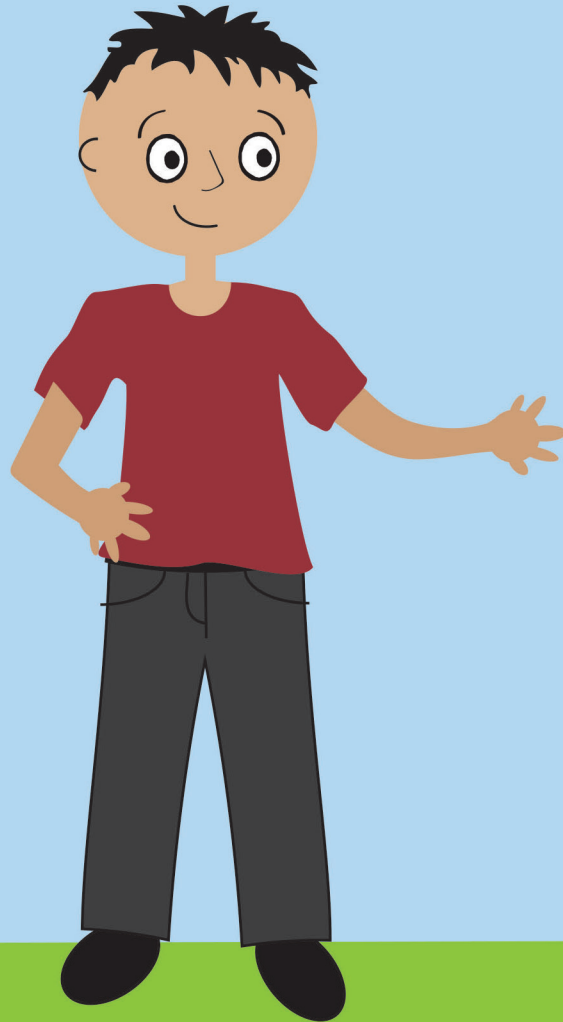


BIG QUESTION 3



What Is the Gospel?

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
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 ESV Songs 3, track 12

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

What's the gospel?

What's the gospel?

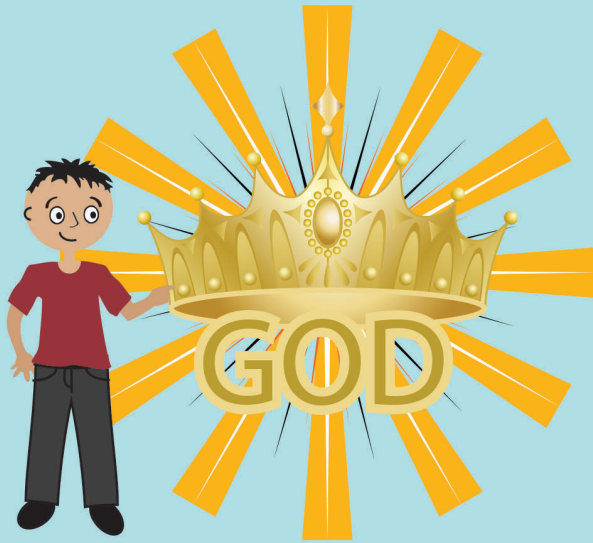
Can you tell me what it is?

It's salvation through faith in Jesus,

That's what the gospel is. (repeat)

BIG QUESTION 3: Four truths about the Gospel

1.



4.



3.



2.



Visual Aid #2 take out 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, we've learned two truths about the gospel. They are: "God made us and we should obey Him" and, "We have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment" (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 3?

What Is the Gospel?

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

God sent ???? to pay for the
sins of God's people!

HINT: What's the name of God's Son?

Visual Aid
#3
take out
Big Question Briefcase
of BQB



ANSWER:

God sent JESUS to pay for
the sins of God's people!

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 sent ___ to pay for the sins of God’s people!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What’s the name of God’s Son?”

Can you guess? It’s “Jesus.”

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 sent JESUS to pay for the sins of God’s people!”**

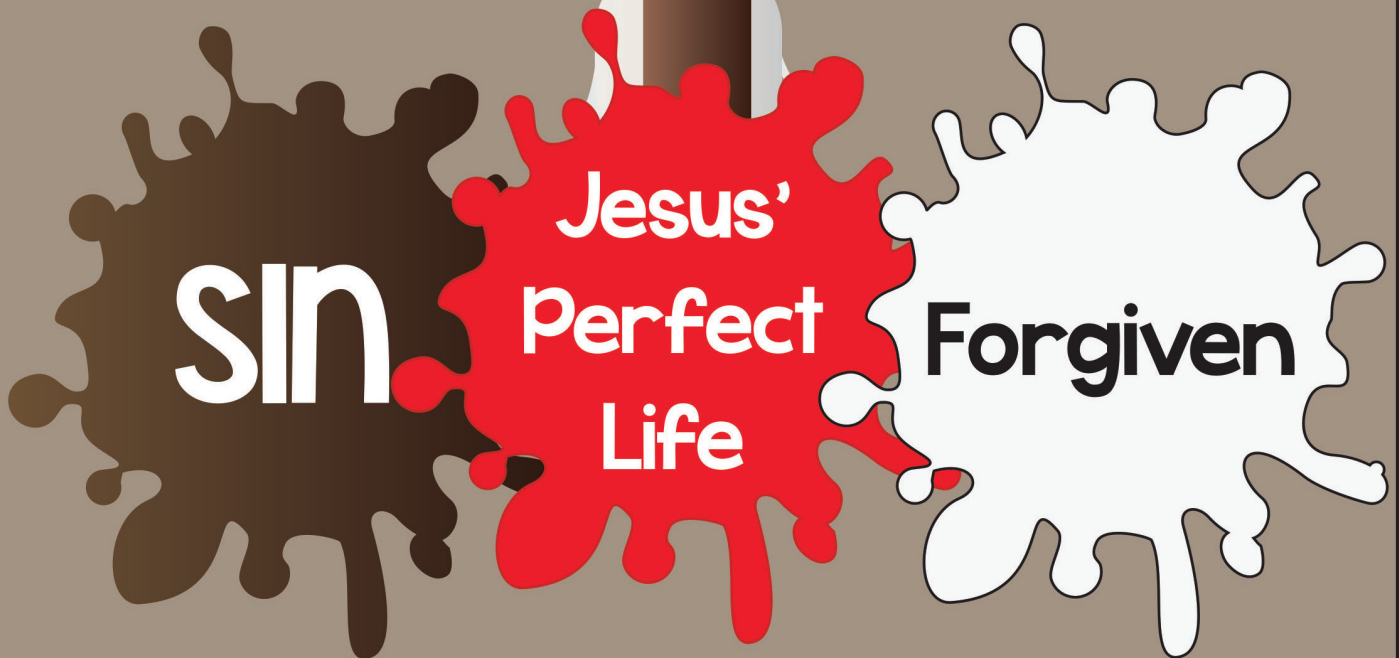
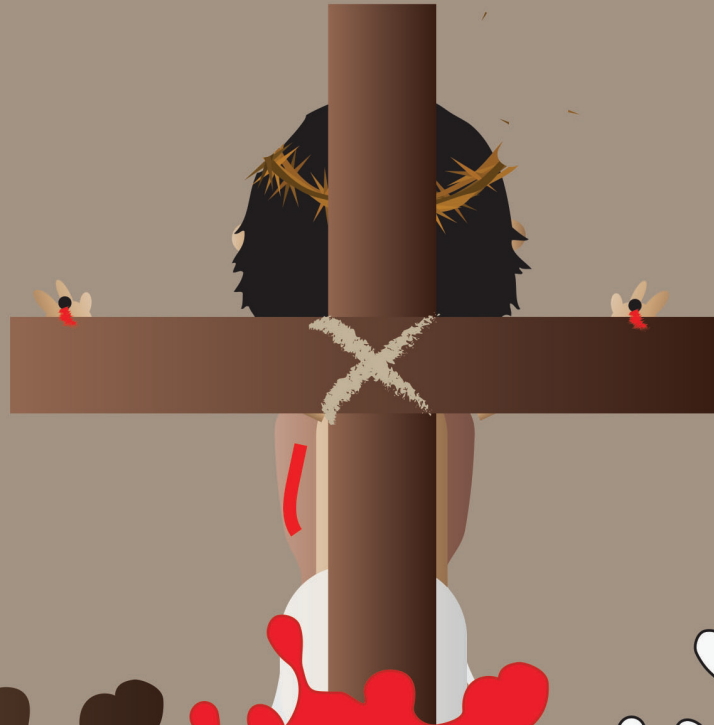
And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

What a mess we have made in God’s good world! God is our good Maker and King, yet we have all chosen to disobey Him. Because God is good, He hates sin and He is right to punish our sins. We certainly deserve it! The punishment for sins is death--being separated from God and all His goodness forever. How sad!

But God is not only good; He is also very merciful. He treats us better than we deserve. That’s why God, Himself, made a way for us to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. God sent His own, dear Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life of love and obedience that we should live, but never do. On the cross, Jesus offered His perfect life to God as the full payment for sins, for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus suffered and died in our place. Then on the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death! Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

“He was pierced for our transgressions,
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
 and by his wounds we are healed. us all.



We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
 each of us has turned to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:5-6, ESV

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:

Isaiah 53:5-6 tells us:

Isaiah 53:5-6, ESV

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Learn a Little: "The punishment that brought us peace was upon him."

What does that mean?

God is our good King and Creator and we should love and obey Him. But the sad news is that we all choose to disobey Him...and we all deserve His punishment.

Yes, we deserve His punishment, but God has loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment that we deserve instead. Jesus lived a perfect life and chose to give it up to pay for our sins. On the cross, He suffered and died. He was pierced with nails in His hands and feet. He was pierced in His side with a sword. He took all of the punishment that we deserve from God for our sins so that we could be forgiven. Jesus made the way for us to have peace with God by suffering in our place.

Who did Jesus do this for? It is God's free gift to all who put their trust in Jesus as their Savior and choose to live for Him. This gift can be for you, too! Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!

"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!"

He Was Pierced: Isaiah 53:5

DDD ESV Songs 3, track 24

He was pierced, He was pierced,
He was pierced because of our transgressions,
He was crushed, He was crushed,
He was crushed because of our iniquities.

Punishment for our peace was on Him, on Him,
and by His wounds, we are healed, we are healed.

He was pierced, He was pierced,
He was pierced because of our transgressions,
He was crushed, He was crushed,
He was crushed because of our iniquities.
Isaiah Fifty-three, verse five.

"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 3.3 Bible Verse Picture--Back

The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish Genesis, The Gospels



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the Savior?
2. When did the promise of a Savior start? When did it finish?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Isaiah 53:5, ESV

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him."

Transgressions and iniquities are other words for sin.

1. Whose transgressions and iniquities deserved God's punishment in our story?
2. Who came to take God's punishment for them?

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



I. Back in the very beginning, God created our world. Heavens and earth. Sky and seas. Mountains and valleys, Flowers and trees, Birds, fish and animals, too. And best of all, God made people, like me and you. And it was all good. VERY good.

Why were people the best of all that God created? Because God created people with something that no other earth creature had. He gave us a living spirit that could know and love Him. That meant people could have a special closeness with God that no one else could enjoy!



2. I'm sure it's very fine to be a fast horse galloping across a grassy field; or, a proud eagle soaring on the wind, high up in the sky. I'm sure it would be marvelous to twist and spin like a dolphin in the ocean. And don't we all enjoy looking up at the beautiful stars at night or gazing at tall, snowy mountains in the distance? But **NONE** of this is **ANYTHING** as great as knowing God and being close to Him. That is the **BEST** thing anyone can ever enjoy. And that's why the spirit God put inside people makes us so very special, indeed!



3. God named the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He gave them a beautiful garden home with everything they needed-- perfect food to eat, perfect jobs to do, and perfect friendship to enjoy with each other.

But the best thing about life in that special garden wasn't anything that Adam and Eve could put in their mouths, or do with their hands, or even enjoy with each other. The best thing was something they couldn't even see or touch. And it all had to do with that spirit God gave them.

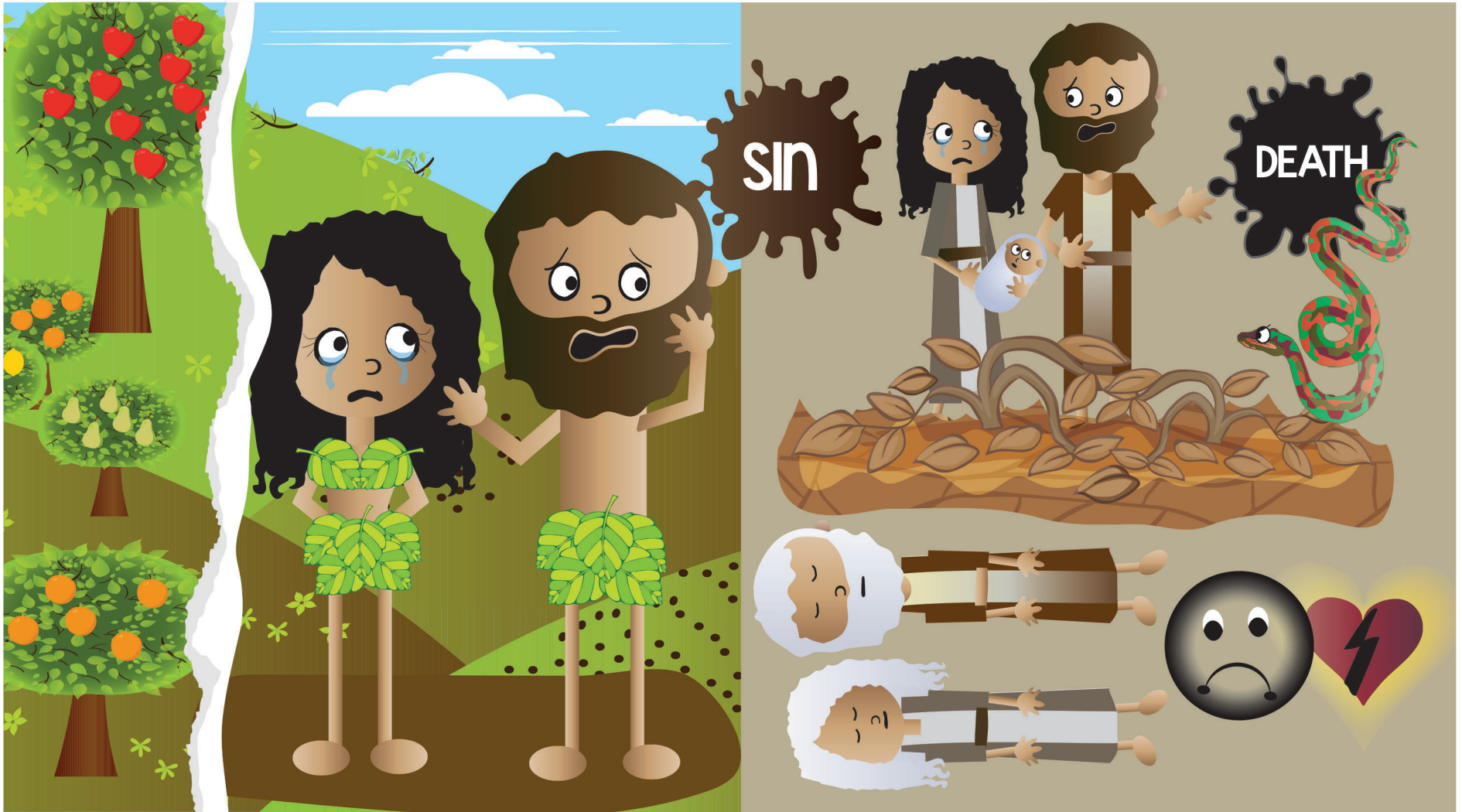


Perfect Wonderfulness

4. The best thing in that garden was the very special closeness Adam and Eve had with God. It was “Perfect Wonderfulness.” It was “Perfect”, because there was no sin in Adam and Eve’s hearts that blocked it. And, it was “Wonderfulness,” because it was far better than ANYTHING we can imagine. “Perfect Wonderfulness”-- knowing, loving, trusting and obeying God completely. And God sharing His love and showing Himself to Adam and Eve in a way that deeper and better than any of us has ever known. In the beginning, life with God was “Perfect Wonderfulness.” It could have stayed this way forever, but did it?



5. No, the “Perfect Wonderfulness” did NOT last forever. Satan, God’s enemy, came into the Garden. He tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God and His goodness. His plan worked. Right there, in the middle of that beautiful garden of love, Adam and Eve stopped trusting God and chose to rebel against Him instead.



6. What would God do? There was only one thing that He **COULD** do. You see, God is **GOOD** and **HOLY**. He hates sin. It is **BAD**. So, God did what He must: He punished Adam and Eve for their disobeying. Life in God's perfect world was broken. Now, there would be sin, sadness, sickness and death. Life in the Garden was broken, too. Adam and Eve lost their perfect food and jobs and friendship with each other. Worst of all, they lost their **Perfect Wonderfulness**, their very special closeness with God that would've gone on forever. What a lot Adam and Eve lost that sad day!



7. But there was something that Adam and Eve did NOT lose on that day. They did NOT lose God's love. God, in His great love and mercy, was not finished with them or His world. He had always known what would happen. And He had always planned for it. He would NOT lose His people. He would SAVE them from their sins; and He, Himself, would do it.



8. So, on that very day, God gave Adam and Eve a promise. He would send a Savior to crush the enemy. He would win back the Perfect Wonderfulness for them. He would win back the Forever Life with Him that He had created them to enjoy. Yes, He would win it all back, through the Savior He would send. We know His name, don't we? That Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son.



9. Adam and Eve had a family. Their children had children, too. They were just like Adam and Eve. They had two eyes, two ears, two legs, and two arms. One head with one nose and one mouth. They even had that special heart made to know and love God. But sadly, their hearts were broken with sin, also just like Adam and Eve's. They ALL chose to disobey God and they ALL deserved His punishment. How sad!



10. But there was good news, too. Though they all disobeyed God and their hearts were broken with sin, some remembered God's promise to crush their enemy. They trusted in God and looked forward in faith to the day when the Savior would come--Jesus, God's own Son.



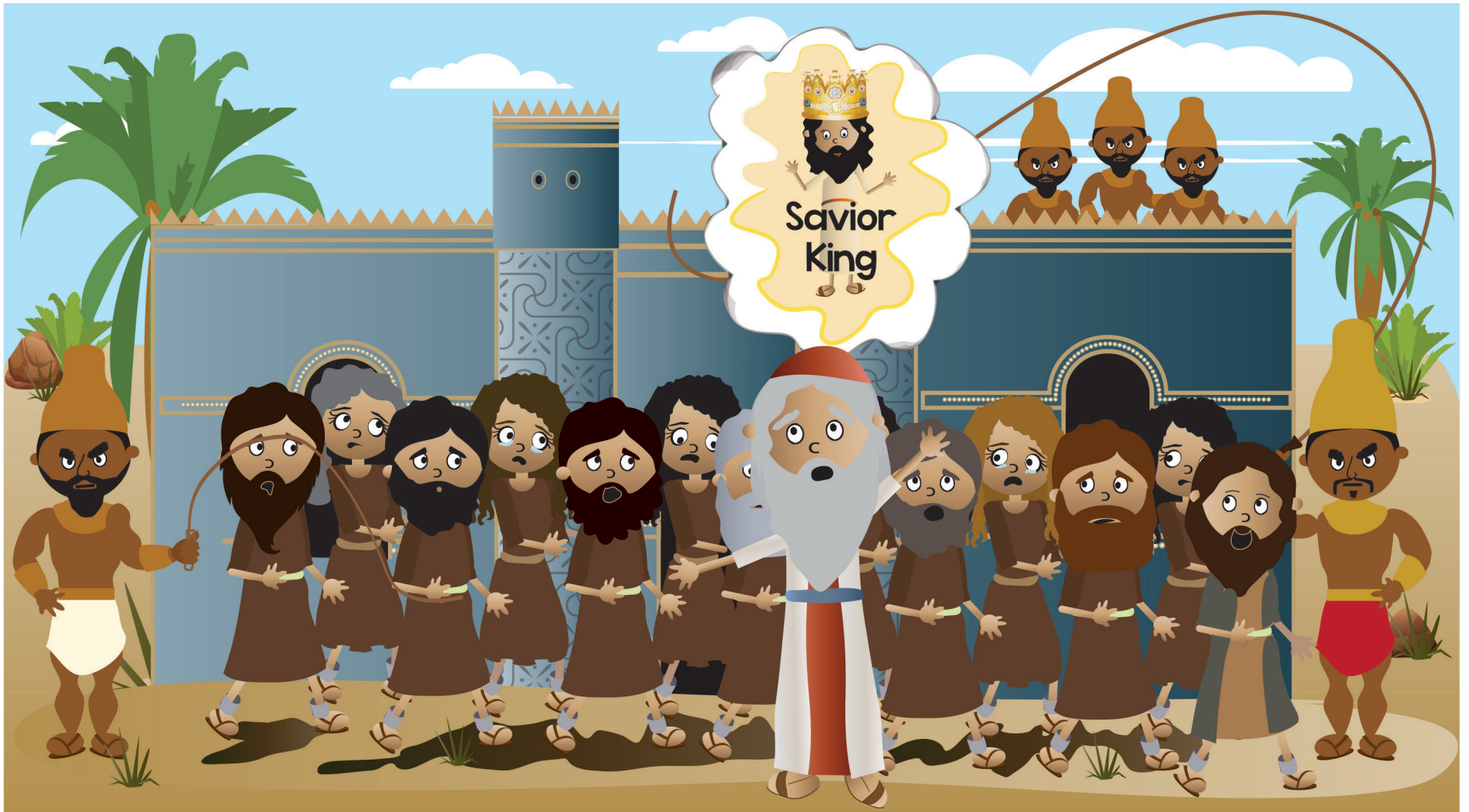
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II. God's plan to send the Savior began to unfold. God chose Abraham and his family to be the ones to prepare the world for the Savior. God told Abraham that all people would be blessed through someone who would be born into his family one day. That someone would be the Savior, Jesus, God's own Son.

But first, God prepared Abraham's family to be ready for this Savior. He grew Abraham's family into a big nation. He rescued them from their enemies. He gave them His good laws to live by and a beautiful land to live in.



12. Life as God's special people in God's promised land could have always been wonderful. But, Abraham's family were sinners, like everyone else since Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sometimes, they did obey God; and oh, how they enjoyed His great blessings when they did! But many times they worshipped fake gods. And then, they received God's loving discipline.



13. When they kept refusing to obey, God's discipline became more painful. How God loved His people! He sent them far away from their home to work for their enemies. They were so sad. They missed the good home and the good life He had given them. At last, their hearts changed. They were sorry they had disobeyed God. They wanted to turn back to Him. God sent them good news: one day He would bring them back home. And one day, He would send a Savior. That Savior would be Jesus, God's own Son. Those were His promises.



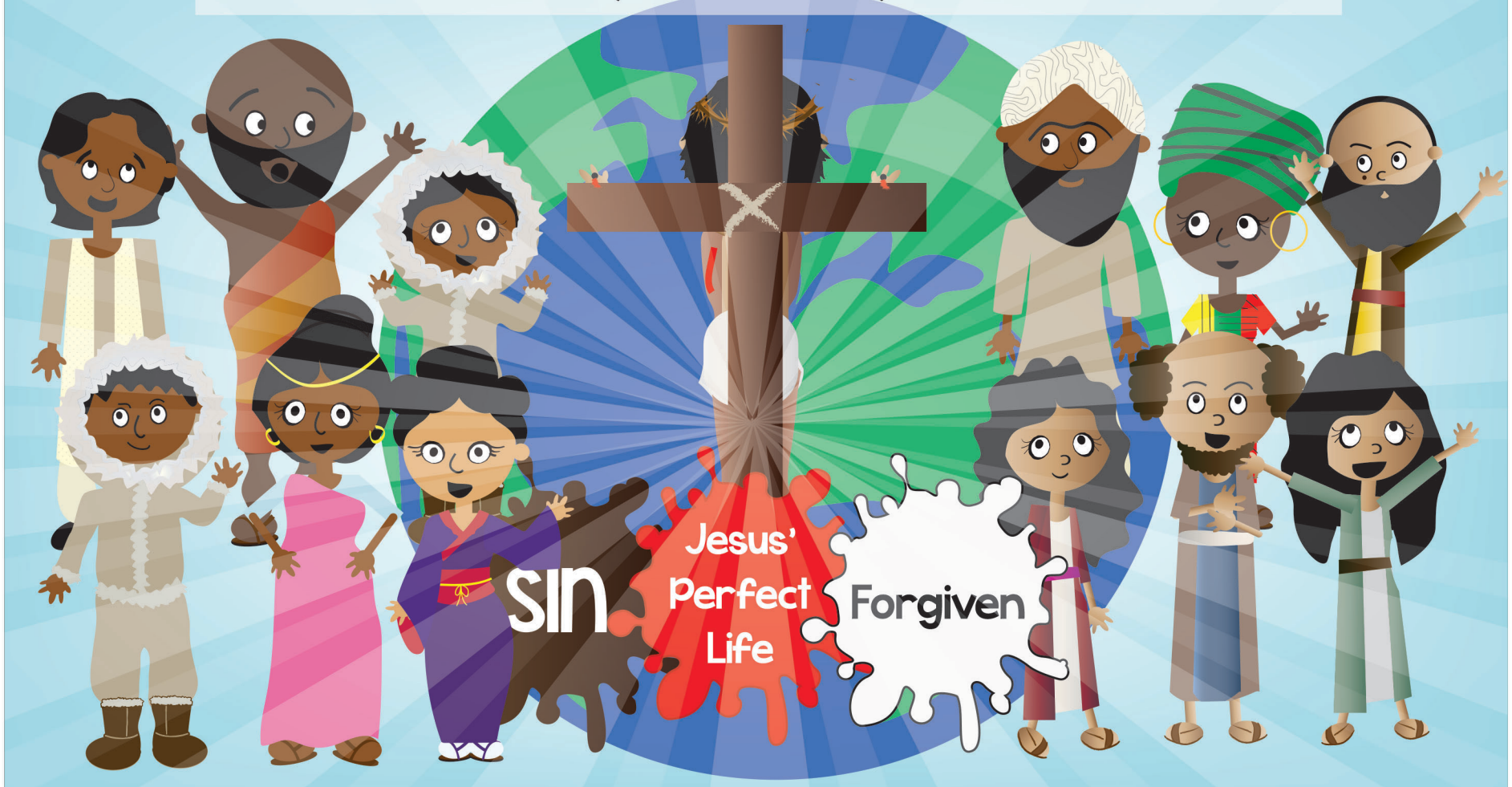
14. God kept His promises. He brought Abraham's family back home. And then, at just the right time, God sent the Savior to be born in Bethlehem--Jesus, God's own Son.



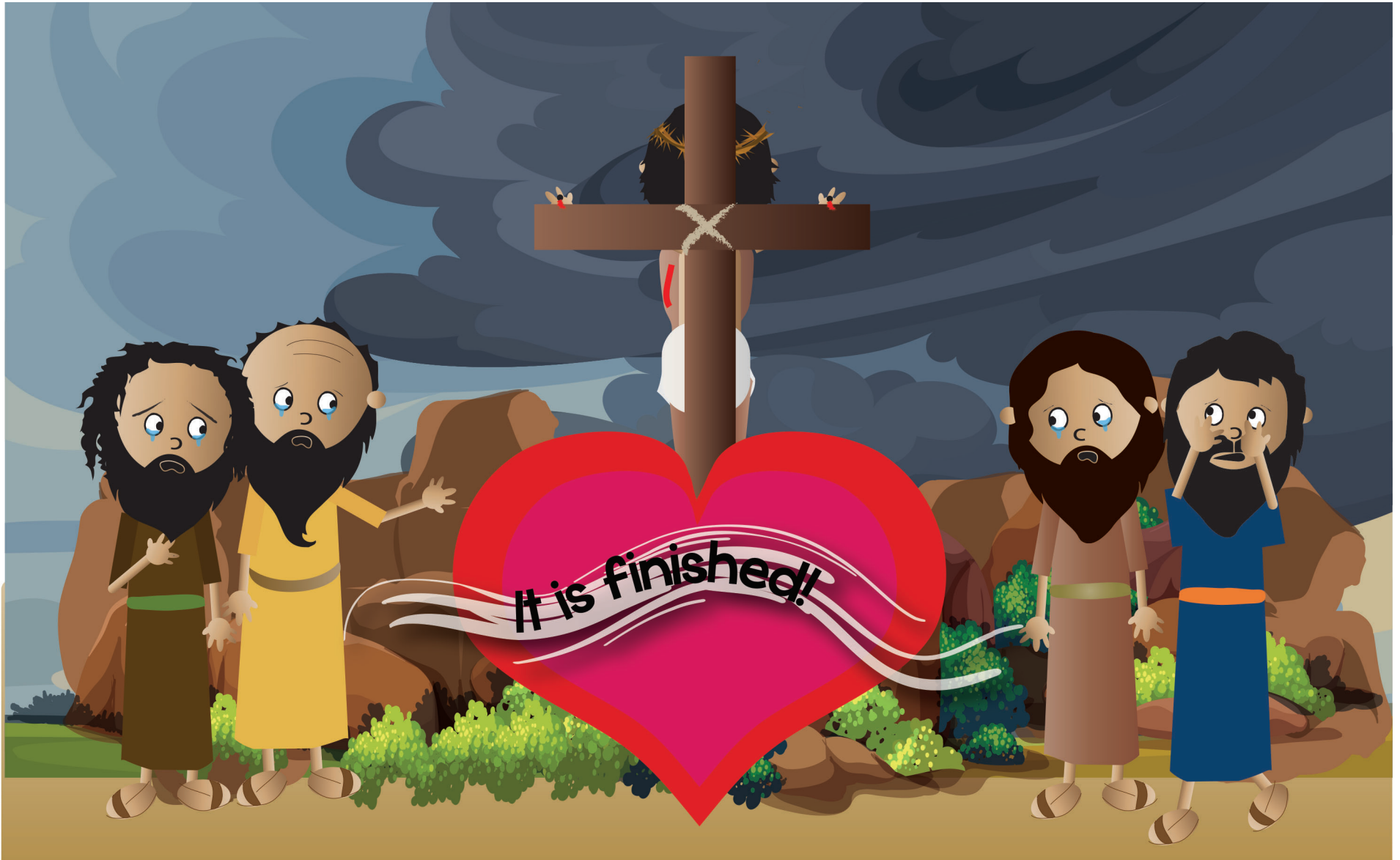
15. Jesus grew up. He taught about God and did many amazing things. He lived a perfect life-- the life that Adam and Eve and all of us were supposed to live, but never did. Jesus showed that He was God's Son, the Savior.

But Jesus didn't just come to SHOW us that He was the Savior. He came to BE the Savior. Jesus would make the way for us to have special closeness with God again. He would pay for our sins, so that through Him, we could enjoy Perfect Wonderfulness with God forever. But, oh, what a terrible way it must all happen!

God's Son, Jesus, the Savior



16. Sin couldn't be paid for with money. Sin even couldn't be paid for by Jesus living a perfect life in our place. No, sin could only be paid for by Jesus living a perfect life, and then Him GIVING IT UP for sinful people, like us. He took their punishment. He died the death that we deserved! That was the only way! So, that's what Jesus did. He suffered and died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people.. He was their substitute. He was their payment!

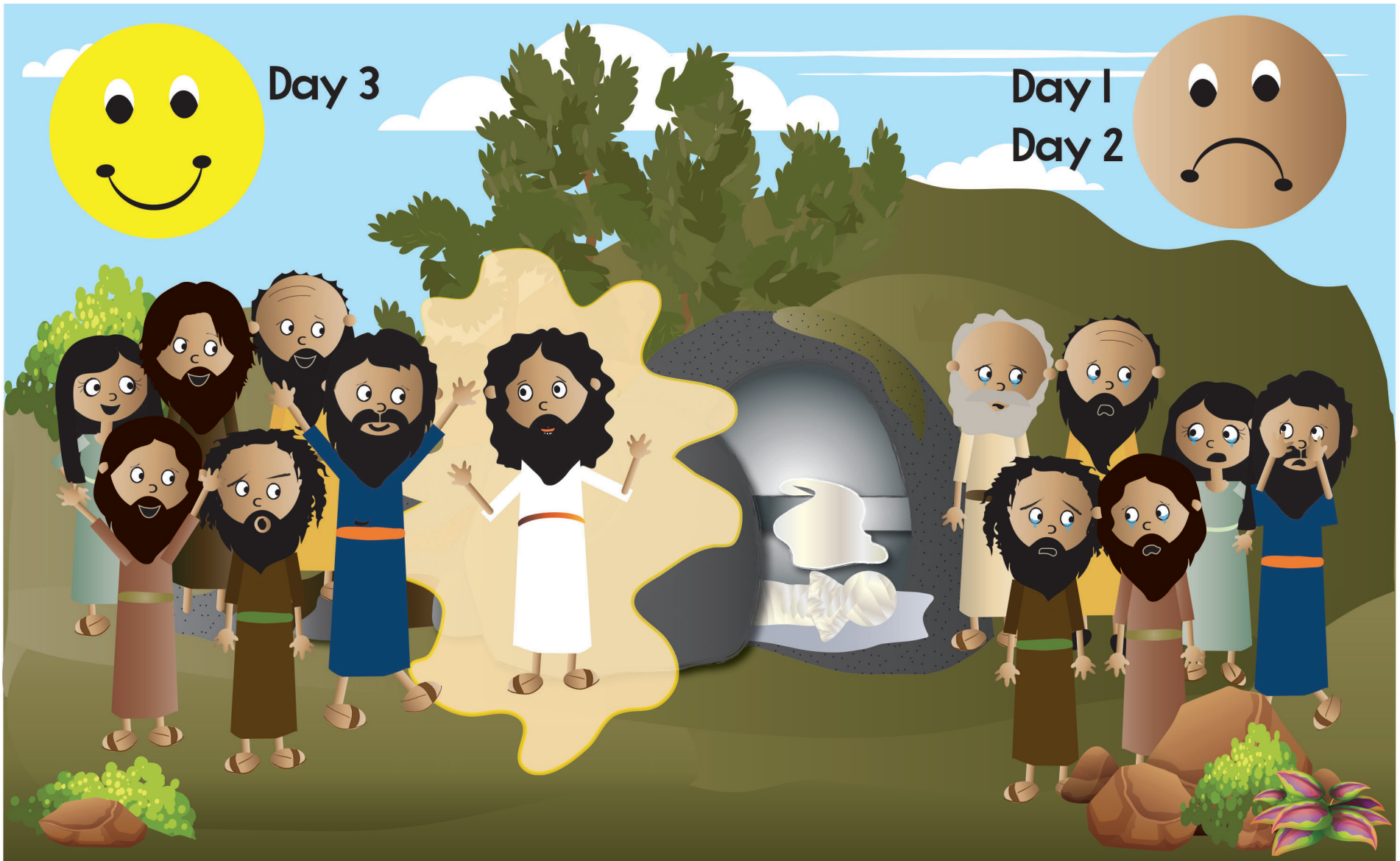


17. How Jesus hurt that day as He suffered and died for people like you and me! How much God loved us that He would pay for our sins, Himself, through His Son, Jesus!

As Jesus died on the cross, His last words were, "It is finished." But what was finished? Was it just His life that was finished? Or could He mean something more?



18. Later that day, some men took Jesus' body to be buried in a cave grave in a garden. That looked like the end. But was it?



19. On Day One and Two, Jesus' body stayed in that cave-grave. But something amazing happened on Day Three. Jesus rose up from the dead in victory. He was alive! Jesus had really beaten sin and death! That's what He had finished that day He suffered and died on the cross. All those sins were paid for. The way back to Perfect Wonderfulness with God was made!



20. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can become God's people. God has forgiven their sins through Jesus. Right here on earth, they get to enjoy a bit of special closeness with God, through God's Holy Spirit living in their hearts. And one day, when they die, they will go to enjoy full, Perfect Wonderfulness with God forever. Perfect Wonderfulness. Perfect Forever. All of that can be ours, because Jesus, the Savior, came. Thank You, Jesus!

The Case of the Savior, from Start to Finish Genesis, The Gospels

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the Savior?
God's Son, Jesus.

2. When did the promise of a Savior start? When did it finish?
It started back in the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. It finished when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of God's people and rose from the dead in victory.

For You and Me:

The promise of the Savior wasn't just for Adam and Eve or all those people who lived long ago. It is for us, too. It is for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He came to give us special closeness with God. He came so we could know the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God. Thank You, Jesus!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Isaiah 53:5, ESV

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him."

Transgressions and iniquities are other words for sin.

1. Whose transgressions and iniquities deserved God's punishment in our story?

All people.

2. Who came to take God's punishment for them?

Jesus, God's Son.

For You and Me:

The promise of the Savior wasn't just for Adam and Eve or all those people who lived long ago. It is for us, too. It is for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He came to give us special closeness with God. He came so we could know the Perfect Wonderfulness of life with God. He did this by paying for our sins, Himself! Thank You, Jesus!

What Is the Gospel?

It Is Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...

God sent Jesus to pay for the sins of God's people!

The Gospel



How merciful is God! How great is His love for sinners, like you and me! Though we have all chosen to disobey Him, He always planned to provide us with a Savior!

That Savior would be Jesus, God's own, dear Son! Jesus chose to suffer and die on the cross and give up His perfect life as the full payment for sin that we needed. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory! He had beaten sin and death for God's people completely!

How can Jesus be our Savior? How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.

C God, we confess rebelling against You and Your good ways. Too many times we choose to live life our own way instead of Yours. 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 Him as our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to obey Your good ways and bring You glory.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

