

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES

**Curriculum Resources
for Unit 15, Bible Truth 3:**



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

By Caring for Each Other's Needs!

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 3 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 3 Concept: To Worship God and Love One Another... By Caring for Each Other's Needs!**

When God's people gather together, they make special promises to believe God's Word and to care for each other. They promise to help each other keep on loving God and living for Him.

How do God's people help each other keep these promises? They help each other love God and live for Him. They tell each other about their lives—the many happy things, the sad things, even their sins and their struggles. They pray for each other and remind each other of the truths in God's Word. They want to help everyone to keep growing in their life with God.

But they also care for each other's needs. They share their money and their things when someone is hungry or has lost their job. They visit each other when they are sick. They cheer each other up when they are sad or lonely. They want to help everyone to be well-cared for.

God gives each little church special leaders that help them care for each other, too. He gives them pastors/elders to teach them God's Word and help them live it out. They comfort those who are scared and weak. They strengthen those who are struggling with sin. They pray for all.

God gives each little church special leaders called deacons, too. Deacons help everyone to better care for each other's needs. They spend extra time finding out what people need and helping them get it.

Jesus told God's people to love each other and take care of each other just as He has loved and taken care of them. If they do this, Jesus promised that others will see their love and know that they are God's people. They will praise God for how wonderful He is and want to become His people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Learn a Little: "Love one another. As I have loved you."**Meaning**

A commandment is a big rule God tells us to obey! What does Jesus command His people to do? To love one another like He has loved them! Wow! That's a lot of love! Only with God's help can God's people do that! But when they do, others will know that they really are God's people! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Question 15, Bible Truth 3 Overview: Key Concepts

p.2

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your kindness and love shown through Your people caring for each other.
- C** God, sometimes we don't want to go to church and care for the needs of others. Sometimes we just want to take care of our own needs. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for giving Your people to each other to care for their needs. Thank You for all the people in church who care for our needs.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Help us to care for others when we gather at church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 3 Story**The Case of the Copycats***John 13-15, 18-20; Acts***Songs Used in Bible Truth 3**

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 3 Bible Verse: A New Commandment John 13:34-35, NIV 1984

*Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: There Are Different Kinds of Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4,12,27, NIV 1984**Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: Each of Us Should Use 1 Peter 4:10-11, NIV 1984**Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: Let Us Hold Unswervingly Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV 1984**Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: On the First Day of Every Week 1 Corinthians 16:2, NIV 1984**Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, NIV 1984**Bible Truth 3 Extra Bible Verse: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV1984**listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page*

1. GETTING STARTED

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<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 3 Bible Verse Song: A New Commandment John 13:34-35, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 27</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: There Are Different Kinds of Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4,12,27, NIV <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 28</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: Each of Us Should Use 1 Peter 4:10-11, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 29</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song Let Us Hold Unswervingly Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 30</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: On the First Day of Every Week 1 Corinthians 16:2, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 31</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, NIV 1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 32</i> Extra Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV1984 <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 33</i></p> <p><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: Fill'er Up Lesson 2 Game: Lily Pad Jump Lesson 3 Game: Loud and Soft, Big and Little</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>Sing verse 1 of <i>The Classroom Song</i> to gather the children for Circle Time.</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



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<p>Deep Down Detectives Theme Song</p> <p><i>Lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>"Let's sing our Deep Down Detectives Theme Song."</p> <p>Deep Down Detectives Theme Song <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 5</i></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>Classroom Rules Song</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>Classroom Rules Song <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 6</i></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>Opening Prayer Time</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>Let's Pray <i>DDD NIV Songs 15, track 7</i></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>Opening Prayer</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 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



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<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><u>(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)</u></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><u>(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)</u></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

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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, we've learned two truths about why God's people go to church. They are: "By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death" and "By Learning from God's Word, the Bible" (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 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 Caring for Each Other's ????!"**

Hint

It says: "This word means "something we have to have." It starts with an "N" and it rhymes with "seeds." Can you guess? The answer is: "Needs".

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 Caring for Each Other's Needs!"**

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

Bible Truth Meaning

★ When God's people gather together, they make special promises to believe God's Word and to care for each other. They promise to help each other keep on loving God and living for Him.

How do God's people help each other keep these promises? They help each other love God and live for Him. They tell each other about their lives—the many happy things, the sad things, even their sins and their struggles. They pray for each other and remind each other of the truths in God's Word. They want to help everyone to keep growing in their life with God.

But they also care for each other's needs. They share their money and their things when someone is hungry or has lost their job. They visit each other when they are sick. They cheer each other up when they are sad or lonely. They want to help everyone to be well-cared for.

God gives each little church special leaders that help them care for each other, too. He gives them pastors/elders to teach them God's Word and help them live it out. They comfort those who are scared and weak. They strengthen those who are struggling with sin. They pray for all.

God gives each little church special leaders called deacons, too. Deacons help everyone to better care for each other's needs. They spend extra time finding out what people need and helping them get it.

Jesus told God's people to love each other and take care of each other just as He has loved and taken care of them. If they do this, Jesus promised that others will see their love and know that they are God's people. They will praise God for how wonderful He is and want to become His people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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 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 15.3 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:

John 13:34-35 tells us:

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Learn a Little: "Love one another. As I have loved you."

Bible Verse Meaning

What does that mean?

A commandment is a big rule God tells us to obey! What does Jesus command His people to do? To love one another like He has loved them! Wow! That's a lot of love! Only with God's help can God's people do that! But when they do, others will know that they really are God's people! We can become 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:

*There Are Different
Kinds of Gifts
1 Corinthians 12:4,12,27,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 28*

*Each of Us Should Use
1 Peter 4:10-11, NIV 1984
1 Corinthians 16:2,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 29*

*Let Us Hold Unswervingly
Hebrews 10:24-25,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 30*

*On the First Day of
Every Week
1 Corinthians 16:2,
NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 31*

*An Overseer Must Be
Titus 1:6-9, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 32*

*Love Is Patient
1 Corinthians 13:4-8,
NIV1984
DDD NIV Songs 15,
track 33*

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

A New Commandment: John 13:34-35

DDD NIV Songs 15, track 27

A new commandment I give to you,
A new commandment I give to you,
Love one another!
Love one another!
Love one another!

By this all will know that you are My disciples,
By this all will know that you are My disciples,
Love one another!
Love one another!
Love one another!

John Thirteen, thirty-four and thirty-five.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued



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<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>A copycat is a nickname for someone who tries to act like someone else.</p> <p>I need to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who were the people who tried to act like someone else? 2. And who was the someone they try to look like? Why?
<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 John 13:34-35</p> <p>"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."</p> <p>I need to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was Jesus' love for His people like? 2. Who wanted to obey Jesus' command to love one another as He had loved them?
<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 two of them are NOT in the story. They are: a little meal; the Holy Spirit in a heart; a doll; Pastor Peter; a can of soda; and some money. <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"> 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't? 2. Who prayed for each other and cared for each other's needs?
<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 Copycats <i>John 13-15, 18-20; Acts</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></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>
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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>
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<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>
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Lesson Plan: Big Question 15, Bible Truth 3

use with all THREE lessons

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: Fill'er Up • Lesson 2 Game: Lily Pad Jump • Lesson 3 Game: Loud and Soft, Big and Little <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: Say, Spring Up and Shout • Lesson 2 Activity: Freeze Frame • Lesson 3 Activity: Egg Shakers <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: Can You Remember? • Lesson 2 Game: Clothespin Line Up and Drop • Lesson 3 Game: Deep Down Detectives Clue Hunt <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</p> <p><i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p>Bible Verse Craft</p> <p><i>in Appendix C</i></p> <p>Bible Story Puzzle</p> <p><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)*

 = short & simple lesson plan

<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</p> <p>Big Question 15</p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">#1</div> <p><i>*found in DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p> <p>Big Question 15, Bible Truth 3</p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">#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!"</p> <p><i>(If desired, you can sing one/both of the Big Question songs.)</i> <i>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 Caring for Each Other's Needs!</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 3 Bible Verse</p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #90EE90; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">#4</div> <p><i>*found in DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, NIV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>We leard: John 13:34-35</p> <p>"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."</p> <p>Learn a Little: "Love one another. As I have loved you."</p> <p>What It Means:</p> <p>A commandment is a big rule God tells us to obey! What does Jesus command His people to do? To love one another like He has loved them! Wow! That's a lot of love! Only with God's help can God's people do that! But when they do, others will know that they really are God's people! We can become 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 27</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 being the Savior of Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your kindness and love shown through Your people caring for each other.</p> <p>C God, sometimes we don't want to go to church and care for the needs of others. Sometimes we just want to take care of our own needs. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T Thank You, God, for giving Your people to each other to care for their needs. Thank You for all the people in church who care for our needs.</p> <p>S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Help us to care for others when we gather at church.</p> <p>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 Copycats*John 13-15, 18-20; Acts***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 Copycats. 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:

A copycat is a nickname for someone who tries to act like someone else.

I need to know:

1. **Who were the people who tried to act like someone else?**
2. **And who was the someone they try to look like? Why?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is John 13:34-35**

“A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

I need to know:

1. **What was Jesus’ love for His people like?**
2. **Who wanted to obey Jesus’ command to love one another as He had loved them?**

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

They are: a little meal; the Holy Spirit in a heart; a doll; Pastor Peter; a can of soda; and some money. *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 prayed for each other and cared for each other’s needs?**

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 Copycats*John 13-15, 18-20; Acts**Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

The sun was setting as Jesus and his disciples gathered for supper. It would be their last meal together, their last hours together, before "IT" happened. What was "IT"?

What do you think the "IT" was that was about to happen?

Enemies would come and take Jesus. He would suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people.

Jesus knew "IT" was about to happen, but His disciples did not. With only a little time left to teach and prepare them, what did Jesus want them to remember? And how would He tell them?

What do you think Jesus would use to teach them?

Jesus would use FEET and FOOD, right there at the table, to teach them.

Now, feet are always dirty, but they were especially so in Jesus' world. There were no cars back then and very few stone roads. It was walk, walk, walk on sandy, muddy, dirty ground. Camels and donkeys shared with roads, adding more stuff to step in. And, since people wore sandals or went barefoot, you can imagine just how yucky your feet could get. Yes, feet were yucky things and washing them was an everyday, before each meal, dirty business. And so dirty, that only you or your lowest servant would ever touch your feet.

Imagine how horrified the disciples were when Jesus got up from the table that night and began to wash their feet! "Teacher, never wash my feet!" Peter exclaimed. The others agreed. Jesus was God's Son. He shouldn't use His holy, perfect life to clean their dirty, yucky feet!

But Jesus just kept washing. "You can have no part in what I'm doing, if I don't wash your feet," Jesus told Peter. This was a teaching picture about the "IT" Jesus was about to do for them the next day, when He would give up His life on the cross to clean the sin from their hearts. It was something only He could do for them.

Jesus had taught them with feet, now He would teach them more about "IT" with food. Jesus took the bread and wine and gave them to his disciples as two more teaching pictures. "This is my body, broken for you," He told them, as He held out the bread to them to eat. "This is my blood, poured out for you," He told them, as He held out the wine for them to drink. These were pictures of what Jesus would do that next day for them. On the cross, Jesus' body would be broken, and His blood would be poured as the full payment for the sins of God's people. Jesus would use His holy, perfect life to clean the sin from their hearts.

Why would Jesus do such a thing? Why would He suffer and die for God's people? There is only one reason: love. Love for God, His Father. And love for God's people. This was God's plan to save His people. This was the only way. And, as much as Jesus did not like to hurt and suffer, He loved His Father and God's people even more.

"I am about to go away," Jesus told His disciples. "I am making the way for you and all of God's people to come to God. I am going to prepare a place for you to live with God forever. One happy day, I will come back for you to take you home to be with Me," Jesus told them.

"Don't be upset. I'm not leaving you alone. I am sending you a special Comforter-- the Holy Spirit," Jesus promised them. "He will live in your hearts. He will keep us close. He will give you power to do everything God wants you to do," Jesus explained.

But what DID God want them to do? It went back to that one word for everything Jesus did.

Can you guess what that word is?

That one word was "love."

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

“Show your love for Me by obeying everything I’ve taught you,” Jesus told His disciples. “Love one another as I have loved You. I have loved you so much that I am even going to suffer and die on the cross to be the Savior you need. There is no greater love than that! Now I want you to love each other that much, too!” Jesus told them. “And when you care for each other’s needs like this, others will know that you really are My disciples and God’s people,” He promised them.

Soon everything happened just as Jesus said it would. Soldiers came that night and arrested Jesus. The next day, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the sins of God’s people. Then, friends came for His body, wrapped it in sweet-smelling spices and clean, white linen, and buried Him in a cave grave. It looked like it was the end for Jesus, but was it?

What do you think?

No, it was not! On Sunday, the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to His disciples and taught them many things. Then He went up, up, up through the clouds to rule in heaven. Jesus was gone. Was His help gone, too?

What do you think?

No, it was not! Just as Jesus promised, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His disciples. And with the Holy Spirit’s help, they lived out what Jesus had told them to do.

“Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!” Jesus had told them. So, they spread the good news in love. “Turn away from disobeying God. Trust in Jesus as your Savior. Be baptized,” they urged all who would listen.

The Holy Spirit helped the listeners believe. The little church of Christians grew from eleven to 120 to over 3000 people in just a few weeks!

“Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!” Jesus had told them. So, they gathered together in love for God and for each other. Peter and Jesus’ other disciples led the believers as their pastors/elders. They preached from God’s Word. They comforted those who were scared and weak. They warned those who were forgetting how Jesus wanted them to live. They helped everyone live out Jesus’ commands. Their loving leadership was God’s good gift to His Church.

Every day, and especially on Sundays, the little church gathered together. As they gathered, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and encouraged them. They learned from God’s Word. They fellowshiped and prayed together. They shared stories about the amazing things God was doing and urged each other to keep on loving God and living for Him. They ate the Lord’s Supper together --the special meal of bread and wine that Jesus gave them to eat together to remember His death. They sang praised to their great God. Oh, how they wanted to worship and love the LORD together, just as Jesus told them to! And the Holy Spirit helped them do this.

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

But they didn't just worship and love the LORD. They loved one another like Jesus did, too. And so, when they gathered together, they promised to care for each other's needs.

Why, these believers shared everything they had with each other—food, clothes, houses, money... EVERYTHING! And if anyone needed anything, they would sell their things and buy whatever was needed. Some people, like Stephen, Philip, and Phoebe were chosen by the church to be deacons. These godly men and women led the little church in caring for the sick, old, and needy among them. They would make sure that no one was overlooked. Oh, how they wanted to love each other, as Jesus told them to! And with the help of God's Holy Spirit, they did.

What glad and giving hearts those first Christians had! How they loved God and one another! And as they did, guess who else noticed?

Can you guess?

Everyone around them! "Look at these people! How they love God and one another! This is something very special," they exclaimed.

And so it was. For WHO did this church of believers look like, as they loved God and loved one another? Their Savior, Himself. Can you tell me His name?

Can you tell me?

It's Jesus!

"If you like what you see in us, it's because of Jesus!" the believers explained. "He has saved us and filled us with His Holy Spirit. He's the One changing our hearts and helping us love God and one another. Let us tell you about Him and how you can become God's people, too!" they exclaimed.

Many years have passed since those first believers gathered together. Some things have changed since those early days, but the most important things have not. Many years have passed since those first believers gathered together. Some things have changed since those early days, but the most important things have not. Jesus still calls His people to keep His commands and to love one another. He still wants them to share the good news of the gospel with everyone. And, He still wants them to gather together each week to worship God and love one another.

As they do, the Holy Spirit will keep working in God's people, helping them look like Jesus to others. "Tell us about Jesus who helps you love like this!" these people will say, and hopefully as they hear the good news of Jesus, they will trust in Him as their Savior, too!

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:

A copycat is a nickname for someone who tries to act like someone else.

1. Who were the people who tried to act like someone else? Jesus' followers, God's people.

2. And who was the someone they try to look like? Why? They tried to look like Jesus by how they loved God and loved each other.

For You and Me:

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They love being a part of God's care for His people. And, when God's people love like Jesus, they help others see what God is like, and be a part of God's plan to tell them the good news of Jesus. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

I need to find out:

1. What was Jesus' love for His people like? He chose to put their needs first. He loved them so much that He was willing to suffer and die in their place, for their sins. There is no greater love than this!

2. Who wanted to obey Jesus' command to love one another as He had loved them? Who helped them do this? Jesus' followers did! The Holy Spirit living in their hearts helped them.

For You and Me:

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They love being a part of God's care for His people. And, when God's people love like Jesus, they help others see what God is like, and be a part of God's plan to tell them the good news of Jesus. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a little meal; the Holy Spirit in a heart; a doll; Pastor Peter; a can of soda; and some money.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The little meal, the Holy Spirit in a heart, Pastor Peter, and the money belong. The doll and the can of soda do not.

2. Who prayed for each other and cared for each other's needs? Jesus' followers, God's people.

For You and Me:

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They love being a part of God's care for His people. And, when God's people love like Jesus, they help others see what God is like, and be a part of God's plan to tell them the good news of Jesus. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

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 Caring for Each Other's Needs!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by taking care of each other's needs.

God's people love to tell others the good news of Jesus. Why? Because the greatest need that all people have is for God to forgive their sins! You see, we all have chosen to turn away from God and disobey His good laws. We don't deserve His love or to be His people. We deserve His punishment instead. How sad!

But God, in His great mercy, has provided us a way to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. How? Through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. On the cross, He chose to suffer and die, giving up His life as the full payment for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the grave. He had done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God's forgiveness. This is how they become God's people forever. God can help you do this, too! Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.
Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your kindness and love shown through Your people caring for each other.
- C** God, sometimes we don't want to go to church and care for the needs of others. Sometimes we just want to take care of our own needs. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for giving Your people to each other to care for their needs. Thank You for all the people in church who care for our needs.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Help us to care for others when we gather 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

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's to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

<p>BIG QUESTION</p> <p>Meaning</p> <p>Discussion Questions</p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p>	<p>Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another!</p> <p>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!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do God's people go to church? <i>To worship God and love one another.</i> 2. What is the name of God's people meeting together? <i>A church.</i> 3. Where do churches meet? <i>Sometimes in buildings, sometimes in homes, sometimes outside.</i> 4. Who do God's people worship when they meet together? <i>God.</i> 5. What kinds of things do they worship about God? <i>He is the one, true God. He is their Savior.</i> 6. What kinds of things do they do when they meet together? <i>Sing and pray; listen to the Bible and learn how to obey it; love each other.</i> 7. Who promises to be with God's people in a special way when they gather together? <i>Jesus.</i>
<p>BIBLE TRUTH</p> <p>Meaning</p> <p>Discussion Questions</p> <p><i>choose a few</i></p>	<p>To Worship God and Love One Another... By Caring for Each Other's Needs!</p> <p>When God's people gather together, they make special promises to believe God's Word and to care for each other. They promise to help each other keep on loving God and living for Him.</p> <p>How do God's people help each other keep these promises? They help each other love God and live for Him. They tell each other about their lives—the many happy things, the sad things, even their sins and their struggles. They pray for each other and remind each other of the truths in God's Word. They want to help everyone to keep growing in their life with God.</p> <p>But they also care for each other's needs. They share their money and their things when someone is hungry or has lost their job. They visit each other when they are sick. They cheer each other up when they are sad or lonely. They want to help everyone to be well-cared for. God gives each little church special leaders that help them care for each other, too. He gives them pastors/elders to teach them God's Word and help them live it out. They comfort those who are scared and weak. They strengthen those who are struggling with sin. They pray for all. God gives each little church special leaders called deacons, too. Deacons help everyone to better care for each other's needs. They spend extra time finding out what people need and helping them get it.</p> <p>Jesus told God's people to love each other and take care of each other just as He has loved and taken care of them. If they do this, Jesus promised that others will see their love and know that they are God's people. They will praise God for how wonderful He is and want to become His people, too. We can become 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 do God's people promise to do for each other? <i>They promise to care for each other's needs.</i> 2. How do pastors/elders care for the needs of God's people? <i>They teach them God's Word. They comfort them when they are sad; they warn them when they are forgetting how to live as God's people. They give them guidance and pray for them. They help them love God and live for Him.</i> 3. What kinds of things do God's people share with each other when they gather together? <i>Happy things as well as sadnesses and troubles.</i> 4. Why do God's people share with each other? <i>To help each other and to pray for each other.</i> 5. What kinds of loving things do God's people do for each other? <i>They pray for each other; they share their money; they visit them when they are sick; they cheer them up when they are sad or lonely.</i> 6. What does God call deacons to do for God's people? <i>They help God's people to better care for each other's needs. They spend extra time finding out what people need and helping them get it.</i> 7. Who will see how wonderful God is when God's people care for each other well? <i>Everyone, even those who don't trust Jesus as their Savior yet.</i> 8. How can we become God's people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

P.2

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

THE GOSPEL What is God's good news for you and me? *The gospel. Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by taking care of each other's needs. God's people love to tell others the good news of Jesus. Why? Because the greatest need that all people have is for God to forgive their sins! You see, we all have chosen to turn away from God and disobey His good laws. We don't deserve His love or to be His people. We deserve His punishment instead. How sad! But God, in His great mercy, has provided us a way to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. How? Through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. On the cross, He chose to suffer and die, giving up His life as the full payment for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the grave. He had done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God's forgiveness. This is how they become God's people forever. God can help you do this, too! Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.*

BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE "A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." --John 13:34-35

Learn a Little: "Love one another. As I have loved you."

Meaning A commandment is a big rule God tells us to obey! What does Jesus command His people to do? To love one another like He has loved them! Wow! That's a lot of love! Only with God's help can God's people do that! But when they do, others will know that they really are God's people! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Discussion Questions

1. What is a commandment? *It is a big rule God tells us to obey.*
2. What did Jesus command His people to do? *To love one another as He had loved them.*
3. How is Jesus' love for God's people different from how they should love each other? *He was the one and only, perfect, Son of God, sent to suffer and die for their sins. He was their Savior. He doesn't mean that God's people can (or should) do this for each other.*
4. How is Jesus love for God's people the same as how they should love each other? *Jesus always loved others the way God's laws says to love. He always thought about what would be the best way to serve others. He was willing to put the needs of others first. God's people can also love others in these ways.*
5. What did Jesus say others would know, if God's people loved each other the way Jesus loved them? *Everyone would know that they were His disciples (His followers/God's people).*
6. Who must help God's people if they are to love each other as Jesus has loved them? *God must.... and He does, by His Holy Spirit living in their hearts.*
7. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE STORY **The Case of the Copycats**

Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples He was going to do on the cross? *He would die to pay for the sins of God's people. Then, on the third day, He would rise from the dead.*
2. Who did Jesus say He would send them to help them? *The Holy Spirit, to live inside their hearts. He would give them the courage and wisdom and power to do everything God wanted them to do.*
3. How did Jesus tell His followers that they should love each other? *They should love each other and care for each other, just as He had loved and cared for them.*
4. What did these believers do after Jesus rose from the dead? *They fellowshiped together, sharing stories about the amazing things God was doing. They ate the Lord's Supper together to remember His death. They prayed to God.*
5. What did the believers do after Jesus rose from the dead to love each other as Jesus loved them? *They helped each other love God and live for Him, by learning the Bible. They shared everything they had to care for each other's needs. They even sold their own things to get money to buy things for other Christians who need something.*
6. Who cared for the believers by preaching God's Word and helping them live it out? *Peter and the other disciples who had been with Jesus. They were the pastors/elders of this little church.*
7. Who cared for the believers by helping them make sure everyone's needs were taken care of? *Deacons, like Stephen and Philip.*
8. What did others think when they saw how the Christians loved each other? *They knew that these people must be followers of Jesus. They wanted to hear the good news of Jesus.*
9. What is the good news of Jesus? *That Jesus died for the sins of all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This is how we can become God's people!*