

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 ESV 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 two truths about how God sustains His people. They are: "God Alone Sustains His People" and, "God, the Father, Promises to Help His People." (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.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 3:

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

Jesus provides
God's people
with everything
they need
to ???? for God!

HINT: "This word means to try to
please God with your whole life.
It starts with an "L"
and it rhymes with "give."

ANSWER:

Jesus provides God's people with everything
they need to LIVE for God!



Visual Aid

#3

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!

Jesus Provides God’s People with Everything They Need to ???? for God!”

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word means to try to please God with your whole life. It starts with an “L” and it rhymes with “give.”

Can you guess? It’s “LIVE.”

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!

Jesus Provides God’s People with Everything They Need to LIVE for God!”

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

God wants His people to love Him and live for Him. He wants them to love Him with all their heart, mind, and strength. He wants them to love others as themselves. He wants them to be holy, like He is holy.

God’s people want to love God and live for Him. They know that they bring glory to God when they do, and they want to bring Him glory that more than anything else. But God’s people are sinners with sinful hearts. They are often afraid, weak, and tempted to disobey God. How can they ever live the lives God wants them to live?

Jesus is how! God not only saved His people through Jesus, but He also promises to give them everything they need to live the lives He wants them to live through Jesus. The Bible tells us that right now in heaven, Jesus is always praying for God’s people that they would glorify God and fulfill God’s plans for their lives. And, that by His divine power, Jesus will always give God’s people everything they need for life and godliness. What a wonderful Savior Jesus is!

We can become God’s people and receive all that we need to love and serve God, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

-- Hebrews 4:15-16



Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

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

Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us:

Hebrews 4:15-16, ESV

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Learn a Little: "Let us draw near to the throne of grace, that we may find help in time of need."

What does that mean?

Jesus reigns in heaven as the king over all creation and as the high priest for God's people. What does Jesus do for God's people as their high priest? He listens to their prayers and understands how hard it can be to say "no" to disobeying God. He prays for them, and He promises to give them everything they need to live for God and do all He wants them to do.

God's people know they can always pray and ask Jesus to help them. They know He loves to help them in their weakness. He loves to give them the strength they need to love God and live for Him. That's why they go boldly and confidently to Jesus with their prayers. He will always help them! We can be 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!"

Let Us with Confidence:

Hebrews 4:15-16

DDD ESV Songs 13, track 25

Let us then with confidence draw near,
With confidence draw near
the throne of grace,
So that we may receive mercy
and find grace,
In our time of need,
Hebrews Four, sixteen.

"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 Man in the Middle" Leviticus 6,16; Matthew 27; Hebrews



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What one Man stood in the middle between God and people, so they could become God's people? What worship gift did He offer up to God to make this happen?
2. What is that Man doing even now for God's people?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Hebrews 4:16, ESV

"Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may find help in time of need."

1. Who is the great high priest who offered the final worship gift for God's people?
2. What is He doing for God's people now?

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



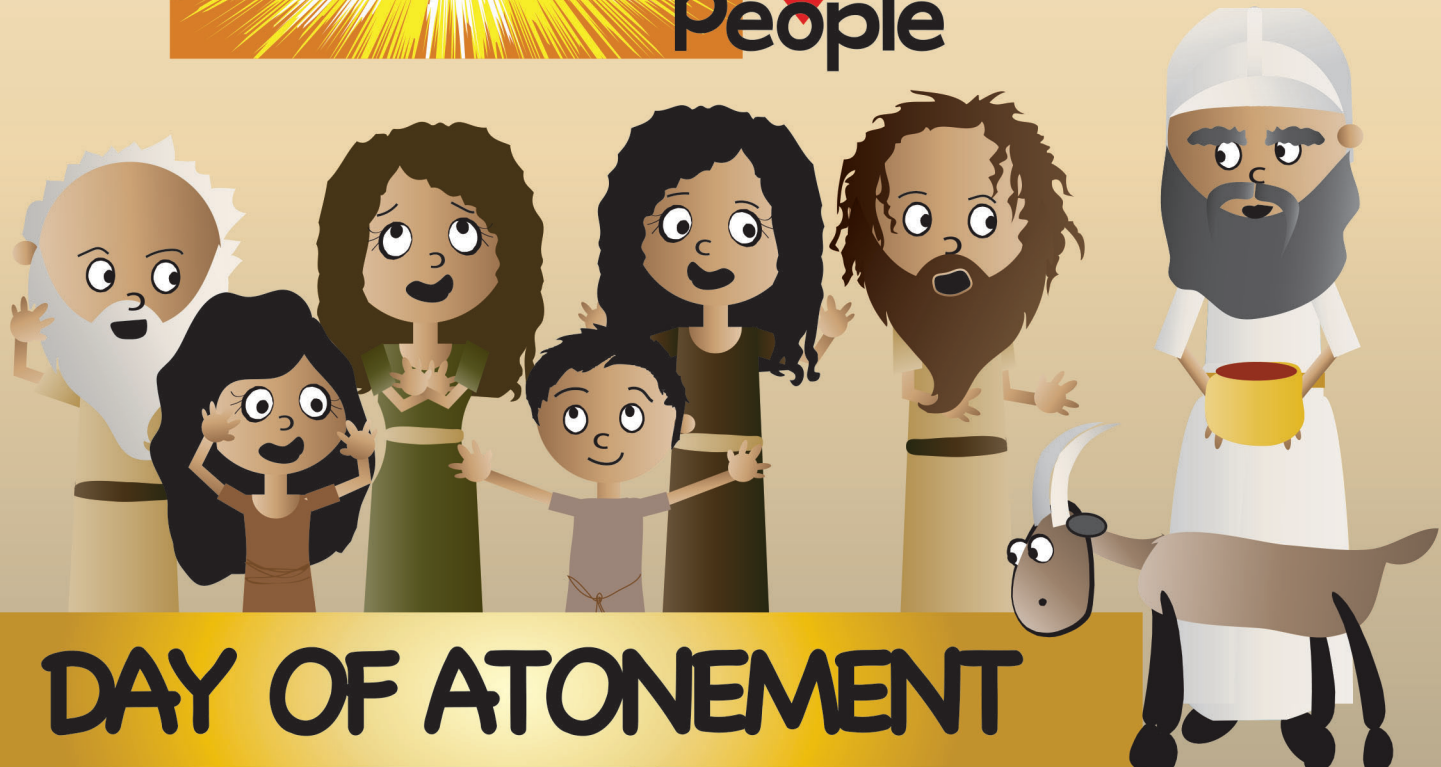
I. Do you know what a holiday is? It's a day when people stop their work and get together to celebrate something special. What holidays can you think of? New Year's Day or 4th of July? Christmas or Easter?



2. Well, God's people in the Bible celebrated holidays, too. Perhaps you have heard of some of them. There was the Passover, when they celebrated how the LORD rescued His people from being slaves in Egypt.



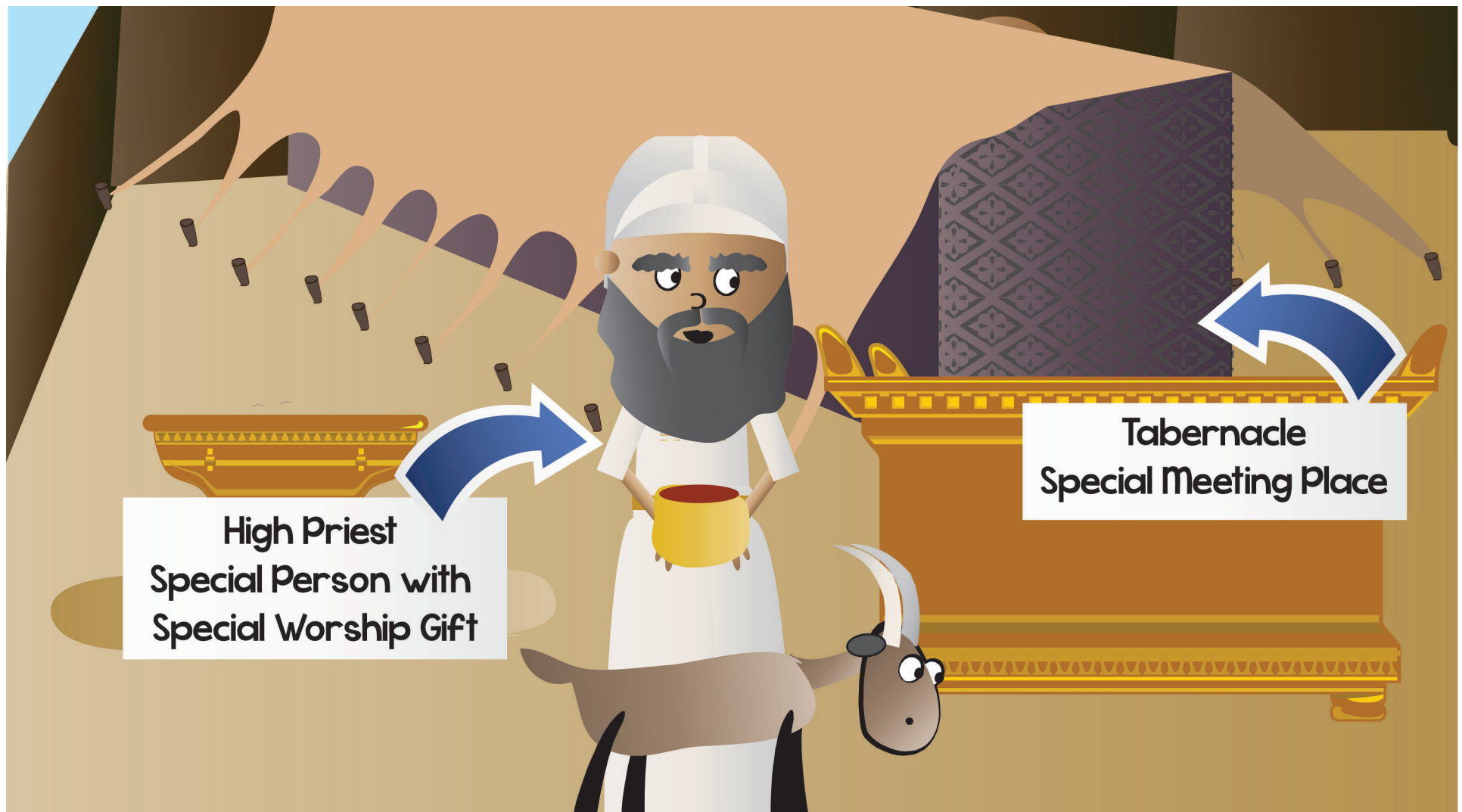
3. There was the Feast of the Tabernacles, when they celebrated God taking care of His people as they crossed the dry, wilderness and brought them to live in the Promised Land. These holidays were days to look back and celebrate what good things God had done for them. There was so much to celebrate! God had been so good to them!



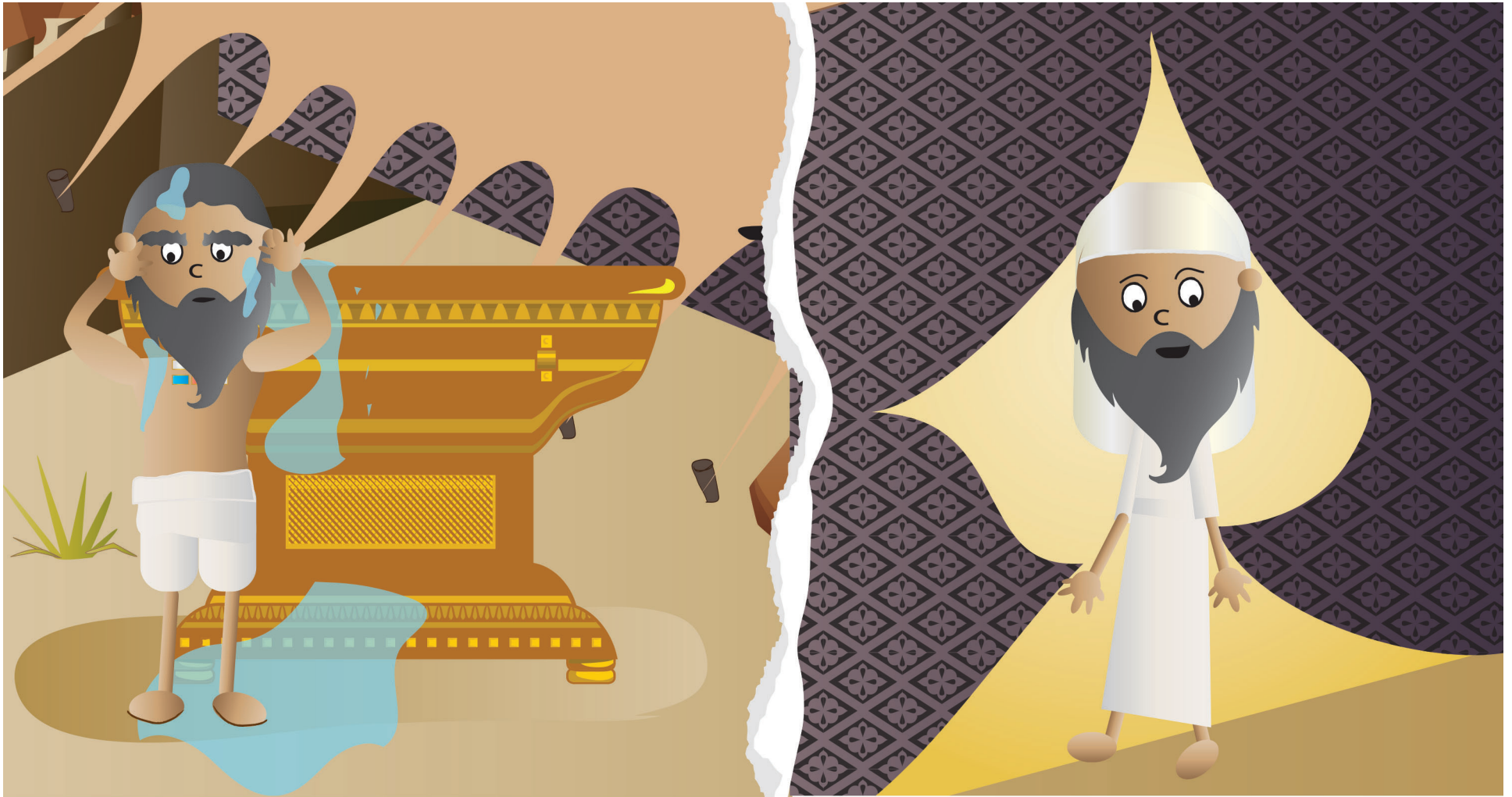
4. But, the Day of Atonement was the most important holiday that God's people celebrated. "Atonement" is a big, Bible word that means "paying for sins so we can be God's people." Without atonement, the people could not stay God's people. And that made the Day of Atonement the most important day of the whole year.



5. You see, God is all good. He is holy. But God's people, long ago, were sinners, just like you and me. They had all disobeyed God. They had all broken their friendship with Him. None of them deserved to be God's people. Do you know what they deserved instead? They deserved to be forgotten by God, not loved, or helped by Him. They deserved His punishment.



6. How could such people become God's people? Only through atonement. Only a special worship gift given to God could pay for their sins and allow them to be His people. And this wasn't even a worship gift the people could take to God, themselves! They had to have a special PERSON to take it for them to a special MEETING PLACE, in a very special WAY. The special meeting place was called the Tabernacle. It was the place of God's special presence here on earth. And the special person was called the High Priest. This was the only way they could stay near God as His people.



7. Here's the special way the high priest had to present the worship gift. The high priest had to prepare himself very carefully. God was holy. He was not. He must do everything just right if he were to meet with God and his worship gift be accepted. First, he washed himself from top to bottom. Scrub, scrub, scrub! Then, he went inside the Tabernacle and put on his special Atonement Day clothes, clothes that he only wore this one day of the year. He had a special, white shirt, robe, and pants. Around his waist, he wrapped a special, white belt; and, on his head, he put a special, white hat. These clothes were so special that they were always kept in the Tabernacle.



8. After the high priest had washed and dressed like this, it was time for him to intercede (pray) for the people. The people gathered outside the Tabernacle and watched as the high priest went in and out of the Tabernacle two times. Each time, he prepared a special worship gift and took it to present to the LORD.



9. The first gift was for the high priest's own sin. He took it into the Tabernacle and went behind the beautiful curtain covered in cherubim at the back. This tiny room was called the Most Holy Place. In it was the Ark of the Covenant, a golden box with two, cherubim angels bending over its cover. Inside the Ark were the Ten Commandments, the 10 Big, Laws God had given through Moses for His people to obey. The Most Holy Place was where God promised to receive the high priest's worship gifts and hear him intercede for (pray) the people.



10. Standing in front of the Ark was like standing before God in heaven. The high priest sprinkled some of the worship gift onto the Ark, then prayed, "Forgive me, LORD, so I can come before You and pray for the people," as he offered his worship gift.



II. Next, the high priest went back out and prepared the worship gift for the people. Then, once more, he went into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled some of this worship gift onto the Ark. This time, he prayed for the people. "Forgive Your people's sins. Be near us. Keep us close to You, so we can be Your people another year. LORD, help Your people," he prayed, as he offered the worship gift for them.



12. When he finished offering these gifts, the high priest took off his white clothes and put his regular, high priest clothes back on. Then, he went outside the Tabernacle and the people watched as he offered two more worship gifts upon the big, fiery, bronze altar that stood near the Tabernacle. These were burnt offerings, one for the high priest and one for the people. Once more, he prayed for the LORD to receive these offerings and keep them as His people.



13. And then it was all done, at least until the next year. The LORD had accepted the worship gifts. He had made the way for His sinful people to stay near Him as His dearly-loved people for another year. How grateful the people were for this plan that the LORD had set up! How they needed that high priest, that man in the middle! He was the only way they could stay near the LORD as His people!



14. For hundreds of years, God's people saw one high priest after another come and go into that Most Holy Place. Each offered the special gifts. Each prayed the special prayers asking God to be near His people, to provide for them, and to forgive their sins for another year. Why did those high priests have to go back, year after year? Why couldn't they just go in once and make one, big worship gift for the people for all time? Well, it was because there was something wrong with every single one of those high priests and every single one of the worship gifts they offered. They weren't good enough to forgive the sins of God's people!



15. You see, all those men may have scrubbed their skin until it was shiny clean. They all may have worn special, white clothes. And, they all may have gone into the Most Holy Place on the right day, in just the right way. But the problem was that underneath it all, every one of those high priests had something bad in their hearts, just like everyone else. Do you know what it was? It was sin!

PERFECT
HIGH
PRIEST

PERFECT
WORSHIP GIFT
FOR SIN



16. By God's law, only a PERFECT high priest, with NO SIN, bringing a PERFECT worship gift would be good enough for God to forgive sins. Only this kind of high priest could truly intercede for the people and have God answer his prayers for the people. That's why all these high priests and their worship gifts were just tie-overs until the perfect, REAL high priest with the perfect, FINAL worship gift came. THIS high priest would put an end to the worship gifts forever. He would pray for God's people and His prayers would last forever. But WHERE would the people ever find a perfect high priest with a perfect worship gift? Was there no hope for God's people?



17. Yes, there was hope! There would never be a perfect high priest or a perfect worship gift among the people, but God would send them one from heaven: His perfect Son, Jesus!



18. Yes, Jesus came from heaven to be born a baby. He was God's Son, but now he was a human, too, the son of Mary.



19. Jesus didn't stay a baby. He grew up, up, up to be a man. And with every day of His life, Jesus always loved God and kept all of God's laws.

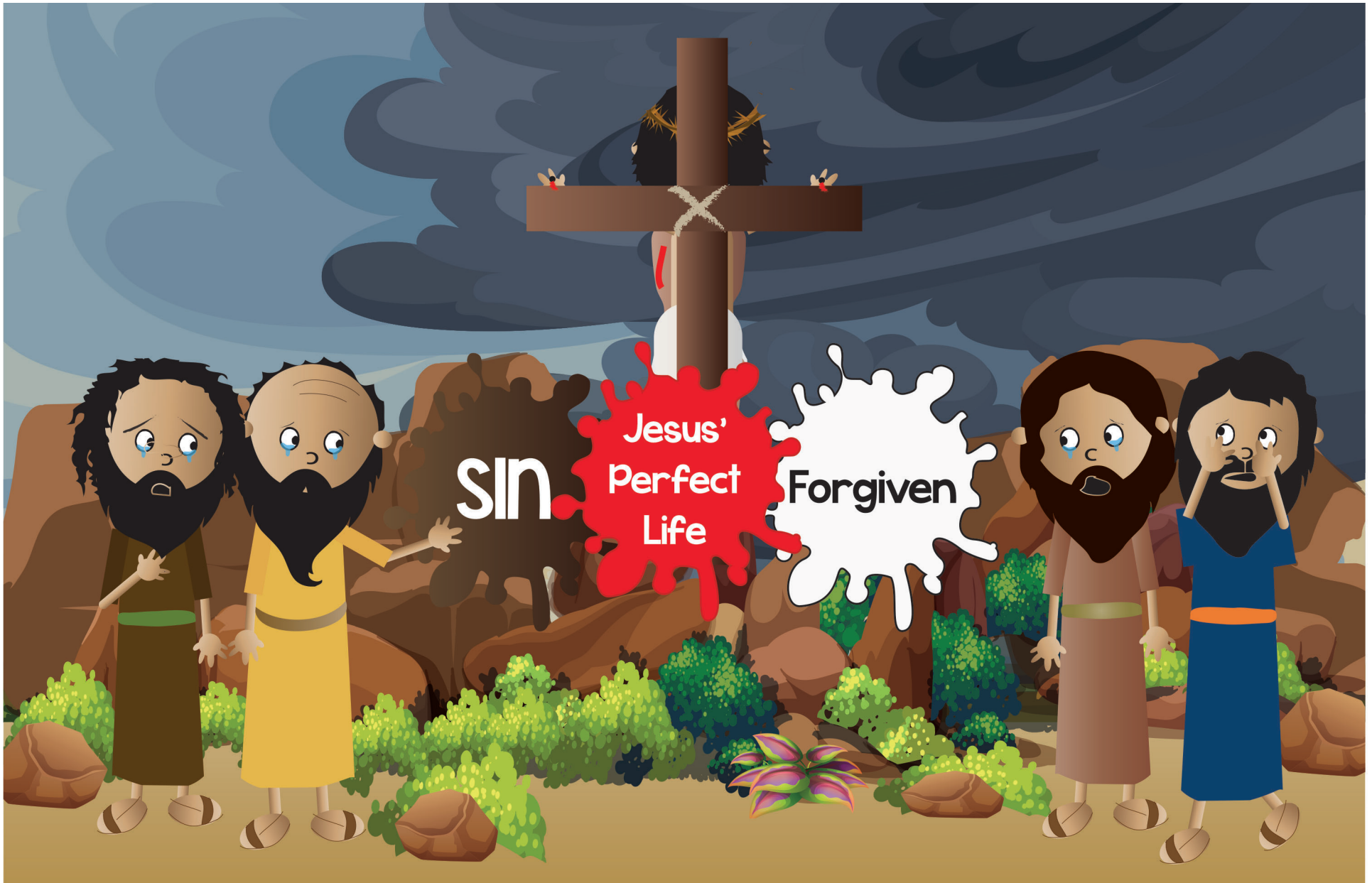
Perfect Law Keeper

to Be
the

Perfect Payment for Sins



20. Jesus was perfect! And because He was perfect, He could be the perfect high priest God planned Him to be. Here, at last, was the One who could be the final Middle Man. He could present a worship gift for the sins of God's people that would last forever. But where would Jesus get the needed worship gift? It had to be just as perfect as He was. There was only One who could be that perfect, worship gift. It was Jesus, Himself. Yes, Jesus would be not just the perfect high priest, but the perfect worship gift for sin, too.



21. And that's just what Jesus did, though it was so very hard. Jesus went to the cross to suffer and die. He gave His own life as the perfect worship gift, the perfect payment, for the sins of God's people, once and for all time!



22. And, while the other high priests took their worship gifts into the Tabernacle, behind the cherubim curtain, to sprinkle on the Ark of God's presence here on earth, Jesus took His worship to a very different place. When Jesus died, He went up to heaven and stood before the real cherubim and God, His Father. And there, Jesus presented His very life as the one, final, perfect worship gift for all of God's people. And do you think God accepted it? He certainly did! Now, God's people will always be near to God as His dearly-loved people.

“It is finished!”



23. Ripppppp! That beautiful curtain in front of the Most Holy Place split in two when Jesus died. The true high priest had come and made atonement. God and His people could be together now.



24. And on the third day, Jesus proved it, when He rose from dead. God had accepted Jesus' perfect worship gift. He had beaten sin and death for God's people.



25. Then, Jesus rose up to heaven to rule. He's there, even now. And He **STILL** continues to be the Man in the Middle, the great high priest, for all of God's people. All day, all night, all the time, not just once a year, Jesus is interceding (praying) for them. And guess what God's answer to all of Jesus' prayers for them is?



26. It's always "Yes and Amen!" Yes, your sins are forgiven, FOREVER! Yes, everything you need to live for God will be given, FOREVER! Yes, you will always be close to God and He will be close to you! Jesus makes sure that God's people keep on believing in and living for God their whole lives. He gives them everything they need to live for God! What a wonderful high priest God's people have in Jesus! Thank You, God, for sending Your Son to be the Man in the Middle that we need!

"The Case of the Man in the Middle" Leviticus 6,16; Matthew 27; Hebrews

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What one Man stood in the middle between God and people, so they could become God's people? What worship gift did He offer up to God to make this happen? Jesus was the man in the middle. Jesus was the final, high priest who offered up His own perfect life as the worship gift to pay for the sins of God's people.

2. What is that Man doing even now for God's people? He is ruling in heaven. He is carrying out His Father's good plans. He is listening to the prayers of God's people and praying for them. He is making sure they have everything they need for life and godliness.

For You and Me:

God's people long ago needed Jesus, the perfect High priest, to pay for their sins and bring them to God, once and for all time. We need Jesus to do this for us, too. He is happy to, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Hebrews 4:16, ESV

"Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may find help in time of need."

1. Who is the great high priest who offered the final worship gift for God's people?

Jesus is.

2. What is He doing for God's people now?

He is ruling in heaven. He is carrying out His Father's good plans. He is listening to the prayers of God's people and is praying for them. He is making sure they have everything they need for life and godliness.

For You and Me:

God's people long ago needed Jesus, the perfect High priest, to pay for their sins and bring them to God, once and for all time. We need Jesus to do this for us, too. He is happy to, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And, if you do, you, too, can know that He is ever praying for you. He will help you keep on believing in God and living for Him.

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace...
Jesus Provides God's People with Everything
They Need to Live for God!

The Gospel



We need Jesus to provide us with everything we need to live for God. Why? Because we have all chosen to turn away from God. We can never please God or love Him or live for Him by ourselves. And that's why God, in His great mercy, sent His Son, Jesus.

Jesus lived a perfect life, then He gave His life to be the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. Now, Jesus is in heaven, where He rules over everything and where He is still helping God's people. He is always listening to their prayers and praying for them. Jesus is making sure God's people have everything they need to love God and live for Him.

These can be God's gifts to us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. How good God has been to us by sending Jesus!



A Prayer

A Jesus, we praise You for being the Son of God, the Giver of all the grace God's people need to live God's way.

C We confess that many times we don't want to do what You want us to do, or we feel too weak to do it. We forget that if we are God's people (those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus), we can depend on Jesus to always give us the grace we need to live God's way. We need You to be our Savior!

T Thank You, Jesus, for always giving Your people the grace they need to live God's way. Thank You for promising to be praying for all who trust in You, even now, as You rule in heaven.

S Work in our hearts that we would turn from our sins and trust in You, Jesus, as our own Savior. Help us to love one another, and to love God and live for Him, every day of our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

