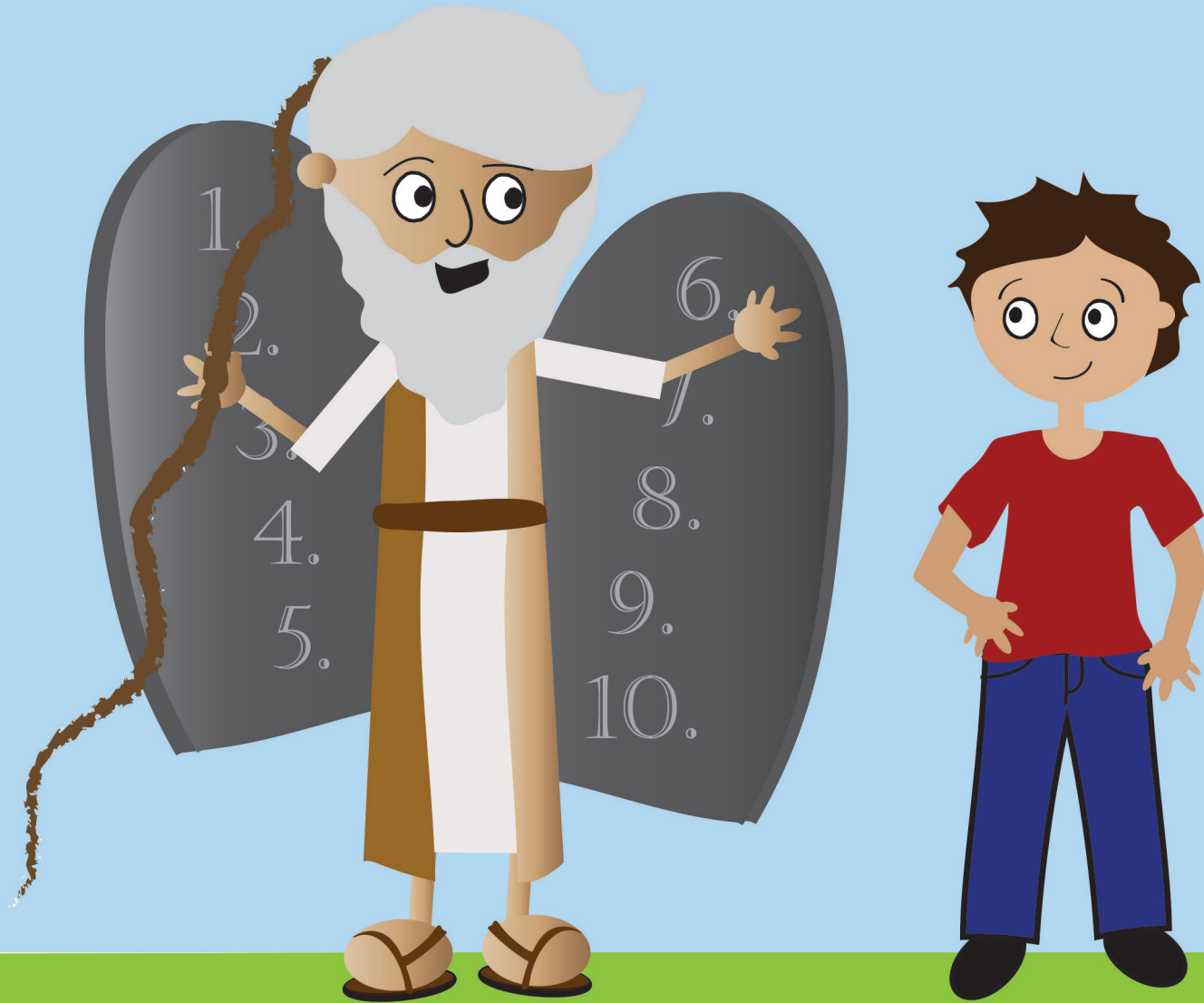


BIG QUESTION 7



What are God's laws like?



ANSWER:

God's laws are perfect!

VISUAL AID *take out*



of BQB

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 NIV Songs 7, track 12

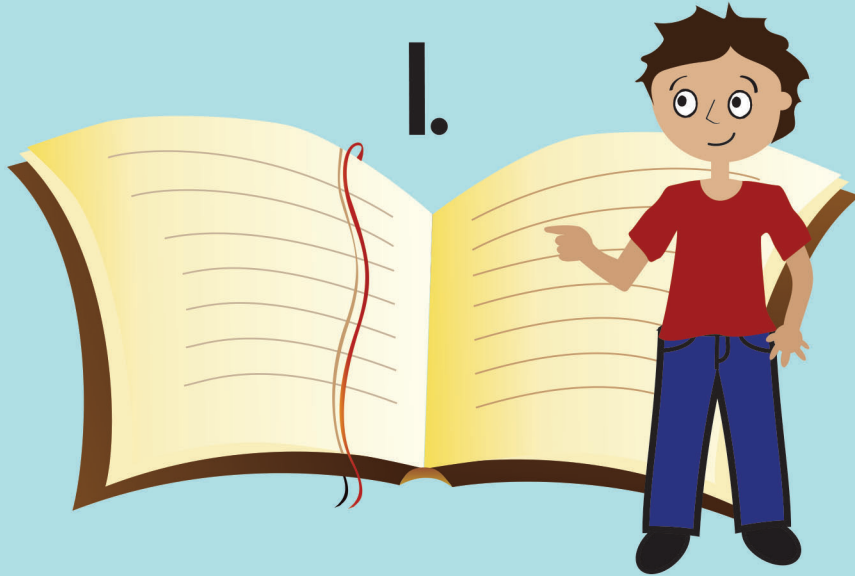
(adapted version of "The Farmer in the Dell")

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 Briefcase of BQB

1.



2.



3.



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 two truths about God's laws. They are: "They Were Written in the Bible, God's Word" and, "They Show Us that We Need God to Save Us" (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 3:

What are God's laws like?

God's laws are perfect...

they tell us how to
???? God and others!

THE
LORD



Visual
Aid
#3
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB

HINT: How does God want us to want
towards Himself and others? It starts
with an "L" and it rhymes with "dove."

ANSWER:

They tell us how to LOVE God and others!

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 Tell Us How to ???? God and Others!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “How does God want us to feel and act towards Him and others? It starts with a “l” and it rhymes with “dove.”

Can you guess? It’s “love.”

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 Tell Us How to LOVE God and Others!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

The LORD is the one, true God. He deserves our love. He made us to love Him more than anything else. Loving God is the most delightful thing we can do. God gave us His laws so we can know how to love Him. When we obey His laws, we are living out our love for Him.

God made us not just to love Him, but also to love each other. He gave His laws so we can know how to love each other. He tells us to treat others in the same loving way we want others to treat us. When we obey God’s laws, we are living out God’s love for others. And, we are showing them a little bit of what God is like, that they might seek to know and love Him, too.

Obeying God’s laws is not just the right way to live. It is also the happiest way to live with God and with other people. God can help us obey His laws and live in love when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He gives us a new heart filled with His Holy Spirit and helps us to live in love as He wants us to.



**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
Matthew 22:37-40**

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:

Matthew 22:37-40 tells us:

Matthew 22:37-40

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Learn a Little: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind... Love your neighbor as yourself."

What does that mean?

God has given us many laws in the Bible. It's good to know them all. But Jesus tells us in these verses that the purpose behind all of God's laws is to love God most of all, and to love others as we love ourselves. When we live out all His good laws, we are loving God and love others as He wants us to.

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

Love the Lord: Matthew 22:37-40

DDD NIV Songs 7, track 23

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
Love the Lord your God with all your soul,
Love the Lord your God with all your mind,
This is the first and greatest command.

And the second is like it...

Love your neighbor as yourself,
Love your neighbor as yourself,
Love your neighbor as yourself,
All the law and prophets,
Hang on these two commandments.
Matthew Twenty-two,
Thirty-seven through forty.

"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 Do's and Don'ts" Matthew 5,6,22



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who made up extra, little rules of do's and don'ts?
2. What did Jesus think of those extra do's and don'ts?
What did Jesus say God's real laws help people to do?



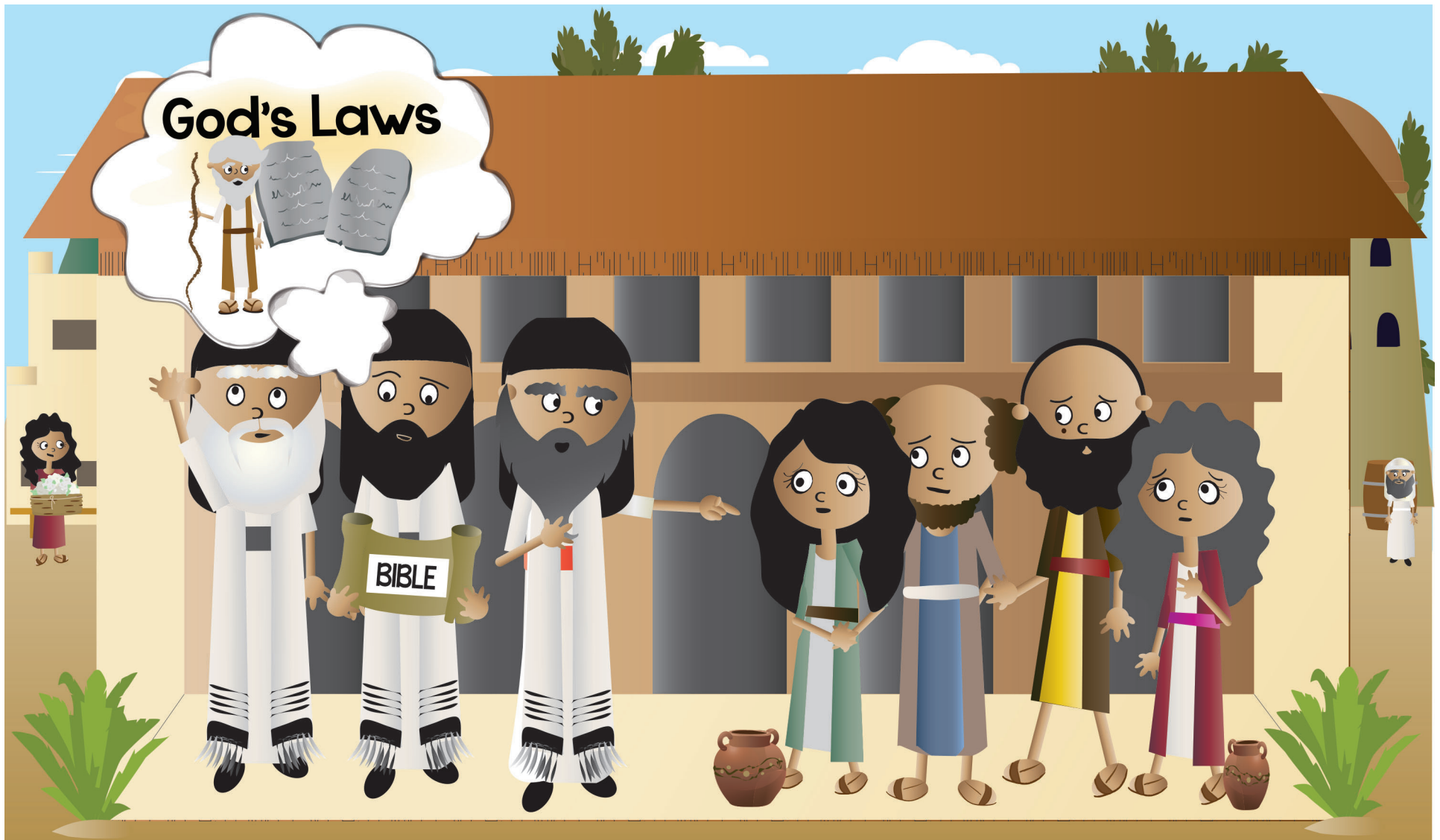
Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Matthew 22:37,39, NIV

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind... Love your neighbor as yourself."

1. Which laws did Jesus tell people to obey?
2. Who is the only person to obey God's laws perfectly?
How did He share His perfect life with us?

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



I. Rules! Rules! Rules! So many rules for God's people to keep! "Do this! Don't do that!" the teachers in Jesus' day (the Pharisees) taught the people. Of course, there were the Ten, Big Laws (the Ten Commandments) that God had given them through Moses. But there were so many more rules than that. Can you guess how many laws the Pharisees counted in God's Word for everyone to obey? Twenty? Fifty? Surely, not a hundred!

**613
Laws**

248

+

365

Do's

Don'ts

God's Laws



2. It was more than any of those guesses! It was 613! There were 248 "DO" laws and 365 "DON'T" laws.



3. But soon, those 613 laws turned into even more, as the teachers came up with extra ways they wanted God's people to live them out. They came up with extra "DO's" like: "DO say a special prayer as you wash your hands when you wake up in the morning, or you won't please God." And extra DON'T's" like: "DON'T use the same spoon to stir milk and cook meat, or you won't please God." What a lot of extra rules! Oh, how they weighed down the people! Who could keep all these rules!



4. But then, Jesus came. He wasn't like any of the other teachers. He healed sick people without using any medicine! He brought dead people back to life again! He even forgave people's sins! Jesus simply spoke and God's power did these wonderful things through Him.



5. Jesus did other amazing things, too. One time, Jesus said, "Be still," to the strong winds and the big waves of a huge storm. Right away, the storm stopped. Another time, Jesus fed a huge, hungry crowd of people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. Wow!



6. The news about Jesus spread quickly. Soon, many people were coming to Jesus. They came to have Him heal their sick family and friends. They came to see Him do amazing things. And, they came to hear what He had to say about God and His laws. Would Jesus be like all the other teachers? Would He tell them to keep all those Do's and Don'ts? Would He give them lots of extra rules like the Pharisees did? Jesus answered all of their questions.



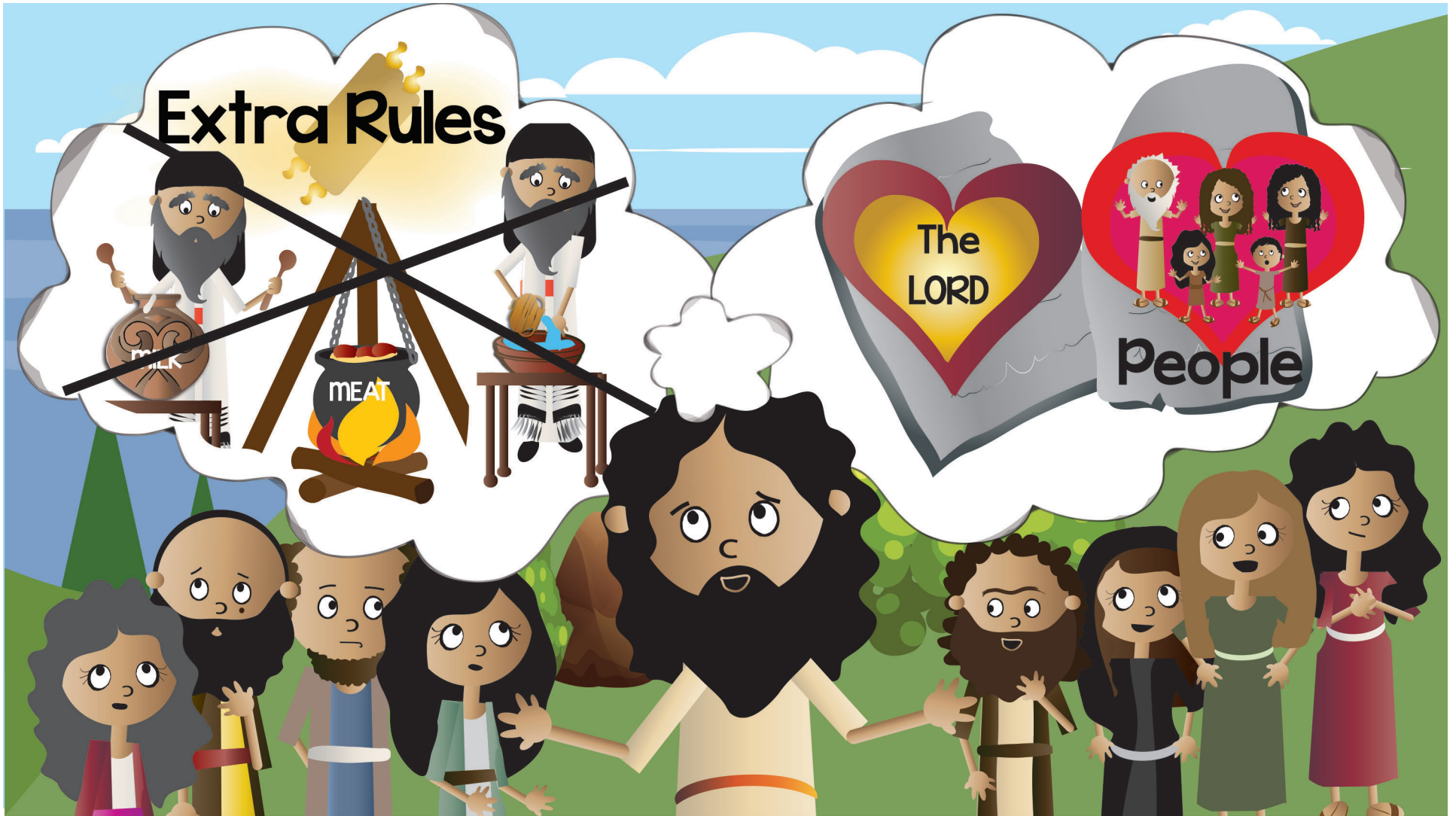
7. One day, Jesus and a huge crowd of people climbed up, up, up a grassy mountain above the Sea of Galilee. When they reached the top, Jesus sat down and began to teach them about God's laws. "God's laws are very important," Jesus told the people. "God's laws will last until the end of time. I have not come to get rid of even one of God's good laws," He said.



8. "Your teachers, the Pharisees, try to please God by adding lots of extra, little rules to God's good laws. They think all this rule-keeping will make them right with God, but it's not enough. You need something more than all their extra, little rules to please God. You will need a better righteousness than theirs, if you want to be God's people," Jesus told them.



9. Oh, no! This didn't sound good at all! The Pharisees worked so hard to keep all 613 laws in the Bible! And, they made up all those hundreds of extra, little rules, to try to please God, too. How could ANYONE be better than the Pharisees? Was Jesus going to give them even MORE rules to live by? It sure sounded that way.



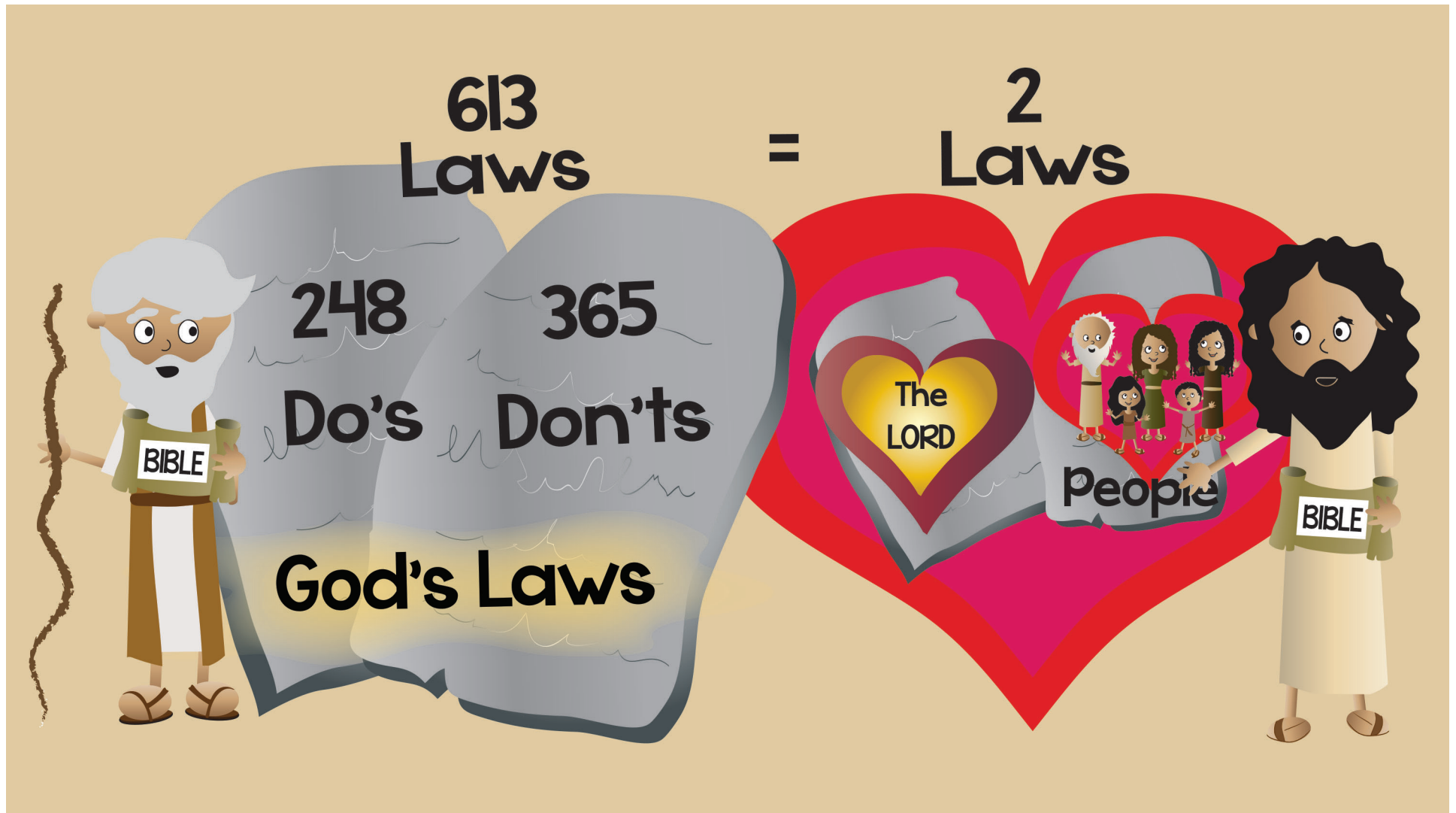
10. No, Jesus was not. "Your teachers are wrong about their extra, little rules. They just weigh down people. They don't help anyone live as God wants them to live," Jesus said. "I have come to fulfill God's law. I will teach you how to really live out God's laws to please Him," He told the crowds. "The "Do's" and "Don'ts" in God's Word are all about how we show love to God and others. These laws start in the heart with love, and they tell us how God wants us to live out that love with our whole lives," Jesus explained.



II. "Some people LOOK like they obey God's laws, but really, they are still breaking them," Jesus told the people. "They do the right thing on the outside, but in their hearts, they are angry or jealous or hateful. God doesn't just look on the outside. He sees inside every heart. He knows the sin that is hiding there. He knows when you are angry or jealous or hateful. What goes on inside your heart breaks God's laws, too," Jesus explained.

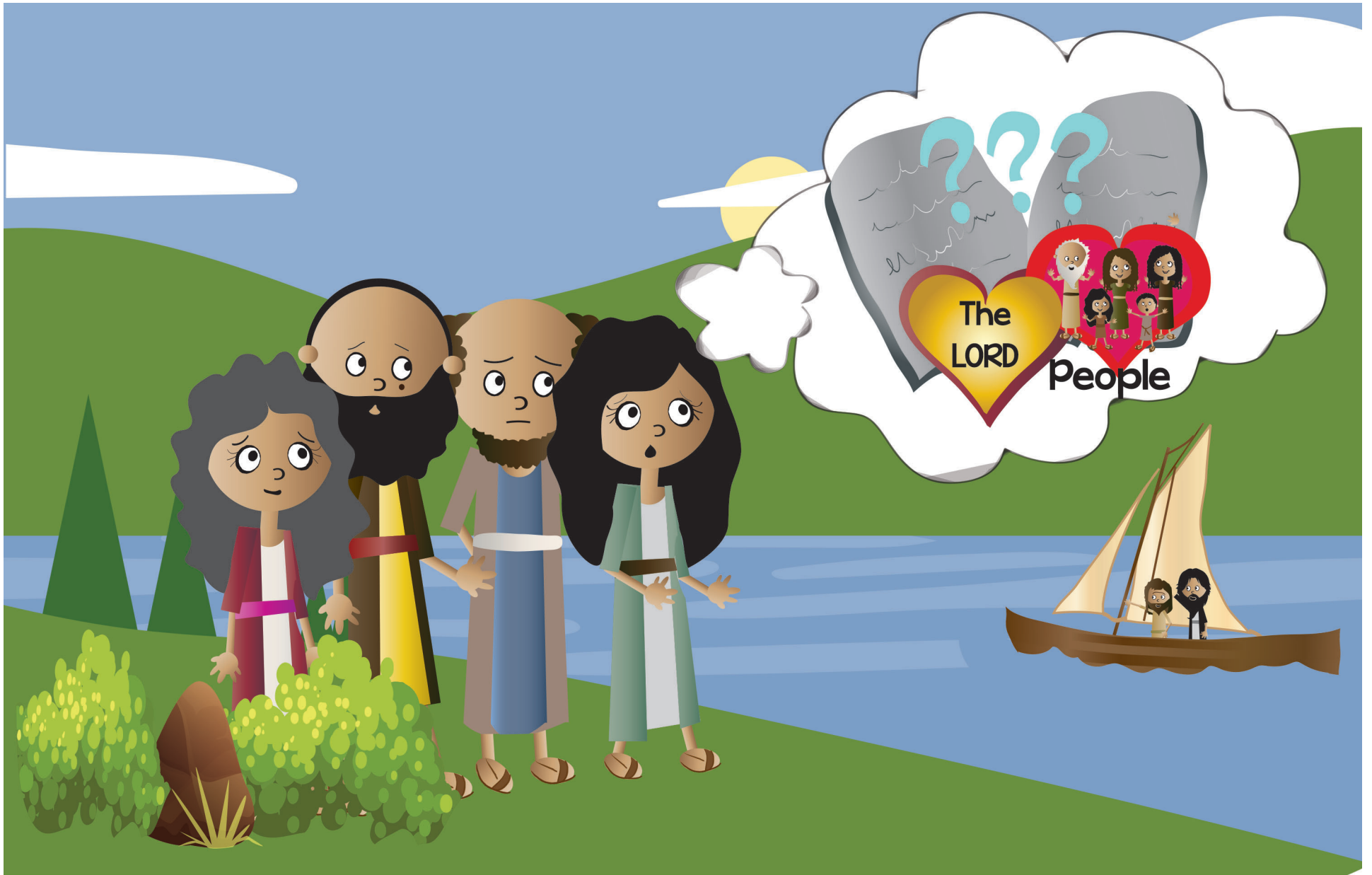


12. The people listened to Jesus and were amazed! Jesus wasn't at all like the other teachers they had heard before. He didn't just give them lots of extra, little rules. He helped them see that God's laws show them how to truly love God and others.

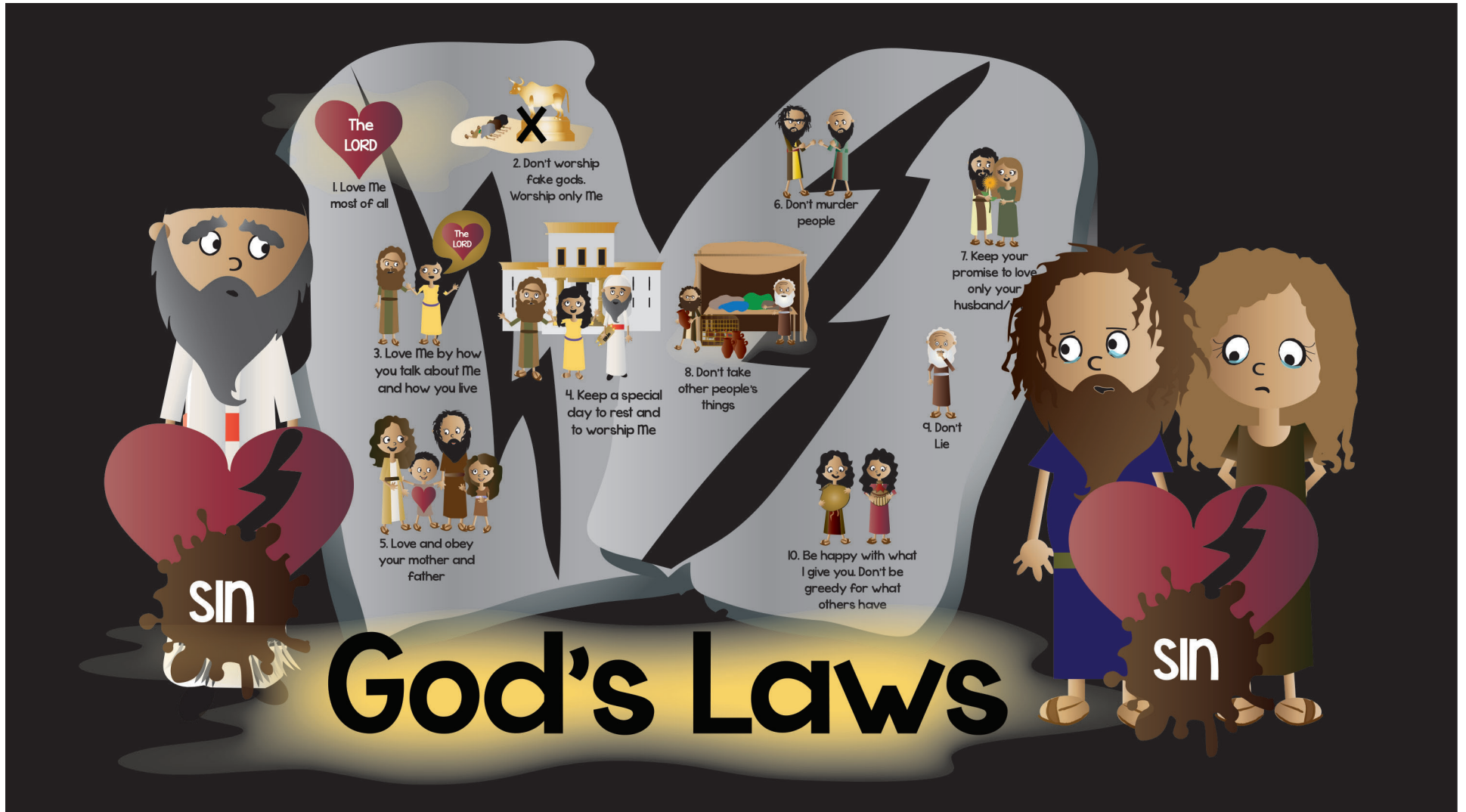


13. As Jesus later said: "Love the LORD with all your heart, your mind, and your strength. Love others --even your enemies-- as much as you love yourself. Do to them only what you want them to do to you. If you do love the LORD and love others like this, you will be obeying all of God's laws, because that's what God's laws are really all about."

How about that! All of those 10 Commandments, and even all of those 613 laws, really added up to only two: love the LORD and love others. Amazing!



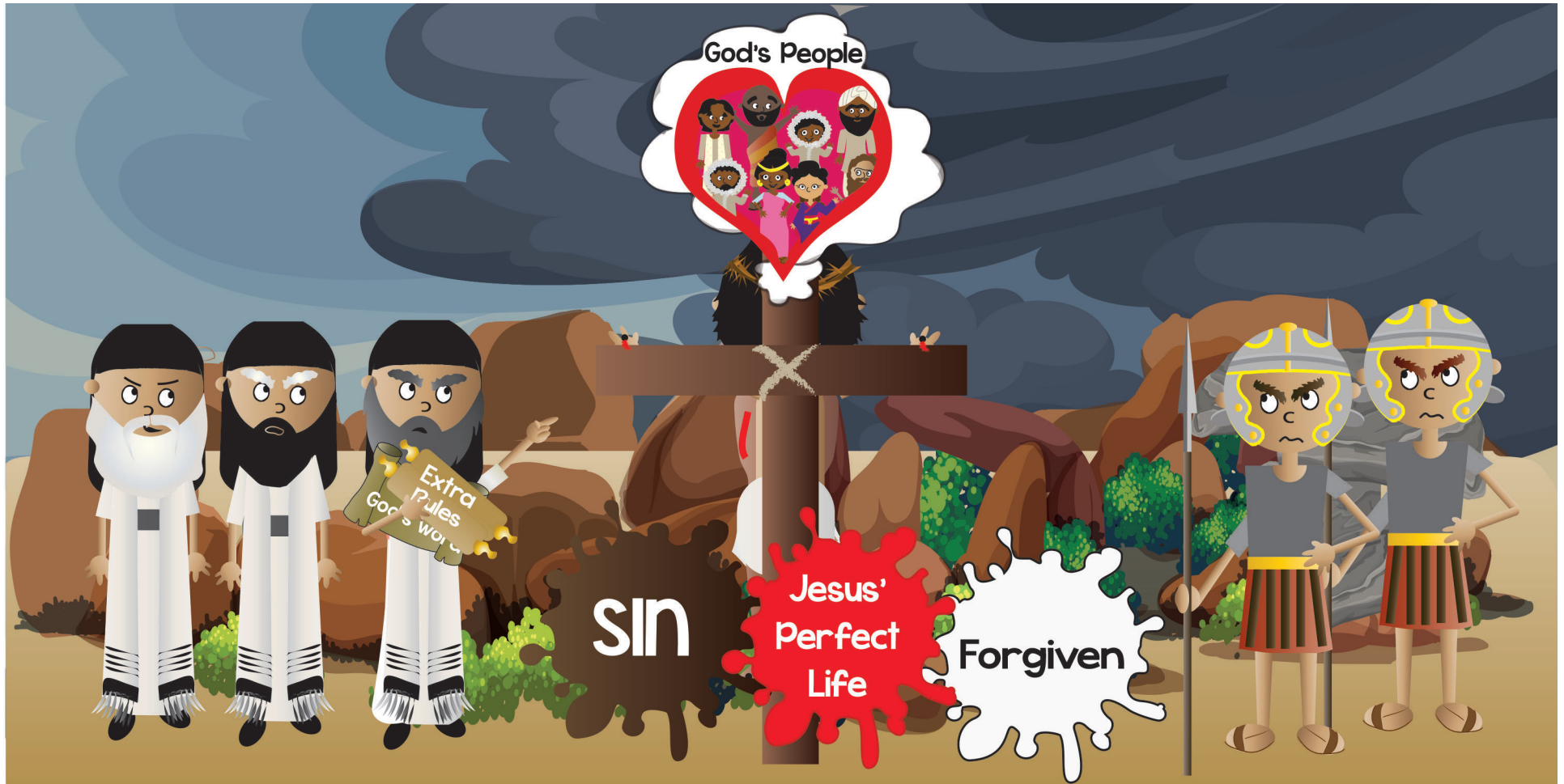
14. I wonder what people were thinking as climbed down the mountain at the end of the day. Jesus had given them less rules to follow, but they were much harder than all those 613 “Do’s” and “Don’ts” in God’s Word, and all those extra, little rules of the Pharisees.



15. Anyone could remember to wash their hands when they woke up in the morning, or to use a different spoon when they stirred the milk and cooked the meat. But loving God and others from the heart... that was so hard! How could they ever keep their hearts from being angry or jealous or hateful towards others? How could they really love God most of all? Could they ever really obey God's laws? Could they ever please God and love God's people, if this was how they must live? There seemed to be no hope.

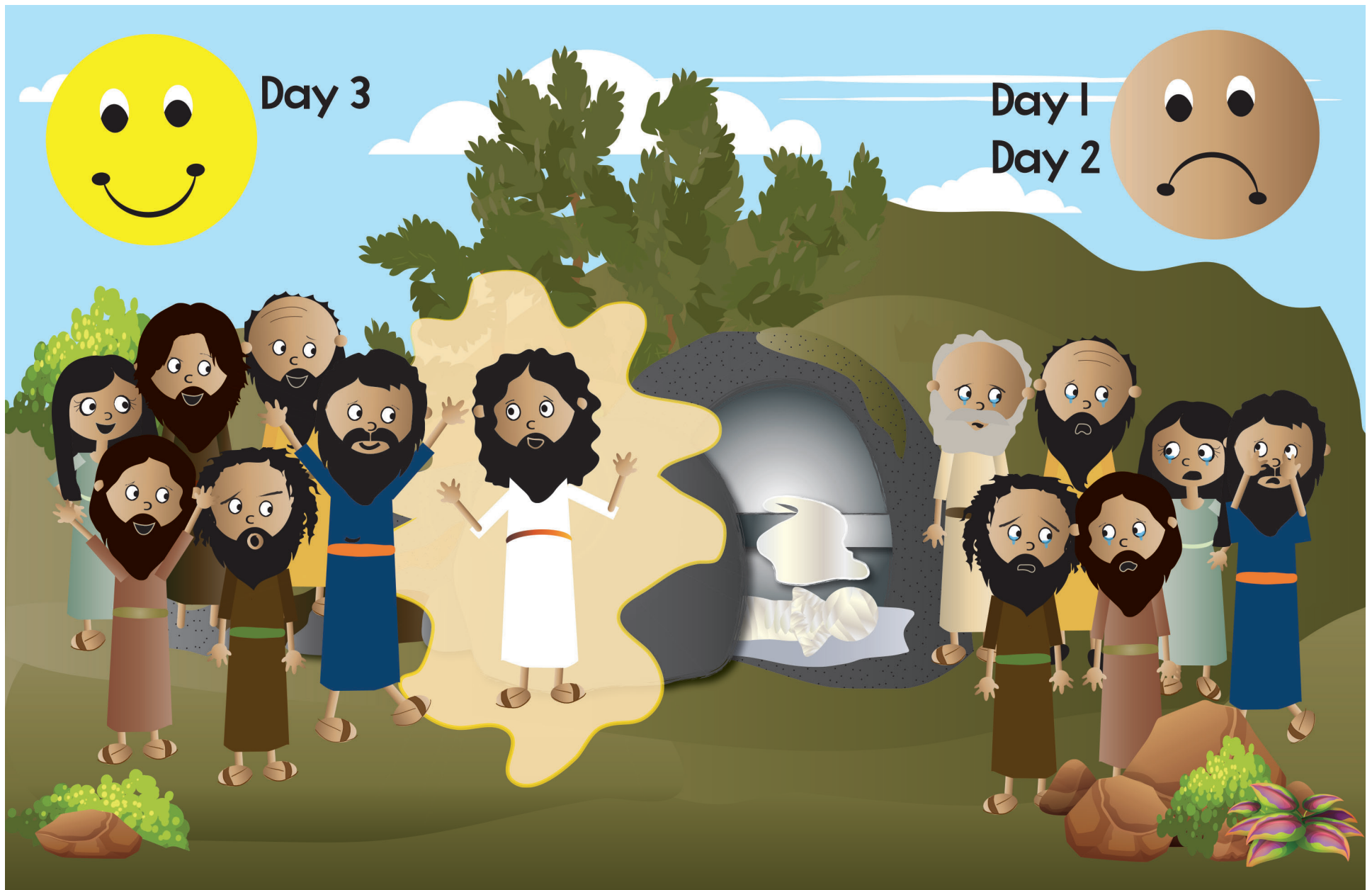


16. Well, there WAS no hope, if they had to obey God's good laws of love on their own. But praise God, they did NOT! That's why God sent Jesus! Not just to TELL the people what it really means to live out God's laws. But, to DO it, HIMSELF! Yes, Jesus lived out God's laws perfectly every day He lived here on earth. He always loved God most of all. He always loved people. In everything He thought, and said, and did, Jesus fulfilled God's law completely. He pleased God with His whole life. Jesus could do this because He was the perfect Son of God. He truly loved God, His Father, and He had come to be our Savior.



17. And what did the Pharisees think about what Jesus taught? They did NOT like it! They did not like that Jesus said He was God's Son. They did not like what He said about them and all their extra, little rules. And so, the Pharisees and other enemies worked together to get rid of Jesus. They nailed Him to a cross to suffer and die, and to get rid of Him, once and for all.

But God was up to good, even in the bad plans of Jesus' enemies. For on that cross, Jesus offered up His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. He took their punishment and gave them His perfect life. Now, they could please God. Not with their own lives, but with His!



18. Jesus died and was buried in a cave-grave that sad day, but did He stay there? No, He did not! On the third day, He rose from the dead. Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people!



19. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His followers and taught them more about God's good plans. Best of all, He told them about God's special gift to help them live out God's law from their hearts. Do you know what that special gift was?



20. It was the Holy Spirit! "I am going back home to heaven, but I will send you the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts," Jesus told His followers. "He will fill your hearts with love. He will help you love God most of all. He will help you love others, too. And He will stay with you your whole lives until the day you come home to live with Me forever," Jesus promised them.



21. And sure enough, not long after Jesus went up to heaven, He did send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of God's people! How they praised God! How happy they were! God had been so good to them through Jesus. Jesus had lived a perfect life of love and given it to them, so they could be God's people. He had sent the Holy Spirit to live inside their hearts for the rest of their lives. He would change their hearts and help them to obey God's laws and love God and others.



22. And, how God's people looked forward to the day when they would go to live with God forever! Then, God will make all things new, even their hearts. Then, they will love God and each other perfectly. And at last, God's laws will be perfectly fulfilled, even in them! We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"The Case of the Do's and Don'ts" Matthew 5,6,22

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who made up extra, little rules of do's and don'ts?
The Pharisees.

2. What did Jesus think of those extra do's and don'ts?
What did Jesus say God's real laws help people to do?
Jesus knew those do's and don'ts weren't what pleased
God. Jesus said God's real laws help people love God
most of all and love others.

For You and Me:

None of us can ever obey God's laws well enough to
please God or to truly love others as God wants us to.
Only keeping God's laws perfectly can do that, and we
are all lawbreakers! Our only hope is to turn away from
our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He is the only
way we can please God. God can work in our hearts and
help us to better love others as He wants us to. Ask Him to
help you. He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Matthew 22:37,39, NIV

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind...
Love your neighbor as yourself."

1. Which laws did Jesus tell people to obey?
God's laws.

2. Who is the only person to obey God's laws perfectly?
How did He share His perfect life with us?
Jesus. He gave it up on the cross as the full payment for
the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the
cross.

For You and Me

How amazing that Jesus obeyed God's laws perfectly! It's
even more amazing that He offers to share His perfect life
with us, that we might be saved! This is His promise to all
who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their
Savior. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this
prayer!

What Are God's Laws Like?

God's Laws Are Perfect...

They Tell Us How to Love God and Others!

The Gospel



God's laws tell us how to love God and others, but we are all lawbreakers. We do not love as we should. God would be fair to give us the punishment we deserve for breaking His laws, but He is so rich in mercy. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus obeyed God's laws, and loved God and others perfectly.

On the cross, Jesus suffered and died, giving His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, beating sin and death for them.

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior can be God's people. They will know God in their hearts, now. And one day, they will go to live with Him forever.

We can be God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being the Giver of Your perfectly good laws. They tell us how to love You and love others.

C God, many times we do not obey Your good laws. Many times, we do not love You or others as Your laws tell us to. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for giving us Your good laws that show us how to love You and others. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, when we trust in Jesus as our Savior. He helps us to obey Your good and loving laws.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live inside our hearts and help us to love You and others as You want us to.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

