

# **DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES**

**Curriculum Resources  
for Unit 3, Bible Truth 2:**



**What Is the Gospel?  
It's Salvation through Faith  
in Jesus Christ...**

**We Have All Disobeyed God  
and Deserve His Punishment!**

## Session Prep (especially good for newbies!)

### Pray!



Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your and the children's hearts.

### Review



If new to the curriculum, look at the **Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives section of the Core Curriculum book.** (p.5) It will be especially helpful to read through the Deep Down Detectives section of **The Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version Book.** This is a visual way to understand what goes on in the classroom. (A pdf of the book is found in the samples section on the website.)

### Look through and Learn the Lesson



Read over **lesson plan.** Practice any **songs or action rhymes** you are using. Choose/make up motions to go with these. Choose less with younger children and more with older preschoolers. **Practice the lesson with the visual aids** and using the Big Question Box/Briefcase.

### Read and Rehearse the Bible Story with Pictures



Read the Bible story from the Bible. Read the curriculum version. Practice telling it with the storyboard pictures. (If you have not previously laminated the story pictures, do that now.) Or, rehearse it from the Simple Story Scenes, if you are using those.

### Let There Be Music



Download the music and listen to the songs. Choose which of the songs you will use with the children. If using live musicians, make sure they have the sheet music (Appendix A, Core Curriculum book).

### Put the Props in Place



1. Prepare your Visual Aids. Put the Big Question, Unit Bible Truths, Bible Truth, Bible Verse, and Listening Assignment signs, as well as the Bible Story script in one side of the Bible folder.
2. Get out your storyboard. If using Simple Story Scenes, put these in your Bible Folder. Or, if using the individual storyboard figures, put all background pictures in place (they have a BG by the number). Put the rest of the storyboard pictures (these have a SB by the number) in order of use in the other side of the Bible folder.
3. Put the DDD Bible Folder as well as the Big Question sign in the Big Question Box/Briefcase and shut it. If your box/briefcase has locks and you want to use the unlocking the box as part of your session, lock it now....but make sure you have the key or know the code first.
4. Prepare the music CD or sheet music or mp3 device for use in your session.

### Set Out Free Play Activities



Choose and set up free time activities you will use with the children. Choose a variety of different activities that will be enjoyed by different types of children. Rotate the activities you provide to keep them interesting and fresh to your children. (Suggestions in Appendix D, Core Curriculum books.)

### Prepare Any Activities



Choose which (if any) of the Bible Truth games and crafts activities you want to use in the session. Bear in mind your time frame as well as the developmental abilities and attention span of your children as you decide which/how many to prepare. **Look over the Discussion Sheet** and choose a few questions you might use to spark discussion with the children as they do their activities (especially good for ages 3's+). Pray for God to give you opportunities to talk about these things with the children.

### Let Them Take It with Them



Make copies of the craft/take home sheets, if you are not already using them as one of your activities. You may also want to make copies of the story (see take-home version of each story included in Appendix C with the other take home resources) to have for parents to use with their children at home. There's a link on each craft/take home sheet to the story, if you don't make hard copies.

### Store It



After your session is over, collect the resources and store them for future use. This curriculum can be used over and over for years to come.

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## Unit 3: The Good News of God, the Gospel

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### UNIT OVERVIEW

Gospel means “good news.” In the Bible, the gospel is the good news that God sent His Son Jesus to save sinners like you and me from the punishment we deserve for our sins. That salvation is ours when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Now that is good news indeed!

In this unit we will learn four ways the gospel is such good news.

### UNIT BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16

“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.”

### BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION: What Is the Gospel?

**ANSWER:** It’s Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!

#### OPTIONAL Big Question 3 INTRODUCTION LESSON (Use Hide ‘n’ Seek Kids Unit 3 Material)

Story: The Case of the Stranger’s Very Good News *Acts 8:1-8*

Bible Verse: John 3:16

#### BIBLE TRUTH 1: God Made Us and We Should Obey Him (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the God Who Was Different *Acts 17:16-33*

Bible Verse: Psalm 100:1-4

#### ➔ BIBLE TRUTH 2: We Have All Disobeyed God and Deserve His Punishment (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters *Romans*

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:20,29

#### BIBLE TRUTH 3: God Sent Jesus to Pay for the Sins of God’s People (3 Lessons Available)

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

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:18,72-73

#### BIBLE TRUTH 4: God Saves All Who Repent of Their Sins and Trust in Jesus as Their Savior

(3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of Cruddy Crete *Titus*

Bible Verse: Mark 1:15

## Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 3 Track Numbers

This is a listing of all songs mentioned in the unit curriculum. You may or may not choose to use all of the songs. They are listed in easy-reference order--NOT in the order used in the curriculum.

You may choose to simply burn a CD/load them onto an mp3 device in this order. Or, you may want to do what we do: choose the songs we want to use and create a play list of them in that order. Then, we burn a CD/upload the play list onto an mp3 device. A teacher only has to click forward to the next song, instead of hunting for the right track. The track number have been included as part of the title of each song, so teachers will still have a reference to the track number listed in the curriculum (same as those listed below), even if you change the order on your customized play list.

### SONGS USED EVERY UNIT OF THE CURRICULUM

- 1 The Classroom Song v.1
- 2 The Classroom Song v.2
- 3 The Classroom Song v.3
- 4 The Classroom Song v.4
- 5 Deep Down Detectives Theme Song
- 6 The Classroom Rules Song
- 7 Let's Pray Song
- 8 The Big Question Box Song
- 9 The Bible Chant Song
- 10 ACTS Prayer Song (Short Version)
- 11 ACTS Prayer Song (Full Version)

#### Why the Extra Songs?

Deep Down Detectives is a curriculum used by a wide age-span of kids. Sometimes one of the other songs is a better fit for your kids. Or, you may simply want to teach them more songs on the same Bible Truth. Use as many or as few as you want.

### UNIT 3: GOD'S GOOD NEWS, THE GOSPEL

- 12 Big Q & A 3 Song
- 13 Big Question 3 Song: What's the Gospel?
- 14 Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16
- 15 *Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 2)*
- 16 *Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 3)*
- 17 Big Question 3 Hymn: And Can It Be, v.1 Refrain
- 18 Big Question 3 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

#### What Is the Gospel?

#### Salvation through Faith in Christ...

#### Bible Truth 1: God Made Us and We Should Obey Him

- 19 Bible Verse: Shout for Joy Psalm 100:1,2

#### Bible Truth 2: We Have All Disobeyed God and Deserve His Punishment

- 20 Bible Verse: There Is Not a Righteous Man Ecclesiastes 7:20,29

#### Bible Truth 3: God Sent Jesus to Pay for the Sins of God's People!

- 21 Bible Verse: He Was Pierced Isaiah 53:5

#### Bible Truth 4: God Saves All Who Repent of Their Sins and Trust in Jesus

- 22 Bible Verse: The Time Has Come Mark 1:15
- 23 *Extra Bible Verse: Help Us, O God, Our Savior Psalm 79:9*

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

**Big Question 3, Bible Truth 2 Overview: Key Concepts**

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**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 2 Concept: Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...We Have All Disobeyed God and Deserve His Punishment**

God is our good Creator. He made us with a spirit, so we can know and love Him. He is our good King. He gave us good laws that show us how to love Him and love each other. The most wonderful life we can have is knowing and loving God. We were made to know Him and to live as He wants us to live.

But instead of choosing God and His wonderful way of life, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have chosen to live life our own, selfish way, instead. This is what the Bible calls "sin". Because God is good, He hates sin, and He will punish it. And oh, how terrible is God's punishment for sin! It is to live apart from Him and everything good forever! Every single one of us deserve this punishment for our sins.

But God isn't only good; He's merciful, too. Merciful means treating us better than we deserve, and that's just exactly how God offers to treat us. Yes, our sins must be punished, but God has chosen to take that punishment on Himself. That's why He sent Jesus, His own dear Son, to earth. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved for our sins when He suffered and died on the cross. God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. That can even include you and me! Isn't God amazing? How great is God's love for us!

**Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:20,29**

"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."

**Learn a Little:** "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins."

**Meaning**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is "righteous."

But that's not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God's good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.

No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God's Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus' righteousness and become one of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

**Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer**

- A** God, we praise You for being the good God who hates sin.
- C** We confess that we have all rebelled against You and Your good ways. We have all chosen to live life our own way instead. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for not just being good, but for being merciful, too. Thank You for taking the punishment we deserve on Yourself that we might be saved. 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 living against You and Your good ways. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You. Help us to obey Your good laws. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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## Big Question 3, Bible Truth 2 Overview: Key Concepts

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### Bible Truth 2 Story

#### The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters

*Romans*

### Songs Used in Bible Truth 2

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 2 Bible Verse Song: There Is Not a Righteous Man Ecclesiastes 7:20,29


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

**1. GETTING STARTED**

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<p><b>Intake Activity Ideas</b></p>	<p><b>Choose one of these open-ended activities to include children as they join the class:</b></p>
<p><b>Free Play Time</b> <i>suggestions in Appendix D</i></p>	<p> Offer your own or some of the easy-to-make, free play activities suggested in Appendix D.</p>
<p><b>OR Sing-along Music Time</b> <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i>  <i>listen to or download songs for free at <a href="https://praisefactory.org/Deep Down Detectives Music page">https://praisefactory.org/Deep Down Detectives Music page</a></i></p>	<p>Music from Deep Down Detectives (DDD) NIV Songs 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Q &amp; A 3 Song <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 12</i></span></li> <li>Big Question 3 Song <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 13</i></span></li> <li>Big Question 3 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 14</i></span></li> <li>Extra Big Question 3 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 15</i></span></li> <li>Extra Big Question 3 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 3) <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 16</i></span></li> <li>Big Question 3 Hymn: And Can It Be, v.1 Refrain <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 17</i></span></li> <li>Big Question 3 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 18</i></span></li> <li>Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: There Is Not a Righteous Man Ecclesiastes 7:20,29 <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 20</i></span></li> </ul> <p><i>Add more fun to Sing-along Music Time by adding a Music, Movement &amp; Memory Activity. These activities are listed on p.10 of this lesson plan with the Response Activities. Instructions found in Appendix B.</i></p>
<p><b>OR Bible Verse Memory Game</b> <i>instructions found in Appendix B</i></p>	<p>Lesson 1 Game: Simon Says How Lesson 2 Game: Roll 'n' Toss Lesson 3 Game: Block Clapping</p> <p><i>These activities are also included on p.10 of this lesson plan with the Response Activities.</i></p>

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related Bible story)**

<p><b>Gathering the Children</b> <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><i>Sing verse 1 of The Classroom Song to gather the children for Circle Time.</i></p> <p><b>The Classroom Song, verse 1</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 1</i></span></p> <p>Let's gather together to worship God, Let's gather together to worship God, Let's gather together to worship God, Come gather here with me!</p>
<p><b>Welcome to Deep Down Detectives</b></p>	<p> "Welcome to Deep Down Detectives. We're so glad you've joined us! Detectives are people who look for answers to questions. In Deep Down Detectives, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God's Word to find them."</p>

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**

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<p><b>Deep Down Detectives Theme Song</b></p> <p><i>Lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>“Let’s sing our Deep Down Detectives Theme Song.”</p> <p>★ <b>Deep Down Detectives Theme Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 5</i></span></p> <p>We’re Deep Down Detectives,                  diggin’ deep in God’s Word,                  For truths about God and His plans for this world,                  We’re seeking to love Him, with all of our heart,                  We’re Deep Down Detectives!                  Come on! Let’s start!</p>
<p><b>Classroom Rules Song</b></p> <p><i>Lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>There are two very important things that Deep Down Detectives do together: we worship God and we love one another. Our Classroom Rules Song reminds us how we should act. Let’s sing it.”</p> <p><b>Classroom Rules Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 6</i></span></p> <p>Shh, be quiet while someone is talking,                  Raise your hand, if you have something to say,                  Don’t touch your friend, sitting beside you,                  Obey your teachers, Be kind as you play.                  These are our classroom rules,                  These are our classroom rules,                  They help us worship God and love one another,                  These are our classroom rules.</p>
<p><b>Opening Prayer Time</b></p> <p><i>Lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>“Children, we need God’s help to keep these rules. Let’s ask Him to help us right now. Let’s get ready and pray.”</p> <p><b>Let’s Pray</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 7</i></span></p> <p>1-2-3!                  Fold your hands,                  Bow your head,                  Close your eyes.                  Let’s pray! (<i>repeat</i>)</p> <p>“Let’s pray:”</p> <p>★ <b>Opening Prayer</b></p> <p>Dear Lord,                  We’re so glad to get to gather together to worship You!                  Please help us keep the classroom rules.                  Please help us to love You and learn about You today.                  In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.</p>



**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**



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**Reveal the Big Question**  
**Introduce the Big Question Box/Briefcase**

*lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A*

“Detectives INVESTIGATE things. That means they ask questions and look for answers. Deep Down Detectives investigate big questions about God. The Big Question we are investigating today is right inside our Big Question Box/Briefcase.

**The Big Question Box Song**

*DDD NIV Songs 3, track 8*

We’ve got a big box,  
All closed up and locked,  
Filled with the truths of God’s Word.

We’ve got a brief case,  
There’s no time to waste,  
Come on, kids, let’s open it up!

**The Big Question under Investigation**

VISUAL AID



of BQB

*Big Question & Answer Sign, front side*

*\*found in the DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV Book*

Ok, who would like to open for me and pull out the Big Question?”

*Choose a child to open the box/briefcase, take out the Big Question and hand it to you, then hold up the Big Question sign for all the children to see, and say:*

The Big Question we are investigating today is Big Question Number 3:

**What is the Gospel?**

and the Answer is:

**It’s Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!**

**Big Question Meaning**

★ Gospel means “good news.” In the Bible, the gospel is the good news that God sent His Son Jesus to save sinners like you and me from the punishment we deserve for our sins. That salvation is ours when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Now that is good news indeed!

**Big Question Songs**

“Let’s sing our Big Question Song:

**Big Q & A 3 Song**

★ **Big Q & A 3 Song**

*DDD NIV Songs 3, track 12*

*lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A*

*(adapted version of “Oh, My Darlin’ Clementine”)*

What’s the gospel?  
What’s the gospel?  
Can you tell me what it is?  
It’s salvation through faith in Jesus,  
That’s what the gospel is. (repeat)

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**

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**Learning about the Big Question**



Repeat the Big Question and Answer again:

"What Is the Gospel? It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!"

Say: "Hmmm, I wonder what that means... Let's do our action rhyme/sing our song that explains it."

Then do the action rhyme /sing song using any of the optional motions suggested, if desired.

**Big Question (Action Rhyme) Song**

*lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A*

**★ Big Question 3 Action Rhyme/ Song**

*DDD NIV Songs 3, track 13*

Refrain:

What is the gospel?

G-O-S-P-E-L?

What is the gospel?

Can anybody tell me?

What is the gospel?

Yes, I know what it is!

Salvation through faith in Christ,

That's what the gospel is.

"G" is for God, our good King and Creator,

O, we should obey Him,

but instead we're disobeyers,

So S, we need a Savior to save us from our sins,

That Savior is Jesus, who "P" took the punishment.

Yes, Jesus died upon the cross,

the perfect sacrifice,

Then on Day Three, He rose again

To prove He'd won the fight,

And now "E" everyone who repents

and believes in Him,

He gives "E-L" eternal life:

forever life with Him. *Refrain*

**(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)**

*Make question gesture with your arms (arms bent and palms facing upward)*

*Point out to others in a arc movement*

*Point up to God*

*Make a grumpy face*

*Use your index fingers to make a cross*

*Use your index fingers to make a cross*

*Hold up three fingers, then straighten arm up and point up with one finger*

*Make prayer hands*

*Raise hands and waggle them back and forth (celebrating)*

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**



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**Learning the Bible Truth**

VISUAL take out

AID



of BQB

VISUAL AID

All the Bible Truths Sign

★ "It's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" is a good beginning, but there's so more to learn. So it's time for us to dig down even deeper for more answers to our Big Question about God. We're going to be learning **FOUR** Bible truths that all tell us more about the wonderful good news of God--the gospel.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our four Bible truths on it? It's in the Big Question Box/Briefcase." *Choose a child to get it and hand it to you, then hold it up and show them the pictures of the four truths they will be learning.*

**Bible Truth Clue**

VISUAL take out

AID



of BQB

Bible Truth Clue Sign,

front side

VISUAL AID

*After everyone has had a good look, say...*

"Ok, we've learned one truth about the gospel. It's this one: "God made us and we should obey Him" (point to pictures as you identify each Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these four truths we will be learning about today. Who would like to get it out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

*Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you. Hold up the front side for the children to see. Cover up the answer, written along the bottom, and say:*

**"What Is the Gospel?**

**It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...**

**we have all disobeyed God and deserve His ???? !"**

**Hint**

We're missing one word. Here's the hint to what the missing word is. It says: "What we deserve when we do something wrong on purpose. It's a sad word that rhymes with "compliment."

Can you guess? It is very sad word. It's "punishment."

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

*(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)*



**"What Is the Gospel?**

**It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...**

**we have all disobeyed God and deserve His PUNISHMENT!"**

**Bible Truth Meaning**



★ And here is what this Bible Truth means: *(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)*

God is our good Creator. He made us with a spirit, so we can know and love Him. He is our good King. He gave us good laws that show us how to love Him and love each other. The most wonderful life we can have is knowing and loving God. We were made to know Him and to live as He wants us to live.

But instead of choosing God and His wonderful way of life, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have chosen to live life our own, selfish way, instead. This is what the Bible calls "sin". Because God is good, He hates sin, and He will punish it. And oh, how terrible is God's punishment for sin! It is to live apart from Him and everything good forever! Every single one of us deserve this punishment for our sins.

But God isn't only good; He's merciful, too. Merciful means treating us better than we deserve, and that's just exactly how God offers to treat us. Yes, our sins must be punished, but God has chosen to take that punishment on Himself. That's why He sent Jesus, His own dear Son, to earth. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved for our sins when He suffered and died on the cross. God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. That can even include you and me! Isn't God amazing? How great is God's love

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**

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**Learning the Bible Verse**

"And how do I know this is true? God tells me so in His special book, the Bible."

**The Bible Chant Song**

Say or sing the Bible Chant Song.

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

**The Bible Chant Song**

DDD NIV Songs 3, track 9

The Bible, the Bible,  
Let's get out the Bible.  
Let's hear what God has to say.  
The Bible, the Bible,  
God's given us the Bible.  
It's His Word for us to learn and obey! Yay!

**Bible Verse**

DDD 3.2 Bible Verse-front side (in the DDD Bible folder)

VISUAL AID Place verse in take out



of BQB  
DDD Bible Folder

\*found in the DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV Book

"Who would like to get our Bible folder out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the "Bible" folder and hand it to you. Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

Ecclesiastes 7:20,29 tells us:

★ **Ecclesiastes 7:20,29**

"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."

**Learn a Little:** "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins."

**Bible Verse Meaning**

★ **What does that mean?**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is "righteous."

But that's not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God's good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.

No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God's Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus' righteousness and become one of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**



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**Bible Verse  
Song**

*lyrics and sheet music,  
Appendix A*

We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!

**There Is Not a Righteous Man: Ecclesiastes 7:20,29**

*DDD NIV Songs 3, track 20*

There is not a righteous man on earth,  
Who does what is right and never sins.  
This only have I found;  
God made mankind upright,  
But men have gone in search of many schemes.  
Ecclesiastes Seven: twenty and twenty-nine.

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**

★ = follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p><b>Getting into the Case</b></p>	<p>"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"</p>
<p><b>Listening Assignments</b></p> <p>Place in  take out  of BQB</p>	<p><b>NOTE: Listening assignments are most suitable for ages 3+. Skip straight to the Bible story (see bottom of this page), if working with 2 year olds.</b></p> <p>"Let's open up our listening assignment and see what we are supposed to figure out today.</p> <p><i>Choose a child to take out the Listening Assignment (from the DDD Bible Folder) and hand it to you. Read Detective Dan's letter to the children that includes the listening assignment. The listening assignments are summarized below:</i></p>
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p><b>Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:</b></p> <p>I need to know:</p> <p><b>To squabble means to argue about something.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Who were the brothers and sisters who were squabbling?</b></li> <li><b>2. What were they squabbling about?</b></li> </ol>
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p><b>Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:</b></p> <p><b>Our Bible Verse is Ecclesiastes 7:20, 29:</b></p> <p>"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."</p> <p>I need to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. What two kinds of families did the believers in Rome come from?</b></li> <li><b>2. What did they need to remember that would help them stop squabbling with each other?</b></li> </ol>
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p><i>*Listening Assignment #3 includes the Assignment Sheet, plus 6 clue pictures*</i></p> <p>DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p><b>Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:</b></p> <p>I found six clues, but two of them are <b>NOT</b> in the story. They are: a balloon; a house; Abraham; a candy bar; fake god; and, little rules.</p> <p><i>Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.</i></p> <p>I need to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?</b></li> <li><b>2. Who thanked God for saving them through Jesus?</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>Tell the Bible Story</b></p> <p>Place story &amp; pics in  take out  of BQB</p> <p>DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV</p> <p><b>Story text included in this book right after this lesson plan and in Visual Aids book</b></p>	<p>★ <b>Then say,</b> "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."</p> <p>★ <b>Bible Story: The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters</b> <i>Romans</i></p> <p><i>Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the Storyboard Pictures/holding up the Story Scenes as you tell it. Then have the children answer the listening assignment, present the gospel and lead in prayer.</i></p> <p><i>*Answers to questions, the gospel and ACTS prayer are included with the story text.*</i></p>

**2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued**

★ = follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan






<p><b>Story Response Song(s)</b></p> <p><b>Hymn</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><i>As attention span and time allow, you might want to end with one of the following songs which also tie in with the unit. If desired, use the Music and Movement activity ideas while singing (listed with the Response Activities).</i></p> <p><b>And Can It Be</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 17</i></span></p> <p><b>Refrain</b></p> <p>Amazing love, how can it be? That thou, my God, should die for me? Amazing love, how can it be? That thou, my God, should die for me?</p> <p><b>Tie-in:</b> "God's love is amazing! How He loves His people! They deserved the full punishment for their sins. They deserved to die and be separated from God forever. But Jesus came to die for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. He died in their place. He took their sins, so that they could be forgiven and live as God's people forever. When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, then His death pays for our sins, too. We, too, can know God now in our hearts; and one day, go to live with Him forever."</p>
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<p><b>Praise Song</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><b>Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 18</i></span></p> <p>I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back.</p> <p><b>Tie-in:</b> "God offers to forgive our sins when we turn away from a life of disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He gives us eternal life and makes us His people. God's people love God and want to please Him. Every day they ask God to help them to follow Jesus in how they live. They want to love God and others the way Jesus did. God loves to answer this prayer. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to help them do this."</p>
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**3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities** *(choose from among these activities)*

<p><b>Transition to Activities</b></p>	<p>★ Well, Deep Down Detectives, you've done a great job diggin' deep down for answers in the truths of God's Word. Now it's time to enjoy some activities."</p> <p><i>Tell children what activity/s you are providing for them: either free play or some of the response activities listed below. When you are ready to dismiss them, use this song to help the children transition in an orderly fashion to their next activity.</i></p>
<p><b>Classroom Song, verse 2</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>"Children, let's sing our Time to Play Song. When we are finished you may get up and walk over to our next activity."</p> <p><b>Classroom Song, verse 2</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 2</i></span></p> <p>We've gathered together to worship God, We've gathered together to worship God, And now it's time to play.</p> <p><i>Dismiss the children to whatever activities you have prepared for them to do.</i></p>

**3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities** (choose from among these activities) ★ = short & simple lesson plan

<p><b>Response Activities</b></p>	<p>Choose one or more activities appropriate for your children, based on classroom time and developmental needs. <b>Add the Discussion Sheet to any activity for deeper learning.</b> ★</p>
<p><b>Bible Verse Memory Game</b></p> <p><i>game directions, Appendix B</i></p>	<p>Though listed with the opening activities, you may choose to use this Bible verse game here instead (or as a repeat).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson 1 Game: Simon Says How</li> <li>• Lesson 2 Game: Roll 'n' Toss</li> <li>• Lesson 3 Game: Block Clapping</li> </ul> <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p><b>Music, Movement &amp; Memory Activity</b></p> <p><i>game directions, Appendix B</i></p>	<p>A music activity that uses the songs from the Bible Truth and Big Question unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DDD Songs for this Bible Truth, plus:</li> <li>• Lesson 1 Activity: Say, Spring Up and Shout</li> <li>• Lesson 2 Activity: Freeze Frame</li> <li>• Lesson 3 Activity: Egg Shakers</li> </ul> <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p><b>Bible Story Review Game</b></p> <p><i>game directions, Appendix B</i></p>	<p>A game that uses the storyboard pictures from the story to review the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson 1 Game: Missing in Action</li> <li>• Lesson 2 Game: Treasure Hunt</li> <li>• Lesson 3 Game: Look Who's Coming Down the Tracks</li> </ul> <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p><b>Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets</b></p> <p><i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p>★</p>	<p>A coloring page related to the lesson assignment question is provided for each lesson. On the back of each are the key concepts, a few questions and a song for parents to use with their children.</p> <p>NOTE: Upgrade your coloring sheet to a more interesting craft by offering simple embellishments, such as jiggly eyes, craft sand, glitter, glitter glue, colored paper dots (made with a hole punch), fabric scraps, etc. Make cut-to-size glued-on clothes, hair, etc for characters by using a copy of the coloring sheet, cutting out the selected portions and making them the patterns for whatever you want to cut out of fabric, paper, foil, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson 1 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Truth</li> <li>• Lesson 2 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Verse</li> <li>• Lesson 3 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: ACTS Prayer</li> </ul> <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p><b>Extra Crafts: Big Question Craft</b> <i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p><b>Bible Verse Craft</b> <i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p><b>Bible Story Puzzle</b> <i>in Appendix C</i></p>	<p><b>These crafts are slightly more complex than the coloring/take home sheets:</b></p> <p><b>The Bible Concept Go-and-Tell Craft</b> is a craft that summarizes the Bible concept and includes the Bible verse is included for those desiring more than a coloring sheet. This more complex craft will involve gluing, sticking, etc. Can be used at any time.</p> <p>The <b>Bible Story Coloring Sheet</b> provides a tie in between the Bible story and the Bible truth they are learning.</p> <p>The <b>Storyboard Picture Placement Page</b> has been made into a puzzle that can be cut out and re-assembled by the children. This provides a nice summary of the story.</p> <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with these activities for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p><b>Free Play Activities</b> ★ <i>ideas in Appendix D</i></p>	<p>Offer your own or some of the easy-to-make, free play activities suggested in Appendix D.</p>



**4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME** *(End-of-session activities for the last 5-10 minutes of class time)*

★ = short & simple lesson plan

<p><b>Transition to Closing Circle</b></p> <p><b>Classroom Song, verse 3</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><i>Use this song to help the children transition in an orderly fashion. Start singing this song and ask the children to gather with you for Closing Circle Time.</i></p> <p><b>Classroom Song, verse 3</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 3</i></span></p> <p>It's time to get ready to go and tell, It's time to get ready to go and tell, Come gather here with me.</p>
<p><b>Closing Circle Time</b></p> <p><b>Classroom Song, verse 4</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><i>When children are settled in the circle, say:</i></p> <p>"It's almost time for your parents to come pick you up. And do you know what that means? It means.... (draw this out to build anticipation and excitement)...that it's almost time to go home and....it's almost time to...Go and Tell! We have learned some big news about God today. God wants us to take and tell it to the whole world!"</p> <p><b>Classroom Song, verse 4</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 4</i></span></p> <p>So what's our big news to go and tell, So what's our big news to go and tell, Can you tell me now?</p>
<p><b>Big News to Tell Big Question 3</b></p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;"><b>#1</b></div> <p><i>*found in the DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p> <p><b>Big Question 3, Bible Truth 2</b></p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;"><b>#3</b></div>	<p>"Let's see....there's so much big news to tell! There's so much we've learned!</p> <p>First of all, can you tell me the answer to our <b>Big Question: "What is the gospel?"</b> <i>Hold up the Bible Truth Clue Picture.</i></p> <p>Say the answer with me: <b>"It's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!"</b></p> <p><i>(If desired, you can sing one/both of the Big Question songs.)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, tracks 12,13</i></span></p> <p>And what's one way He does this? What did we learn? <i>Point to the picture.</i></p> <p><b>We have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment!</b></p> <p>"And how do I know this is true? Can you tell me? Say it with me: <b>"The Bible tells me so!"</b></p> <p>That's right!</p>
<p><b>Big Question 3, Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse</b></p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 20px; text-align: center; line-height: 20px;"><b>#4</b></div> <p><i>*found in the DDD Unit 3 Visual Aids, NIV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>We learned: <b>Our Bible Verse is Ecclesiastes 7:20,29:</b></p> <p>"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."</p> <p><b>Learn a Little:</b> "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins."</p> <p>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is "righteous."</p> <p>But that's not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God's good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.</p> <p>No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God's Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus' righteousness and become one of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!</p> <p><i>(If desired, you can sing the Bible verse song.)</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, track 20</i></span></p>

**4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME, continued**



= follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p><b>Closing ACTS Prayer Time</b></p> <p><b>ACTS Prayer Chant</b></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p><i>Let's ask God to help us to remember this and even tell others this good news. Let's get ready and pray our ACTS prayer.</i></p> <p><i>And what does ACTS mean? Let's sing/say our ACTS Prayer Chant!</i></p> <p><b>ACTS Prayer Chant Song</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>DDD NIV Songs 3, tracks 10,11</i></span></p> <p>A, Adoration, God, we praise You!                  C, Confession, Forgive us our sins.                  T, Thanksgiving, Thank You for Jesus,                  S, Supplication, Help us to live like Him.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">That's the ACTS prayer, my friend,                  Bow your head, Close your eyes, Shhh,                  Let's begin.</p>
<p><b>Closing ACTS Prayer</b></p>	<p>"Let's pray!"</p> <p><i>Lead the children in the ACTS prayer for this Bible Truth.</i></p> <p><b>A</b> God, we praise You for being the good God who hates sin.</p> <p><b>C</b> We confess that we have all rebelled against You and Your good ways. We have all chosen to live life our own way instead. We need a Savior!</p> <p><b>T</b> Thank You for not just being good, but for being merciful, too. Thank You for taking the punishment we deserve on Yourself that we might be saved. Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.</p> <p><b>S</b> God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from living against You and Your good ways. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You. Help us to obey Your good laws.</p> <p>In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.</p>
<p><b>5. TAKING IT HOME</b> <i>(Take Home Sheet)</i></p>	
<p><b>Clean up and Dismissal</b></p>	<p>★ "Now it's time to work together and clean up."  <i>Have the children join you in cleaning up the room.</i></p>
<p><b>Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets</b></p> <p><i>in Appendix C</i></p>	<p>★ <i>Give out the craft/take home sheet and any other papers from the session, as you dismiss children from class.</i></p> <p><i>(Reminder: The back side of the coloring page is the take home sheet for each lesson.)</i></p>
<p><b>Bible Story to Take-Home</b></p> <p><i>in Appendix C</i></p>	<p>You may also want to include a copy of the story along with the take home sheet. (However, each coloring sheet/take home sheet includes a note to parents telling where they can download the story from the Parent Resources section on the website.)</p>

**The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters***Romans***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 Squabbling Brothers and Sisters. 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:

**To squabble means to argue about something.**

- 1. Who were the brothers and sisters who were squabbling?**
- 2. What were they squabbling about?**

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is Ecclesiastes 7:20,29:**

“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.”

I need to know:

- 1. What two kinds of families did the believers in Rome come from?**
- 2. What did they need to remember that would help them stop squabbling with each other?**

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:**I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: Jews; a jar; Gentiles; fake gods; a bear; and a house.

*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 thanked God for saving them through Jesus?**

**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 Squabbling Brothers and Sisters** *Romans**Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

**Squibble, squabble, squibble squabble.** The believers in the big city of Rome were fighting with each other.

At Priscilla and Aquila's house; and at Aristobulus' house. At Narcissus' house, and two other houses, little groups of believers gathered to worship God. They were all saved through Jesus. They were all part of God's family. And they should have been loving each other like sisters and brothers; but, they weren't! They were fighting with each other, instead. Squibble, squabble!

How do you think they were fighting each other? Hitting with their fists? Kicking with their legs?

*What do you think?*

**No, they weren't hitting each other with their fists. No, they weren't kicking each other with their legs. But, oh, how they were fighting and hurting each other with the squibble-squabbling words that came out of their mouths!**

**What was all the fuss about? Well, it had to do with what kind of family you came from—a family of Jews or a family of Gentiles.**

**Jew and Gentile.** Have you ever heard of those Bible family names? Let's find out what they are.

**Some of the believers were Jews. They came from families who worshipped the LORD. They grew up learning the Bible and trying to obey its laws... ALL of them... and there were A LOT! (Laws is another word for rules.) Let me tell you about them.**

**There were...the Ten, Big Laws God gave them.**

*Can you remember the special name of the Ten, Big Laws?*

**The special name of these laws is the 10 Commandments. They were the LOVE laws. These laws told how to love God and love one another. That was the FIRST kind of laws that God gave the Jews to obey.**

**But there were more laws than just those! There was a SECOND kind of laws that God gave the Jews. These were the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws. They told the Jews what worship gifts they needed to give to God when they disobeyed Him. These laws kept them in friendship with God.**

**But there were even more laws than those! There was a THIRD kind of laws that God gave the Jews. These were the LIVE TOGETHER laws. These told the Jews how to live their everyday lives--what clothes they should wear; what food they should eat; how to take care of sick people; what to do when they had arguments; and, other everyday things like that.**

**Wow! What a lot of laws God gave the Jews! But God had a good purpose for every one of them. These laws helped everyone know what God is like. And, they helped everyone see that the Jews were God's special people, living His way, and waiting for Him to send the Savior one day.**

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

And at just the right time, God **DID** send the Savior--His Son, Jesus! Jesus lived a perfect life. He kept all of God's good laws. Then He suffered and died on the cross, giving His life as the final, perfect worship gift that paid for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had beaten sin and death for all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus had made the way for us to be friends with God!

When these Jews heard the good news of Jesus, they were so happy! Here was the Savior they had been waiting for! He had paid for their sins! They trusted in Him as their Savior. Now they were God's people, saved through Jesus.

There is the special name for people who have Jesus as their Savior. Do you know what it is?

*Can you tell me?*

They are called Christians. And so now, these Jews weren't just Jews anymore. Now they were Christians.

But what should these Jewish Christians do with all those laws from God's Word? They had obeyed them for so long! Should they keep on obeying them now that Jesus had come? They thought about this A LOT!

Let's see... well, they **KNEW** they should keep on obeying God's Ten, Big, Love laws—the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like the LOVE laws taught. That was clear.

And, they **KNEW** that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them **FOREVER** friendship with God. So they did **NOT** have to keep the **FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD** laws anymore.

But what about all those **LIVE TOGETHER** laws? The ones about what Jews should eat and drink and do in their everyday lives? The Savior Jesus had come. Now they were Christians. Were they supposed to keep on living together like Jews, too?

*Do you think God wanted them to keep those laws still?*

Many of the Jews **LIKED** those **LIVE TOGETHER** laws. Actually they **LOVED** them. They didn't want to get rid of them...and they wanted everyone else to keep them, too. They thought that **EVERYONE** should become a Christian, saved through Jesus; but, they should keep on living together like Jews... **EVEN** the people who didn't grow up as Jews!

Uh oh, that might just cause a problem or two...especially for the believers who came from that **OTHER** kind of Bible family-- the Gentiles. Let me tell you about them.

Gentiles came from families who had **NOT** grown up knowing the Bible or keeping its laws—not the Ten, Big, Love laws or the Friendship with God laws, or even the Live Together laws. They had grown up worshipping fake gods. And actually, worshipping those fake gods meant doing some very bad things that disobeyed God's good laws--like the big, worship parties they held to honor them.

But when these Gentiles heard the good news of Jesus, they left their fake gods and their bad ways behind. They trusted in Jesus as their Savior and they wanted to live God's way now. They became Christians.

They gathered as a church with the Jewish believers. And as they listened to God's Word, they heard all about all those laws for the first time. Now everyone had a question...

*Can you guess what the question was?*

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

**The question was: what should they--the people from Gentile families-- do with all of those laws?**

**Like the Jewish Christians, the Gentile Christians KNEW that they should obey God's Ten, Big, Love laws—the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like those LOVE laws taught. That was clear.**

**And like the Jewish Christians, they KNEW that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them FOREVER friendship with God. So they did NOT have to keep the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws anymore.**

**But what about those LIVE TOGETHER laws? The laws that told the Jews how to live together. The Savior had come. Surely Gentiles didn't need to obey THOSE laws! Surely they didn't need to live like Jews to be Christians! That didn't make sense! They were saved through Jesus, not those laws! Nope. They would NOT obey the LIVE TOGETHER laws. No way!**

**And so came all of the squibble-squabbling.**

**"We're better than you, Gentiles," the Jewish Christians said. "Long ago, God chose US to be His special people through Abraham. He chose US to write down the Bible, His Word. He gave US the great promises about the Savior Jesus coming. Jesus came from OUR family. He was a Jew! God gave US His good laws—the LOVE laws and the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws and the LIVE TOGETHER laws. All of them! We obey them and so should you! That's what God's people have always done," they told the Gentiles.**

**"You are NOT better than us!" the Gentile Christians squabbled back. "Yes, you're right. Long ago, you Jews WERE chosen to be God's special people. But now, many people from your family don't even believe in Jesus. Maybe we ARE just Gentiles. Maybe our families didn't come from God's special people, long ago. But we believe in the Savior Jesus NOW! And a lot more of US believe in Him than you, Jews! Look who God is choosing to make into His special people NOW— it's us, Gentiles. And we DON'T have to keep all of your Live Together Laws!" they squabbled back.**

**Far away in the city of Corinth, Paul heard about these squabbles. Paul had come from a Jewish family. He had grown up reading the Bible and learning God's laws. He had tried as hard as he could to keep them all, but he could never obey them as God required. Nope, if there was one thing Paul knew, it was only by trusting in Jesus as their Savior that ANYONE can be forgiven of their sins. That was the only way to become one of God's people. These believers needed to remember this; so, Paul decided to do something about it.**

*Can you guess what Paul did?*

**Paul wrote them a letter.**

**"Help me write to the believers in Rome," Paul asked his friend, Tertius. So Tertius got out his scroll and wrote down Paul's words:**

**"Dear believers in Rome,  
I thank God for saving you! I can't wait for the day when I will get to see you and we can encourage each other in our faith in God! God has given me the job of preaching to all of you--both Jews and Gentiles. One day, I hope to come and preach more of the good news of Jesus to you in Rome, face-to-face.**

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

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**I know you are squabbling about who comes from a better family—the Jews or the Gentiles. I know you are squabbling about the Live Together Laws from God’s Word. But remember: all people have sinned against God—both Jews and Gentiles. EVERYONE! None of us is righteous. None of us does what is good and never sins. NO ONE! We all deserve God’s punishment.**

**Jews: God may have chosen your family to write down His Word, the Bible. He may have given your family His laws to live by. But you couldn’t obey them all, could you? Nope! You were all law breakers! You needed a Savior to save you from your sins. Only Jesus could do that for you. Be thankful, not proud!**

**And you, Gentiles: Yes, maybe a lot more people from your Gentile families are trusting in Jesus as their Savior than the Jews these days, but it’s not because Gentiles are better than Jews. It’s only because God has been kind enough to save you through Jesus, too. Be thankful, not proud!**

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**You are ALL part of God’s family. The Holy Spirit lives in ALL of you. Stop your squibble-squabbling! Love each other like sisters and brothers should! Use the gifts God has given each of you to care for each other and to show others how great God is!**

**Praise God together with me! He gives us everything we need through Jesus, our Savior!**

**Paul**

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**Paul rolled up the letter and gave it to Phoebe to take to the believers in faraway Rome.**

**What happened when Paul’s letter was read to the believers in Rome? We don’t really know. The Bible doesn’t tell us. How Paul hoped it would help them remember that they ALL needed Jesus to be their Savior. How he hoped it would stop their squibble-squabbling over who is best and over those LIVE TOGETHER laws!**

**Paul wanted them to love God and love one another. He wanted them to live out the good news of Jesus together, and share it with others. And I hope that’s exactly what they did!**

**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:

**To squabble means to argue about something.**

**1. Who were the brothers and sisters who were squabbling?** The believers in Rome.

**2. What were they squabbling about?**

They were squabbling about who was best--the Jews or the Gentiles. And, if all believers should keep the Live Together laws of the Jews.

**For You and Me:**

Just like the believers in Rome, we need to remember that it is only through God's free gift of forgiveness through Jesus that anyone can become one of God's people. This can be His gift to us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is Ecclesiastes 7:20, 29:**

"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."

I need to know:

**1. What two kinds of families did the believers in Rome come from?** From Jew and Gentile families.

**2. What did they need to remember that would help them stop squabbling with each other?** That none of them had been righteous. None of them had pleased God by their own, good works. They were saved only through the Savior, Jesus. That's what mattered. Not the Live Together laws.

**For You and Me:**

None of us can ever be good enough to please God. None of us would ever be able to know God or be His people on our own. But the good news is that Jesus did live a perfect life. He offered up His righteous to pay for the sins of God's people--all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

**Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:**

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: Jews; a jar; Gentiles; fake gods; a bear; and a house.

*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 Jews; Gentiles; fake gods; and the house belong in the story. The jar and bear were not.

**2. Who thanked God for saving them through Jesus?**

Paul and the believers in Rome all thanked God for saving them through Jesus.

**For You and Me:**

God's people know that they could never live good enough lives to get to be God's people. They thank God for sending Jesus to pay for their sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus can pay for our sins, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Then we can thank God for saving us and making us His people, too!

**The Gospel** (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What Is the Gospel?**

**It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...**

**we have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment!**

Did you know that Paul's letter to those believers in Rome became part of God's Word, the Bible? Millions and millions of people have read his letter to those people in Rome and learned from them. Why, even you are learning from them today! What is the most important thing that we can learn from Paul's letter? It is that all of us are lawbreakers who have chosen to disobey God. We all need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, God will forgive us and make us His dearly-loved people forever!

*Close in prayer.*



**Closing ACTS Prayer**

- A** God, we praise You for being the good God who hates sin.
- C** We confess that we have all rebelled against You and Your good ways. We have all chosen to live life our own way instead. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for not just being good, but for being merciful, too. Thank You for taking the punishment we deserve on Yourself that we might be saved. 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 living against You and Your good ways. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You. Help us to obey Your good laws.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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



# Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

Use with all response activities for deeper learning



P.1

Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

Be familiar with these questions and answers. Look for opportunities to ask questions and discuss their answers, such as while the children work on their coloring pages, as part of their response games, or during play time. Remember: your goal isn't to ask all these questions or only talk to the children about these things. It is to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

<p><b>BIG QUESTION</b></p> <p><b>Meaning</b></p> <p><b>Discussion Questions</b></p>	<p>What is the Gospel? It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!</p> <p>Gospel means "good news." In the Bible, the gospel is the good news that God sent His Son Jesus to save sinners like you and me from the punishment we deserve for our sins. That salvation is ours when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.</p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the gospel? <i>It's salvation through faith in Jesus!</i></li> <li>2. What does the word "gospel" mean? <i>It means "good news."</i></li> <li>3. Why is the gospel such good news? <i>It tells us how can forgive our sins and make us His people forever!</i></li> <li>4. Who do we need to have faith in? <i>Jesus.</i></li> <li>5. What did Jesus do so we can be saved? <i>He took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross.</i></li> <li>6. What does God want us to turn away from? <i>Our sins.</i></li> <li>7. What does it mean to turn away from our sins? <i>To say "no" to disobeying God and to want to obey Him, instead.</i></li> <li>8. Who can we ask to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus? <i>God! He loves to help us when we ask Him.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>BIBLE TRUTH</b></p> <p><b>Meaning</b></p> <p><b>Discussion Questions</b></p>	<p>It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...we have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment!</p> <p>God is our good Creator. He made us with a spirit, so we can know and love Him. He is our good King. He gave us good laws that show us how to love Him and love each other. The most wonderful life we can have is knowing and loving God. We were made to know Him and to live as He wants us to live.</p> <p>But instead of choosing God and His wonderful way of life, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have chosen to live life our own, selfish way, instead. This is what the Bible calls "sin". Because God is good, He hates sin, and He will punish it. And oh, how terrible is God's punishment for sin! It is to live apart from Him and everything good forever! Every single one of us deserve this punishment for our sins.</p> <p>But God isn't only good; He's merciful, too. Merciful means treating us better than we deserve, and that's just exactly how God offers to treat us. Yes, our sins must be punished, but God has chosen to take that punishment on Himself. That's why He sent Jesus, His own dear Son, to earth. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved for our sins when He suffered and died on the cross. God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. That can even include you and me! Isn't God amazing? How great is God's love for us!</p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is our good Creator? <i>God is.</i></li> <li>2. What did He give us so we can know and love Him? <i>A spirit.</i></li> <li>3. What do God's laws show us? <i>They show us how to love God and love others.</i></li> <li>4. Who has chosen to disobey God and His good laws? <i>We all have.</i></li> <li>5. What do we deserve because we have disobeyed God? <i>We deserve His punishment--to be separated from Him and everything good forever.</i></li> <li>6. Who did God send to take the punishment for our sins in our place? <i>He sent Jesus.</i></li> <li>7. What do we need to do if we want to receive God's forgiveness for our sins? <i>We need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to forgive our sins and make us His people when we do.</i></li> </ol>

**Deep Down Discussion Sheet**

use with all THREE lessons

**P.2**

Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

<p><b>THE GOSPEL</b></p>	<p>What is God’s good news for you and me? <i>The gospel! God made all people—including you and me! And He made us to know Him, love Him and obey Him. He’s our good King. But sadly, we have all disobeyed Him and we deserve His punishment. How sad! But God is so merciful that He sent a Savior. His Son, Jesus! Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He offered up His perfect life to God to completely pay for the sins of God’s people, then He rose from the dead in victory on the third day. That includes us, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to helps us do this. Ask Him! How good is God to us!</i></p>
<p><b>BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE</b></p>	<p>“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins... This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.” --Ecclesiastes 7:20,29</p>
<p><b>Meaning</b></p>	<p><b>Learn a Little:</b> “There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.”</p> <p>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is “righteous.”</p> <p>But that’s not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God’s good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.</p> <p>No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God’s Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus’ righteousness and become one of God’s people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!</p>
<p><b>Discussion Questions</b></p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the world like in the beginning when God first created it? <i>It was good--all good.</i></li> <li>2. What did the first people (Adam and Eve) enjoy in the beginning? <i>They enjoyed knowing, loving and obeying God perfectly. They enjoyed being righteous.</i></li> <li>3. What is the big Bible word for loving God and living His good way? <i>Righteous.</i></li> <li>4. Who have all people chosen to disobey? <i>God and His good ways.</i></li> <li>5. Who do we want to please instead of God? <i>Ourselves.</i></li> <li>6. No one is righteous anymore, except for one person. Who is that? <i>Jesus.</i></li> <li>7. What was special about the life Jesus lived? <i>It was perfect. He never, ever disobeyed God.</i></li> <li>8. What did Jesus use His perfect life to do? <i>Jesus gave it up as the perfect payment for our sins. He wanted to save us so we could become God’s people.</i></li> <li>9. How can we be forgiven our sins and become one of God’s people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>BIBLE STORY</b></p> <p><b>Discussion Questions</b></p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p>	<p><b>The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters</b></p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who were the squabbling sisters and brothers? <i>God’s people in Rome.</i></li> <li>2. What were they arguing about? <i>They were arguing about who was best: the Jews or the Gentiles. They were arguing about if believers should keep the little rules of the Jews.</i></li> <li>3. How did Jews grow up? <i>They grew up as part of Abraham’s family. They grew up learning God’s Word and trying to keep all of the big and little rules of God’s law.</i></li> <li>4. How did Gentiles grow up? <i>They grew up worshipping other gods. They didn’t know God’s Word or keep the big and little rules of God’s laws.</i></li> <li>5. Who found out the believers in Rome were squabbling? <i>Paul did.</i></li> <li>6. Did Paul grow up as a Jew or a Gentile? <i>A Jew.</i></li> <li>7. How did Paul try to please God as he grew up as a Jew? Could he do it? <i>By keeping all of the big and little rules of God’s law. No, he could never keep all of God’s law, no matter how hard he tried.</i></li> <li>8. What did Paul learn was the only way that he (or anyone else) could be made right with God? <i>Only through trusting Jesus as his Savior.</i></li> <li>9. What did Paul remind the believers in Rome who had been Jews? <i>They weren’t better because they had grown up learning God’s Word and trying to keep His laws. They were still sinners who needed Jesus to be their Savior.</i></li> <li>10. What did Paul remind the believers in Rome from Gentile families? <i>To thank God for offering them salvation through Jesus.</i></li> </ol>