

Unit 13: The God Who Sustains

Unit Big Question (and Answer): Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Unit Bible Verse: "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."

--Psalm 55:22

Bible Truth 1 Concept: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... God Alone Sustains His People

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.

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 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."

Meaning

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.

Bible Truth 1 ACTS 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. Give us what we need each day to love You and live for You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 1 Story**The Case of the Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News**

Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15

Songs Used in Bible Truth 1

Big Q & A 13 Song

Big Question 13 Song: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?

Big Question 13 Bible Verse Song: Cast Your Cares on the LORD Psalm 55:22, NIV 1984

Big Question 13 Extra Bible Verse Song: The LORD Your God Is with You Zephaniah 3:17, NIV 1984

Big Question 13 Hymn: Jesus Paid It All, v.1

Big Question 13 Praise Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: To Him Who Is Able Jude 1:24-25, NIV 1984

Extra Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Jude Doxology Jude 1:24-25, NIV 1984

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

The Case of the Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News*Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15***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 Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News. 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 was the impossible, big, bad, SCARY news?**
- 2. Who turned this bad news into amazing, good news each time?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 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.”

I need to find out:

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

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

Our six clues were: a wall of water; a chariot; a watermelon; Moses; a feather; and, dead plants. *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. Who praised the LORD for rescuing them from their enemies?**

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 Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News *Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15*

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

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!

Wow! Do you think anyone could help them?

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!

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.

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.

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.

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. And as the years passed, Jacob's family grew and 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).

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.

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

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!

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!

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.

What do you think?

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. "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. 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!

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!

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!

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!

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

“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.”

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 to the water. Can you guess what it was?

Can you guess?

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!

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?

What do you think they did?

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.

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.

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?

Can you guess?

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.

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 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 Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 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."

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. We may want to stumble in fear, like the people of Israel did. 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, even when we feel like stumbling in fear. Thank You, God! Help us to trust in You today!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a wall of water; a chariot; a watermelon; Moses; a feather; and, dead plants.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The wall of water, the chariot; Moses; and, the dead plants belong. The watermelon and the feather do not belong.

2. Who praised the LORD for rescuing them from their enemies? The people of Israel did.

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!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?****It Is God's Sustaining Grace...****God Alone Sustains His People!**

The people of Israel saw the LORD save them from their enemies over and over. He took care of their needs and grew their trust in Him. But the biggest enemy the people of Israel faced was not the mean king of Egypt or his army of soldiers. Their biggest enemy was in their hearts. It was choosing to not trust in the LORD or obey His good laws. It was sin! The sin in their hearts deserved God's punishment. It meant they deserved to not be God's people at all. Now this really was impossible, big, bad, SCARY news! But the LORD provided a rescue from their sin, too. How? By sending His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and to offer it up on the cross as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. Through Jesus, God provided the way for them to be saved... and for us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer! *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS 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. Give us what we need each day to love You and live for You.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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