the land He promised them, they only grumbled and doubted Him every time something difficult happened.

“We see only dry desert everywhere we look! How will we find food and water to stay alive?” they grumbled. “We hear the Promised Land is filled with not just richness, but with giant, fierce warriors who live in strong, walled cities. They have gods that they can see and who go before them. How can we trust the LORD our God to take care of us, we can’t even see Him?” they doubted. “Now we shall die out here in...
the desert never even seeing this Promised Land! We should have never left Egypt! Life as a slave was
even better than this!" they grumbled.

The Israelites had chosen to look for their joy and reward in what they could see and taste and touch,
not in their unseen God and His promises. They rejected the LORD.

"Because of your grumbling and doubting that I would take care of you…. because you would not
trust for Me to give you this unseen homeland I promised you, you will never have it at all," the LORD told
the people through Moses. “Instead, you will wander for forty years out here in this desert and die. It will
be your children who will live to see it and live in it.”

So wander the Israelites did for forty years. Though never more than a week’s walk from the Promised
Land, they had little more than a glimpse of it. And what did Moses do during those next forty years? He
kept leading the Israelites, trying to patiently endure their grumbling.

Now grumbling would be hard to patiently endure for a week or a month. But can you imagine how
difficult it would be to take forty years of it? So perhaps you will not be surprised to hear that there came
a day, near the very end of those forty years of grumbling, when humble and patient Moses got angry
with the Israelites and sinned.

The Israelites had stopped to camp at a place called Kadesh, but when they looked for water, there was
none to be found. [So all] the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with
Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! Why did you bring the
LORD's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up
out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no
water to drink!” they complained.

Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown,
and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD said to Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your
brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its
water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered
the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you
water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff [making it look
as if he had made water come out of the rock.] Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock
drank.

[The LORD provided water, but Moses and Aaron had sinned. They had not spoken to the rock, they
had struck it. And even more importantly, they had not said the LORD would give the people water, but
that they—Moses and Aaron-- would give them water.]

So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in
the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." (Numbers 20:2-12,
NIV)
And so it was. Only months later, when at last it was time for the Israelites to at last cross into the unseen homeland Moses and the Israelites had waited for so long, Moses was not allowed to enter.

“Climb up here on Mount Nebo,” the LORD told Moses. “From there you will be able to see the land that has been unseen for so many years. I will show it all to you and then you will die.”

Moses sadly said farewell to the Israelites he had led for so long, and then climbed up Mount Nebo. From the summit of the mountain, Moses cast his eyes for the first time on the land he had spent most of his life trying to enter. It was as beautiful and rich as the Lord as promised. Then he died right there on Mount Nebo, just as the LORD said he would. And the LORD, Himself, buried him.

Was Moses very sad that day when he saw the Promised Land and knew he would never enter it? Yes, but not as sad as you might think. For while Moses knew he would never enter that earthly promised homeland of God’s people, he knew when he died, the LORD would take him to his a far better unseen homeland—the homeland of heaven. This was the true homeland of all God’s people. And this homeland had joys and rewards far better than the riches and treasures Moses had known as an Egyptian prince and would be far more wonderful than anything in the rich Promised Land he had seen from the top of Mount Nebo that day. For in heaven, he would be with the LORD. No longer would He be unseen, now Moses would live in close, face to face fellowship with Him forever. And that is best of all.

Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home
Our Scripture Verse is: Philippians 3:18-20
“...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

For years Moses and the people of Israel eagerly awaited the day when they would enter the Promised Land. How much greater, though, do God’s people eagerly await their Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven! What a great day that will be when Jesus brings an end to sin and death forever! What a great day that will be when at last all God’s people will be gathered together in God’s glorious presence!

You and I can be a part of God’s people, too! We can be among those who enjoy life forever in God’s presence. How? By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He will forgive our sins and make us His dearly loved people!

Let’s praise God for His offer to make sinful people like you and me citizens of heaven! 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 fit us for heaven, giving us hearts that know, love and obey Him, even today.
1. At forty years old, Prince Moses has become all his adopted mother had hoped for him when she long ago found him as a baby and adopted him as her son. He has received the finest education that Egypt can offer.

2. But deep in his heart, Moses knows he’s a Hebrew. He loves his people and the LORD. He watches them suffer and die as slaves in Egypt, while he enjoys a rich life in Pharaoh’s palace.

3. He remembers God’s promise to free them from slavery and take them to the Promised Land. He decides that God must have made him prince of Egypt to rescue the Israelites.

4. Moses sees an Egyptian taskmaster hurting an Israelite slave. He kills the taskmaster and buries him in the sand. He hopes they will see that he has come to rescue them.

5. But the next day, when Moses tries to stop 2 Israelites from arguing, they reject his help and wonder if he will kill them, too. Moses realizes everyone knows what he’s done. The Pharaoh sends his soldiers to kill him, but he flees across the desert.

6. Moses keeps trusting in God, even though the people reject him. 40 years later, he comes back and tells the Israelites that God has sent him to rescue them and take them to the Promised Land. This time they believe. After the LORD sends many plagues on the Egyptians, the Israelites are set free.

7. The Israelites were only a few weeks’ walk from the Promised Land, but it took them 40 years to get there b/c of all their grumblings and doubts of the LORD. They look at what they see instead of remembering their unseen God. They grumble there’s no water. They grumble the men are too big in the Promised Land for them to conquer.

8. The LORD punishes them by having the adults wander & die in the desert for 40 years. He will bring their children into the land, instead.

9. Near the end of the 40 years, Moses loses patience with them. He strikes the rock for water when God told him just to speak to it. The LORD punishes him by not allowing him to enter the Promised Land.

10. The LORD has Moses climb Mt. Nebo so he can see the Promised Land before he dies. The LORD buries Moses. Moses is sad to not get to enter this earthly Promised Land, but know the LORD is taking him home to be with Him to heaven—the far better and eternal Promised Land.
**WEEK 3 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)*
Bound for the Promised Land

1. Setting (Speakers 2-4)
   When? About 3500 years ago
   Where? In Egypt and in the wilderness
   What’s It Like?
   Egypt: greatest country on earth at the time. Royal palaces of Pharaoh, filled with many rich things. Slaves suffer terribly.
   Wilderness: Dry, hot, sandy, deserted

2. Who’s in It? (Speaker 5)
   Moses’ adopted mother
   Moses
   Moses’ tutors
   Rich palace
   Israelite Slaves
   Egyptian Taskmaster
   Plagues
   Desert
   Giant men
   Walled cities
   Rock & Staff

3. What about the Big Idea? (Speaker 6)
   Today’s Big Idea is God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Moses spent most of his life headed for the earthly Promised Land, but he never got to enter it. But he was not too sad, b/c the LORD took him to heaven, the far better, eternal Promised Land.

4. What do we call it? (Speaker 1)
   Moses Finds the True Promised Land

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

   Beginning:
   At forty years old, Prince Moses has become all his adopted mother had hoped for him when she long ago found him as a baby and adopted him as her son. He has received the finest education that Egypt can offer. But deep in his heart, Moses knows he’s a Hebrew. He loves his people and the LORD. He watches them suffer and die as slaves in Egypt, while he enjoys a rich life in Pharaoh’s palace. He remembers God’s promise to free them from slavery and take them to the Promised Land. He decides God must have made him prince of Egypt to rescue the Israelites.

   Middle:
   Moses sees an Egyptian taskmaster hurting an Israelite slave. He kills the taskmaster and buries him in the sand. He hopes they will see that he has come to rescue them. But the next day, when Moses tries to stop 2 Israelites from arguing, they reject his help and wonder if he will kill them, too. Moses realizes everyone knows what he’s done. The Pharaoh sends his soldiers to kill him, but he flees across the desert. Moses keeps trusting in God, even though the people reject him. 40 years later, he comes back and tells the Israelites that God has sent him to rescue them and take them to the Promised Land. This time they believe. After the LORD sends many plagues on the Egyptians, the Israelites are set free.

   End:
   The Israelites were only a few weeks’ walk from the Promised Land, but it took them 40 years to get there b/c of all their grumblings and doubts of the LORD. They look at what they see instead of remembering their unseen God. They grumble there’s no water. They grumble the men are too big in the Promised Land for them to conquer. The LORD punishes them by having the adults wander & die in the desert for 40 years. He will bring their children into the land, instead. Near the end of the 40 years, Moses loses patience with them. He strikes the rock for water when God told him just to speak to it. The LORD punishes him by not allowing him to enter the Promised Land. The LORD has Moses climb Mt. Nebo so he can see the Promised Land before he dies. The LORD buries Moses. Moses is sad to not get to enter this earthly Promised Land, but know the LORD is taking him home to be with Him to heaven—the far better and eternal Promised Land.
Beginning:
At forty years old, Prince Moses has become all his adopted mother had hoped for him when she long ago found him as a baby and adopted him as her son. He has received the finest education that Egypt can offer. But deep in his heart, Moses knows he’s a Hebrew. He loves his people and the LORD. He watches them suffer and die as slaves in Egypt, while he enjoys a rich life in Pharaoh’s palace. He remembers God’s promise to free them from slavery and take them to the Promised Land. He decides God must have made him prince of Egypt to rescue the Israelites.

Middle:
Moses sees an Egyptian taskmaster hurting an Israelite slave. He kills the taskmaster and buries him in the sand. He hopes they will see that he has come to rescue them. But the next day, when Moses tries to stop 2 Israelites from arguing, they reject his help and wonder if he will kill them, too. Moses realizes everyone knows what he’s done. The Pharaoh sends his soldiers to kill him, but he flees across the desert. Moses keeps trusting in God, even though the people reject him. 40 years later, he comes back and tells the Israelites that God has sent him to rescue them and take them to the Promised Land. This time they believe. After the LORD sends many plagues on the Egyptians, the Israelites are set free.

End:
The Israelites were only a few weeks’ walk from the Promised Land, but it took them 40 years to get there b/c of all their grumblings and doubts of the LORD. They look at what they see instead of remembering their unseen God. They grumble there’s no water. They grumble the men are too big in the Promised Land for them to conquer. The LORD punishes them by having the adults wander & die in the desert for 40 years. He will bring their children into the land, instead. Near the end of the 40 years, Moses loses patience with them. He strikes the rock for water when God told him just to speak to it. The LORD punishes him by not allowing him to enter the Promised Land. The LORD has Moses climb Mt. Nebo so he can see the Promised Land before he dies. The LORD buries Moses. Moses is sad to not get to enter this earthly Promised Land, but know the LORD is taking him home to be with Him to heaven—the far better and eternal Promised Land.
1. Why was Moses adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter? He was “abandoned” on the Nile River. She rescued him and adopted him.

2. How was Moses the perfect Egyptian prince? He was powerful in wisdom and strength. He had had the best of education by the royal tutors and officers. He wore the Egyptian clothes.

3. How was Moses NOT the perfect Egyptian prince? He knew that he was a Hebrew. He loved his people and worshiped the LORD, not the Egyptian idols.

4. Why did Moses think he was an Egyptian prince? So that the LORD might use him to rescue his people.

5. What was hard about Moses’ decision to rescue his people? He knew he would have to give up the pleasures and treasures of being an Egyptian prince.

6. Why did Moses give up all the riches of Egypt? He believed that the joys and rewards of His unseen God were far greater than the riches of Egypt.

7. Why did Moses kill the Egyptian taskmaster? To rescue the Israelite being beaten.

8. Why did the Israelites reject Moses at first? They did not think that God had made him their rescuer and that he would kill them, too.

9. Why didn’t Moses give up when the Israelites first rejected him? God gave him faith to keep persevering and wait for His perfect timing.

10. How did the LORD free the Israelites from Egypt when Moses went back? He sent mighty plagues upon the Egyptians.

11. How long could it have taken to get to the Promised Land and how long did it take them to get there? A couple of weeks’ walk. Forty years.

12. Why did it take so long to get to the Promised Land? The Israelites grumbled against the LORD and did not trust He would take care of them. He punished them by having them wander and die in the wilderness. He would give the land to their children instead.

13. How did Moses sin against God? How did God punish him? In anger, he struck the rock that he was only supposed to speak to. He said that Aaron and Moses gave them the water, not the LORD. The LORD would not let him enter the Promised Land.

14. How did Moses get to see the Promised Land? The LORD had him climb up Mt. Nebo and see it from there.

15. Why was Moses not so sad that he did not get to enter the Promised Land? He knew the LORD was taking him to the true, far better, eternal Promised Land—heaven—when he died.

**Big Idea Connections**

What does our story have to do with our Big Idea? Moses spent most of his life headed for the earthly Promised Land, but he never got to enter it. But he was not too sad, b/c the LORD took him to heaven, the far better, eternal Promised Land.

**Scripture Verse Connections**

What does our story have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Many of the Israelites were earthly minded. They complained and grumbled instead of trusting the LORD. Filling their empty stomachs many times led them to do sinful things. The LORD punished these Israelites for their repeated disobedience and lack of faith. In the end, they died out in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land. But the children of these Israelites did get to enter into the Promised Land. And Moses, while he did not get to enter the Promised Land, the LORD took him home to heaven, to be with Him forever. This was best of all.
Life Application Questions
1. How should God’s people today not be like the Israelites? They should trust the LORD when they face difficult situations. They should remember His promises to them instead of grumbling, complaining and doubting.
2. What greater land and what greater promises do God’s people today have to think about? They know about Jesus’ promises to take them to be with Him in His heavenly home.
3. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

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

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? Praise God for being so Patient and Merciful to His sinful people.
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? Confess that many times we, like the Israelites, grumble and complain to God rather than trusting Him.
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? We can thank God for promising His People a land even better than the Promised Land of the Israelites. He promises them an eternity in heaven with Him!
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? We can ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to not complain but to remember and trust Him to take care of us when we go through difficult things.

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**
3 baskets  
A ball  
Paper and marker  
Masking Tape  
20+ statements that are true, false or not in the story

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

Write the words “true,” “false”, and “not in the story” on separate pieces of paper and tape each to a basket. Use the masking tape to make a throw line. Place the baskets in a line, a reasonable throwing distance from the throwing line.

**Playing the Game**
Divide the children into 2 teams and have them line up at the throw line. Ask a child to come up to the throw line. Read him one of the statements and ask him to give his answer: true, false, not in the story by throwing the ball into the basket with the right answer card on it. If correct, then he scores 2 points for his team. If incorrect or accidentally goes into the wrong basket, the statement is read to the first person in line for the other team. If he tosses the ball into the right basket, then he scores one point for his team.

Play continues as statement cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

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

Jesus is God’s Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to earth as a man (yet still fully God, too!) to save His people. He lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross as the full payment for their sins. When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times He did without good things. There were many times He struggled against tempting, sinful desires, and many times when He suffered because of what God had called Him to do for His people. But Jesus was not surprised and did not pity Himself. He knew heaven was His real home. It was there that He would have eternal happiness with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day. There are also many times when God’s people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven; and that there, He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine. And the best thing of all will be living in His Presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Understanding the Big Idea

Who is Jesus? God’s Son.

Where is Jesus’ home and why did He leave it? Heaven. He left it to come to earth and save His people from their sins.

What was hard about what Jesus had to do to complete what God called Him to do? Many times He did w/o good things, struggled against sinful desires, and suffered.

Why wasn’t Jesus surprised or pity Himself b/c of the hard things He went through? He knew heaven was His home. There He would have eternal happiness & would receive praise.

What does it mean that God has adopted those who believe and live for Him as His children? They become part of His family. He will love and care for them as their Father. Heaven with God is their new, real home.

What about heaven helps God’s people endure their hardships with joy? They will have eternal happiness there with God. He will give them many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

What does God promise His children/people they will have when they go home to live with Him in heaven? Eternal happiness.

What will God give His people in heaven? Many good things, more wonderful than anyone can imagine.

What is the best thing of all that God’s people will enjoy in heaven? Living in God’s presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Wonderfulness as they can possibly can be.

Big Idea Story Connection Questions

Why did Moses chose to leave Pharaoh’s palace and be mistreated along with the Israelites? He thought it was better to suffer as one of God’s people than to enjoy good things for a little while. He was looking forward to heaven, when God would reward him with eternal happiness and good things that would never, ever end.

Scripture Verse Connection

What does our Big Idea have to do with the Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20

“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.
Life Application Questions
1. How can knowing heaven is their home help God’s people through their hardships? They can know that one day the hardships will end and they will enjoy close fellowship with God forever. They know that in heaven, God will give them far greater treasures than anything they gave up here.
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 because of this Big Idea? Praise God for being Preparer of His people’s wonderful home in heaven.
2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Big Idea? Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don’t get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.
3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Big Idea? Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children.
4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Big Idea? Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

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

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

**Materials**
- Tape
- Big Idea Discussion & Quiz Questions

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

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

Tape a starting line and finish line at each end of the room.

**Playing the Game**
Have all the children stand facing you on the starting line. Tell them that you are the traffic light controller for storks. When you say “Green light” they can move forward with your back towards them. But when you say “Red light” they must freeze in stork position, balancing on one leg. You will turn around quickly and try to catch anyone moving or off balance. These children will choose a question to ask the class. If the class gets it right, then the children can join the game back at Start. If they do not, then the children have to wait it out until another round when a correct answer is given. Whoever makes it to the finish line first becomes the new traffic light controller for storks.

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.
Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Understanding the Scripture
1. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.
2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
3. What does it mean to live as a enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.
4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.
5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.
6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.
7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.
8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.
9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.
10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.
11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.
12. What does it mean for God’s people to have their citizenship in heaven? It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.
13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.
14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.
Big Idea Connection
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Story Connection
What does this verse have to do with our story today? Many of the Israelites were earthly minded. They complained and grumbled instead of trusting the LORD. Filling their empty stomachs many times led them to do sinful things. The LORD punished these Israelites for their repeated disobedience and lack of faith. In the end, they died out in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land. But the children of these Israelites did get to enter into the Promised Land. And Moses, while he did not get to enter the Promised Land, the LORD took him home to heaven, to be with Him forever. This was best of all.

Life Application
1. How can God’s people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God’s presence forever.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse?
That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse?
We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

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

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

Scripture Verse Game

**Materials**
Scripture Verse Sign from the Big Idea Folder
Foam or other soft surface 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**
Have the children spread out in a circle, arm’s length apart. Explain that everyone together will chant the verse slowly, word by word, and toss the ball to another child with each word chanted. They want to try to chant the whole verse without dropping the ball. Speed up the pace of the chanting as the children get good at chanting and catching.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

**Alternative Game Versions**
1) Individual chant version: After the children can get through the verse without dropping the ball and chanting the verse together, have them try to get through the entire verse with only the person throwing the ball saying the next word.
2) No Hands Version: Have the children sit on the floor and roll the ball to each other. They must try to trap the ball with their legs, etc. (no hands) instead of trying to catch it.

**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. Who is the “I” and the “you” in this verse? “I” is Paul, who wrote these words to believers in the city of Philippi.

2. What had Paul told the Philippian believers before? That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

3. What does it mean to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? It means that they reject the good news of salvation through Jesus. They do not think you need to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior to be saved. And not only do they reject, but they do not want others to believe it either.

4. What sorts of things had the enemies of the cross of Christ done to Paul to try to stop him from telling others the good news of Jesus? They had had him stoned, beaten, put him in prison, and in the end, they even put him to death.

5. How did Paul feel about so many people living as enemies to the cross of Christ? Why? He was so sad about it that he cried about it. He felt this way because he knew that without faith in Jesus, these people would face God’s eternal punishment. Paul did not want anyone to face that! He wanted them to be forgiven and to become God’s people.

6. What is the destiny of these enemies of the cross of Christ? Destruction.

7. What kind of destruction does Paul have in mind? Facing God’s eternal punishment for their sins. They will forever have to live away from God and everything good.

8. What does Paul mean when he says their god is their stomach? Not that they worship their stomachs, but that they want to get right now whatever it is that they desire, just like stomachs ache to be filled with food when we are hungry. They want what they want right now! Also, there were some people who thought if they ate certain foods in certain ways, according to God’s laws that they could please God with these good works. Paul may also have been talking about these people, too.

9. What does it mean that their glory is their shame? This kind of glory stands for something that they are proud of that they are or have done. Paul here is saying that many are proud and even feel like they please God by certain things they do. But, because they trust in these good works to please God rather than in Jesus and His death on the cross, they should really be ashamed of these good works instead of proud of them. They will never be enough to please God.

10. What does Paul say the mind of these enemies of the cross of Christ is on? What does he mean? Earthly things. He means that they are so busy thinking and doing things that only matter here that they have forgotten God and His ways.

11. What is citizenship and where is the citizenship of believers? Citizenship means the city or home where you belong. The citizenship or home of all believers is heaven.

12. What does it mean for God’s people to have their citizenship in heaven? It means that heaven is the place where they will be at home. They think about it and live by its laws. It is the place where they will receive the rich reward God promises to give all of His people. They look forward to getting to live there.

13. Who do believers eagerly await for who will come from heaven? Jesus Christ.
Scripture Song Discussion Questions  Page 2

14. When will Jesus come? What will He do then? At the end of time Jesus will come back to bring an end to sin and death once and for all. He will judge all people and give them their eternal punishments and rewards—eternal death to those who have not turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior; but eternal life to those who have turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. He will reign forever with His people, forever happy, in the new heavens and earth.

Big Idea Connection
What does this verse have to do with our Big Idea? God’s people know heaven in their home. They look forward to the day when their troubles here are over and they will get to live with God forever in that wonderful place.

Story Connection
What does this verse have to do with our story today? Many of the Israelites were earthly minded. They complained and grumbled instead of trusting the LORD. Filling their empty stomachs many times led them to do sinful things. The LORD punished these Israelites for their repeated disobedience and lack of faith. In the end, they died out in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land. But the children of these Israelites did get to enter into the Promised Land. And Moses, while he did not get to enter the Promised Land, the LORD took him home to heaven, to be with Him forever. This was best of all.

Life Application
1. How can God’s people who suffer today be encouraged by thinking about their home in heaven? They can remember that their sufferings will only last for a while. They will soon be free of their hard times and enjoy their heavenly home, where there will be no more sin, sadness or death and they will get to enjoy God’s presence forever.
2. How can we become God’s people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

ACTS Questions
1. What is something we can praise God for from this Scripture Verse? Praise God for being the Savior of His people who has given them heaven to be their home.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Scripture Verse? That many times our minds are filled up with earthly things and we do not think about God and what pleases Him in how we live.
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Scripture Verse? We can thank God for His promise to send Jesus to come and bring an end to sin and death once and for all.
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 help us to not have our minds on earthly things, but think about Him and what pleases Him.

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

Closing Large Group Time  Sign and sing the song.
PASS THE SECRET SIGN
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.
We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes

Verse 1
O land of rest, for thee I sigh!
When will the moment come
When I shall lay my armor by
And dwell in peace at home?

Refrain:
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
And we’ll be gathered home.

Verse 3
I sought at once my Savior’s side,
No more my steps to roam:
With Him I’ll brave death’s chilling tide,
And reach my heav’nly home. (Refrain)

Praise Factory Hymns and Scripture Songs CDs

Understanding the Song

What is the “land of rest?” Why is it called that? Heaven is the land of rest because in heaven, God’s people will rest from struggling against sin and suffering. They will not ever have to do without any good thing again.

2. What kind of armor does a Christian have? Not real armor like what a soldier wears. Living as a Christian is a fight against sin. This is talking about not having to fight against sin anymore when a Christian is in heaven.

3. What is the home where the Christian will dwell in peace? Heaven.

4. What kind of work do Christians do? When will they stop working? They obey God by loving Him and others. They are even willing to do w/o good things, struggle against sin and suffer as part of the work God may call them to. This work will end when Jesus comes back and He takes His people home to heaven; or, until they die (and go to heaven).

5. What does it mean to “seek my Savior’s side, no more my steps to roam?” It doesn’t mean trying to stand next to Jesus. It means spending time with Him in prayer & trying to obey everything He wants you to do.

6. What does it mean to ‘brave death’s chilling tide’? “Chilling tide” means cold water. Just like people don’t like to swim in cold water, people don’t like to die. Some people think of dying, like the Israelites crossing the water (or tide) of River Jordan into the Promised Land. Being alive in this world is like being in one land. Death is like crossing the River Jordan to get to the Promised Land of heaven on the other side. To brave something means to face something bravely.

7. What helps God’s people brave death? Jesus, who will be with them even through death.

8. What will God’s people reach after facing death? Their heavenly home.

Big Idea Connection

How does this song relate to our Big Idea: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home?

God’s people know that life here on earth is often not easy. Many times they have to do w/o good things, struggle against sin, and suffer to do what God has called them to do. They look forward to the day their work is done and they will get to be in their heavenly home forever. Their they will have close fellowship with God and He will bless them with good things far better than anything they can imagine.

Story Connection

How does this song relate to today’s story? Moses longed for the Promised Land God promised Israel and spent most of his life guiding them to enter it. When the LORD decided Moses should not enter the Promised Land with the people, Moses was sad, but he knew that there was a far better Promised Land—heaven—that the Lord would be taking him to.
Scripture Verse Connection
How does this song relate to our Scripture Verse: Philippians 3:18-20
“I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

Life Application Questions
1. How can God’s people be affected by the message of this song?
   They can praise God for preparing for them a “land of rest.” They can ask Him to help them to keep doing with joy whatever work He has for them by helping them remember the heavenly home that awaits them.

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 Giver of Peace and Rest for His people in the heavenly home He provides for them.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?
   That many times we don’t think about heaven or about working for God. Many times we just think about ourselves and what we want right now.

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?
   We can thank God for the promise of a heavenly home for all His people, all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

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 help us to think about Him each day as we work—think about how we can love and obey Him in what we do. And, we can ask Him to fit us for heaven and give us hearts that long to be with Him forever.

Gospel Question
What had God done to make a way for sinners to come to live in His wonderful heavenly home forever?

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

Closing Large Group Time
Sign and sing song.
**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

The Promised Land from Mount Nebo

1. What Is it? (Presenter 1)
   The Promised Land from Mount Nebo

2. What Does It Have to Do With the Story? (Presenter 2)
   Where? High up above the plains of
   Who? Moses
   Did What? Stood and looked out at
   With the Big Idea Object? The Promised Land from Mount Nebo
   Why? Because the Lord was letting him see the Promised Land before taking him home to heaven.

3. What Does It Have to Do with the Big Idea? (Presenter 3)
   Our Big Idea is: God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Moses did not get to enter the Promised Land, but he did get to see it; and best of all, the Lord took him home to heaven—a far better place than the Promised Land!

4. What Can It Help Us Remember? (Presenter 4)
   No matter how wonderful the things of this world are, God’s people will find that their home in heaven will be far better than anything they know or have here on earth.
The Promised Land from Mount Nebo

Description
The children will decorate a picture using either markers or craft sand.

Materials
Craft Sand, especially blues, greens and browns (or markers/colored pencils, if not using craft sand)
Craft Glue and brushes
Cardstock
Cookie sheets with sides

Preparing the Craft
1. Print out 1 copy of the picture onto cardstock.
2. Place the craft sand in bowls and place the bowls on a cookie sheet.
3. Set other supplies.

Making the Craft
1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children brush/wipe glue onto a section of the picture, then sprinkle a particular color of sand onto that section. Tilt the picture downward and let the excess sand fall off onto the cookie sheet.
3. Continue until pictures are covered with sand.
4. You may want to put excess sand back in the bowl when it begins to build up in the cookie sheet.

OR, simply color in the pictures with markers/colored pencils.
God's People Know Heaven Is Their Home. Jesus is God's Son and His home is in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to earth as a man to die on the cross for our sins. WHEREVER HE WAS, HE HAD GREAT POWER: HE CALLED A GREAT FISH TO FEED HIS FISHERS, HE CALLED A GREAT ASTRONOMER TO HELP HIM WITH HIS PROJECTS, HE CALLED A GREAT MATH PRODIGY TO HELP HIM WITH HIS PROBLEMS, AND HE CALLED A GREAT SKYDIVER TO HELP HIM WITH HIS SKYDIVING. WHEREVER HE WAS, HE HAD GREAT RESPONSIBILITY: HE HAD TO BE THE LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE, HE HAD TO BE THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE AND COMMITMENT, HE HAD TO BE THE EXAMPLE OF FAITH AND HOPE, AND HE HAD TO BE THE EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICE AND COMMITMENT.

When Jesus lived on earth, there were many times he did wonderful good things; there were many times he did evil.

Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.  

Confess that many times we grasp for the best things in life here on earth and grumble when we don't get them. We forget about God. We forget that we can one day live in a wonderful heavenly home with Him, if we are those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. That heavenly home will be far better than anything we can know or have here.

Praise God for being Preparer of His people's wonderful home in heaven.

Ask God to work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our own Savior. We can ask Him to fit us for heaven, by helping us to love God, obey Him and long to be with Him.

Thank God for adopting all who trust in Him as His very own children. They have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven.

As an adopted child, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven.

I also prayed for you during ACTS time. Maybe they will be helpful for you to pray, too.

We thought about Philippians 3:18-20  

"I have often told you before and now way again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."  

Wonderfulness as we possibly can be.

Praise God for doing Preparing of His people's wonderful home in heaven.

And the best thing of all will be living in His presence, being filled up with as much of His Perfect Father and the Holy Spirit. It was there He would receive all the praise, glory and honor due Him. He looked forward to that day. There are so many times when God's people will endure hardships because of what God has called them to do. But they can endure them joyfully because they know that they have been adopted by God as His very own children. Just like Jesus, now their real home is no longer here on earth, but is waiting for them in heaven. God promises them that as His adopted children, they will have eternal happiness when they go home to live with Him in heaven.

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CRABBIN’ AROUND
VIPP Game

Materials
The VIPP information sheets and clip art for two or more VIPPS, preferably of the same
type (such as two deacons, elders, etc)
Tape
Different color construction paper for each picture.

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

Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag, except for the names and pictures. Mix up.

Use tape to put up the pictures of each VIPP on a piece of construction paper. Tape each up in a different
location/wall around the room.

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

Review: Put the Clue Cards for the VIPPS put in a bag. Mix up. Have children sit down, with their legs in
front of them and their hands propped behind them. Show them how to get in crab position and try
moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a
clue, tell them what it is and they are to crab-crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs
to. Give them the answer after everyone has run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have
been used up.

Get Clues, Then Guess Version:
Get Clues: Put the clues for the VIPPs in the bag/bowl and mix up. Read them the VIPP information
sheets (or to make it even harder, don’t!).

Guess: Have children sit down, with their legs in front of them and their hands propped behind them.
Show them how to get in crab position and try moving around. (Moving on hands and feet, with the
front side facing up). Tell them that you will pull out a clue, tell them what it is and that they are to crab-
crawl their way to the picture of the person who it belongs to. Give them the answer after everyone has
run to their guessed person. Continue until all clues have been used up. Review the correctly finished
profiles of each VIPP and information sheets at the end.