

Unit 2: God's Wonderful Word, the Bible

Unit Big Question (and Answer): "What's so special about the Bible? It alone is God's Word!"

Unit Bible Verse: "This God--His ways are perfect. The word of the LORD proves true. The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation." Psalm 18:30,46, ESV

Bible Truth 2 Concept: It Tells Us about God and His Plans

Do you know what a plan is? It's thinking about WHAT you want to do before you do it. We make plans most every day. Sometimes our plans work out. Sometimes they don't. That's because our plans are only hopes and guesses.

God makes plans, too, but His plans are different. They always happen. They always work out just like He wants them to. They are all good and perfect, just like He is. Some of God's plans are secrets, but some He has shared with us. Can you guess where they are written down? In the Bible! There in His Word, we can read of wonderful God's plan to love and save people through His Son, Jesus. He would make them His special people. Every day of their lives He planned out to be for their good and His glory—to show how good and great He is. And one day, they will go to live with Him forever, just as He planned. God shares His wonderful plans with us because He wants us to turn to Him and be His special people, too.

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Isaiah 46:9-11

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose...I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.'"

Learn a Little: "I am God, and there is no other... I have purposed, and I will do it."

Meaning

People worship many things, but only the LORD is the one, true God. There is no one like Him! Everything God plans to happen, will happen. Everything God tells us will happen, will happen.

People worship many things as gods, but only the LORD is the one, true God. There is no one like Him! Everything He plans to happen, will happen. Everything He tells us will happen, will happen. Where has God written down many of His plans? Where He has written down the many other words He was spoken: in the Bible! It alone is God's Word. He helped godly people write it down just right. We can trust its every word!

Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God for being so good and perfect. We praise You for making good and perfect plans.
- C** God, You've told us that Your plans are good and perfect, but sometimes we don't trust You. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for sharing some of Your good and perfect plans with us. Thank You for making sure that all Your plans happen. Thank You for planning to save people through Jesus.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might be Your special people, too. Help us to trust Your good and perfect plans, even when we don't understand them completely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 2 Story**The Case of the New King**

Matthew 2

Songs Used in Bible Truth 2

Big Q & A 2 Song

Big Question 2 Song

Big Question 2 Bible Verse Song: As For God, His Way Is Perfect: Psalm 18:30

Big Question 2 Hymn: How Precious Is the Book Divine, v.1

Big Question 2 Praise Song: The Best Book to Read Is the Bible

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: I Am God and There Is No Other Isaiah 46:9,11

Extra Bible Verse: As the Rain Isaiah 55:10,11 ESV

Extra Bible Verse: For I Know the Plans Jeremiah 29:11,12 ESV

Extra Bible Verse: Even to Your Old Age Isaiah 46:4,10,11 ESV

Extra Song: God's One, Big Plan

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

The Case of the Clay Creation

Genesis 1,2



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard figures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard pictures, 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 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

"Our story is called: The Case of the Clay Creation. Here is your listening assignment." Read from Detective Dan's Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

- 1. Who was made out of clay?**
- 2. How did he come to life?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Genesis 1:26,27, ESV

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our own image.' Male and female he created them. "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

I need to know:

- 1. How did God make man (people) in His own image?**
- 2. How did God make people in a way that was different from all the other earthly creatures?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a bunny; a horse; a doctor; a rib; a special heart; and, a magic hat.

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. Who did God create with a special ability to praise Him, know Him and love Him?**

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 Clay Creation *Genesis 1,2*

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

What a lot happened in the first, six days of the world!

God made the heavens and the earth. He made light and darkness, sun, moon and stars. He made the seas filled with fish, the skies filled with soaring birds, and the land filled with every plant and animal you can think of. What a very busy place earth had become!

But someone was missing. Someone very special. Someone who was at the very center of all God's plan for the world. Do you know who it was?

Can you tell me?

Why, it was people, of course!

God's plan for the beautiful world He made would never be complete without people. THEY were whom He planned it for, that they might know and enjoy it, and Him, the God who made it all!

So, God made people. He took some of the clay dirt from the ground and He formed it into a man. Adam! Then, God breathed into Adam's nose the breath of life, and the man became alive.

Now, God made cats, and dogs, and kangaroos, and all the other animals, living creatures with bodies. He made all the birds, fish, and creepy-crawly creatures living creatures with bodies, too. That's why they could meow, and woof, and leap, and fly, and swim, and wriggle, right?

God made Adam a living creature in this way, too. He gave Adam a body that could jump, and run, and dance, and do so many other wonderful things.

But, God put something INSIDE Adam's body that made him alive in another, very special way. Alive in a way unlike any other creature. Alive in a way that made people (and only people) a bit like God, Himself.

Do you know what the something special God would put inside of people?

God made Adam with a living spirit: a special heart that could know and love God, and know and love other people. A special heart that could SEE the greatness and goodness of God in everything God had made. Can you guess how long this special spirit would live?

Can you guess?

Forever and ever! Yes, that's right! This spirit would never die, no matter what! This spirit God gave people was very special, indeed. It's how God made people in His image. God is spirit, and He gave people a spirit, too. This is what makes us a one-of-a-kind picture of God. And, it's why we can know and love God in a way no other creature on earth can.

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

So, when God made Adam, Adam opened his eyes, and he saw the beautiful things God had made, and he was AMAZED!

He was amazed at all the furry animals, the chirping birds, the buzzing insects, and the flopping fish. Amazed at the lovely, green trees with delicious fruit, and the wonderful smell of the colorful flowers. Amazed at the warm sun that shone brightly at day; and, the soft light of the moon and twinkling stars at night. What beautiful things God had made! And most amazing of all, was knowing God inside his special heart. Adam talked with God. He loved God and obeyed Him. And Adam was so very, very happy.

Adam was happy, but something wasn't quite right. He was all alone. He wanted another creature to live with him. So, God brought all the creatures to Adam to name them and let him see if one of these creatures was what he wanted. Animals like lions, dogs, monkeys, lizards, horses, and cats; bears, chickens, kangaroos, ladybugs, and many more, were paraded in front of him. They all came to Adam, and he named them all.

But one after one, Adam looked at them and shook his head. None of them was right to be a special someone for him. Did God forget something? Had He made a mistake?

What do you think?

No, God didn't make a mistake. He didn't forget anything. God knew Adam would long for someone else. God had even made Adam this way. God knew just exactly whom Adam needed, and He was about to give him that special creature.

God took Adam and put him into a very deep sleep. And while Adam was sleeping, God took a rib from Adam's side and formed it into a woman--Eve. God gave her the same, special heart that He had given Adam.

When Adam woke up, there the woman stood in front of him. Adam was so pleased! Here was just the right helper and friend for him! She was like him, yet different, too. They could love each other and love God together. They could talk together and share all the wonderful things God had created.

God gave the happy man and woman jobs made just for them: "Have a family and fill the earth with people," God commanded. "Take care of all the creatures. Rule over all the earth. Explore it and make it all into your home."

"Obey Me and love Me," God told them. "If you do, you will always have wonderful, special closeness together, with Me and with each other, and you shall live happy in this beautiful place forever," He told them.

How wonderful that first day together must have been for Adam and his wife, Eve! They could enjoy everything together: God's creation around them; the love they had for each other; and best of all, that wonderful, special closeness with God, deep in their hearts.

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:

I need to know:

- 1. Who was made out of clay?** Man was.
- 2. How did he come to life?** God breathed breath into him. God also gave him a living spirit that would never die.

For You and Me:

People are God's most special creation. God created us with a spirit, so we can know Him, love Him, and enjoy Him. And, so we see and enjoy His goodness, as we enjoy and explore all of His creations. Sadly, we have all chosen to disobey God, since those perfect, first days when God created the world. We have broken what God made so perfectly. But God has made a way for us to come back to Him. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins and make us His people. He will restore the friendship He made us to have with Him. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Genesis 1:26,27, ESV**

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our own image.' Male and female he created them." Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

I need to know:

- 1. How did God make man (people) in His own image?** He gave them a living spirit to know and love Him and each other. He made them able to see His goodness and beauty in all of His creations.
- 2. How did God make people in a way that was different from all the other earthly creatures?**

None of the other creatures could know and love Him the same way because they did not have this special spirit.

For You and Me:

People are God's most special creation. God created them to know Him and love Him and enjoy Him. He created them with a special heart to know and love Him, and to see and enjoy His goodness as they lived in His creation. Sadly, we have all chosen to disobey God, since those perfect, first days when God created the

world. We have broken what God made so perfectly. But God has made a way for us to come back to Him. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins and make us His people. He will restore the friendship He made us to have with Him. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a bunny; a horse; a doctor; a rib; a special heart; and, a magic hat.

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?** The bunny, the fish, the rib, and the special heart belong.
- 2. Who did God create with a special ability to praise Him, know Him and love Him?** People.

For You and Me:

People are God's most special creation. God created us with a spirit, so we can know Him, love Him, and enjoy Him. And, so we see and enjoy His goodness, as we enjoy and explore all of His creations. Sadly, we have all chosen to disobey God, since those perfect, first days when God created the world. We have broken what God made so perfectly. But God has made a way for us to come back to Him. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins and make us His people. He will restore the friendship He made us to have with Him. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)

Our Bible Truth is:

Can You Tell Me What God Made?

God Made All Things Good..

God Made People in a Special Way!

God made everything just right in the beginning. God gave people a heart to know and love Him and see how wonderful He is as they looked at all He made. How very, very sad it is that people chose to turn away from God and disobey Him and His good ways! When they did, their hearts changed. They did not love or know God in the same, wonderful way anymore. They deserved God's punishment for their sins. But God's plans were not broken, even by our sin!

Even from before the beginning, even when there was only a BIG NOTHING, God knew what would happen and He planned to save sinful people! And so, He did. At just the right time, God sent Jesus, His very own, dear Son, to suffer and die on the cross, taking their punishment for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death. Now, all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, will be forgiven their sins. God will give them new hearts to know and love Him. And one day, when they die, they will get to live with Him. And that new place where they will live with Him will be even more wonderful than the beautiful heaven and earth God made in the beginning! We can live there with God, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being our Good Creator. You made people, in the beginning.
- C** God, You made people to know and love You with the spirit You gave them. But we all have disobeyed You. We have all chosen to not love You. We have lost the gift of knowing You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for all the wonderful things You made for us to enjoy, like the sun and stars, animals, flowers, snow, oceans, people, and everything else. Thank You most of all, for making us in Your image, so we can know You and see how wonderful You are in everything You have made.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to know You and love You with the spirit You put inside us. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we might live for You and enjoy You forever.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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