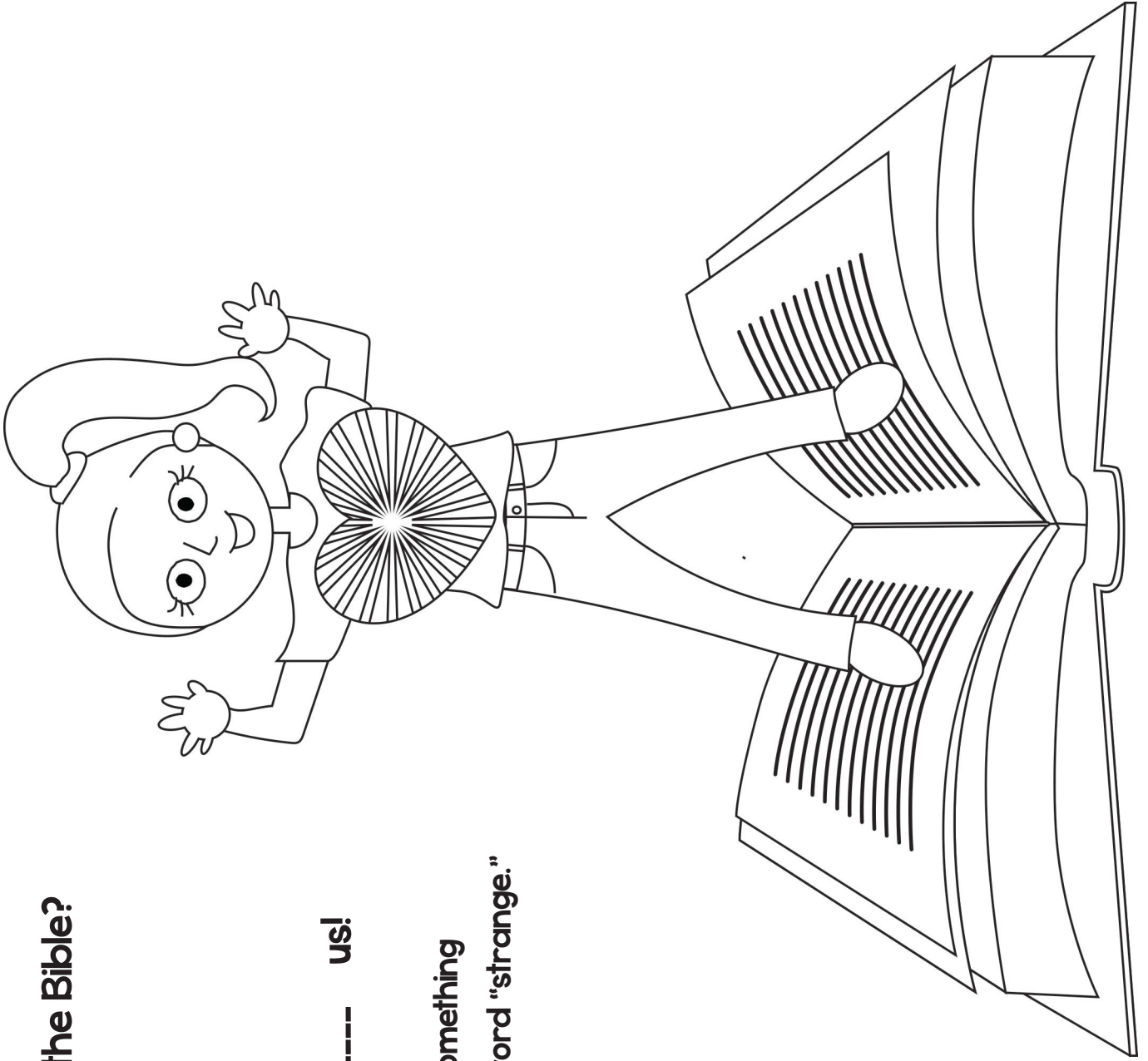


**CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 4:
What's So Special about the Bible?
It Alone Is God's Word...**

God uses it to

----- us!

**What is the word for making something
different? It rhymes with the word "strange."**



Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 2, Bible Truth 4, Lesson 1



Big Question 2 : What's So Special about the Bible?

Answer: It Alone Is God's Word...God uses it to change His people!

Bible Truth 4 Meaning

We read books to know things. We read the Bible to know things, too. The Bible tells us about God and His plans for sinful people, like you and me. It tells us that God is good, but that we have all disobeyed Him. It tells us of how Jesus came to save us from our sins. These are all very good things us to learn.

But the Bible does more than just help us to learn things. It is God's Word and He makes it POWERFUL to do things inside of us. It is powerful to SAVE us (as we learned before); but also, to CHANGE us in wonderful way, once we become His people.

God does this through His Holy Spirit, working in our hearts, as we think about His Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit can help us understand God's Word, so that we can know how God wants us to live. He can use God's Word to show us ways we are disobeying God, and He can help us turn away from them. He can help us remember God's words of comfort and forgiveness when we are sad. He can help us live and love the way God tells us to in the Bible.

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me." --- Psalm 119:97-98

Some Questions for You

1. What does the Bible tell us about? *About God and His good plan to save people like you and me through Jesus.*
2. What else does God use His Word, the Bible, to do? *To keep on changing us, even after He has saved us from our sins.*
3. How does God change us by His Word, the Bible? *He sends His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts as we learn God's Word. He helps us change.*
4. What is the best first step we can take, if we want God to change us by His Word? *We can turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Let's Pray!

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.
- C** God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us, so that we love You more and more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Let's Sing about What We're Learning!

Big Q & A 2 Song from *Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 2, track 12*

(sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques")

What's so special about the Bible?
It alone is God's Word!
It alone is God's Word!
It's always true, It can make you wise,
It can work pow'r'ly in your life.
It alone is God's Word! It alone is God's Word!

Big Question 2 Song from *Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 2, track 13*

Refrain:

What's so special about the Bible? It alone is God's Word,
What's so special about the Bible? It alone is God's Word.
There are millions and millions of books in the world,
But only the Bible is God's perfect Word,
There are millions and millions of books in the world,
But only the Bible is God's perfect Word,
The Holy Spirit uses it To make God's people like Christ. *Refrain*

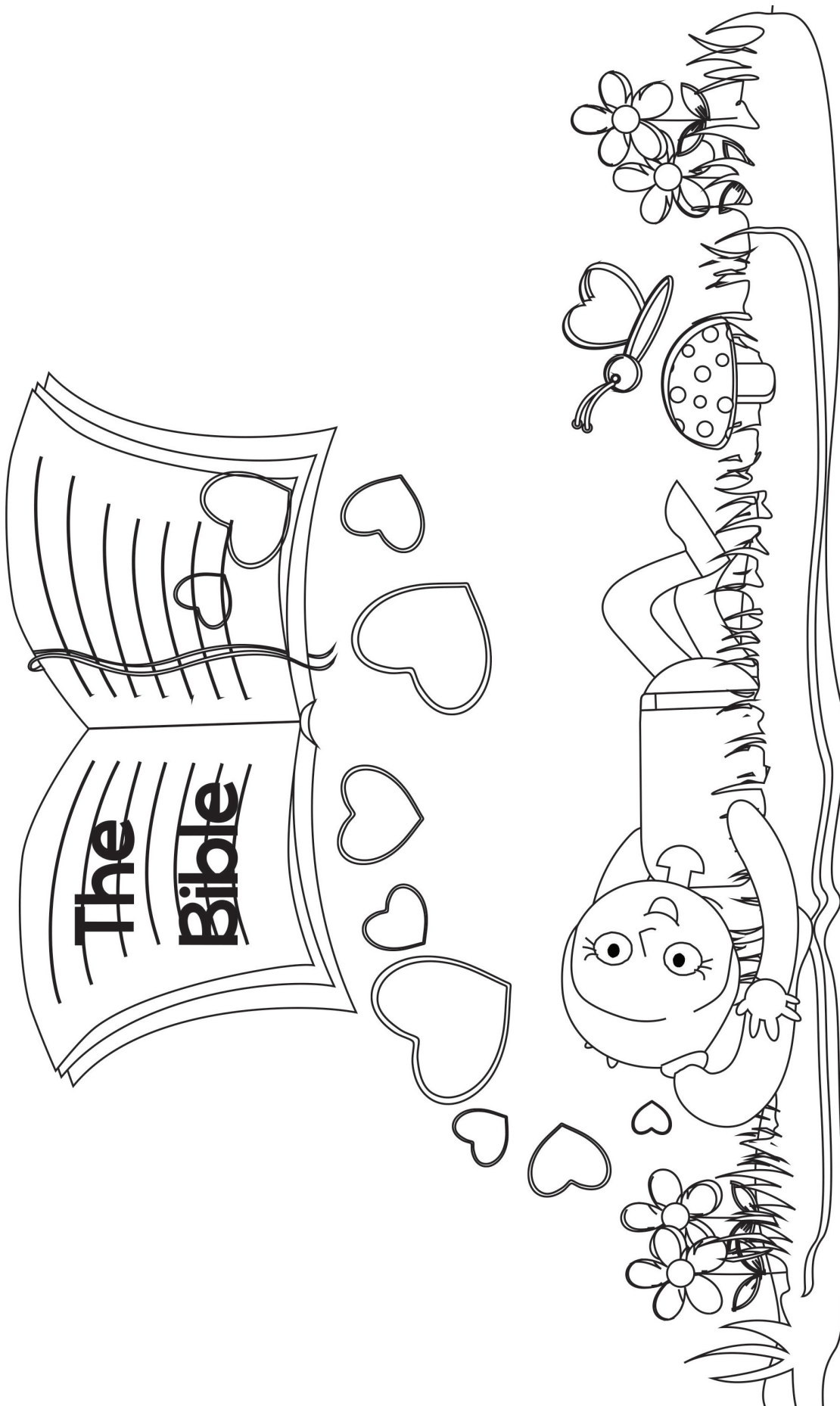
Verse 1:

God's Word was written down perfectly, By godly men long ago,
The Holy Spirit worked through them,
Inspiring every word they wrote. *Refrain*

Verse 2:

God's Word is powerful and living, It changes us, deep inside,
The Holy Spirit uses it To make God's people like Christ. *Refrain*

Go to the *Deep Down Detectives Parent Resources for Unit 2* to get the Bible story and many more resources and songs for this unit at praisefactory.org



**“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.” Psalm 119:97-98**

Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 2, Bible Truth 4, Lesson 2



Big Question 2 : What's So Special about the Bible?

Answer: It Alone Is God's Word...God uses it to change His people!

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me." --- Psalm 119:97-98

Learn a Little: "Your commands make me wiser."

Meaning

God has put so many wonderful things in His Word, the Bible. He's put songs of worship in it. He's given us stories of the mighty things He's done for His people. He tells us about how Jesus came to save us from our sins. He's filled it with His good plans and His promises. God has also written His laws and commandments in the Bible. ("Laws" and "commandments" are big words that mean "rules.") God's laws tell us how God wants us to live.

When we read God's laws in the Bible, the Holy Spirit can use them to change us and make us wise to live God's good way. They can help us to do the right thing, even when we have enemies around us who want us to do the wrong thing. God's laws are always the best way to live. No wonder God's people love to meditate on them! They want to live to please God. God's laws can help them. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Some Questions for You

1. Where did God write down His laws? *In the Bible, His Word.*
2. What do God's laws tell us? *How God wants us to live.*
3. When is it good to live by God's laws? *Always. They are always the best way to live.*
4. Meditate is a big word that means thinking about something over and over. What do God's people love to meditate on? *God's laws and all the rest of God's Word, the Bible.*
5. When do God's people meditate (think about) God's Word? *All through the day.*
6. Why do you think God's people think about God's Word so much? *Because they want to live the way God wants them to live. And, because God helps change them as they think about it. God's Word is powerful to change them!*
7. Why do you think God's people love God's law? *Because they want to live for God and God's law tells them how.*
8. Why are God's people happy that God's law makes them wiser than their enemies? *Because God's Word can help them do what is good and pleases God, even when others are against them. They need God to help them and He does...through His Word!*
9. When we meditate on God's laws, we see that we do not keep them as we should. We cannot please on our own, we need a Savior to forgive our sins and save us. Who is that Savior? What must we do to be saved? *Jesus is the Savior. We must turn away from our sins (turn away from living just as we please and life for God instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Let's Pray!

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.
- C** God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us, so that we love You more and more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Let's Sing Our Bible Verse!

O, How I Love Your Law : Psalm 119: 97-98 *from Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 2, track 21*

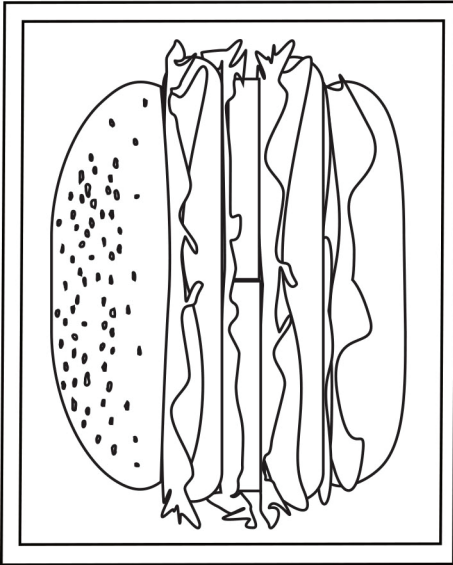
Oh, oh, oh, oh,
 Oh, how I love your law!
 I, I, meditate on it all day long,
 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
 For they are ever with me,
 For they are ever with me.
 Psalm One-nineteen, ninety-seven and eight.

Go to the *Deep Down Detectives Parent Resources for Unit 2* to get the Bible story and many more resources and songs for this unit at praisefactory.org

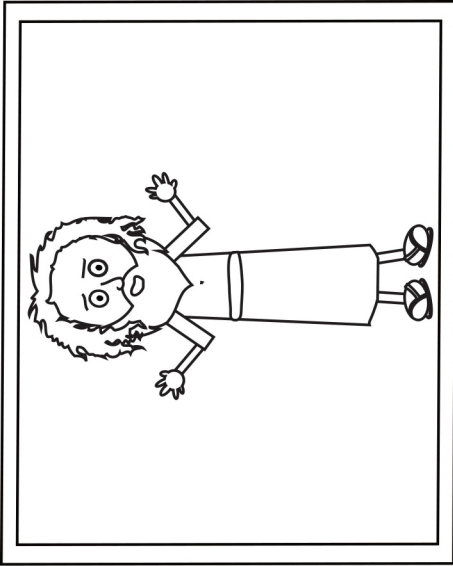
Which four of these clues belong in our story? Which two do not? Put an X in the boxes of the four that belong.



A Fake God



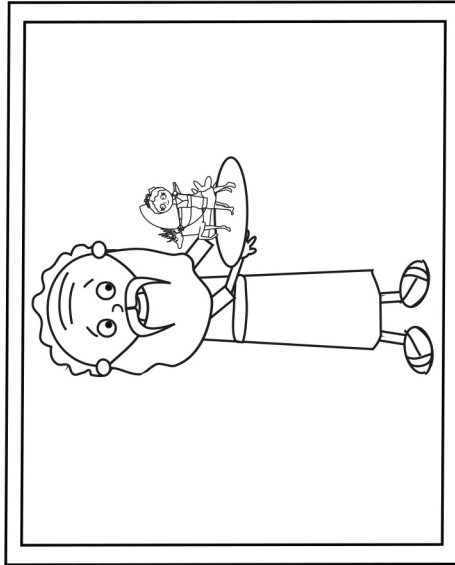
A Sandwich



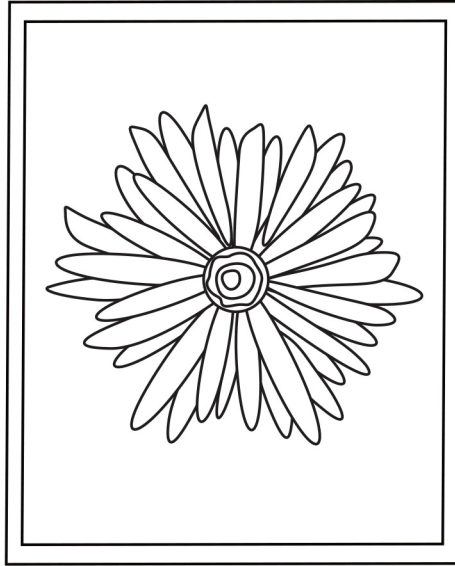
A City Leader



A Fire



A Shopkeeper



A Flower

Answer: The fake god; city leader; fire; and shop keeper were in the story. The sandwich and flower do not.

Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 2, Bible Truth 4, Lesson 3

Big Question 2 : What's So Special about the Bible?

Answer: It Alone Is God's Word...God uses it to change His people!!

Bible Truth 4 Meaning

We read books to know things. We read the Bible to know things, too. The Bible tells us about God and His plans for sinful people, like you and me. It tells us that God is good, but that we have all disobeyed Him. It tells us of how Jesus came to save us from our sins. These are all very good things us to learn. But the Bible does more than just help us to learn things. It is God's Word and He makes it POWERFUL to do things inside of us. It is powerful to SAVE us (as we learned before); but also, to CHANGE us in wonderful way, once we become His people. God does this through His Holy Spirit, working in our hearts, as we think about His Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit can help us understand God's Word, so that we can know how God wants us to live. He can use God's Word to show us ways we are disobeying God, and He can help us turn away from them. He can help us remember God's words of comfort and forgiveness when we are sad. He can help us live and love the way God tells us to in the Bible.

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me." --- Psalm 119:97-98

Some Questions for You

Our six case clues are: a fake god; a sandwich; city leader; a fire; a shopkeeper; and, a flower.

1. Which four belong in our story? *The fake god; city leader; fire; and shopkeeper.*

2. What did God use His Word to do inside the people of Ephesus? *He used it to save them and to change them.*

What made the shopkeepers so angry? *So many people had become believers in Jesus and had stopped buying their statues and stuff for worship parties.*

3. What did the shopkeepers do when they got really angry? *They got together a huge crowd of people who cheered for Artemis and wanted to get rid of Paul. They made Paul leave town.*

4. What did God's Word keep on doing in Ephesus, even after Paul had left? *Kept working inside of people, helping them trust in Jesus as their Savior; and, changing them, more and more.*

5. What can God use His Word to do inside of us? *He can use His Word to save us and to change us, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Let's Pray!

A We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.

C God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us.

T Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.

S Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us, so that we love You more and more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Let's Praise God Right Now!

Big Q & A 2 Hymn: How Precious Is the Book Divine, v.1 *from Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 2, track 15*

Verse 1

How precious is the book divine,
By inspiration given;
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine,
To guide our souls to heaven.

Words: William Gardiner Music: Constance Dever

Big Question 2 Praise Song: The Best Book to Read Is the Bible *from Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 2, track 16*

Verse 1

The best book to read is the Bible,
The best book to read is the Bible,
It alone is God's true Word,
With the best news ever heard!
Yes! The best book to read is the Bible!

DDD BQ 2 BT 1 L3 Coloring Sheet/Take Home pg2

Verse 2

The best book to read is the Bible,
The best book to read is the Bible,
If you read it ev'ry day,
God will teach you His ways.
Yes! The best book to read is the Bible!

**The Case of the Marvelous Mess***Acts 19; Ephesians*

Dear Parents,

Big Question #2 is: What's So Special about the Bible? Your child is learning that "It Alone Is God's Word...God uses it to change His people."

Here's a copy of the Bible story they are learning along with the "Listening Assignment" for each lesson. These assignments provide a different teaching emphasis for each lesson, helping the children dig deeper into each Bible truth. They match up with your child's take home for each lesson. We hope that these resources help your family to dig down deeper into the truths of God's Word!" Happy digging!

•many more resources for this Big Question can be found online at www.praisefactory.org•

Listening Assignments

"Hey, Kids! Detective Dan, here. Listen carefully to the story and help me answer these questions:

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

- 1. What caused the mess in Ephesus?**
- 2. What made it so marvelous (good)?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 119:97-98:**

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

I need to find out:

- 1. Who learned to love God's laws and wanted to live by them?**
- 2. What did they stop doing because they loved God's laws and wanted to live by them?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: a fake god; a sandwich; city leader; a fire; a shopkeeper; and, a flower.

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

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in our story?**
- 2. What did Paul praise God for using His Word to do inside many people in Ephesus?**

Answers found at end of the story.

The Case of the Marvelous Mess *Acts 19; Ephesians*

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

Ephesus was a big, beautiful city. It was a city that was rich and merry from worshipping fake gods and goddesses.

People came from many lands to worship the fake gods and goddesses of Ephesus--especially, the fake goddess Artemis, in her big, beautiful, worship house.

People spent lots of money buying worship gifts for Artemis and throwing big, worship parties to celebrate her. They spent lots of money buying big books that were supposed to be Magical. And, they spent lots of money buying little statues of Artemis to keep on worshipping her when they went back home.

This was how life had been in Ephesus for a very long time. Rich and merry from worshipping fake gods and goddesses. But now things were about to change. One man with one book was coming to Ephesus; and oh, my, there was going to be a mess in Ephesus soon!

The man was Paul. And the book? Can you guess what book was causing so much trouble?

What's your guess?

It was God's Word, the Bible.

"I have good news for you," Paul told the people of Ephesus. "Right here in God's Word, God promised that He would send a Savior to save us from our sins. And guess what? He's come!" Paul exclaimed.

"Jesus is that Savior. He is God's Son come from heaven to save us. Jesus lived a perfect life— He never, ever sinned. He chose to suffer and die on a cross, offering up His life to God as the full payment for the sins of God's people. Then on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory showing He really beat sin and death for them," Paul told them.

"Come, turn away from your sins. Turn away from worshipping fake gods! Trust in Jesus as your Savior and be forgiven of your sins. You can become God's people, too. You can have eternal life with Him!" Paul urged them all.

Can you remember what the big Bible word is for this good news? It's the gospel!

God helped Paul to boldly preach the good news of Jesus to the people of Ephesus. He also gave Paul a special gift to help people know that Jesus really was His Son, the Savior. He gave Paul the power to heal sicknesses in Jesus' name. Paul would just place his hands on sick people and God would heal them. Blind people. Lame people. Every kind of sick people. God healed them all. Wow!

All over Ephesus Paul went. In the synagogue-worship place, in the marketplace, and everywhere in between. And wherever Paul went, he would share the good news of Jesus and God would heal people in Jesus' name. Oh, how Paul prayed that these people would turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior! He wanted them all to become God's people!

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

But Paul wasn't the only one who wanted these people to be saved. Someone else did, too.

Who else wanted these people to become God's people?

That Someone Else was God! God's Holy Spirit worked inside people, as they listened to Paul preach God's Word. He worked inside them, as they saw how God used Paul to heal sick people in Jesus' name, and they believed!

"This Jesus is not like our fake gods. He is alive! He is powerful to help us! He is powerful to save us from our sins!" they exclaimed. "Let's turn away from these fake gods. Let's trust in Jesus as our Savior!" they decided. Paul was so excited at how God was using His Word and His power to save many people in Ephesus!

God had used His powerful Word to save these people of Ephesus, and that was amazing. But God was not done yet. He hadn't planned to just SAVE these people from their sins and have them keep on living their old way. God had planned to CHANGE them and give them a wonderful, whole new way of life, too. How? God's Holy Spirit would use that one man with that one book again.

Who was the man? What was the book? Can you remember?

Yes, God would use Paul and His Word, the Bible once more.

Paul gathered the new believers together and taught them even more from God's Word. He taught them more about Jesus. He taught them more about God's great plans. He taught them more about how to love God and love one another.

And as these new believers listened to Paul preach God's Word, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them want to love God more. He helped them want to serve God with their whole lives. And He helped them want nothing to do with those old, fake gods and goddesses anymore, not even Artemis! Uh oh...here comes the mess!

The first mess those new believers made was throwing out all their Magical books of those old, fake gods. They made a huge pile of them and guess what they did next?

Can you guess?

They set them on fire right there in town! They didn't need those old books any more. They were going to live for Jesus now! The only book they needed was God's Word. The other people in Ephesus were shocked! Why would these people burn up all these Magical books!

That was a big mess, but it wasn't the only mess. There was more mess to come!

Then, the believers stopped spending their money on those big, Artemis worship parties and those little, Artemis statues. Now they wanted to use their money the way God's Word told them to, like taking care of each other and telling more people about Jesus.

Paul was so happy! He thanked God for using His Word to not just save these people in Ephesus, but to really change them, too.

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

Yes, Paul was so happy, but there were a lot of other people who were NOT happy at all--especially the shopkeepers who sold the little, Artemis statues and all the things for the big, Artemis worship parties. They were very, very unhappy!

“We don’t make much money any more,” they grumbled. “People aren’t spending money on big, Artemis worship parties anymore. They aren’t buying our little, Artemis statues either. And it’s all because of that one man with his one book! What a mess he has made in Ephesus! We have to get rid of Paul and clean up this mess! And let’s do it right now!” they decided.

What do you think they will do to Paul?

The shopkeepers gathered together a huge, angry crowd. They were shoving and bumping! They were yelling and grumping! “Hurray for Artemis! Boo for Jesus! Get rid of Paul!” they shouted, as loudly as they could, for hours and hours and hours! What a mess there was in Ephesus now!

At last, city leaders came in and quieted down the crowds. They sent them all home and told Paul to leave the city. Paul packed his things, said goodbye to the believers and left Ephesus that very day. Surely this would clean up the mess in Ephesus, the leaders thought.

Do you think that would clean up the mess, to have Paul leave Ephesus?

But those leaders were wrong. Maybe the man had gone, but that book-- the Word of God-- had certainly not! The new believers would go on reading it and learning from it. And God would go on using it to change them. These men and women would go on loving God and living for Him. They would go on boldly telling others the good news of Jesus.

The mess in Ephesus was far from cleaned up. It was there to stay. And that was a very good thing!

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. What caused the mess in Ephesus? Paul preaching God's Word, and God's Word changing people made the mess.

2. What made it so marvelous? It was marvelous (good) because many people in Ephesus turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:

God can use His Word to do marvelous things inside of us, too. He can use it to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can use it to change us and help us to love Him and others more and more. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 119:97-98:**

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

1. Who learned to love God's laws and wanted to live by them? Many people in Ephesus who listened to Paul preach God's Word.

2. What did they stop doing because they loved God's laws and wanted to live by them? They set their Magical books on fire and they stopped buying statues and stuff for the big worship parties for the fake gods.

For You and Me:

God's laws are so good. They teach us how God wants us to live. God can use them to help us to live for Him. God wants us to meditate (think about) His laws, too. His Holy Spirit can work in our hearts and help us to live by them. He promises to help all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a fake god; a sandwich; city leader; a fire; a shopkeeper; and, a flower.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The fake god; city leader; fire; and shopkeeper.

2. What did Paul praise God for using His Word to do inside many people in Ephesus?

He praised God for using His Word to save and change many people in Ephesus.

For You and Me:

God can use His Word to save us and to change us, too, just like He did in the people of Ephesus. God loves to work in our hearts as we listen to God's Word. Ask Him to work inside you! He can help you turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can change you to love Him and live for Him, too. How good and powerful is our God!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What's So Special about the Bible?****It Alone Is God's Word...****God uses it to change His people!**

Paul preached God's Word to the people of Ephesus. God worked in the hearts as people listened. He used His Word to save many, then to change them. How powerful was God's Word in their lives! God can use His Word to work powerfully in our lives, too. He can use to help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. He can use it to change us, too.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.
- C** God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us, so that we love You more and more.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Big Question 2, Bible Truth 4 Overview: Key Concepts**P.7****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: "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless... The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!" Psalm 18:30,46

Bible Truth 4 Concept: God Uses It to Change His People

We read books to know things. We read the Bible to know things, too. The Bible tells us about God and His plans for sinful people, like you and me. It tells us that God is good, but that we have all disobeyed Him. It tells us of how Jesus came to save us from our sins. These are all very good things us to learn.

But the Bible does more than just help us to learn things. It is God's Word and He makes it POWERFUL to do things inside of us. It is powerful to SAVE us (as we learned before); but also, to CHANGE us in wonderful way, once we become His people.

God does this through His Holy Spirit, working in our hearts, as we think about His Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit can help us understand God's Word, so that we can know how God wants us to live. He can use God's Word to show us ways we are disobeying God, and He can help us turn away from them. He can help us remember God's words of comfort and forgiveness when we are sad. He can help us live and love the way God tells us to in the Bible.

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Psalm 119:97-98

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

Learn a Little: "Your commands make me wiser."

Meaning

God has put so many wonderful things in His Word, the Bible. He's put songs of worship in it. He's given us stories of the mighty things He's done for His people. He tells us about how Jesus came to save us from our sins. He's filled it with His good plans and His promises.

God has also written His laws and commands in the Bible. ("Laws" and "commands" are big words that mean "rules.") God's laws tell us how God wants us to live.

When we read God's laws in the Bible, the Holy Spirit can use them to change us and make us wise to live God's good way. They can help us to do the right thing, even when we have enemies around us who want us to do the wrong thing. God's laws are always the best way to live. No wonder God's people love to meditate on them! They want to live to please God. God's laws can help them. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 4 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.
- C** God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us, so that we love You more and more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 4 Story

The Case of the Marvelous Mess Acts 19; Ephesians

Big Question 2, Bible Truth 4 Overview: Key Concepts

P.8

Songs Used in Bible Truth 4

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 4 Bible Verse Song: O, How I Love Your Law Psalm 119:97-98