

Unit 3: The Good News of God, the Gospel

Unit Big Question (and Answer): What Is the Gospel? It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!

Unit Bible Verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Bible Truth 3 Concept: Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...God Sent Jesus to Pay for the Sins of God's People!

What a mess we have made in God's good world! God is our good Maker and King, yet we have all chosen to disobey Him. Because God is good, He hates sin and He is right to punish our sins. We certainly deserve it! The punishment for sins is death--being separated from God and all His goodness forever. How sad!

But God is not only good; He is also very merciful. He treats us better than we deserve. That's why God, Himself, made a way for us to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. God sent His own, dear Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life of love and obedience that we should live, but never do. On the cross, Jesus offered His perfect life to God as the full payment for sins, for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus suffered and died in our place. Then on the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death! Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Isaiah 53:5-6

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Learn a Little: "The punishment that brought us peace was upon him."

Meaning

God is our good King and Creator and we should love and obey Him. But the sad news is that we all choose to disobey Him...and we all deserve His punishment.

Yes, we deserve His punishment, but God has loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment that we deserve instead. Jesus lived a perfect life and chose to give it up to pay for our sins. On the cross, He suffered and died. He was pierced with nails in His hands and feet. He was pierced in His side with a sword. He took all of the punishment that we deserve from God for our sins so that we could be forgiven. Jesus made the way for us to have peace with God by suffering in our place.

Who did Jesus do this for? It is God's free gift to all who put their trust in Jesus as their Savior and choose to live for Him. This gift can be for you, too! Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.
- C** God, we confess rebelling against You and Your good ways. Too many times we choose to live life our own way instead of Yours. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for being our good Creator and King. Thank You for making everything in the world for Your good purposes. Thank You for being so merciful to us! Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to obey Your good ways and bring You glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 3 Story**The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish**

Genesis; The Gospels

Songs Used in Bible Truth 3

Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16

Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 2)

Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 3)

Big Question 3 Hymn: And Can It Be, v.1 Refrain

Big Question 3 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: He Was Pierced Isaiah 53:5

listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page

The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish*Genesis, The Gospels***Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/Story Scenes, if using. (In Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard figures/Story Scenes, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues/hold up Story Scenes as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
4. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS (Optional)**“Our story is called: The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish. Here is your listening assignment... ”***Read the assignment for your lesson using Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment sign or the text below:***Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:****I need to know:**

1. Who was the Savior?
2. When did the promise of a Savior start? When did it finish?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Isaiah 53:5-6**

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

I need to know:

Transgressions and iniquities are other words for sin.

1. Whose transgressions and iniquities deserved God’s punishment in our story?
2. Who came to take God’s punishment for them?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are NOT in the story.

They are: a tree; a lamp; a garden; a cave-grave; a bed; and, a man named Abraham.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?
2. Which one did the Savior use to prove He had won? What do we thank Him for beating?

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

*Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.**Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.*

The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish *Genesis, The Gospels*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Back in the very beginning, God created our world.

Heavens and earth.

Sky and seas,

Mountains and valleys,

Flowers and trees,

Birds and fish and animals, too,

And best of all, God made people,

Like me and you.

And it was all good. VERY good.

But why were PEOPLE the best of all that God created, back in the very beginning? It's because He created people with something that no other earth creature had: a living spirit that could know and love Him. We could have a special closeness to God that no one else could enjoy!

I'm sure it's very fine to be a fast horse galloping across a grassy field; or, a proud eagle soaring on the wind high up in the sky. I'm sure it would be marvelous to twist and spin like a dolphin in the ocean. And don't we all enjoy looking up at the beautiful stars at night or gazing at tall, snowy mountains in the distance? But NONE of this is ANYTHING as great as knowing God and being close to Him. That is the BEST thing anyone can ever enjoy. And that's why this spirit inside people makes us so very special, indeed!

God named the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He gave them a beautiful garden home with everything they needed—perfect food to eat, perfect jobs to do, and perfect friendship to enjoy with each other.

But the best thing about life in the Garden, wasn't anything that Adam and Eve could put in their mouths, or do with their hands or even enjoy with each other. The best thing that Adam and Eve had in that Garden was something that they couldn't even see or touch. And it all had to do with that spirit God gave them.

Can you guess what that best thing was?

The best thing in that garden was the very, very special closeness Adam and Eve had with God. It was unlike anything, any of us has had since the world began.

What was that very special closeness like? I like to call it "Perfect Wonderfulness." It was "Perfect," because there was no sin in Adam and Eve's hearts that blocked it. And it was "Wonderfulness," because it was far better than ANYTHING we can imagine. "Perfect Wonderfulness"-- knowing, loving, trusting and obeying God completely. And God sharing His love and showing Himself to them in a way deeper and better than any of us has ever known. Yes, life with God in the Garden was "Perfect Wonderfulness." And what made it even MORE wonderful was that it could go on this way forever and ever.

Doesn't the life Adam and Eve had with God sound amazing? Perfect Wonderfulness, lasting forever!

But the "Perfect Wonderfulness" did NOT last forever. Satan, God's enemy, came into the Garden. He tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God and His goodness. His plan worked. Right there, in the middle of that beautiful Garden of love, Adam and Eve stopped trusting God and chose to rebel against Him instead.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

What would God do? Well, there was only one thing that He could do. You see, God is GOOD. He is HOLY. He hates sin. It is BAD. So He did what He must do— He punished Adam and Eve for their disobeying.

Life in God's perfect world was broken. Now there would be sin and sadness, sickness and death. Life in the Garden was broken, too. Adam and Eve lost their perfect food and perfect jobs and perfect friendship with each other. Worst of all, they lost their Perfect Wonderfulness, their very special closeness with God that would have gone on forever and ever.

Oh, what a lot Adam and Eve lost on that sad, sad day!

But there was something that Adam and Eve did NOT lose on that day.

Can you guess what it was?

They did NOT lose God's love.

God, in His great love and mercy was not finished with them or His world. He had always known what would happen. And He had always planned for it. He would NOT lose His people. He would SAVE them from their sins, and He, Himself, would do it.

So on that very day, God gave Adam and Eve a promise. He would send a Savior to crush the enemy. He would win back the Perfect Wonderfulness for them. He would win back the Forever Life with Him that He had created them to enjoy.

Yes, He would win it all back, through the Savior He would send. We know His name, don't we?

Can you tell me the Savior's name?

The Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son.

Adam and Eve had a family. Their children had children, too. They were just like Adam and Eve. They had two eyes, two ears, two legs, and two arms. One head with one nose and one mouth. They even had that special heart made to know and love God. But sadly, their hearts were broken with sin, just like Adam and Eve's. They ALL chose to disobey God and they ALL deserved His punishment. How sad!

But there was good news, too. Though they all disobeyed God and their hearts were broken with sin, some remembered God's promise to crush their enemy. They trusted in God and looked forward in faith to the day when the Savior would come.

Can you tell me the Savior's name?

The Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son.

God's plan to send a Savior began to unfold. God chose Abraham and his family to be the ones to prepare the world for the Savior. He gave them a special land to live in and His laws to live by. He gave them His special promises, too. God told them that all people would be blessed through someone who would be born into their family one day. That someone would be the Savior.

Can you tell me the Savior's name?

The Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Many years passed. Abraham's family grew into thousands and thousands and thousands of people. A whole nation! Sometimes, they obeyed God, but many times they did not. They enjoyed God's great blessings when they obeyed. They felt His loving discipline when they did not.

When they kept refusing to obey, God's loving discipline became more painful. How God loved His people! He sent them far away from their home to work for their enemies. They were so sad. They missed the good home and the good life He had given them. At last, their hearts changed. They were sorry they had disobeyed God. They wanted to turn back to Him. God sent them good news: one day He would bring them back home. And one day, He would send a Savior.

Can you tell me the Savior's name?

The Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son.

God kept His promises. He brought Abraham's family back home. And then, at just the right time, God sent the Savior to be born in Bethlehem--Jesus, God's own Son.

Jesus grew up. He taught about God and did many amazing things. He lived a perfect life—the life that Adam and Eve and all of us were supposed to live, but never did. He showed that He was God's Son, the Savior.

But Jesus didn't just come to show us that He was the Savior. He came to BE the Savior. He would make the way for us to have special closeness with God again. He would pay for our sins so that through Him we could once more enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness with God forever.

But, oh, what a terrible way it must all happen!

Sin couldn't be paid for with money. Sin even couldn't be paid for by Jesus living a perfect life in our place. No, sin could only be paid for with by Jesus living a perfect life, and then Him GIVING IT UP for us. He had to take our punishment. He had to die the death that we deserved! That was the only way!

So that's what Jesus did. He suffered and died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He was our substitute. He was our payment!

How Jesus hurt that day as He suffered and died for us! How much God loved us that He would pay for our sins, Himself, through His Son Jesus!

As Jesus died on the cross, His last words were, "It is finished." But what was finished? What it just His life was finished? Or could it be something more?

What do you think Jesus finished?

Later that day, some men took Jesus' body to a cave-grave in a garden. That looked like the end. But was it? No, it was not! What people had lost in their beautiful Garden long ago, Jesus was about to prove that He had won back in this garden.

On Day One and Two, Jesus' body stayed in that cave-grave, but then on Day Three, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory. He was alive! Jesus had really beaten sin and death! That's what He had finished that day He suffered and died on the cross. All those sins paid for. The way back to Perfect Wonderfulness with God forever was made!

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can enjoy a bit of special closeness with God in their hearts now by God's Holy Spirit. And one day, when they die, they will go to enjoy full, Perfect Wonderfulness with God forever. Perfect Wonderfulness. Perfect Forever. All of that is ours, all because the Savior came, and that Savior was God's Son, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus!

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

1. Who was the Savior? God's Son, Jesus.
2. When did the promise of a Savior start? When did it finish? It started back in the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. It finished when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of God's people and rose from the dead in victory.

For You and Me:

The promise of the Savior wasn't just for Adam and Eve or all those people who lived long ago. It is for us, too. It is for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He came to give us special closeness with God. He came so we could know the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God. Thank You, Jesus!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Isaiah 53:5-6**

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

I need to find out:

Transgressions and iniquities are other words for sin.

1. Whose transgressions and iniquities deserved God's punishment in our story? All people.

2. Who came to take God's punishment for them?

Jesus, God's Son.

For You and Me:

The promise of the Savior wasn't just for Adam and Eve or all those people who lived long ago. It is for us, too. It is for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He came to give us special closeness with God. He came so we could know the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God. He did this by paying for our sins, Himself! Thank You, Jesus!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a tree; a lamp; a garden; a cave-grave; a bed; and, a man named Abraham.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The tree, the garden, the cave-grave, and Abraham.

2. Which one did the Savior use to prove He had won? What do we thank Him for beating?

The cave-grave. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had beat sin and death for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

For You and Me:

The promise of the Savior wasn't just for Adam and Eve or all those people who lived long ago. It is for us, too. It is for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He beat sin and death for us. He came to give us special closeness with God. He came so we could know the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God. Thank You, Jesus!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can I Know What God Is Like?****It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!****God sent Jesus to pay for the sins of God's people!**

How merciful is God! How great is His love for sinners, like you and me! Though we have all chosen to disobey Him, He always planned to provide us with a Savior! And that Savior would be His own, dear Son! He chose to suffer and die on the cross and give up His perfect life as the full payment for sin that we needed. How can He be our Savior? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.
- C** God, we confess rebelling against You and Your good ways. Too many times we choose to live life our own way instead of Yours. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for being our good Creator and King. Thank You for making everything in the world for Your good purposes. Thank You for being so merciful to us! Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to obey Your good ways and bring You glory.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.