

BIG QUESTION 13



What Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?



ANSWER:

It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB

The Big Question

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 13:

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
and the Answer is:
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Meaning:

All people enjoy many good things and suffer many bad or sad things in this world. Enjoying good things or going through bad things make some people turn away from God. They love the good things too much or get mad at God for the bad things that happen.

But that's not what happens with God's people. They have put their trust in Jesus. They want to love God most of all, even more than the good things they enjoy. They trust God and His good plans, even as they go through bad or sad things.

What makes the difference? It's God and His sustaining grace! That is, His gifts of strength to help us keep on believing in Him and living for Him. God will always give His people what they need! He wants them to depend on Him and He loves for them to ask for His help. He will never fail them. God will help you like this, too, if you turn away from your sins and put your trust in Jesus.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 13 Song

*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 12
(adapted version of "This Old Man")*

Why do God's people keep
believing in God?
And why do God's people
keep living for Him?
Because God sustains them,
yes, God alone,
That's why God's people keep
believing in God.

BIG QUESTION 13: Six truths about God's sustaining grace



This Unit's Bible Truths

"It Is God's Sustaining Grace" 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 God's sustaining grace.

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.

After everyone has had a good look say...

"Ok, now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these six truths we will be learning about today. Who would like to get it out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH I:
Why Do God's People
Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining
Grace...

God ???? sustains
His people!

HINT: "This word means God only
sustains His people. It starts with
an "A" and it rhymes with "bone."

ANSWER:
God ALONE sustains His people!

GOD



Visual
Aid
#3
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB

Revealing the Bible Truth We Are Learning

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 Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God’s Sustaining Grace!
God ???? Sustains His People!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word means God only sustains His people. It starts with an “A” and it rhymes with “bone.”

Can you guess? It’s “alone.”

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 Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God’s Sustaining Grace!
God ALONE Sustains His People!”**

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

God is the Creator of all things, but He is also the Sustainer of all things. That means He’s the one who alone keeps everything working according to His perfect purposes. That includes the stars and the planets, the rocks and the plants, the birds, the fish, the animals, and people. Absolutely everything!

God created people with something special inside their bodies: a spirit to know and love Him. We depend upon Him to sustain both our bodies and our spirits. He’s the one who works in our heart to turn us away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God’s people. He’s the one who gives His people new hearts filled with the Holy Spirit so that they love Him and live for Him. He helps them to keep fighting sin inside their hearts and to faithfully endure the sufferings they face.

Without God’s sustaining power, God’s people know they would never be able to know God or keep on following Him. They depend upon Him to sustain their love and obedience to Him all the days of their lives. They are so grateful that they don’t have to depend upon themselves but have His unfailing promise to help them do this. We can become God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling
and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,
to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

-- Jude 1:24-25



Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse in

DDD
Bible™

take out

? Big
Question
Briefcase

of BQB

Bible Truth | Bible Verse

Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

Jude 1:24-25 tells us:

Jude 1:24-25

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

Learn a Little

"Now to [God] who is able to keep you and present you blameless be glory, forever. Amen."

What does that mean?

We stumble when we trip over a rock or our shoelaces. We have to catch ourselves before we fall down and get hurt. This is how our bodies stumble. But did you know we can stumble inside our heart, too? Our heart stumbles when we are tempted to stop trusting in God or obeying His Word. The sin in our heart makes it easy to stumble.

God's people don't want to stumble in their hearts. They don't want sin to keep them from loving God and living for Him. They know they can't keep themselves from stumbling, but they know that God can. He promises to help them. He promises that all their sins are forgiven through Jesus. He promises to keep on sustaining their love for Him their whole lives. They know that because of God's promise to sustain them, that one day they will come into their His presence and praise His name forever. God was the one who took away their sins. He was the one who helped them every day of their lives! And they will go on praising Him and thanking Him forever. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"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?"

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

To Him Who Is Able:

Jude 1:24-25

DDD NIV Songs 13, track 18

To him, to him,
Who is able to keep you from falling,
from falling,
To present you before His
glorious presence without fault,
With great joy,
To the only God our Savior,
To the only God our Savior,
Be glory, majesty, power and authority,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Before all ages, now and forevermore.
Amen, amen, amen.
Jude Chapter One, verses twenty-four
and five.

"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?"

"The Case of the Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News" Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was the impossible, big, bad, SCARY news?
2. Who turned this bad news into amazing, good news each time?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Jude 1:24, 25, NIV

"Now to [God] who is able to keep you and present you blameless be glory, forever. Amen."

1. Who helped the people of Israel when they stumbled in their faith, fearing Pharaoh and his soldiers?
2. How did He help them?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at praisefactory.org)



I. Bad news, bad news! There was bad news in Canaan for Jacob's family! No rain fell from the sky. The rivers dried up. Their animals and crops were dying. If they didn't find food and water soon, they would die, too. What could they do? Where could they go? They needed help. Big help!

THE LORD



2. This may have been impossible, big, bad, SCARY news, but Jacob's family didn't need to be afraid. They might not see any way out, but that didn't matter. The LORD was their God. He had made them His people. And if there's one thing the LORD promises to do for His people, it's to take care of them. He will always save and sustain them. He will take care of their needs and grow their trust in Him. He will help them keep on believing in Him and living for Him. And He didn't even need anyone's help to do it. The LORD can even take impossible, big, bad, SCARY news and make it into amazing, good news, and sure enough, that's just what He was about to do!



3. Good news! Good news! There was food in nearby Egypt! And WHO had been put in charge of giving out the food? Joseph, one of Jacob's sons! God had planned for Joseph to be in Egypt ahead of time, so everything would be ready for Jacob's family when the food and water ran out in Canaan.



4. So, Jacob gathered up his family, packed his things, and went to live in Egypt. Joseph picked a beautiful place near the River Nile for Jacob's family to live. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, himself, welcomed Jacob to his land and made sure Jacob and his family had everything they needed.



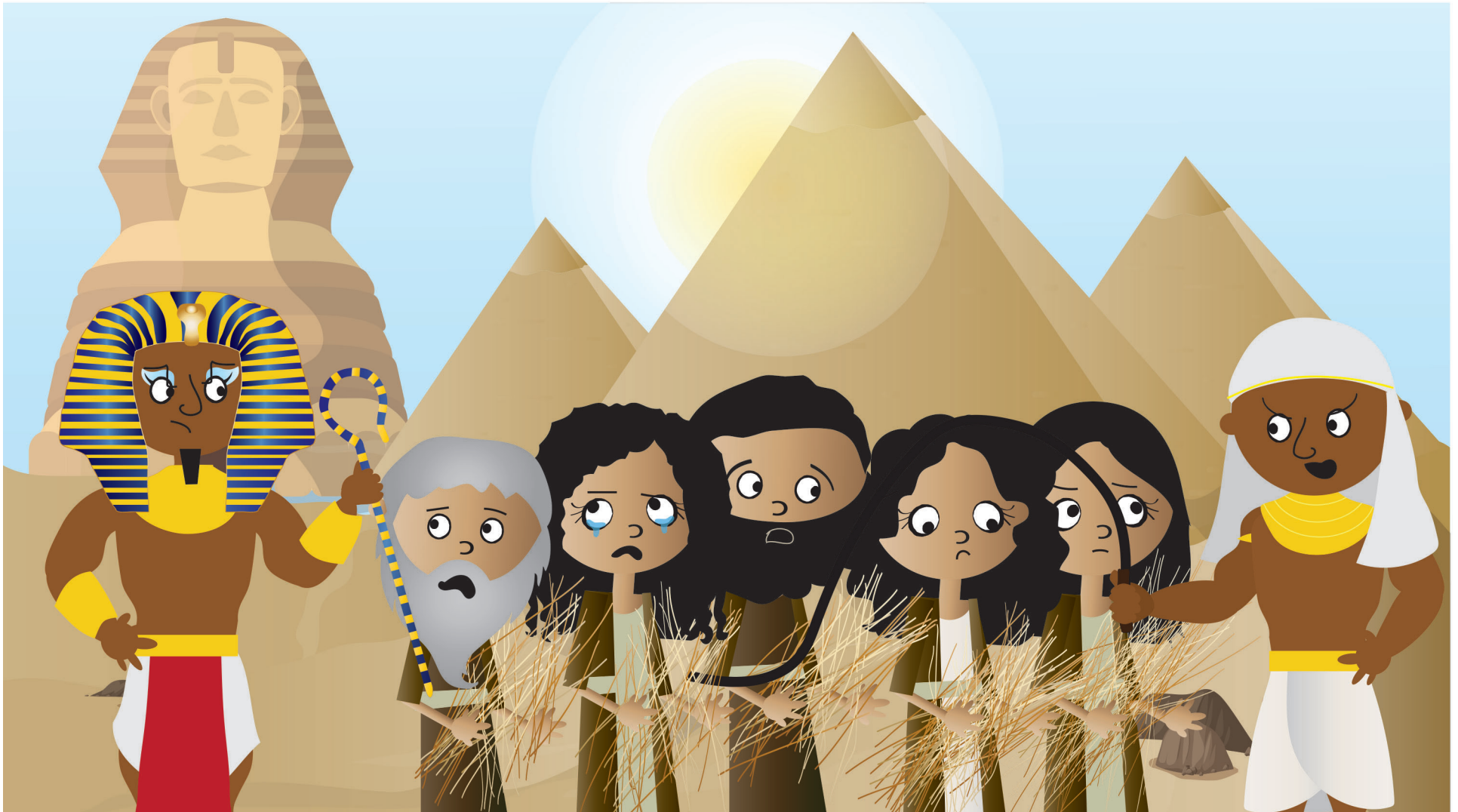
5. Jacob praised God for taking care of them. How good it was to be with Joseph again! How good it was to have plenty of food and water! How good it was to have a beautiful place to live! God had taken their impossible, bad news and turned it into amazing, good news. He always sustains His people. He gave them faith for their hearts and food for their bodies. God, alone, had provided.



6. Life was happy in Egypt for quite some time. Instead of going home to Canaan when the drought was over, Jacob's family decided to stay in Egypt. Many years passed. Jacob's family grew and grew. They had come from Canaan as just a little family. Now, there were hundreds and thousands of them! No one called them Jacob's "family" anymore. Now, they were called a "people": the people of Israel. (Israel was a special name God gave Jacob).

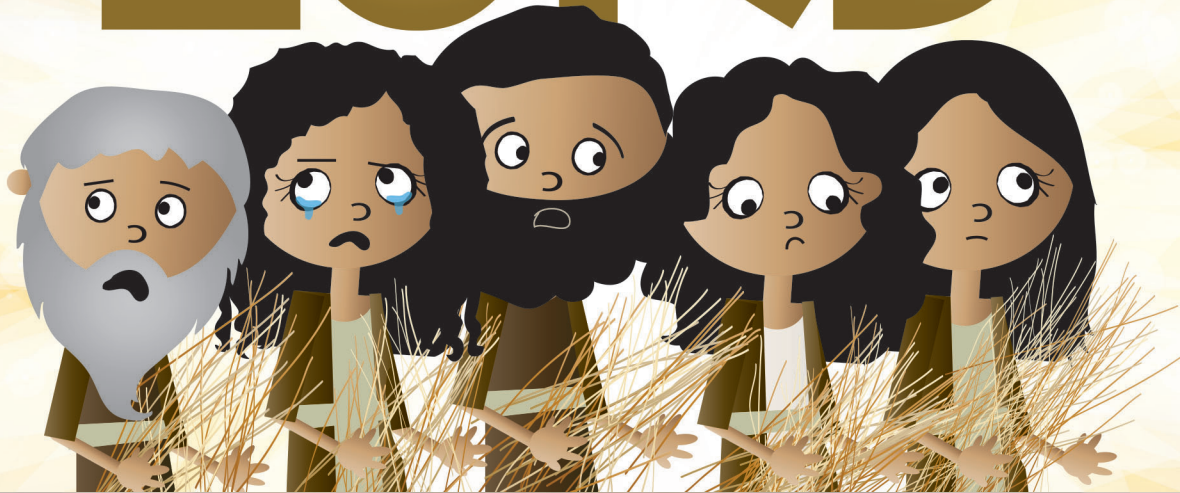


7. The people of Egypt saw how big Jacob's family had grown and they were worried. Joseph and Jacob were long gone and forgotten. So was the Pharaoh who was good to his family. A new Pharaoh was king now. He had big plans to make big buildings. It would take a lot of people to build them, and he knew just who to use –the people of Israel.



8. Bad news, bad news! The new king didn't ASK the people of Israel to help build his new buildings. He MADE them do it! He took over their lives. He said he owned them and could make them do whatever he wanted them to do. He FORCED them to build his buildings. He made them work so hard and without any pay at all. He treated them so badly! Life in Egypt wasn't good for the people of Israel anymore. Oh, how they wanted to go home to Canaan, but how could they? The king would never let them go. This was bad news! Impossible, big, bad, SCARY news!

THE LORD



9. But the people of Israel didn't need to be afraid. They might not see any way out, but that didn't matter. The LORD was their God. He had made them His people. And if there's one thing the LORD promises to do for His people, it's to take care of them. He will always save and sustain them. He will take care of their needs and grow their trust in Him. He will help them keep on believing in Him and living for Him. And He didn't even need anyone's help to do it. The LORD can even take impossible, big, bad, SCARY news and make it into amazing, good news, and sure enough, that's just what He was about to do!



10. Good news! Good news! The LORD sent Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh. "The LORD says, 'Let My people go!' they demanded. What would the king do? Would he let the people of Israel go free? "No, the people can't go," the king said, at first. But the LORD wasn't finished.



II. The LORD sent frogs and gnats and hail and sicknesses and many other sadnesses upon the king and his people. And then, he changed his mind.



12. "Go away! Leave us alone," Pharaoh ordered. "The people of Israel are free to go. Make your God stop sending sadnesses upon us!" he told Moses. "Hooray, hooray! Praise the LORD!" Moses and the people shouted. They packed their things, gathered their families, and marched out of Egypt.



13. Across the desert, Moses led the people, “Tromp, tromp, tromp.” They camped along the shores of the Red Sea. How good it was to be free! How good it was to be going home! The LORD had taken their impossible, big, bad, SCARY news and made it into amazing, good news. He always sustains His people. He, alone!



14. But what was that noise in the middle of the night? It was the sound of hundreds of rolling wheels, hundreds of horses neighing, and hundreds of soldiers shouting. Oh, no! It was Pharaoh's army! The king had changed his mind. He wanted his slaves back. He ordered an army of soldiers on chariots to capture them and bring them back to Egypt!



15. Bad news bad news! The word spread through the camp. "The Pharaoh's soldiers are coming! "Oh no! Where could they go? How could they escape? The Red Sea was on one side and the soldiers were on the other. They were stuck!

THE LORD



16. But the people of Israel didn't need to be afraid! They might not see any way out, but that didn't matter. The LORD was their God. He had made them His people. And if there's one thing the LORD promises to do for His people, it's to take care of them. He will always save and sustain them. He will take care of their needs and grow their trust in Him. He will help them keep on believing in Him and living for Him. And He didn't even need anyone's help to do it. The LORD can even take impossible, big, bad, SCARY news and make it into amazing, good news, and sure enough, that's just what He was about to do!



17. "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the LORD rescue you," Moses told the people. "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still and watch."



18. Then, at the LORD's command, Moses raised up his shepherd's staff and stretched it out towards the Red Sea. "Whoosh," the LORD sent a strong, east wind. It blew and blew and blew on the water of the Red Sea. And as it blew, something amazing happened. Can you guess what it was?



19. Good news! Good news! The people watched the wind split apart the waters of the sea, making two, huge, watery walls. Taller and taller the walls grew, and in between them, the seabed dried up into a sandy path. The LORD had made a way of escape for His people, and they took it. How amazing it must have been to cross through the Red Sea between those big walls of water!



20. Pharaoh's soldiers saw what the LORD had done. They watched the people of Israel escape through the middle of the sea on dry land. What would they do now? Would they fear the mighty God who had done this amazing thing and stop chasing His people? Or, would they reject Him and keep going after them?



21. The soldiers did NOT fear the LORD, and they most certainly DID follow! Across the sandy beach and onto the dry path between those great, watery walls, those soldiers rode their chariots. But it was no use! The LORD had made that path for His people, not for their enemies. As the sun rose in the east, and the last of God's people had crossed safely to the far side of the sea, the LORD ordered the waves back in place. Pharaoh's soldiers on their chariots were all swept away.



22. On the banks of the Red Sea that morning, Moses and Miriam and all the people of Israel sang their praises to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD! He is my strength and my Savior. He is my God and I will praise him! He has gotten rid of our enemies. He swept them away in the sea. His love for His people will never fail. He rules over everything forever and ever." And they were right! The LORD was the one, true God. He would always be with His people and always help them. He would take care of their needs. They could always trust Him.



23. It would be many more years before the people of Israel were to make it all the way back home to Canaan. They were to face many more “bad news” days. But no matter what the impossible, big, bad, SCARY news was, can you guess what the LORD always did for His people? The LORD always took care of them and gave them amazing, good news. He always saved them and sustained them. He took care of their needs and grew their trust in Him. He helped them keep on believing in Him and living for Him. And He didn’t even need anyone’s help to do it! Yes, the LORD always sustained them and got them all the way home! The LORD, and the LORD alone.

"The Case of the Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News" Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was the impossible, big, bad, SCARY news? Jacob and the people of Israel faced many problems that were too big for them: no food to eat because there was no rain; then, no way to get free from the mighty Pharaoh and his soldiers.

2. Who turned this bad news into amazing, good news each time? The LORD did! He always helped His people and took care of their needs. They could always trust in Him.

For You and Me:

There may be times in our lives when we get impossible, big, bad, SCARY news. There may be times when there seems to be no way out of trouble. But with the LORD, there is always a way out. He always is at work, helping His people. He always will give them what they need. He will always help them to keep on loving Him and living for Him. We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we can know that the LORD will always sustain us. He will always give us what we need. He will always help us to keep on loving Him and living for Him. Thank You, God! Help us to trust in You today!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Jude 1:24, 25, NIV

"Now to [God] who is able to keep you and present you blameless be glory, forever. Amen."

1. Who helped the people of Israel when they stumbled in their faith, fearing Pharaoh and his soldiers? The LORD did!

2. How did He help them? He took care of their needs and rescued them. He gave them faith to trust Him and obey Him, even though they were afraid.

For You and Me:

There may be times in our lives when we get impossible, big, bad, SCARY news. There may be times when there seems to be no way out of trouble. But with the LORD, there is always a way out. He always is at work, helping His people. He always will give them what they need. He will always help them to keep on loving Him and living for Him. We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we can know that the LORD will always sustain us. He will always give us what we need. He will always help us to keep on loving Him and living for Him. Thank You, God! Help us to trust in You today!

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace...
God Alone Sustains His People!

The Gospel



Oh, how we need God to help us to keep believing in Him! We are all sinners who have chosen to disobey God. The beautiful heart that God put inside of us to know and love Him is broken.

That's why God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, then He offered it up as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. Jesus didn't stay dead! On Day Three, He rose from the dead in victory. He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be God's people. God forgives their sins and puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts.

He gives them new hearts that know Him and want to love Him. This is how we can become God's people, too. And the wonderful news is that all who do become God's people will always be God's people! He will keep on helping them to love Him and live for Him the rest of their lives.

Thank You, LORD!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Sustainer of all things. You keep everything going according to Your perfect plans.

C We confess that many times we doubt that You really will sustain us through hard times. We act like You won't be faithful to us. We need a Savior!

T God, thank You for Your promises to always sustain Your people, so that they will keep loving and obeying You all their lives.

S God, please sustain us. Work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You. Each day, give us what we need to love You and live for You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

