

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?

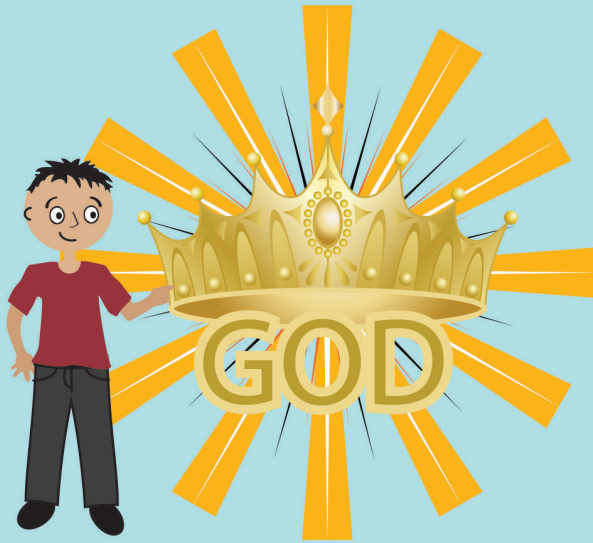
Can you tell me what it is?

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 three truths about the gospel. They are: "God made us and we should obey Him", "We have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment"; and, "God sent Jesus to pay for the sins of God's people." (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 4?

What Is the Gospel?

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

**God saves all who ???? of
their sins and trust in
Jesus as their Savior!**

**HINT: What's the Bible word for
turning away from disobeying God?
It rhymes with "cement."**

ANSWER:

**God saves all who REPENT
of their sins and trust in
Jesus as their Savior!**



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 saves all who ???? of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior!”

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What’s the Bible word for turning away from disobeying God? It rhymes with “cement.”

Can you guess? It’s “repent.”

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 saves all who REPENT of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior!”

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

God is our good Creator and King. He made us to know Him, love Him and obey His good laws. But sadly, we all have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We deserve His punishment for our sins. We have all turned away from Him.

But God has made a way for us to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. In His great love and mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never disobeyed God. He offered up His life as the full payment for sin when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead. Jesus had done it! He had beaten sin and death for God’s people!

How can we become one of God’s people? Who can receive God’s gift of forgiveness? All who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Repent means to stop living a life full of disobeying God and to start living to please God, instead. God can help us repent and believe. Ask Him!

How wonderful it is to be one of God’s people! To have special closeness with God by His Holy Spirit living in your heart now. And one day, to go live with God forever. That will be best of all!



**“The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”
--Mark 1:15, ESV**



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:

Mark 1:15 tells us:

Mark 1:15, ESV

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Learn a Little: "Repent and believe in the gospel."

What does that mean?

For years and years, God had promised to send a Savior to save us from our sins. For years and years, people waited and watched...and they watched and waited. At last, Jesus came! He taught the people about God and did amazing things. He showed them that He was God's Son, the Savior God had promised.

But what did people have to do, if they were to be forgiven by God for their sins? Jesus told them: "Repent and believe in the gospel--the good news that Jesus was God's Son, the Savior, sent to save them. We can be forgiven, too, when we repent (that is, turning away disobeying God and turning to live for God, instead) and believe that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

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

The Time Is Fulfilled:

Mark 1:15

DDD ESV Songs 3, track 26

The time is fulfilled,
The time is fulfilled,
And the kingdom of God is at hand.
The time is fulfilled,
The time is fulfilled,
And the kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe,
Repent and believe in the gospel,
Repent and believe,
Repent and believe in the gospel,
Repent and believe. (repeat)
Mark Chapter One, verse fifteen.

"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 Changes in Cruddy Crete Titus



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was Crete and what was so cruddy about it?
2. Who changed in Crete? How did they change?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Mark 1:15, ESV

"Repent and believe in the gospel."

1. Who went to Crete to tell the people to repent and believe?
2. What was the gospel that he wanted them to repent and believe in?

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



I. This story is an island story. Do you know what an island is? It's a little piece of land stuck out in the middle of a big piece of water, such as a sea or an ocean. The island in this story was very famous for something. Let's think what it might be...



2. Some islands are famous for their tall, volcano mountains that spray out smoke and hot lava. THIS island had tall, volcano mountains with smoke and lava... but that's not what it was famous for. Other islands are famous for their beautiful, sandy beaches, with palm trees blowing in the breeze, and colorful fish swimming in the clear, blue water. THIS island had beautiful beaches with swaying palm trees. It had colorful fish swimming in the clear water... but that's not what it was famous for.



3. Some islands are even famous for their tasty, island food and their good, island people. Ah... and NOW we're getting very close to what THIS island was famous for. Because, while this island DID have tasty, island food that was yummy in your tummy, it was famous for NOT having that other thing-- good, island people!

Liars Cheaters Lazy Over-eaters



4. Yes, THIS island was famous for its BAD, island people. And that's why, though the name of this island was really just "Crete," most people thought of it more like "Cruddy Crete." (Cruddy is a word that means something is no good.) This island was filled with many bad people doing many bad things. There were liars and cheaters and lazy over-eaters, just to name a few. And that's why "Cruddy Crete" was really a very good nickname for the island of Crete.

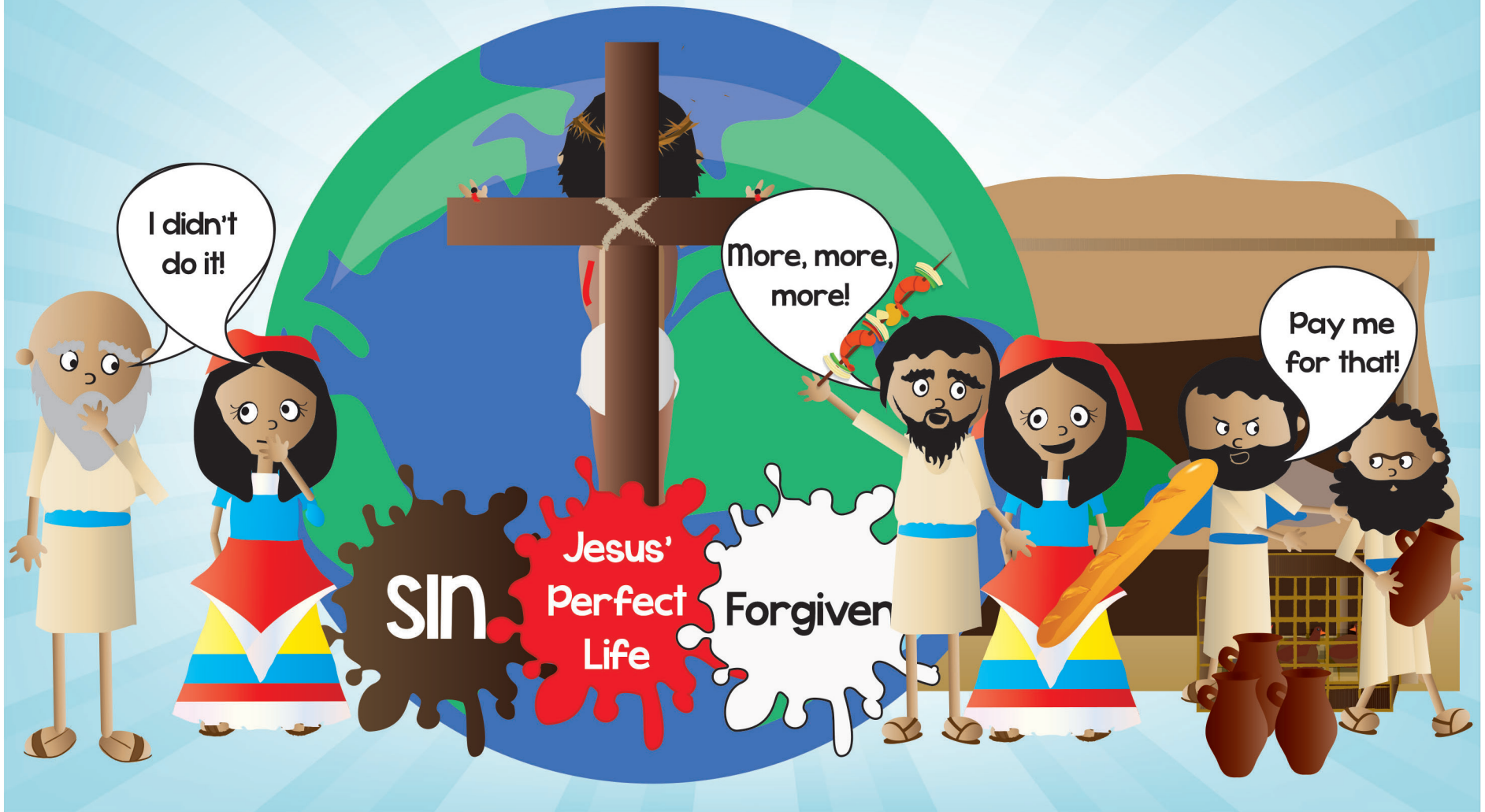


5. Many people stayed away from Cruddy Crete. After all, why would anyone want to go to a place like this with all these bad people doing all of these bad things? Surely, there were other islands with beaches and fish and volcanoes and tasty food that had GOOD island people! So why go to one with such BAD people on it?

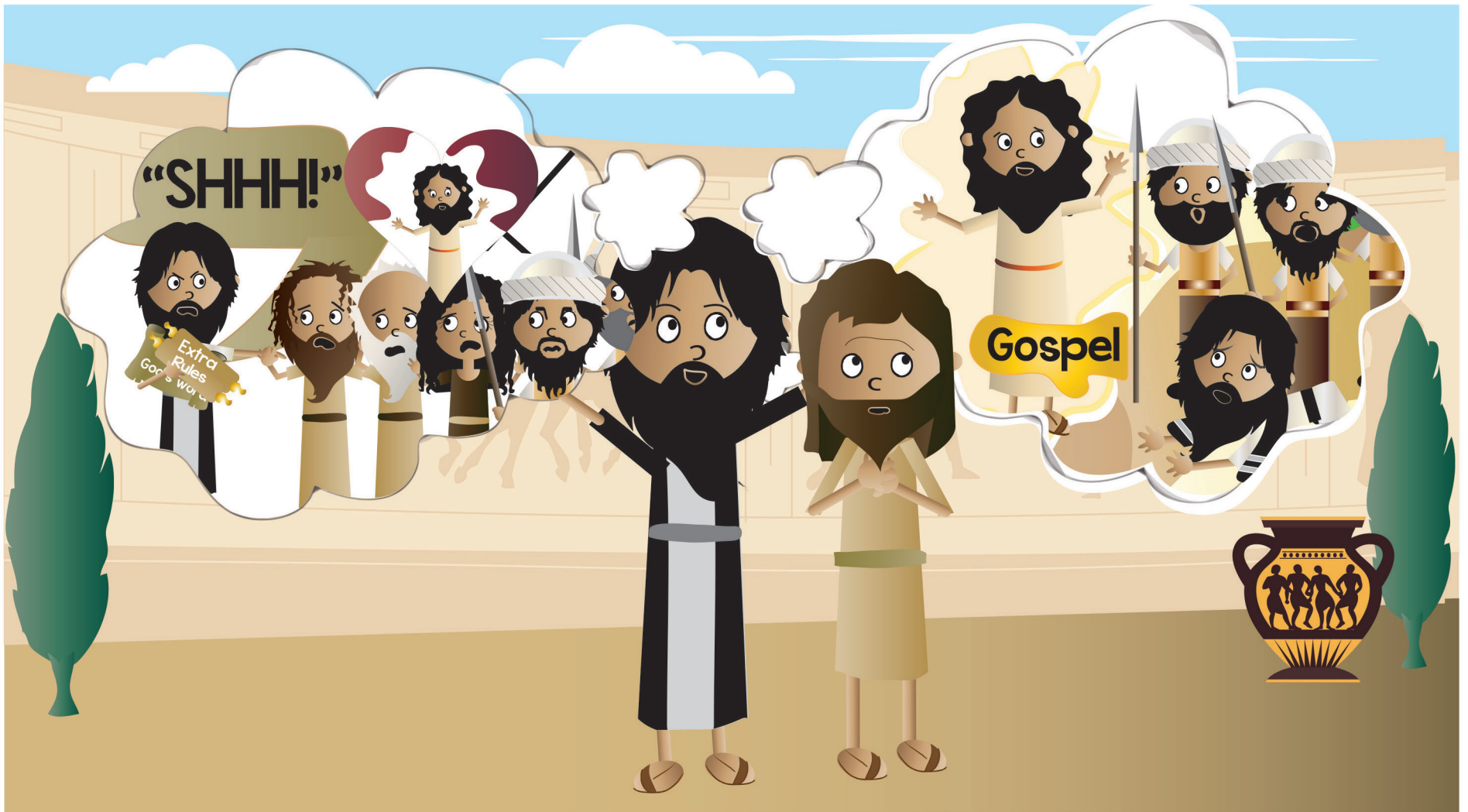


6. Cruddy Crete certainly doesn't sound like a nice place to visit; but, our story is about two men --Paul and Titus-- who very much wanted to go there. And as crazy as it sounds, they wanted to go there for the very reason that you and I might NOT want to go: to be with all of those bad people! Paul and Titus wanted to tell them the gospel. The good news that Jesus, the Savior, had come and could save them from their sins. Yes, even these people could become God's people!

God's Son, Jesus, the Savior



7. You see, sinners --people who disobey God and His good ways-- were exactly the kind of people Jesus had come to save. And Jesus was such a great Savior, that there were no people too cruddy and no hearts too full of sin that Jesus could not save them. Jesus could save even the **WORST** of sinners --even people as bad as those on Cruddy Crete.



8. Perhaps that's why Paul wanted to go to Crete so very much. Paul had once been a bad sinner like them. He had hated Jesus and done many bad things to hurt Jesus' followers. Paul deserved God's punishment for all the bad things he had done; but, God chose to forgive Paul's sins through Jesus, instead. Paul trusted in Jesus as his Savior and repented of his sins. God saved Paul and changed him. Paul was so grateful to God for forgiving his sins! And if there was one thing Paul loved to tell others, it was how God could save and change them, too.



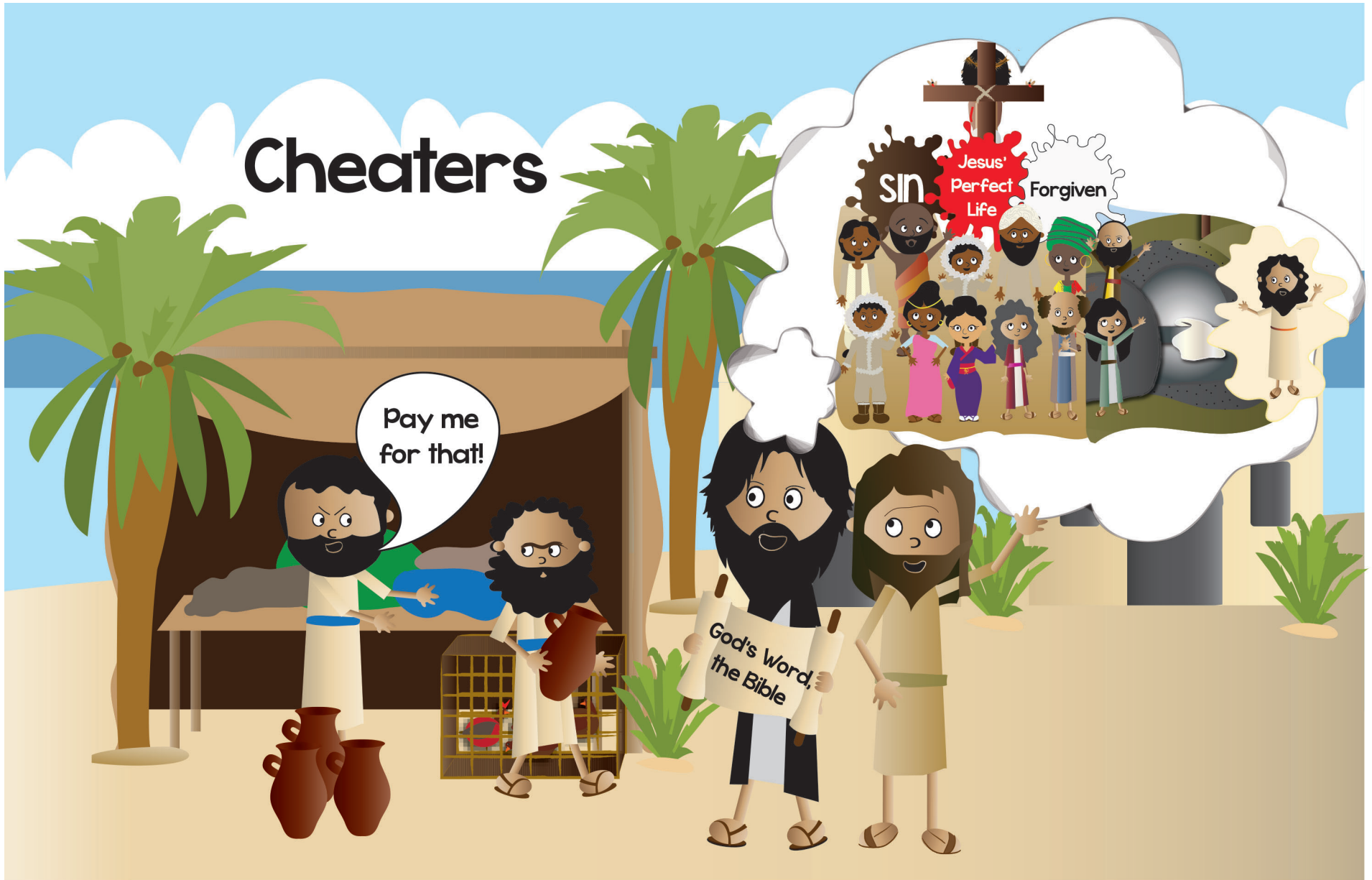
9. So, off Paul went with his young friend, Titus. They headed by boat to Cruddy Crete to tell the people the good news of the gospel. Paul and Titus sailed over the wavy seas for many days. Then, at last, there was Crete! Paul and Titus saw the volcano mountains, the sandy beaches, and the colorful fishes. They saw the swaying palm trees and tasted the good, island food. Then, they met the island people. The people were cruddy, all right! Liars and cheaters and lazy over-eaters, just to name a few. How they all needed to know about the Savior, Jesus!

Liars



10. Paul and Titus went right to work. They walked from town to town, sharing the good news of Jesus everywhere they went --with the liars, the cheaters, the lazy over-eaters, and anyone else who would listen. This is the good news of the gospel they shared: "God is the good King and Creator of the world. He made us and gave us His good laws to live by. But we have all chosen to disobey God and we deserve His punishment! We need a Savior to save us from our sins. God, Himself, provided that Savior --His very, own Son, Jesus.

Cheaters

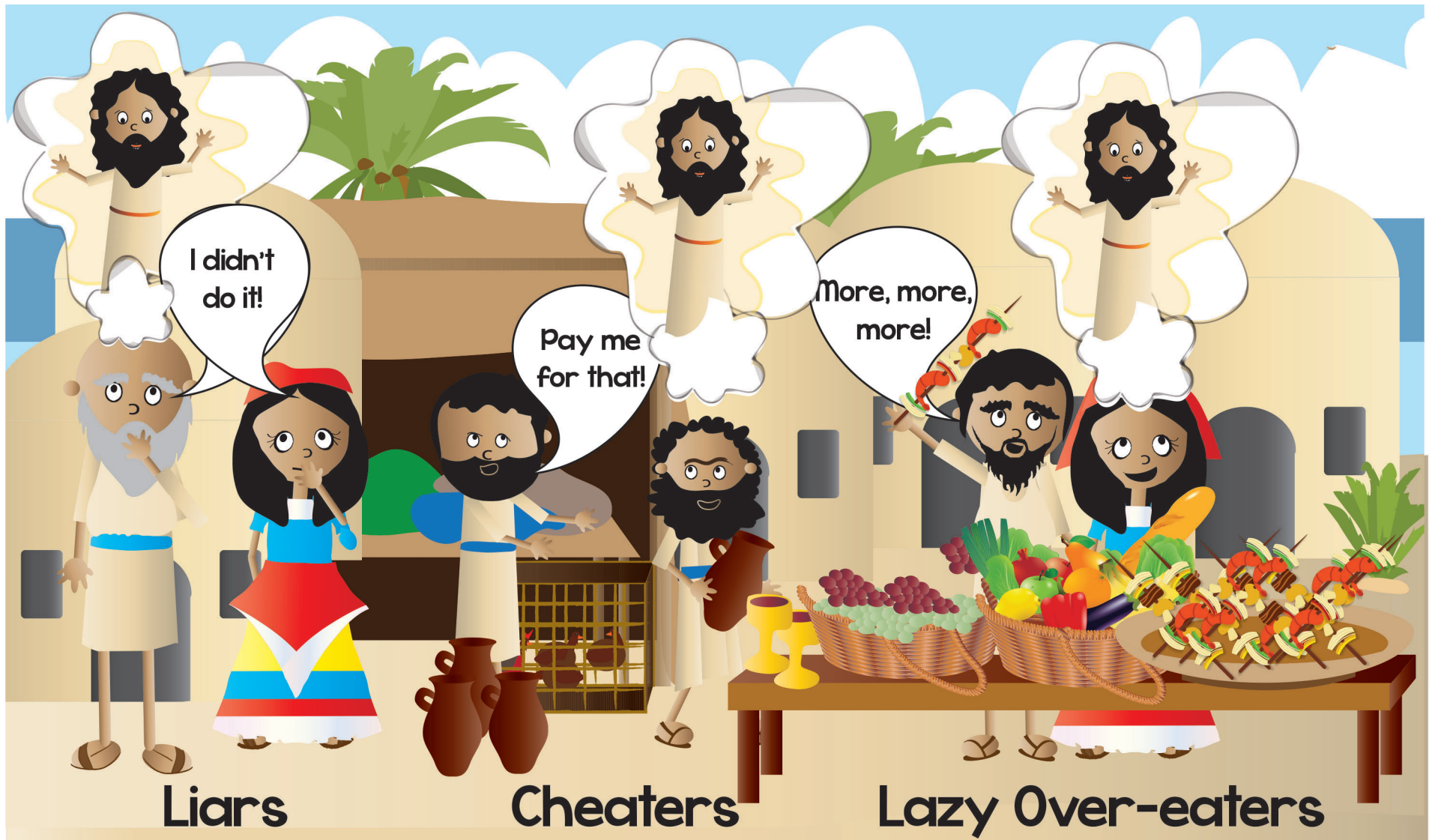


II. "Jesus came to earth. He lived a perfect life, then on the cross He suffered and died as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people," Paul told them. "Then Jesus rose up from the dead on the third day in victory."

Lazy Over-eaters



12. "Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be saved! They become God's special people who know Him in their hearts now, and will go live with Him forever," Paul explained. "Come, repent; come, believe in Jesus! Come, be saved from your sins!" Paul urged the people of Cruddy Crete. What would happen? Would they believe? Would they repent?



13. God worked in the hearts of the liars, and the cheaters, and the lazy over-eaters as they listened to Paul preach. They could see that they were sinners. They could see that they needed a Savior. They wanted God's forgiveness through Jesus.

But what ELSE had Paul told these people they needed to do to be saved? It wasn't only BELIEVE. There was something else they needed to do. Can you remember what it was?

Liars

Cheaters

Lazy Over-eaters



14. They needed to **REPENT** and believe. Now **THAT** might be trouble for the people of Cruddy Crete. To become God's people, they would have to change the way they were living. No, they didn't have to be perfect and never sin again. Only Jesus could live a perfect life. But, it **DID** mean that they would need to turn away from lying, cheating, and lazy over-eating as their **WAY** of life. They would need to choose to live for God, instead. **WOULD** the people of Cruddy Crete do this? **COULD** they do this? They had been such bad people, living their own way for so long!

Liars



Cheaters



Lazy Over-eaters



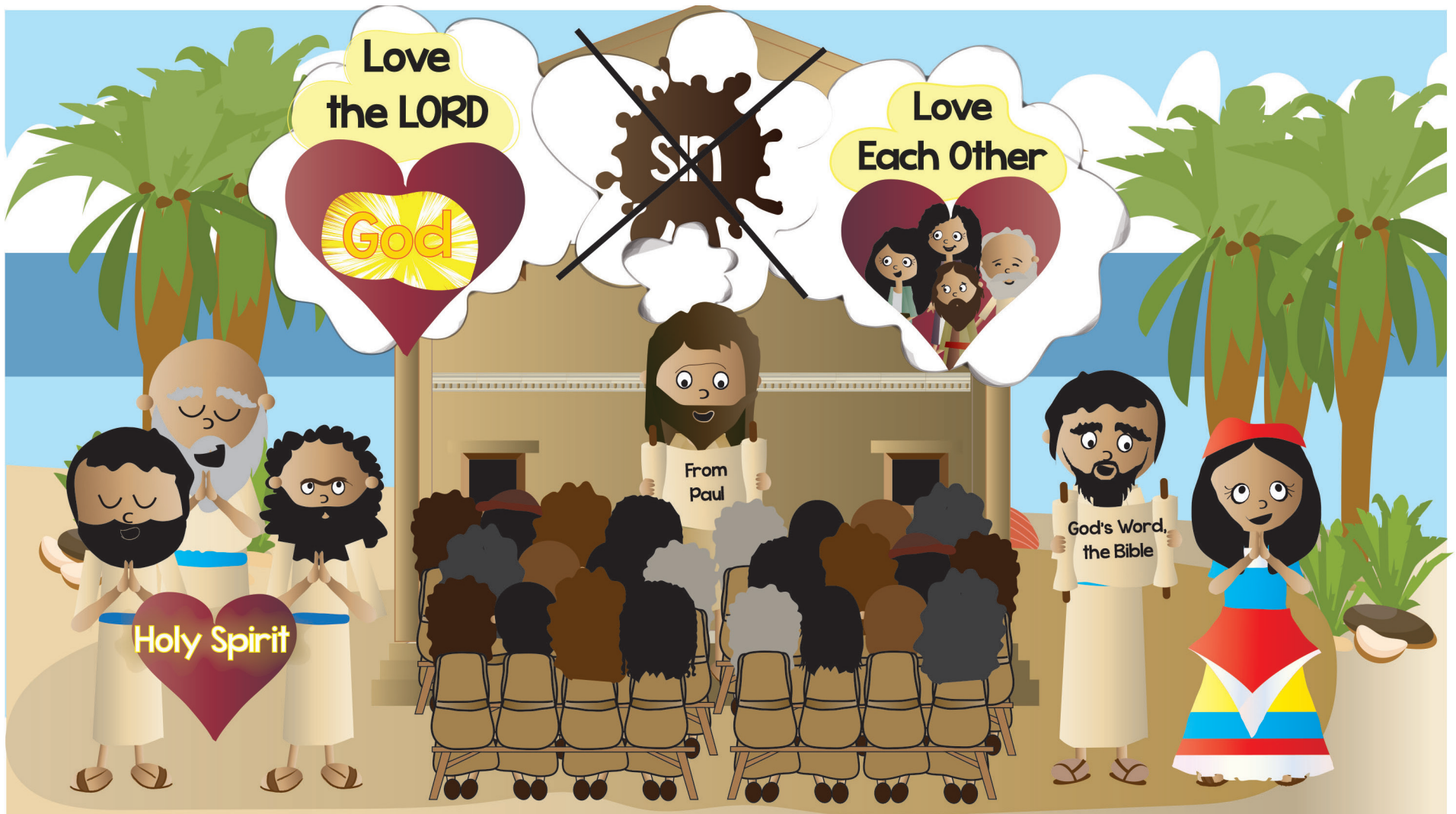
15. Yes, they COULD; and yes, they WOULD! How? God would help them. He would work in their hearts. He would help those liars turn from their lying, and those cheaters to turn from their cheating, and those lazy over-eaters to turn away from their lazy over-eating! And, He would keep on helping them the REST of their lives. So right then and there, many people in Cruddy Crete repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. And before long, there were little groups of believers in every town on the island. How happy that made Paul and Titus!



16. Paul soon set sail to share the good news of Jesus with other people. Titus stayed on Crete as pastor of these new believers. Titus loved them, and prayed for them, and taught them the Bible. What a lot of help these people needed! After all, this was still Cruddy Crete. Many other island people STILL were liars, cheaters and lazy, over-eaters! It would be easy for those old sins to creep back into their lives. It was hard for those new believers to keep on loving God and living for Him. Oh, how they wanted to love God and live for Him; but oh, how they struggled!



17. Far away in Corinth, Paul heard about their struggles. He wrote a letter to encourage them. Zenas and Apollos sailed over the wavy seas to Crete and gave it to Titus.



18. "Dear Titus, Remind the new believers to keep on trusting in Jesus and keep on turning away from their sins. That's the gospel. Urge them to use their lives to do good to each other, to love God, and to hold onto God's Word, the Bible. Remind them that they don't have to do this on their own. The God who helped them repent and believe in Him at the beginning, promises to always be with them. He will help them keep on believing in and living for Him every day. Say hello to everyone for me. And may God help you live for Him! Paul."

God Is Faithful to Help His People



19. What happened on Cruddy Crete after Titus read Paul's letter and shared it with the believers? Did the new believers keep on repenting of their sins, as well as believing in Jesus? The Bible doesn't tell us. It would have been hard to do on Cruddy Crete, but not impossible. Why? Because God doesn't just help people repent and believe in Jesus at the beginning. He promises to keep helping them to believe in Him and live for Him their whole lives—even in a place like Cruddy Crete, where wicked ways were right at home.

The Case of the Changes in Cruddy Crete Titus

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was Crete and what was so cruddy about it? Crete was an island. It was filled with people who rebelled against God and His good ways. They are what made the island so cruddy.

2. Who changed in Crete? How did they change? Many people changed in Crete when they heard the good news of Jesus. God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and helped them to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:
Maybe we don't live in Cruddy Crete, but we need Jesus to be our Savior, just as much as they did. God can help us repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, just like He helped them! Ask Him to help you!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Mark 1:15, ESV

"Repent and believe in the gospel."

1. Who went to Crete to tell the people to repent and believe? Paul with his young friend, Titus.

2. What was the gospel that he wanted them to repent and believe in?

The good news that we can be forgiven our sins and become God's people through Jesus. Paul wanted the people of Crete to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wanted them to become God's people, too.

For You and Me:

The gospel Paul shared with the people of Crete is for us, too. God offers to forgive our sins and make us His people when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

What Is the Gospel?

It Is Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...

God saves all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior!

The Gospel



Like the people in Cruddy Crete, we have all chosen to disobey God and to live our own way. Like them, we deserve God's punishment for rebelling against Him.

What good news is it to hear that God sent Jesus to be our Savior, too! Jesus died on the cross as the perfect payment for sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for God's people!

How can we become God's people? How can Jesus be our Savior? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. God helped many people in Crete do this.

He can help you, too. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer.



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so full of love and mercy! You call us to repent and believe in Jesus that we might be saved.

C We confess that we often disobey You and Your good ways. We choose to live life our own way, not Yours. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to joyfully obey You. You know what is best for us and what brings You glory.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

