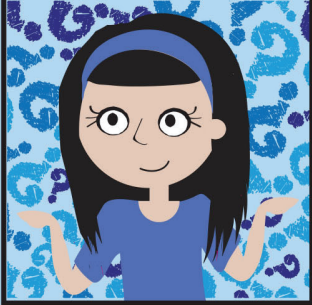


BIG QUESTION 8

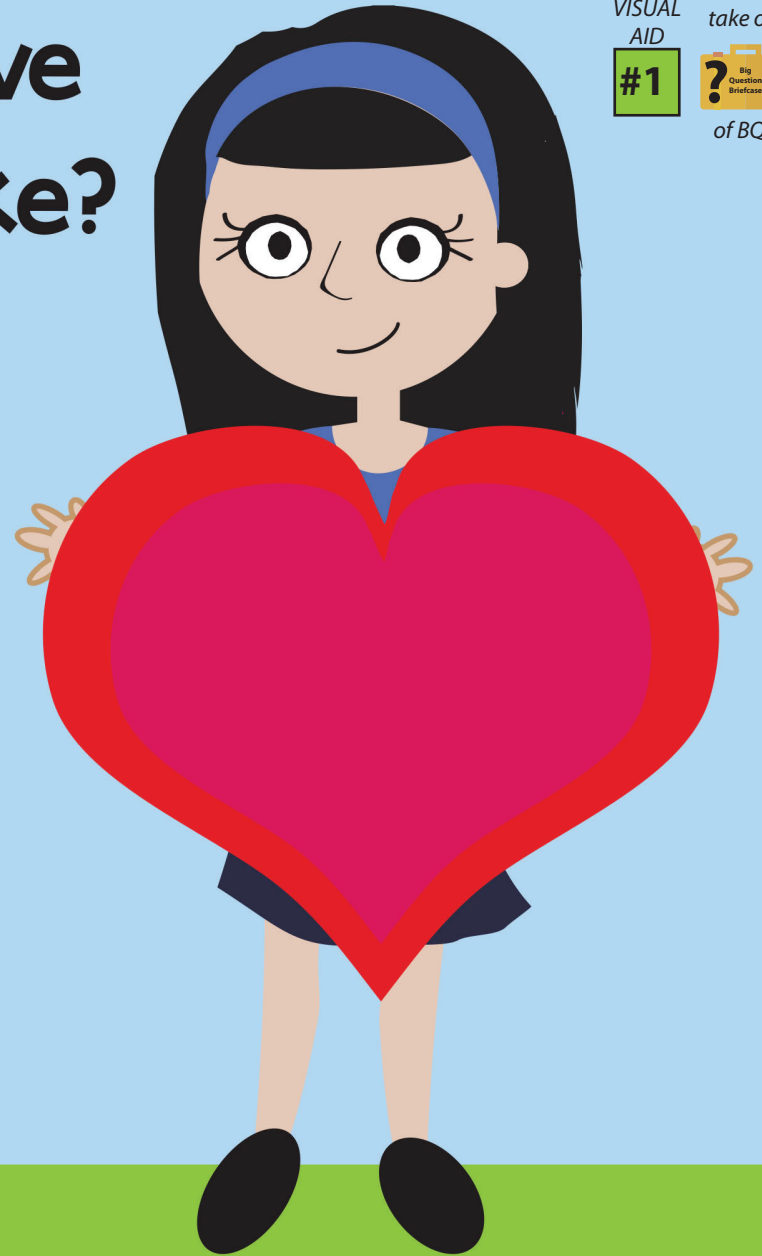


What is God's love for His people like?

VISUAL
AID

#1

take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB



ANSWER:

It's more than they could ever deserve!

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 8:

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
and the Answer is:
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve!

Meaning:

God has a special people He loves. They come from all over the world. They've lived in every time --from long ago, all the way up to today. And there are millions and millions of them!

There is nothing better than being one of God's special people! God has adopted them as His children. He promises to love and care for them always. He gives them special closeness with Him in their heart; and one day when they die, they will go to live with Him forever.

God's people know His love for them is more than they could ever deserve. They know God didn't make them His special people because they were so good. They are sinners who have disobeyed His good laws, just like everyone else. God just loves them just because He loves them.

God's love for His people is the biggest love there will ever be. It's so big that God sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on the cross to pay for their sins. That was the only way they could become His people. You and I can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

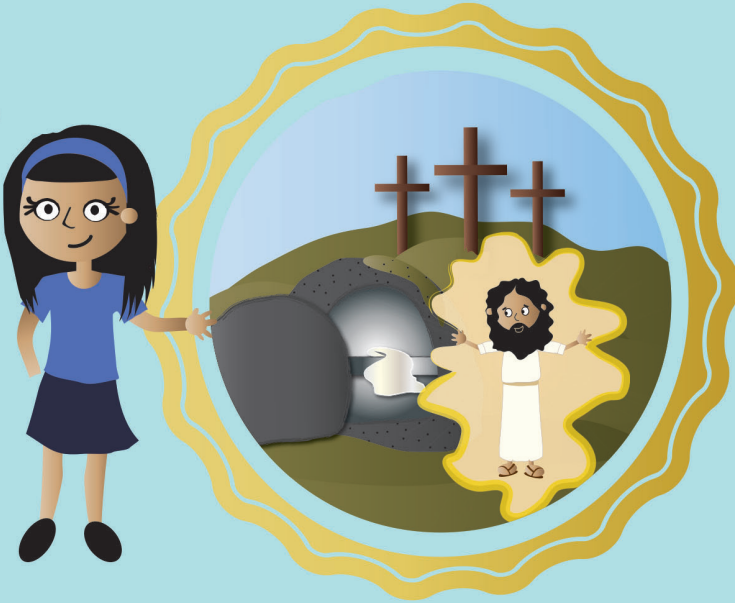
Big Q & A 8 Song

*DDD NIV Songs 8, track 12
(Adapted version of "Baa. Baa. Black Sheep")*

What is God's love for His people like?
More than they could ever deserve!
What is God's love for His people like?
What is God's love for His people like?
What is God's love for His people like?
More than they could ever deserve!

BIG QUESTION 8: Four truths about God's love

1.

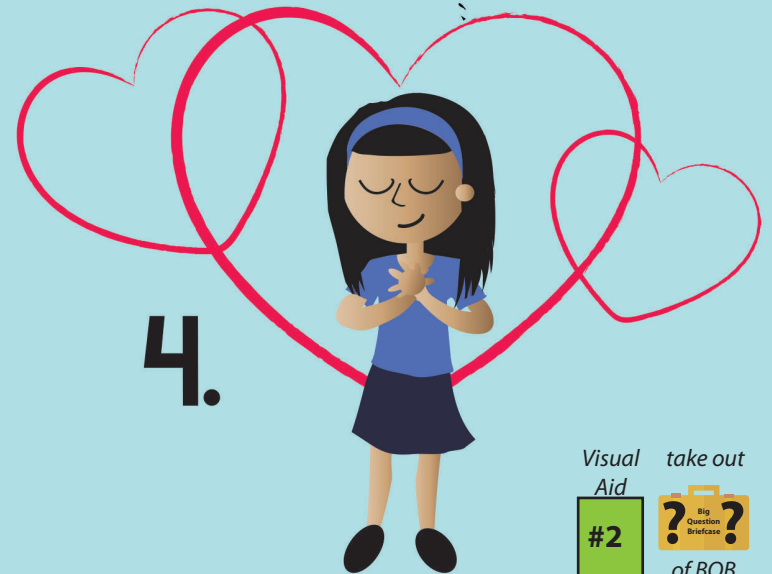


2.



3.

4.



Visual Aid #2 take out of BQB

This Unit's Bible Truths

"It's More than They Could Ever Deserve" 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 God's love for His people.

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, 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 I?

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Gave His Son, ????,
to Save Them!

Visual
Aid
#3
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB



HINT: What's the name
of God's Son? It starts
with the letter "J."

God Gave His Son, **JESUS**, to Save Them!

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 God’s Love for His People Like?
It’s More than They Could Ever Deserve!
God Gave His Son, ????, to Save Them!”**

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? It starts with the letter “J.”

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:)

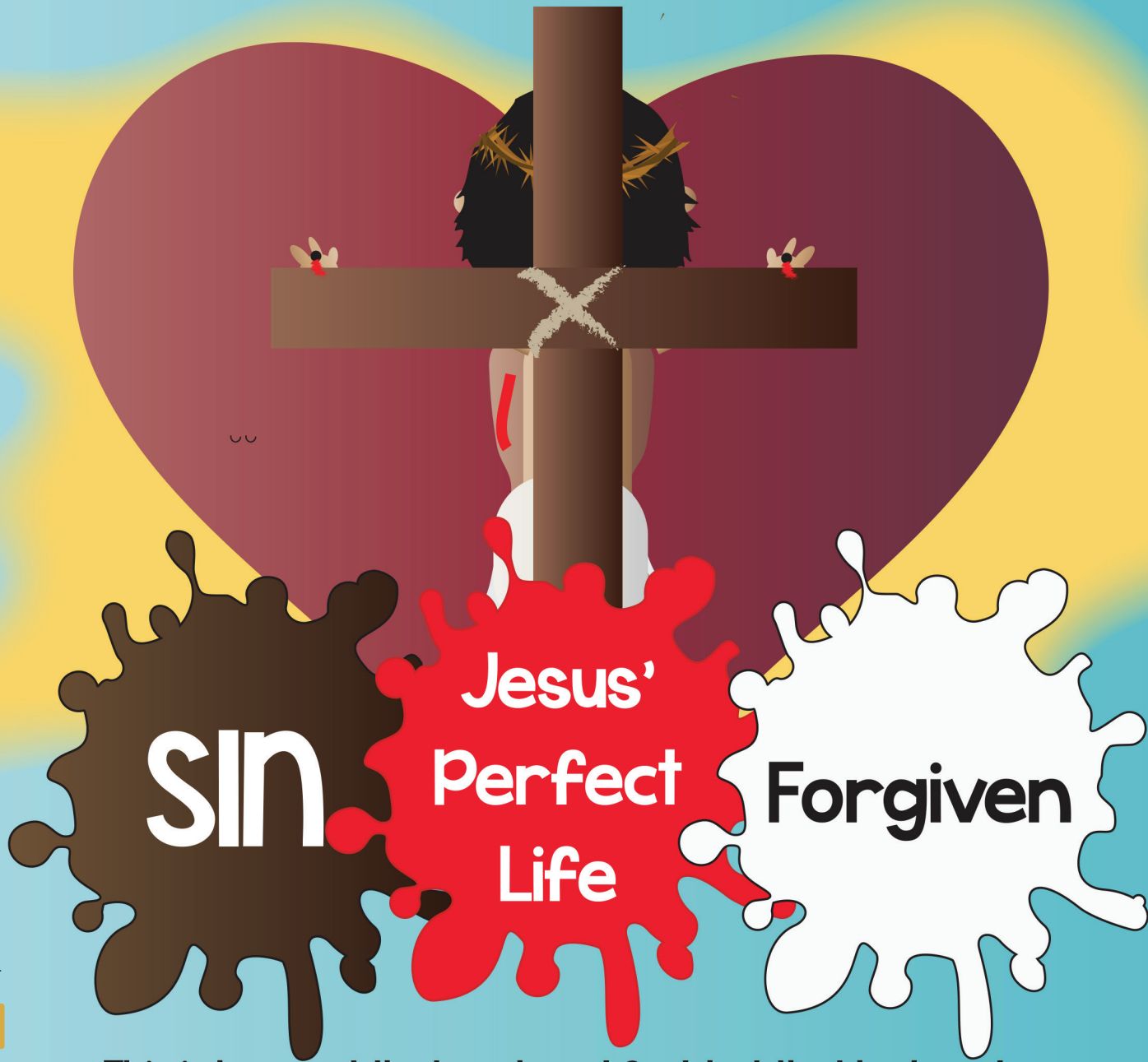
**“What Is God’s Love for His People Like?
It’s More than They Could Ever Deserve!
God Gave His Son, JESUS, to Save Them!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

All people have rebelled against God and have broken His laws. All have chosen to do things their own way, instead of God’s way. Their hearts should be full of love for God; but instead, their hearts are dead and empty of love for God and His good ways. That’s why all people deserve God’s punishment for their sins. They deserve to be separated from Him forever. How sad!

But God is so kind and merciful! He chose to save sinners, like you and me, even though we did not deserve it. Yes, God chose to love sinners, even though their hearts were so dead and empty of love for Him. And He didn’t just love them a little bit. He loved them a lot! He loved them so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to live and perfect life and give it up as the full payment for their sins when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really done it! He had redeemed sinners, so that they could become God’s special people—His, dearly-loved, adopted children forever! We can be God’s special people, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Hasn’t God loved us so much through Jesus!



“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” | John 4:10

Visual Aid #4

Place verse in "DDD Bible"

take out "Big Question Briefcase" of BQB

Bible Truth | Bible Verse

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

1 John 4:10 tells us:

1 John 4:10

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Learn a Little: "[God] sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

What does that mean?

We are all sinners who have rebelled against God, yet God chose to love us, and to love us in the deepest way possible! He sent Jesus to save us. Yes, God sent His dearly-loved Son to earth to be the propitiation for our sins. He was the atoning sacrifice that would pay for our sins and satisfy God's judgment against us. Jesus would live a perfect life, then offer it up as the full payment that would bring the forgiveness we needed. And He chose to do this while we still were rebelling against Him! How wonderful is this free gift of God! How deep is His love! This atoning sacrifice is for us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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

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

This Is Love:

1 John 4:10

DDD NIV Songs 8, track 17

This is love,
Not that we loved God,
But that He, that he loved us,
He sent his Son,
And He sent His Son,
An atoning sacrifice for sin.
He sent his Son,
And He sent His Son,
An atoning sacrifice for sin.
First John, Four, ten.

"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 Costly Children” Exodus 24, Jeremiah 25, Isaiah 9,42,43,49, Ezekiel 37, Daniel 9, Zechariah 8-14



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Whom did God adopt as His dearly-loved children?
2. What made adopting them so costly to God?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



1 John 4:10, NIV

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

1. Whom did God love before they loved Him?
2. Whose sins were forgiven by Jesus' sacrifice?

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

THE LORD



I. The LORD gathered the people of Israel near big Mt. Sinai and spoke to them: "I have loved you and rescued you from your enemies. I want to be your God. I want you to be my dearly loved people," He told them. "I want us to make a covenant together. I want to make big, big promises with you, sealed with blood. Promises that must be kept. "Do or die" promises," the LORD explained.

10 Big Laws

Covenant
Big Promise

my
People



2. "I want to give you My big promise to always take care of you and give you many good things," the LORD told the people through Moses. "I want to give you homes in your own, very special land. A place where you can worship Me and live happily. I will get rid of all your enemies, so you don't have to worry about them again," the LORD told the people. "But, I want you to make Me a big promise, too," the LORD told them. "A promise to love Me and keep all of My good laws," He said.

**THE
LORD**

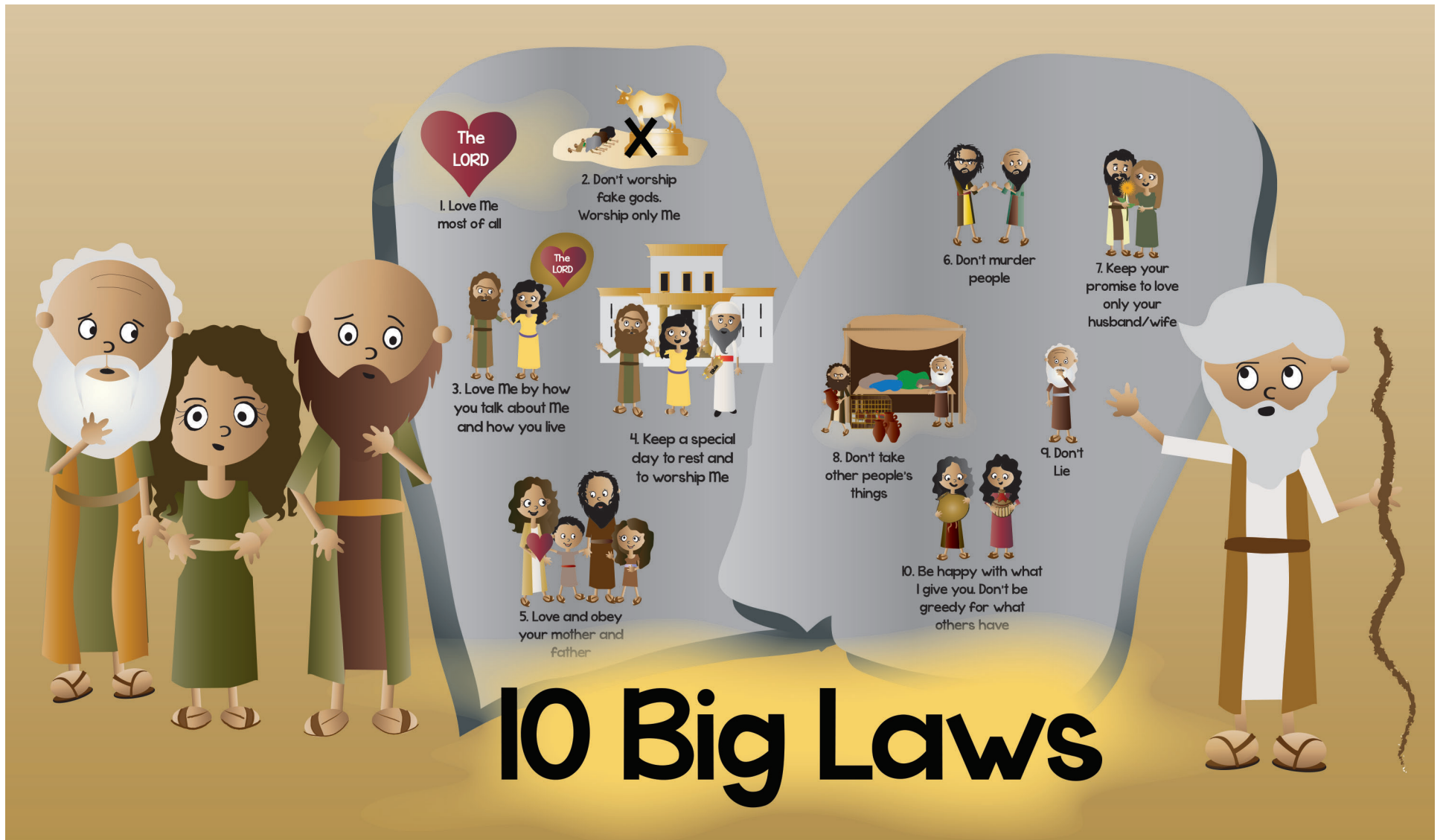
**Covenant
Big Promise**

**my
People**

Yes!



3. What would the people of Israel say? What would they do? Did they want the LORD to be their God? Did they want Him to take care of them and give them all these good things? Did they want to be His dearly-loved people? Yes, they did! They wanted the LORD to make His covenant with them. And they wanted these promises to be “Do or die” promises, sealed in blood. What a wonderful life He was offering them!



4. Ahh, but there was also the OTHER question they had to ask themselves: did THEY want to make a covenant with the LORD? Did THEY want to promise to love Him and to keep His good laws? Remember: their promises were covenant promises, too. They were also “Do or Die,” sealed-with-blood promises which MUST be kept. Did they want to make THAT kind of promise to the LORD? What do you think?



5. Yes, they did! The LORD loved them. His laws were good. Why would they NOT want to make this covenant promise with Him?! So they said to the LORD, "Yes, yes, yes! We will be Your dearly loved people! We will keep all of Your good laws. We will make a covenant with You-our "Do or Die" promise. We want You to be our God!" they told the LORD.

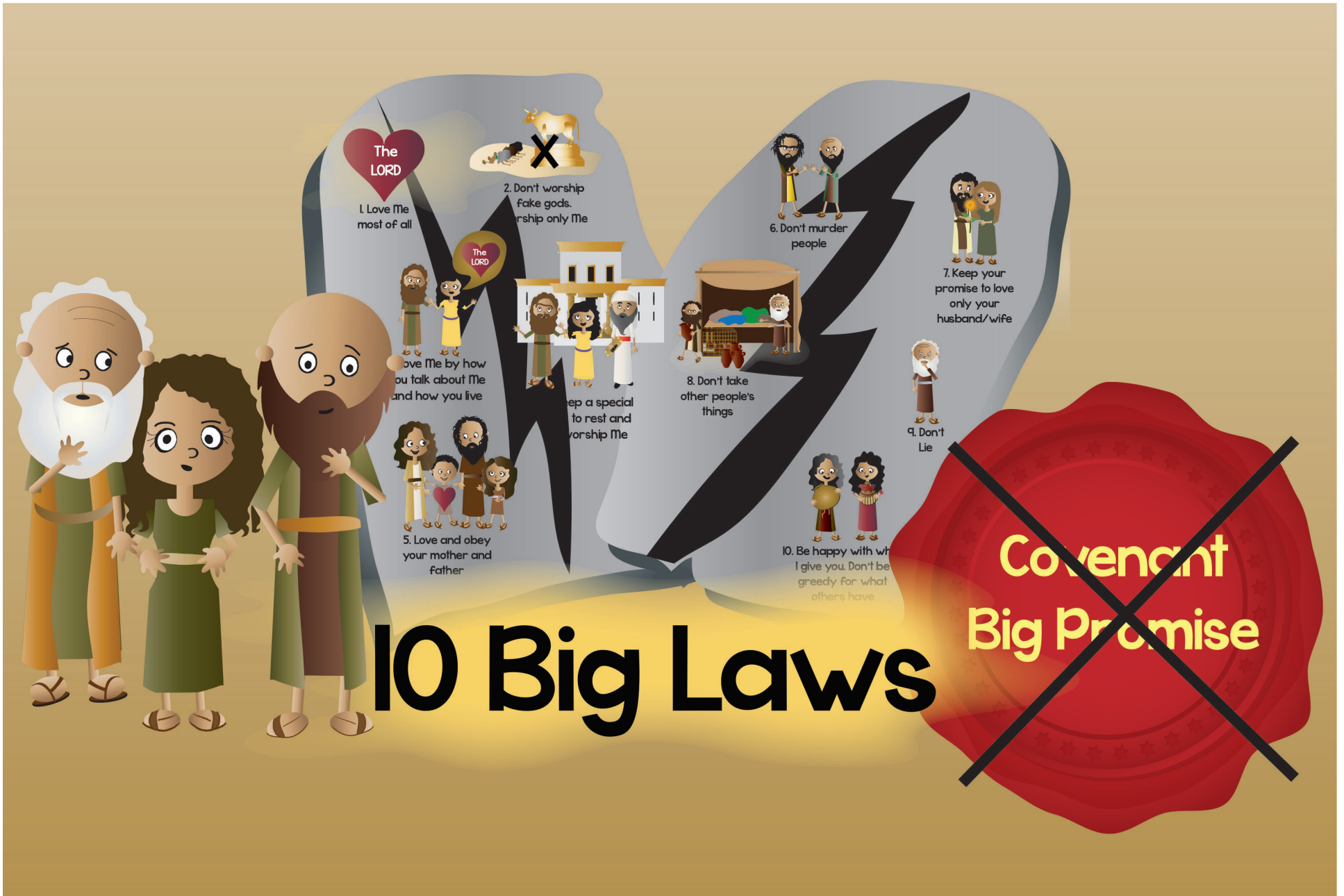


6. So, the LORD and the people made a covenant together. Moses built an altar at the base of the mountain and set up twelve, stone towers-- one for each of the twelve, family groups among the people. Twelve, young men brought twelve large, worship gifts to offer to the LORD. Everyone listened as Moses read the LORD's promises and laws to the people. Blood was sprinkled on the altar and on the people. "We will do everything the LORD has said. We will obey Him and keep the covenant... we will do or die," the people promised. The covenant was made. The LORD was their God, and they were His people.

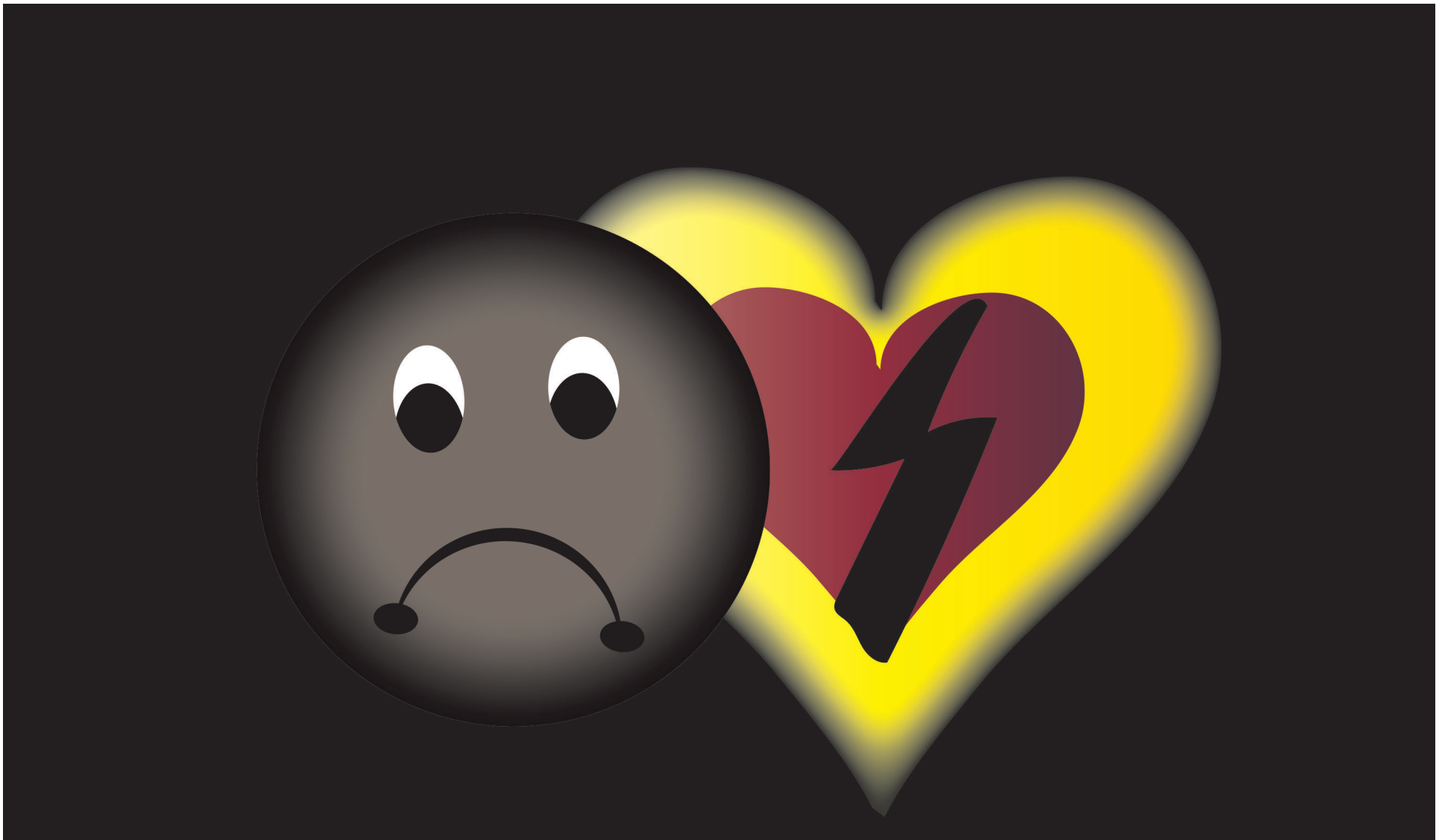
Covenant Big Promise



7. The LORD kept all of His covenant with His people--every one of His big, "Do or Die" promises. He gave them a special land to live in. He gave them their own homes. He gave them fields full of good food and lots of children. He told them how to build a special worship place so they could meet with Him. And, He protected them from their enemies.



8. But what about the people of Israel? Did they keep the covenant promises they made to the LORD? They did NOT! They did NOT love the LORD or keep His good laws as they promised.



9. You see, it is one thing to **MAKE** a big promise to the **LORD** and another thing to **KEEP** it. The people **WANTED** to be God's dearly-loved people. They **WANTED** to love Him and obey Him. They **WANTED** Him to bless them with all the good things He promised to give them. But there was something that the people of Israel had in their hearts--that we have in our hearts, too--that was causing a big problem. Do you know what it was?



10. It was sin! Yes, ever since Adam and Eve first disobeyed God in the Garden, there has been sin in everyone's heart. Sin that kept those people of Israel from obeying all of the LORD's good laws. Sin that kept them from worshipping and loving Him as they should. Sin that kept them from loving each other the way they should, too.



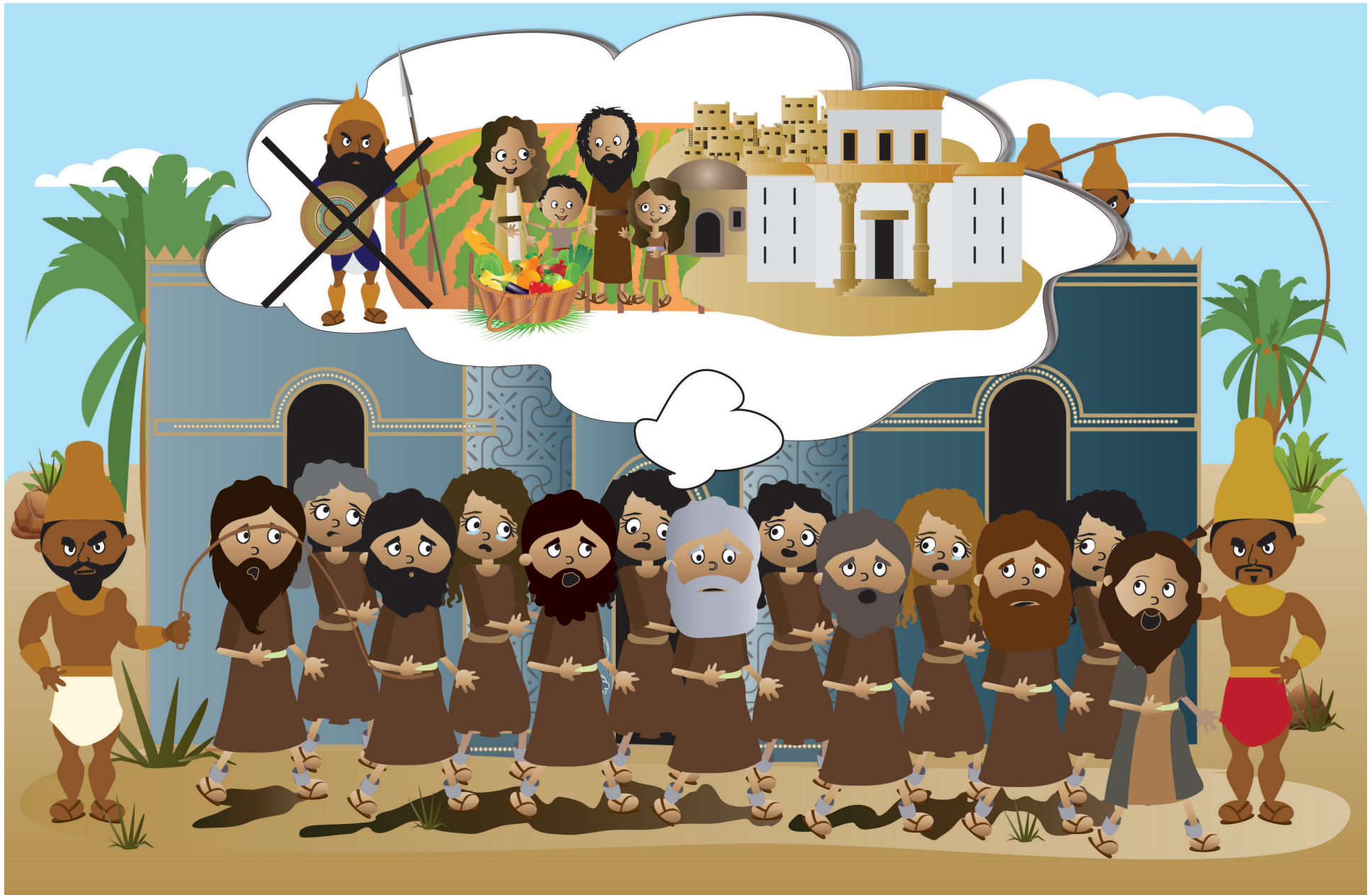
II. And so, the people broke their covenant to the LORD, that big “Do or Die” promise, over and over. And that meant the people no longer deserved to be the LORD’s dearly-loved people and He should no longer be their God. What would the LORD do, now that the people had disobeyed Him?



12. What would the LORD do? He did plenty! He warned them over and over to turn away from their sin. He sent godly men like Jeremiah to them, saying, "Remember your big promise to the LORD! He wants to be your God. He wants you to be His dearly-loved people. Turn away from disobeying His good laws. Turn back to worshipping and loving Him! If you do, He will forgive you. If you do not, then He will send punishments to help you turn back to Him," Jeremiah warned.



13. Did the people of Israel listen to the LORD's warnings? Did they turn back to worship and love Him? Not really. So at last, the LORD sent punishments. He let their enemies come into their land and destroy their homes and worship place. He let them take the people of Israel far away and made them work very, very hard for them.



14. Boo, hoo! Boo, hoo! How sad the people of Israel were! They missed the good things that God had given them. They missed their homes. They missed the place where they worshipped the LORD. They did not like working for their enemies.



15. But most of all, they were sad that they had not kept their big promise to the LORD. They knew that they had not worshipped or loved Him as they promised they would. They knew that they had not loved others as they promised they would, either. They knew that they should not be His dearly-loved people anymore and He should not be their God. This is what they deserved for breaking their “Do or Die” promises with the LORD. They knew they had sin in their hearts; and at last, they began to turn away from their sins. But was it too late? Was this really the end of the LORD’s love for His people?



16. No, it wasn't! They didn't deserve to be God's dearly-loved people anymore, but God kept on loving them. The LORD sent godly men like Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah to encourage the people with wonderful news: "You have broken your promises to the LORD, but He still loves you," they told the people.

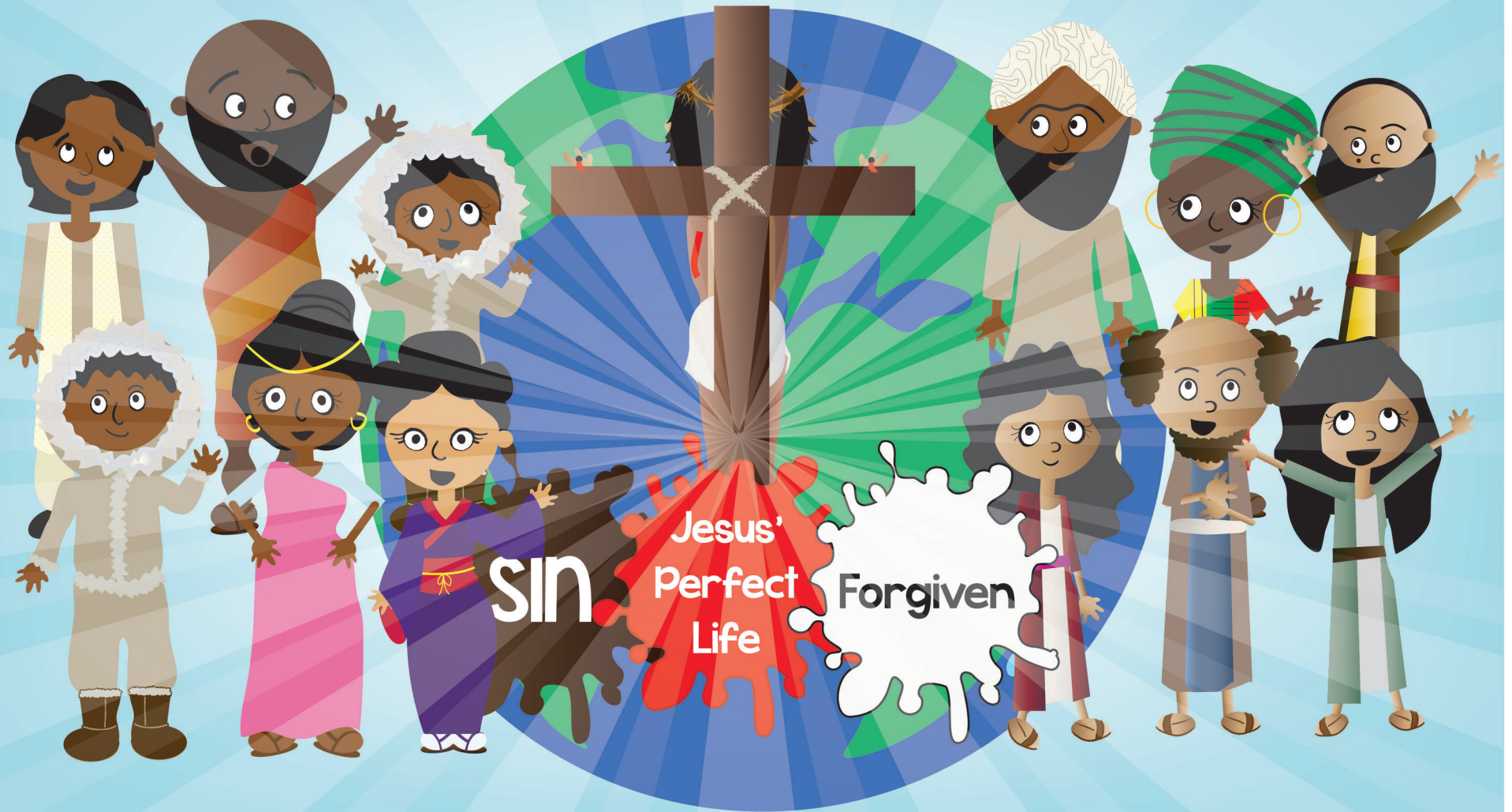


17. "Hear the LORD's good plans for you," these men said. "I have punished you so you would turn back to Me, but I won't keep on punishing you," the LORD told them. "On just the right day, your punishment will be over. I will free you from your enemies. You won't have to work for them anymore. You will get to go back to your homes in the special land. You can build a new place to worship Me. I will take care of you and give you good things," the LORD promised them.



18. "But I have even better plans for you than freeing you from your enemies and bringing you back home," the LORD told them. "I'm going to make a NEW covenant with you. A new "Do or Die" promise sealed with new blood. I'm going to beat your even bigger enemy: the sin in your hearts that keeps you from loving and obeying Me!" He promised.

God's Son, Jesus, the Savior



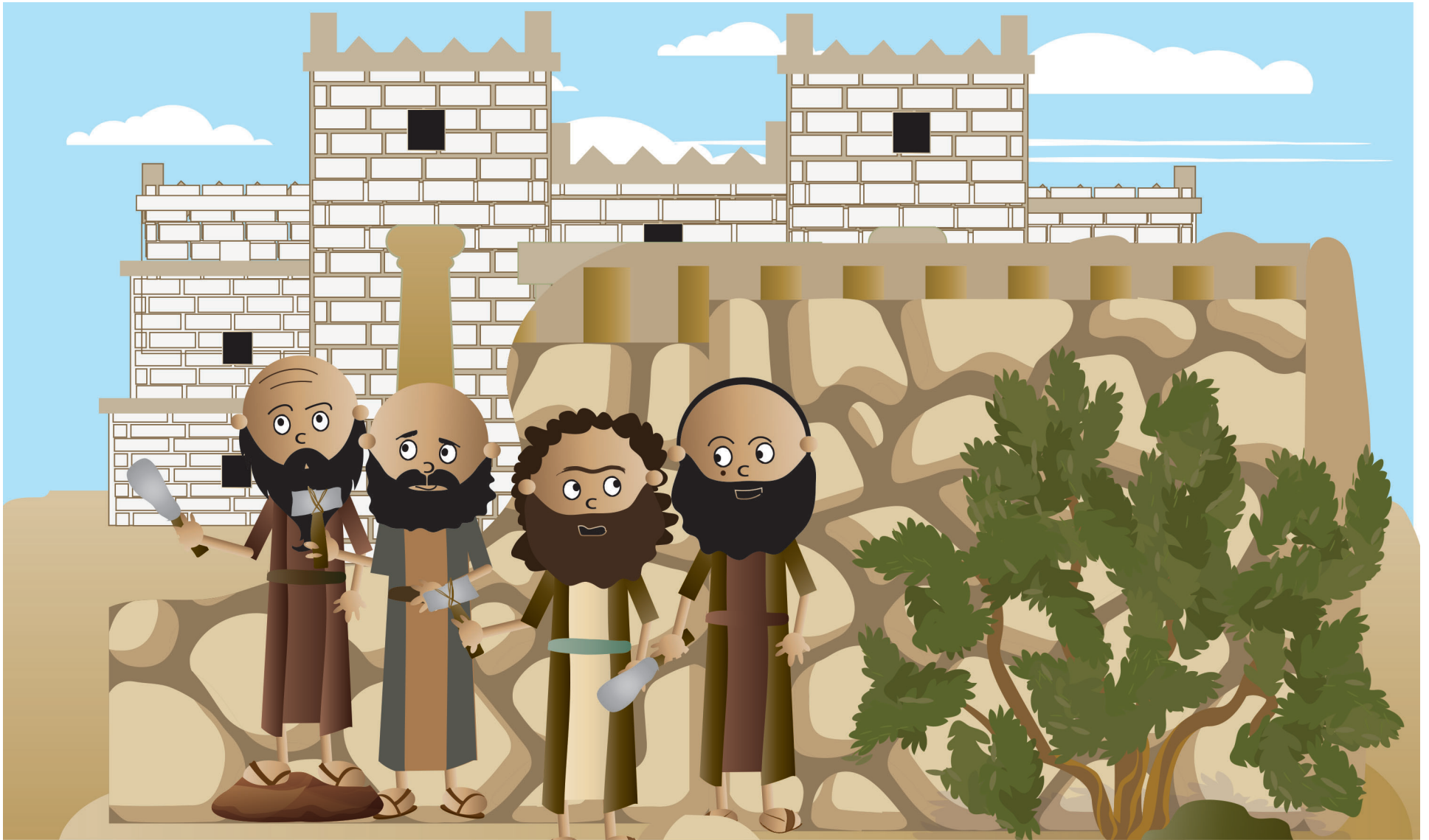
19. "Yes, I'm going to send you a Messiah, a Savior," the LORD promised. "He will be My Son. He is going to come to earth. He is going to take the punishment that all My people deserve for disobeying Me. It will be gone for good. His blood will take away their sins. His blood will seal this new "Do or Die" covenant.



20. "I will give My people new hearts filled with My Holy Spirit. Then, all My people, from every place in the whole world, will be saved to know Me and love Me and obey Me. And one day, they will all come live with Me, forever happy," the LORD promised. "This covenant will last forever."



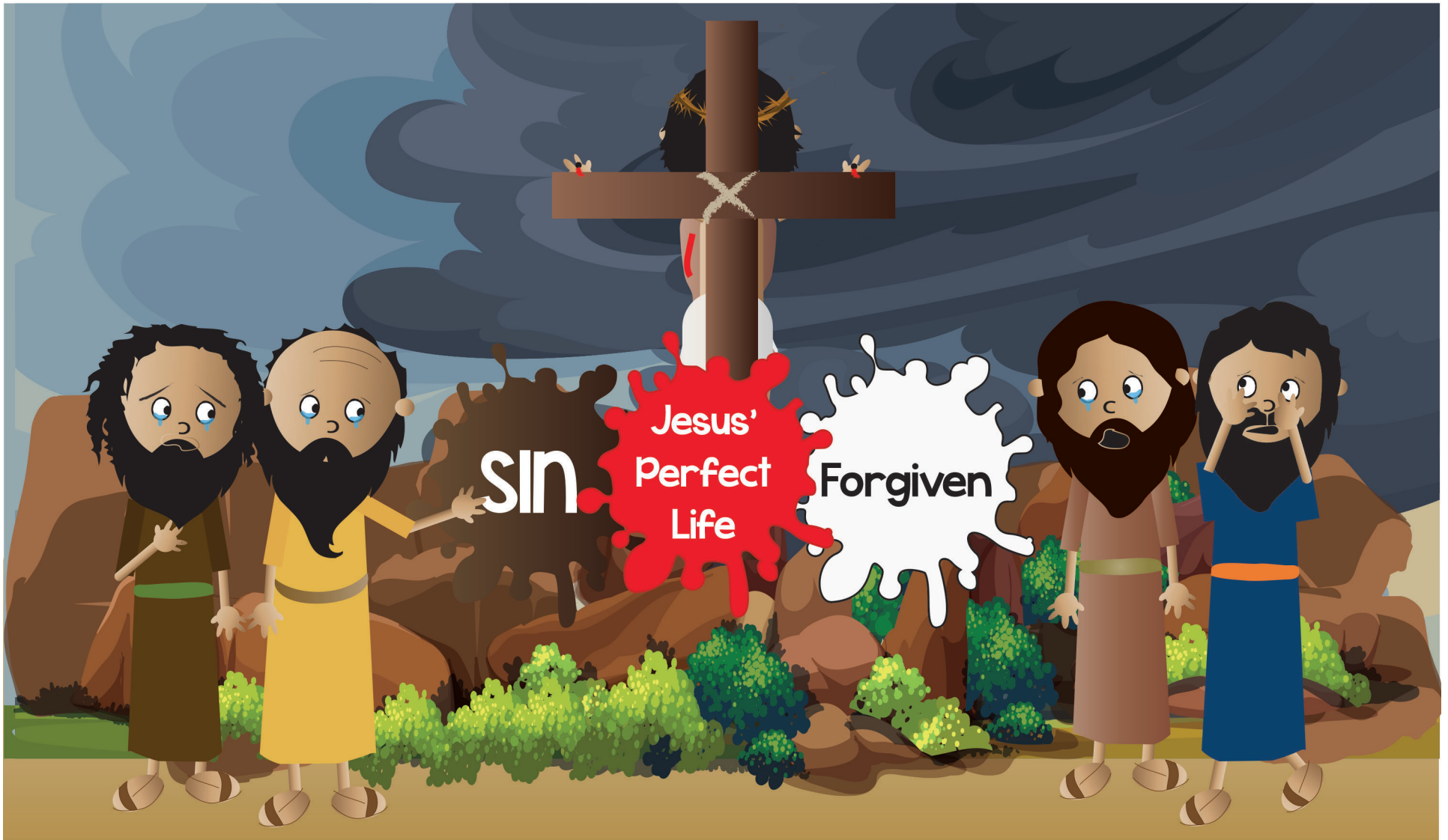
21. What wonderful news this was! The people of Israel were so happy! They believed God's big promise to free them from their enemies. They believed His promise to send them back home to their special land. And, they believed that one day God would send a Messiah, a Savior, to beat their biggest enemy of all: the sin in their hearts that kept them from loving and obeying Him.



22. The people waited and waited. They looked for the day God promised. And at last, it came! They left working for their enemies and went back home to their special land. They built new homes, and they built a new place to worship God. Then, they waited and waited some more. They waited for the day the Savior would come. And while they had to wait a very long time, at last, that day came, too. Who was the Messiah, the Savior, God's Son? It was Jesus!



23. Jesus was born a baby in Bethlehem. He grew up, up, up until He was a man. And what a man Jesus was! He kept all of God's laws His whole life. He was perfect!



24. And what did Jesus do with that perfect life? He did just exactly what God promised He would do. He saved all God's people when He took the punishment for their sins on the cross. With His own blood, Jesus sealed the new covenant that God was making with His people. A covenant that could NEVER EVER be broken, because it was the blood of God's perfect Son, Himself, that was keeping the promises for God's people.



25. Yes, Jesus suffered and died on the cross that day. He was buried in a cave grave and watched over by guards. But that was not the end of the story, was it? On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. He had really done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people, once and for all!



25. How great is God's love for His people! Even though they do not love Him or obey Him as they should, He loved them more than they deserved. He loved them so much that He chose to send His Son, Jesus, to save them from their sins, so that they could know Him in their hearts now, and one day, go to live with Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!

"The Case of the Costly Children" Exodus 24, Jeremiah 25, Isaiah 9,42,43,49, Ezekiel 37, Daniel 9, Zechariah 8-14

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Whom did God adopt as His dearly-loved children?
All who would turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. His promises began with the people of Israel, but have spread out to include people from the whole world.

2. What made adopting them so costly to God?
God adopted them by paying for their sins, Himself, when Jesus suffered and died on the cross.

For You and Me:

We, too, can become God's dearly-loved, adopted children when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 John 4:10, NIV

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

1. Whom did God love before they loved Him?

God loved all His people before they loved Him--the people of Israel, and all others who would turn to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

2. Whose sins were forgiven by Jesus' sacrifice?

All of God's people--all who would turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:

We, too, are sinners who have broken God's laws. We, too, deserve His punishment for our sins. But the good news is that we, too, can be forgiven our sins when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Gave His Son, Jesus, to Save Them!

The Gospel



The Bible, tells us that we have all chosen to turn away from God and disobey Him. That's why we all deserve His punishment for our sins. How sad!

But God is so rich in mercy. He sent His Son, Jesus, save His people, even though they did not love or obey Him. Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He always loved God and loved people. Then, He offered up His 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!



A Prayer

A We praise you, God, for being so full of love for Your people. You were filled with love for them before they loved You or knew You!

C God, we should be filled with love for You and Your good ways, but so many times we are not. We need a Savior!

T Thank You for loving the world so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for loving sinners, even before they loved You. Thank You for making the way for them to be saved through Jesus.

S God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us new hearts full of love for You. Help us to become Your people.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

