

Unit 8: The God Who Loves

Unit Big Question (and Answer): What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!

Unit Bible Verse: "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"
--1 Chronicles 16:34, ESV

Bible Truth 3 Concept: God Uses Their Sadnesses for Good

Everyone has troubles. We all have times when we are sad or scared. Sometimes people are mean to us. Sometimes bad things happen to us or to the people we love.

When bad things happen to God's people, they keep on trusting in Him. They know God loves them and that He is in control. They know that He promises to use every trouble they have for their good and to show how good and powerful He is. And, while sometimes it may be hard to see what good God could possibly bring through their troubles, God's people know that one day they will understand His good plans. And on that day, they will have nothing but praise for God, when they see how He truly did work all things for good in their lives.

And that's why God's people can praise and thank God now for those good things, even before they know what they are, and even while they are still in the middle of their sadnesses. God is that good! They can trust Him that much, even with what they don't yet understand. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: Romans 8:28, ESV

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Learn a Little: "For those who love God, all things work together for good!"

Meaning

These verses remind us that God's people are those who love Him. In His great love, He has called them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. This is what it means to be justified.

But being justified is just the beginning of God's good plans for His people. He also planned for all things in their lives—both enjoyable things and hard things—to be for the good purpose of making them more like Jesus. Yes, God planned to use all of these things to prepare His people for life with Him in heaven. What will life in heaven be like for them? There, they will be glorified! They will be freed from sin forever! God will make them a pure reflection of His glory. This is God's wonderful plan for making everything in His people's lives for their good and His glory. We can become God's people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being so good and so powerful! You even use all of Your people's sadnesses for their good. You show how good and great You are!
- C** God, You promise to use all things for the good in the lives of Your people, but many times we don't trust that You will. We act like Your plans aren't good or that You aren't really in control. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for Your amazing promises to work good even in all of our sadnesses, when we trust in You as our Savior. Thank You that You can work good things in even the biggest sadnesses and the scariest things that happen to us. Thank You for the good You will do that we do not yet see.
- S** God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and trust You. Do many good things even through our sadnesses --good things that show others how good and great You are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 3 Story

The Case of the Sad Thing that Did Good *John 8-10*

Songs Used in Bible Truth 3

Big Q & A 8 Song

Big Question 8 Song: What Is God's Love for His People Like?

Big Question 8 Bible Verse Song: O, Give Thanks 1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV

Extra Big Question 8 Bible Verse Song: Give Thanks 1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV

Extra Big Question 8 Bible Verse Song: The Steadfast Love of the Lord Lamentation 3:22,23, ESV

Big Question 8 Hymn: And Can It Be, v.1 refrain

Big Question 8 Praise Song: God Is So Good

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: Bible Verse: And We Know Romans 8:28-29, ESV

Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: All Things Romans 8:28-29, ESV

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

The Case of the Sad Thing that Did Good

John 8-10



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.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Sad Thing that Did Good. 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. What was the sad thing the parents found out about their baby?**
- 2. What good did Jesus use this sad thing to do?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Romans 8:28:

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

I need to know:

Transgressions and iniquities are other words for sin.

- 1. What did many people say about the baby’s blind eyes?**
- 2. What good purpose did God have for the baby’s blind eyes?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a baby, the Temple, Jesus, a suitcase, a car, and a pool of water.

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 the blind baby grow up to worship? Why?**

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 Sad Thing that Did Good *John 8-10*

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

This story takes place in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a beautiful city with thousands of people living in it. It had big, tall, stone walls all around it and big, wide gates where important men would talk about important things. It had lots of houses, big and small, along its twisty-turny, narrow, cobblestone streets. It had fountains of sparkling water to drink from and pools of water to wash in. It had a big marketplace where farmers would sell their delicious fruits and vegetables, and shepherds would sell their baa-ing sheep and maa-ing goats. Bakers would sell their warm, tasty bread there; and merchants, their fine-feeling fabrics, and glittering necklaces from other parts of the world.

But Jerusalem was most famous for its big, beautiful building made of glittering, white stones. It was the LORD's special worship place. Do you know what this building was called?

Do you know?

It was called the Temple. People would come from far and wide to worship the LORD at the Temple with their prayers and their songs and their worship gifts. They would gather in the courts around the Temple and listen to teachers tell them about the LORD and His good laws.

Not too far from the Temple lived a man and his wife. How happy this man and his wife were! Why do you think they were so happy?

Can you guess?

They were so happy because the wife had just had a baby. It was a baby boy. Oh, what good news this was!

"Yay! Yay!" the man and his wife thought. "We have a boy! We will love him and care for him. What a joy that will be! He will be a great help to our family, too. He will grow up strong and will help us make money to take care of our family, as sons always do." What a lot this man and his wife had to celebrate!

But soon the man and his wife weren't happy anymore. They were sad! There was something wrong with their baby boy's eyes. He couldn't see. Perhaps his eyes would get better, they must have hoped. But soon it was clear: their little boy's eyes would NOT get better. He would always be blind.

How sad this man and woman were for their little boy! He would never see their faces. He would never see Jerusalem's big, tall walls or gates. He would never see its houses along the narrow, cobblestone streets. He would never see its fountains or pools of sparkling water. He would never see its markets filled with good food and supplies. He would never see the beautiful Temple where people came to worship the LORD.

And to make things worse, this little boy would never be able to help his father make money to take care of the family. All he would ever be able to do is sit on the side of the street and ask people for money. Yes, this boy's blindness was very sad, indeed!

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

But there was something else that made the man and his wife sad. It was what other people said about their family. Some people saw the little, blind baby, and kindly said, "It is sad, sad, sad, that this little baby can't see. How hard that must be for him and his mother and father!" And, of course, the man and his wife had to agree. This blindness was sad, sad, sad! What good could come out of this blindness? It brought sadness! Only sadness!

But much worse was what the important men who taught about God and His laws, were saying: "It isn't sad, sad, sad that this little baby can't see. No! It's bad, bad, bad," they exclaimed. "This baby -- or his mother or father-- must have done something terribly bad. God is punishing them and that's why this baby was born blind," they said.

Was this true? What terrible thing had they done? Oh, how hard it was for the man and his wife to hear people say this! Oh, what badness came from this blindness! It brought sadness! Only sadness!

So I guess you can see why the man and his wife, who had been so very happy, weren't very happy at all anymore. Their hearts were full of sadness for their son and about all the terrible, wrong things the teachers were saying about their family.

Year after year went by. The little boy grew up and up and up, until at last he was a full grown man. He still was blind, but over the years, he had learned his way around the Jerusalem.

What do you think he could feel and hear and taste?

He knew the feel of Jerusalem's big, tall walls and its huge gates. He knew the feel of the cobblestones under his feet, the touch of the stone sides of the houses on his hands, and the fresh coolness of the shade in the narrow streets. He could splash the water on his face and sip it in his cup. He could taste the delicious fruit and hear the animals "baa-ing." He could smell the freshly baked bread and feel the silky fabric of the merchants. And as he sat beside the road to the big, beautiful Temple, he could feel the swish of people's clothes and the slap of their sandals as they went by. He heard the clink of the coins they tossed in his begging cup, on their way to worship the LORD.

But sometimes, he also heard people say those terrible, wrong words again: "There's that man who has been blind from birth. What terribly bad thing his family must have done for God to punish him like this!" they would exclaim.

This blindness was sad, sad, sad! What good could come out of this blindness? It brought sadness! Only sadness!

But then one Sabbath day, everything changed. The people who said those things were WRONG! That baby wasn't born blind because he or his parents had done something terribly bad No! God had always had a beautiful, big plan to use their sadness for good --great good! And this was to be the day that God's good plan would be made know to the blind man, his parents and oh, so many other people in Jerusalem. And God would use Jesus to do this!

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

Jesus and his close friends, the disciples, had come to Jerusalem. They went to the Temple where Jesus began to teach about God. Crowds of people gathered, eager to hear everything He had to say. Even the other teachers who taught at the Temple stopped talking and went to listen to Jesus, too.

“I am God’s Son,” Jesus told them all. “Whoever believes and obeys Me will get to live forever with God,” Jesus proclaimed.

The other teachers were furious! “We don’t believe you! You aren’t really God’s Son,” they said to Jesus. “You are lying. You deserve to die for saying you are God’s Son!” and they picked up stones to throw at Jesus. They were going to kill Jesus!

Jesus and His friends ran and hid. Would the teachers find Jesus and kill Him with their stones?

What do you think?

No, they would not. God protected Him. God protected Him.

When all was safe, Jesus and His friends came out of hiding. They left the Temple grounds, and whom did they see?

Can you guess?

It was the man born blind.

No sooner had Jesus’ friends seen the blind man, then that terrible question came out of their mouths: “Jesus, did this man or his parents do the terrible bad thing that made his eyes blind?” they asked.

“You have it all wrong!” Jesus told them. “This man isn’t blind because someone did something terribly bad. It was God’s plan to use his poor man’s sadness for good --great good. I’m going to heal his eyes by God’s power. God will use this to help many believe that I really am God’s Son,” Jesus declared.

Then, Jesus went to the blind man and knelt down next to him. He spit on the ground and mixed the spit with the dirt and made it into mud. What would Jesus do with that mud?

What do you think Jesus would do with it?

Jesus smeared mud on the man’s eyes and told him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.”

Why did Jesus do this? Was He making fun of this poor man? Did He want to make his sad life, even sadder?

What do you think?

The man would soon find out, and so will we! Down the narrow, cobblestone streets, the blind man made his way to the Pool of Siloam. Even though he could not see, he knew how to get there. He had felt his way there many times.

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

At the pool, he dipped his hands into the cool water. He brought them up to his face and washed off the mud. He opened his eyes and what do you think happened?

What do you think?

Yay! yay! yay! That man born blind could see for the first time in his whole life! Jesus had healed him!

The happy man went home to share the news with his father and mother. What did he see as he went home? He saw the pool of sparkling water! He saw the big, tall walls and the huge gates. He saw the narrow, cobblestone streets and all the houses. He saw the market and the Temple. He saw his very own little house. And then, he saw his very own parents for the first time!

“Jesus healed me! Now I can see!” the man exclaimed to his parents. How happy they must have been. After all these years, their son could see! They spread the good news to all who would listen.

And those who heard the news rushed to the house to see for themselves! Sure, enough, it was true! The man born blind could see! They were amazed at what Jesus had done. “No one has ever healed a man born with blind eyes before. Jesus must be whom He says He is,” they exclaimed. What good Jesus had begun to do through this man’s blind eyes! Jesus had used them to help these people believe in Him!

Before long, the news of what Jesus had done for the blind man also reached the ears of his enemies --the teachers of God’s law. They came to the blind man’s house and inspected him. They couldn’t doubt the amazing thing that Jesus had done, but still, they refused to believe in Jesus. “Jesus is a bad man! He is not God’s Son,” they said.

And what about the blind man who had been healed? What did he think?

Do you think he believed in Jesus?

Yes, he did! He fell down before Jesus and worshipped Him. “Lord, I believe,” he exclaimed.

What a day for that blind man and for his parents! Jesus had used this man’s sadnesses for good --for great good, just as God had always planned. He healed his blind eyes. And best of all, He gave that man-- and many others-- faith to trust in Him as God’s Son, their Savior. Now that is good --great, good!

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 was the sad thing the parents found out about their baby? He was blind.

2. What good did Jesus use this sad thing to do? To show God's great power and to help many people trust in Jesus as God's Son, the Savior, including the blind man, himself.

For You and Me:

Isn't it wonderful to know that God uses all of His people's sadnesses for good! God still uses His people's sadnesses for good, even today. And we can know that He will use all of our sadnesses for the good, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It is His promise to all who do.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is Romans 8:28, ESV:

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

1. What did many people say about the baby's blind eyes? Many people thought God was punishing the baby or his parents for something bad they had done.

2. What good purpose did God have for the baby's blind eyes? To show God's great power and to help many people trust in Jesus as God's Son, the Savior, including the blind man, himself.

For You and Me:

Those people were wrong, weren't they? God always planned to use that baby's blindness for good. He wasn't punishing them! Isn't it wonderful to know that God uses all of His people's sadnesses for good! God still uses His people's sadnesses for good, even today. And we can know that He will use all of our sadnesses for the good, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It is His promise to all who do.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a baby, the Temple, Jesus, a suitcase, a car, and a pool of water.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The baby, the Temple, Jesus and the pool of water belong. The suitcase and the car do not.

2. Who did the blind baby grow up to worship? Why?

Jesus. God gave him faith to believe in Jesus when Jesus healed his blind eyes.

For You and Me:

How kind it was of Jesus to heal the blind man! How even kinder it was of Jesus to give the blind man faith to believe that He was God's Son, the Savior. How many good things God used the blind man's sadness to do! God will use our sadnesses for good, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It is His promise to all who do.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can I Know What God Is Like?****It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!****God Uses Their Sadnesses for Good!**

No one likes sadnesses, but we all have them. How wonderful is God's promise to use every single sadness of His people for their good and to show how great He is.

God's people greatest sadness is that they are sinners who chose to disobey God. But do you know that God has turned that greatest sadness into the greatest good? You see, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take His punishment for their sins. They are forgiven. They have become His dearly-loved people! And they will get to praise God forever for how much He has loved them through Jesus. We, too, can know God's forgiveness and become His people if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being so good and so powerful! You even use all of Your people's sadnesses for their good. You show how good and great You are!
- C** God, You promise to use all things for the good in the lives of Your people, but many times we don't trust that You will. We act like Your plans aren't good or that You aren't really in control. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for Your amazing promises to work good even in all of our sadnesses, when we trust in You as our Savior. Thank You that You can work good things in even the biggest sadnesses and the scariest things that happen to us. Thank You for the good You will do that we do not yet see.
- S** God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and trust You. Do many good things even through our sadnesses --good things that show others how good and great You are.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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