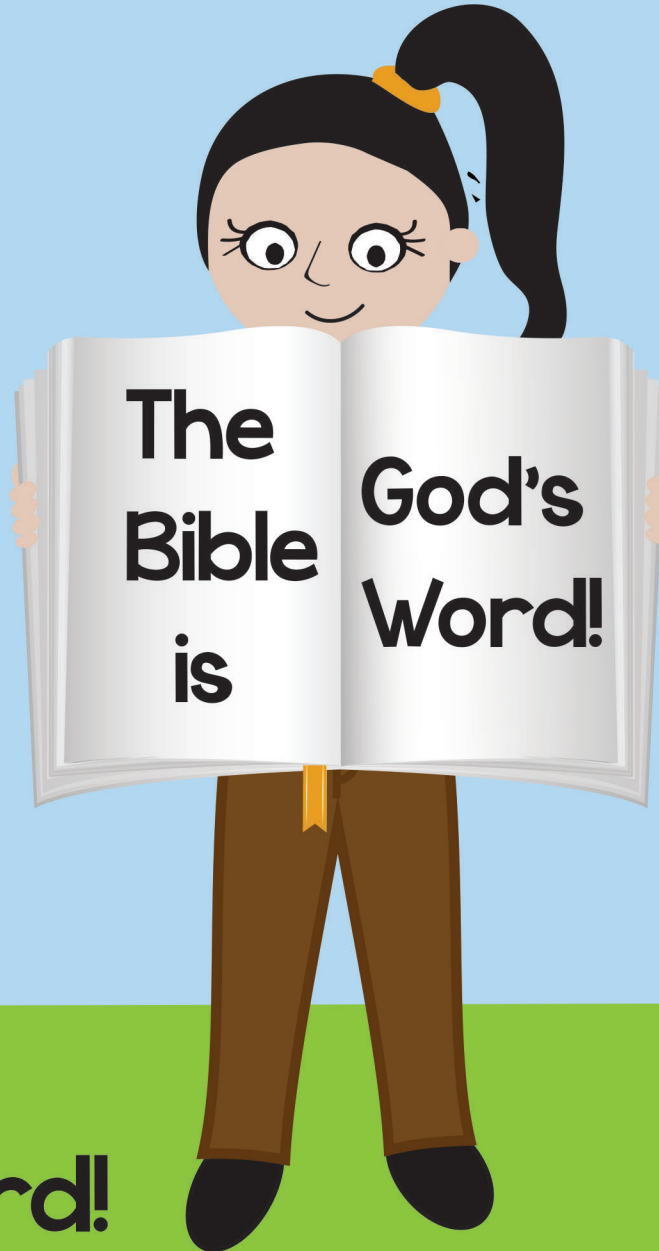


BIG QUESTION 2



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

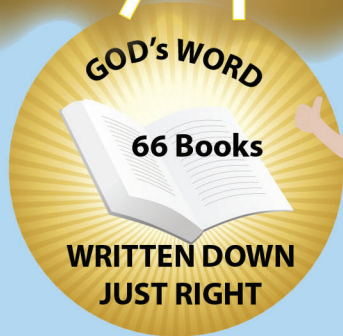
*DDD NIV Songs 2, track 12
(adapted version of "Three, Blind Mice")*

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 three ways the Bible is so special. They are: God made sure it was written down just right; It tells us about God and His plans; and, God uses His Word to save His people. (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.

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 4?

What's So Special about the Bible?

It Alone Is God's Word...

God uses it to ???? us !

HINT: "What is the word for making something different?
It rhymes with the word "strange."

Visual
Aid

#3



of BQB



ANSWER:

God uses it to CHANGE 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 word for making something different? It rhymes with the word “strange?”

Can you guess? It’s “change”!

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 CHANGE 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 for 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 all very good things us to learn.

But the Bible does more than just help us to learn things. It is God’s Word and He makes it POWERFUL to do things inside of us. It is powerful to SAVE us (as we learned before); but also, to CHANGE us in wonderful way, once we become His people.

God does this through His Holy Spirit, working in our hearts, as we think about His Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit can help us understand God’s Word, so that we can know how God wants us to live. He can use God’s Word to show us ways we are disobeying God, and He can help us turn away from them. He can help us remember God’s words of comfort and forgiveness when we are sad. He can help us live and love the way God tells us to in the Bible.

Visual
Aid

#4

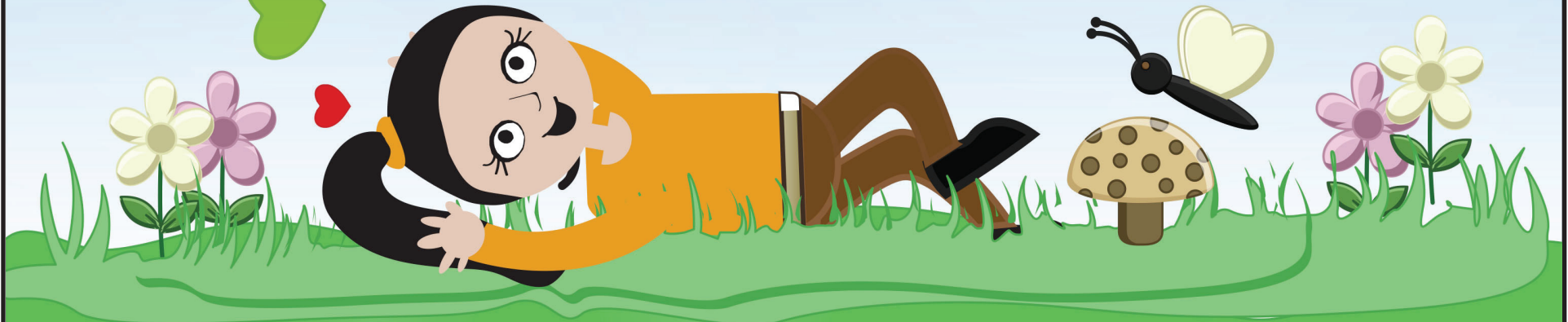
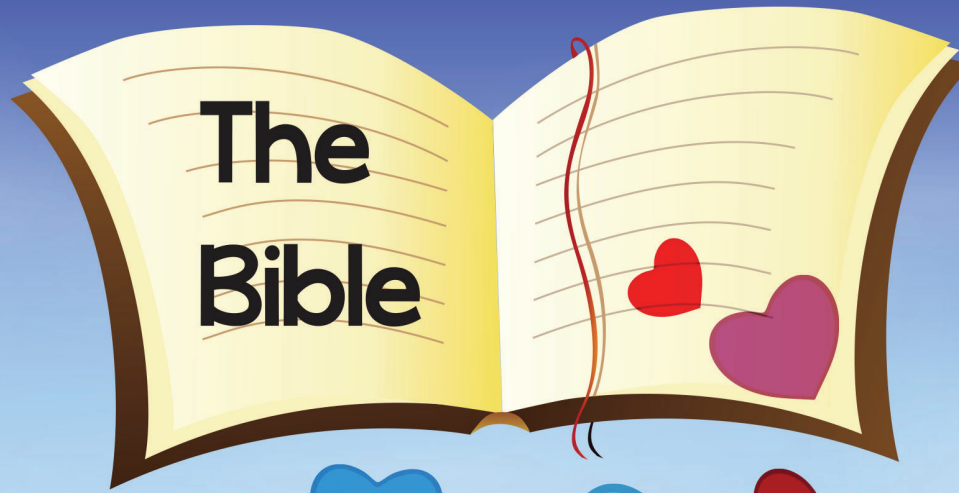
Place
verse in



take out



of BQB



**“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.” Psalm 119:97-98**

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

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

Psalm 119:97-98 tells us:

Psalm 119:97-98:

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

Learn a Little: "Your commands make me wiser."

What does that mean?

God has put so many wonderful things in His Word, the Bible. He's put songs of worship in it. He's given us stories of the mighty things He's done for His people. He tells us about how Jesus came to save us from our sins. He's filled it with His good plans and His promises.

God has also written His laws and commands in the Bible. ("Laws" and "commands" are big words that mean "rules.") God's laws tell us how God wants us to live.

When we read God's laws in the Bible, the Holy Spirit can use them to change us and make us wise to live God's good way. They can help us to do the right thing, even when we have enemies around us who want us to do the wrong thing. God's laws are always the best way to live. No wonder God's people love to meditate on them! They want to live to please God! God's laws can help them!

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

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

Oh, How I Love Your Law:

Psalm 119:97-98

DDD NIV Songs 2, track 21

Oh, oh, oh, oh,
Oh, how I love your law!
I, I, meditate on it all day long,
Your commands make me
wiser than my enemies,
Your commands make me
wiser than my enemies,
For they are ever with me,
For they are ever with me.
Psalm One-nineteen,
ninety-seven and eight.

"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 Marvelous Mess Acts 19; Ephesians



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What caused the mess in Ephesus?
2. What made it so marvelous?



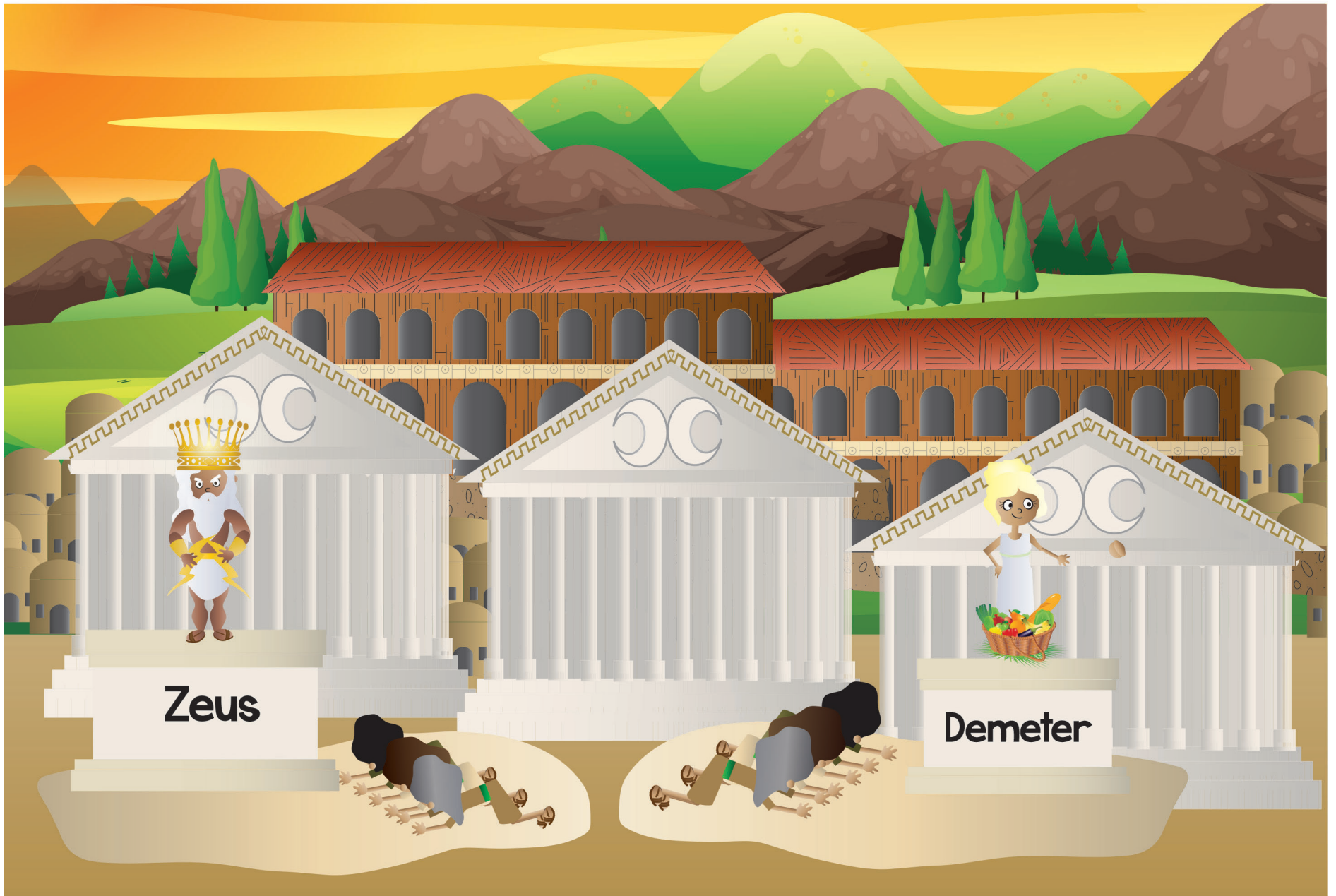
Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 119:97-98, NIV

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

1. Who learned to love God's laws and wanted to live by them?
2. What did they stop doing because they loved God's laws and wanted to live by them?

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



I. Ephesus was a big, beautiful city. It was a city that was rich and merry from worshipping fake gods and goddesses.



2. People came from many lands to worship the fake gods and goddesses of Ephesus-- especially the fake goddess Artemis, in her big, beautiful worship house.



3. People spent lots of money buying worship gifts for Artemis and throwing big, worship parties to celebrate her. They spent lots of money buying big books that were supposed to be magical. And, they spent lots of money buying little statues of Artemis to keep on worshipping her when they went back home.



4. This was how life had been in Ephesus for a long time, rich and merry from worshipping fake gods. But that was about to change. One man with one book was coming to Ephesus; and oh, my, there was going to be a mess in Ephesus soon! The man was Paul. And the book? Can you guess what book would cause so much trouble? It was God's Word, the Bible.

"I have good news for you, here in God's Word," Paul told the people of Ephesus. "God promised to send a Savior to save us from our sins. And guess what? He's come!"



5. "Jesus is that Savior. He is God's Son come from heaven to save us. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. He chose to suffer and die on a cross, offering up His life to God as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory, showing He really beat sin and death," Paul told them. "Come, turn away from your sins. Turn away from worshipping fake gods! Trust in Jesus as your Savior and be forgiven of your sins. You can become God's people, too. You can have eternal life with Him!" Paul urged them all.



6. God helped Paul to boldly preach the good news of Jesus to the people of Ephesus. God also gave Paul a special gift to help people know that Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior. God gave Paul the power to heal sicknesses in Jesus' name. Paul would just place his hands on sick people and God would heal them. Blind people. Lame people. Every kind of sick people. God healed them all. Wow! So, Paul went all over Ephesus, sharing about Jesus and healing people in Jesus' name. Paul prayed that these people would put their trust in Jesus and become God's people!



7. But Paul wasn't the only one who wanted these people to be saved. God did, too. As these people heard Paul preach God's Word, and watched him heal sick people in Jesus' name, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts, and they believed!

"This Jesus is not like our fake gods. He is alive! He is powerful to save us from our sins!" they exclaimed. "Let's turn away from these fake gods and trust in Jesus as our Savior!" Paul was so excited at how God was using His Word and His power to save many people in Ephesus!



8. God had used His powerful Word to save these people of Ephesus, but as amazing as that was, God was not done yet. God hadn't planned to just SAVE these people from their sins, and have them keep on living their OLD way. No! God had planned to CHANGE them, and give them a whole NEW way of life. God's Holy Spirit would use Paul's preaching from the Bible to do this. Paul gathered the new believers together and taught them from God's Word. He taught them more about Jesus, God's great plans, and how to love God and love one another.



9. As these new believers listened to God's Word, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them want to love God more and serve Him with their whole lives. He helped them want nothing to do with those old, fake gods anymore. Not even Artemis! They were going to live for Jesus now! So, they gathered all of their magical books and threw them into a big pile. Then, they set them on fire! The only book they needed was God's Word. The other people in Ephesus were shocked! Why would these people burn up all these magical books!



10. That was a big mess, but it wasn't the only mess. There was more mess to come! The believers stopped spending their money on those big, Artemis worship parties, and on those little, Artemis statues. Now, they wanted to use their money the way God's Word told them to. They would use it to take care of each other, and to tell more people about Jesus. Paul was so happy! He thanked God for using His Word to not just save these people in Ephesus, but to really change them, too.



II. Yes, Paul was very happy, but there were a lot of other people who were NOT happy at all-- especially the people who sold the Artemis statues, the magic books, and all the things for the big, Artemis worship parties. "People aren't spending money on big, Artemis worship parties anymore. They aren't buying our Artemis statues either," they grumbled. "What a mess Paul and his book have made in Ephesus! We have to get rid of him right now!" they decided.



12. The shopkeepers gathered together a huge, angry crowd. They were shoving and bumping! They were yelling and grumping! "Hurray for Artemis! Boo for Jesus! Get rid of Paul!" they shouted, as loudly as they could, for hours, and hours, and hours! What a mess there was in Ephesus now! At last, city leaders came in and quieted down the crowds. They sent them all home and told Paul to leave the city.



13. Paul packed his things, said goodbye to the believers, and left Ephesus that very day. "Surely this would clean up the mess in Ephesus," the leaders thought. But those leaders were wrong. Paul had gone, but that book-- the Word of God-- certainly had not! The new believers would go on reading and learning from it. God would go on using it to change them: to love Him and to love others more. And God's people would boldly go on telling others the good news of Jesus. The mess in Ephesus was far from cleaned up. It was there to stay. And that was a very good thing!

The Case of the Marvelous Mess Acts 19; Ephesians

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What caused the mess in Ephesus?
Paul preaching God's Word, and God's Word changing people made the mess.

2. What made it so marvelous?
It was marvelous (good) because many people in Ephesus turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:
God can use His Word to do marvelous things inside of us, too. He can use it to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can use it to change us and help us to love Him and others more and more. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 119:97-98, NIV

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me."

1. Who learned to love God's laws and wanted to live by them? Many people in Ephesus who listened to Paul preach God's Word.

2. What did they stop doing because they loved God's laws and wanted to live by them? They set their magical books on fire and they stopped buying statues and going to the big worship parties for Artemis and the other fake gods.

For You and Me:
God's laws are so good. They teach us how God wants us to live. God can use them to help us to live for Him. God wants us to meditate (think about) His laws, too. His Holy Spirit can work in our hearts and help us to live by them. He promises to help all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

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

The Gospel



Paul preached God's Word to the people of Ephesus. God worked in the hearts of many as they listened. Paul told them how Jesus, God's Son, came to live a perfect life, then offered it up on the cross as the perfect payment for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had really beat sin and death for God's people.

Paul told the people of Ephesus that they could be God's people, too, if they turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. God used His Word to save and change many people in Ephesus. He can use His Word to help us to save us and change us, too. Ask Him to use His Word to save and change you! He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A We praise you, God, for giving us Your powerful Word. You are able to change us.

C God, we know that we disobey You and should change, but sometimes we don't want to. Please forgive us. We need a Savior!

T Thank You for all the ways You can change us through Your Word. Thank You that You can help us to love You and live for You.

S Work deep inside our hearts as we hear Your Word! Help us to turn away from disobeying You (repent) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Change us so that we love You more and more.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 2.4