

# **DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES**



**Unit 3,**

**Bible Truth 1**

**Story Scene Pictures**

## Using Simple Story Scenes as a Curriculum

### Introduce the Key Concept and Bible Verse

Simple Story Scenes give you the basics for the core of your lesson. You can use the overview sheet to introduce and explain the key concept and Bible verse.

### Give the Case Assignment

Give the children a Detective Dan listening assignment. Two are provided. You can add a third using the ideas on the bonus, third take-home sheet, if desired. Each listening assignment, let's you teach the story with a different learning emphasis.

### Show & Tell the Story

Hold up the pictures and tell the story from the story scenes. Alternatively, you can find in the and Pieces section for this unit at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org), these same listening assignments and story scenes, gospel and ACTS prayer modified for view on a screen. Simply download them or open them online and show through your own monitor (tablet, big screen, whatever).

### Solve the Case

Repeat Detective Dan's listening assignment question and discuss the answer.

### Share the Gospel

Share the gospel tie-in with the kids.

### Close in ACTS Prayer

Pray the ACTS prayer with the kids. If using the curriculum with older children, give them a chance to think up their own ACTS tie-ins to the story, using the one provided as cues/ideas for you.

### Review Time

Give out the take-home sheet (there are three: two that correlates to the two Detective Dan assignments in the Story Scenes, and a bonus third one.) As the children are coloring, use the take-home sheet discussion questions or your own questions to further review and apply the key concepts, Bible verse, and story truths to the children.

### Looking for more?

Online, in the Bits and Pieces section for this unit, you will find review games, crafts, storyboard flannelgraph figures, and audio and sheet music for all of the songs. There are also full lesson plans that offer more of a script and take this curriculum's possibilities to much more depth. Don't forget to tell the parents about the Parents Resources section where they can read through the Story scenes and download take homes with their kids.

**Unit 3: The Good News of God, the Gospel**

**Unit Big Question (and Answer):** What Is the Gospel? It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!

**Unit Bible Verse:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

**Bible Truth 1 Concept: Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...God Made Us and We Should Obey Him**

God is our Creator. He made everything in heaven and earth. He made it perfectly. It was good and without sin. It was just exactly as He planned.

God isn't just the Creator of everything. He is also the King over everything. God is the King everyone should obey. God gives us good laws to live by. And, He gives us consequences if we disobey Him. We should worship, love, and obey God, our good Creator and King.

**Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: Psalm 100:1-6**

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

**Learn a Little:** "Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us."

**Meaning**

God's people are so happy about being His people! It's not enough for them to quietly worship Him. They want to make a joyful noise and sing loudly to Him. They want everyone--the whole earth--to praise God along with them. They want them to gather together with them at church and sing, sing, sing to the LORD, the great and good king! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**Bible Truth 1 ACTS Prayer**

- A** God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.
- C** We confess that many times we rebel against You and Your good ways. We choose to live life our own way, instead. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for being our good Creator and King. Thank You for making everything in the world for Your good purposes. Thank You for being so merciful to us! Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from rebelling against You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to joyfully obey You, our good and great King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Bible Truth 1 Story**

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**The Case of the God Who Was Different**

*Acts 17:16-33*

**Songs Used in Bible Truth 1**

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Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16

*Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 2)*

*Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 (version 3)*

Big Question 3 Hymn: And Can It Be, v.1 Refrain

Big Question 3 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse Song: Shout for Joy Psalm 100:1,2

listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page

BIG QUESTION 3



# What Is the Gospel?

VISUAL AID

#1

take out



of BQB



ANSWER:

# It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!

## 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 3:

**What Is the Gospel?**

and the Answer is:

**It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!**

**Meaning:**

Gospel means "good news." In the Bible, the gospel is the good news that God sent His Son Jesus to save sinners like you and me from the punishment we deserve for our sins. That salvation is ours when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Now that is good news indeed!

Let's sing our Big Question Song:

## Big Q & A 3 Song

*DDD NIV Songs 3, track 12*

*(adapted version of "Oh, My Darlin' Clementine")*

What's the gospel?

What's the gospel?

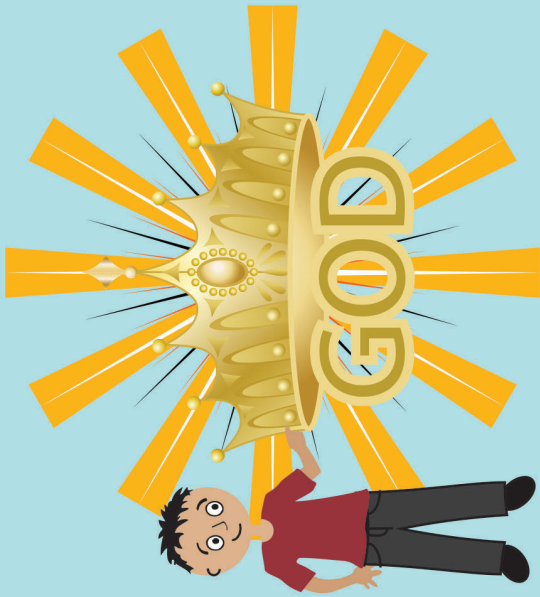
Can you tell me what it is?

It's salvation through faith in Jesus,

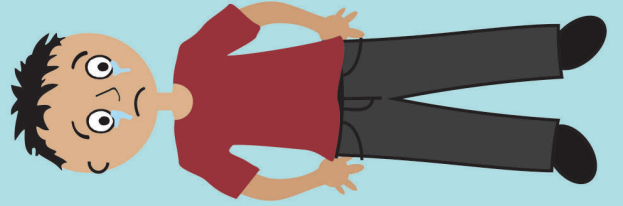
That's what the gospel is. (repeat)

# BIG QUESTION 3: Four truths about the Gospel

1.



2.



3.



4.



Visual Aid

#2

take out  
Big Question  
of BQB

## **This Unit's Bible Truths**

"It's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" 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 the wonderful good news of God-the gospel.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our four 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 four truths they will be learning.*

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

"Ok, now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign 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 sign and hand it to you.*



CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH?

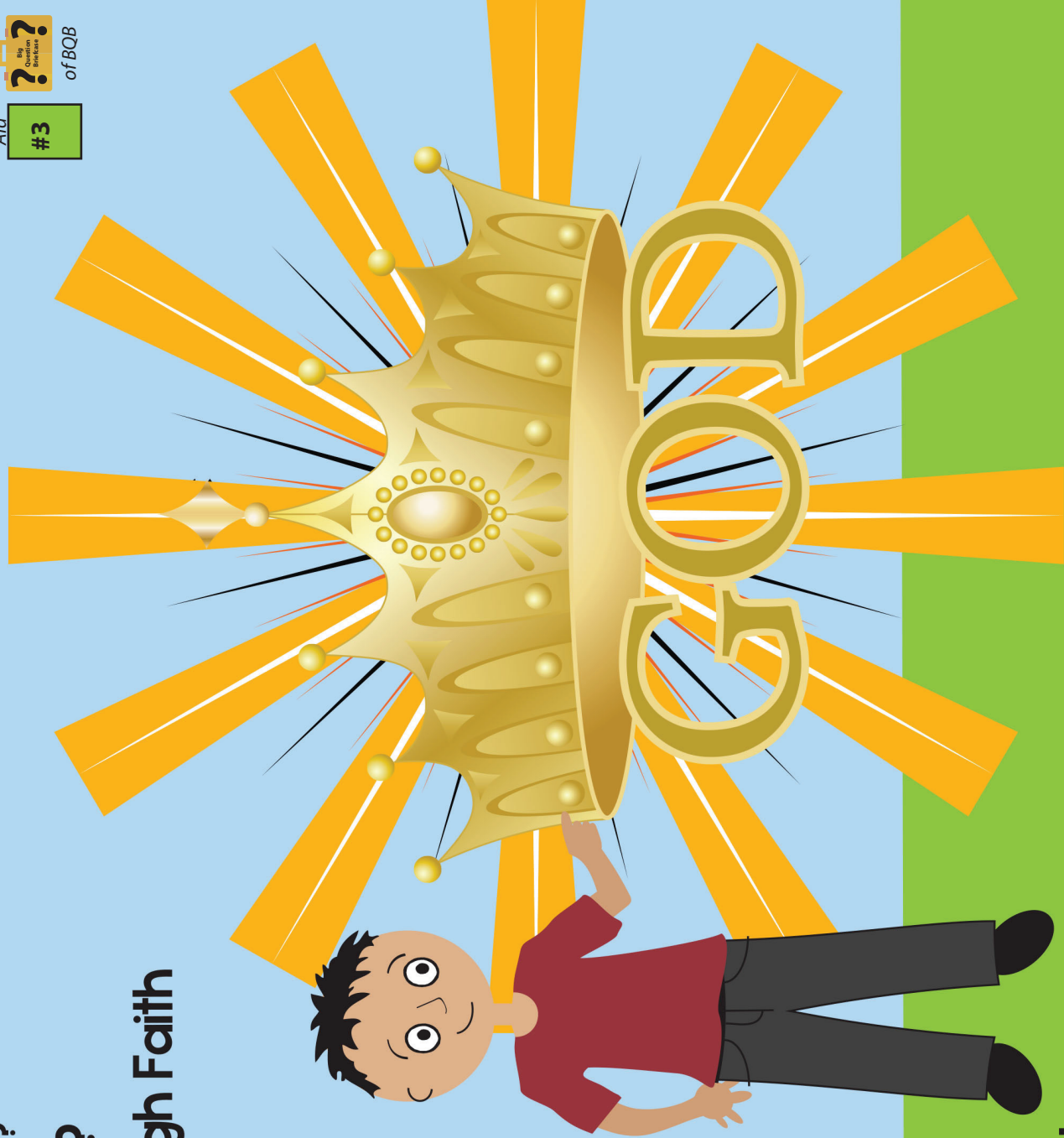
What is the Gospel?

It's Salvation through Faith  
in Jesus Christ...

God made us and  
we should ??? Him!

HINT: To do what someone  
tells you to do.  
It rhymes with "today"

ANSWER:  
God made us and  
we should OBEY Him!



Visual take out

Aid

#3



of BQB

# 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 Is the Gospel?”**

**It’s Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!  
God made us and we should ???? Him!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “Doing what someone tells us to do. It rhymes with “today.”

Can you guess? It’s “obey.”

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

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

**“What Is the Gospel?”**

**It’s Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!  
God made us and we should OBEY Him!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

God is our Creator. He made everything in heaven and earth. He made it perfectly. It was good and without sin. It was just exactly as He planned.

God isn’t just the Creator of everything. He is also the King over everything. God is the King everyone should obey. God gives us good laws to live by. And, He gives us consequences if we disobey Him. We should worship, love, and obey God, our good Creator and King.

**“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.” -- Psalm 100:1-6**



## Bible Truth | Bible Verse

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

Psalm 100:1-6 tells us:

### **Psalm 100:1-6**

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

**Learn a Little:** "Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us."

### **What does that mean?**

God's people are so happy about being His people! It's not enough for them to quietly worship Him. They want to make a joyful noise and sing loudly to Him. They want everyone--the whole earth--to praise God along with them. They want them to gather together with them at church and sing, sing, sing to the LORD, the great and good King! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"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?"

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

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## Shout for Joy:

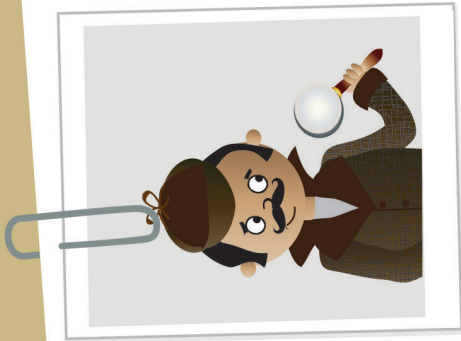
### **Psalm 100:1,2**

*DDD NV Songs 3, track 19*

Shout for joy to the LORD,  
Shout for joy, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness,  
Come before Him with joyful song.  
Psalm One hundred, one and two.

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

# The Case of the God Who Was Different Acts 17:16-33



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the God who was different?
2. What made Him so different?



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 100:3, NIV

"Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us."

1. Who urged the people to worship the LORD and serve Him as their king?
2. Who did worship the LORD? Who did not?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org))

**I. Gods! Gods! Gods! Athens was a city full of fake gods!**

**On buildings. On hills. Everywhere you looked, there was another god. Apollo and Artemis. Demeter and Dionysius; Pan and Poseidon. Hera and, of course, Zeus, the king of all the Greek gods.**

**You might not know these names, but the people of Athens certainly did. And these were just a FEW of the HUNDREDS of gods they worshipped! Wow!**



Dionysus

Hera Demeter

Zeus

Poseidon

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**2. The people of Athens took good care of their gods. They built them beautiful temples. They laid rich worship gifts at their stony feet. They celebrated them with big worship parties.**





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**3. They even laid a stone to honor an Unknown God. The people of Athens didn't want to leave out any god.**



# To An Unknown God

3. They even laid a stone to honor an Unknown God. The people of Athens didn't want to leave out any god.

**4. Yes, the people of Athens worshipped hundreds of “gods”, but the only God they SHOULD have been worshipping was that “Unknown God.” He was the REAL, the one, TRUE God!**

**Not many people in Athens knew His name, but I think you do. It was the LORD! He was God, the Father, who sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside those who trusted in Jesus as their Savior. He made the way for us to become His people forever.**

**What an amazing God was this one, true God! He was not like the fake gods of Athens AT ALL!**

# THE LORD

4. Yes, the people of Athens worshipped hundreds of “gods”, but the only God they SHOULD have been worshipping was that “Unknown God.” He was the REAL, the one, TRUE God! Not many people in Athens knew His name, but I think you do. It was the LORD! He was God, the Father, who sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside those who trusted in Jesus as their Savior. He made the way for us to become His people forever. What an amazing God was this one, true God! He was not like the fake gods of Athens AT ALL!

**5. Maybe the people in Athens didn't know about the one, true God, but there was a man named Paul who did. Paul knew the LORD. He loved Him and lived for Him. He trusted in Jesus, God's Son, as his Savior. The Holy Spirit lived in his heart.**

**And, if there was ONE thing that Paul wanted to do with his life, it was to tell others how they could know the LORD and trust in Jesus as their Savior, too. So, across the sea, over the mountains, and down through valleys went Paul, telling everyone just that.**



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**6. One day, all this traveling led Paul to a city he had never been to before. It was Athens!**

**Now, Paul had been to many cities that were SMALLER than Athens. And Paul had been to cities that were BIGGER than Athens. But there was something that Paul saw in Athens that he had NEVER seen before in any other city, big or small. It was so many fake gods!**

**Paul was so upset! Oh, how these people needed to hear about the LORD, the one, true God, and about the Savior, Jesus! They needed to stop worshipping fake gods and start worshipping Him, instead!**

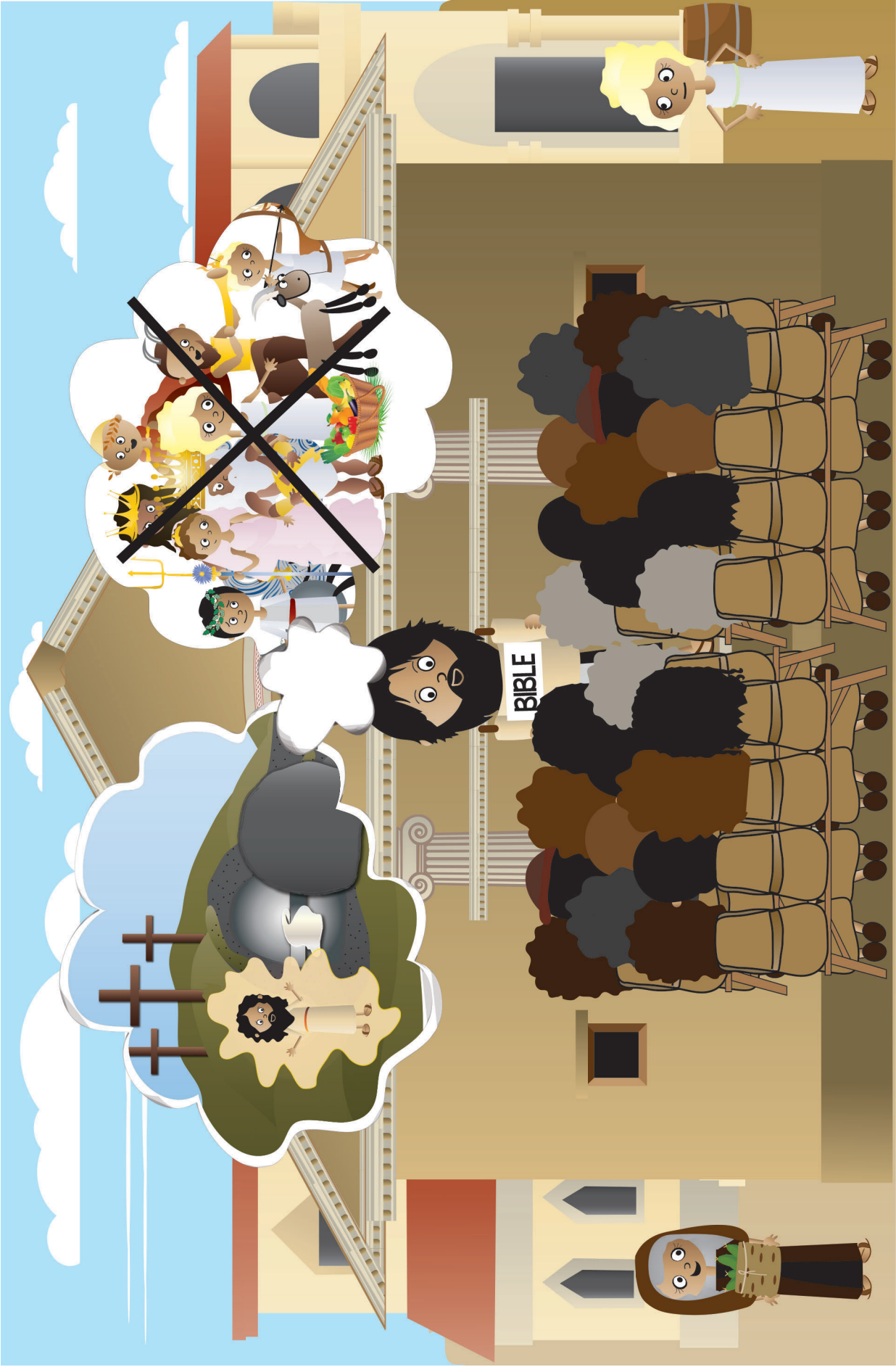




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**7. Paul decided to do something about that right away!**

**Paul went to the synagogue-worship place and preached: “The gods of Athens are just fakes. The LORD has sent His Son Jesus to save you, just as He promised. Believe in Him!” he told the people gathered there.**



7. Paul decided to do something about that right away! Paul went to the synagogue-worship place and preached: "The gods of Athens are just fakes. The LORD has sent His Son Jesus to save you, just as He promised. Believe in Him!" he told the people gathered there.

**8. Then down by the temples and into the marketplace, went Paul. “Let me tell you about the LORD! Let me tell you about Jesus, His Son, sent to save you! Worship Him, not these fake gods!” Paul urged everyone who would listen.**



**q. Word about Paul and his strange, new teaching soon spread through Athens and to the city leaders. They found Paul and said, "Come up to our important meeting place on Mars Hill and tell us about this new God. We want to hear about Him, ourselves."**

**So, up the big, stony hill called Mars Hill went Paul with the city leaders and many others. How excited Paul was to tell them about the real, one, true God and His Son, Jesus! He hoped they would put their trust in Him!**



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**10. On top of Mars Hill, Paul spoke to the crowd.**

**“People of Athens, what a lot of gods you worship! he exclaimed. “But you are worshipping the wrong one! I’ve come to tell you about the one, true God--the one you call “the Unknown God.” His name is the LORD. He’s the One you should worship. He’s the One who made heaven and earth, and everything in it,” Paul told them.**





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**II. “Your city is filled with the big temples you built to worship your gods, but the LORD is too great to live inside even your biggest temple! “ Paul exclaimed.**

**“You bring worship gifts to take care of your gods. You honor them with worship parties. You keep them looking bright and shiny. You make sure they don’t fall over. But the LORD doesn’t need people to take care of Him,” Paul explained.**

**“He’s the living God. He takes care of Himself and all of us, too! He made us and gave us life.”**



11. “Your city is filled with the big temples you built to worship your gods, but the LORD is too great to live inside even your biggest temple!” Paul exclaimed. “You bring worship gifts to take care of your gods. You honor them with worship parties. You keep them looking bright and shiny. You make sure they don’t fall over. But the LORD doesn’t need people to take care of Him,” Paul explained. “He’s the living God. He takes care of Himself and all of us, too! He made us and gave us life.”

**12. “The LORD is our King. We should obey Him and His good laws; but the sad news is, that we don’t. We have all disobeyed Him and deserve His punishment for our sins,” Paul told them.**

**“But the LORD is so merciful that He made the way for us to be forgiven.” Paul explained. “God sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on the cross to pay for sins. On the third day, He raised up Jesus from the dead in victory.**

**Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be saved. They can be God’s people and have eternal life with Him,” Paul told them.**



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**13. “So turn away from worshipping your fake gods. Turn to LORD. Trust in His Son, Jesus, and be saved! You can be God’s people, too,” paul urged them.**

**The people of Athens hardly knew what to think. They had never heard of a God like this! A God who was supposed to be greater than Zeus, the king of their gods; yet, who came to die for sinners, then rose from the dead! Incredible!**



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**14. Many people laughed. “Ha, ha! Your God sounds silly! Who would ever believe in him?” they said.**

**But others, like Dionysius and Damaris, went to Paul to hear more. As Paul talked, God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.**

**How happy Paul was! Maybe there still were many fake gods in Athens, but now there was a little group of believers living there, who could keep on telling others the good news of Jesus.**



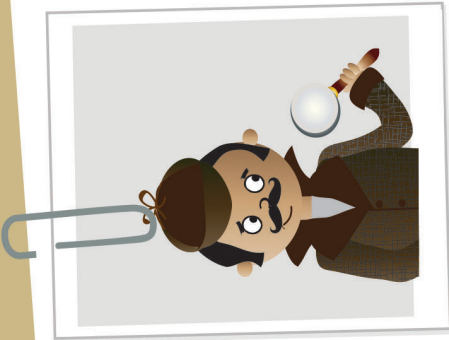


14. Many people laughed. “Ha, ha! Your God sounds silly! Who would ever believe in him?” they said. But others, like Dionysius and Damaris, went to Paul to hear more. As Paul talked, God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. How happy Paul was! Maybe there still were many fake gods in Athens, but now there was a little group of believers living there, who could keep on telling others the good news of Jesus.

DDD 3.1

# The Case of the God Who Was Different Acts 17:16-33

## SOLVED



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the God who was different?  
The LORD was the god who was so different.
2. What made Him so different?  
He was the one, true, living God. He was no fake god, like those the people of Athens worshipped.

**For You and Me:**  
The people of Athens worshipped many gods, but only the LORD was the one, true God who created them and they should obey. Paul told the people of Athens how they could know the LORD as their God, by turning away from worshipping their fake gods and trusting in Jesus as their Savior.



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 100:3, NIV

"Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us."

1. Who urged the people to worship the LORD and serve Him as their king?  
Paul did.
2. Who did worship the LORD? Who did not?  
Dionysius and Damaris and a few others worshipped the LORD. The rest laughed and kept worshipping their fake gods.

**For You and Me:**

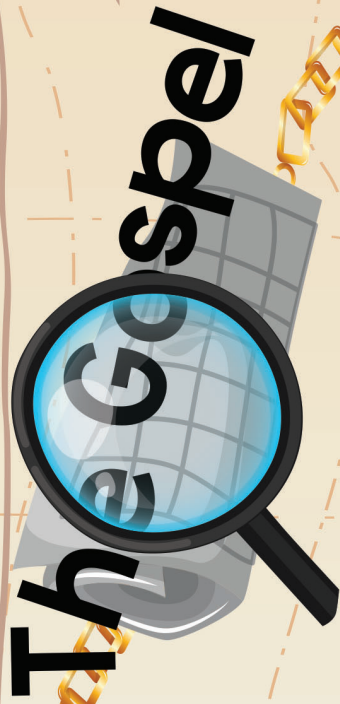
Like the people of Athens, we have so much to worship the LORD for being and doing. He is the one, true God! He has made us and wants us to know Him and love Him. He has offered us to be saved from our sins through Jesus, just like the people of Athens heard.

DDD 3.1

What is the Gospel?

It is Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...  
God made us and we should obey Him!

# The Gospel



God made all people--including you and me! And He made us to know Him, love Him, and obey Him. He's our good King. But like the people of Athens, we have all disobeyed God. We want to live life our own way, not His. We all deserve His punishment. How sad!

But God is so merciful that He sent a Savior--His Son, Jesus! Jesus suffered and died on the cross. Jesus offered up His perfect life to God to completely pay for the sins of God's people, then He rose from the dead in victory on the third day.

We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

How good is God to us!



DDD 3.1

# A Prayer

- A God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.
- C We confess that many times we rebel against You and Your good ways. We choose to live life our own way. We need a Savior!
- T Thank You for being our good Creator and King. Thank You for making everything in the world for Your good purposes. Thank You for being so merciful to us! Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
- S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from rebelling against You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to joyfully obey You, our good and great King.
- In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 3.1