

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES



Simple Story Scenes

Unit 7,

Bible Truth 2

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 7: The Law-Giving God

Unit Big Question (and Answer): What Are God's Laws Like? God's Laws Are Perfect!

Unit Bible Verse: "The law of the LORD is perfect." Psalm 19:7

Bible Truth 2 Concept: God's Laws Are Perfect... They Show Us that We Need God to Save Us!

God made us and He is in charge of us. He expects us to obey His laws all the time. But sadly, we do not. We all are sinners with sinful, selfish hearts. We disobey God's laws. We deserve His punishment for our sins. How we have rebelled against Him and His good ways!

But God is so kind and merciful! He wants to treat us better than we deserve. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all who trust in Him as their Savior. God forgives their sins and gives them special closeness with Him in their hearts. And when they die, they will go to live with Him forever in a perfect world where there will never again be any sin. Yes! They will never again sin against Him or break His good laws. They will always love Him and others as He wants them to. How wonderful that will be! Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Romans 3:20,21,22,23, HCSB

For no one will be justified in [God's] sight by the works of the law...But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Learn a Little: "Apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe."

Meaning

"Righteous" is a big word that means that you are right with God. The only way we can be right with God ON OUR OWN is by obeying God's laws perfectly. But, uh oh! This Bible verse tells us that we are all sinners who break God's laws. That means we can't EVER be right with God by obeying God's laws.

But God has made a way for us to be right with Him—through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He kept all of God's good laws perfectly. He was righteous! And this Bible verse tells us that for all who trust in Jesus as their Savior, Jesus takes away their sins and gives His righteousness to them. That means God treats them as if they had never broken God's laws or sinned—just like Jesus! Wow! Isn't that amazing! Isn't Jesus a wonderful Savior! He can be our wonderful Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Giver of Your perfectly good laws.
- C** God, instead of obeying Your good laws, we have all chosen to break them. Sometimes, we don't obey our parents. Sometimes, we lie. Sometimes, we want things that belong to others. We do not always love you most of all. These are only some of the ways we break Your good laws. Oh, how we need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for giving us Your good laws, so we know how to love and obey You. And thank You for sending Jesus to perfectly live out Your laws and to give His life as the perfect payment for the sins of Your people. Thank You that He can be our Savior when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to know You and love You with the spirit You put inside us. Help us to learn Your good laws and obey them. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 2 Story

The Case of the Rotten Innards Luke 18:9-14

Songs Used in Bible Truth 2

Big Q & A 7 Song

Big Question 7 Song: What Are God's Laws Like?

Big Question 7 Bible Verse Song: The Law of the Lord Psalm 19:7, ESV

Extra Big Question 7 Bible Verse Song: The Law of the Lord Is Perfect Psalm 19:7, ESV

Big Question 7 Hymn: Holy Bible, Book Divine

Big Question 7 Praise Song: The Best Book to Read Is the Bible

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: By Works of the Law Romans 3:20-23, HCSB

Extra Bible Truth 2 Verse Song: Now We Know Romans 3:19-24, ESV

Extra Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: For Christ Suffered Once for Sins 1 Peter 3:18, ESV

Extra Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: The Lord Looks Down Psalm 14:2-3, HCSB

Extra Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: All We Like Sheep Isaiah 53:6, ESV

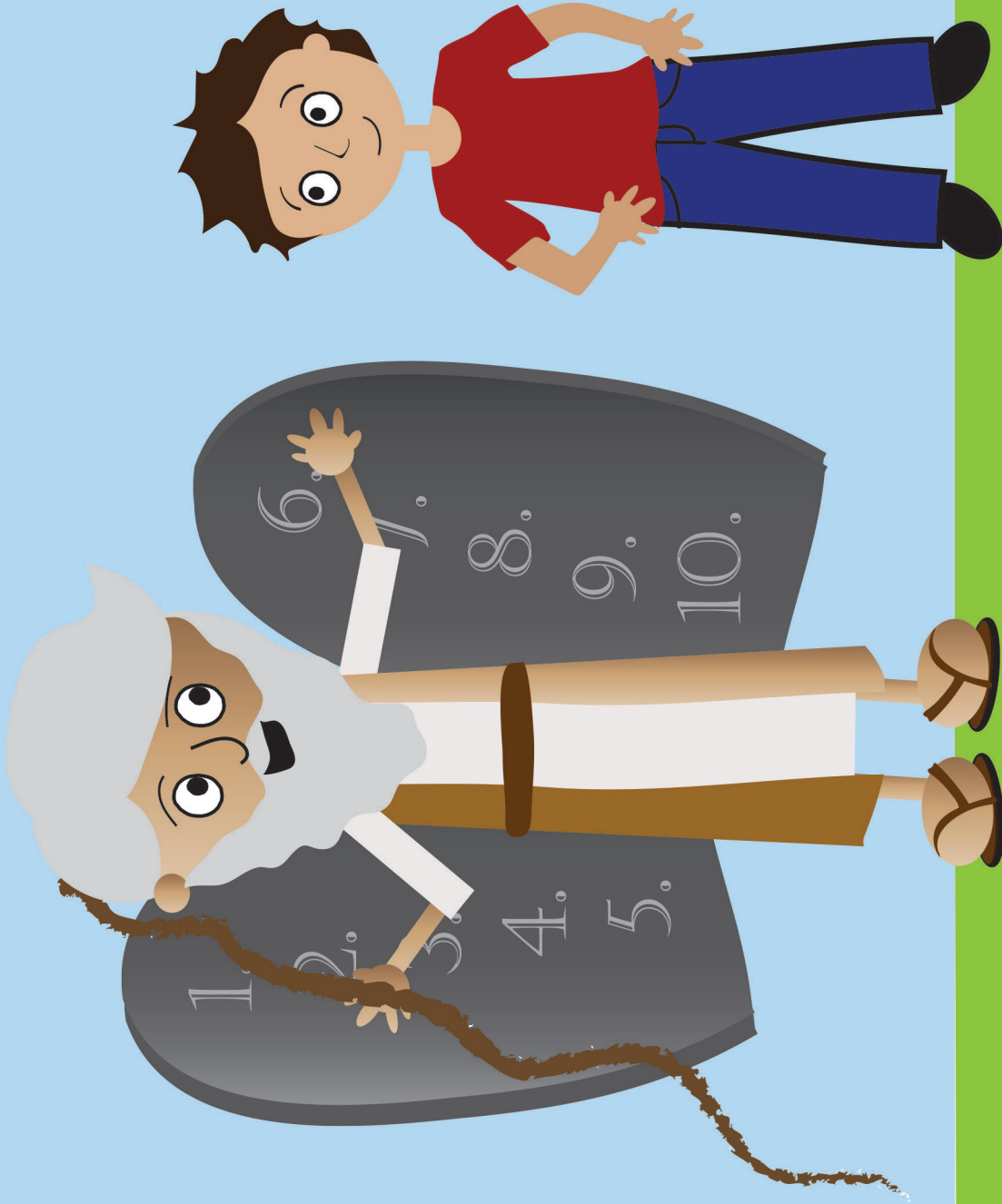
Extra Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: Seek the Lord Isaiah 55:6-7, ESV

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

BIG QUESTION 7



What are God's laws like?



ANSWER:

God's laws are perfect!

VISUAL
AID

#1

take out



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 7:

What Are God's Laws Like?
and the Answer is:
God's Laws Are Perfect!

Meaning:

A law is a big rule made by someone in charge. God is our Maker. He is in charge of everyone in the whole world. He has given us His laws to live by.

God is good and loving, wise and fair. He is perfect! God's laws are just like Him. They are good and loving, wise and fair, too. They are perfect!

God's laws show us the very best way to live. They show us how to love God and love others. They are exactly what we need.

Let's sing our Big Question Song: "

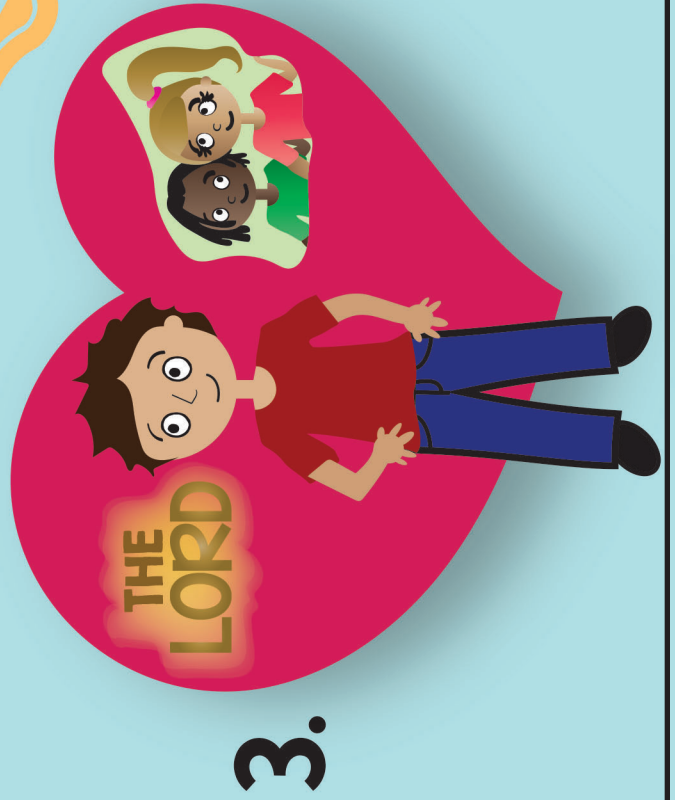
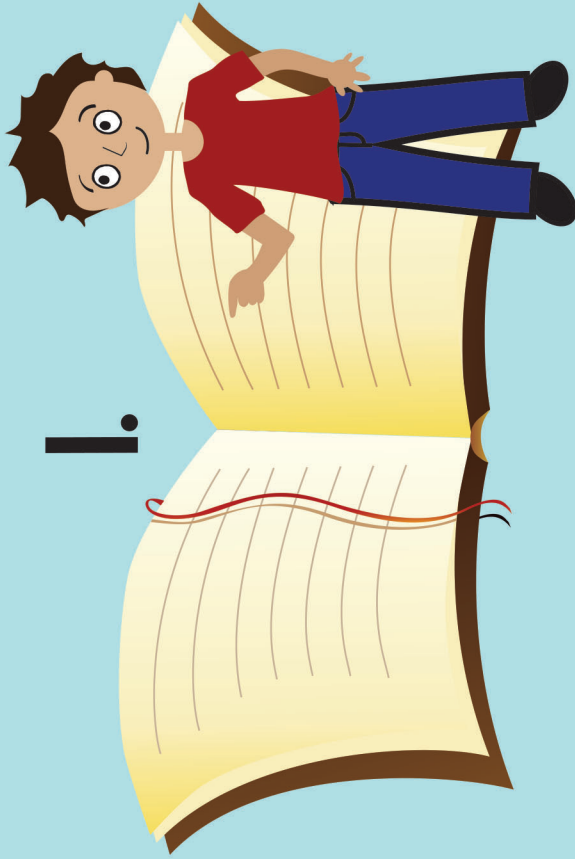
Big Q & A 7 Song

*DDD ESV Songs 7, track 12
(adapted version of "The Farmer in the Dell")*

What are God's laws like?
What are God's laws like?
What are God's laws like?
God's laws are perfect!

BIG QUESTION 7: Three truths about God's laws

Visual Aid #2
take out
Big Question
Bible.com
of BQB



This Unit's Bible Truths

"God's laws are perfect 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 THREE Bible truths that all tell us more about God's perfect laws.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our three 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 three truths they will be learning. After everyone has had a good look, say...

"Ok, we've learned one truth about God's laws. It's this one: "They Were Written in the Bible, God's Word." (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 three 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 are God's laws like?
God's laws are perfect...
they show us that we
need God to
??? us!**

**HINT: "What did Jesus do for
God's people when He died on
the cross? It starts with an "s"
and it rhymes with "brave."**

**ANSWER:
They Show Us that We Need God to SAVE Us!**

Visual Aid #3



of BQB

take out

Aid

#3



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 Are God’s Laws Like?
God’s Laws Are Perfect!
They Show Us that We Need God to ???? Us!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What did Jesus do for God’s people when He died on the cross? It starts with a “s” and it rhymes with “brave.”

Can you guess? It’s “save.”

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

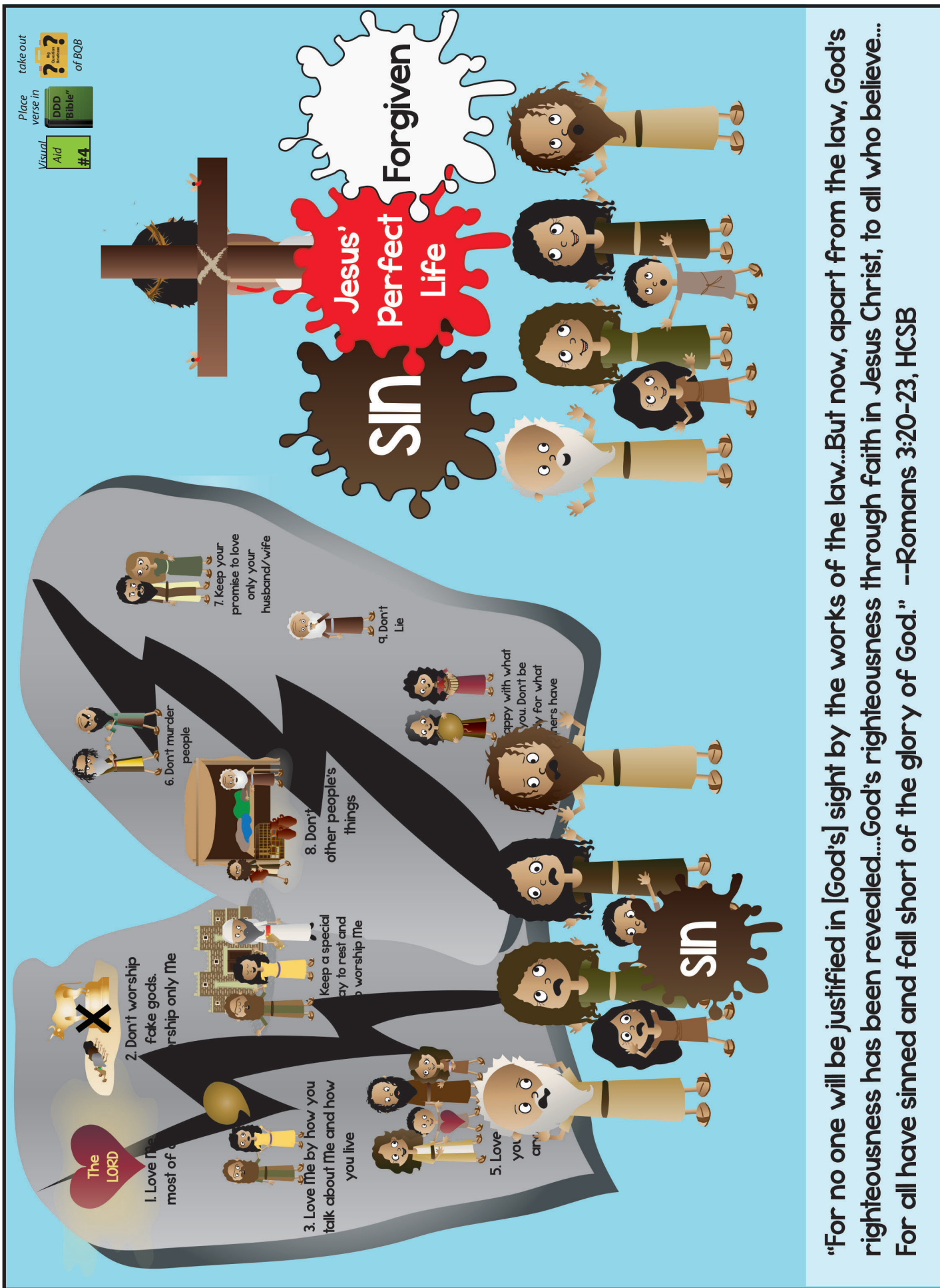
(Uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

**“What Are God’s Laws Like?
God’s Laws Are Perfect!
They Show Us that We Need God to SAVE Us!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:
(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

God made us and He is in charge of us. He expects us to obey His laws all the time. But sadly, we do not. We all are sinners with sinful, selfish hearts. We disobey God’s laws. We deserve His punishment for our sins. How we have rebelled against Him and His good ways!

But God is so kind and merciful! He wants to treat us better than we deserve. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all who trust in Him as their Savior. God forgives their sins and gives them special closeness with Him in their hearts. And when they die, they will go to live with Him forever in a perfect world where there will never again be any sin. Yes! They will never again sin against Him or break His good laws. They will always love Him and others as He wants them to. How wonderful that will be! Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.



Visual Aid #4

Place verse in DDD Bible of BCB

take out ?

The LORD

- 1. Love Me most of all
- 2. Don't worship fake gods. Worship only Me
- 3. Love Me by how you talk about Me and how you live
- 4. Don't worship other people's things
- 5. Love Me with all your heart, mind, and strength
- 6. Don't murder people
- 7. Keep your promise to love only your husband/wife
- 8. Don't lie
- 9. Don't be angry with what you have. Be angry with what you don't have

SIN

Jesus' Perfect Life

Forgiven

“For no one will be justified in [God’s] sight by the works of the law...But now, apart from the law, God’s righteousness has been revealed...God’s righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” --Romans 3:20-23, HCSB

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:

Romans 3:20,21,22,23 tells us:

Romans 3:20,21,22,23, HCSB

"For no one will be justified in [God's] sight by the works of the law... But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Learn a Little: "Apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe."

What does that mean?

"Righteous" is a big word that means that you are right with God. The only way we can be right with God ON OUR OWN is by obeying God's laws perfectly. But, uh oh! This Bible verse tells us that we are all sinners who break God's laws. That means we can't EVER be right with God by obeying God's laws.

But God has made a way for us to be right with Him—through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He kept all of God's good laws perfectly. He was righteous! And this Bible verse tells us that for all who trust in Jesus as their Savior, Jesus takes away their sins and gives His righteousness to them. That means God treats them as if they had never broken God's laws or sinned--just like Jesus! Wow! Isn't that amazing! Isn't Jesus a wonderful Savior! He can be our wonderful Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

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

By Works of the Law:

Romans 3:20-23

DDD ESV Songs 7, track 21

By works of the law,
By works of the law,
No one will be justified,
By works of the law. *Why?*

For all have sinned,
Fall short of the glory of God. *Oh, no!*

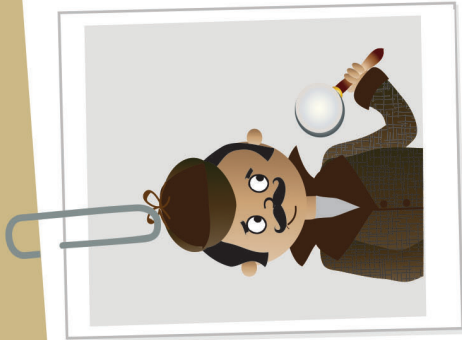
But listen to what God has done:

Apart from the law,
Apart from the law,
Now God's righteousness has been revealed,
Apart from the law. *How?*

Through faith in Jesus Christ,
To all who believe. Thank you, God!
Romans Three, twenty through twenty-three.

"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 Rotten Innards” Luke 18:9-14



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

“Innards” is a funny word that means a person's insides. And in this case, it means a person's heart, meant to love and obey God.

1. Who had a rotten heart and knew it? Who had a rotten heart and DIDN'T know it?
2. What did Jesus want them all to do?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 3:20-22, HCSB

“For no one will be justified in [God's] sight by the works of the law... But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe.”

1. Who thought they were justified (good) in God's sight? Why weren't they?
2. What did Jesus want these people to do?

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

I. Many sick people came to see Jesus. They came with their limping legs, their blind eyes, their skin with sores, and their bleeding that wouldn't stop. Some of them were about to die.

They all came to Jesus, and what do you think Jesus did? Jesus healed them with God's power! No doctor or medicine needed!

"Who has ever healed sick people the way Jesus does?" they exclaimed.



I. Many sick people came to see Jesus. They came with their limping legs, their blind eyes, their skin with sores, and their bleeding that wouldn't stop. Some of them were about to die. They all came to Jesus, and what do you think Jesus did? Jesus healed them with God's power! No doctor or medicine needed! "Who has ever healed sick people the way Jesus does?" they exclaimed.

2. People who wanted to hear about God came to Jesus, too.

They crowded around Jesus, listening to everything He had to say. Jesus told them about God and His Kingdom. He told them how God wanted them to live. They listened to Jesus and were amazed at what He had to say.

“Who has ever told us about God the way Jesus does?” they exclaimed.



2. People who wanted to hear about God came to Jesus, too. They crowded around Jesus, listening to everything He had to say. Jesus told them about God and His Kingdom. He told them how God wanted them to live. They listened to Jesus and were amazed at what He had to say. “Who has ever told us about God the way Jesus does?” they exclaimed.

3. Even people who had done very sinful things came to Jesus.

Men and women who had disobeyed God's Ten Commandments in so many ways: people who had stolen money; people who had not loved their husbands or wives; people who had hurt other people; people who had worshipped other gods, and so many more.

They all came to Jesus, and what do you think happened? Jesus gave them God's forgiveness, when they turned away from their sins and trusted in Him.

"Who has ever forgiven sins the way Jesus does?" they exclaimed.



3. Even people who had done very sinful things came to Jesus. Men and women who had disobeyed God's Ten Commandments in so many ways: people who had stolen money; people who had not loved their husbands or wives; people who had hurt other people; people who had worshipped other gods, and so many more. They all came to Jesus, and what do you think happened? Jesus gave them God's forgiveness, when they turned away from their sins and trusted in Him. "Who has ever forgiven sins the way Jesus does?" they exclaimed.

4. Sick people, sinful people, people eager to learn about God, all came to Jesus, and He satisfied them. How wonderful, how amazing was Jesus!



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5. But there was another kind of people who came to Jesus, too.

These people were different from all the rest. They weren't sick. They weren't eager to learn about God from Jesus. And most of all, they didn't even think they were sinners who needed God's forgiveness. They were the important Bible teachers back in Jesus' day.

They had a special name for themselves. Do you know what it was? They were called the Pharisees.



5. But there was another kind of people who came to Jesus, too. These people were different from all the rest. They weren't sick. They weren't eager to learn about God from Jesus. And most of all, they didn't even think they were sinners who needed God's forgiveness. They were the important Bible teachers back in Jesus' day. They had a special name for themselves. Do you know what it was? They were called the Pharisees.

6. The Pharisees were smart students, and they studied hard.

Not only did they learn and try to obey God's Ten Commandments, but they learned and tried to obey the hundreds of God's other laws, too. They spent day after day, week after week, year after year, learning them all by heart! Wow!



6. The Pharisees were smart students, and they studied hard. Not only did they learn and try to obey God's Ten Commandments, but they learned and tried to obey the hundreds of God's other laws, too. They spent day after day, week after week, year after year, learning them all by heart! Wow!

7. But obeying God's laws wasn't enough for the Pharisees.

They wanted to be extra careful to please God, so they added a lot of extra, little rules for everyone to obey. Rules that God didn't give His people. They added extra rules about washing your hands just right. (Not to get rid of dirt or germs that might make you sick, as we do, but because they thought these specially cleaned hands were how you pleased God.)



7. But obeying God's laws wasn't enough for the Pharisees. They wanted to be extra careful to please God, so they added a lot of extra, little rules for everyone to obey. Rules that God didn't give His people. They added extra rules about washing your hands just right. (Not to get rid of dirt or germs that might make you sick, as we do, but because they thought these specially cleaned hands were how you pleased God.)

8. Those hand-washing rules were just the beginning of what the Pharisees added to God's laws.

There were also extra rules about food to eat or not eat, about giving extra gifts to God, and about what work you could NOT do on the Sabbath Day of Rest (such as not looking in a mirror because you might be tempted to pluck out a gray hair from your head), and lots more extra, little rules besides these! So many rules!



Extra Rules

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9. The Pharisees tried very hard to obey all their extra, little rules. They wanted the people to obey them, too.

They thought those extra, little rules helped everyone keep God's big laws better. They thought those extra rules pleased God and made them good people.

And most of all, the Pharisees thought God might send the Messiah, the Savior, sooner if everyone was very good, and kept all the little, bitty rules as well as God's big laws. Oh, how they wanted the Messiah to come!



9. The Pharisees tried very hard to obey all their extra, little rules. They wanted the people to obey them, too. They thought those extra, little rules helped everyone keep God's big laws better. They thought those extra rules pleased God and made them good people. And most of all, the Pharisees thought God might send the Messiah, the Savior, sooner if everyone was very good, and kept all the little, bitty rules as well as God's big laws. Oh, how they wanted the Messiah to come!

10. But those Pharisees were wrong about so many things! They didn't realize that the Messiah, the Savior, HAD come already. He was right there, living among them, teaching them about God, and doing amazing things by God's power.

Can you tell me who God's Savior was? It was Jesus!



10. But those Pharisees were wrong about so many things! They didn't realize that the Messiah, the Savior, HAD come already. He was right there, living among them, teaching them about God, and doing amazing things by God's power. Can you tell me who God's Savior was? It was Jesus!

II. And the Pharisees were wrong about something else, too. Instead of becoming good, good, good people when they kept all of these extra little, bitty, rules, these Pharisees became proud, proud, proud people!

“We are better than everyone else because we do such a good job obeying all these extra, little, bitty rules,” many of them thought.

“We’re so good that we don’t need God’s forgiveness, as other people do. God is pleased with us just the way we are!” they believed.

Good, Good, Good



Proud, Proud, Proud



II. And the Pharisees were wrong about something else, too. Instead of becoming good, good, good people when they kept all of these extra little, bitty, rules, these Pharisees became proud, proud, proud people! “We are better than everyone else because we do such a good job obeying all these extra, little, bitty rules,” many of them thought. “We’re so good that we don’t need God’s forgiveness, as other people do. God is pleased with us just the way we are!” they believed.

12. How very wrong those Pharisees were! All those extra, little, bitty rules they made up didn't please God. Why, even trying very hard to obey all of God's big laws isn't enough to please God!

There is only ONE WAY to please God by obeying His laws. Do you know what it is? It is being PERFECT. That's right! It's obeying God's laws ALL THE TIME!

Never disobeying ..EVER! Never saying anything wrong or doing anything wrong. Never thinking anything wrong or BEING anything wrong. Do you think that sounds like something those Pharisees could do?

Perfect?

The LORD

1. Love Me most of all

2. Don't worship fake gods. Worship only Me

3. Love Me by how you talk about Me and how you live

4. Keep a special day to rest and to worship Me

5. Love and obey your mother and father

6. Don't murder people

7. Keep your promise to love only your husband/wife

8. Don't lie

9. Don't take other people's things

10. Be happy with what I give you. Don't be greedy for what others have

God's Laws

12. How very wrong those Pharisees were! All those extra, little, bitty rules they made up didn't please God. Why, even trying very hard to obey all of God's big laws isn't enough to please God! There is only ONE WAY to please God by obeying His laws. Do you know what it is? It is being PERFECT. That's right! It's obeying God's laws ALL THE TIME! Never disobeying ...EVER! Never saying anything wrong or doing anything wrong. Never thinking anything wrong or BEING anything wrong. Do you think that sounds like something those Pharisees could do?

**13. No, the Pharisees could not be this good. They had “rotten innards”
--sinful hearts-- just like everyone else. They would never be able
to please God by trying to be good.**

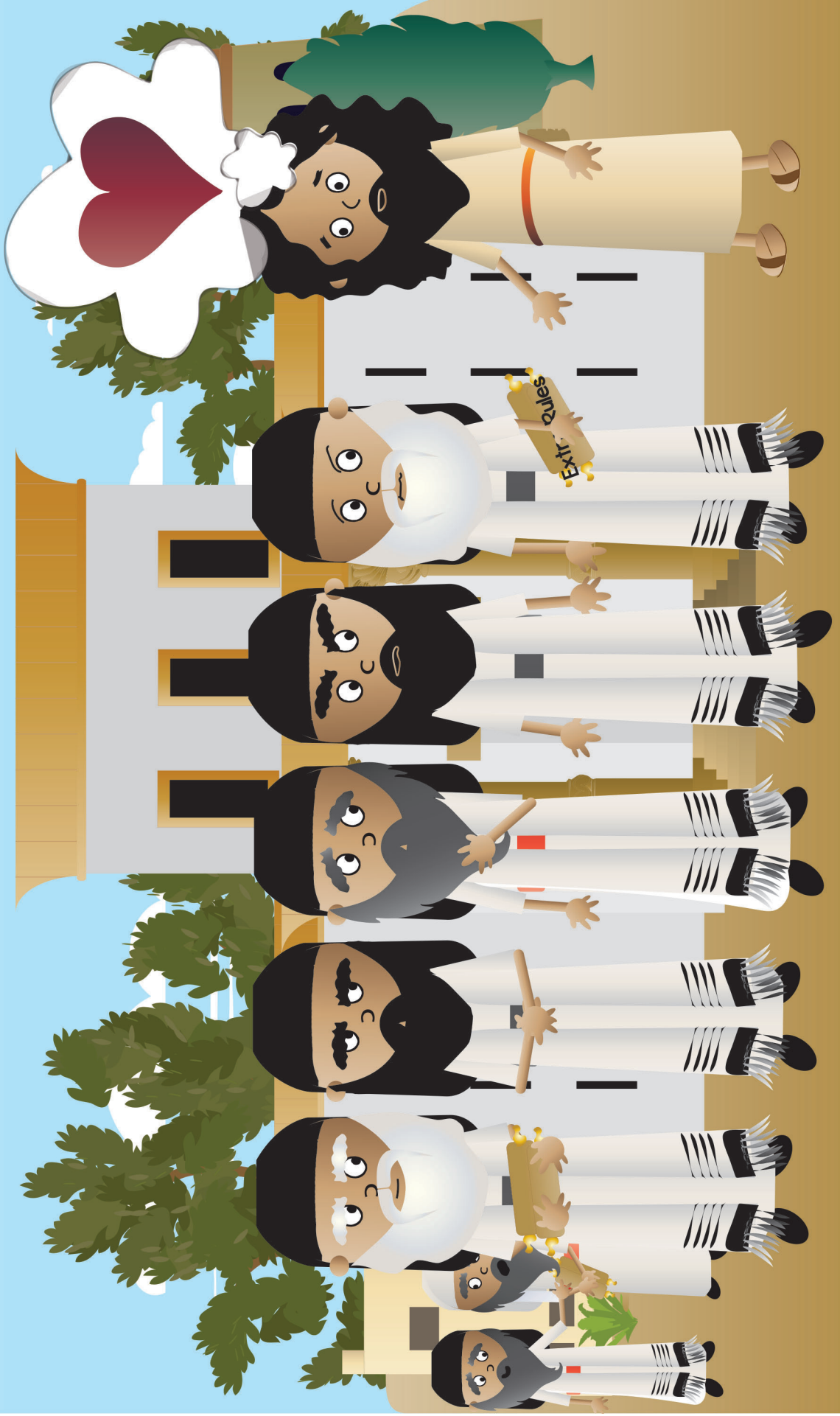
**And guess what? Neither can we. Why? Because every one of us
has a sinful heart, too. Every one of us has broken God's laws. We
all need God's forgiveness for our sins. That is the only way we can
know and please God. That's the only way we can live with God as
His people.**



13. No, the Pharisees could not be this good. They had “rotten innards” --sinful hearts-- just like everyone else. They would never be able to please God by trying to be good. And guess what? Neither can we. Why? Because every one of us has a sinful heart, too. Every one of us has broken God's laws. We all need God's forgiveness for our sins. That is the only way we can know and please God. That's the only way we can live with God as His people.

14. But these poor, proud Pharisees would just not see this. They were SURE that they were already good enough to please God, and they were SURE that all those other people who came to Jesus were not.

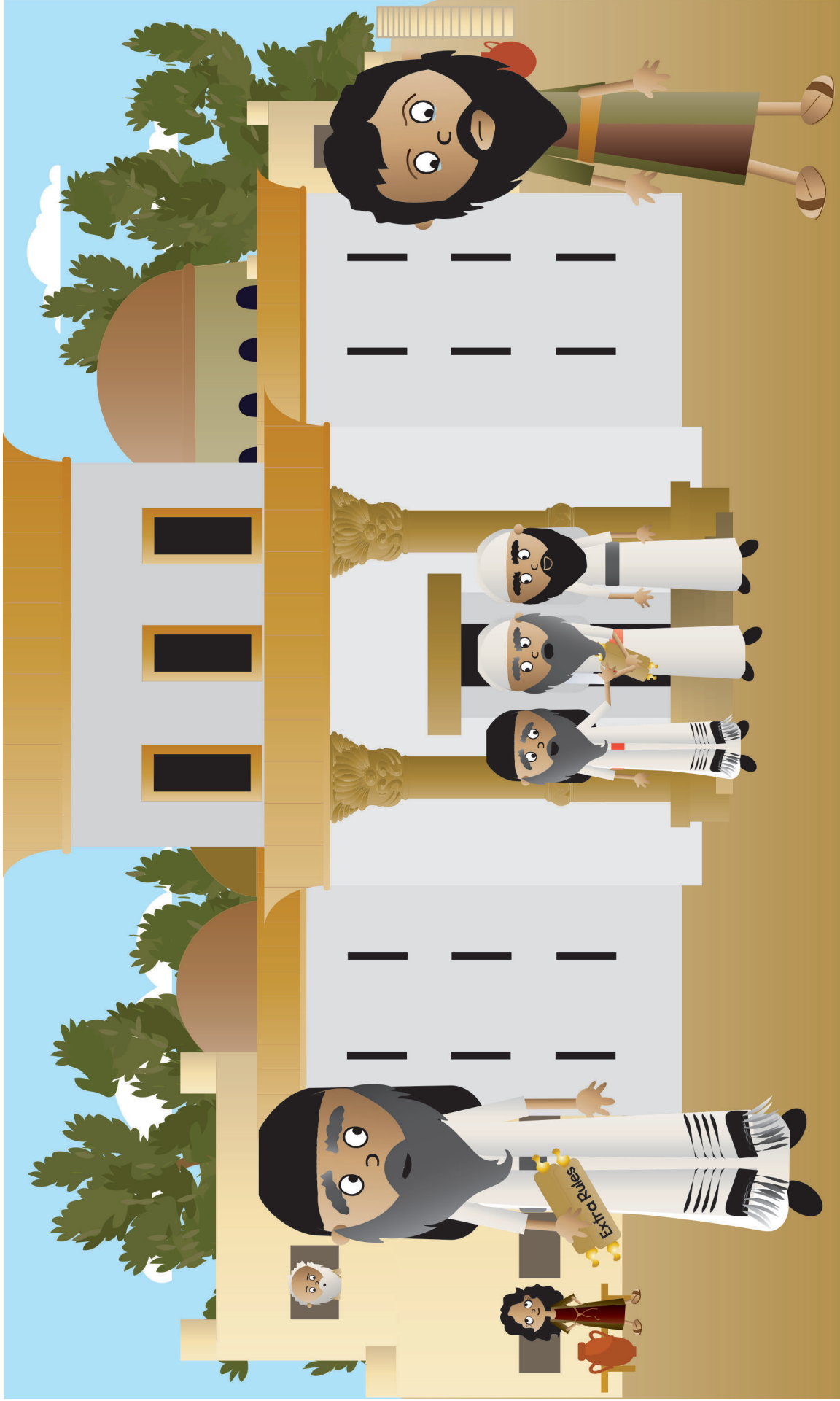
So, what did Jesus do with these proud men who thought they were so good? Jesus loved them, that's what He did. Jesus wanted to help them, just like He wanted to help everyone else who came to Him.



14. But these poor, proud Pharisees would just not see this. They were SURE that they were already good enough to please God, and they were SURE that all those other people who came to Jesus were not. So, what did Jesus do with these proud men who thought they were so good? Jesus loved them, that's what He did. Jesus wanted to help them, just like He wanted to help everyone else who came to Him.

15. So, Jesus told them a story to help them see that they needed God to save them and forgive them, just like everyone else did. Maybe then they would understand that they were sinners and would ask God for forgiveness. This is the story Jesus told them...

“One day, two men went to God’s Temple (the worship place) to pray. One man was a Pharisee. The other man was a tax collector,” Jesus said.



15. So, Jesus told them a story to help them see that they needed God to save them and forgive them, just like everyone else did. Maybe then they would understand that they were sinners and would ask God for forgiveness. This is the story Jesus told them...

“One day, two men went to God’s Temple (the worship place) to pray. One man was a Pharisee. The other man was a tax collector,” Jesus said.

16. “The Pharisee thought of himself as a very good man who pleased God by obeying God’s laws and the teachers’ extra rules.”

“So, he stretched his arms up high and looked up to heaven, and proudly prayed, “God, thank You that I am different from other men. I’m not like that bad, tax collector over there. I don’t do the bad things they do. I am good, good, good. I keep all your laws and all the extra rules of my teachers, too,” he said.

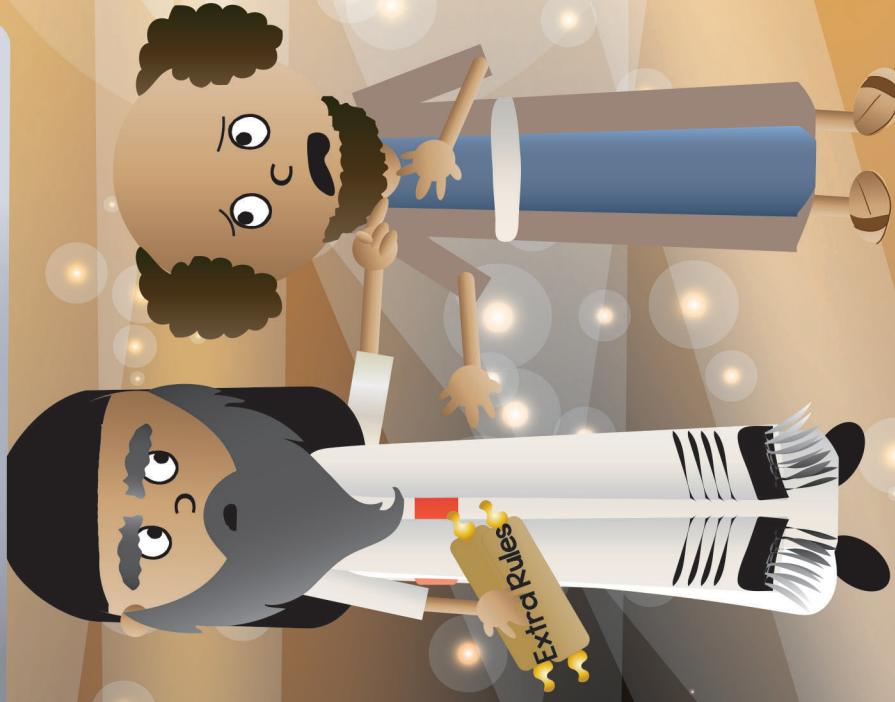


16. "The Pharisee thought of himself as a very good man who pleased God by obeying God's laws and the teachers' extra rules. So, he stretched his arms up high and looked up to heaven, and proudly prayed, "God, thank You that I am different from other men. I'm not like that bad, tax collector over there. I don't do the bad things they do. I am good, good, good. I keep all your laws and all the extra rules of my teachers, too," he said.

17. Can you believe that? That Pharisee didn't praise GOD for being good! He only boasted to God about his OWN goodness! That Pharisee wasn't really a good, good, good man at all, was he? No! He was really a proud, proud, proud man!

Good, Good, Good

Proud, Proud, Proud



17. Can you believe that? That Pharisee didn't praise GOD for being good! He only boasted to God about his OWN goodness! That Pharisee wasn't really a good, good, good man at all, was he? No! He was really a proud, proud, proud man!

18. Then, Jesus went on with his story. He told about the other man.

“The tax collector came to the Temple knowing he was a bad, bad, bad man. He knew he had “rotten innards” --a sinful heart. He knew the sin in his heart showed in how he lived. He had chosen to disobey God’s good laws. He had chosen to become rich by taking too much money from people.”



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19. “And when this tax collector prayed to God, it wasn’t boldly and proudly like the Pharisee.

No, this man KNEW he had done lots of bad things and he was sad about them. He was sad he had disobeyed God’s laws and treated others so badly. He KNEW he wasn’t right with God; and oh, how he wanted to be!

The tax collector was too ashamed of his sins to stretch up his arms or look up to heaven to pray. He looked down at his feet, beat his chest, and cried out to God, “God, have mercy on me! I am so bad. I have disobeyed Your laws. I have a sinful heart. Have mercy on me! Please, forgive my sins!”



THE LORD

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20. Then, Jesus told the Pharisees listening to Him: “The Pharisee went home feeling proud. He was so sure that his life pleased God, but he was wrong. God is not pleased with proud people who don’t see that they are sinners who need His forgiveness,” Jesus told them.

“But the tax collector, who knew he was a sinner, went home forgiven by God,” Jesus said. “God loves to forgive sinners --even very bad sinners-- who confess their sins to Him and humbly ask for His forgiveness,” Jesus told them.



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21. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' story?

Did they learn from it? Did they see that everyone has broken God's laws, even people, like themselves, who tried really hard to be good? Did they, at last, see that no one can ever do enough good things to be proud before God? Did they see their own sins and ask God to forgive them?



21. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' story? Did they learn from it? Did they see that everyone has broken God's laws, even people, like themselves, who tried really hard to be good? Did they, at last, see that no one can ever do enough good things to be proud before God? Did they see their own sins and ask God to forgive them?

22. The Bible doesn't tell us what happened with those Pharisees that day.

But, we DO know that later, some of these very important teachers --like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus-- DID turn away from their sins and asked God to forgive them. They put their trust in Jesus as their Savior.

And did you know that these two men were the very ones who put Jesus' body in the cave-grave, after He had suffered and died on the cross?



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23. How amazed and happy they both must have been when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day!

Jesus really was the Messiah, the Savior, God had sent to save His people and forgive their sins! He had beaten sin and death for all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus can be our Savior, too, if we do this, too. Ask Him to help you!

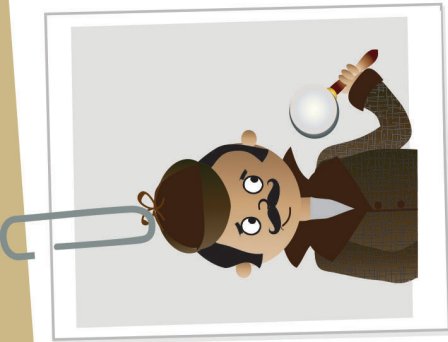


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DDD 7.2 Simple Story Scenes

“The Case of the Rotten Innards” Luke 18:9-14

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

“Innards” is a funny word that means a person's insides. And in this case, it means a person's heart, meant to love and obey God.

1. Who had a rotten heart and knew it? Who had a rotten heart and DIDN'T know it? Many of the people who came to see Jesus knew they had disobeyed God's laws and were sinners. They knew they needed God's forgiveness. The Pharisees were also sinners with “rotten hearts,” but they didn't know it. They thought they pleased God with all the laws they kept and all the good things they thought they did.

2. What did Jesus want them all to do? Jesus wanted everyone to turn away from their sins, ask God for forgiveness, and trust in Him as their Savior.

For You and Me:
Just like everyone in Jesus' day, we, too, have sinful “rotten” hearts. We all break God's laws, and we need His forgiveness. We can have His forgiveness when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins and make us His people. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 3:20-22, HCSB

“For no one will be justified in [God's] sight by the works of the law...But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed... God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe.”

1. Who thought they were justified (good) in God's sight? Why weren't they? The Pharisees thought they were justified in God's sight because they obeyed God's laws and the extra rules. They weren't justified because no one (except Jesus) obeys God's laws perfectly ---and that's the only way to be justified by obeying God's law.

2. What did Jesus want these people to do? He wanted them to understand that they were sinners who needed to turn to God and ask for His forgiveness. He wanted them to trust in Him as their Savior, so they might be saved from their sins.


For You and Me:

Just like the Pharisees, we also cannot be justified (made right with God) by doing good things and trying to obey God's laws. We will never obey them perfectly. We all break God's laws and we need His forgiveness. We can have His forgiveness when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins and make us His people. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

DDD 7.2 Simple Story Scenes

What Are God's Laws Like?
God's Laws Are Perfect...
they show us that we need God to save us!

The Gospel



God's laws are perfect. They show us how God requires us to live. But the sad truth is, we all break God's good laws. That's why we all deserve His punishment, and that's why we all need God to save us! Only He can make it possible for us to become His people. And that's exactly what He did through Jesus, His Son.

Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He kept every, single one of God's laws! Then, He offered up His perfect life to God as the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross. Then on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. Jesus had beaten sin and death for God's people!

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!



DDD 7.2 Simple Story Scenes

A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being the Giver of Your perfectly good laws.

C God, instead of obeying Your good laws, we have all chosen to break them. Sometimes, we don't obey our parents. Sometimes, we lie. Sometimes, we want things that belong to others. We do not always love you most of all. These are only some of the ways we break Your good laws. Oh, how we need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for giving us Your good laws, so we know how to love and obey You. And thank You for sending Jesus to perfectly live out Your laws and to give His life as the perfect payment for the sins of Your people. Thank You that He can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to know You, love You, and live for You. Help us to learn Your good laws and obey them.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 7.2 Simple Story Scenes