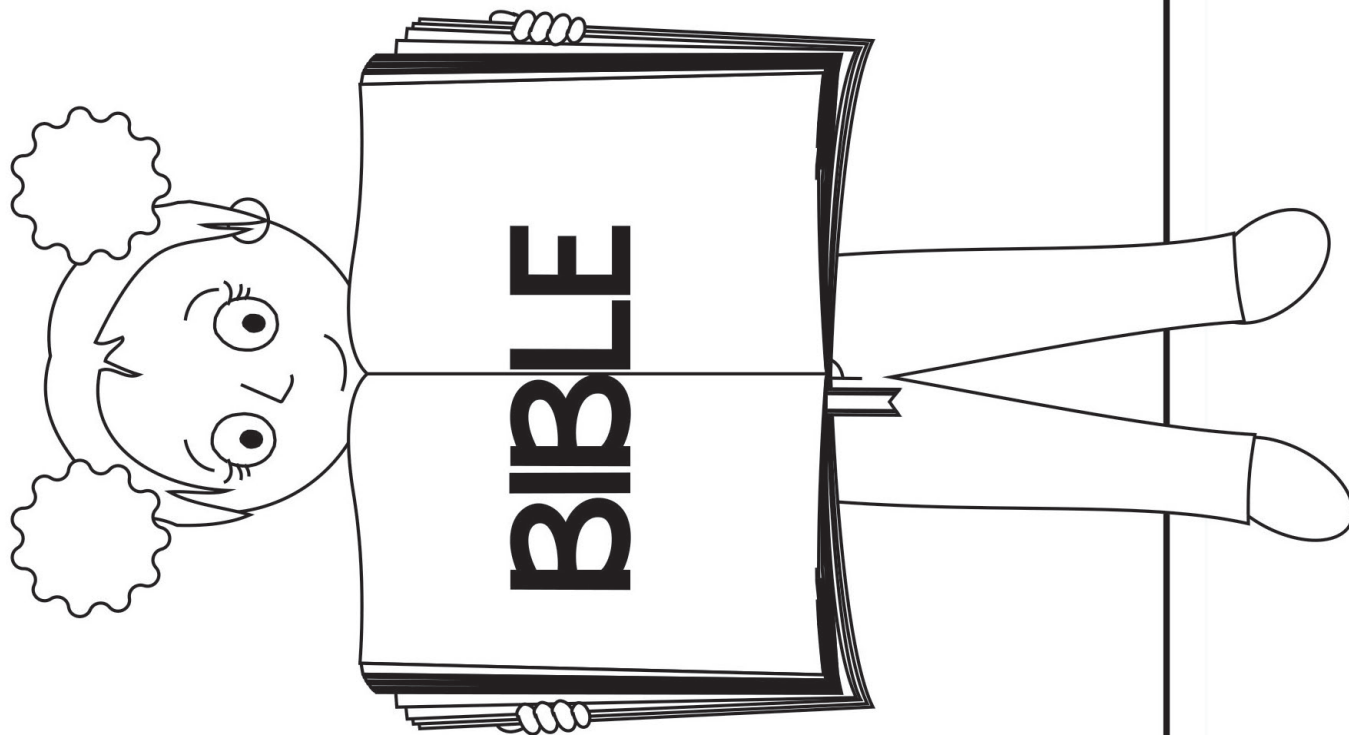


CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 5:
Why Do God's People Keep
Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace...

The ----- of God Feeds God's People!'

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



Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 13, Bible Truth 5, Lesson 1



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

Answer: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Word of God Feeds God's People!

Bible Truth 5 Meaning

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.

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

"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

Some Questions for You

1. What does our body need to grow strong? *Food.*
2. What does our spirit need to grow strong? *God's Word, the Bible.*
3. Who helps God's people grow strong as they read the Bible? *The Holy Spirit.*
4. How does the Holy Spirit use God's Word to make His people strong? *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.*
5. Why is it good for God's people to take time to read the Bible each day? *Every day, God's people need His help to live for Him. They know God uses His Word to help them do this. He helps them be ready for whatever each day brings.*
6. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Let's Pray!

- 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.

Let's Sing about What We're Learning!

Big Q & A 13 Song from *Deep Down Detectives ESV Songs 13, track 12* (adapted version of "On Top of Old Smoky")

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.

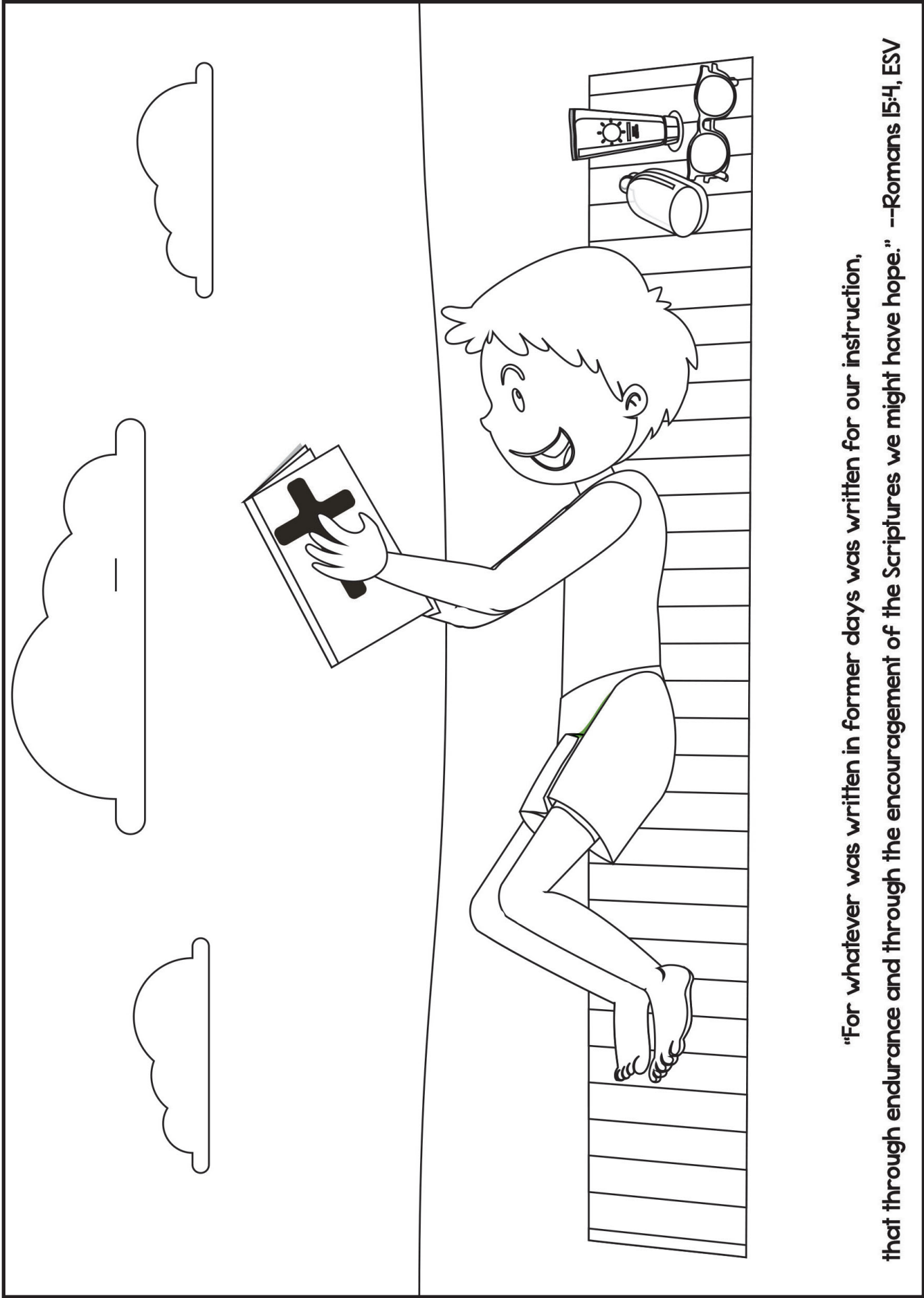
Big Question 13 Action Rhyme Song from *Deep Down Detectives ESV Songs 13, track 13*

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
Why do God's people keep believing in Him?
What keeps them going? Why do they persevere?
There's just one reason for their lasting faith,
It is grace, God's sustaining grace.

Refrain

That's why God's people say:
"I'm gonna keep on believing in God,
I'm gonna keep on living for Him,
Yes, I'm gonna keep on believing in God,
And It's all thanks to Him, thanks to Him.

God sustains His people in many ways,
His Spirit works inside them
As they read His Word and pray,
He gives them faith
to keep in trusting in Him,
To keep on living for Him
to the very end. *Refrain*



“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

Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 13, Bible Truth 5, Lesson 2



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

Answer: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other!

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

"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

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

Meaning

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!

Some Questions for You

1. What is the name of God's Word that was written down long ago? *The Bible.*
2. Why did God give us His Word? Why did He write it down? *To instruct us; that is, to teach us.*
3. What did God want to teach us through His Word? *How to love Him and live for Him. He wanted us to hope in His good promises.*
4. What is the biggest and best promise God has given us? *The promise that tells us how we can become God's people? He promises to forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Let's Pray!

- 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.

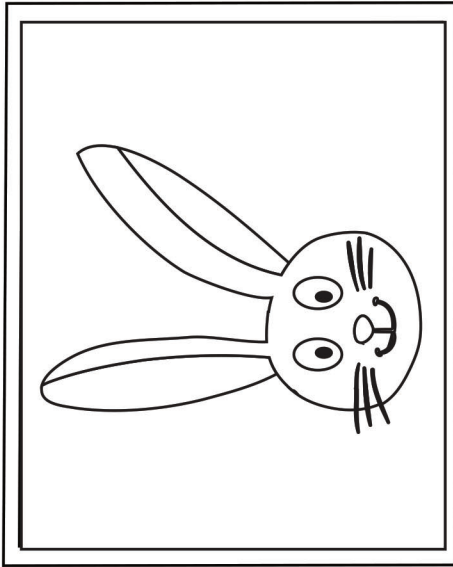
Let's Sing Our Bible Verse!

For Whatever Was Written: Romans 15:4 from *Deep Down Detectives* ESV Songs 13, track 34

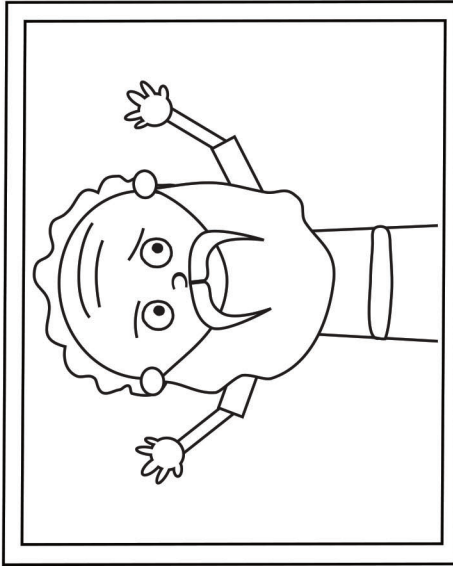
For whatever was written in former days
Was written for our instruction,
For whatever was written in former days
Was written for our instruction.
That through endurance and encouragement,
Of the Scriptures, we might have hope.
That through endurance and encouragement,
Of the Scriptures, we might have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

Go to the *Deep Down Detectives* Parent Resources for Unit 13 to get the Bible story and many more resources and songs for this unit at praisefactory.org

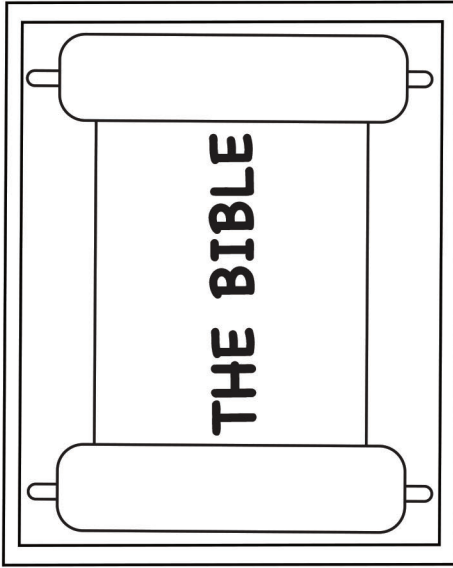
Which four of these clues belong in our story? Which two do not? Put an X in the boxes of the four that belong.


☐

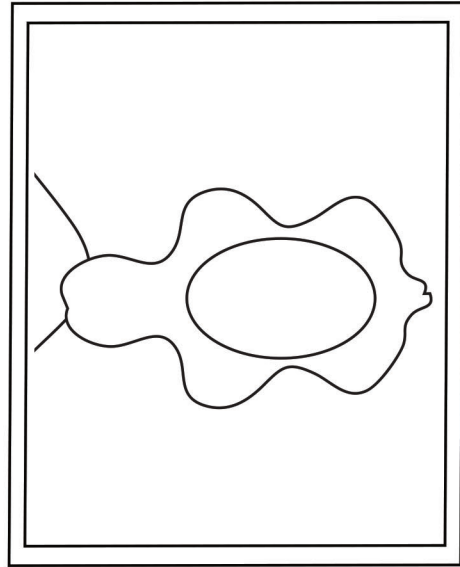
A Rabbit


☐

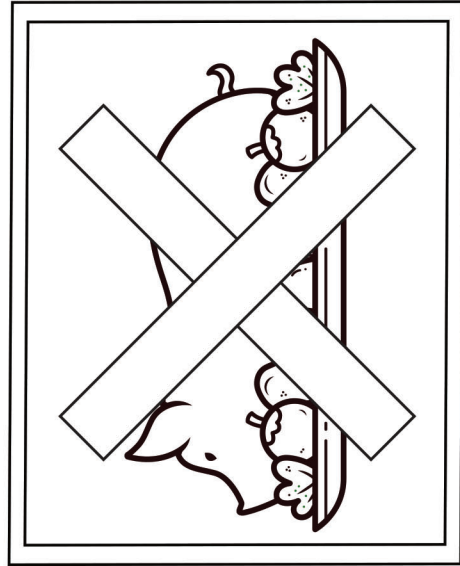
A Bad Teacher


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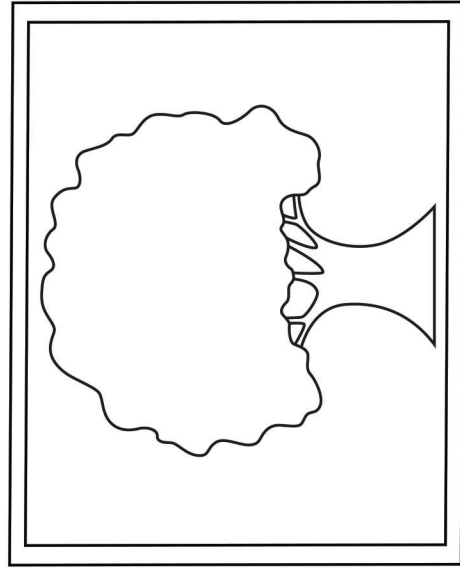
God's Word


☐

A Magic Stone


☐

Bad Food


☐

A Tree

Answer: The bad teacher, God's Word, a magic stone, and the "bad" food belong. The rabbit and the tree do not.

DDD 13.5 L3 Coloring Sheet/Take Home

Deep Down Detective Devotion: Unit 13, Bible Truth 5, Lesson 3



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

Answer: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other!

Bible Truth 5 Meaning

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.

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

"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

Some Questions for You

1. What happened when Epaphras listened to Paul preach God's Word? *The Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his heart. He believed God's Word, turned away from his sins, and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.*
2. Where did Epaphras go after he went to Ephesus? *Epaphras went back home to Colossae.*
3. What did the people in Colossae think when they heard the good news of Jesus? *Many believed it. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.*
4. What did the new believers in Colossae start? Why? *A little church. They did that to worship God and love one another. They wanted to hear God's Word so they could know God and live for Him more.*
5. What did Epaphras hope and pray that God's Word would do inside of the believers in Colossae? *He hoped that it would change them from their old way of life. He hoped it would help them love God and live for Him.*
6. Why did some people in the little church in Colossae want everyone to keep the old rules and the old ways that had nothing to do with God's Word or Jesus? *They were still scared the Jesus might not be enough to protect them from bad things they were afraid of.*
7. Who did Epaphras go see to help him know how to care for these new believers and stop the bad teachers from the wrong things they were doing? *Epaphras travelled to Rome to see Paul.*
8. What did Paul write in the letter he sent with Epaphras back to the believers of Colossae? *He told them that they did not need to keep the old special rules or wear magic stones to keep safe from the evil things they feared. Jesus had beaten all those bad things when He died on the cross. Paul told them to keep on learning God's Word and let it work in their hearts. They should remind each other of the good things written in God's Word and even sing them in their songs.*
9. What happened to the believers in Colossae after they read Paul's letter to them? *Some continued to have a hard time with what the bad teachers taught, but many heard Paul's words and were helped. They depended on what God's Word told them about Jesus, not on the old special rules or old, magic stones.*
10. What was the good news that Paul preached from God's Word and changed Epaphras ... and can change ask, too? *That Jesus is the Savior God sent to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God forgives us our sins and makes it His people forever. God can help us do this, too.*

Let's Pray!

- 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.

Let's Praise God Right Now!

Go to the Deep Down Detectives Parent Resources for Unit 13 to get the Bible story and many more resources and songs for this unit at praisefactory.org

Big Q & A 13 Hymn: Jesus Paid It All

from Deep Down Detectives ESV Songs 13, track 17

Verse 1

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Words: Elvina M. Hall Music: John T. Grape

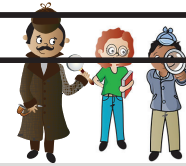
Refrain

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

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

from Deep Down Detectives ESV Songs 13, track 18

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness,
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations.

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5**P.1****The Case of the Confused Christians***Colossians*

Dear Parents,

Big Question #13 is: "Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?" Your child is learning that "It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Word of God Feeds God's People."

Here's a copy of the Bible story they are learning along with the "Listening Assignment" for each lesson. These assignments provide a different teaching emphasis for each lesson, helping the children dig deeper into each Bible truth. They match up with your child's take home for each lesson. We hope that these resources help your family to dig down deeper into the truths of God's Word!" Happy digging!

•many more resources for this Big Question can be found online at www.praisefactory.org•

Listening Assignments

"Hey, Kids! Detective Dan, here. Listen carefully to the story and help me answer these questions:

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

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

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 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."

I need to find out:

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

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a rabbit, a bad teacher, God's Word, a "bad" food, and a tree.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in our story?**
- 2. Who asked God to help the believers in Colossae? What did he ask God to do?**

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 Confused Christians *Colossians**Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

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.

Where did these changes happen? Most people think it was in the city of Ephesus.

Ephesus was one of the biggest, most beautiful, most important cities in the world back then. Epaphras would have thought Ephesus was amazing! There, Epaphras could see ships harbored on the sparkling sea. He could walk among great crowds of people. He could see 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. 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?

Do you think there could be anything better than this?

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 someONE was bringing someTHING 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!

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!

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.

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. "God promised in the His Word to send a Savior to save His people from their sins," Paul taught. "That Savior is Jesus. He died on the cross, suffering for their sins in their place. He rose from the grave on the third day, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior and you will be saved. God will make you His dearly-loved people, too!" Paul urged everyone.

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!

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5

use with all THREE lessons

P.3*Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

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 someone else, too. Can you guess who?

Can you guess?

For the people back home in Colossae! Oh, how they needed to hear about God's Word! How they needed Jesus to be their Savior!

The Jews in Colossae needed to hear what Epaphras was learning. They had God's Word already, but they didn't understand the promises about Jesus. They kept trying to please God by 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!

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! 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. "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?

What do you think?

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. 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!

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.

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!

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.

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5

use with all THREE lessons

P.4*Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

"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 tell me?

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.

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 and found Paul. 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?

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.

When he got home, 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.

"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.

Keeping on thinking about 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. 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.

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!

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

2. What book could help them 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 Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 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.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a rabbit, a bad teacher, God's Word, a magic stone, a "bad" food, and a tree.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The bad teacher, God's Word, a magic stone, and the "bad" food belong. The rabbit and the tree do not.

2. Who asked God to help the believers in Colossae?

What did he ask God to do? Epaphras did. To help them remember God's Word and use it to work in their hearts.

For You and Me

Like the believers in Colossae, we need to remember God's Word and ask God to use it to work in our hearts. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus. And, we can ask Him to help us to love Him and live for Him. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

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...****The Word of God Feeds God's People!**

What was the good news that Paul preached from God's Word that changed Epaphras ... and can change us, too? That Jesus is the Savior God sent to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive our sins and make us His people forever. God can help us do this, too. Ask him! He loves to help us do this!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS 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.

Deep Down Detectives Devotions: Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5 Key Concepts p.7**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 burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." --Psalm 55:22

Bible Truth 5 Concept: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Word of God Feeds God's People!

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.

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: 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."

Meaning

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!

Bible Truth 5 ACTS 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.

Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5 Overview: Key Concepts

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Bible Truth 5 Story

The Case of the Confused Christians

Colossians

Songs Used in Bible Truth 5

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 Burden on the LORD Psalm 55:22, ESV

Extra Big Question 13 Bible Verse Song: Cast Your Burden Psalm 55:22, ESV (other version)

Extra Big Question 13 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 5 Bible Verse: For Whatever Was Written Romans 15:4, ESV

Bible Truth 5 Extra Bible Verse: He Humbled You Deuteronomy 8:3, ESV

Bible Truth 5 Extra Bible Verse: Take Up the Whole Armor Ephesians 6:13, 16-18, ESV

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