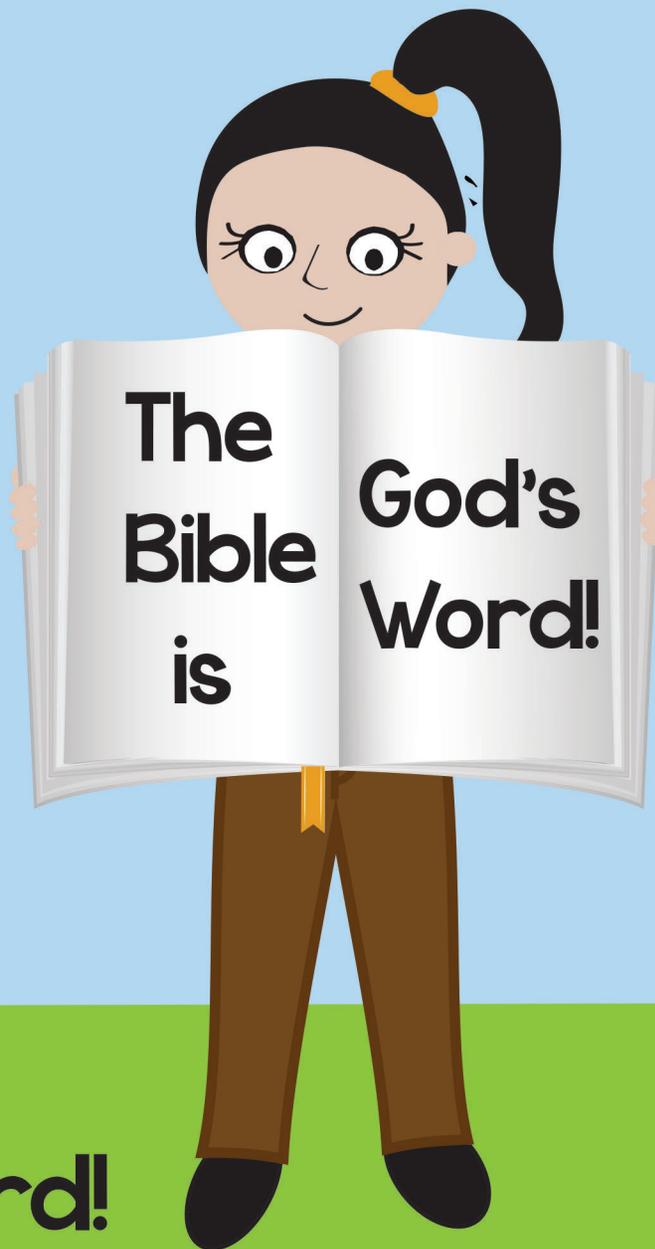


BIG QUESTION 2



What's so special about the Bible?



ANSWER:

It alone is God's Word!

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 2:

What's So Special about the Bible?
and the Answer is:
It Alone Is God's Word!

Meaning:

There are millions of books in the world, but none is like the Bible. It alone is God's perfect Word! God made sure it was written down just right. It tells us everything we need to know God and to live for Him. It is powerful to do everything God wants it to do. Everything else in this world may come and go, but God's Word will last forever. It will always prove true.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 2 Song

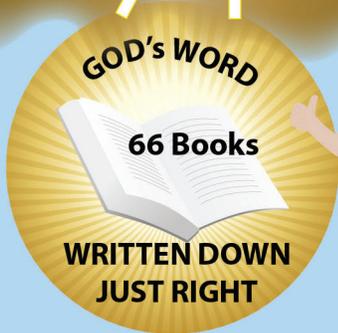
*DDD ESV Songs 2, track 12
(adapted version of "Three, Blind Mice")*

What's so special about the Bible?
It alone is God's Word!
It alone is God's Word!
It's always true,
It can make you wise,
It can work pow'rf'ly in your life.
It alone is God's Word!
It alone is God's Word!

BIG QUESTION 2: Four ways God's Word Is Special

Holy Spirit

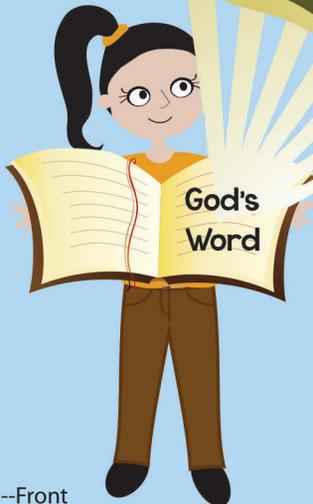
1.



2.



3.



4.



Visual Aid #2 take out of BQB

This Unit's Bible Truths

"Knowing that the Bible alone is God's Word 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 **FOUR** Bible truths that all tell us more about what makes the Bible so special.

Let's look at our Bible Truth Clue and figure out which of these four 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 get it out and hand it to you. Then hold it up and show them the pictures of the four truths they will be learning.

After everyone has had a good look, say...

"Ok, we've learned two ways the Bible is so special. They are: God made sure it was written down just right; and, It tells us about God and His plans. (Point to pictures as you identify each Bible Truth.) Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue and see if we can figure out which of these four 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 and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 3?

What's So Special about the Bible?

It Alone Is God's Word...

God uses it to ???? us !

HINT: What God does for us
through Jesus?
It rhymes with "brave."

Visual
Aid
#3
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB



ANSWER:

God uses it to SAVE us !

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:

**“What’s So Special about the Bible?
It Alone Is God’s Word...
God uses it to ???? His people!**

We are missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the Bible word for God forgiving our sins and making us His people? It rhymes with “brave?”

Can you guess? It’s save”!

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

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

**“What’s So Special about the Bible?
It Alone Is God’s Word...
God uses it to SAVE His people!**

And here what this Bible Truth means:

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

We read books to know things. We read the Bible to know things, too. The Bible tells us about God and His plans to save sinful people like you and me. It tells us that God is good, but that we have all disobeyed Him. It tells us of how Jesus came to save us from our sins. These are very, very good things for us to learn from the Bible.

But the Bible does more than just help us LEARN about God and His plans. God has made it powerful to DO wonderful things inside of us. God uses His Word to save us from our sins and make us His people. God does this through His Holy Spirit, working in our hearts, as we think about His Word. The Holy Spirit helps us to want us to turn to God and ask for His forgiveness. He helps us put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to work through His Word and save people. He can work through His Word and save us, too. Ask Him!



Holy Spirit

**"You have been born again,
not of perishable seed
but of imperishable,
through the living and abiding
word of God." of God."**

1 Peter 1:23

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:

1 Peter 1:23 tells us:

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."

Learn a Little: "You have been born again... through the word of God."

What does that mean?

When we become one of God's people, God calls that being born AGAIN. No, our mothers don't give birth to us again. No, we don't become little babies like we were. But, it IS a new beginning of life. Only this time, it is life with God.

How do we have this new beginning of life with God? God's Holy Spirit works in our hearts, as we think about God's Word. He helps us want to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We tell God about our sins and He forgives them all. He gives us a new heart that knows Him and loves Him and wants to live for Him.

This new life with God makes us a new person on the inside, in our heart. That's why God says we are born again when we become His people. And the amazing thing about this new life with God is that it never ends. We will NEVER perish! When we die, we will go to live with God forever! God loves to help us have this new life. Ask Him to help you!

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

For You Have Been Born Again: 1 Peter 1:23

DDD ESV Songs 2, track 26

You have been born again, not of perishable seed,
But through the living and abiding word of God.
You have been born again, not of perishable seed,
But through the living and abiding word of God.
First Peter One, verse twenty-three.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's read what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed

Matthew 4:18-22; 27-28; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 20:30-31; 21:24-25



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who were the fishermen?
2. What happened to them as they heard God's Word?
Who did they follow?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 Peter 1:23, ESV

"You have been born again... through the word of God."

When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, this is called being born again. That's because this is how God gives us a new life as one of His people. God uses His Word, the Bible to do this wonderful thing inside our hearts.

1. What happened as the fishermen listened to Jesus teach from God's Word, the Bible?
2. What did God's Holy Spirit help some of the fishermen write down?
Which of the fishermen wrote down the words to our Bible verse?

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

John

James

Andrew

Peter



1. If there was one thing that Peter, Andrew, James and John knew, it was fish. Some of these fish you may have heard of before-- like sardines and tilapia. There were others that you probably haven't heard of--like musht and biny fish. But Peter, Andrew, James and John knew them all and caught them all. They were fishermen. Fish were their living. So, most every night, when the sun went down behind the hills and the moon rose up in the sky, Peter, Andrew, James and John gathered their nets, hopped in their boat, and sailed out into the big Sea of Galilee.



2. “Whoosh,” they threw out their nets onto the wavy waters. “Bloop, bloop, bloop,” down the nets sank into the depths below. Then “Grrrrrunt,” they pulled the heavy nets back into their boat, filled with flippy-floppy fish. Catch fish on the lake at night. Sell fish in the market by day. Sleep a little bit, then do it all over again. This was the life of fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John.



3. Well, that's the way life was supposed to go. But one night, things went very, very differently. Out went the nets, "Whoosh." And down went the nets, "Bloop, bloop, bloop." (Yes, that was all the same as usual.) But this time, there was no "Grrrrrunt" when the nets came up out of the water. They were easy to pull back in. Too easy. Uh oh... The nets were easy to pull in because there were NO fish in the nets at all! There were no fish that first time they threw out the nets, or the second, or third, or fourth time. Not a single musht, or biny, or sardine, or tilapia fish the whole night long. Not even one!



4. So, as the moon set and the sun rose the next morning, a very sad Peter, Andrew, James, and John rowed their empty boat back to shore and pulled it up on the beach. No fish caught meant no fish to sell at the market, and no money in their pockets. They would just clean their nets and go to bed. Ugh! This was the worst night ever!



5. But then, someone came down to the beach that sad morning. Someone who would turn that worst NIGHT ever into the best DAY ever for those fishermen. Can you guess who it was? It was Jesus! He had come down to the beach with a big crowd of people. And He chose to be right near where Peter, Andrew, James, and John were cleaning their nets.

Now, when you and I go to the beach, it might be to swim in the water or play in the sand, but not Jesus and this crowd. Jesus had come to teach to them from God's Word.



6. Jesus could have picked many places around that big lake to teach that big crowd, but He led the crowd right there near those sad, tired fishermen. Why had Jesus chosen THAT spot? Because He had a plan for those fishermen! Jesus borrowed Peter's boat and pushed it out to shore. Then, He began teaching from God's Word. As Peter, Andrew, James, and John cleaned their nets, they listened to Jesus. And as they listened, God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He was using God's Word to help these men begin to believe in Jesus as more than just a teacher.



7. Jesus knew what was going on inside of those fishermen. He had planned for them to hear Him teach from God's Word that day. He had planned for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. Why? Because Jesus had planned for those four fishermen to be His disciples! They would be His special friends who would live with Him and go with Him everywhere He went. He would teach them God's Word and prepare them to tell the whole world the good news of salvation. And, His plan was starting right there, as they were cleaning those nets and listening!



8. When Jesus finished teaching, He rowed back to shore. “Get into your boat and row back out onto the lake,” Jesus told them. “Throw out your nets again.” The fishermen were tired. They had just finished cleaning those big nets. They didn’t want to get them dirty again. It wouldn’t do any good to go back out, anyway. Everyone knew fish only come out at night. But Peter went ahead and grumpily obeyed. “Jesus, we have been out all night and caught nothing, but because you say so, we will go back out.” (“What did a teacher know about fishing, anyway!” he surely thought.)



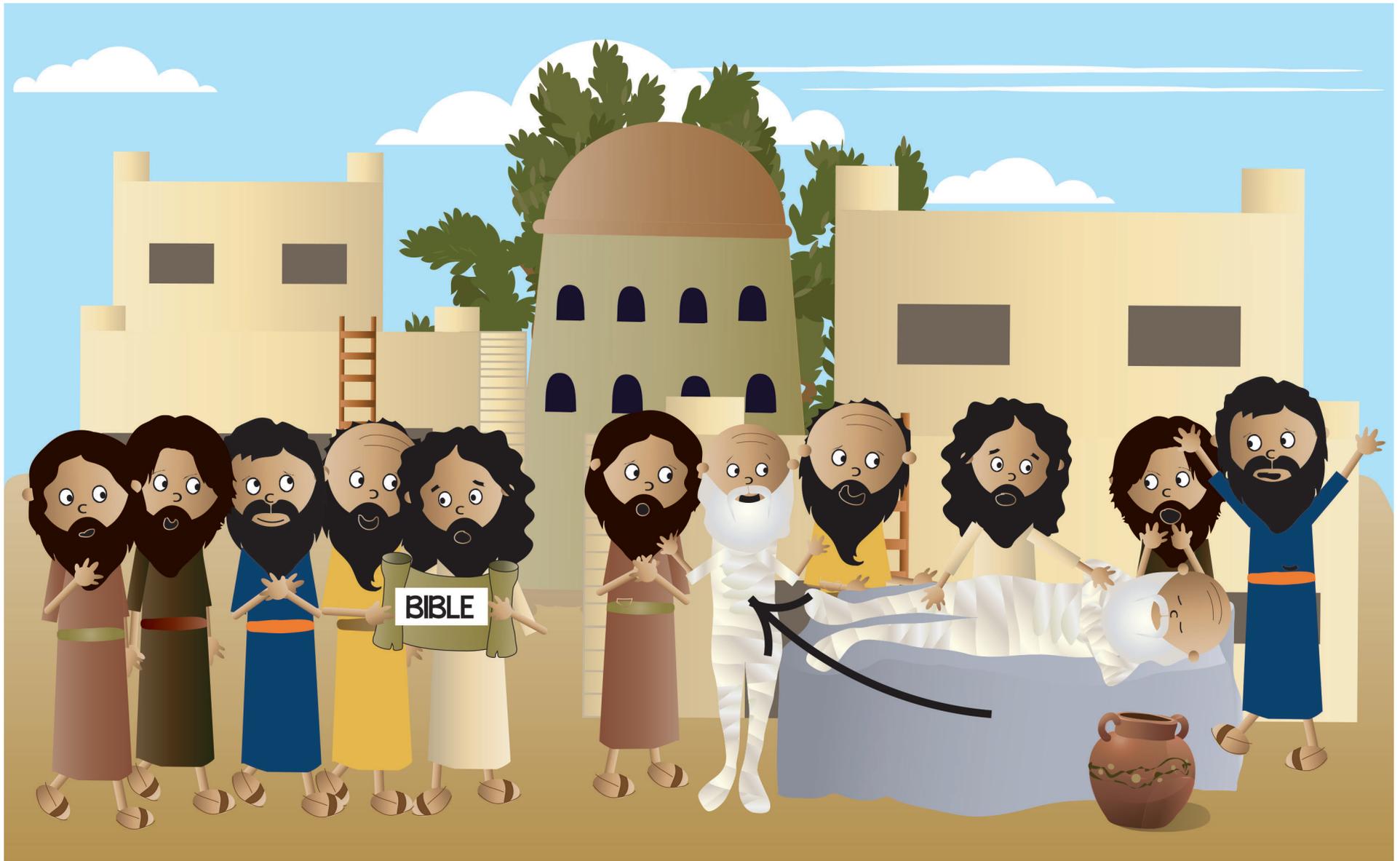
9. Well, it was a good thing those fishermen DID obey Jesus, as they quickly found out! “Whoosh” they threw out the net, “Bloop, bloop, bloop,” down went the nets; then “GRRRRRRRUNT,” they pulled them back in, with the biggest grunt ever. The nets were so full of fish that they couldn’t hold them all. The nets were so full of fish that they even began to RIIPPPPPPP!



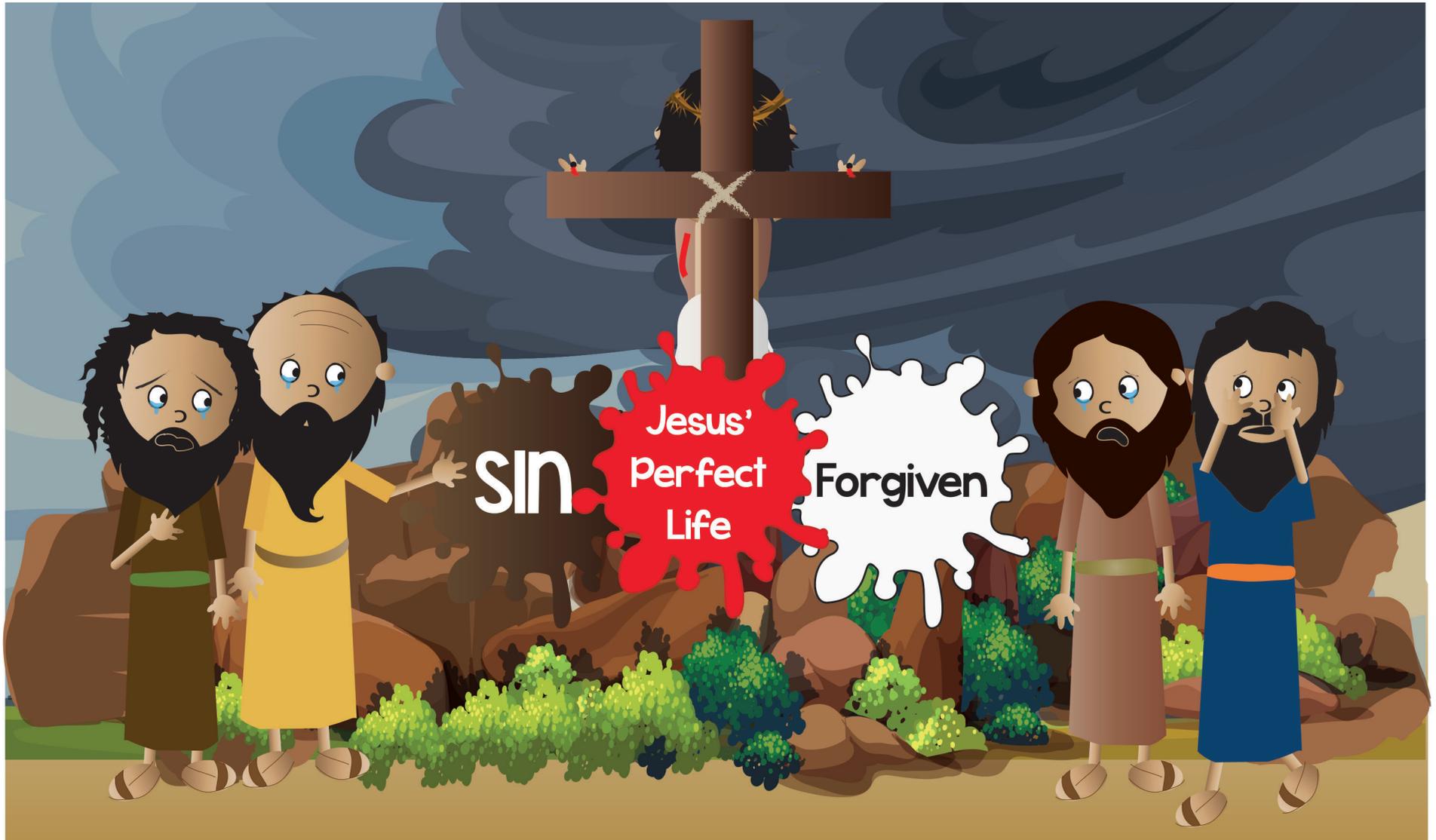
10. Once more the Holy Spirit worked in those fishermen's hearts. He helped them put all the pieces together. Jesus had CAUSED this amazing catch of fish. And, He had done it in a way that only God could do. Jesus wasn't just a teacher of God's Word. He was MORE! "Could Jesus be the Messiah, the Special One sent by God to save His people?" they began to wonder. Wow!



II. Peter wasn't just amazed. He was ashamed, too. He had grumbled and doubted Jesus. He fell down on his knees before Jesus, and said, "Go away from me. I'm a sinful man." ("What would someone like Jesus want with me," Peter thought.) But Jesus did NOT go away. He knew Peter was a sinner. He had come to be Peter's Savior. Jesus STAYED, and said to Peter and the others, "Leave your fishing nets and come follow Me. I'm making you fishers of men. I will use you to bring God's Word to people, so they can learn about Me, the Savior, and be saved from their sins."

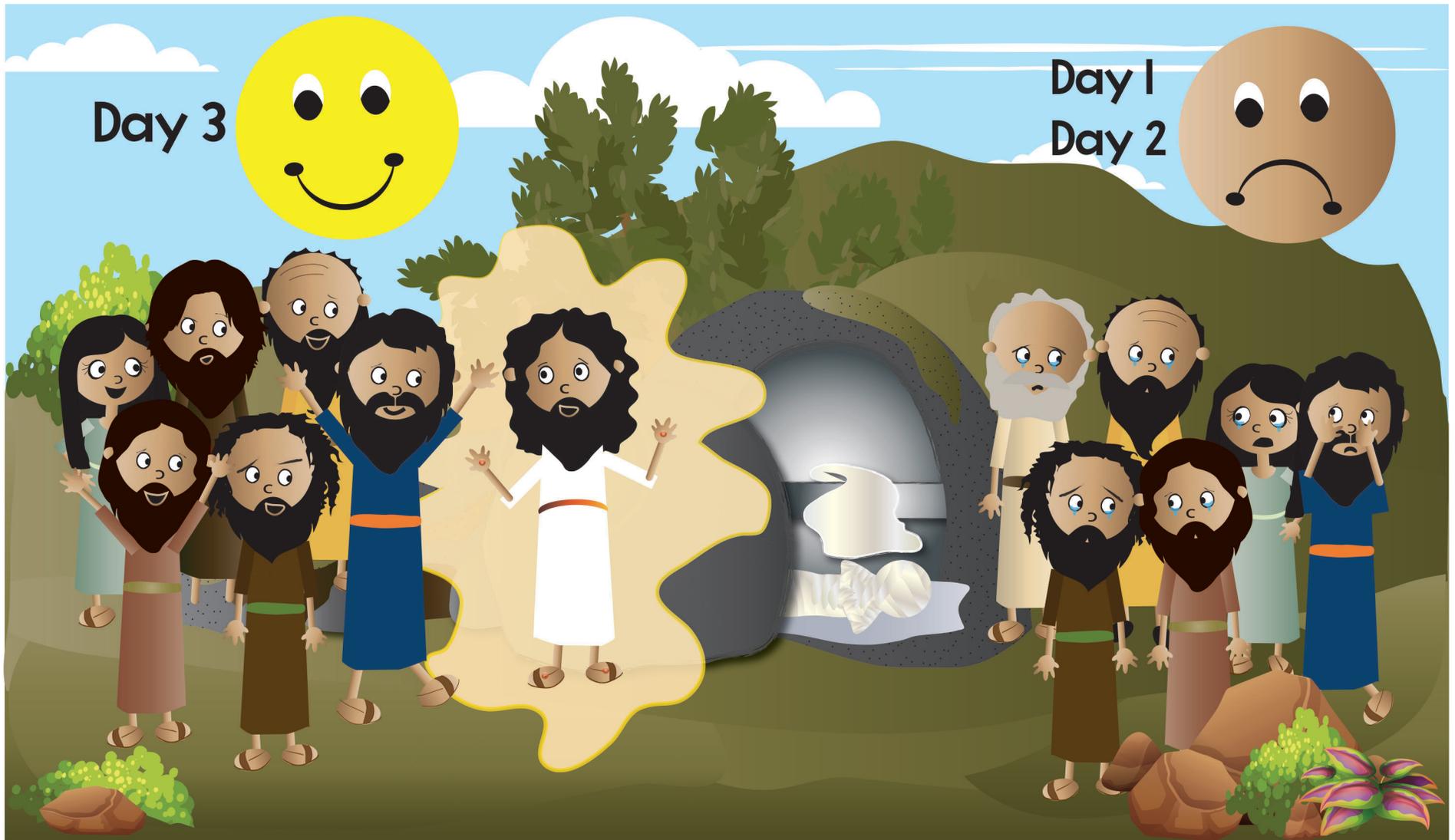


12. And that's exactly what Peter, Andrew, James, and John did. They put down their nets, and left their boat. They even left all of those flippy-floppy fish! They left them all, and followed Jesus. For one, two, three years, Peter, Andrew, James, and John followed Jesus as His disciples. They listened to Him preach God's Word. They watched Him do many amazing things by God's power.



13. As Peter, Andrew, James, and John listened and watched everything Jesus did, God worked in their hearts more and more. Yes, Jesus WAS the Messiah, the Special One sent by God.

But what Jesus did at the end of those three years, was most amazing thing of all: Jesus choose to suffer and die on the cross. He gave up His life to pay for the sins of God's people. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were sad and confused. Was the Messiah supposed to die?



14. Jesus was buried in a cave-grave that day, but He didn't stay there. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory! Jesus first appeared to the women who came to the grave to care for His body, that Sunday morning. Then later that day, Jesus appeared to His disciples. How happy Peter, Andrew, James, John, and the others were! Yes! Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior! He had beaten sin and death for God's people!



15. For forty, wonderful days, Jesus spent time with His disciples. He taught them from God's Word. He gave them work to do: "Go into the whole world and teach everyone about Me! Tell them to turn away from their sins and trust in Me as their Savior!" The disciples were happy to obey. They went out and preached about Jesus from God's Word. And as they preached, the Holy Spirit used worked in the hearts of those who listened. Many believed! How happy were Peter, Andrew, James, and John to see God use His powerful Word to save so many people!



16. God used these men to not only preach His Word, but to write down His Word, too. Fisherman Peter wrote down the words to our Bible verse: "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." He knew what it meant for God to use His Word to work in his heart and save him from his sins. Fisherman John wrote down a whole book full of what he had heard Jesus say and had seen Jesus do. When John finished writing his story of Jesus, he wrote these words: "These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah and be saved, too."



17. Every word that Peter and John wrote down came out perfectly. Why? Because God's Holy Spirit worked in them as they wrote. He was making John and Peter's words, God's Words, too. He made sure everything was written down just right. And now, YOU can read the words Fisherman Peter and John wrote down in YOUR Bible! They are written down in the books we call the Gospel of John and First and Second Peter. God has used the words they wrote down to help many people believe in Jesus and be saved. He can even use them to save you! Ask Him!

The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed Matthew 4:18-22; 27-28; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 20:30-31; 21:24-25

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who were the fishermen? Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
2. What happened to them as they heard God's Word? Who did they follow?
God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and they began to believe in Jesus. They became Jesus' disciples, His special friends who followed Him as He taught God's Word and did amazing things.

For You and Me:
God can work in our hearts, too, when we hear God's Word. We can ask our teachers and our parents to help us understand what we hear. We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to believe in Jesus as our Savior.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 Peter 1:23, ESV

"You have been born again... through the word of God."

1. What happened as the fishermen listened to Jesus teach from God's Word, the Bible?
God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, and they began to believe in Jesus. They became Jesus' disciples, His special friends who followed Him as He taught God's Word and did amazing things.

2. What did God's Holy Spirit help some of the fishermen write down? Which of the fishermen wrote down the words to our Bible verse?
He helped them write down parts of His Word, the Bible. Peter did.

For You and Me:
God can work in our hearts, too, when we hear God's Word. We can ask our teachers and our parents to help us understand what we hear. We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to believe in Jesus as our Savior. He can give us this special "new birth" from God.

**What's So Special about the Bible?
It Alone Is God's Word...
God uses it to save His people!**

The Gospel



God loves to use His Word to save people. He can use it to save us and make us His people. Take time to listen to God's Word. You can even listen to the stories of Jesus that God used Fisherman John and Fisherman Peter to write down.

Read about how Jesus offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross. Read about that amazing third day, when Jesus rose up from the dead in victory, beating sin and death for God's people!

Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can become God's people! Ask God to help you to turn away from your sins (repent) and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, that You are our Savior.

C God, You are so kind to offer to save us, but sometimes we still want to keep on doing things our own way. Please forgive us. Help us to turn to You as our Savior.

T Thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible. Thank You for what You tell us about You and about ourselves in it. Thank You for how You use it to save people like us from our sins, so we can be Your people.

S Work deep inside our hearts as we listen to Your Word, the Bible! Use it to help us turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and live for You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

