

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, we've learned one truth about how God sustains His people. It's this one: "God Alone Sustains His People." (point to picture as you identify the 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.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 2:

Why Do God's People Keep
Believing in Him?

It Is God's Sustaining Grace...

God, the ????, promises to
help His people!

HINT: "This word is another word
for Dad. It starts with an "F"
and it rhymes with "bother."

Please God,
HELP!



ANSWER:

God, the FATHER, promises to help His people!

Visual Take out
Aid



#3

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, the ????, Promises to Help His People!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “Another word for Dad. It starts with an “F” and it rhymes with “bother.”

Can you guess? It’s “Father.”

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

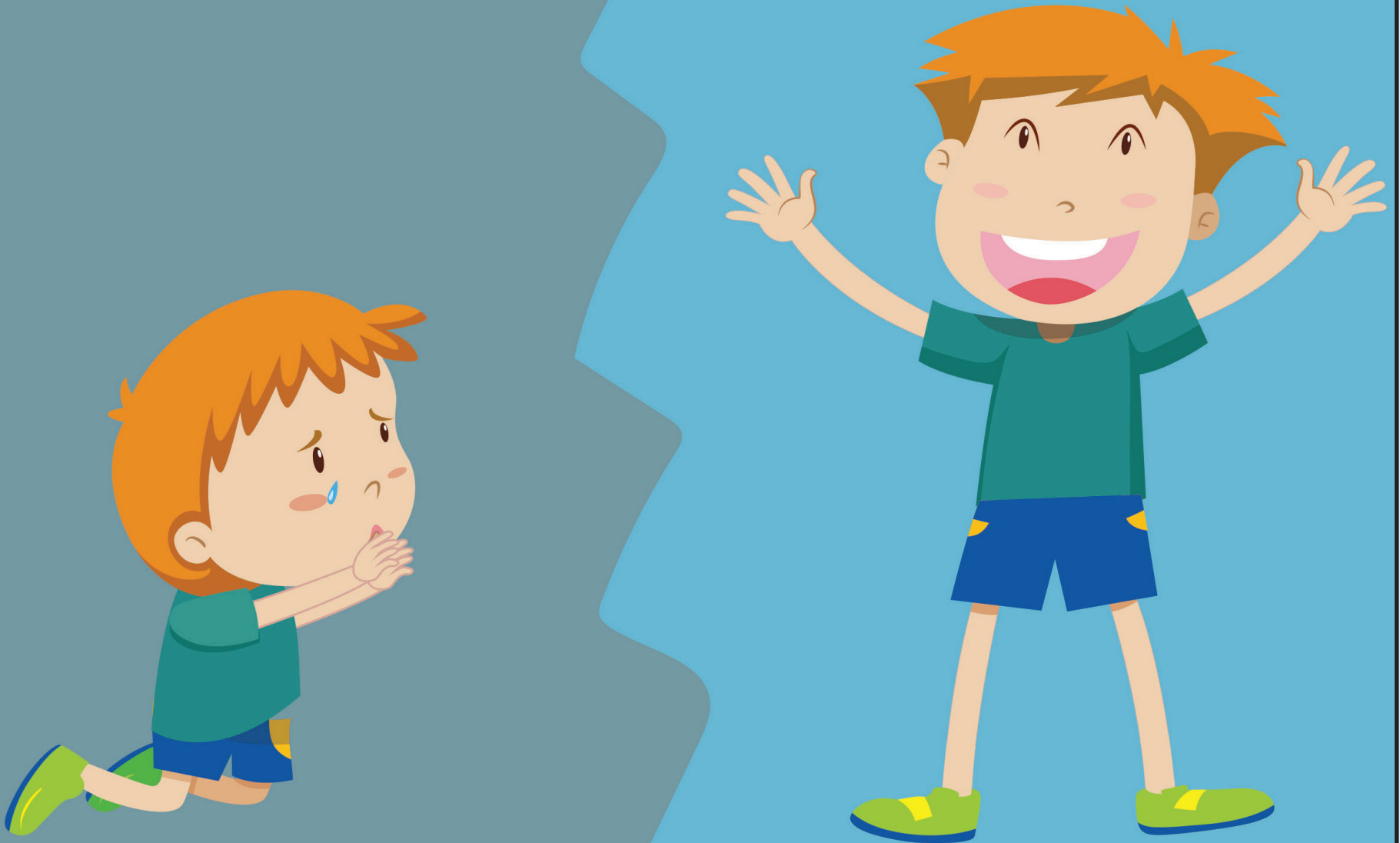
**“Why Do God’s People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God’s Sustaining Grace!
God, the FATHER, Promises to Help His People!”**

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

God is a good Father to His people --to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He knows that they can’t love Him or live for Him by themselves. He knows they need His help, and He promises to give it to them.

He promises to take care of all their needs. He promises to comfort them when they are scared. He promises to help them fight against sin in their lives and rescue them in times of trouble. He promises to make everything in their lives work for their good and His glory. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for their sins on the cross to break the strong hold that sin and death had on them. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. There is nothing that God’s people need that their Heavenly Father will not provide. He will help them do everything He wants them to do, every day of their lives. We can become God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me...
I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.
For he has delivered me from all my troubles,
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes." -- Psalm 54:4,6-7



Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse

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

Psalm 54:4,7 tells us:

Psalm 54:4,7

"Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me... I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. For he has delivered me from all my troubles, and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes."

Learn a Little: "The Lord is the one who sustains me."

What does that mean?

God promises to help His people. He promises to uphold their life, so that they keep on loving Him and living for Him. God has a good plan for each one of His people. He may call them to do some things that are very hard, but He will deliver them out of all their troubles. He promises to give them the strength they need to go through them. He promises to use every trouble for their good. And at just the right time, He will bring their troubles to an end. God's people know they can depend on Him to help them whenever they need help, and to go on helping them for the rest of their lives. He is their sustainer! We can become God's people, too, 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!"

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

Surely God Is My Help:

Psalm 54:4,7

DDD NIV Songs 13, track 20

Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help;
The Lord is the one who sustains me,
Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help.

Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help;
He has delivered me from all my troubles.
Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help;

Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help;
My eyes have looked in triumph
on my foes,
Surely God is my help; Surely God is my help
Psalm Fifty-four, four and seven.

"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 Really Bad Remember-ers" Exodus 5-15, 19-20, 24; Numbers 13-14; Joshua 1-5



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who were the really bad remember-ers? What did they refuse to remember about God?
2. What happened when they remembered God's promises?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 54:4,6-7, NIV

1. What troubles did the people of Israel face?
2. What did the LORD promise to do for them in their troubles?

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



1. "It's time to go into Canaan, the land the LORD promised you!" Moses told the people of Israel. This was the moment they had been waiting for! The LORD had rescued them from their enemies in Egypt. He had given them His laws and made them His people at Mt. Sinai. And now, He had led them to Kadesh Barnea, an oasis right next to Canaan. "Canaan is filled with good things for you. Go in and take it, just as the LORD told you to," Moses told the people. "Don't be afraid. Don't be discouraged. The LORD is with you!" Moses urged them.



2. But the people weren't so sure. Maybe the LORD knew Canaan, but they didn't. Maybe there were some very good places to live and some very good food to eat in this land the LORD promised them. Perhaps it did flow with milk and honey (a nickname for a land filled with the best things). But, there might be some very big enemies living there, too. Maybe enemies as big and bad as the armies of Egypt. Hmmmm... "Let's send some men ahead of us to check out the land. Let them spy it out, then come back and report what they find," they said to Moses.



THE LORD

3. Did the people of Israel REALLY need to send out spies? Did they REALLY need to know if there were enemies and how big they were? No, they didn't! The LORD was with them. No enemy would ever be too powerful for Him. It was His plan for them to have this land and no one can ever stop His plans. The LORD would give them all the help they needed, no matter what enemy they faced. All they had to do was think back and remember.



4. They had been helpless to free themselves from Pharaoh, but the LORD had helped them with His mighty power. He sent gnats, frogs, and other sadnesses...and they were free!



5. They had been helpless against Pharaoh's chariots, trapped by the Red Sea. But the LORD had helped them with His mighty power. He had parted the Red Sea and made a way for them to escape. He washed away Pharaoh's men. Remember! Remember! The LORD would always help them. He would always rescue them. He would always take care of them. But the people weren't remembering as they should, so the LORD allowed them to send out spies.



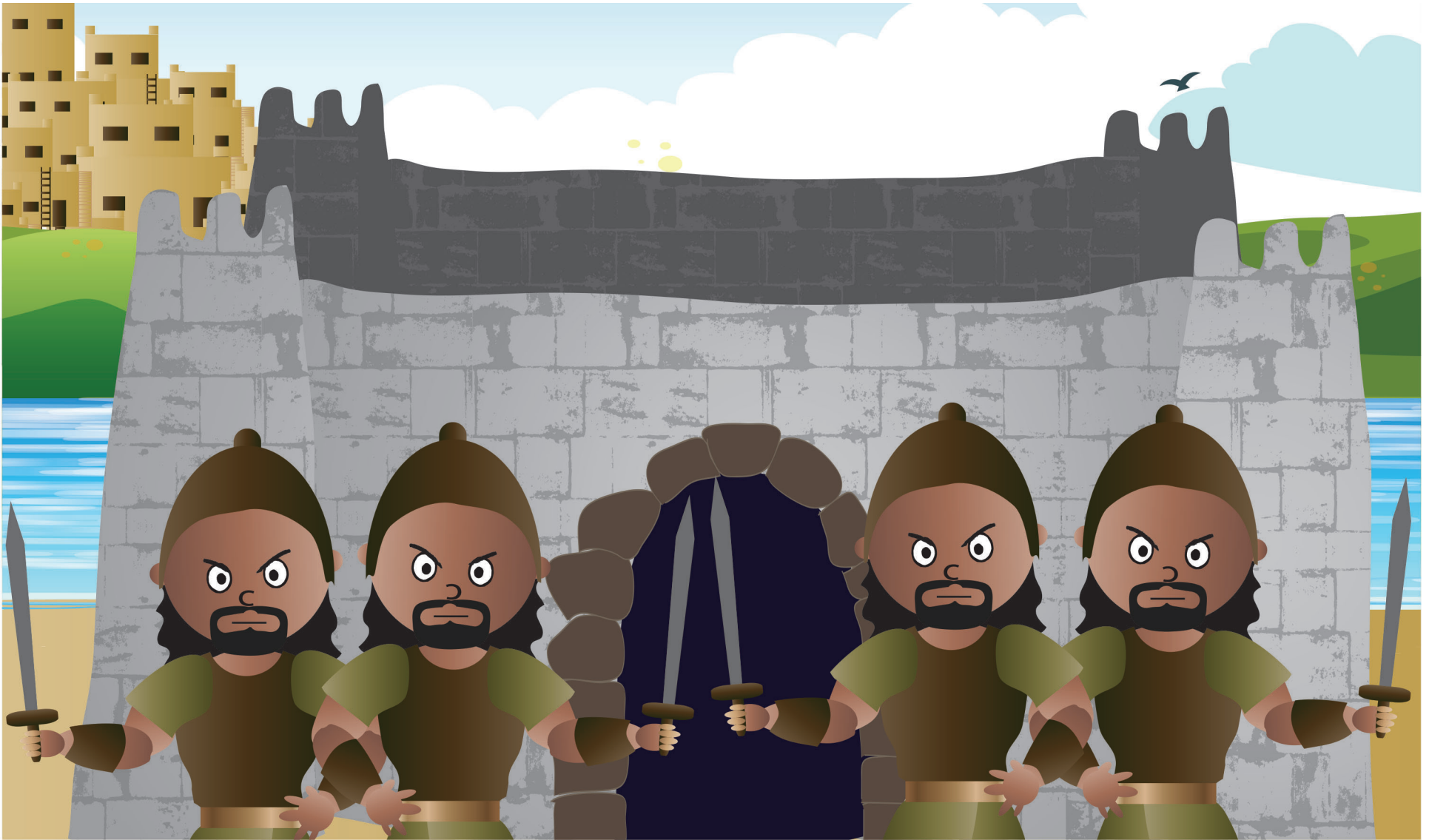
6. Twelve men were chosen: Joshua, Caleb, and ten other leaders to spy out the land for the people. "Go through the Negev mountains, then into the grassy, hill country," Moses ordered the men. "Look at the people. Are there lots of them? Are they weak or strong? Do they live in tents or cities surrounded by strong walls? See what the land is like. Does it have trees? Is it good for farming?" Moses told them. "Be brave and bring us back some fruit," he said.



7. So, sneaky, sneak, sneak went the twelve men into the Promised Land of Canaan. First, they went through the tall, dry, Negev mountains. No one lived there and no food would grow there either. Would ALL the land God promised them be like this?



8. No, it wasn't! At last, the spies came to the grassy, hill country. Now this was MUCH better! What beautiful views from the hills! What good farming in the valleys! Lots of fish and fresh water in the lakes and rivers. Lots of trees with red, juicy pomegranate and delicious, sweet figs, too. Yum! And the grapes. Oh, how good were the grapes! The men cut off a huge branch covered in them and slung it over a pole to carry back to Moses and the people. It took two of them to carry just that one branch it was so big! Oh, yes! The land the LORD was giving them very good!



9. But, there wasn't just plenty of food in this Promised Land. There were plenty of people, too! And not just any kind of people! These were fierce, giant people who lived in strong, tall cities and worshipped bad, fake gods. They wouldn't welcome the people of Israel to Canaan. They would fight hard to keep their beautiful land, and they certainly seemed strong enough to beat the people of Israel and keep them out!



10. With fruit in hand, Joshua, Caleb, and the other, ten men started back to Kadesh Barnea. Back through the hill country, back through the Negev mountains they went, sneak, sneak, sneaking and walk, walk, walking. Back to Moses and the people. And as their legs were busy sneaking and walking, their minds must have been busy thinking about what to tell the people when they got back to camp. Big fruit; big enemies; big cities. Would the people be in big trouble if they went into the Promised Land; or, could they trust in big help from the LORD?



II. How excited the people were when at last the twelve men returned! "Look at that fruit! Those delicious pomegranates and figs! That huge branch of juicy grapes!" the people exclaimed. They eagerly gathered around the twelve spies to hear more about the wonderful land of Canaan.



12. Ten of the spies (all except Joshua and Caleb) stood up and gave their report. "The land is beautiful and good, just as the LORD said," they told the people, "But, the land is full of fierce giants who live in great cities with strong walls. We can't do it. We are helpless to fight them and take the land," they exclaimed. "We shouldn't even try. If we do, we will all die, we and our children!"



13. How sad! These ten leaders had refused to remember the LORD or trust that He would keep His promise to help them. Now, it was the people's turn. What would they do with the spies' report? Would they remember the LORD and trust in His promise to help them; or, would they choose to forget Him, just as these ten leaders had? I'm sad to say that the people also chose to forget the LORD. "WAAAAA!" the people wailed when they heard what the ten spies said. They cried and cried all the rest of the day and all night long.



14. But, by the morning, the people's tears had dried, and their cries had stopped. Their "WAAAAA!" changed to "GRRRRR!" They were FURIOUS at the LORD and Moses and Aaron. "Why did you bring us out here to be killed by these enemies?" they grumbled. "Let's get a new leader and go back to Egypt! We were better off there!" they said. This was terrible! Moses and Aaron bowed down and prayed to the LORD for the people. They deserved the LORD's punishment for doubting His goodness and His help. Moses and Aaron begged for His mercy.



15. Then, Joshua and Caleb, the last of the twelve spies, stood up with something very different to say. "The land we spied out is so very good. Don't rebel against the LORD! Don't fear the people of the land! They are nothing. The LORD is with us. He's able to help us and give it to us," they exclaimed. These two leaders remembered the LORD. They trusted in His promise to help them. Would their report help the people remember and trust, too?



16. It did NOT! The people STILL refused to remember the LORD. They STILL refused to go into the beautiful Promised Land. They even picked up stones to throw at Moses and Aaron! Grrr! They were so angry!



17. Then suddenly, the bright, shiny glory of the LORD appeared. Everyone stopped in amazement. Their God was the living God! They had forgotten who He was yet again. You see, this wasn't the first time the people had forgotten the LORD since He had rescued them from Egypt. This wasn't even the second, third, or fourth time. It was the TENTH time, and the LORD's patience had run out. "How long will the people not believe in Me? When will they remember all the amazing things I've done for them and trust Me to help them?" the LORD said to Moses.

40 YEARS



18. "Because you didn't believe that I would take care of you and defeat your enemies, you will NOT get to go into the Promised Land. You will wander out here in the dry desert for forty years until you grow old and die. Instead, I will take your children to live in the beautiful land when they grow up," the LORD told them. How sad the people were! They hadn't remembered the LORD. They hadn't trusted He would help them. And now, they would never get to live in the good land He had promised them.



19. The people, the spies, Aaron, and Moses headed out into the wilderness, leaving Canaan behind. For the next forty years, they wandered just within reach of the Promised Land but never went in. And as the years passed, the adults grew old and died. At last, only Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful spies, remained.



20. But, the children grew up and became adults; and, the LORD made Joshua their new leader. Now, it was time to go into the Promised Land.



21. Once more, the people of Israel camped right outside of Canaan, this time by the Jordan River. Once more, spies were sent to spy out the land. And once more, they came back with news of good fruit and powerful enemies living in strong, walled cities. There was STILL no way for the people of Israel to beat these enemies on their own.



22. But that was not ALL the two spies had seen. "The people are mighty and their cities are strong, but they have heard of the LORD and are scared," they reported. "The LORD has surely given us this land!"



23. The LORD encouraged the people, too. "I will go before you and fight your enemies," the LORD promised Joshua and the people. "Many years earlier, I parted the Red Sea to help you escape Pharaoh's armies. Now, I will part the rushing, roaring waters of the Jordan River for you. I will dry up the riverbed so you can cross to the Promised Land on dry land," He said. "Be strong and courageous as you lead the people!" the LORD urged Joshua. "I will be with you wherever you go!" He promised.

THE LORD



24. What would the people do this time? Would they remember all the LORD had done for them? Would they trust His promises to help them? This time, the people did NOT fear! This time they DID remember, and they DID trust!



25. The priests carrying the golden Ark of God's Presence, led the people toward the rushing waters of the Jordan River. If the LORD did not stop the waters, they would surely drown. But as the first priest put out his foot to step into the swirling water, the LORD did just what He promised. He held back the river as the priests with the Ark, then all the people of Israel crossed into the Promised Land for the first time!



26. When everyone had crossed safely, the LORD told Joshua, "Choose men to pick up twelve, large stones from the Jordan River. Place them together next to the riverbank. These Remembering Stones will help you remember this day I brought you into Canaan on dry ground. They will help everyone in the world remember that I am the one, true, mighty God and I should be worshipped and obeyed," the LORD said. The people obeyed. They set up the Remembering Stones and they worshipped the LORD that day.

The LORD



27. News spread to the enemies of what the LORD had done, and they were filled with even more fear. They might be tall like fierce giants. Their cities might be strong and have tall walls, but who could stand against the one, true, mighty God? The people of Israel praised the LORD. Already He was going before them. Maybe they DID have a country full of fierce, giant enemies to face, but they knew they would not have to face them alone. They would remember the LORD and trust in Him. Surely, He would help them all the days of their lives, until every enemy was defeated, and the beautiful, Promised Land was all theirs. And the LORD did just that, just as He promised.

"The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers" Exodus 5-15, 19-20, 24; Numbers 13-14; Joshua 1-5

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who were the really bad remember-ers? What did they refuse to remember about God? The people of Israel were the bad remember-ers. They chose not to remember the LORD's promises to take care of them or all the ways the LORD had rescued them from their strong enemies already. They refused to trust that the LORD could really defeat the people in Canaan and give them the land as their home.
2. What happened when they remembered God's promises? They had the courage to go into Canaan. And when they did, the LORD helped them defeat their enemies and made the land their own.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, the LORD wants us to remember who He is and what He is able to do. He wants us to turn to Him and trust Him to take care of us, no matter what we face in life. And what's the most important thing He's done that He wants us to remember? That He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will make us His people. As His people, we can know that God will always sustain us. He will help us to love Him and live for Him, for the rest of our lives.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 54:4,6-7, NIV

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

1. What troubles did the people of Israel face? They faced fierce enemies who lived in strong cities in the land the LORD promised them. These enemies were too strong for them and would kill them, if they fought them on their own.
2. What did the LORD promise to do for them in their troubles? The LORD promised to always be with them. He would help them beat their enemies. He would help them win the land He promised them. He would even go before them.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, God holds out His promises to us. Promises to forgive our sins and make us His people. Promises to help us to live for Him, all the days of our lives. How can these promises from God become promises for us? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!

**Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace...
God, the Father, Promises to Help His People!**

The Gospel



The Bible is full of God's promises to help His people. But the greatest way that God has helped His people was sending His Son, Jesus, to save them from their sins.

How God, the Father, loved His Son! Yet, He send Him to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people. This was the only way to save them. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for them!

Now, we can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can save us and send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. He can help us love God and live for Him our whole lives. Ask Him to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being faithful to help Your people live for You.

C We confess that many times we choose not to trust Your promises to help us. We would rather do things our own way or just depend on ourselves. We need a Savior!

T God, thank You for sending Jesus to break the power of sin and death. Thank You for Your promises to always help Your people.

S Please work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to ask You for help and depend upon You. Help us to love You and live for You every day of our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

