



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 five 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," "The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People," and, "God's Word Feeds 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 6:

Why Do God's People Keep
Believing in Him?

It Is God's Sustaining
Grace...

God uses His ???? to strengthen
and comfort each other!"

HINT: "This word is another word for
lots of men, women, boys and girls.
It starts with a "P" and it rhymes
with "Steeple."



ANSWER:

God uses His PEOPLE to strengthen and comfort each other!"

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 Uses His ???? to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other!”

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word is another word for lots of men, women, boys and girls. It starts with a “P” and it rhymes with “Steeple.”

Can you guess? It’s “PEOPLE.”

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 Uses His ???? to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other!”

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

No matter who we are, we all go through times of need. Sometimes, we are learning something new, and we need help learning how to do it. Sometimes, we are going through something that is very sad or very hard, and we need comfort and strength. God loves to help His people all the time, especially in their times of need. He uses His Word, the Bible, to guide and comfort them. His Holy Spirit strengthens them inside their heart. But God also helps His people through their prayers and comfort for each other.

God’s people comfort each other by reminding one another that God is always with them and how great and good He is. They read the Bible to each other and hold on to His wonderful promises to take care of them. They pray for each other, asking God to give them wisdom, strength, and joy; and, to rescue them from their troubles. They ask God to use their hard and sad times for their good and to bring glory to His name.

God loves to sustain His people through their comfort and prayers for one another. It is a wonderful display of His love both to His people and to others who watch how God’s people love and care for one another. We, too, can become God’s people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, He can use us to comfort others in this special way, too.

Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse inDDD
Bible™

take out



of BQB

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God....

On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."

--2 Corinthians 1:3-4,10-11

Bible Truth 6 Bible Verse

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

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 11-12 tells us:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 11-1

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God....On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."

Learn a Little: "We comfort those in trouble with the comfort we have received from God."

What does that mean?

God loves His people so much! He is full of mercy and compassion. He cares about their sadnesses and troubles, and He comforts them. Many times, God uses His people to comfort each other. They listen to each other. They encourage each other and pray. They remind each other of God's promises. They help each other turn away from disobeying God. No wonder God's people praise Him for giving them each other! He uses them to show His love to each other and to keep on believing in Him their whole lives. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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

Praise Be to the God and Father: 2 Corinthians 1:3-II

DDD NIV Songs 13, track 26

Praise be to the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who comforts us in all our troubles,
So that we can comfort those,
Comfort those in any trouble,
With the comfort we receive from God.
Praise, praise, the Father of compassion (Compassion!)
Praise, praise, the God of comfort, (Comfort!)

On him we have set our hope,
That he will deliver us,
As you help us by your prayers,
Help us by your prayers.
Praise, praise, the Father of compassion (Compassion!)
Praise, praise, the God of comfort, (Comfort!)
Second Corinthians Chapter One,
three through eleven.

"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?"

DDD 13.6 Bible Verse Picture--Back

"The Case of the Prayed-for Prisoner" Philippians



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the prisoner? Why was he in jail?
2. Who prayed for him?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



2 Corinthians 1:4, NIV

"We comfort those in trouble with the comfort we have received from God."

1. Who did God use to comfort Paul?
2. What did they do that was comforting?

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



1. "Oh no! Paul is in prison again for telling people about Jesus!" the believers in Philippi exclaimed. Prisoners weren't taken care of very well. They depended on friends on the outside to give them what they needed. Paul might be cold or hungry. He could be sick or lonely. He could be discouraged and scared. Who was there to help Paul, the believers in Philippi wondered.



2. God uses His people to help each other keep on living for Him and believing in Him. He uses them to comfort them and take care of their needs, too. These Philippians wanted to be part of God helping Paul. “WE must help Paul!” the believers in Philippi decided. But what could THEY do for him? How could THEY help him? They were in Philippi, and he was hundreds of miles away in Rome. How could God use THEM, to help PAUL, from so far away?



3. The Philippians knew what they could do! They could pray for Paul. Perhaps they were far away from Paul, but God wasn't. He was with Paul all the time and He could do ANYTHING! They could ask God to work in the heart of Nero, the Roman leader, that he would free Paul. They could ask God to keep Paul from getting sick. They could ask the Holy Spirit to comfort Paul with God's Word and help him stay strong in his faith. Yes, there was so much the Philippians could do for Paul simply by praying for him, right there in Philippi. But there was something ELSE the Philippians could do for Paul. They could send a gift of money to him.



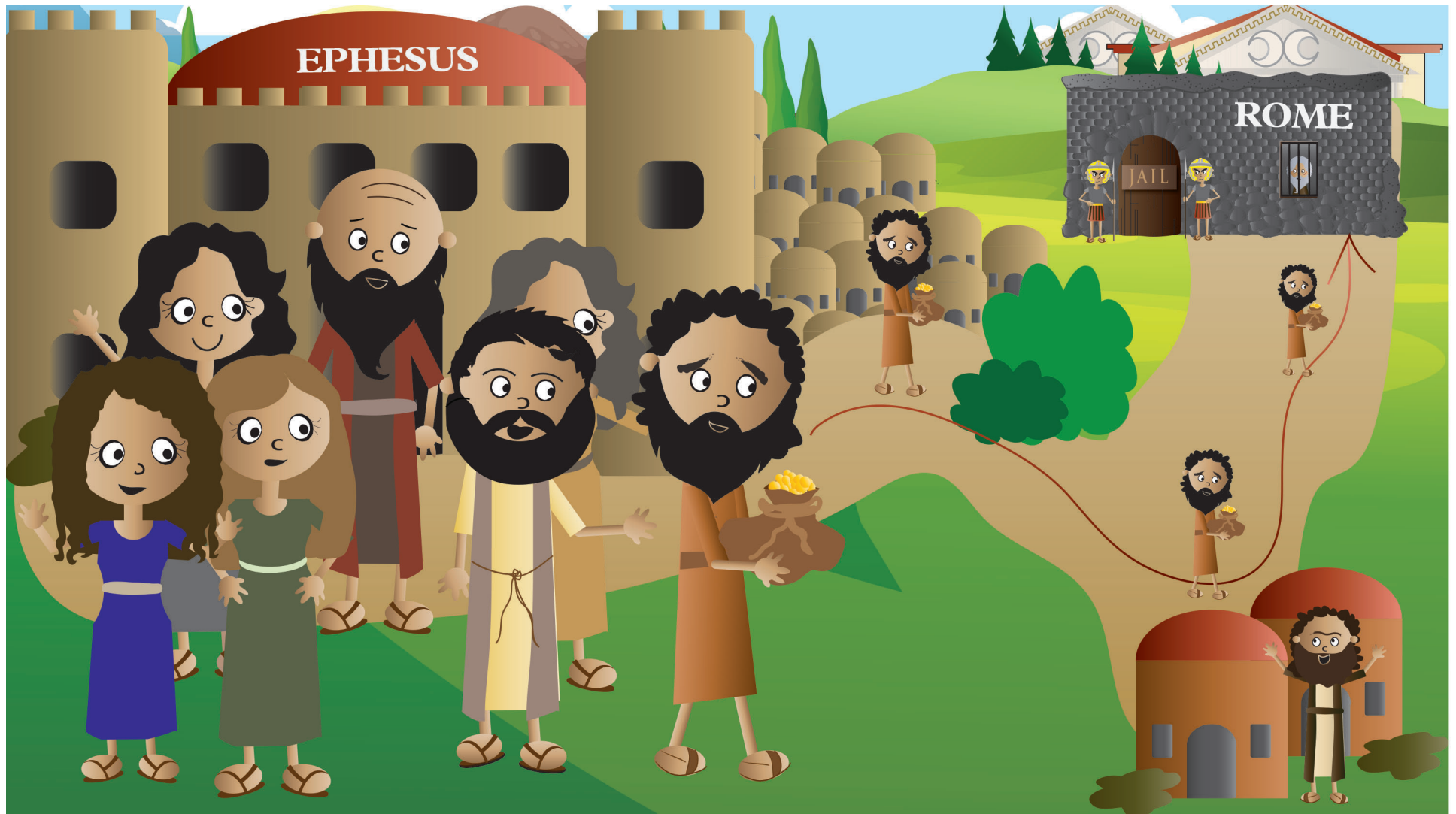
4. The believers in Philippi weren't rich, but they loved Paul. He was the one who came to their city and shared the gospel with them. Down by the river, Paul had told them the good news of Jesus for the first time. Many, like Lydia, heard and believed.



5. But Paul's good news made others very angry. They had soldiers arrest Paul and his friend, Silas. They hurt them and threw them into jail in chains. Paul suffered like this, so the Philippians might hear about Jesus. He risked his life that God might save theirs! Now it was their turn to do something for Paul, even if it was very hard.



6. So, the believers worked together to save money to send to Paul. Many chose to do without things they needed. “No, thank you, just one loaf of bread. No, thank you, only three fish, today,” was heard around the marketplace, as some may have chosen to have a little less food on their tables, so they could give more to Paul. “Sheep for sale, goats for sale,” others yelled out at the marketplace. These chose to sell some of their own things to get money to give Paul. At last, enough money was collected.



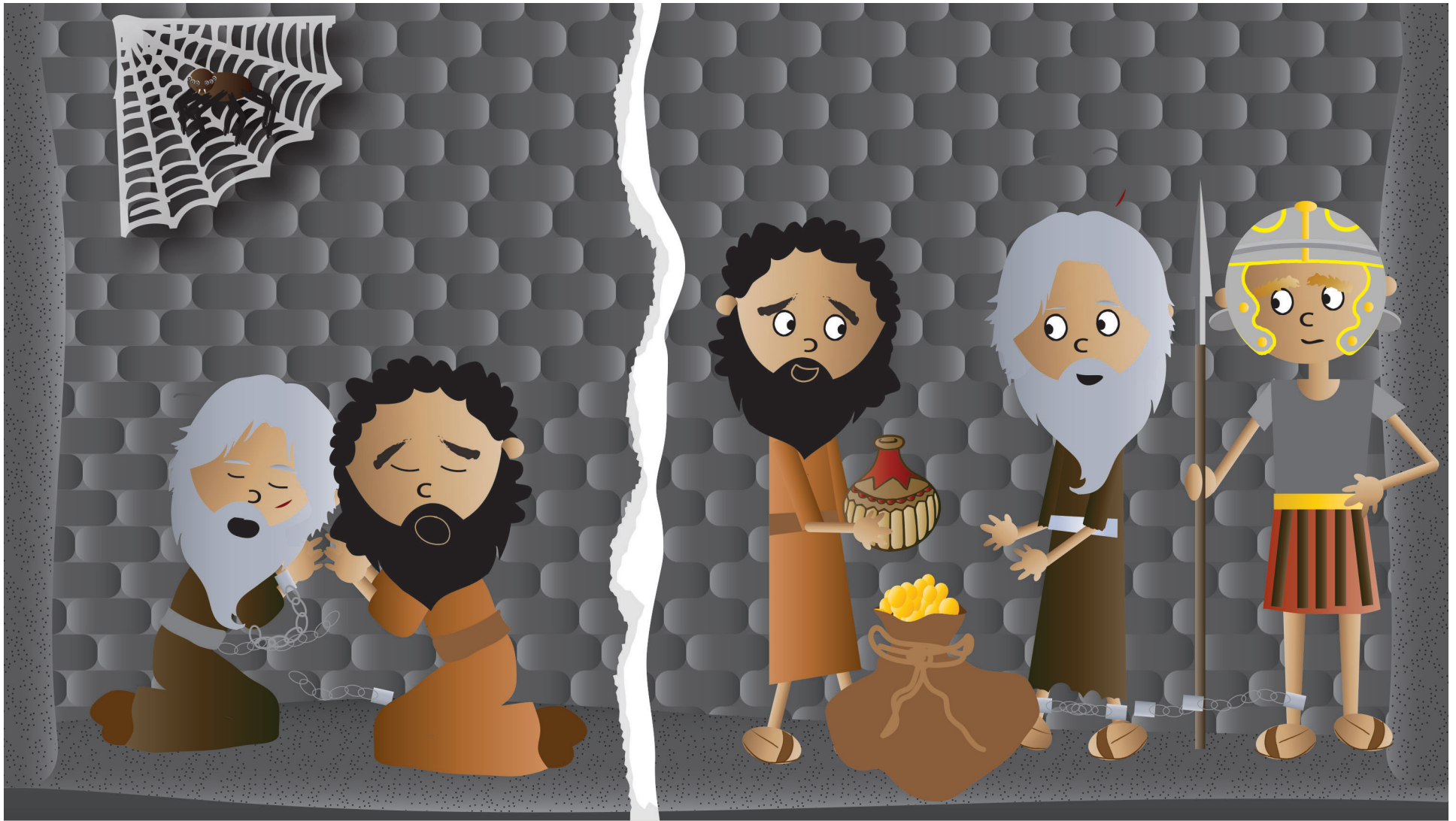
7. Now, there was another problem. Who would take the money all the way to Paul in Rome? "I'll take it," a godly man named Epaphroditus offered. "I'll take the money and stay and help Paul," he said. The Philippians prayed for Epaphroditus and sent him on his way with their gift. Walk! Walk! Walk! Epaphroditus made the long trip from Philippi to Rome. There were no cars, trains, or planes back then. It would have taken weeks for Epaphroditus to get there, but he was happy to do it. Paul had done so much for them. Epaphroditus was eager to see Paul and help him.



8. At last, Epaphroditus made it to the big city of Rome. Past the temples of the fake, Roman gods, through the busy marketplace, and down the winding streets, went Epaphroditus. Finally, he found the house where Paul was being held prisoner. “Knock, knock, knock,” Epaphroditus knocked on the door of the little, prison house. “Creak,” the door opened. Epaphroditus looked in and what did he see?



9. There was Paul, chained to a soldier. He was an old man, now. His body was sick and hurting. But even so, Paul was joyful. He was still living for God and telling people about Jesus. He had even shared the gospel with the soldiers who guarded him. Some were becoming Christians! What good news this was!



10. Epaphroditus stayed and cared for Paul a long time. He used the Philippian's money gift to buy Paul food and the other things he needed. He shared with Paul about the Philipians and how they still cared for him and were praying for God to help him. Oh, how wonderful it was to have a friend to comfort and care for him! Paul loved hearing how the believers in Philippi were doing. The Lord strengthened him as he and Epaphroditus talked about the Lord and prayed together. What comfort God brought Paul through this one man! Paul was so happy!



II. At last, it was time for Epaphroditus to go. Paul gave Epaphroditus something to take back to the believers in Philippi. He wanted to thank and encourage them. What could a poor, old man in jail give them that would do that? A letter! That's what! So, Paul got out a piece of paper and started writing. When he finished, he rolled it up and gave it to Epaphroditus. Then, off went Epaphroditus, back home. How sad Paul must have been to see him go. Yet, how happy Paul would be for the Philippians to read his letter!



12. Walk, walk, walk. Week after week, Epaphrodius traveled. At last, he made it home to Philippi. The believers gathered together and Epaphroditus read Paul's letter to them. This is what Paul wrote: "Dear Philippians, I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," Paul said.



13. "I want you to know that it's been good for the gospel for me to be in prison. I've been able to tell many people about Jesus, including all the soldiers who stand guard over me. It makes me happy that so many people are hearing about Jesus," Paul told them. "Even though life in prison is hard, I am full of joy. God is helping me by your prayers and by His Holy Spirit living in me. God will help me to keep on living for Him and telling others about Jesus," Paul wrote.



14. "And one day, God will take me home to be with Him in heaven forever. That will be best of all. Until then, I will be praying for you. I will pray that God strengthen you by His Holy Spirit, just as He is strengthening me. I will pray that He would give you joy; and, that you will keep on living for Him and telling others the good news of Jesus. One day, I hope to be freed from prison and come visit you again. May Jesus give you strength, Paul."



15. What happened to Paul after Epaphroditus left? The Lord had promised that Paul would stand before Caesar Nero, the great, Roman king, himself. And so, he did! Nero heard Paul's case, and no doubt, Paul would have even tried to share the good news of Jesus with him, too.



16. And, while Nero did NOT become a Christian, he did free Paul from prison. The LORD had answered the Philippian's prayers! Paul was free to spread the good news of Jesus once more. And, though Paul probably never got to see his dear friends in Philippi again, he would never forget them. God had used them to give him strength and comfort when he needed it the most.



17. But oh, how sweet would be the meeting of these dear friends in heaven, one day! They had loved each other so well on earth, and now, they would get to go on loving each other forever and ever! And that's what they are doing, even now!

"The Case of the Prayed-for Prisoner" Philippians

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the prisoner? Why was he in jail?
Paul was. He was in jail for telling others about Jesus.

2. Who prayed for him?
The believers in the city of Philippi.

For You and Me:

Can you imagine going to jail for something you believe in? Paul did, because he knew the good news of Jesus was true, and that people needed to hear it if they were to be saved from their sins. Paul rejoiced to tell others about Jesus and watch them become God's people. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

2 Corinthians 1:4, NIV

"We comfort those in trouble with the comfort we have received from God."

1. Who did God use to comfort Paul?
The believers in Philippi.

2. What did they do that was comforting?
They prayed for him, sent him money and Epaphroditus to help him.

For You and Me:

Paul was comforted by the help and prayers of the believers in Philippi. He was comforted by their love and by knowing that God was loving him, too, through them. We, too, can know the comfort of God and of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That's how we become God's people.

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?

It Is God's Sustaining Grace...

God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort
Each Other!



God's people strengthen and comfort each other with the good news of the gospel.

That, while we have all chosen to disobey God and deserve His punishment,
He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life. Then,
on the cross, He gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people.

On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death
for them.

God's people also remind each other that this God who saved them
through the gospel will keep on giving them everything they
need to live for Him. Oh, how comforting that is!

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as
their Savior can be God's people. This is how we
can become God's
people, too. Ask
God to
help you!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the Comforter and Strength of Your People. You help them comfort and strengthen each other.

C We confess that many times we forget to pray for others who are struggling with hard or sad times. Many times, we don't take time to comfort and strengthen others who are struggling. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for the comfort God's people receive from You through how they help and pray for each other.

S Work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to comfort others with Your Word and by praying for them. Use us to help others in their times of need. Help others to see Your love and kindness as we comfort and pray for each other.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

