


DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES

**Curriculum Resources
for Unit 15, Bible Truth 1:**



**Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and
Love One Another...**

**By Praising God for
Jesus' Win over Death!**

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.

Unit 15: God's People Gather Together

UNIT OVERVIEW

A church is God's people gathering together. Some churches meet in special buildings. Some churches meet in homes. Some meet outside. No matter where they meet, when God's people gather together, they are a church. When God's people gather together as a church, they worship God. They worship Him for being the one, true God who is not like anyone else. They worship Him for saving them through Jesus. They sing songs and pray to God. They listen to the Bible and learn how to obey it. God's people also gather together to love one another. They talk with each other, and take care of each other, and pray for each other. The Bible tells us that God's people are to meet together often. It tells us that when they gather together, Jesus will be there with them in a special way. We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we will gather together with God's people to worship God and love one another, too!

UNIT BIBLE VERSE: Hebrews 10:24-25

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together."

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION: Why Do God's People Go to Church?

ANSWER: To Worship God and Love One Another!

OPTIONAL Big Question 15 INTRODUCTION LESSON (Use Hide 'n' Seek Kids Unit 15 Material)

Story: The Case of the People Who Loved a Lot *Acts*

Bible Verse: Hebrews 10:24-25

➔ BIBLE TRUTH 1: By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Third Day Yay

Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:3

BIBLE TRUTH 2: By Learning from God's Word, the Bible (3 Lessons Available)

The Case of the Faithful Leader" *Acts 16:1; 1 & 2 Timothy*

Bible Verse: 1 Timothy 4:13

BIBLE TRUTH 3: By Caring for Each Other's Needs

(3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Copycats *John 13-15, 18-20; Acts*

Bible Verse: John 13:34-35

BIBLE TRUTH 4: By Telling What God Has Done and Praying (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Amazing Answer *Acts 12:1-18*

Bible Verse: Ephesians 6:18

BIBLE TRUTH 5: By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Up and Down Sign *Matthew 28; Acts 1-2, 8:35-36, 10:47, 16:14-15,31-34*

Bible Verse: Acts 2:38-39

BIBLE TRUTH 6: By Remembering Jesus Died to Save Them (3 Lessons Available)

Story: The Case of the Remembered Rescue *Exodus 12; Luke 22; Isaiah 25:7-9*

Bible Verse: Luke 22:19,20

Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 15 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, 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)

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

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 15: GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER

- 12 Big Q & A 15 Song
- 13 Big Question 15 Song: Why Do God's People Go to Church?
- 14 Big Question 15 Bible Verse Song: Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together Hebrews 10:25, NIV 1984
- 15 Big Question 15 Hymn: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, v.1
- 16 Big Question 15 Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together

Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another...

Bible Truth 1: By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death

- 17 Bible Verse: He Has Given Us a New Birth 1 Peter 1:3, NIV 1984
- 18 Extra Bible Verse: Shout with Joy to God Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16, NIV 1984
- 19 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Has Come Mark 1:15, NIV 1984
- 20 Extra Bible Verse: How Beautiful Romans 10:13-15, NIV 1984
- 21 Extra Bible Verse: All the Nations You Have Made Psalm 86:9, NIV 1984
- 22 Extra Bible Verse: There Was a Great Multitude Revelation 7:9-10, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 2: By Learning from God's Word, the Bible

- 23 Bible Verse: Devote, Devote Yourself 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV 1984
- 24 Extra Bible Verse: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, NIV 1984
- 25 Extra Bible Verse: Open My Eyes Psalm 119:18,72-73, NIV 1984
- 26 Extra Bible Verse: I Have Hidden Your Word Psalm 119:11,15-16, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 3: By Caring for Each Other's Needs

- 27 Bible Verse: A New Commandment John 13:34-35, NIV 1984
- 28 Extra Bible Verse: There Are Different Kinds of Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4,12,27, NIV 1984
- 29 Extra Bible Verse: Each of Us Should Use 1 Peter 4:10-11, NIV 1984
- 30 Extra Bible Verse: Let Us Hold Unswervingly Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV 1984
- 31 Extra Bible Verse: On the First Day of Every Week 1 Corinthians 16:2, NIV 1984
- 32 Extra Bible Verse: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, NIV 1984
- 33 Extra Bible Verse: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 4: By Telling What God Has Done and Praying

- 34 Bible Verse: Pray, Pray, Pray Ephesians 6:18, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 5: By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus

- 35 Bible Verse: Repent, Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:38-39, NIV 1984
- 36 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Has Come Mark 1:15

Bible Truth 6: By Remembering Jesus Died to Save Them

- 37 Bible Verse: This Is My Body Luke 22:19,20, NIV 1984
- 38 Extra Bible Verse: He Took Bread Luke 22:19,20, NIV 1984

Big Question 15, Bible Truth 1 Overview: Key Concepts

p.1

Unit 15: God's People Gather Together**Unit Big Question (and Answer):** Why Do God's People Go to Church?

To Worship God and Love One Another!

Unit Bible Verse: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together." Hebrews 10:24-25**Bible Truth 1 Concept: To Worship God and Love One Another...
By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death!**

On one sad Friday, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God's people. He was buried in a grave, but He didn't stay there. He rose up from the grave on Day Three—Sunday! He was alive and would be forevermore!

Ever since that first and best Sunday when Jesus beat sin and death, God's people have been gathering together each week to celebrate. (The big, Bible word for God's people gathered together is "congregation.") They sing and pray and listen to God's Word. They rejoice that Jesus had beaten sin and death for them. They are happy the Holy Spirit lives in their hearts. They look forward to the day when Jesus will come back and all of God's people will at last gather together forever as one, big family. That will be the biggest and best celebration of all!

Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God's forgiveness for their sins. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and helps them love God and live for Him the rest of their lives. Forever they will be God's dearly-loved people! What an amazing gift God has given us through Jesus!

God's people love to celebrate together, but they are always hoping for more to join them. That's why they tell their neighbors nearby the good news of Jesus. (The big, Bible word for telling others about Jesus is "evangelism.") And that's why they even travel to faraway lands to tell people there about Jesus, too. (The big, Bible word for going to another land to tell people about Jesus is "missions.") They want everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. (The big, Bible word for the good news of Jesus is "the gospel.") They want them all to become God's people and join the Sunday celebration of what God has done through Jesus! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Sundays will be our celebration day, too!

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:3

"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Learn a Little: "He has given us new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Meaning

When we are born as babies, we have our first birth. But did you know that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are given a new birth? Not a new birth as a baby again. This isn't a new birth for our bodies. God gives our heart a new birth. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit --a heart that knows God, and wants to love Him and live for Him.

Jesus is why God's people get to have this wonderful new birth. He died on the cross for their sins. He made the way for them to be God's people. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He was resurrected. (That's a big Bible word meaning that He rose from the dead.) Yes, on that third day--that glorious Easter Sunday morning-- He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. Jesus is alive for evermore. And He is the living hope of God's people that one day, they, too, will live face to face with God forever! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 1 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for being so powerful that You beat sin and death for them.
- C** God, we know that Sunday should be a special celebration day. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. But sometimes, we would rather not go to church and celebrate. We would rather do something else that seems more fun. We don't treasure what Jesus did on the cross. We need a Savior!
- T** God, thank You for beating sin and death for God's people through Jesus. Thank You that they don't have to face Your punishment for sin. They get to know You in their hearts now, and get to live with You in heaven when they die. Thank You that we can be Your people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus' win over sin and death as we gather together with God's people at church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 1 Story**The Case of the Third Day Yay**

Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2

Songs Used in Bible Truth 1

Big Q & A 15 Song

Big Question 15 Song: Why Do God's People Go to Church?

Big Question 15 Bible Verse Song: Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together Hebrews 10:25, NIV 1984

Big Question 15 Hymn: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, v.1

Big Question 15 Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: He Has Given Us a New Birth 1 Peter 1:3, NIV 1984

Extra Bible Verse: Shout with Joy to God Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16, NIV 1984

Extra Bible Verse: The Time Has Come Mark 1:15, NIV 1984


Extra Bible Verse: How Beautiful Romans 10:13-15, NIV 1984



Extra Bible Verse: All the Nations You Have Made Psalm 86:9, NIV 1984

Extra Bible Verse: There Was a Great Multitude Revelation 7:9-10, NIV 1984

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

1. GETTING STARTED

 = follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p>Intake Activity Ideas</p>	<p>Choose one of these open-ended activities to include children as they join the class:</p>
<p>Free Play Time <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>OR Sing-along Music Time <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i> <i>listen to or download songs for free at https://praisefactory.org:Deep Down Detectives Music page</i></p>	<p>Music from Deep Down Detectives (DDD) NIV Songs 15:</p> <p>Big Q & A 15 Song <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 12</i> Big Question 15 Song <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 13</i> Big Question 15 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together Hebrews 10:25, NIV <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 14</i> Big Question 15 Hymn: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, v.1 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 15</i> Big Question 15 Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 16</i> Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse Song: He Has Given Us a New Birth 1 Peter 1:3, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 17</i> Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: Shout with Joy to God Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 18</i> Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: The Time Has Come Mark 1:15, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 19</i> Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: How Beautiful Romans 10:13-15, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 20</i> Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: All the Nations You Have Made Psalm 86:9, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 21</i> Bible Truth 1 Extra Bible Verse Song: There Was a Great Multitude Revelation 7:9-10, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 22</i> <i>Add more fun to Sing-along Music Time by adding a Music, Movement & 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>OR Bible Verse Memory Game <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>
<p>2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME (introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related Bible story)</p>	
<p>Gathering the Children <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>The Classroom Song, verse 1 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 1</i> 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>Welcome to Deep Down Detectives</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



= follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p>Deep Down Detectives Theme Song</p>	<p>"Let's sing our Deep Down Detectives Theme Song."</p>	<p>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 5</p>
<p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>★ Deep Down Detectives Theme Song 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>Classroom Rules Song</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><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Classroom Rules Song 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>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 6</p>
<p>Opening Prayer Time</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><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Let's Pray 1-2-3! Fold your hands, Bow your head, Close your eyes. Let's pray! (<i>repeat</i>)</p>	<p>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 7</p>
	<p>"Let's pray:"</p>	
	<p>★ Opening Prayer 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

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

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 15, 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 take out AID



of BQB

Big Question & Answer Sign, front side

**found in the DDD Unit 15 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 15:

Why Do God’s People Go to Church?

and the Answer is:

To Worship God and Love One Another!

Big Question Meaning

★ A church is God’s people gathering together. Some churches meet in special buildings. Some churches meet in homes. Some meet outside. No matter where they meet, when God’s people gather together, they are a church. When God’s people gather together as a church, they worship God. They worship Him for being the one, true God who is not like anyone else. They worship Him for saving them through Jesus. They sing songs and pray to God. They listen to the Bible and learn how to obey it. God’s people also gather together to love one another. They talk with each other, and take care of each other, and pray for each other. The Bible tells us that God’s people are to meet together often. It tells us that when they gather together, Jesus will be there with them in a special way. We can be God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we will gather together with God’s people to worship God and love one another, too!

Big Question Songs ★ “Let’s sing our Big Question Song:

Big Q & A 15 Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Big Q & A 15 Song

(adapted version of “This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes”)

DDD NIV Songs 15, track 12

Why do God’s people go to church?
Go to church? Go to church?
Why do God’s people go to church?
To worship God and to love one another!

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued



= follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p>Learning about the Big Question</p> <p>★</p>	<p>Repeat the Big Question and Answer again: "Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another!"</p> <p>Say: "Hmmm, I wonder what that means... Let's do our action rhyme/sing our song that explains it."</p> <p>Then do the action rhyme or sing the song using any of the optional motions suggested, if desired.</p>	
<p>Big Question Action Rhyme</p>	<p>Big Question 15 Action Rhyme</p> <p>Let's gather together to worship God. Let's gather together to worship God. That's what God's people do.</p> <p>Let's gather together to love each other. Let's gather together to love each other. That's what God's people do.</p> <p>Let's gather together to hear God's Word. Let's gather together to hear God's Word. That's what God's people do.</p> <p>Let's gather together to sing and pray. Let's gather together to sing and pray. That's what God's people do.</p>	<p>(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)</p> <p><i>Raise hands to praise God</i></p> <p><i>Hold open arms out towards others, like welcoming a hug</i></p> <p><i>Make an open Bible with the flat palms of your hands</i></p> <p><i>Make prayer hands</i></p>
<p>Big Question (Action Rhyme) Song ★</p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Big Question 15 Action Rhyme/ Song</p> <p>Refrain: Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another. Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another.</p> <p>Verse 1: God's people gather to worship God. To sing His praises and pray. They listen to preaching, From God's Word, the Bible, To better love Him each day. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Verse 2: God's people gather to love one another, In acts of kindness and grace. They love one another, Like sisters and brothers, Helping all to live God's way. <i>Refrain</i></p>	<p><i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 13</i></p> <p>(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)</p> <p><i>Raise hands to praise God</i></p> <p><i>Hold open arms out towards others, like welcoming a hug</i></p> <p><i>Make prayer hands</i></p> <p><i>Make an open Bible with the flat palms of your hands</i></p> <p><i>Raise hands to praise God</i></p> <p><i>Hold open arms out towards others, like welcoming a hug</i></p> <p><i>Point up to God in heaven</i></p>

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

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

Learning the Bible Truth

VISUAL take out

AID



of BQB

VISUAL AID

All the Bible Truths Sign

★ "To Worship God and Love One Another" 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 **SIX** Bible truths that all tell us more about why God's people go to church.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our six 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 six 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, now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these six 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:

**"Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and Love One Another!
By Praising God for Jesus' Win over ?????!"**

We're missing one word. Here's the hint to what the missing word is. It says: "What is the opposite of alive? It starts with a "D" and it rhymes with "breath." Can you guess? It's "death."

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:
(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

★ **"Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and Love One Another!
By Praising God for Jesus' Win over ?????!"**

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

Hint

Bible Truth Meaning

★ On one sad Friday, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God's people. He was buried in a grave, but He didn't stay there. He rose up from the grave on Day Three—Sunday! He was alive and would be forevermore!

Ever since that first and best Sunday when Jesus beat sin and death, God's people have been gathering together each week to celebrate. (The big, Bible word for God's people gathered together is "congregation.") They sing and pray and listen to God's Word. They rejoice that Jesus had beaten sin and death for them. They are happy the Holy Spirit lives in their hearts. They look forward to the day when Jesus will come back and all of God's people will at last gather together forever as one, big family. That will be the biggest and best celebration of all!

Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God's forgiveness for their sins. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and helps them love God and live for Him the rest of their lives. Forever they will be God's dearly-loved people! What an amazing gift God has given us through Jesus!

God's people love to celebrate together, but they are always hoping for more to join them. That's why they tell their neighbors nearby the good news of Jesus. (The big, Bible word for telling others about Jesus is "evangelism.") And that's why they even travel to faraway lands to tell people there about Jesus, too. (The big, Bible word for going to another land to tell people about Jesus is "missions.") They want everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. (The big, Bible word for the good news of Jesus is "the gospel.") They want them all to become God's people and join the Sunday celebration of what God has done through Jesus! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Sundays will be our celebration day, too!

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

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

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 15, 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 15.1 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 15 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:

1 Peter 1:3 tells us:

★ **1 Peter 1:3**

"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Learn a Little: "He has given us new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."


Bible Verse Meaning

★ **What does that mean?**

When we are born as babies, we have our first birth. But did you know that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are given a new birth? Not a new birth as a baby again. This isn't a new birth for our bodies. God gives our heart a new birth. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit --a heart that knows God, and wants to love Him and live for Him.

Jesus is why God's people get to have this wonderful new birth. He died on the cross for their sins. He made the way for them to be God's people. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He was resurrected. (That's a big Bible word meaning that He rose from the dead.) Yes, on that third day--that glorious Easter Sunday morning-- He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. Jesus is alive for evermore. And He is the living hope of God's people that one day, they, too, will live face to face with God forever! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

 = follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

**Bible Verse
Song**

*lyrics and sheet music,
Appendix A*

You might also enjoy:

*Shout with Joy to God
Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 18*

*The Time Has Come
Mark 1:15, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 19*

*How Beautiful
Romans 10:13-15,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 20*

*All the Nations You
Have Made
Psalm 86:9, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 21*

*There Was a Great
Multitude
Revelation 7:9-10, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 22*

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


He Has Given Us a New Birth: 1 Peter 1:3

DDD NIV Songs 15, track 17

He has given us a new birth,
Into a living hope,
He has given us a new birth,
Into a living hope,
Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
He has given us a new birth,
Into a living hope,
He has given us a new birth,
Into a living hope.
First Peter One, three.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

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

<p>Getting into the Case</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>Listening Assignments</p> <p>Place in  take out  of BQB</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>"Let's open up our listening assignment and see what we are supposed to figure out today.</p> <p>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:</p>
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p>Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:</p> <p>I need to find out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What happened on the third day after Jesus died that made the disciples so happy? 2. What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus' followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day?
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p>Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:</p> <p>Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:3</p> <p>"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."</p> <p>I need to find out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday? 2. How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean?
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>*Listening Assignment #3 includes the Assignment Sheet, plus 6 clue pictures*</p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV</p>	<p>Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:</p> <p>I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story. Our six clues are: Jesus, bird, praying together, God's Word, a cross and a hat. Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.</p> <p>I need to figure out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't? 2. What did Jesus is followers celebrate every Sunday? What did they thank God for doing?
<p>Tell the Bible Story</p> <p>Place story & pics in  take out  of BQB</p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV</p> <p>Story text included in this book right after this lesson plan and in Visual Aids book</p>	<p>★ 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."</p> <p>★ Bible Story: The Case of the Third Day Yay Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2</p> <p>Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the storyboard pictures as you tell it. Then, have the children answer the listening assignment. Present the gospel and lead in prayer.</p> <p>*Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.*</p>

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

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

<p>Story Response Song(s)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Hymn <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Brethren, We Have Met to Worship <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 15</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Brethren, we have met to worship, And adore the Lord, our God. Will you pray with all your power, While we try to preach the Word?</p> <p>Tie-in: "Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another! Do you know what brethren are? It's a big word that means "brothers and sisters." God's people are like brothers and sisters in a family...God's family. They meet to worship God and pray and listen to the pastor preach God's Word. They meet together to love one another and care for each other's needs. When they meet together they do things to love one another. And this is why you and I, your parents and all the other people are here at church today!"</p>

<p>Praise Song <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 16</i></p> <p>Praise the Lord together saying: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" Praise the Lord together saying: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" <i>repeat</i></p> <p>Tie-in: "Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another! God's people meet together to worship God and love one another. They praise God together, they listen to God's Word together and they love each other. Let's sing a song about meeting together to worship God and love one another."</p>
--	---






3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)*

★ *Well, Deep Down Detectives, you've done a great job digging deep down for answers in the truths of God's Word. Now it's time to enjoy some activities."*

<p>Transition to 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>Classroom Song, verse 2 <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>Classroom Song, verse 2 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 2</i></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>Response Activities</p>	<p>Choose one or more activities appropriate for your children, based on classroom time and developmental needs. Add the Discussion Sheet to any activity for deeper learning. ★</p>
<p>Bible Verse Memory Game</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"> • Lesson 1 Game: Simon Says How • Lesson 2 Game: Roll 'n' Toss • Lesson 3 Game: Block Clapping <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p>Music, Movement & Memory Activity</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"> • DDD Songs for this Bible Truth, plus: • Lesson 1 Activity: March 'n' Say • Lesson 2 Activity: Clap, Tap and Say • Lesson 3 Activity: Block Clappers <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p>Bible Story Review Game</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"> • Lesson 1 Game: Who's Inside? • Lesson 2 Game: Fix Up the Mix Up • Lesson 3 Game: Take Me through the Tunnel <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p>Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets</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"> • Lesson 1 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Truth • Lesson 2 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Verse • Lesson 3 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: ACTS Prayer <p>Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning ★</p>  <p>Discussion Questions</p>
<p>Extra Crafts: Big Question Craft <i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p>Bible Verse Craft <i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p>Bible Story Puzzle <i>in Appendix C</i></p>	<p>These crafts are slightly more complex than the coloring/take home sheets:</p> <p>The Bible Concept Go-and-Tell Craft 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 Bible Story Coloring Sheet provides a tie in between the Bible story and the Bible truth they are learning.</p> <p>The Storyboard Picture Placement Page 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>Free Play Activities ★</p> <p><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)*



<p>Transition to Closing Circle</p> <p>Classroom Song, verse 3</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>Classroom Song, verse 3 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 3</i></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>Closing Circle Time</p> <p>Classroom Song, verse 4</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>Classroom Song, verse 4 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 4</i></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>Big News to Tell Big Question 15</p> <p>VISUAL AID</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;">#1</div> <p><i>*found in DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV Book lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p> <p>Big Question 15, Bible Truth 1</p> <p>VISUAL AID</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;">#3</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 Big Question: "Why Do God's People Go to Church?" <i>Hold up the Bible Truth Clue Picture.</i></p> <p>Say the answer with me: "To Worship God and Love One Another!" <i>(If desired, you can sing one/both of the Big Question songs.) DDD NIV Songs 15, tracks 12,13</i></p> <p>And what's one way He does this? What did we learn? <i>Point to the picture.</i></p> <p>By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death!</p> <p>"And how do I know this is true? Can you tell me? Say it with me: "The Bible tells me so!" That's right!</p>
<p>Big Question 15 Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse</p> <p>VISUAL AID</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;">#4</div> <p><i>*found in the DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV Book lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>We learned: 1 Peter 1:3 "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."</p> <p>Learn a Little: "He has given us new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."</p> <p>What does that mean?</p> <p>When we are born as babies, we have our first birth. But did you know that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are given a new birth? Not a new birth as a baby again. This isn't a new birth for our bodies. God gives our heart a new birth. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit --a heart that knows God, and wants to love Him and live for Him. Jesus is why God's people get to have this wonderful new birth. He died on the cross for their sins. He made the way for them to be God's people. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He was resurrected. (That's a big Bible word meaning that He rose from the dead.) Yes, on that third day--that glorious Easter Sunday morning-- He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. Jesus is alive for evermore. And He is the living hope of God's people that one day, they, too, will live face to face with God forever! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p> <p><i>(If desired, you can sing the Bible verse song.)</i> <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 17</i></p>

4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME, continued



= follow the stars for a short & simple lesson plan

<p>Closing ACTS Prayer Time</p> <p>ACTS Prayer Chant</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>ACTS Prayer Chant Song <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, tracks 10,11</i></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>Closing ACTS Prayer</p>	<p>"Let's pray!"</p> <p><i>Lead the children in the ACTS prayer for this Bible Truth.</i></p> <p>A We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for being so powerful that You beat sin and death for them.</p> <p>C God, we know that Sunday should be a special celebration day. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. But sometimes, we would rather not go to church and celebrate. We would rather do something else that seems more fun. We don't treasure what Jesus did on the cross. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, thank You for beating sin and death for God's people through Jesus. Thank You that they don't have to face Your punishment for sin. They get to know You in their hearts now, and get to live with You in heaven when they die. Thank You that we can be Your people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus' win over sin and death as we gather together with God's people at church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.</p>
<p>5. TAKING IT HOME <i>(Take Home Sheet)</i></p>	
<p>Clean up and Dismissal </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>Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets </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>Bible Story to Take-Home</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 Third Day Yay*Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2*

of BQB

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

"Our story is called: The Case of the Third Day Yay. 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 find out:

1. **What happened on the third day after Jesus died that made the disciples so happy?**
2. **What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus' followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:3**

"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

I need to find out:

1. **Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday?**
2. **How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

Our six clues are: Jesus, bird, praying together, God's Word, a cross and a hat.

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

I need to figure out:

1. **Which four belong in the story and which two don't?**
2. **What did Jesus is followers celebrate every Sunday? What did they thank God for doing?**

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 Third Day Yay *Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2*

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

Walk! Walk! Walk! Look at all of God's people walk! Where are they going? What are they doing? They aren't staying at home, so where are they going?

Where do you think they are going?

Are they going to the market to shop? No, not the market. Are they going to the fields to work? No, not this day.

Then, where ARE they going? Aren't those the things they do EVERY day? Aren't those the places they go every day: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday?

Well, not quite every day. There was one day, each week, that God told them to do something very different. On this day, they were to rest. And, instead of going about their regular work, they were to go to the worship place. This was the day they were to gather together and worship the LORD. Do you know what this special day was called?

Can you tell me what it's called?

It was called the Sabbath --from the Hebrew word for "rest." And which day of the week was the Sabbath? It was Saturday, always Saturday --the last day of the week. That's why, in our story, God's people weren't staying at home, or going to shop at the market, or going to work in the fields on this day. This was the Sabbath Day, and God's people were going to worship God, as God told them to in the Ten, Big Laws He gave them through Moses.

For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Sabbath-Saturday was the day God's people were to rest from their work, and to gather together to worship God. But then, something really big and wonderful happened: the Savior came. And something He did changed that worship day from Saturday to Sunday. Do you know the Savior's name?

Can you tell me His name?

It's Jesus!

Yes, Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of God's people. He lived a perfect life. He never, ever disobeyed God. He was the perfect law-keeper of all of God's laws. Then, Jesus gave His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross.

Friends came and took Jesus' body off the cross. They covered it in sweet-smelling spices and wound white, linen cloth around it. They buried Jesus' body in a grave cave, rolled a huge stone in place to shut the cave, and left Him. Oh, how sad they were on that Friday when Jesus died!

In that grave cave, Jesus' dead body lay all that Friday and all that Sabbath-Saturday. Soldiers stood guard over the grave cave, making sure no one came and took Jesus body.

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

But then, early on the next day--Sunday--what a surprise there was for those soldiers and Jesus' disciples ...and really the whole world! Jesus' body didn't stay put AT ALL! Can you tell me what happened?

What happened to Jesus?

God raised Jesus from the dead! Out of that grave cave, Jesus came. He was alive, never to die again!

Jesus appeared to many people that day. He appeared to three women who had come to His grave cave. Yay! Jesus is alive! Then, to two people as they walked along the road to their home. "Yay! Jesus is alive!" And in the evening, Jesus appeared to a whole group of His disciples. "Yay! Jesus is alive!"

Yes! Jesus was alive, and His friends were so happy! Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, instead of facing God's punishment, God's people were forgiven. They would get to know God, and love and enjoy Him forever. What an amazing day this was! This was the day God's people had been waiting for since the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin came into the world.

Jesus' followers never wanted to forget this wonderful Sunday. So, they began to gather together every Sunday to celebrate what He had done for them. They didn't call this special worship day the Sabbath anymore. They gave it a new name to remind them of what Jesus had done. Do you know what that new name is?

Can you tell me?

They called it "the Lord's Day" because they were celebrating the wonderful Sunday when the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had beaten sin and death for God's people.

From then on, Jesus' followers kept on gathering together every Lord's Day to worship God and love one another. They worshiped God and praised Jesus, their Savior, who beat sin and death for them. They shared stories of the amazing things that God was doing, and asked God to do more. They learned from God's Word, the Bible, and shared a special meal together to remember that Jesus died for their sins. They prayed and care for each other's needs. In all these ways, they worshipped God and loved one another. How loud were their praises every Lord's Day! Sunday was a big celebration day.

But as happy as those first Christians were to celebrate every Sunday in their little gatherings, that wasn't enough. Not enough for them and not enough for God. They wanted more, more, more! Can you guess what they wanted more of?

Can you guess?

They wanted MORE people to know the good news of Jesus. They wanted MORE people to turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. They wanted MORE people to know God, love God, and sing praises to Him. They wanted the WHOLE WORLD to be filled with God's people.

This was what Jesus had told them to do. "Go into the whole world with the gospel," Jesus had said, right before He went up to heaven. "Teach them to repent of their sins and trust in Me as their Savior. Baptize them as My followers. Teach them how to be My disciples. Teach them how to live as God's people," He said. "I will send the Holy Spirit to help you," Jesus promised.

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

And that's just what Jesus' disciples did. After the Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts, they began to tell everyone the good news of Jesus. First, to the people living in Jerusalem, then out to their nearby neighbors, they went with the gospel. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many, and they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. These new believers joined the disciples as they gathered together. Sundays had become their celebration day, too. God's people were growing in number. Their praises were getting louder!

Then, further and further away they went to tell the good news of Jesus to others in faraway places. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of these people, too. They turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Little churches of believers sprung up everywhere. Sundays had become their celebration day, too.

Since then, God's people keep on spreading the good news of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit keeps on working in hearts. And what do God's people keep doing on Sundays?

Can you tell me?

They keep on gathering together to celebrate that most wonderful Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. Their numbers keep growing and their praises get louder, as more people put their faith in Jesus.

And this is why we gather together today: to celebrate how Jesus proved He beat sin and death for God's people on that wonderful Sunday, long ago!

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 happened on the third day after Jesus died that made the disciples so happy? Jesus rose from the dead. He proved that He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

2. What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus' followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day? A Sunday. They started gathering together every Sunday to celebrate what Jesus had done for them.

For You and Me:

God's people around the world still celebrate with a "third day yay"! They still gather together on Sundays to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people. We can join in that celebration, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:3: "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1. Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday? Jesus' disciples.

2. How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean? They had turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. God forgave their sins and made their hearts new. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of them, so they could know Him, and to help them love Him and live for Him. He filled their hearts with hope in Jesus now, and hope in one day going to live with Him forever in heaven. That would be best of all.

For You and Me:

Like those first followers of Jesus, we, too, can receive a new birth into a living hope. We, too, can have our sins forgiven and begin life as one of God's people. We can know God in our hearts now and one day, go to live with Him forever in heaven. How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: Jesus, bird, praying together, God's Word, a cross and a hat

1. Which four belong in our story?

Jesus, people praying, God's Word and the cross belong. The bird and the hat do not.

2. What did Jesus' followers celebrate every Sunday? What did they thank God for doing? They gathered together to celebrate Jesus' beating sin and death for them on that first, wonderful Sunday when He rose from the dead. They thanked God for sending Jesus to be their Savior.

For You and Me:

God's people around the world still celebrate with a "third day yay"! They still gather together on Sundays to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people. We can join in that celebration, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****Why Do God's People Go to Church?****To Worship God and Love One Another...****By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by praising God for Jesus' win over death! What a wonderful day it was when Jesus rose from the dead! He had beaten sin and death for God's people. Oh, how we needed Him to do that! You see, all people have chosen to disobey God. We all deserve His punishment.

God would have been perfectly fair to punish us all for our sins; but, He is so full of mercy that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, then offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. On Day Three, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death for them..

Now, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven their sins, and become God's people. Ask to God to help you do this. Then, Sunday will be your special celebration day, too!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for being so powerful that You beat sin and death for them.
- C** God, we know that Sunday should be a special celebration day. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. But sometimes, we would rather not go to church and celebrate. We would rather do something else that seems more fun. We don't treasure what Jesus did on the cross. We need a Savior!
- T** God, thank You for beating sin and death for God's people through Jesus. Thank You that they don't have to face Your punishment for sin. They get to know You in their hearts now, and get to live with You in heaven when they die. Thank You that we can be Your people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus' win over sin and death as we gather together with God's people at church. 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

P.2

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

<p>THE GOSPEL</p>	<p>Why do God’s people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by praising God for Jesus’ win over death! What a wonderful day it was when Jesus rose from the dead! He had beaten sin and death for God’s people. Oh, how we needed Him to do that! You see, all people have chosen to disobey God. We all deserve His punishment. God would have been perfectly fair to punish us all for our sins; but, He is so full of mercy that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, then offered it as the full payment for the sins of God’s people when He died on the cross. On Day Three, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death for them. Now, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven their sins, and become God’s people. Ask to God to help you do this. Then, Sunday will be your special celebration day, too!</p>
<p>BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE</p> <p>Meaning</p> <p>Discussion Questions choose a few</p>	<p>“He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” --1 Peter 1:3</p> <p>Learn a Little: “He has given us new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”</p> <p>When we are born as babies, we have our first birth. But did you know that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are given a new birth? Not a new birth as a baby again. This isn’t a new birth for our bodies. God gives our heart a new birth. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit --a heart that knows God, and wants to love Him and live for Him.</p> <p>Jesus is why God’s people get to have this wonderful new birth. He died on the cross for their sins. He made the way for them to be God’s people. But Jesus didn’t stay dead. He was resurrected. (That’s a big Bible word meaning that He rose from the dead.) Yes, on that third day--that glorious Easter Sunday morning-- He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. Jesus is alive for evermore. And He is the living hope of God’s people that one day, they, too, will live face to face with God forever! We can be God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What kind of new birth does God offer to us, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? <i>A new birth in our heart (not that we are born like babies again).</i> 2. What is this new birth in our heart like? <i>God forgives all of our sins. He fills our heart with His Holy Spirit. We want to know and love God. We want to live for Him.</i> 3. What did Jesus do that makes it possible for us to have this new birth in our hearts? <i>He died on the cross for the sins of God’s people. He rose from the dead (was resurrected) on the third day, proving that He really had beaten sin and death for them.</i> 4. How can we become one of God’s people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
<p>BIBLE STORY</p> <p>Discussion Questions choose a few</p>	<p>The Case of the Third Day Yay</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where did God’s people go on the Sabbath that was different from the other days of the week? <i>They went to worship God and learn from His Word, the Bible.</i> 2. What happened that changed the day that God’s people gathered together to worship God? <i>Jesus came. He died on the cross and then rose from the dead on the third day--a Sunday.</i> 3. Why did God’s people start gathering together on the Sunday instead of the Sabbath? <i>To celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead on that first Sunday. They were celebrating Jesus’ win over sin and death for God’s people.</i> 4. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do, so that more and more might gather together with them and celebrate how He rose from the dead and beat sin and death? <i>To tell the good news of Jesus to their nearby neighbors and to those who lived in faraway lands, that they might all become God’s people and live as His disciples.</i> 5. Do people at your church gather together on a Sunday? <i>Yes! Now you know why!!</i> 6. How can we become God’s people? How can Sunday become our special celebration day, too? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>