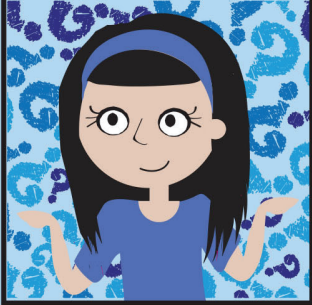
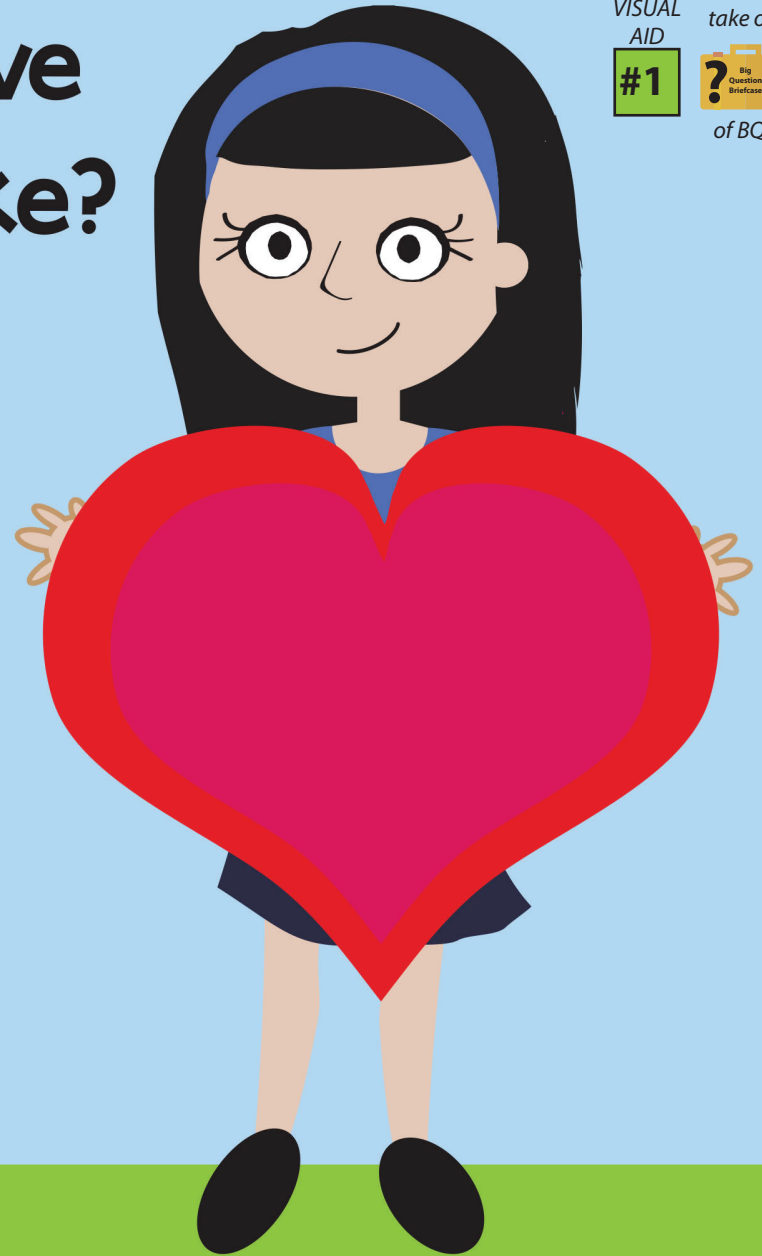


BIG QUESTION 8



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:"

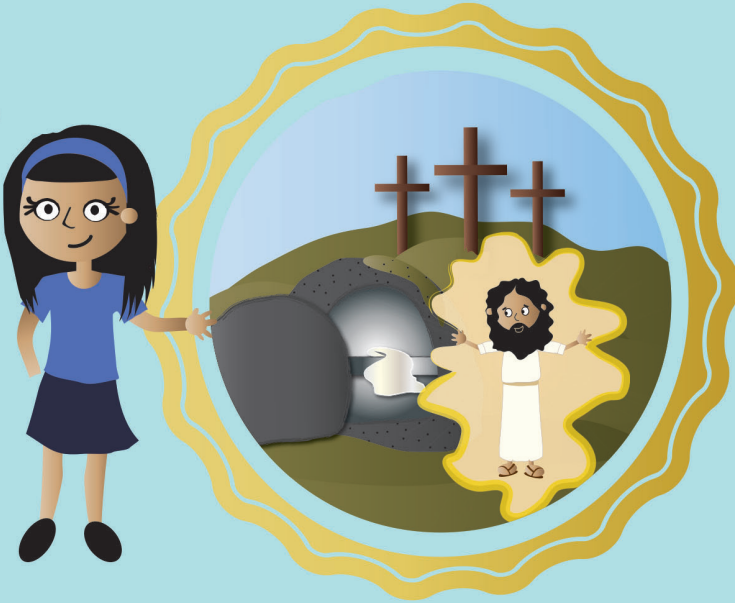
Big Q & A 8 Song

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

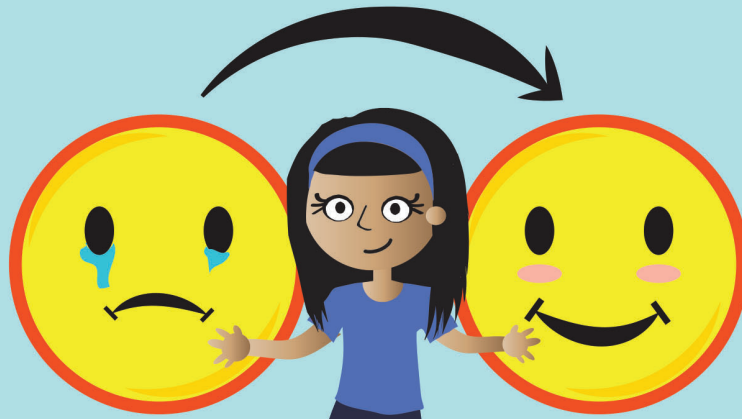
What is God's love for His people like?
More than they could ever deserve!
What is God's love for His people like?
What is God's love for His people like?
What is God's love for His people like?
More than they could ever deserve!

BIG QUESTION 8: Four truths about God's love

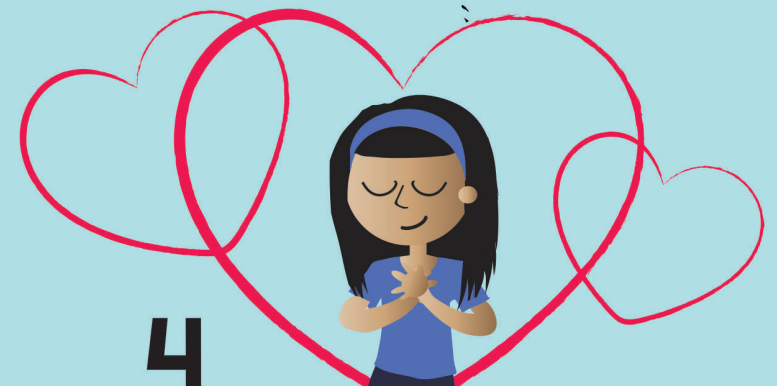
1.



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, we've learned one truth about God's love for His people. It's this one: "God Gave His Son, Jesus, to Save Them." (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 2?

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God ???? Takes Care of Them!

Visual Aid
#3
take out
Big Question Briefcase
of BQB



HINT: This word means doing something over and over and never stopping. It starts with the letter "A" and it rhymes with "Sundays."

God **ALWAYS** Takes Care of 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 ???? Takes Care of Them!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word means doing something over and over and never stopping. It starts with the letter “A” and it rhymes with “Sundays.”

Can you guess? It’s “Always.”

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 ALWAYS Takes Care of Them!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

Everyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior becomes one of God’s people. And they don’t just become one of His people! He makes them His adopted children! God becomes their Father in heaven. They are part of His family forever!

God is kind to give us a mother and father, and even sisters and brothers, in the families we are a part of, here on earth. What good gifts they are! They love us and care for us, the best they can. God helps them love us.

But no matter how good and loving our parents might be here on earth, they will never love us or take care of us as well as God can. God is the best Father we can ever imagine. He is perfect! He is all-wise: He always knows what is best for His children. He is always faithful: He always gives them what He promises them. He’s all-powerful: He can always give His children everything they need and so much more. He is all-loving: He only does what is good for them.

God’s adopted children never need to worry. They know that God, their Father in heaven, is always with them, always taking care of them. We can become one of God’s children, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us become His children!



“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake...Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23:1-3,6

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:

Psalm 23:1-3,6 tells us:

Psalm 23:1-3,6

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Leran a Little: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

What does that mean?

These verses remind us that God loves His people and cares for their needs completely, just like a good shepherd loves and takes care of his sheep. That's what it means to not be in want. We can become God's people 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!"

The LORD Is My Shepherd:

Psalm 23:1-6

DDD NIV Songs 8, track 21

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
He restores my soul,
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of death,
I will fear no evil, For You are with me,
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me,
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me,
All of the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD,
Forever and ever and ever.
Psalm Twenty-three,
verses one through four, and six.

"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 Woman Who Didn't See" The Book of Ruth



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Why was Naomi so sad?
2. What about God did she not see?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 23:1,6, NIV

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

1. Who did the LORD take care of and make sure she was not in want?
2. How did the LORD show His goodness and love to her?

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



I. "Boo hoo! Boo hoo!" Naomi cried. Her husband had died. Her two sons had died. Naomi was so sad. She missed them so much!



2. But Naomi wasn't just sad. She was scared, too. Only Orpah and Ruth, the wives of her sons, were left. Surely, they would go back home to live with their mother and father. That's what wives did back then when their husbands died. They knew that their mother and father would take care of them. But poor Naomi, she didn't have a mother or father to go home to. And she was far, far away from her home in Bethlehem. Who would take care of her? Who would see that she had food to eat and clothes to wear? How would she get back home all by herself? What was Naomi to do? This is why Naomi was so scared.



3. Naomi was right to be sad. It is a sad thing when your husband and sons die. But, Naomi did NOT have to be scared. She did NOT need to worry about who would take care of her. Why? Because Naomi was one of God's people. She knew God's Word, the Bible. She knew God's promises to always take care of His people. She could trust Him to take care of her, even though she didn't know how.



4. But right then, all Naomi could think about were the sad things that had happened to her. She thought about all those sad things and decided that God had stopped taking care of her.

How wrong Naomi was! God had NOT stopped taking care of her. God is so kind to His people. He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. So, even though Naomi was scared and did not think God would take care of her, God most certainly would. Let's find out how.



5. At last, it was time for Naomi to say goodbye to Orpah and Ruth, the wives of her sons. It was time for them to go live with their mother and father. And, it was time for Naomi to make the long walk back home to Bethlehem by herself.

“Goodbye, Orpah! Goodbye, Ruth!” Naomi told them. She kissed them goodbye and they all wept aloud. They were sad to leave each other.



6. "Wait," said Orpah and Ruth. "We won't go back home to our parents. We will go with you instead. We will walk with you back to Bethlehem. We will take care of you," they offered.

"No," Naomi said. "You must go home to your father and mother," she insisted. "Where I am going there is no one to take care of me and there will be no one to take care of you either. Not even God will take care of me," she said.



7. Oh, Naomi! You shouldn't say that! You know God's Word, the Bible. You know that God promises to always take care of His people. He will take care of you! Keep trusting in God!

And so God did, even though Naomi did not trust Him to take care of her. God loves His people so much that He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. For, though Orpah said goodbye to Naomi and went home to her father and mother, God had given Ruth a special love for Naomi and for Himself.



8. Ruth clung to Naomi and said, "Please don't make me go back home! I want to worship the LORD. He's the one, true God. I want to take care of you the rest of my life! Please let me go back home with you to Bethlehem!" she begged. Naomi looked at Ruth. She could see that nothing would change Ruth's mind. Ruth refused to go home to her father and mother, so Naomi agreed.

God was showing Naomi that He **WOULD** take care of her, if Naomi would only see! He was giving Naomi Ruth to walk the long walk back to Bethlehem and to take care of her the rest of her life.



9. Together, Naomi and Ruth walked to Bethlehem. Up mountains and down mountains. Through green valleys, along dusty roads, and beside grassy fields, they walked. On and on and on.



10. At last, they came to Naomi's home in Bethlehem. Many people came out to greet Naomi. It had been so long since they had seen her. But when they looked at her, they were surprised at what they saw. "Is this really Naomi?" the women asked. "She seems so different! Where is her husband? Where are her sons? Where is her smile?" they wondered.

Naomi = Happy Things



Marah = Bitter Things



II. Naomi told them her sad news. "My husband and sons have died. I am all alone. I am so sad that I want you to stop calling me 'Naomi'. That name means 'happy things.' I want you to call me 'Marah' now," she told them. "'Marah' means 'bitter (sad) things.' This is a better name for me since God has filled my life with so many sad things. I don't even think He cares about me anymore," she told them.

THE LORD my

Your

God

People

Covenant
Big Promise

BIBLE

12. Oh, Naomi! You shouldn't say that! You know God's Word, the Bible. You know that God promises to always take care of His people. He will take care of you! Keep trusting in God! Yes, there are sad things in your life, but there are good things in your life, too. God helped you get safely back home to Bethlehem. He gave you Ruth to take care of you your whole life. Would Naomi not see how good God had been to her?



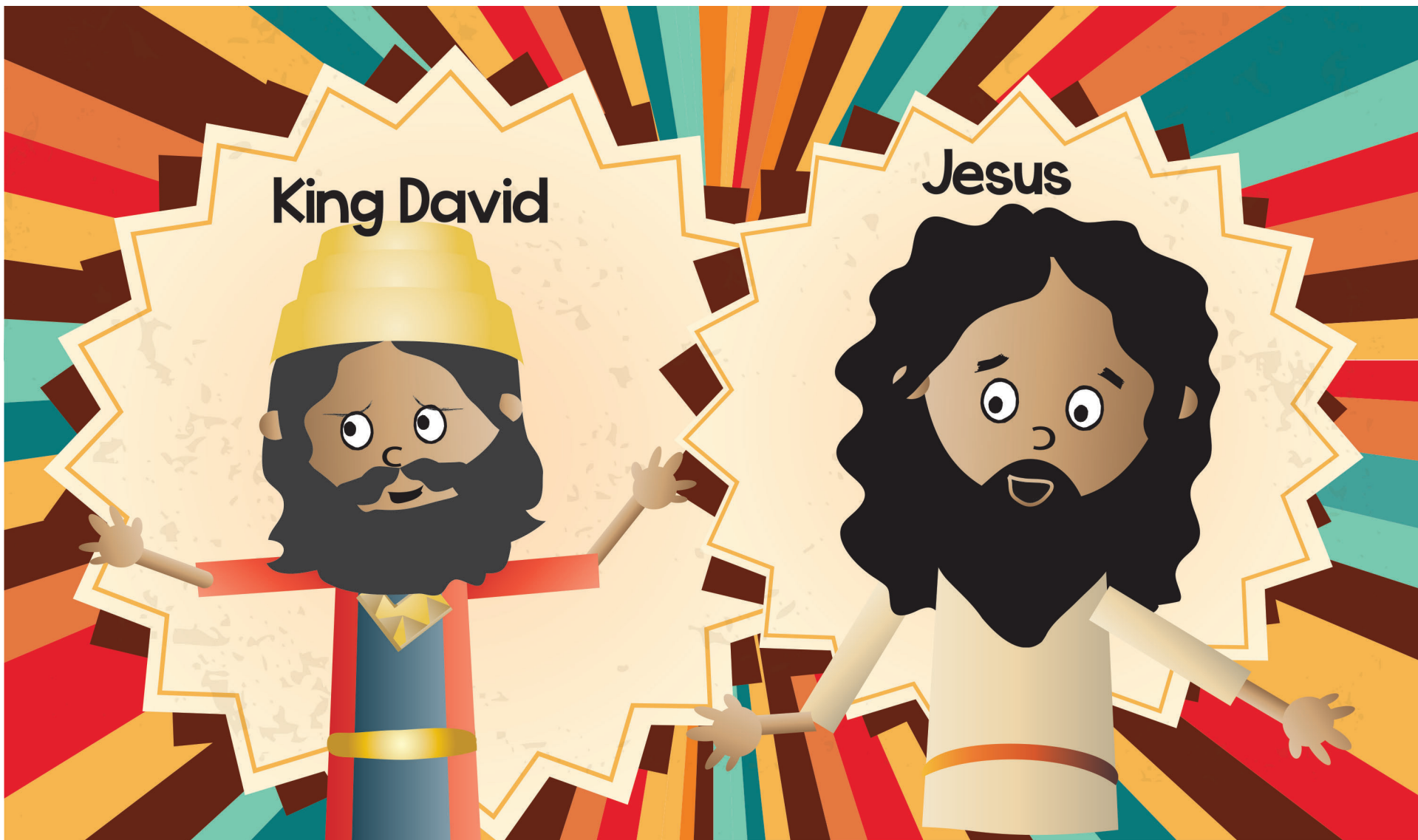
13. No, Naomi would not. Naomi certainly didn't deserve for God to keep on taking care of her, but He kept on taking care of her anyway. God loves His people so much that He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. And so God did, and in bigger ways than Naomi could have ever dreamed!



14. God provided Naomi and Ruth with food to eat from the barley fields of a rich man named Boaz. Boaz loved God; and before long, he loved Ruth, too. He married Ruth, and brought Naomi and her to his home to live. Boaz shared all he had with them. How richly the LORD took care of Ruth and Naomi through Boaz!

King David

Jesus



15. And if this was not enough, Boaz and Ruth soon had a son for Naomi to love as her grandchild. Baby Obed! And one day, through Obed would come the great, king David, and much later, even the Savior, Jesus, Himself. Wow!

Hadn't God been kind to Naomi? Hadn't He taken care of her? Yes, He had! More than she could have ever imagined, and better than she ever deserved! Could Naomi see it now, at last?



16. Yes, she could! Naomi took little baby Obed and put him on her lap and cared for him, just like she used to care for her own sons, long ago. And the women of Bethlehem gathered around Naomi and said, "Praise the LORD, He has taken care of your needs. He has given you Ruth and Boaz to take care of you. He has even given you a little boy to care for like a son. Surely God has plans to take good care of you all the rest of your life!" And Naomi had to agree. The LORD had taken care of her. He took away her bitter sadnesses, and even used them all to do her good!

"The Case of the Woman Who Didn't See" The Book of Ruth

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Why was Naomi so sad?
Her husband and sons had died.

2. What about God did she not see?
She could not see how God was taking care of her.

For You and Me:
God's people can know that God will always take care of them, even if they can't see how. He is always at work. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can be God's people, too. We can know that God will always take care of us, too.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 23:1,6, NIV

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

1. Who did the LORD take care of and make sure she was not in want? Naomi.

2. How did the LORD show His goodness and love to her?
He gave her Ruth to help her. He gave Ruth a husband and even a baby. He took care of Naomi through them all the days of her life.

For You and Me:

How good God is to always take care of His people! How wonderful it is to know that He makes sure that goodness and love will follow them all the days of their life and that they will go to live with Him forever one day! God offers us this kind of care, too, 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 always takes care of them!

The Gospel



How kind God is to care for His people's needs, even when, like Naomi, they think He won't.

But the greatest way that God has cared for His people is by saving them. You see, we all disobey God and deserve His punishment. But God is so rich in mercy that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for His people's sins. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for them. Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus can be God's people. Their sins are forgiven, and they will enjoy special closeness with God in their hearts, now. Then one day, they will go live with Him forever. How amazing is God's love for His people! We can be His people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Ask Him to help you!



A Prayer



A We praise you, God, for being so full of love for Your people. You are their heavenly Father. You care for all of their needs in the way that You know is best.



C God, You promise to take care of those who put their trust in Jesus, but many times we doubt Your promises. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!



T Thank You, God, for loving the world so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for being so faithful and good to those who trust in You. Thank You for taking care of all their needs in the way You know is best for them. What a wonderful thing it is to get to be Your adopted child!



S God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our hearts with love for You. Take care of us and help us to trust in You. Be our heavenly Father. Make us Your adopted children.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

