

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES



Unit 3,

Bible Truth 2

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, 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 only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16, ESV

Bible Truth 2 Concept: Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...We Have All Disobeyed God and Deserve His Punishment

God is our good Creator. He made us with a spirit, so we can know and love Him. He is our good King. He gave us good laws that show us how to love Him and love each other. The most wonderful life we can have is knowing and loving God. We were made to know Him and to live as He wants us to live.

But instead of choosing God and His wonderful way of life, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have chosen to live life our own, selfish way, instead. This is what the Bible calls "sin". Because God is good, He hates sin, and He will punish it. And oh, how terrible is God's punishment for sin! It is to live apart from Him and everything good forever! Every single one of us deserve this punishment for our sins.

But God isn't only good; He's merciful, too. Merciful means treating us better than we deserve, and that's just exactly how God offers to treat us. Yes, our sins must be punished, but God has chosen to take that punishment on Himself. That's why He sent Jesus, His own dear Son, to earth. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved for our sins when He suffered and died on the cross. God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. That can even include you and me! Isn't God amazing? How great is God's love for us!

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:20,29, ESV

"Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins... See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

Learn a Little: "There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

Meaning

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is "righteous."

But that's not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God's good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.

No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God's Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus' righteousness and become one of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the good God who hates sin.
- C** We confess that we have all rebelled against You and Your good ways. We have all chosen to live life our own way instead. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for not just being good, but for being merciful, too. Thank You for taking the punishment we deserve on Yourself that we might be saved. 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 living against You and Your good ways. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You. Help us to obey Your good laws. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 2 Story**The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters***Romans*

Songs Used in Bible Truth 2

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

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

Extra Big Question 3 Bible Verse Song: For God So Loved the World John 3:16 ESV (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 2 Bible Verse Song: There Is Not a Righteous Man Ecclesiastes 7:20,29, ESV

Bible Truth 2 Extra Bible Verse Song: Seek the Lord Isaiah 65:6-7, ESV

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



of BQB

take out



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?

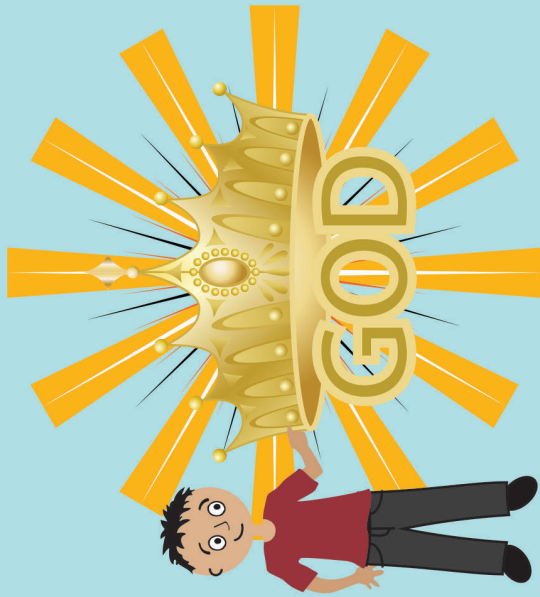
Can you tell me what it is?

It's salvation through faith in Jesus,

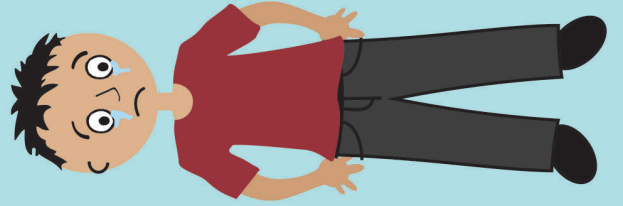
That's what the gospel is. (repeat)

BIG QUESTION 3: Four truths about the Gospel

1.



2.



3.



4.



Visual Aid

take out



of BQB

#2

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, we've learned one truth about the gospel. It's this one: "God made us and we should obey Him" (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 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 2?

What is the Gospel?

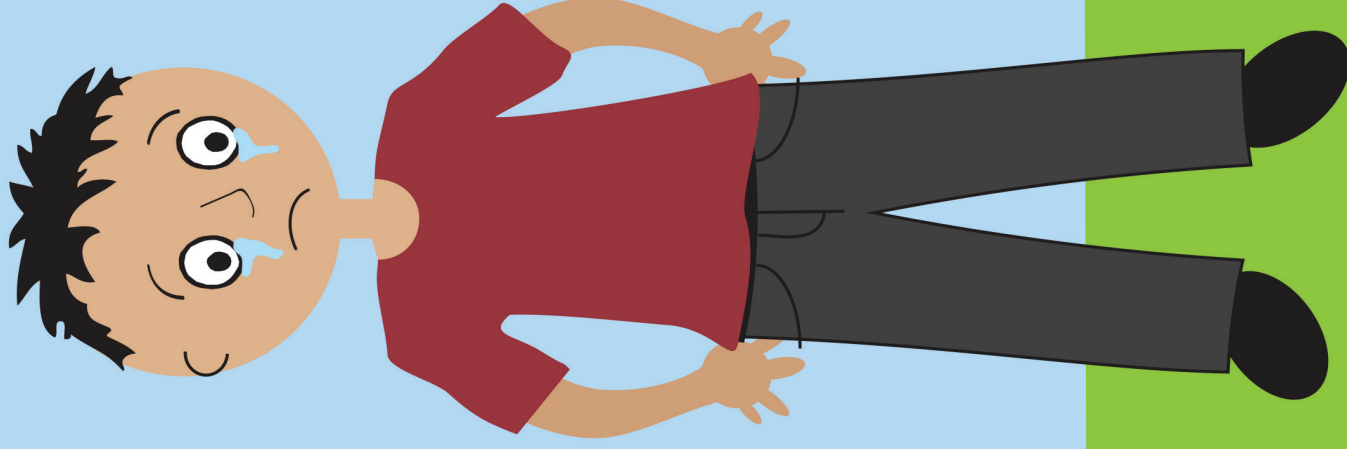
It's Salvation through Faith
in Jesus Christ...

we have **all** disobeyed God
and deserve His ???

HINT: What we deserve when
we do something wrong on purpose.
It's a sad word that rhymes with "compliment."

ANSWER:

We have **all** disobeyed God
and deserve His PUNISHMENT!



Visual Aid

#3



of BQB

take out

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!

We have all disobeyed God and deserve His ??? !”

“We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What we deserve when we do something wrong on purpose. It’s a sad word that rhymes with “compliment.”

Can you guess? It’s “punishment.”

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!

We have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment!”

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

God is our good Creator. He made us with a spirit, so we can know and love Him. He is our good King. He gave us good laws that show us how to love Him and love each other. The most wonderful life we can have is knowing and loving God. We were made to know Him and to live as He wants us to live.

But instead of choosing God and His wonderful way of life, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have chosen to live life our own, selfish way, instead. This is what the Bible calls “sin”. Because God is good, He hates sin, and He will punish it. And oh, how terrible is God’s punishment for sin! It is to live apart from Him and everything good forever! Every single one of us deserve this punishment for our sins.

But God isn’t only good; He’s merciful, too. Merciful means treating us better than we deserve, and that’s just exactly how God offers to treat us. Yes, our sins must be punished, but God has chosen to take that punishment on Himself. That’s why He sent Jesus, His own dear Son, to earth. Jesus came to take the punishment we deserved for our sins when He suffered and died on the cross. God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. That can even include you and me! Isn’t God amazing? How great is God’s love for us!

**“Surely there is not a righteous man on earth
who does good and never sins...**



**See, this alone I found, that God made man upright,
but they have sought out many schemes.”**

Ecclesiastes 7:20,29, ESV

or on earth beneath.” 1 Kings 8:23



Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse

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

Ecclesiastes 7:20,29 tells us:

Ecclesiastes 7:20,29, ESV

"Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins... See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes."

Learn a Little: "There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

What does that mean?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He created it all good. Oh, how wonderful was the love that those first people had for God! Oh, how wonderful it was to know Him and to obey Him! The big Bible word for loving God and living His good way is "righteous."

But that's not the way things are now. Sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God. We want to do things our own way, not God's good way. We make sneaky schemes and plan how we can get what we want or do what we want, instead of what God wants. Our hearts are not full of love for God or for others as they should be.

No one is righteous anymore. No one, that is, except Jesus, God's Son. God sent Jesus live a perfect, righteous life and give it as the payment for our sins. We can have Jesus' righteousness and become one of God's people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

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

There Is Not A Righteous Man:

Ecclesiastes 7:20,29

DDD ESV Songs 3, track 22

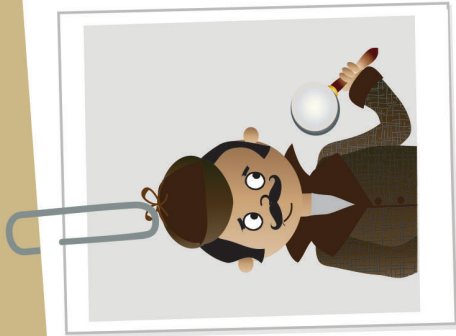
There is not a righteous man on earth,
Who does good and never sins.
See, this alone I found, that God made man upright,
But they have sought,
Sought out many schemes.
Ecclesiastes Seven: twenty and twenty-nine.

"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 3.2 Bible Verse Picture--Back

The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters Romans

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1



To squabble means to argue about something.

1. Who were the brothers and sisters who were squabbling?
2. What were they squabbling about?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Ecclesiastes 7:20, ESV

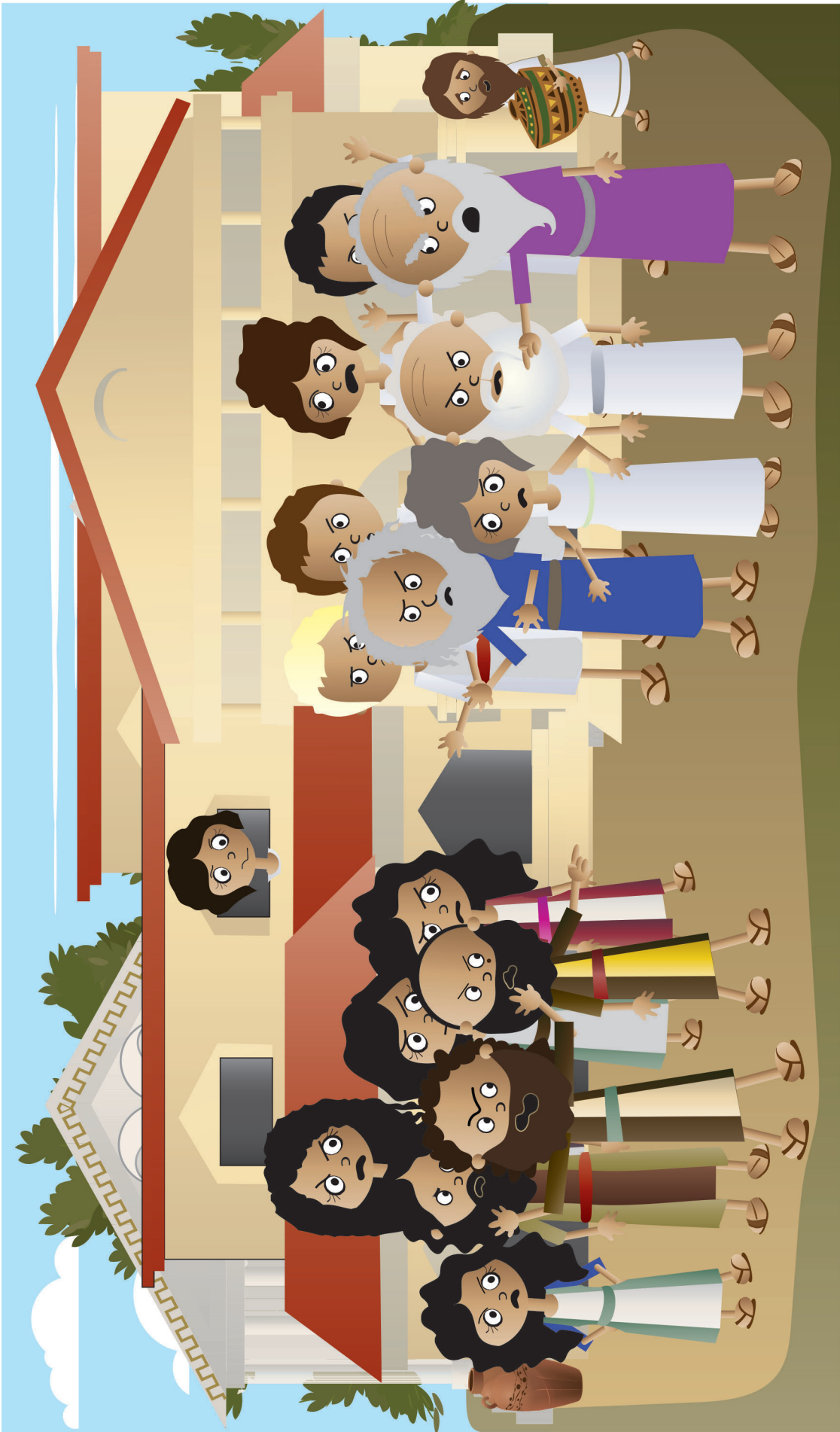
"There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

1. What two kinds of families did the believers in Rome come from?
2. What did they need to remember that would help them stop squabbling with each other?

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

I. Squibble, squabble, squibble squabble. The believers in the big city of Rome were fighting with each other: at Priscilla and Aquila's house, and Aristobulus' house, and Narcissus' house, and two other houses.

Little groups of believers gathered to worship God. They were all saved through Jesus. They were all part of God's family. And they should have been loving each other like sisters and brothers; but, they weren't! They were fighting with each other, instead. Squibble, squabble!

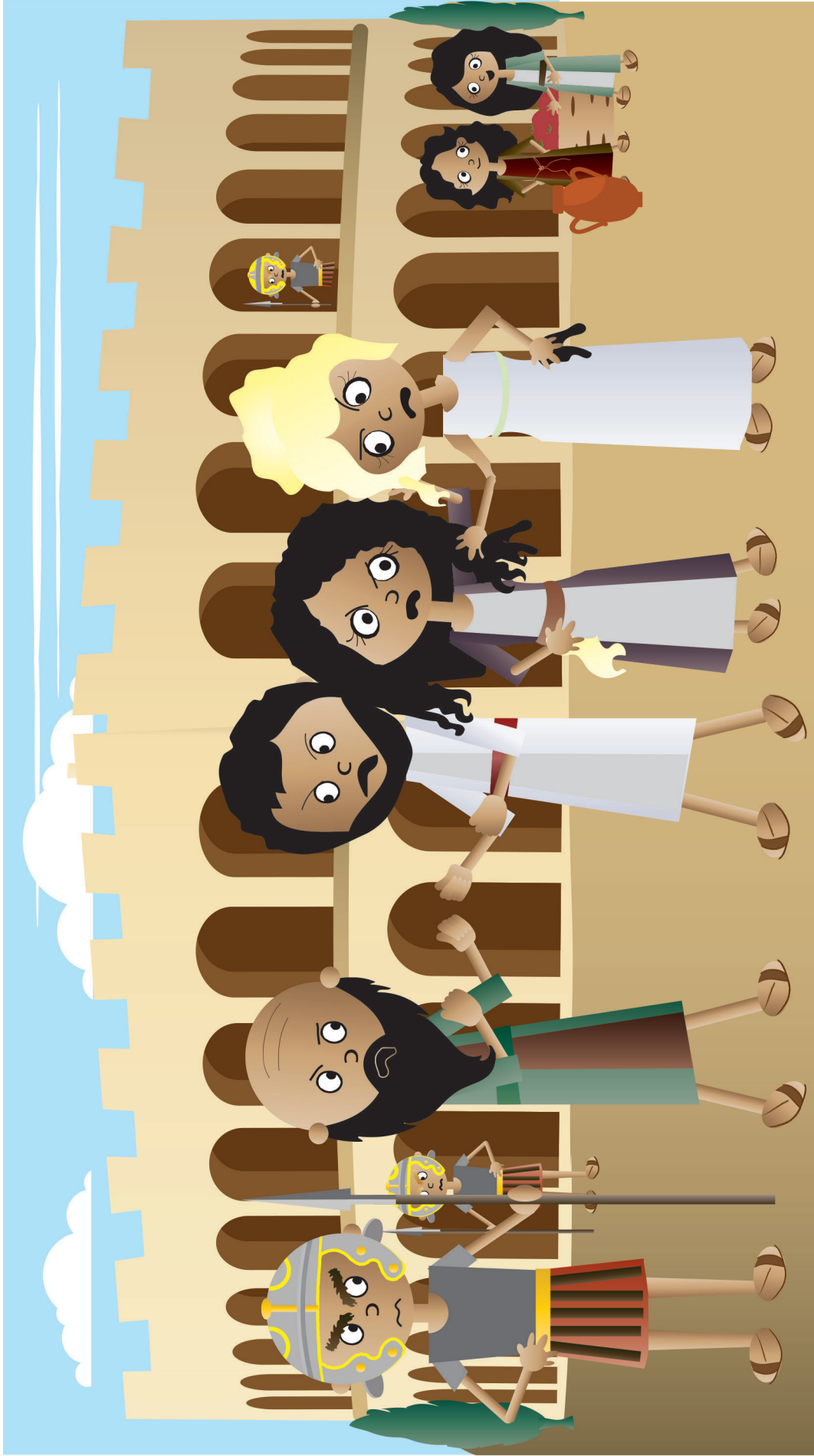


1. Squibble, squabble, squibble squabble. The believers in the big city of Rome were fighting with each other: at Priscilla and Aquila's house, and Aristobulus' house, and Narcissus' house, and two other houses. Little groups of believers gathered to worship God. They were all saved through Jesus. They were all part of God's family. And they should have been loving each other like sisters and brothers; but, they weren't! They were fighting with each other, instead. Squibble, squabble!

2. How do you think they were fighting each other? Hitting with their fists? Kicking with their legs? Pulling hair?

No, they weren't fighting like that. But, oh, how they were fighting and hurting each other with the squibble-squabbling words that came out of their mouths!

What was all the fuss about? Well, it had to do with what kind of family you came from -- a family of Jews or a family of Gentiles. Jew and Gentile. Have you ever heard of those Bible family names? Let's find out what they are.



2. How do you think they were fighting each other? Hitting with their fists? Kicking with their legs? Pulling hair? No, they weren't fighting like that. But, oh, how they were fighting and hurting each other with the squibble-squabbling words that came out of their mouths!

What was all the fuss about? Well, it had to do with what kind of family you came from -- a family of Jews or a family of Gentiles. Jew and Gentile. Have you ever heard of those Bible family names? Let's find out what they are.

3. Some of the believers were Jews.

They came from families who worshipped the LORD. They grew up learning the Bible and trying to obey its laws... ALL of them... and there were A LOT! (Laws is another word for rules.)

Let me tell you about them.

THE LORD

Jews



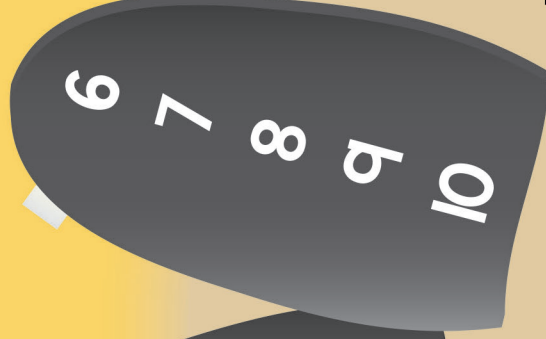
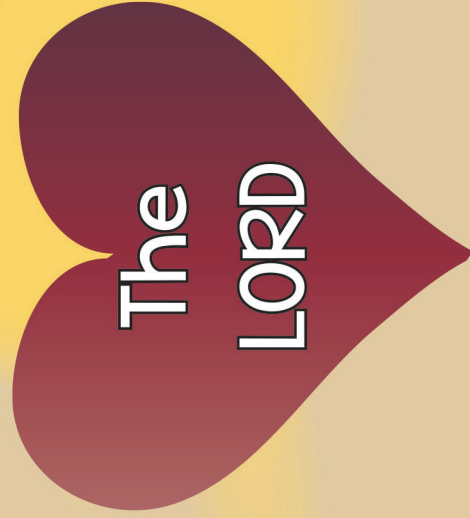
3. Some of the believers were Jews. They came from families who worshipped the LORD. They grew up learning the Bible and trying to obey its laws... ALL of them... and there were A LOT! (Laws is another word for rules.) Let me tell you about them.

4. There were the Ten, Big Laws God gave them. Can you remember the special name of the Ten, Big Laws?

The special name of these laws is the 10 Commandments.

They were the LOVE laws. These laws told how to love God and love one another. That was the FIRST kind of laws that God gave the Jews to obey.

10 Big, Love Laws



(The 10 Commandments)

4. There were the Ten, Big Laws God gave them. (Can you remember the special name of the Ten, Big Laws?) The special name of these laws is the 10 Commandments. They were the LOVE laws. These laws told how to love God and love one another. That was the FIRST kind of laws that God gave the Jews to obey.

5. But there were more laws than just those! There was a SECOND kind of laws that God gave the Jews.

These were the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws. They told the Jews what worship gifts they needed to give to God when they disobeyed Him. These laws kept them in friendship with God.

Friendship with Good Laws

THE LORD

Your

God



My People



High Priest

5. But there were more laws than just those! There was a **SECOND** kind of laws that God gave the Jews. These were the **FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD** laws. They told the Jews what worship gifts they needed to give to God when they disobeyed Him. These laws kept them in friendship with God.

6. But there were even more laws than those! There was a THIRD kind of laws that God gave the Jews.

These were the LIVE TOGETHER laws. These told the Jews how to live their everyday lives--what clothes they should wear; what food they should eat; how to take care of sick people; what to do when they had arguments; and, other everyday things like that.

What a lot of laws God gave the Jews! But He had a good purpose for them all. These laws helped everyone know what God is like. And, they helped everyone see that the Jews were God's special people, living His way, and waiting for Him to send the Savior one day.

Live Together Laws



6. But there were even more laws than those! There was a THIRD kind of laws that God gave the Jews. These were the LIVE TOGETHER laws. These told the Jews how to live their everyday lives--what clothes they should wear; what food they should eat; how to take care of sick people; what to do when they had arguments; and, other everyday things like that.

What a lot of laws God gave the Jews! But He had a good purpose for them all. These laws helped everyone know what God is like. And, they helped everyone see that the Jews were God's special people, living His way, and waiting for Him to send the Savior one day.

7. And at just the right time, God DID send the Savior--Jesus!

Jesus lived a perfect life. He kept all of God's good laws. Then, He suffered and died on the cross, giving His life as the final, perfect, worship gift that paid for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had beaten sin and death for all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

Jesus had made the way for us to be friends with God!

Jesus Kept God's Laws Perfectly



Jesus Beat Sin & Death for God's People



7. And at just the right time, God DID send the Savior--Jesus! Jesus lived a perfect life. He kept all of God's good laws. Then, He suffered and died on the cross, giving His life as the final, perfect, worship gift that paid for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had beaten sin and death for all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus had made the way for us to be friends with God!

8. When these Jews heard the good news of Jesus, they were so happy.

Here was the Savior they had been waiting for! He had paid for their sins! They trusted in Him as their Savior. Now they were God's people, saved through Jesus.

There is the special name for people who have Jesus as their Savior. Do you know what it is? They are called Christians. And so now, these Jews weren't just Jews anymore. Now, they were Christians.

Jewish Christians

GOOD NEWS



8. When these Jews heard the good news of Jesus, they were so happy. Here was the Savior they had been waiting for! He had paid for their sins! They trusted in Him as their Savior. Now they were God's people, saved through Jesus. There is the special name for people who have Jesus as their Savior. Do you know what it is? They are called Christians. And so now, these Jews weren't just Jews anymore. Now, they were Christians.

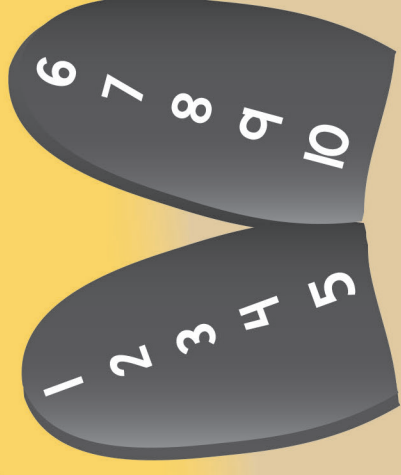
q. But what should these Jewish Christians do with all those laws from God's Word? They had obeyed them for so long! Should they keep on obeying them now that Jesus had come? They thought about this A LOT!

Let's see... well, they KNEW they should keep on obeying God's Ten, Big, Love laws--the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like the LOVE laws taught. That was clear.

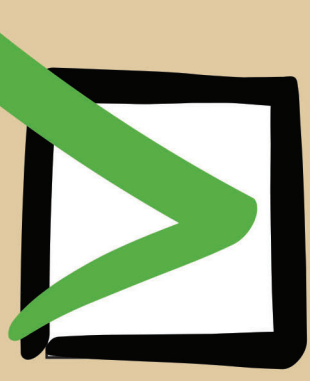
Jewish Christians 10 Big, Love Laws



The LORD



YES!!!



q. But what should these Jewish Christians do with all those laws from God's Word? They had obeyed them for so long! Should they keep on obeying them now that Jesus had come? They thought about this A LOT! Let's see... well, they KNEW they should keep on obeying God's Ten, Big, Love laws—the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like the LOVE laws taught. That was clear.

10. And, they KNEW that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them FOREVER friendship with God.

So, they did NOT have to keep the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws anymore.

Friendship with God Laws

Jewish
Christians



THE LORD

Your
God



My People

no!!!



High Priest

10. And, they KNEW that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them FOREVER friendship with God. So, they did NOT have to keep the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws anymore.

II. But what about all those LIVE TOGETHER laws? The ones about what Jews should eat and drink and do in their everyday lives? The Savior Jesus had come. Now, they were Christians. Were they supposed to keep on living together like Jews, too?

Live Together Laws

Jewish
Christians



II. But what about all those LIVE TOGETHER laws? The ones about what Jews should eat and drink and do in their everyday lives? The Savior Jesus had come. Now, they were Christians. Were they supposed to keep on living together like Jews, too?

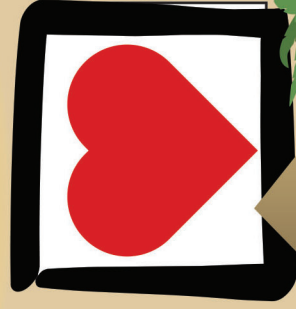
12. Many of the Jews LIKED those LIVE TOGETHER laws. Actually, they LOVED them. They didn't want to get rid of them... and they wanted everyone else to keep them, too.

They thought EVERYONE should become a Christian, saved through Jesus; but, they should also keep on living together like Jews... EVEN the people who didn't grow up as Jews!

Uh oh, that might just cause a problem or two, especially for the believers who came from that OTHER kind of Bible family-- the Gentiles. Let me tell you about them.

Live Together Laws

Jewish
Christians



Gentile
Christians



12. Many of the Jews **LIKED** those **LIVE TOGETHER** laws. Actually, they **LOVED** them. They didn't want to get rid of them... and they wanted everyone else to keep them, too. They thought **EVERYONE** should become a Christian, saved through Jesus; but, they should also keep on living together like Jews... **EVEN** the people who didn't grow up as Jews! Uh oh, that might just cause a problem or two, especially for the believers who came from that **OTHER** kind of Bible family--- the Gentiles. Let me tell you about them.

13. Gentiles came from families who had NOT grown up knowing the Bible or keeping its laws--not the Ten, Big, Love laws or the Friendship with God laws, or even the Live Together laws.

They had grown up worshipping fake gods. And actually, worshipping those fake gods meant doing some bad things that disobeyed God's good laws--like the big, worship parties they had for them.



13. Gentiles came from families who had NOT grown up knowing the Bible or keeping its laws—not the Ten, Big, Love laws or the Friendship with God laws, or even the Live Together laws. They had grown up worshipping fake gods. And actually, worshipping those fake gods meant doing some bad things that disobeyed God’s good laws—like the big, worship parties they had for them.

14. But when these Gentiles heard the good news of Jesus, they left their fake gods behind. They trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and they wanted to live God's way now. They became Christians.

They gathered as a church with the Jewish believers. And as they listened to God's Word, they heard all about all those laws for the first time.

Now everyone had a question... The question was: what should they --the people from Gentile families-- do with all of those laws?

Gentile

GOOD NEWS

Christians



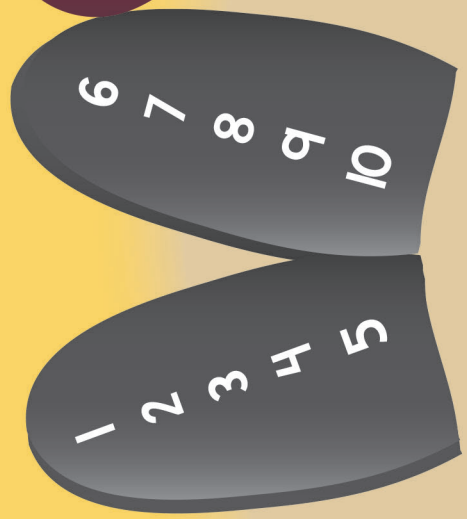
14. But when these Gentiles heard the good news of Jesus, they left their fake gods behind. They trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and they wanted to live God's way now. They became Christians. They gathered as a church with the Jewish believers. And as they listened to God's Word, they heard all about all those laws for the first time. Now everyone had a question... The question was: what should they --the people from Gentile families-- do with all of those laws?

15. Like the Jewish Christians, the Gentile Christians KNEW that they should obey God's Ten, Big, Love laws--the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like those LOVE laws taught. That was clear.

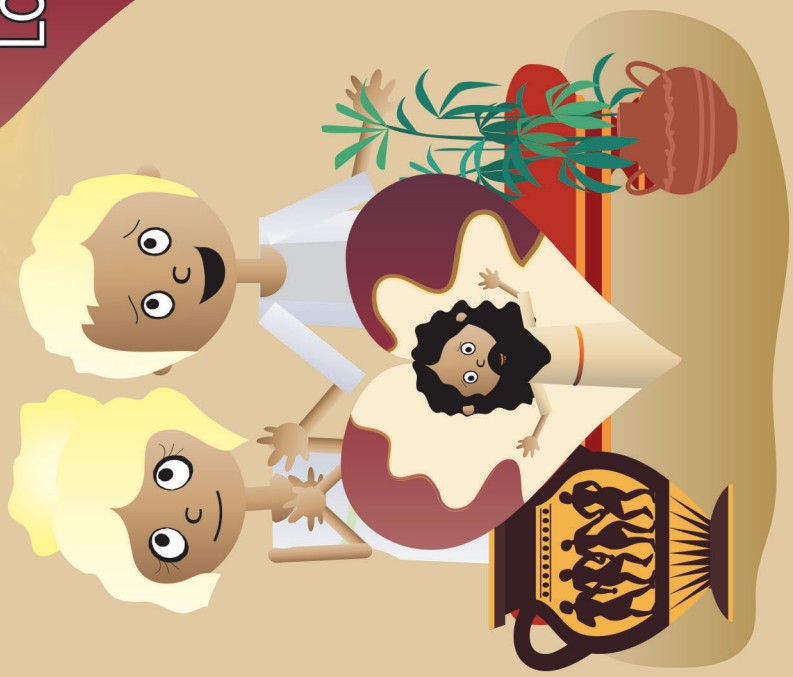
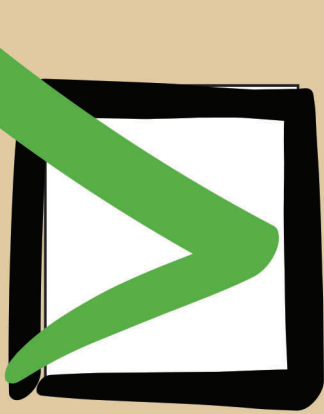
10 Big, Love Laws

Gentile Christians

The LORD



YES!!!



15. Like the Jewish Christians, the Gentile Christians KNEW that they should obey God's Ten, Big, Love laws--the 10 Commandments. They still needed to keep on loving God and others, like those LOVE laws taught. That was clear.

16. And like the Jewish Christians, they KNEW that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them FOREVER friendship with God. So, they did NOT have to keep the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws anymore.

Friendship with God Laws

Gentile
Christians



THE
LORD



My People

no!!!



High Priest

16. And like the Jewish Christians, they KNEW that Jesus had paid for their sins. His life had been the final worship gift. He gave them FOREVER friendship with God. So, they did NOT have to keep the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws anymore.

17. But what about those LIVE TOGETHER laws? The laws that told the Jews how to live together.

The Savior had come. Surely, Gentiles didn't need to obey THOSE laws! Surely, they didn't need to live like Jews to be Christians! That didn't make sense! They were saved through Jesus, not those laws!

Nope. They would NOT obey the LIVE TOGETHER laws. No way! And so, came all of the squibble-squabbling.

Live Together Laws

Gentile
Christians

 no!!!



17. But what about those LIVE TOGETHER laws? The laws that told the Jews how to live together. The Savior had come. Surely, Gentiles didn't need to obey THOSE laws! Surely, they didn't need to live like Jews to be Christians! That didn't make sense! They were saved through Jesus, not those laws! Nope. They would NOT obey the LIVE TOGETHER laws. No way! And so, came all of the squabble-squabbling.

18. “We’re better than you, Gentiles,” the Jewish Christians said.

“Long ago, God chose US to be His special people through Abraham. He chose US to write down the Bible, His Word. He gave US the great promises about the Savior Jesus coming. Jesus came from OUR family. He was a Jew! God gave US His good laws–the LOVE laws and the FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD laws and the LIVE TOGETHER laws. All of them!”

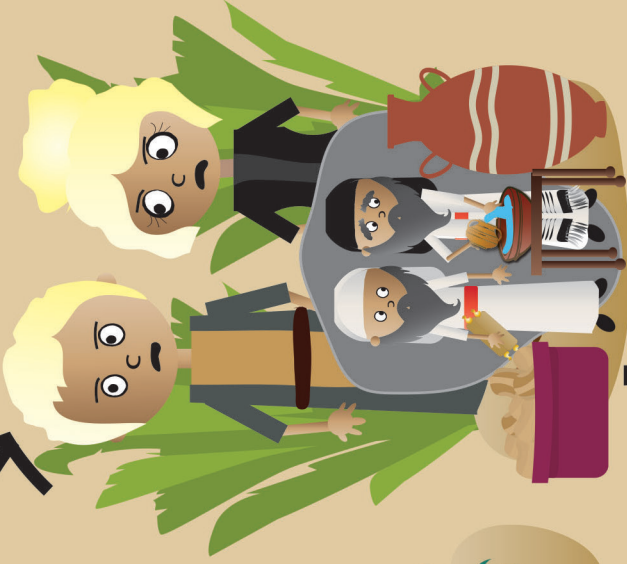
“We obey them, and so should you! That’s what God’s people have always done,” they told the Gentiles.

Jews Are Best



**We THINK
Gentiles...**

**need to live
like Jews!**



Gentiles

Jews

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19. “You are NOT better than us!” the Gentile Christians squabbled back.

“Yes, you’re right. Long ago, you Jews WERE chosen to be God’s special people. But now, many people from your family don’t even believe in Jesus.”

“Maybe we ARE just Gentiles. Maybe our families didn’t come from God’s special people, long ago. But we believe in the Savior Jesus NOW! And a lot more of US believe in Him than you, Jews! Look who God is choosing to make into His special people NOW – it’s us, Gentiles.”

“And we DON’T have to keep all of your Live Together Laws!” they squabbled back.

Gentiles Are Best



**We THINK
Gentiles... need to live
DON'T**

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20. Far away in the city of Corinth, Paul heard about these squabbles.

Paul had come from a Jewish family. He had grown up reading the Bible and learning God's laws. He had tried as hard as he could to keep them all, but he could never obey them as God required.

Nope, if there was one thing Paul knew, it was only by trusting in Jesus as their Savior that ANYONE can be forgiven of their sins. That was the only way to become one of God's people.

These believers needed to remember this; so, Paul decided to do something about it.



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21. He would write them a letter.

“Help me write to the believers in Rome,” Paul asked his friend, Tertius. So, Tertius got out his scroll and wrote down Paul’s words:

“Dear believers in Rome,

I thank God for saving you. I can’t wait for the day when I will get to see you, and we can encourage each other in our faith in God. God has given me the job of preaching to all of you --both Jews and Gentiles. One day, I hope to come and preach more of the good news of Jesus to you in Rome, face-to-face,” Paul told the Romans.



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22. “I know you are squabbling about who comes from a better family--the Jews or the Gentiles,” he wrote. “I know you are squabbling about the Live Together Laws from God’s Word.

But remember: EVERYONE has sinned against God, both Jews and Gentiles. None of us is righteous. None of us does what is good and never sins. NO ONE! We all deserve God’s punishment.”



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23. “Jews: God may have chosen your family to write down His Word, the Bible. He may have given your family His laws to live by. But you couldn’t obey them all, could you? You were all law breakers! You needed a Savior -- Jesus -- to save you from your sins. Be thankful, not proud!”

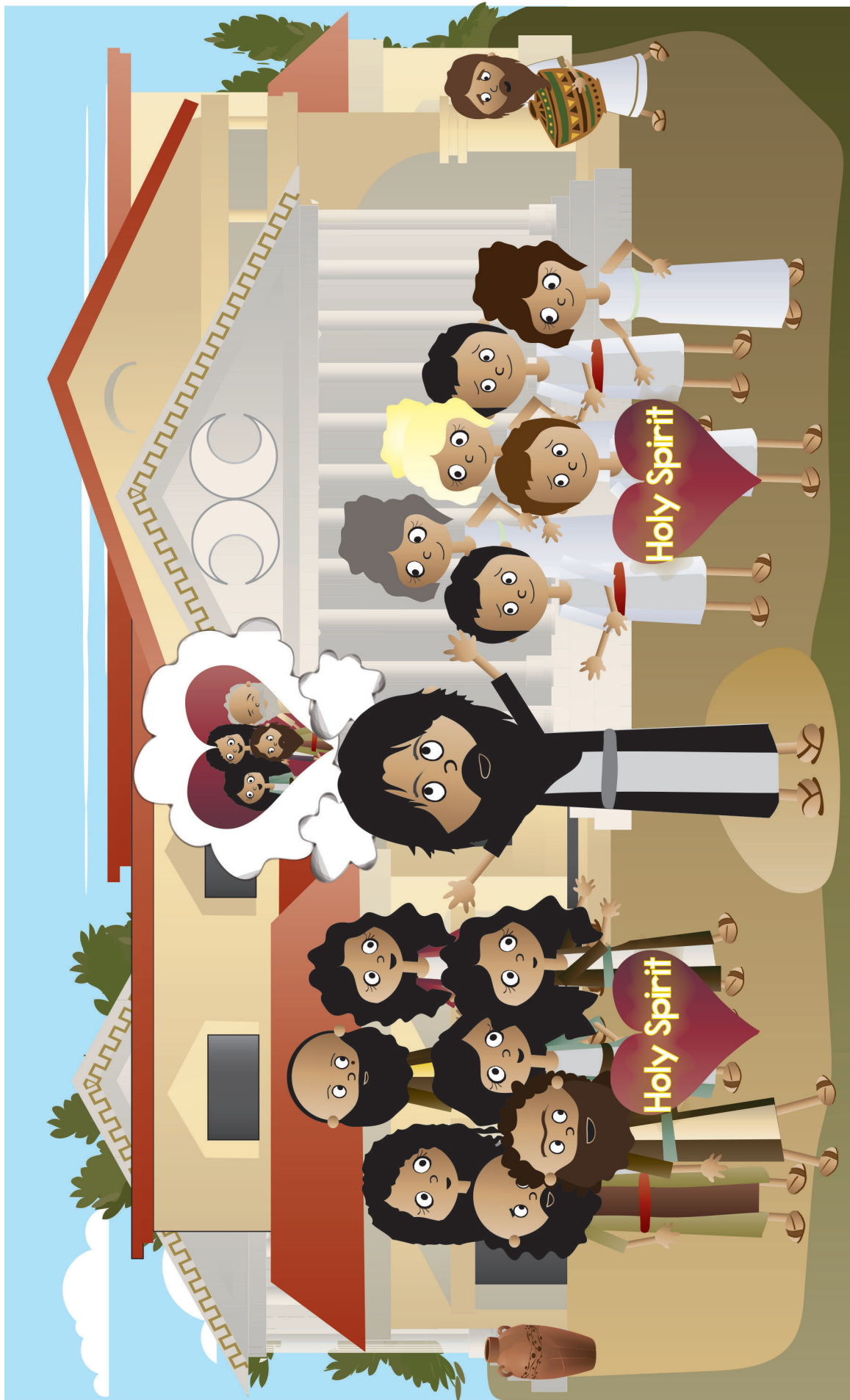
“And you, Gentiles: Yes, maybe a lot more people from your Gentile families are trusting in Jesus^{RD3} as their Savior than the Jews these days. But it’s not because Gentiles are better than Jews. It’s only because God has been kind enough to save you through Jesus, too. Be thankful, not proud!”



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24. “You are ALL part of God’s family. The Holy Spirit lives in ALL of you. Stop your squibble- squabbling!”

“Love each other like sisters and brothers should. Use the gifts God has given each of you to care for each other, and to show others how great God is. Praise God together with me! He gives us everything we need through Jesus, our Savior.”



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25. Paul rolled up the letter and gave it to Phoebe to take to the believers in faraway Rome.

What happened when Paul's letter was read to the believers in Rome? We don't really know. The Bible doesn't tell us.

How Paul hoped it would help them remember that they ALL needed Jesus to be their Savior! How he hoped it would stop their squibble-squabbling over who is best and over those LIVE TOGETHER laws!

Paul wanted them to love God and love one another. He wanted them to live out the good news of Jesus together, and share it with others. I hope that's what they did.



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DDD 3.2

The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters Romans Romans

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

To squabble means to argue about something.

1. Who were the brothers and sisters who were squabbling?
The believers in Rome.
2. What were they squabbling about?
They were squabbling about who was best--the Jews or the Gentiles. And, if all believers should keep the Live Together laws of the Jews.

For You and Me:
Just like the believers in Rome, we need to remember that it is only through God's free gift of forgiveness through Jesus that anyone can become one of God's people. This can be His gift to us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Ecclesiastes 7:20, ESV

"There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

1. What two kinds of families did the believers in Rome come from? From Jew and Gentile families.
2. What did they need to remember that would help them stop squabbling with each other?
That none of them had been righteous. None of them had pleased God by their own, good works. They were saved only through the Savior, Jesus. That's what mattered. Not the Live-Together Laws.

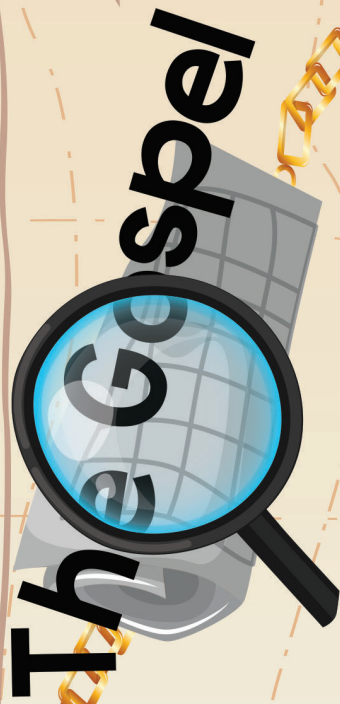
For You and Me:
None of us can ever be good enough to please God. None of us would ever be able to know God or be His people on our own. But the good news is that Jesus did live a perfect life. He offered up His righteous to pay for the sins of God's people, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

DDD 3.2

What is the Gospel?

It is Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ... we have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment!

The Gospel



Did you know that Paul's letter to those believers in Rome became part of God's Word, the Bible? Many people have read his letter to those people in Rome and learned from it. Why, even you are learning from it today!

One of the most important things we can learn from Paul's letter is that we are lawbreakers who have chosen to disobey God. We all deserve God's punishment.

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

We all need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, God will forgive us and make us His people forever!



DDD 3.2

A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the good God who hates sin.

C We confess that we have all rebelled against You and Your good ways. We have all chosen to live life our own way instead. We need a Savior!

T Thank You for not just being good, but for being merciful, too. Thank You for taking the punishment that sinful people like us deserve on Yourself that we might be saved. 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 living against You and Your good ways. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and know You. Help us to obey Your good laws.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 3.2