

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 four truths about how God sustains His people. They are: "God Alone Sustains His People," "God, the Father, Promises to Help His People," "Jesus Provides God's People with Everything They Need to Live for God," and, "The Holy Spirit Works Inside God's 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?"

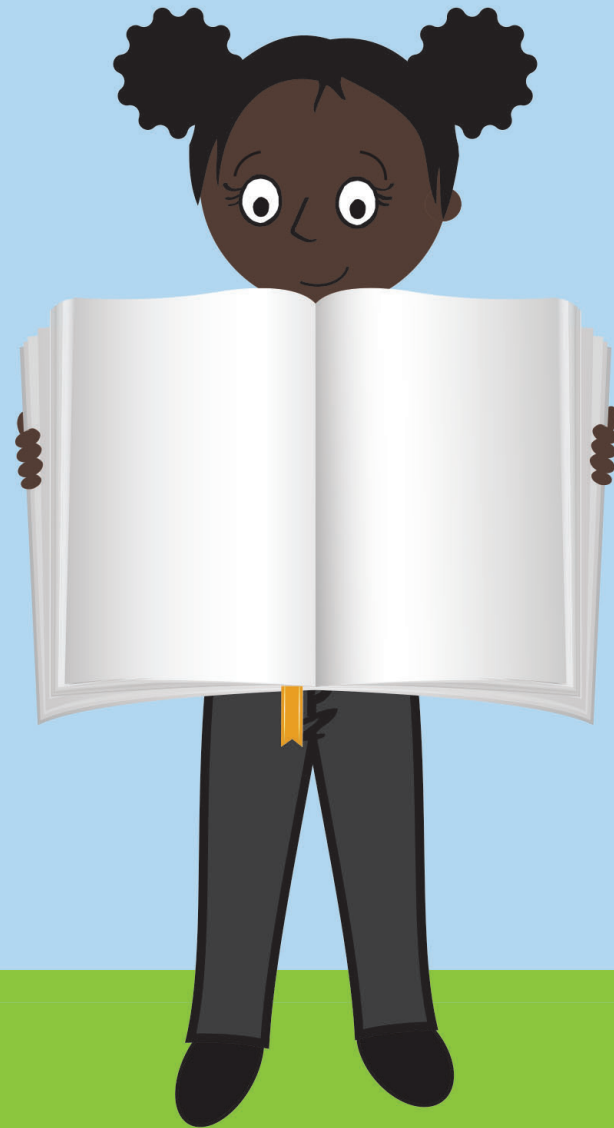
Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 5:

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

The ???? of God
feeds God's people!"

HINT: "The Bible is called "God's ____?"
It starts with a "W" and
it rhymes with "heard."



ANSWER:

The WORD of God feeds God's people!"

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!
The ???? of God Feeds God’s People!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says:
“The Bible is called “God’s ____?” It starts with a “W” and it rhymes with “heard.”

Can you guess? It’s “WORD.”

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!
The WORD of God Feeds God’s People!”**

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

When your body is hungry you feed it food. The food makes your body strong to do what you need it to do. But did you know that the spirit God put inside our bodies needs to be fed, too? Not hamburgers or hot dogs, but a spiritual kind of food.

What is this spiritual food? It’s the Word of God, the Bible. When God’s people read God’s Word, the Holy Spirit uses it to feed their spirits. He uses it to help them know God better, to guide them in God’s will, and to give them strength to do whatever God wants them to do.

And just like our bodies work best if we feed them each day, God’s people know that it is best for their spirits if they read and think about God’s Word every day. They know that God uses His Word to sustain them, even through the most difficult times. We can become God’s people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God will use His Word to help us to keep on loving and living for Him, too.

Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse inDDD
Bible™

take out



of BQB



"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,
that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." --Romans 15:4, ESV

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse

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

Deuteronomy 8:3 tells us:

Romans 15:4, ESV

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Learn a Little: "Through the encouragement of the Scriptures we have hope."

What does that mean?

God's Word, the Bible, was written long ago. God made sure everything was written down just right. He wanted His people to be able to trust every promise, and have hope that He would always take care of them and always be working for their good and His glory. He wanted them to read His Word and be instructed--that is, learn--how He wants them to love Him and live for Him.

God's Word may have been written long, long ago, but it still is just as true as ever. God still uses it to give God's people hope. He uses it to help them keep on loving Him and living for Him. He uses it to help them keep looking forward to the day when they will live with Him forever. Read God's Word! He can use it to help you to trust in Him and live for Him, too! He can give you hope!

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

For Whatever Was Written:

Romans 15:4

DDD ESV Songs 13, track 34

For whatever was written in former days
Was written for our instruction,
For whatever was written in former days
Was written for our instruction.
That through endurance and encouragement,
Of the Scriptures, we might have hope.
That through endurance and encouragement,
Of the Scriptures, we might have hope.
Romans Chapter Fifteen, verse four.

"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 Confused Christians" Colossians



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Where were teachers teaching bad things to believers?
What were the believers confused about?
2. What book could help the believers know the truth?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 15:4, ESV

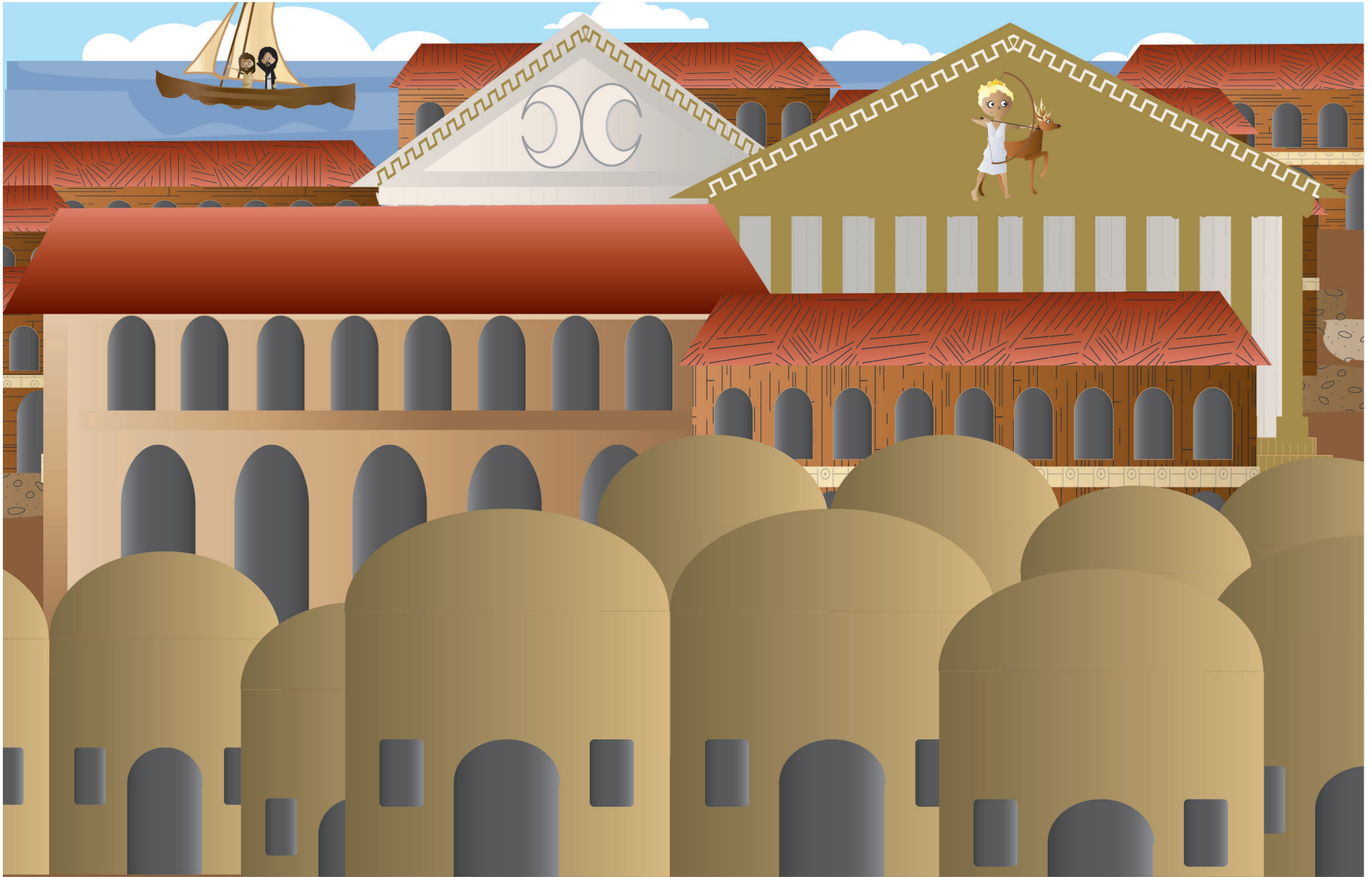
"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

1. What was bad about the teachers in Colossae?
2. What book could the believers read to help them know how to know how to live for God?

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



I. Epaphras packed his things, and away he went. Soon, he would be far from his hometown of Colossae. Why was he leaving home? We don't know exactly. But, we DO know that when Epaphras came back, he was a changed man with a changed life.



2. Where did these changes happen? Most people think it was in Ephesus, one of the biggest, most beautiful, most important cities in the world back then. Epaphras would have thought Ephesus was amazing!



3. What would Epaphras have seen in Ephesus? He could go to the harbor and see all the ships on the sparkling sea.



4. He could walk among crowds of people at the huge marketplace, filled delicious food to eat. He could “oohh and ahh” over the beautiful things for sale that sellers from around the world brought in by ship, by donkey, and camel.



5. And most amazing of all, he could see the magnificent, golden worship place of Artemis, the great goddess of the Ephesians. Her temple towered over the city and shone out like a glittering jewel. It was one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Big city! Good food! Rich things! Glorious worship place! What an exciting trip Epaphras was making! What could be better than this?



6. Now, perhaps Epaphras couldn't think of finding anything better than these wonderful things in Ephesus, but there **WAS** something far better coming. You see, someone **ELSE** was also on his way to Ephesus, just like Epaphras. And this some**ONE** was bringing some**THING** that Epaphras would want more than Ephesus' best-tasting food... **SOMETHING** he would find worth more than any of the beautiful things for sale... **SOMETHING** even far more glorious than the glittery golden worship place of Artemis!



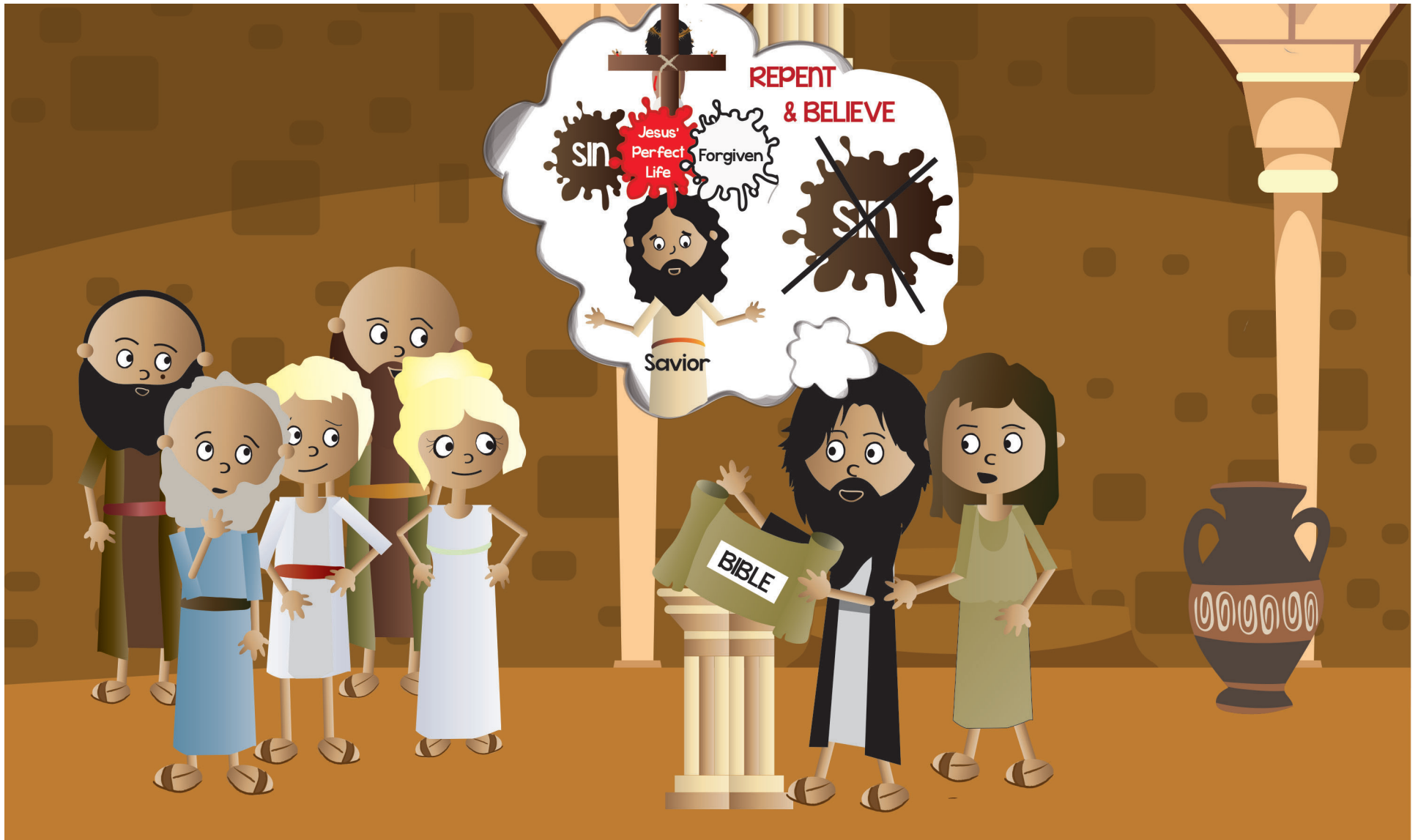
7. Paul was the **SOMEONE** making his way to Ephesus. And the very special **SOMETHING** he was bringing with him was the Bible, God's Word. Yes, God was about to use His Word and Paul to change Epaphras' life completely!



8. In the mornings, Paul joined the other buyers and sellers in the marketplace. Some people sold cloth. Some sold food. Others sold little statues of the goddess Artemis. Paul made and sold tents. Selling tents was how Paul made his living, but it was ALSO a great way to talk to people about God's Word and the Savior, Jesus. Some were only interested in Paul's tents, but others were interested in Paul's good news.



9. So, every afternoon, after lunch, while many Ephesians took naps, Paul preached from God's Word in a nearby schoolroom called the Hall of Tyrannus. Epaphras, along with others, must have found his way into Paul's classes on one of these lazy afternoons.



10. "God promised in the His Word to send a Savior to save His people from their sins. That Savior is Jesus," Paul taught the people who gathered. "Jesus died on the cross, suffering for their sins in their place. He rose from the grave on the third day, proving He had really beaten sin and death for God's people," Paul told them. "Turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, and you will be saved. This is how you can become God's people!" Paul urged everyone.

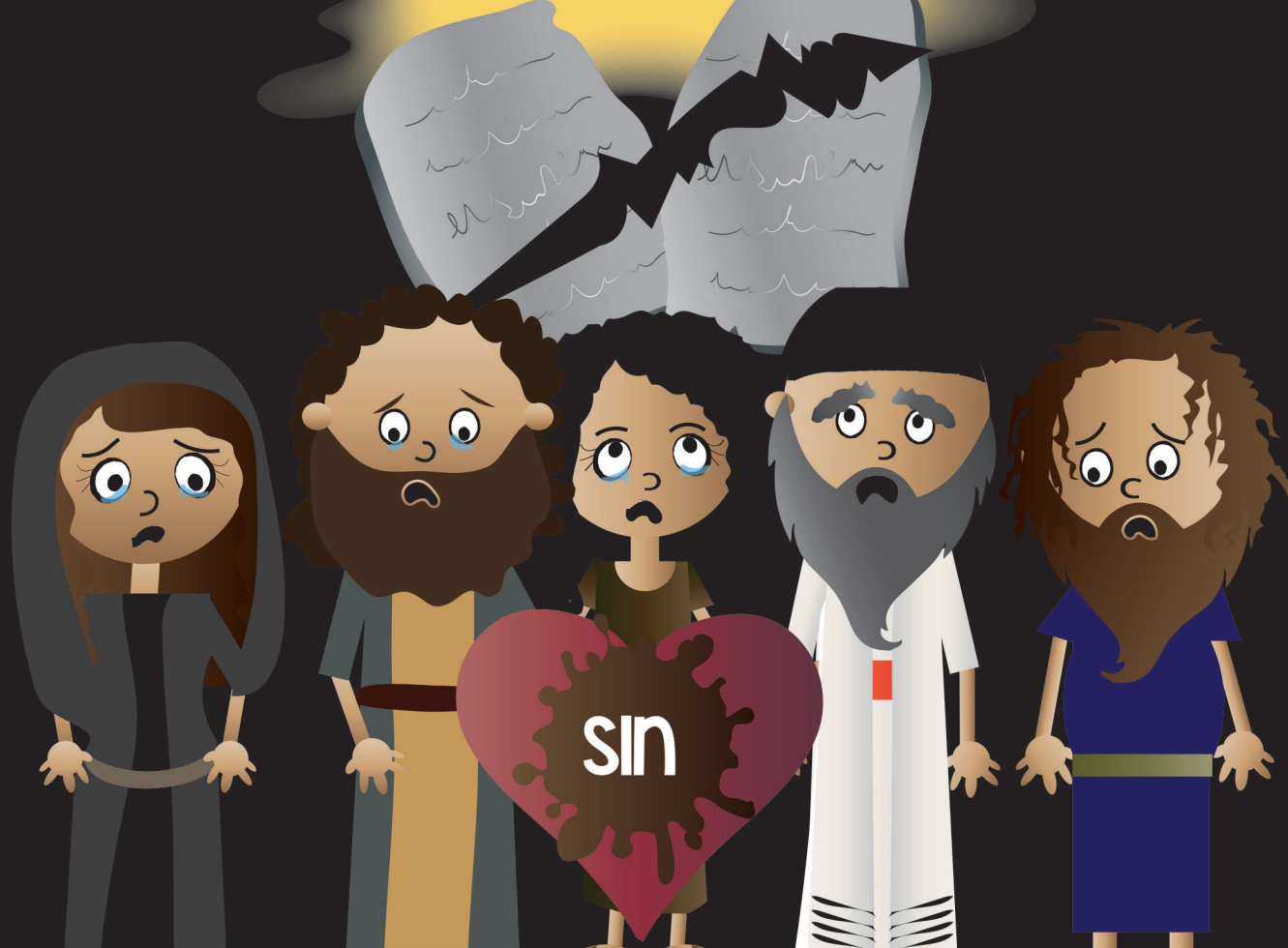


II. As Epaphras listened, God's Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his heart. Epaphras believed God's Word. He turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Epaphras' life was completely changed!



12. Epaphras didn't just listen to Paul preach God's Word once. He learned from him over and over again. Epaphras wanted to learn everything he could from God's Word. He was learning for himself, AND for others, too: the people back home in Colossae!

God's Laws

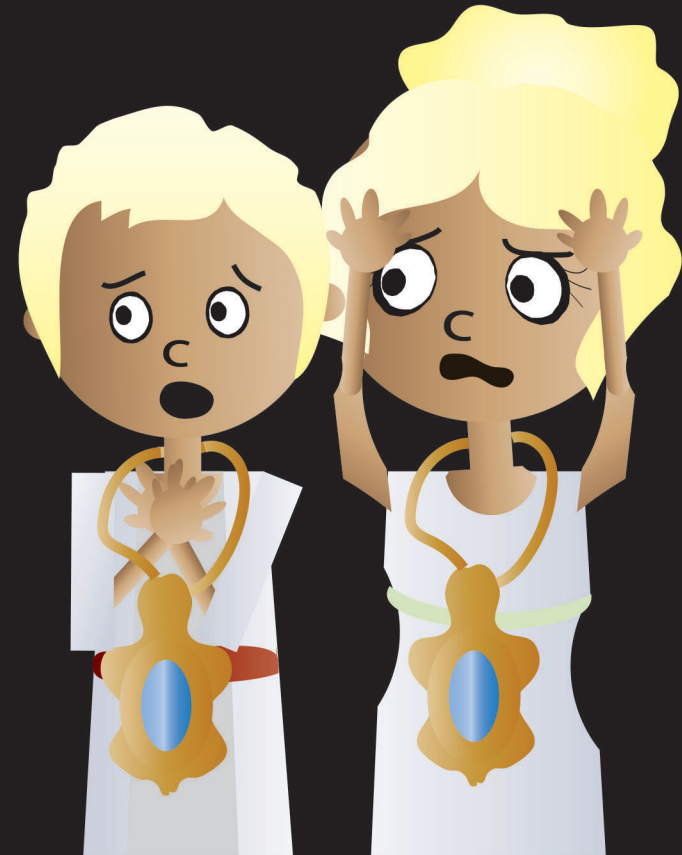


13. There were two kinds of people in Colossae --Jews and Gentiles - and they all needed to hear what Epaphras was learning. The Jews in Colossae had God's Word already, but they didn't understand God's promises that Jesus would be the Savior. They kept trying to please God by just keeping His laws. That would never work! They could never save themselves! How these Jews needed to hear about God's free gift of salvation through Jesus!

Fake Gods



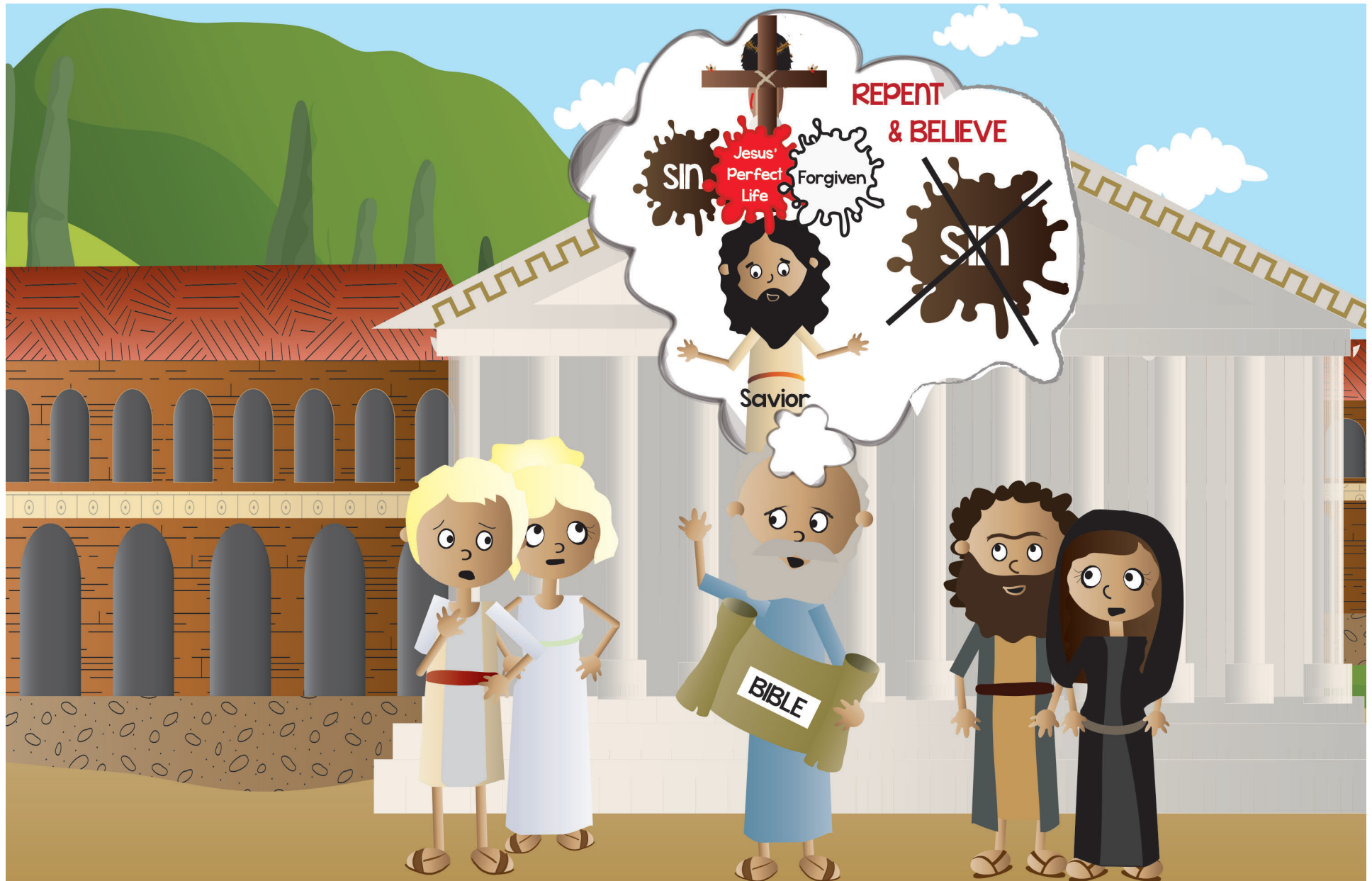
Magical Necklaces



14. The Gentiles in Colossae needed to hear what Epaphras was learning, too. Epaphras was a Gentile like them. He knew all about the fake gods they worshipped and feared. He knew about the necklaces of stones the Gentiles believed had magical powers to protect them from bad things. Oh, how these Gentiles needed to hear about the LORD, the one, true God. Oh, how they needed to hear about Jesus, God's mighty Son, who broke the power of sin and death! How Epaphras wanted to see them free of their fear and these fake gods!



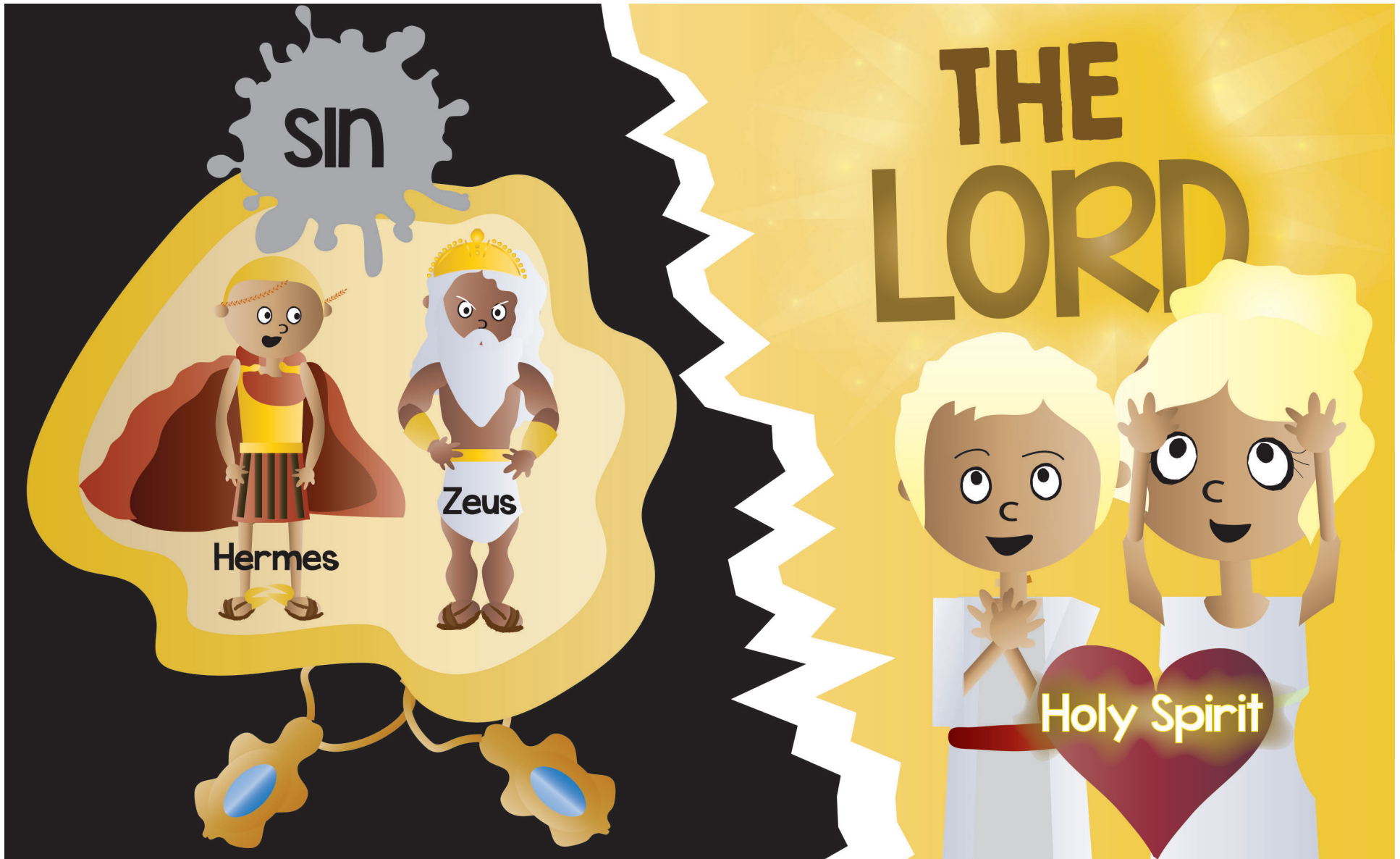
15. So, Epaphras said goodbye to Paul and headed back home with his exciting message. Away from the sea, back up through the mountains to Colossae, he went. Epaphras spread his good news to all who would listen, both Jew and Gentile. "God promised in His Word to send a Savior to save His people from their sins. That Savior is Jesus," Epaphras told them. "Jesus died on the cross, suffering for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to. Then on the third day, Jesus rose up from the grave, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for God's people," Epaphras exclaimed.



16. "Turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior, and you will be saved! This is how you can become God's people!" Epaphras urged them all. What would the Jews think? What would the Gentiles think? Would they believe Epaphras' good news from God's Word?



17. The Holy Spirit worked in many hearts as Epaphras preached from God's Word. He helped the Jews believe that Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send. They stopped trusting in how well they could obey God's laws, and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.



18. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of the Gentiles, too. They stopped worshipping their fake gods. They stopped trusting in their magical necklaces. They stopped fearing what bad things might happen to them. They turned away from their sins and trusted in God's mighty Son, Jesus, as their Savior. How happy was Epaphras!



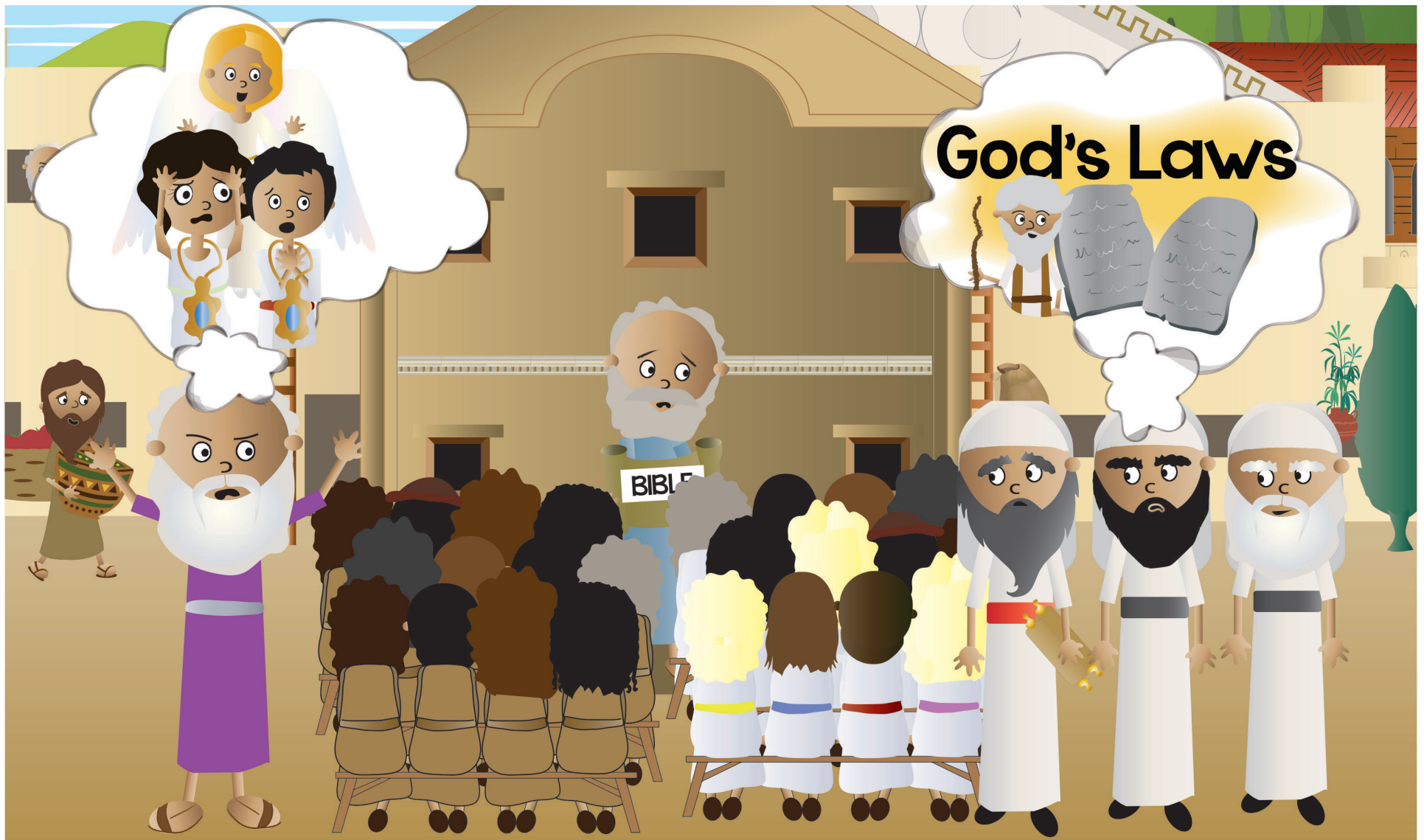
19. Now, there were believers in Colossae. A whole, little church! How Epaphras loved these new believers in Colossae! He spent long hours in prayer for them. And each week, as they gathered together, Epaphras taught them from the Bible. Epaphras knew these believers needed to keep on learning God's Word if they were to keep on loving God and living for Him. He knew the Holy Spirit would use God's Word to help these new believers to fight sin and grow stronger in their faith, just like He was helping him.

God's Laws

Magical Necklaces



20. And oh, how they needed all the help they could get! Sometimes, the Jewish believers were tempted to go back to trusting in keeping God's laws again! And sometimes, the Gentiles believers were tempted to go back to trusting in fake magical stones to keep them safe!



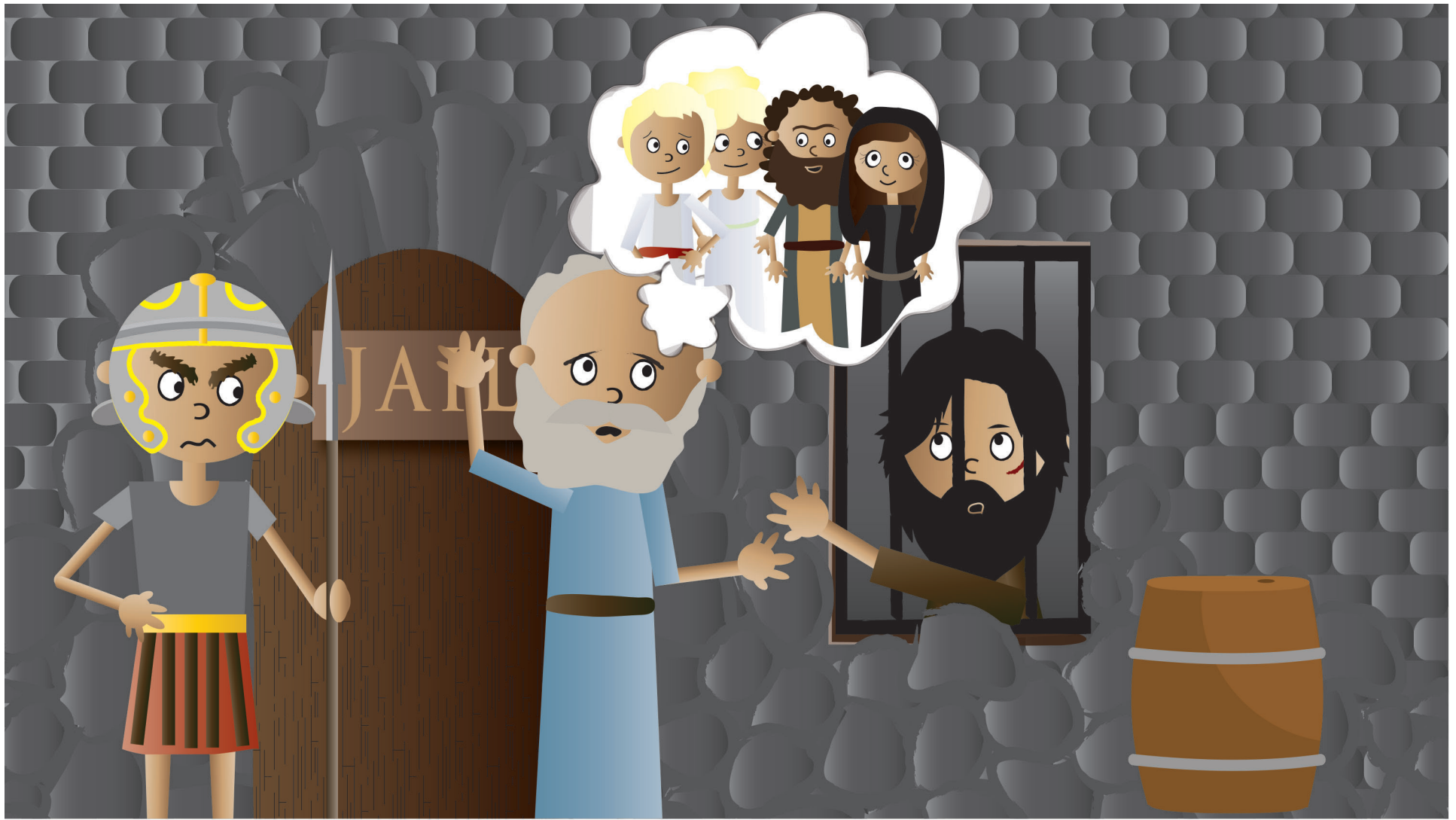
21. Then, bad teachers came to the little church and made things much worse. “Jesus isn’t enough,” they taught the believers. “You need to keep those old laws, too. ‘Don’t eat this food,’ ‘Don’t touch that bad thing!’ and other laws like that,” they insisted. “Jesus isn’t enough to protect you from bad things, either. Put that magical stone back on your neck. Call on angels to help you,” they urged the believers.



22. “No! No! No!” exclaimed Epaphras. “Jesus IS enough!” he told them. The believers were confused and so scared. Heeeelp!!!! What should they do? Who could help them? Epaphras knew! The same man who had taught him from God’s Word in the first place. Can you remember his name? It was Paul! Epaphras would get help from Paul. Maybe the believers would listen to this godly leader. But uh, oh.... Paul wasn’t in Ephesus anymore. He was over a thousand miles away in prison in Rome. Paul had gotten in trouble for telling people about Jesus and been thrown in jail as punishment.



23. Now, a thousand miles away may not seem like a big deal to you, but it was back then. There were no phones, computers, cars, airplanes, or any other quick way to talk to someone who lived faraway like there is today. No, if Epaphras wanted Paul's help, he would have to go to him to get it. It would take Epaphras weeks to get to Rome. What a long, hard trip! But Epaphras loved the Lord, and he loved these new believers in Colossae. He would do whatever it took to help them. So, all the way to Rome, Epaphras went to find Paul.



24. Epaphras found Paul in his little prison house in Rome, and he shared everything that had happened in Colossae. There was so much good news: many Jews and Gentiles had become believers and were growing under the preaching of God's Word. But there was bad news, too. Epaphras told Paul about the bad teachers who had come and were confusing the believers. What would happen to the little church in Colossae if these bad teachers kept on causing trouble? What could be done?



25. How helpful Paul was! He shared his wisdom with Epaphras, and he prayed for the church in Colossae. But best of all, Paul sat down and wrote a letter for Epaphras to take back to the believers in Colossae. How happy Epaphras was to have Paul's letter! He hoped it would be just the encouragement the believers needed. Letter in hand, he headed home to Colossae.



26. When he got home, Epaphras gathered the believers together and read them Paul's words: "Dear Believers in Colossae, I've not met you, but I've been praying for you! Epaphras told me how you heard the Word of truth about Jesus and believed. I'm praying that you will go on growing in the truths you've learned. This is how God will help you know Him better and give you strength to keep on living for God, like He wants you to," Paul wrote.



27. "You don't need to go back to the old laws you used to keep. You don't need wear magical stones to be safe! Jesus kept the God's laws perfectly for you. He broke the power of sin and death when He died on the cross," Paul told them. "So, keep on remembering what you've learned about Jesus from God's Word. Let it soak deep down in your hearts and minds. Help each other remember these things by teaching them to each other and singing them in your worship songs. Keep on trusting in Jesus. And in everything you do, do it all to honor Jesus, giving thanks to God. May God's power be at work in you, Paul."

BAD NEWS



GOOD NEWS



sin

Jesus' Perfect Life

Forgiven

BIBLE



28. Some of the believers in Colossae kept struggling with what the bad teachers said, but, many heard Paul's words and were helped. They would depend on what God's Word told them about Jesus and everything else to give them what they needed to keep on loving God and living for Him. And God would be faithful to help them! He always is!

"The Case of the Confused Christians" Colossians

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Where were teachers teaching bad things to the believers? What were the believers confused about? Colossae. They were teaching the believers to go back to the old, bad ways of living, like keeping special rules and using magic stones.

2. What book could help the believers know the truth? God's Word, the Bible.

For You and Me:
Like the believers in Colossae, we can turn to God's Word, the Bible, to know what is true. There, we can read about Jesus. There, we can learn how to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And there, God can continue to teach us more of His truth and make us strong to live for Him.

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Romans 15:4, ESV

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

1. What was bad about the teachers in Colossae?

They were teaching the believers to go back to the old, bad ways of living, like keeping special rules and using magic stones.

2. What book could the believers read to help them know how to know how to live for God? God's Word, the Bible.

For You and Me:

Like the believers in Colossae, we can turn to God's Word, the Bible to know what is true. There, we can read about Jesus. There, we can learn how to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. And there, God can continue to teach us more of His truth and make us strong to live for Him.

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace...
The Word of God Feeds God's People!

The Gospel



There is so much to love about the Bible, God's Word! Through it, we can learn the truth about God and about ourselves. We learn that we have all chosen to disobey God and deserve His punishment. How sad!

But God's Word also tells us about God's mercy in sending Jesus, His Son, to be the Savior we need. It tells us that Jesus lived a perfect life; then on the cross, He gave it up to pay for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for them!

Best of all, the Bible tells us that now, whoever turns away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can become God's people. Their sins are forgiven. They get to know God in their hearts, now. God will use His Word to help them know Him better and live for Him. Then, one day, they will go live with Him forever.

Ask God to help you
become one of
His people.
He loves to
help us!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Word, the Bible.

C We confess that many times we don't want to read Your Word or live by it. We need a Savior!

T Thank You for promising to use Your Word, the Bible, to strengthen Your people and help them to know You and love You better. Thank You for using it to help them keep on believing in You and living for You.

S God, use Your Word to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You and love You better as we read it. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to understand Your Word and live it out.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

