THE PRAISE FACTORY
manufacturers of active minds, noisy joy, and prayerful hearts since 1997

104 BIG IDEAS
of the Bible

for elementary school children
UNIT FIFTEEN: GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER

Big Question #15: Why Do God’s People Go to Church?

To Worship God and Love One Another!

- God’s People Gather for a Special Weekly Worship Day
- God’s People Gather to Hear God’s Word
- God’s People Gather to Pray
- God’s People Gather to Give
- God’s People Gather for Fellowship
- God’s People Invite Others to Gather with Them
- God’s People Celebrate Christ’s Redeeming Sacrifice for Them
- God’s People Love Each Other with a Covenant Love
- God’s People Are Led by Godly Leaders
- God’s People Are Called the Body of Christ

UNIT SIXTEEN: JESUS, THE RETURNING KING

Big Question #16: What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back?

God Will Make Everything New!

- King Jesus Will Return to End the World
- King Jesus Will Return When God’s Work on Earth is Done
- When King Jesus Returns, God’s People Will Be Made Like Him
- King Jesus Will Return to Bring the Wicked to Just and Final Punishment
- King Jesus Will Return to Judge God’s People, Too
- King Jesus Will Be United with His Bride, God’s People, Forever
- King Jesus Will Reign Forever

MORE INFORMATION

The Praise Factory Website

All materials for the three curricula in Praise Factory family are available for downloading at www.praisefactory.org.

DEDICATION

Psalm 100

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His:
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;
Give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the LORD is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

It is my prayer that this curriculum might help children to be manufacturers of noisy joy (v.1) unto the Lord., to Sing (v. 2), to Know (v.3), & to Worship Him with thanksgiving and praise (v.4), that the witness of His great faithfulness might continue through all generations (v.5).

Soli Deo Gloria!

Constance Dever
Washington, DC
April 17th, 2008

1 Corinthians 3:6-8
**PRAISE FACTORY GOALS**

**For the children**

ACTIVE MINDS
To lead children in discovering the wonders of God, as He has revealed Himself in Scripture, through all ages, that they might know, love & glorify Him with all their being.

NOISY・JOY
To help children understand what it means to know God and live as a Christian that they might live joyful lives, pleasing to God. To encourage them to reach out to all with the good news of Jesus, with love, in word and example.

PRAYERFUL HEARTS
To help children learn and use four key elements of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. To help them develop a loving and prayerful knowledge and concern for the body of Christ, both locally & around the world.

**For the teachers**

SOLID, IN-DEPTH, BIBLICAL TEACHING
To provide teachers with well-researched stories that keep to their biblical meaning and are filled with details that illuminate the story.

COMPLETE, EASY-TO-USE RESOURCES
To provide teachers with a wide variety of all-inclusive resources, including a story-related snack, thought-provoking discussion questions with suggested answers, and eight different weekly activities.

**For the parents**

RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME
To provide resources for parents to use at home to review, discuss and reinforce what their children are learning during session time.

**SCOPE & SEQUENCE**

**Unit Twelve: God’s People Live for Him**

**Big Question #12: How Should God’s People Live Each Day?**

They Should Live Like Jesus!

61. God’s People Grow to Be More Like Jesus
62. God’s People Love Him with All Their Being
63. God’s People Love Others
64. God’s People Trust Him
65. God’s People Are Good Stewards of His Gifts
66. God’s People Obey Him
67. God’s People Work for Him
68. God’s People Read His Word
69. God’s People Think about Him
70. God’s People Say “No” to Temptation
71. God’s People Tell Others about Him
72. God’s People Suffer According to His Plan
73. God’s People Know Heaven Is Their Home
74. God’s People Delight in His Glory

**Unit Thirteen: The Sustaining God**

**Big Question #13: Why Do God’s People Keep Believing in Him?**

Because God Sustains Them!

75. God Alone Sustains His People
76. The Father Promises to Help His People
77. Jesus Gives His People Grace for Life and Godliness
78. The Holy Spirit Works in His People
79. The Word of God Feeds God’s People
80. God Sustains His People through Their Comfort and Prayers for Each Others

**Unit Fourteen: The God Who Delights in Our Prayers**

**Big Question #14: How Does God Want Us to Pray?**

Every Night and Day!

81. God Delights in Our Adoration of Him
82. God Delights in Our Humble Confession of Sin
83. God Delights in Our Thanksgiving to Him
84. God Delights in Our Supplications to Him
85. God Always Answers Prayers
86. Jesus Is Why God Answers His People’s Prayers
**SCOPE & SEQUENCE**

**Unit Nine: Jesus Christ: Immanuel, God with Us**

Big Question #9: What Did Jesus Come to Do? 

Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!

41. Jesus, the Servant King
42. Jesus, the Obedient Son
43. Jesus, the Amazing Teacher
44. Jesus, the Ruler of All Creation
45. Jesus, the Lord over Life and Death
46. Jesus, the Forgiver of Sins
47. Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God
48. Jesus, the Glory of God
49. Jesus, the Saviour for Sinners
50. Jesus, the Conqueror of Death
51. Jesus, the Firstborn of the Resurrection
52. Jesus, the Reigning Son in Heaven

**Unit Ten: The Holy Spirit: The Indwelling God**

Big Question #10: What Does the Holy Spirit Do Inside God’s People?

He Changes Their Heart!

53. The Holy Spirit Lives in His People
54. The Holy Spirit Gives His People Courage
55. The Holy Spirit Gives His People Wisdom
56. The Holy Spirit Builds God’s Church

**Unit Eleven: The God Who Saves**

Big Question #11: How Can We Be Saved? 

It Is God’s Free Gift!

57. God Saves Sinners Who Confess Their Sins
58. Jesus Is the Only Way to Be Saved
59. We Must Trust Jesus as Our Own Savior
60. The Holy Spirit Changes Our Hearts so We Can Be Saved

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**PRAISE FACTORY BASICS**

What is The Praise Factory?

The Praise Factory is a six year, multi-age children’s systematic theology curriculum for elementary school children. It is comprised of 104 biblical truths—called “Big Ideas”—divided into 16 units, common to a systematic theology. These concepts, centering on the God-head, the Church and personal holiness, are basic to Christianity; yet, many children receive little or no focused education in them.

Why Systematic Theology?

A systematic theology is an ordered study of who God is, who He has made us to be, His plans for us and this world, His work of salvation for His people, and the things of the world to come. It gives children an opportunity to consider the magnificent way that God has ordered all things to His glory; and, equips them with a strong foundation of God’s Truth to grow and live for Him in this world, with an eye of hope and joy towards the next.

How is Praise Factory Structured?

**Big Idea Cycles**

Each of the 104 Big Ideas is studied in three-week cycles. During the first week, the Big Idea is introduced and illustrated with a Bible story and key Scripture Verse that highlight the Big Idea. During the second week, the Big Idea and Scripture Verse are reviewed, but a “Story of the Saints”—a story from church history, missions, or everyday life—is used, instead of a Bible story, to illustrate the Big Idea. The third week of material incorporates a Bible story from the Testament of the Bible not used in Week One. All three weeks of material may be used regularly as part of each Big Idea cycle. For churches standardizing the curriculum to two Big Ideas a month, you would choose two of the three weeks of materials, except in months with five Sundays, when you would add in the third week from one of the two Big Ideas used.

**Large Group-Small Group Session Format**

Every session includes both Large Group and Small Group time. The Big Idea, Scripture Verse and Big Idea story are introduced in Opening Large Group time. The children then break up into small groups. Small Groups are the centerpiece of The Praise Factory. Each Small Group has a story-related snack, discussion, prayer time and then alternates through a series of up to eight different activities, one per week, depending upon the size and needs of your church. The eight activities are: Drama Group; Scripture Verse, Story Review and Big Idea Games groups; Hymn and Scripture Song groups; VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person); and Big Idea Craft Group. The Praise Factory concludes with Closing Large Group Time, in which each small group makes a presentation to the rest of the group that is related to their activity.

**Combined Class Session Format**

While Praise Factory’s curriculum is structured for use in this Large Group/Small Group framework, it also can be easily tailored for use in a combined class format by choosing a succession of activities in which everyone participates. Instead of making presentations to other children during a Closing Large Group time, the children may present to their parents when they arrive to pick them up from class.
PRAISE FACTORY DISTINCTIVES

Wealth and Variety of Content
- Comprehensive study of the key concepts of the faith.
- Emphasizes the greatness of God, His Truth & His ways through the ages, by including an Old Testament, New Testament, and Church History/Missions story in each Big Idea Cycle.
- Incorporates background information about geography, culture, time period, customs & manners into each story.
- Each week’s curriculum includes 8 different, multi-sensory activities aimed at reaching the head and the heart with God’s Truth.
- Encourages deeper, thoughtful prayer as worship of God and powerful work for His Kingdom.
- Develops a knowledge of & heart for key people in the local church, outreach ministries & around the world.

Ready-to-Go Resources
- In-depth stories & activities for each week.
- Thoughtful discussion questions AND answers for every small group activity.
- A Scripture Verse, Story Review and Big Idea game included in each week’s curriculum.
- A craft with thoughtful questions reinforcing important connections with the story and Big Idea.
- A hymn and scripture song available for each Big Idea to help build understanding of many familiar hymns as well as to aid Scripture memory through song.
- Complete music & sign language resources available for all hymns and Scripture Songs.
- Free CD’s of music available for downloading for use by teachers and by families
- Take-home sheet for each Big Idea Cycle to reinforce the Praise Factory concepts at home.
- Curriculum fully downloadable and reproducible.
- Sample Session & Interview DVD available to aid teacher training.

Versatility
- Can be tailored to fit small or large churches, short or long sessions, small group or combined class format.
- Adaptable for use by both younger and older elementary school children.
- Organized in topical units that can be used separately, or as a whole.
- Useful for Sunday School, Children’s Church, Bible classes, Vacation Bible School, homeschoolers & more.

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Unit Five: God, the Good Creator
Big Question #5: Can You Tell Me What God Made?
God Made All Things Good!
23. God Created All Things Good in the Beginning
24. God Created People Good in the Beginning
25. God Created the World to Praise and Glorify Him
26. God’s Plans For His Creation Are Good and Unfailing

Unit Six: God, the Just and Merciful
Big Question #6: How Did Bad Things Come to God’s Good World?
Bad Things Came through Sin!
27. Angels and People Rebelled against God in the Beginning
28. God Treated the First Sinners with Justice and Mercy
29. All People Are Born Sinful, All People Need God’s Mercy

Unit Seven: The Law-Giving God
Big Question #7: What Are God’s Laws Like?
God’s Laws Are Perfect!
30. God’s Laws Are Written in the Bible
31. God Created Us As Perfect Law Keepers, But We Are All Lawbreakers
32. God Gave Us His Laws to Convict Us of Our Sin that We Might Be Saved
33. Jesus Kept God’s Law Perfectly So By His Grace He Could Save His People
34. The Heart of God’s Law is Love

Unit Eight: The God Who Loves
Big Question #8: What Is God’s Love for His People Like?
More than They Could Ever Deserve!
35. God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts
36. God Loved His People Before They Loved Him
37. God Showed the Depths of His Love by Giving His Own, Beloved Son to Save His People
38. God Loves His People by Caring for Their Needs
39. God Uses Everything in His People’s Lives for Their Good and His Glory
40. God Will Never Stop Loving His People
SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Unit One: The God Who Reveals Himself
Big Question #1: How Can I Know What God Is Like?
He Shows Me What He’s Like!
1. God Made Our Hearts to Know & Love Him
2. God’s Creation Tells Us About Him
3. God Spoke to His People Long Ago through Prophets
4. God Speaks through His Word, the Bible
5. God Reveals Himself Most Completely through His Son, Jesus

Unit Two: God’s Wonderful Word, the Bible
Big Question #2: What’s So Special about the Bible?
It Alone is God’s Word!
6. God Inspired Many People to Write Down His Word Perfectly
7. God’s Word Tells God’s Way and Plans for His People, Past, Present and Future
8. God Uses His Word to Save His People
9. God Uses His Word to Change His People

Unit Three: The Good News of God
Big Question #3: What’s the Gospel?
It’s Salvation through Faith in Jesus!
10. God Is the Good Creator and King of the World
11. All Have Rejected God and Deserve His Eternal Punishment
12. God Sent Jesus to Bear the Punishment for Sin
13. God Saves Those Who Repent and Trust in Jesus

Unit Four: The LORD Is an Awesome God
Big Question #4: Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
He’s Not Like Anyone Else!
14. The LORD is a Glorious Spirit
15. The LORD is the Only True God
16. The LORD is Everywhere; All the Time
17. The LORD Knows Everything There is to Know
18. The LORD is One God, Yet Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
19. The LORD is Holy
20. The LORD is Omnipotent
21. The LORD is Faithful
22. The LORD’s Names Tell Us About Him

KEY TERMS

familiarize yourself with these terms

Big Idea
Main theological concept discussed in a unit cycle.

Big Idea Cycle
Three-week unit of one Big Idea. Each cycle also includes a related Scripture verse, 2 Bible stories and 1 “Story of the Saints” story, from church history or missions, a story-related snack, and ACTS prayer. There are activities for each week of the cycle for up to eight different small groups.

Big Idea Folder
A folder for each small group with a copy of the Big Idea and Scripture Verse inside it. If desired, also include a copy of the classroom rules.

Big Idea Folder Hunt/The Echo Chamber
These are opening activities of Praise Factory in which children review key unit concepts and burn a little energy before settling down to hear the story.

Small Group Format
The primary structure used in The Praise Factory curriculum. After hearing the story as a Large Group, children break into Small Groups for discussion and one particular activity.

Combined Class Format
An alternative structure for using Praise Factory curriculum. The children do not break into small groups; instead, they stay together throughout the entire teaching time, participating in a succession of the different activities available.

Large Group Time
The beginning and closing times of Praise Factory in which all of the children gather together for joint activities. In Opening Large Group Time, the children hunt for the Big Idea Folders, then are introduced to the Big Idea, Scripture Verse and Story. In Closing Large Group Time, each small group makes a presentation from their small group activity to the rest of the children. Alternatively, those using a combined class can wait until end of session and make their presentations to their parents.
More Key Terms

Small Group Time
The middle section of Praise Factory in which the entire group of children are split into groups of preferably no more than 10 children of similar age. There are 8 different small group activities available for use. Each small group participates in one activity a session and rotates to a new one each week. Each group makes a presentation from their small group activity during Closing Large Group Time. How many activities you decide to use will depend upon the size of your children’s group and number of teachers, and your own discretion.

ACTS Prayer
ACTS is a structure used to guide the prayer time. Each letter stands for a particular prayer emphasis: A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication. The leader writes down the children’s ideas for each emphasis and then prays them or has the children pray them.

VIPP
Stands for Very Important Prayer Person. Designated people, might include church leaders, missionaries, parents, and others. Children learn about these people through making VIPP Clue Cards or playing a VIPP game - and then, as time allows, decorate encouraging cards and pray for them in the VIPP small group. Each church comes up with their own VIPPs that reflect their own church’s leaders, staff, ministries, and focus.

Big Idea, Scripture Verse and Story Review Quiz Questions
The Big Idea, Scripture Verse and Story Review Games Groups each use the Discussion and Quiz Question sheet during their discussion time and in playing their respective games. They may also choose to use some of these questions as the questions they use to quiz the other children in Closing Large Group time.

Churches with More than 80 Children
Small churches may decide to use less small groups than the full eight listed. The two games groups and the two songs groups can be combined, with the games group teacher/songs group teacher simply choosing between the two games or the two songs. For very, very small churches, you may want to not use separate small groups at all, but simply choose activities from the seven listed for everyone to participate in. Presentations can be made to parents when they pick up the children instead of to the other children.

Involving Other Ages
We have designed the Praise Factory Big Ideas to correlate some what with Marian Schoolland’s Leading Little Ones to God, for ages 3-7. Parents may find this a useful supplemental resource to use at home. We are also developing simplified versions of the some of the same concepts, Bible stories and music to pre-schoolers, 3 years old to pre-K, in a three year curriculum called Big Questions and Answers; and Teach, Take and Tell, for 2 and 3 year olds. See the website praisefactory.org for more information.
We have just introduced you to the way that Praise Factory is used at Capitol Hill Baptist Church. It is by no means the only way to use this curriculum. Every church is different in its needs and visions; so, while we find our approach very effective in our church, you may find other uses for it.

### Using Only Portions of the Curriculum

#### Stories Only
You could make the Big Ideas and stories available for parents to use at home with their children; or, as a story time session.

#### Songs Only
You could use the Big Ideas and songs in a class on hymns and songs of the Church.

#### Games Only
All the games are made to go with any story. You could create a games file to make available to teachers teaching other classes.

### Combined Session Format (instead of Small Groups)
This format keeps all the children together, participating in the small activities through the session.

#### Suggested Changes:

- **Opening Large Group Time**
  No changes to format

- **Small Group Activity Time**
  Instead of breaking the children into small groups, keep all the children together and have them participate in a succession of the Small Group Activities.

- **Closing Large Group Presentations**
  Since your children have been working together, you can use this time as extended activity time. If you still want the benefit of having the children present their work, delay the presentation time to dismissal time and have the children make their presentations to the parents. Give out Take Home Sheets.

### Activity-Anchored Approach
We have teachers volunteer for a month of Praise Factory at a time. We find that it is most profitable to the children to have the same teacher work with the same group of children each week. This is a

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### Praise Factory Session Overview

**Opening Large Group Time**

1. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

   each circle stands for a small group

**Small Group Activity Time**

Each small group participates in 1 activity a week

- **Drama Group**
  Discusses the Big Idea story in depth & plans an informal play for Closing Large Group Time

- **Hymns Group**
  Listens to & discusses a hymn verse: its meaning, and its connection to the Big Idea & story. Learns sign language to key words & practices to sing and sign their hymn for Closing Large Group Time.

- **Story Review Games Group**
  Discusses the story, plays a game to reinforce what they learned, & chooses quiz questions to ask the others in Closing Large Group Time.

- **VIPP Group**
  Learns about a “Very Important Prayer Person” — someone who serves your church, locally or abroad — through games and art activities. Discusses and prays Big Idea applications for the VIPP & decorates cards for them. Presents/ prays for the VIPP for Closing Large Group Time.

- **Scripture Songs Group**
  Listens to & discusses the Big Idea Scripture in song: its meaning, and its connection to the Big Idea & story. Learns sign language to key words & practices to sing and sign their song for Closing Large Group Time.

- **Scripture Games Group**
  Discusses the Scripture verse, plays a game to reinforce what they learned, & chooses quiz questions to ask the others in Closing Large Group Time.

- **Big Idea Craft Group**
  Discusses Big Idea and makes a craft related to the Big Idea and story. Provides Big Idea Story-Craft Connection in Closing Large Group Time.

- **Big Idea Games Group**
  Discusses the story, plays a game to reinforce what they learned, & chooses quiz questions to ask the others in Closing Large Group Time.

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### Closing Large Group Time

Each small group makes their own presentation to the other children (or to parents). As they are dismissed, each child takes a take-home sheet for use with their families.
## Opening Large Group Time Activities

**big idea folder hunt**
- Classroom rules
- Big idea
- Scripture verse
- Story

## Small Group Activities

### Hymns
- Snack
- Answer general questions
- ACTS
- Discuss song meaning & connections with Big Idea & story
- Learn words & music
- Learn sign language signs
- Praise Factory Song book
- Sign Language signs book
- Music CDs
- Sing song with signs

### Scriptural Song Group
- Snack
- Answer general questions
- ACTS
- Discuss Scripture verse meaning & connections with Big Idea & story
- Learn words & music
- Learn sign language signs
- Praise Factory Song book
- Sign Language signs book
- Music CDs
- Sing song with signs

### Story Review Games Group
- Snack
- Answer general questions
- ACTS
- Discuss story & connections with Big Idea & story
- Play game
- Choose story review questions to quiz others
- Games & equipment
- Ask Story Questions

### Big Idea Craft Group
- Snack
- Answer general questions
- ACTS
- Discuss Big Idea & Fill out Big Idea-Craft Connection Sheet
- Make Craft
- Various art supplies for craft
- Presenter sheets
- Present craft

### VIPP Group
- Snack
- Answer general questions
- ACTS
- Fill in VIPP clue cards
- Play VIPP game
- Write cards to VIPP
- Pray for VIPP
- Games & equipment
- VIPP boards & information sheets
- VIPP clue cards
- VIPP letter sheets
- Play guess who

## Closing Large Group Activities

**Drama Group**
- Play of Story

**VIPP Group**
- Present the VIPP & pray

**Games Groups**
- Big Idea/Story Review/Scripture Verse Quiz Questions

**Songs Groups**
- Sing Hymn/Scripture Verse Songs with Sign Language

**Big Idea Craft Group**
- Present craft & Big Idea-Craft Connections

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### Session Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approximate Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Large Group Time</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echo Chamber or Big Idea Folder Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of Big Idea &amp; Scripture Verse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Story</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The children then break up into age-based small groups for discussion and prayer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Group Time, Part I</th>
<th>10-15 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Story-related snack</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Time</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTS Prayer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Followed by a weekly rotation of one of 8 activities & prayer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Group Time, Part II</th>
<th>20-25 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drama Group: Plan-a-Play Guide/Act-It-Out Sheet and Create a Play of the Story</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIPP Group: Introduce VIPP, Fill in VIPP Clue Cards/Play VIPP Game/Make VIPP Prayer Letters, Pray for VIPP</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games Groups: Big Idea, Story Review, Scripture Games</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songs Groups: Hymn/Scripture Verse Songs &amp; Sign Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Idea Craft Group: Craft, Big Idea-Craft Connections</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The session ends with presentations by each small group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closing Large Group Time</th>
<th>10 minutes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drama Group: Play of Story</td>
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