

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES

**Curriculum Resources
for Unit 15, Bible Truth 5:**



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

**By Baptizing People Who Trust in
and Live for Jesus!**

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, ESV

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet 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, ESV

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, HCSB

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, ESV

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, ESV

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, NIV 1984

➔ 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, ESV

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 25:6-9*
Bible Verse: Luke 22:19,20, ESV

Deep Down Detectives ESV 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: Stir Up Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV
- 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, HCSB
- 18 Extra Bible Verse: Shout with Joy to God Psalm 66:1-3,5,9,16, ESV
- 19 Extra Bible Verse: Make a Joyful Noise Psalm 100:1-6 ESV
- 20 Extra Bible Verse: Noise, Noise, Noise Psalm 100:1-4, ESV (other version)
- 21 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Is Fulfilled Mark 1:15, ESV
- 22 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Mark 1:15, ESV (other version)
- 23 Extra Bible Verse: How Beautiful Romans 10:13-15, ESV
- 24 Extra Bible Verse: Be My Witnesses Acts 1:8, ESV
- 25 Extra Bible Verse: All the Nations You Have Made Psalm 86:9, ESV
- 26 Extra Bible Verse: Behold a Great Multitude Revelation 7:9-10, ESV

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

- 27 Bible Verse: Devote Yourself 1 Timothy 4:13, ESV
- 28 Extra Bible Verse: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, ESV
- 29 Extra Bible Verse: Open My Eyes Psalm 119:18,72-73, ESV
- 30 Extra Bible Verse: I Have Stored Up Your Word Psalm 119:11,15-16, ESV
- 31 Extra Bible Verse: If Anyone Loves Me John 14:23, ESV

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

- 32 Bible Verse: A New Commandment John 13:34-35, ESV
- 33 Extra Bible Verse: There Are Different Kinds of Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4,12,27, NIV 1984
- 34 Extra Bible Verse: As Each Has Received a Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV
- 35 Extra Bible Verse: Gift, Gift, Gift 1 Peter 4:10-11, ESV (other version)
- 36 Extra Bible Verse: Encourage One Another 1 Thessalonians 5:11,13-15, ESV
- 37 Extra Bible Verse: Build One Another Up 1 Thessalonians 5:11,13-15, ESV
- 38 Extra Bible Verse: Let Us Hold Fast Hebrew 10:23-25, ESV
- 39 Extra Bible Verse: On the First Day of Every Week 1 Corinthians 16:2, HCSB
- 40 Extra Bible Verse: An Overseer Must Be Titus 1:6-9, ESV
- 41 Extra Bible Verse: Love 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13, ESV
- 42 Extra Bible Verse: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, ESV

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

- 43 Bible Verse: Pray, Pray, Pray Ephesians 6:18, HCSB
- 44 Extra Bible Verse: Take Up the Whole Armor Ephesians 6:13,16-18, ESV
- 45 Extra Bible Verse: Help Us 2 Corinthians 1:13, ESV

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

- 46 Bible Verse: Repent, Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:38-39, ESV
- 47 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Is Fulfilled Mark 1:15, ESV
- 48 Extra Bible Verse: The Time Mark 1:15, ESV (other version)

Bible Truth 6: By Remembering Jesus Died to Save Them

- 49 Bible Verse: This Is My Body Luke 22:19,20, ESV
- 50 Extra Bible Verse: He Took Bread Luke 22:19,20, HCSB

Big Question 15, Bible Truth 5 Overview: Key Concepts

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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: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together." Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV**Bible Truth 5 Concept: To Worship God and Love One Another... By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus!**

Jesus told His disciples to baptize everyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Him as their Savior. Baptism is a picture of the new life that begins when someone becomes a Christian. God has forgiven their sins and made them His people. God has filled their hearts with His Holy Spirit and made it new. They are leaving their old life behind and beginning a new life of living for Jesus.

Not just anyone gets baptized. Baptism is a big deal. The godly leaders at church want to make sure that the person being baptized really understands the good news of Jesus and what it means to live as one of God's people. Sometimes a person is ready to be baptized very soon. But sometimes, the leaders think it's best if the person has more time to make sure that they really understand the good news of Jesus and are ready to live it out. It may not feel good to be told to wait, but the leaders want to do what's best for this person and what's best for the church.

On baptism day, God's people gather together to watch, pray and celebrate. The person being baptized stands up and shares the story of how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior. He tells of his desire to live God's way and to gather together with God's people.

Then at last, it's baptism time! The new believer wades into the water with one of the pastors. The pastor holds onto the person as they lean back into the water for a few seconds. This is to remember that Jesus died and was buried for their sins. It's a picture that their old life of disobeying God is over. That life died with Jesus. Then, the pastor helps him/her come up out of the water. This reminds them that Jesus rose from the dead for them. He completely paid God's punishment for the sins. He has forgiven them once and for all. With God's help, they are beginning a new life of knowing, loving and obeying God. Often, everyone claps and cheers as the new believer comes up out of the water. They are so happy that someone else is telling the world that they are one of God's people and want to live for Him forever. We can become one of God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Acts 2:38, ESV

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Learn a Little: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."**Meaning:**

What a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and can become God's people forever. What do we have to do to receive this gift? Repent of our sins (that is, turning away from wanting to disobey God and live for Him instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to save all who come to Him like this! And what happens when someone does this? God hears his prayers and forgives him. God puts His Holy Spirit in their heart and they begin a whole new life with God.

God wants all who repent and believe in Jesus to be baptized as a special sign to everyone of what has happened inside their heart. Their old way of living is gone. They are forgiven! They are saved! And now they belong to God and live for Him! Have you ever been to a baptism?

We can become one of God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Question 15, Bible Truth 5 Overview: Key Concepts

p.2

Bible Truth 5 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church, through Jesus. He is why we can become Your people.
- C** God, we know that we can never become Your people on our own. We have all turned away from You and Your good ways. We need a Savior!
- T** God, thank You for providing the way for us to become Your people through Jesus. Thank You for giving a new life to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him. Thank You for giving us baptism to help us remember the new way of life You give to all who do this.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to one day be able to stand before God's people and tell the story of how You saved us. Help us to trust our leaders to know when we are ready to be baptized and when we need to still wait and grow. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 5 Story

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

Songs Used in Bible Truth 5

Big Q & A 15 Song

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

Big Question 15 Bible Verse Song: Stir Up Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV

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

Big Question 15 Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Repent, Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:38-39, ESV



Extra Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: The Time Is Fulfilled Mark 1:15, ESV

Extra Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: The Time Mark 1:15, ESV

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) ESV Songs 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Q & A 15 Song <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 12</i> Big Question 15 Song <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 13</i> Big Question 15 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stir Up Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 14</i> Big Question 15 Hymn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, v.1 <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 15</i> Big Question 15 Praise Song: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise the Lord Together <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 16</i> Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse Song: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repent, Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:38-39, ESV <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 46</i> Extra Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse Song: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Time Is Fulfilled Mark 1:15, ESV <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 47</i> Extra Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse Song: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Time Mark 1:15, ESV <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 48</i> <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: Slap, Clap and Stack Lesson 2 Game: Simon Says How Lesson 3 Game: Roll 'n' Toss</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 ESV Songs 15, track 1</i></p> <p>Let's gather together to worship God, Let's gather together to worship God, Let's gather together to worship God, Come gather here with me!</p>
<p>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 ESV 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 ESV 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 ESV 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 ESV 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, ESV 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

Big Q & A 15 Song

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

DDD ESV Songs 15, track 12

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

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><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 ESV 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

★ = 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, we've learned four truths about why God's people go to church. They are: "By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death," "By Learning from God's Word, the Bible," "By Caring for Each Other's Needs," and, "By Telling What God Has Done and Praying" (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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for ????!"

We're missing one word. Here's the hint to what the missing word is. It says: "What is the name of God's Son? It starts with a "J" and it rhymes with "sneezes." Can you guess? It's "Jesus."

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

Hint *(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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for JESUS!"

Bible Truth Meaning

★ And here is what this Bible Truth means: *(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)* Jesus told His disciples to baptize everyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Him as their Savior. Baptism is a picture of the new life that begins when someone becomes a Christian. God has forgiven their sins and made them His people. God has filled their hearts with His Holy Spirit and made it new. They are leaving their old life behind and beginning a new life of living for Jesus. Not just anyone gets baptized. Baptism is a big deal. The godly leaders at church want to make sure that the person being baptized really understands the good news of Jesus and what it means to live as one of God's people. Sometimes a person is ready to be baptized very soon. But sometimes, the leaders think it's best if the person has more time to make sure that they really understand the good news of Jesus and are ready to live it out. It may not feel good to be told to wait, but the leaders want to do what's best for this person and what's best for the church.

On baptism day, God's people gather together to watch, pray and celebrate. The person being baptized stands up and shares the story of how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior. He tells of his desire to live God's way and to gather together with God's people. Then at last, it's baptism time! The new believer wades into the water with one of the pastors. The pastor holds onto the person as they lean back into the water for a few seconds. This is to remember that Jesus died and was buried for their sins. It's a picture that their old life of disobeying God is over. That life died with Jesus. Then, the pastor helps him/her come up out of the water. This reminds them that Jesus rose from the dead for them. He completely paid God's punishment for the sins. He has forgiven them once and for all. With God's help, they are beginning a new life of knowing, loving and obeying God. Often, everyone claps and cheers as the new believer comes up out of the water. They are so happy that someone else is telling the world that they are one of God's people and want to live for Him forever. We can become one of God's people, too, 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

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 ESV 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 15.5 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, ESV 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:

Acts 2:38 tells us:

★ **Acts 2:38, ESV**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Learn a Little: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

Bible Verse Meaning


★ **What does that mean?**

What a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and can become God's people forever. What do we have to do to receive this gift? Repent of our sins (that is, turning away from wanting to disobey God and live for Him instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to save all who come to Him like this! And what happens when someone does this? God hears his prayers and forgives him. God puts His Holy Spirit in their heart and they begin a whole new life with God.

God wants all who repent and believe in Jesus to be baptized as a special sign to everyone of what has happened inside their heart. Their old way of living is gone. They are forgiven! They are saved! And now they belong to God and live for Him! Have you ever been to a baptism?

We can become one of God's people, too, 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:

*The Time Is Fulfilled
Mark 1:15, ESV
DDD ESV Songs 15,
track 47*

*The Time Mark 1:15, ESV
DDD ESV Songs 15,
track 48*

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

Repent, Repent and Be Baptized: Acts 2:38-39






DDD ESV Songs 15, track 46

Repent, repent and be baptized,
Ev'ry one of you,
In the name of Jesus Christ,
For forgiveness of your sins.
You will receive the Holy Spirit, the promise is for all,
For all the Lord our God calls,
For all the Lord calls.
Acts Two, thirty-eight and nine.

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, ESV</p>	<p><u>Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:</u> I need to find out: 1. What did Jesus tell new believers to do as a sign of their new life in God? 2. Why did they go up and down in the water when they did the special sign?</p>
<p>VISUAL AID</p> <p></p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, ESV</p>	<p><u>Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:</u> Our Bible Verse is Acts 2:38, ESV "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." I need to find out: 1. Who repented of their sins? How did their lives look different? 2. What did they do as a sign that their lives have changed?</p>
<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, ESV</p>	<p><u>Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:</u> I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story. They are: a banana, the Holy Spirit living in a heart, a Bible, water, a tree, and listeners. Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.</p> <p>I need to figure out: 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't? 2. What did the new believers confess to God? How did they ask him to help them live?</p>
<p>Tell the Bible Story</p> <p>Place story & pics in  take out  of BQB</p> <p>DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, ESV</p> <p>Story text included in this book right after this lesson plan and in Visual Aids book</p>	<p><i>Then say,</i> "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><i>Bible Story: The Case of the Unexpected Ending</i> <i>Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 24; John 20-21</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><i>As attention span and time allow, you might want to end with one of the following songs which also tie in with the unit. If desired, use the Music and Movement activity ideas while singing, listed with the Response Activities.</i></p>
<p>Hymn <i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>Brethren, We Have Met to Worship <i>DDD ESV 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</p>	<p>Praise Song: Praise the Lord Together <i>DDD ESV Songs 15, track 16</i></p>
<p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</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)*

<p>Transition to Activities</p>	<p>★ Well, Deep Down Detectives, you've done a great job diggin' deep down for answers in the truths of God's Word. Now it's time to enjoy some activities."</p> <p><i>Tell children what activity/s you are providing for them: either free play or some of the response activities listed below. When you are ready to dismiss them, use this song to help the children transition in an orderly fashion to their next activity.</i></p>
<p>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 ESV 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: Slap, Clap and Stack • Lesson 2 Game: Simon Says How • Lesson 3 Game: Roll 'n' Toss <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: Block Clappers • Lesson 2 Activity: Lullabies, Bells and Lions • Lesson 3 Activity: Musical Squares <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: Pony Express • Lesson 2 Game: Who's Inside? • Lesson 3 Game: Fix Up the Mix Up <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>★</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 ESV 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 ESV 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: #92d050; padding: 5px; width: 30px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">#1</div> <p><i>*found in DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, ESV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p> <p>Big Question 15, Bible Truth 5</p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #92d050; padding: 5px; width: 30px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">#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.) DDD ESV 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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus!</p> <p>"And how do I know this is true? Can you tell me?"</p> <p>Say it with me: "The Bible tells me so!" That's right!</p>
<p>Big Question 15 Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse</p> <p><i>VISUAL AID</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #92d050; padding: 5px; width: 30px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center; color: white; font-weight: bold;">#4</div> <p><i>*found in the DDD Unit 15 Visual Aids, ESV Book</i></p> <p><i>lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A</i></p>	<p>We learned: Acts 2:38, ESV</p> <p>"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."</p> <p>Learn a Little: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."</p> <p>What a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and can become God's people forever. What do we have to do to receive this gift? Repent of our sins (that is, turning away from wanting to disobey God and live for Him instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to save all who come to Him like this! And what happens when someone does this? God hears his prayers and forgives him. God puts His Holy Spirit in their heart and they begin a whole new life with God. God wants all who repent and believe in Jesus to be baptized as a special sign to everyone of what has happened inside their heart. Their old way of living is gone. They are forgiven! They are saved! And now they belong to God and live for Him! Have you ever been to a baptism? We can become one of God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. <i>(If desired, you can sing the Bible verse song.) DDD ESV Songs 15, track 46</i></p>

4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME, continued

<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>DDDESV 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, through Jesus. He is why we can become Your people.</p> <p>C God, we know that we can never become Your people on our own. We have all turned away from You and Your good ways. We need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, thank You for providing the way for us to become Your people through Jesus. Thank You for giving a new life to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him. Thank You for giving us baptism to help us remember the new way of life You give to all who do this.</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 one day be able to stand before God's people and tell the story of how You saved us. Help us to trust our leaders to know when we are ready to be baptized and when we need to still wait and grow. 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 Up and Down Sign*Matthew 28; Acts 1-2, 8:35-36, 10:47, 16:14-15,31-34*

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 Up and Down Sign. 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 did Jesus tell new believers to do as a sign of their new life in God?**
2. **Why did they go up and down in the water when they did the special sign?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Acts 2:38, ESV**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

I need to find out:

1. **Who repented of their sins? How did their lives look different?**
2. **What did they do as a sign that their lives have changed?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a banana, the Holy Spirit living in a heart, a Bible, water, a tree, and listeners.

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 the new believers confess to God? How did they ask him to help them live?**

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

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

“Wait, then go!” Jesus told His disciples. “WAIT in Jerusalem until you receive God’s Holy Spirit. He will live in your hearts and will give you the power to do everything God wants you to do,” Jesus told them. “Then, GO! Go into all the world, to all peoples, everywhere. Tell them about Me.” Jesus told His disciples.

“Tell them to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Me as their Savior. Teach them everything I’ve taught you. Baptize these new believers. This tells everyone that they are God’s people and My disciples. They are choosing to turn away from their old life and now live to please God, instead,” Jesus said. “You won’t see me anymore. I’m going to heaven now,” Jesus told His disciples. “But I still will be with you always until I return to earth, at the end of time,” He promised.

And that’s just what happened. Jesus went up, up, up to heaven, and His disciples went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit.

And wait, they did. One day, two days, three days, a week, even nine days! Still no Holy Spirit! Would He ever come? Had Jesus forgotten His promise?

What do you think?

NO, Jesus had not forgotten. YES, the Holy Spirit would come. He was waiting for the perfect time: DAY 10, the Day of Pentecost. Suddenly, “Whoosh,” there was a sound like a great wind in the room. Then, “Sparkle, sparkle,” something that looked like flames of fire appeared over their heads. After this grand announcement, the Holy Spirit came quietly to live in the hearts of all the believers who gathered together that day.

The Holy Spirit might have come quietly, but He came powerfully, too! He gave the believers strength and courage and wisdom to do everything God wanted them to do.

The believers had waited. The Holy Spirit had come. Now what it was time to do? Can you remember what Jesus told them to do?

Can you remember?

Now it was time to GO!

But, go WHERE?

Can you remember?

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

Jesus told them to go to the whole world. And WHAT were they to take to the whole world? Can you tell me what their special message was?

Can you tell me?

The good news of JESUS!

So, that's what they did, starting right there in Jerusalem. "Jesus is God's Son, come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," Peter told a huge crowd in Jerusalem. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior!" he urged them. "Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him."

The Holy Spirit helped Peter tell the good news of Jesus that day. The Spirit worked in the hearts of the listeners, too. Many people heard and believed. The Bible tells us about 3000 of them became God's people that one day! How wonderful!

When someone becomes one of God's people, God works BIG changes in them. There's a change of heart on the INSIDE, and a change of life on the OUTSIDE. They are like brand-new people. Jesus gave God's people a special sign as a picture of this new beginning. Can you remember what it is?

Can you remember?

It's baptism. One by one, Peter led these new believers into the water to be baptized. "I baptize you in the name of God, the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit," he told each person. Then, Peter carefully lowered each down into the water. Down they went, as a picture of their old life gone and their sins forgiven, taken away by Jesus when He died on the cross and was buried in a grave. Then a moment later, Peter lifted them back up out of the water. Up they came, as a picture of their new life for God begun. A new life given to them by Jesus, who rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for them. Now, they would get to live forever with God!

Baptism was a big step for these believers. No, it didn't save them from their sins, or make them God's people. God saves all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, whether they are baptized or not. But, baptism WAS a very BIG sign. It told everyone: "They will show you what Jesus is like and how God wants us to live, loving Him and loving one another!"

And others certainly did watch these new believers and all these baptisms. Enemies watched and were angry. But many others watched, and when they saw the changed lives of these new believers, they wanted to hear about Jesus, too.

Baptism was a sign of another very happy gift from God: the gift of a new family. God had made these new believers a part of His family, the Church. Now, they were God's children, and all the other believers were their new, adopted brothers and sisters through Jesus. They gathered all together, listening to preaching from God's Word and learning how to live as God's people. They praised God and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in Jerusalem was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!

But Jerusalem was just the beginning of the "Go" Jesus had given them. Where else did Jesus tell them to go and make disciples?

Can you tell me?

To the WHOLE WORLD! So, away they went!

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

Philip went to the land of Samaria, just outside of Israel. The Holy Spirit helped him tell them the good news of Jesus: "Jesus is God's Son, come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," Philip told the people of Samaria. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him," he urged them.

The Holy Spirit helped Philip tell the good news of Jesus that day, and He worked in the hearts of the listeners, too. Many turned away from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior and were baptized.

Philip gathered them together into a new, little church of believers. They listened to Philip preach God's Word, and they learned how to live as God's people. They praised God together and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in Samaria was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!

But Samaria wasn't the ends of the earth. It was only the land next door to Israel. There were many more people, in many other places, who needed to hear the good news of Jesus, too.

So, away went Paul and Barnabas, Timothy and Titus, over the mountains and across the sea, to tell these people. "Jesus is God's Son, come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," they told all who would listen. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him," they urged everyone.

The Holy Spirit helped these men tell the good news of Jesus, and who else was He helping at the same time?

Can you guess?

The Holy Spirit was helping the people listening, too. He gave them the gift of faith to hear and believe.

They turned away from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and THEN what did they do?

Can you tell me?

They were baptized! Then, Paul and Barnabas, Timothy and Titus gathered together these new believers into little churches. The believers listened to these pastors preach God's Word, and they learned how to live as God's people. They praised God together and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the church in these faraway places was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!

Many years have passed since Jesus sent out those first Christians to share the gospel with the world. But sadly, there are still so many people, in so many places, who have never about Jesus.

And that's why Christians today are still obeying Jesus' command to go. That's why they are still telling people to turn away from disobeying God and to trust in Jesus as their Savior. And, they are still baptizing all who do, as a sign that they have been forgiven by God and are living a new life for Him.

And Christians will keep on going, and telling, and baptizing new believers until the Church has finished growing and Jesus comes back. Then, at last, all of God's people will be gathered all together, as one, big family, to live with God forever. What a wonderful day that will be!

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 did Jesus tell new believers to do as a sign of their new life in God? To be baptized.

2. Why did they go up and down in the water when they did the special sign? They went down in the water to remember that their sins had been buried down in the grave with Jesus. They went up, out of the water to remember that God had forgiven their sins and was giving them new life with Jesus who rose up from the dead. Jesus had beaten sin and death for them!

For You and Me:

When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, a day will come when we, too, will be baptized. It will be a wonderful day of showing that we are turning from our old life of living for ourselves and have begun a new life of living for God, by the help of His Holy Spirit.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Acts 2:38, ESV**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

1. Who repented of their sins? How did their lives look different? The new believers repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit lived inside of them. He helped them to love God and live for Him, instead of living their old way.

2. What did they do as a sign that their lives had changed? They were baptized so the world could know they were choosing to live as followers of Jesus.

For You and Me:

When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, a day will come when we, too, will be baptized. It will be a wonderful day of showing that we are turning from our old life of living for ourselves and have begun a new life of living for God, by the help of His Holy Spirit.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a banana, sin in a heart, a Bible, water, a tree, and listeners.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The Holy Spirit living in a heart, the Bible, the water and the listeners belong. The banana and the tree do not.

2.. What did the new believers confess to God? How did they ask Him to help them live? They confess their sins to God. They asked God to help them love Him and live for Him now.

For You and Me:

When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, a day will come when we, too, will be baptized. It will be a wonderful day of showing that we are turning from our old life of living for ourselves and have begun a new life of living for God, by the help of His Holy Spirit.

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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by baptizing people who trust and live for Jesus!

It is a very special day when one of God's people is baptized. It's a special time that show to others that they have turned away from their sins and have trusted Jesus as their Savior. Their baptism is a sign to the world that their old way of life is gone. They are living for Jesus now. How do we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. He will fill you with His Holy Spirit and you will know Him in your heart. There will come a special day when you get to be baptized and share with the church the story of how God worked in your life and saved you! But even better than that day, will be the day when you leave this life behind and go to live with God forever! That will be best of all! 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 saving Your people, the Church, through Jesus. He is why we can become Your people.
- C** God, we know that we can never become Your people on our own. We have all turned away from You and Your good ways. We need a Savior!
- T** God, thank You for providing the way for us to become Your people through Jesus. Thank You for giving a new life to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him. Thank You for giving us baptism to help us remember the new way of life You give to all who do this.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to one day be able to stand before God's people and tell the story of how You saved us. Help us to trust our leaders to know when we are ready to be baptized and when we need to still wait and grow.

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.

BIG QUESTION

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

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!

Discussion Questions

1. Why do God's people go to church? *To worship God and love one another.*
2. What is the name of God's people meeting together? *A church.*
3. Where do churches meet? *Sometimes in buildings, sometimes in homes, sometimes outside.*
4. Who do God's people worship when they meet together? *God.*
5. What kinds of things do they worship about God? *He is the one, true God. He is their Savior.*
6. What kinds of things do they do when they meet together? *Sing and pray; listen to the Bible and learn how to obey it; love each other.*
7. Who promises to be with God's people in a special way when they gather together? *Jesus.*

BIBLE TRUTH

To Worship God and Love One Another... By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus!

Meaning

Jesus told His disciples to baptize everyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Him as their Savior. Baptism is a picture of the new life that begins when someone becomes a Christian. God has forgiven their sins and made them His people. God has filled their hearts with His Holy Spirit and made it new. They are leaving their old life behind and beginning a new life of living for Jesus.

Not just anyone gets baptized. Baptism is a big deal. The godly leaders at church want to make sure that the person being baptized really understands the good news of Jesus and what it means to live as one of God's people. Sometimes a person is ready to be baptized very soon. But sometimes, the leaders think it's best if the person has more time to make sure that they really understand the good news of Jesus and are ready to live it out. It may not feel good to be told to wait, but the leaders want to do what's best for this person and what's best for the church.

On baptism day, God's people gather together to watch, pray and celebrate. The person being baptized stands up and shares the story of how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior. He tells of his desire to live God's way and to gather together with God's people. Then at last, it's baptism time! The new believer wades into the water with one of the pastors. The pastor holds onto the person as they lean back into the water for a few seconds. This is to remember that Jesus died and was buried for their sins. It's a picture that their old life of disobeying God is over. That life died with Jesus. Then, the pastor helps him/her come up out of the water. This reminds them that Jesus rose from the dead for them. He completely paid God's punishment for the sins. He has forgiven them once and for all. With God's help, they are beginning a new life of knowing, loving and obeying God. Often, everyone claps and cheers as the new believer comes up out of the water. They are so happy that someone else is telling the world that they are one of God's people and want to live for Him forever.

Discussion Questions

choose a few

1. Who did Jesus tell His disciples to baptize? *All who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
2. What is baptism a picture of? *The new life that begins when someone becomes a Christian.*
3. What is going down in the water a picture of? *Remembering that Jesus died and was buried for their sins; and, that their old life of disobeying God is over.*
4. What is coming up out of the water a picture of? *Remembering that Jesus rose from the dead and beat death for them; and, that their new life as one of God's people has begun.*
5. Why do God's people like baptisms? *They get to hear the story how someone began a Christian; and, because they are happy that someone else has become one of God's people.*
6. What story do God's people tell before they are baptized? *They tell the story of how they heard the good news of Jesus and were saved.*
7. Why are some people asked to wait before they are baptized? *To give them more time to understand what it means to be a Christian and to make sure they are really ready to live for God. It is a very big deal to be baptized.*
8. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

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 baptizing people who trust and live for Jesus! Baptism is a sign Jesus gave us to show that we have turned away from our sins and trusted in Him as our Savior. It's a sign that we now live our whole life to love God and live for Him. Why do we need a sign like that? Because all of us have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We all deserve His punishment, not to be His people. We need Him to forgive us and change us, if we are ever to be His people and live for Him. What did God do so we can be forgiven and change? He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. 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. If you turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, God will make you one of His dearly-loved people! He will fill you with His Holy Spirit and you will know Him in your heart. There will come a special day when you get to be baptized and share with the church the story of how God worked in your life and saved you! But even better than that day, will be the day when you leave this life behind and go to live with God forever! That will be best of all! God can help you do this, too! Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.*

**BIBLE TRUTH
BIBLE VERSE**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."
-- Acts 2:38, ESV

Meaning

Learn a Little: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."
What a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and can become God's people forever. What do we have to do to receive this gift? Repent of our sins (that is, turning away from wanting to disobey God and live for Him instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to save all who come to Him like this! And what happens when someone does this? God hears his prayers and forgives him. God puts His Holy Spirit in their heart and they begin a whole new life with God. God wants all who repent and believe in Jesus to be baptized as a special sign to everyone of what has happened inside their heart. Their old way of living is gone. They are forgiven! They are saved! And now they belong to God and live for Him! Have you ever been to a baptism? We can become one of God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**Discussion
Questions**

choose a few

1. What does "repent" mean? *It means to turn away from your sins.*
2. Who do God's people trust in as their Savior? *Jesus.*
3. What does God do when repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior? *He forgives our sins and makes us His people.*
4. What did Jesus want God's people to do to show everyone that they were beginning to live a new life for God? *To be baptized.*
5. What happens when someone is baptized? *They stand up before the church and tell how they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. They promise to live a new life for God. They go down in the water with the pastor. He gently puts them in the water, then brings them back up. It is a sign that their old life is gone. Now they are living a new life for God.*
6. How can we become one of God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE STORY

The Case of the Up and Down Sign

**Discussion
Questions**

choose a few

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do before He went up to heaven? *To wait, then go.*
2. What were they supposed to wait for? *For the Holy Spirit to come and live inside their hearts. He would give them the power and wisdom and courage to do everything Jesus told them to do.*
3. Where were they supposed to go? *To all parts of the world, telling people the good news of Jesus and teaching them how to live as God's people. They were to baptize the people who did this, showing that they had turned away from their old life and had begun a new life as God's dearly loved people.*
4. Who did they baptize? *Those who had turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.*
5. What new life did the believers promise to live with the help of God's Holy Spirit? *A life lived out for God.*
6. Where did the disciples go? *They started in their own city, Jerusalem; then, they went to the land of their enemies who lived next to them; then, they went to other faraway places. Everywhere they went, they told the good news of Jesus, taught people how to live as God's people and baptized all who turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.*
7. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, there will come a special day when we are baptized, too!*