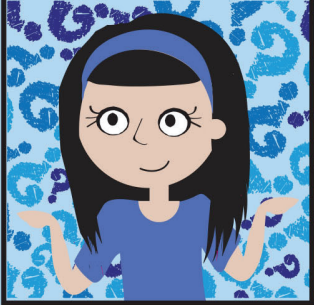
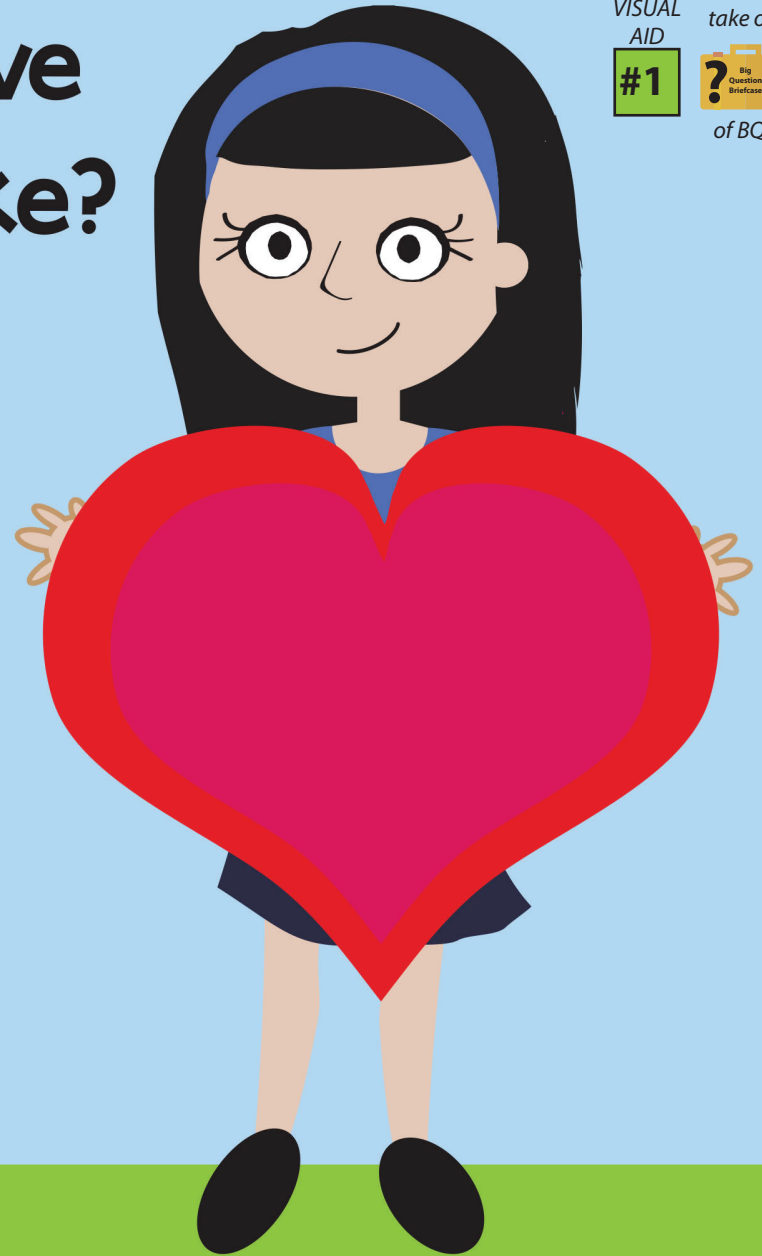


BIG QUESTION 8



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:"

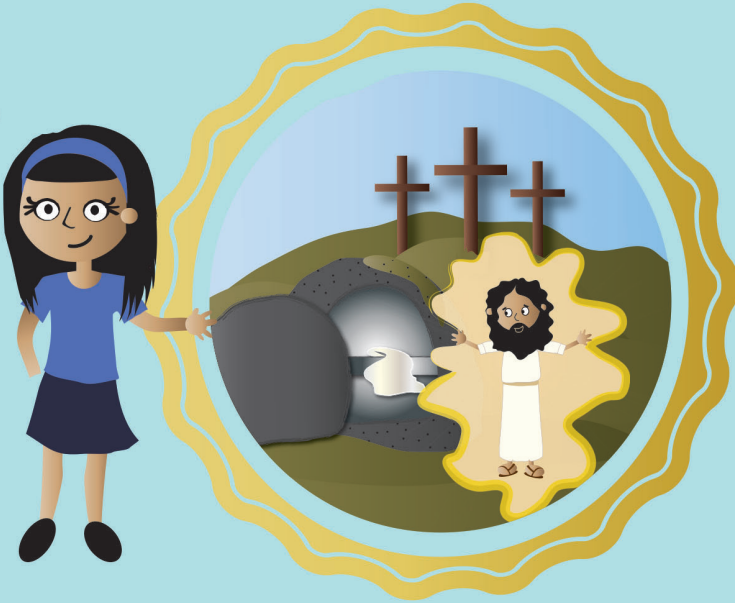
Big Q & A 8 Song

*DDD ESV 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.

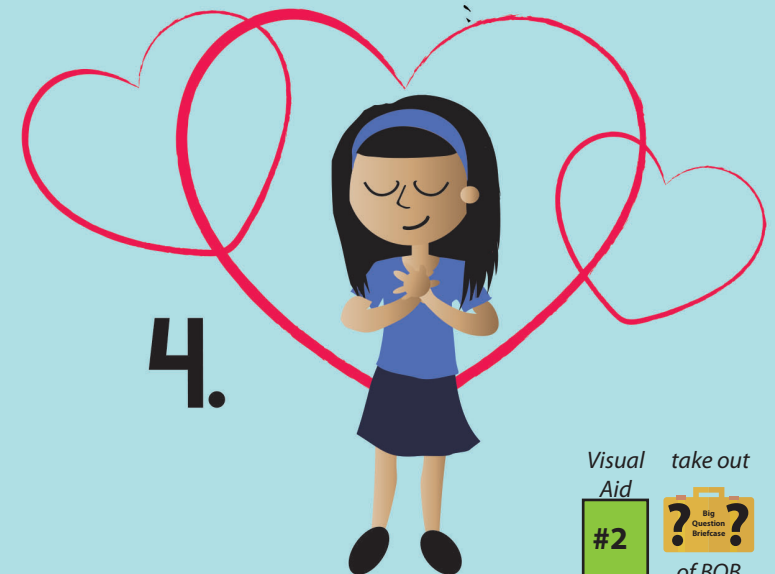


2.



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 two truths about God's love for His people. They are: "God Gave His Son, Jesus, to Save Them" and, "God Always Takes Care of 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 3?

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Uses Their ???? for Good!



HINT: What is the opposite of "happiness?" It starts with an "S" and it rhymes with "gladnesses."

God Uses Their **SADNESSES** for Good!

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 Uses Their ???? for Good!**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the opposite of “happiness?” It starts with an “S” and rhymes with “gladnesses.”

Can you guess? It’s “sadnesses.”

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 Uses Their Sadnesses for Good!**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

Everyone has troubles. We all have times when we are sad or scared. Sometimes people are mean to us. Sometimes bad things happen to us or to the people we love.

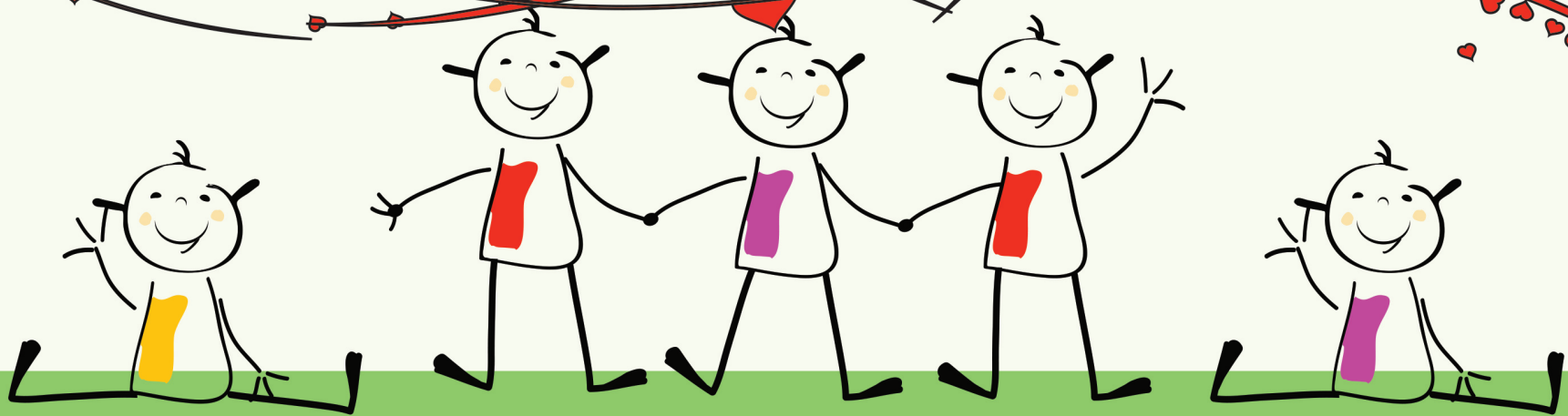
When bad things happen to God’s people, they keep on trusting in Him. They know God loves them and that He is in control. They know that He promises to use every trouble they have for their good and to show how good and powerful He is. And, while sometimes it may be hard to see what good God could possibly bring through their troubles, God’s people know that one day they will understand His good plans. And on that day, they will have nothing but praise for God, when they see how He truly did work all things for good in their lives.

And that’s why God’s people can praise and thank God now for those good things, even before they know what they are, and even while they are still in the middle of their sadnesses. God is that good! They can trust Him that much, even with what they don’t yet understand.

We can become God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Visual Aid #4
Place verse in DDD Bible®
take out of BQB

LOVE the LORD



“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28, ESV

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:

Romans 8:28 tells us:

Romans 8:28, ESV

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Learn a Little: For those who love God, all things work together for good."

What does that mean?

These verses remind us that God's people are those who love Him. In His great love, He has called them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. This is what it means to be justified.

But being justified is just the beginning of God's good plans for His people. He also planned for all things in their lives—both enjoyable things and hard things— to be for the good purpose of making them more like Jesus. Yes, God planned to use all of these things to prepare His people for life with Him in heaven. What will life in heaven be like for them? There, they will be glorified! They will be freed from sin forever! God will make them a pure reflection of His glory. This is God's wonderful plan for making everything in His people's lives for their good and His glory. We can become God's people by turning away from our sins and trusting 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!"

And We Know:

Romans 9:28-29, ESV

DDD ESV Songs 8, track 27

And we know that for those who love God
All things work together for good,
And we know that for those who love God
All things work together for good,
For those who are called, according to his purpose,
For those who are called, according to his purpose,

Refrain:

All things work together for good,
All things work together for good,
All things, all things, all things, Work together for good.

For those he foreknew, he also predestined,
For those he foreknew, he also predestined,
To be conformed to the image of his Son,
That he might be the firstborn among many.
To be conformed to the image of his Son,
That he might be the firstborn among many. *Refrain*
Romans Eight, twenty-eight and nine.

"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 Sad Thing that Did Good" John 8-10



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was the sad thing the parents found out about their baby?
2. What good did Jesus use this sad thing to do?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 8:28, ESV

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."

1. What did many people say about the baby's blind eyes?
2. What good purpose did God have for the baby's blind eyes?

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



1. This story takes place in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a beautiful city with thousands of people living in it. It had big, tall, stone walls all around it, and big, wide gates where important men would talk about important things.



2. Jerusalem had lots of houses, big and small, along its twisty-turny, narrow, cobblestone streets. It had fountains of sparkling water to drink from and pools of water to wash in. It had a big marketplace where farmers would sell their delicious fruits and vegetables, and where shepherds would sell their baa-ing sheep and maa-ing goats. Bakers would sell their warm, tasty bread there; and merchants, their fine-feeling fabrics and glittering necklaces from other parts of the world.



3. But Jerusalem was most famous for its big, beautiful building made of glittering, white stones. It was the LORD's special worship place. Do you know what this building was called? It was called the Temple. People would come from far and wide to worship the LORD at the Temple with their prayers, and songs, and worship gifts. They would gather in the courts around the Temple and listen to teachers tell them about the LORD and His good laws.



4. Not too far from the Temple lived a man and his wife. How happy this man and his wife were! They were so happy because the wife had just had a baby. It was a baby boy. Oh, what good news this was! “Yay! Yay!” the man and his wife thought. “We have a boy! We will love him and care for him. What a joy that will be! He will be a great help to our family, too. He will grow up strong and will help us make money to take care of our family, as sons always do.” What a lot this man and his wife had to celebrate!



5. But soon the man and his wife weren't happy anymore. They were sad! There was something wrong with their baby boy's eyes. He couldn't see. Perhaps his eyes would get better, they must have hoped. But soon it was clear: their little boy's eyes would NOT get better. He would always be blind.



6. How sad this man and woman were for their little boy! He would never see their faces. He would never see Jerusalem's big, tall walls or gates. He would never see its houses along the narrow, cobblestone streets. He would never see its fountains or pools of sparkling water. He would never see its markets filled with good food and supplies. He would never see the beautiful Temple where people came to worship the LORD.



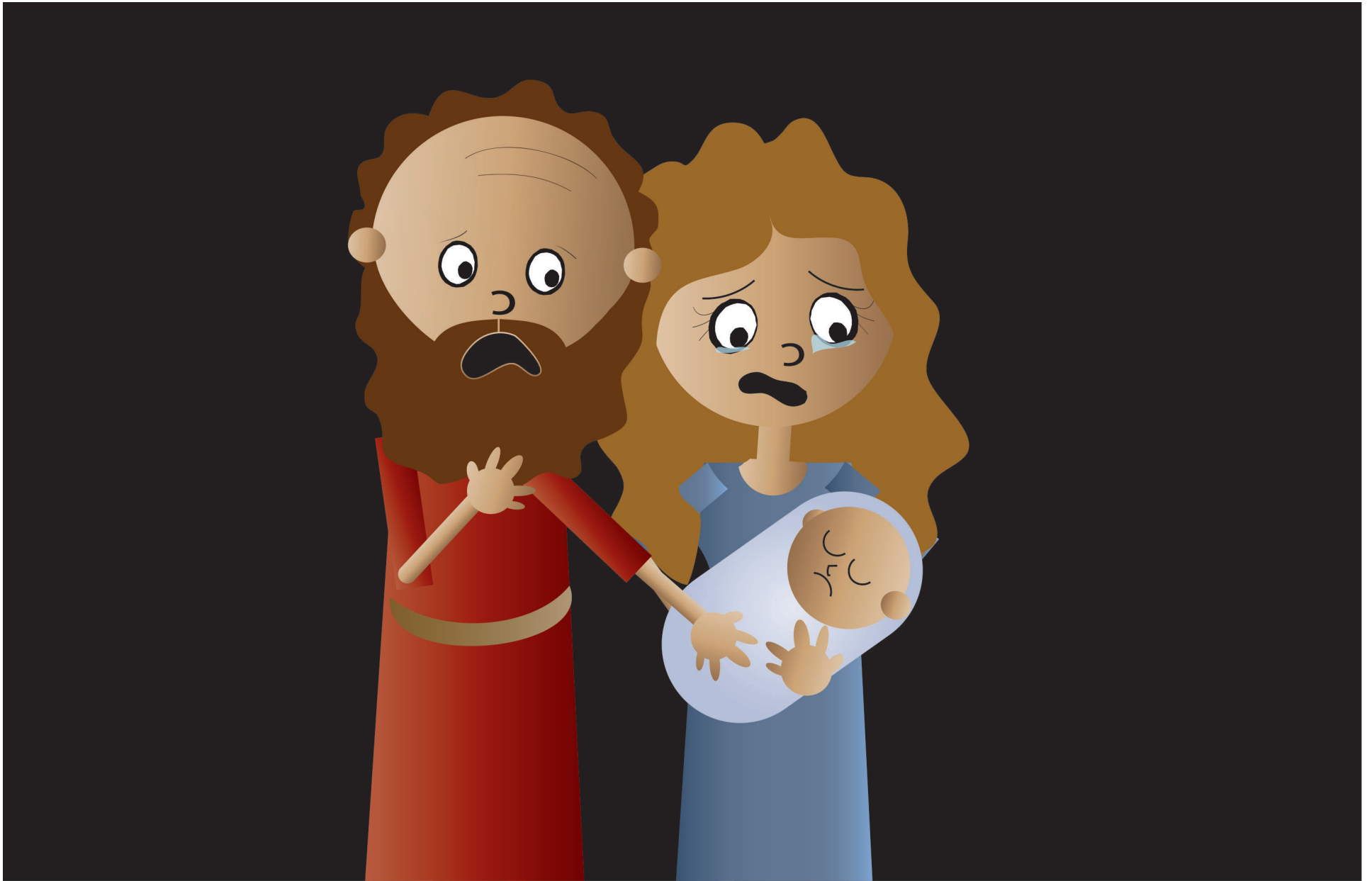
7. And to make things worse, this little boy would never be able to help his father make money to take care of the family. All he would ever be able to do is to ask people for money. Yes, this boy's blindness was very sad, indeed!



8. But there was something else that made the man and his wife sad. It was what other people said about their family. Some people saw the little, blind baby, and kindly said, "It is sad, sad, sad, that this little baby can't see. How hard that must be for him and his mother and father!" And, of course, the man and his wife had to agree. This blindness was sad, sad, sad! What good could come out of this blindness? It brought sadness! Only sadness!



9. But much worse was what the important men who taught about God and His laws were saying: "It isn't sad, sad, sad that this little baby can't see. No! It's bad, bad, bad," they exclaimed. "This baby -- or his mother or father-- must have done something terribly bad. God is punishing them and that's why this baby was born blind," they said. Was this true? What terrible thing had they done? Oh, how hard it was for the man and his wife to hear people say this! Oh, what badness came from this blindness! It brought sadness! Only sadness!



10. So, I guess you can see why the man and his wife, who had been so very happy, weren't very happy at all anymore. Their hearts were full of sadness for their son and about all the terrible, wrong things the teachers were saying about their family.



II. Year after year went by. The little boy grew up and up until at last he was a full-grown man. He still was blind, but over the years, he had learned his way around Jerusalem. He knew the feel of Jerusalem's big, tall walls and its huge gates. He knew the feel of the cobblestones under his feet, the touch of the stone sides of the houses on his hands, and the fresh coolness of the shade in the narrow streets.



12. He could splash the water on his face and sip it in his cup. He could taste the delicious fruit and hear the animals “baa-ing.” He could smell the freshly baked bread and feel the silky fabric of the merchants.



13. As he sat beside the road to the big, beautiful Temple, he could feel the swish of people's clothes and the slap of their sandals as they went by. He heard the clink of the coins they tossed in his begging cup, on their way to worship the LORD. But sometimes, he heard people say those terrible, wrong words again: "There's that man who has been blind from birth. What terribly bad things his family must have done for God to punish him like this!" they would exclaim. This blindness was so sad! What good could come out of it? It seemed to bring only sadness.



14. But then, on one Sabbath day, everything changed. The people who said those things were **WRONG!** That baby wasn't born blind because he or his parents had done something terribly bad. No! God had always had a beautiful, big plan to use their sadness for good --great good! And this was to be the day that God's good plan would be made known to the blind man, his parents, and oh, so many other people in Jerusalem. And, God would use Jesus to do this!



15. Jesus and his close friends, the disciples, had come to Jerusalem. They went to the Temple where Jesus began to teach about God. Crowds of people gathered, eager to hear everything He had to say. Even the other teachers who taught at the Temple stopped talking and went to listen to Jesus, too. "I am God's Son," Jesus told them all. "Whoever believes and obeys Me will get to live forever with God," Jesus proclaimed.



16. The other teachers were furious! “We don’t believe you! You aren’t really God’s Son,” they said to Jesus. “You are lying. You deserve to die for saying you are God’s Son!” and they picked up stones to throw at Jesus. They were going to kill Jesus!

Jesus and His friends ran and hid. Would the teachers find Jesus and kill Him with their stones?



17. No, they would not. God protected Jesus. When all was safe, Jesus and His friends came out of hiding. They left the Temple grounds and whom did they see? It was the man born blind.

No sooner had Jesus' friends seen the blind man, then that terrible question came out of their mouths: "Jesus, did this man or his parents do the terribly bad thing that made his eyes blind?"



18. "You have it all wrong!" Jesus told them. "This man isn't blind because someone did something terribly bad. It was God's plan to use his poor man's sadness for good --great good. I'm going to heal his eyes by God's power. God will use this to help many believe that I really am God's Son," Jesus said. Then, Jesus went to the blind man and knelt down next to him. He spit on the ground and mixed the spit with the dirt, making it into mud. Jesus smeared mud on the man's eyes, and told him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam."



19. Why did Jesus do this? Was He making fun of this poor man? Did He want to make his sad life, even sadder? The man would soon find out, and so will we!

Down the narrow, cobblestone streets, the blind man made his way to the Pool of Siloam. Even though he could not see, he knew how to get there. He had felt his way there many times before.



20. At the pool, the blind man dipped his hands into the cool water. He brought them up to his face and washed off the mud. He opened his eyes and what do you think happened? Yay! yay! yay! That man born blind could see for the first time in his whole life! Jesus had healed him!



21. The happy man hurried to share the news with his father and mother. What did he see as he went home? He **SAW** the pool of sparkling water! He **SAW** the big, tall walls and the huge gates. He **SAW** the narrow, cobblestone streets and all the houses. He **SAW** the market and the Temple. He **SAW** his very own, little house.



22. And then, he SAW his very own parents for the first time! "Jesus healed me! I can see!" the man exclaimed. Oh, how happy they all must have been! After all these years, their son could see. They spread the good news to all who would listen. And those who heard the news rushed to the house to see for themselves! Sure, enough, it was true! The man born blind could see! They were amazed at what Jesus had done. "No one has ever healed a man born with blind eyes before. Jesus must be whom He says He is," they exclaimed. What good Jesus had begun to do through this man's blind eyes! Jesus had used them to help these people believe in Him!



23. Before long, Jesus' enemies, the Pharisees, heard what Jesus had done for the blind man. He was taken to them to inspect his healing and make sense of it. These teachers couldn't doubt the amazing thing that Jesus had done, but still, they refused to believe in Jesus. "Jesus is a bad man! He is not God's Son," they said.



24. And what about the blind man who had been healed? What did he think? He fell down before Jesus and worshipped Him. "Lord, I believe," he exclaimed.

What a day for that blind man and his parents! Jesus had used this man's sadnesses for good --for great good, just as God had always planned. Jesus healed his blind eyes. And best of all, He gave that man-- and many others-- faith to trust in Him as God's Son, their Savior. Now that is good --great good!

"The Case of the Sad Thing that Did Good" John 8-10

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What was the sad thing the parents found out about their baby?
He was blind.

2. What good did Jesus use this sad thing to do?
Jesus used it to display God's great power and to help many people trust in Him as God's Son, the Savior, including the blind man, himself.

For You and Me:
Isn't it wonderful to know that God uses all of His people's sadnesses for good? God still uses His people's sadnesses for good, even today. And we can know that He will use all of our sadnesses for the good, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It is His promise to all who do.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 8:28, ESV

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."

1. What did many people say about the baby's blind eyes?
Many people thought God was punishing the baby or his parents for something bad they had done.

2. What good purpose did God have for the baby's blind eyes?
To show God's great power and to help many people trust in Jesus as God's Son, the Savior, including the blind man, himself.

For You and Me:
God always planned to use that baby's blindness for good. He wasn't punishing the baby or his parents! Isn't it wonderful to know that God uses all of His people's sadnesses for good! God still uses His people's sadnesses for good, even today. And we can know that He will use all of our sadnesses for the good, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It is His promise to all who do.

**What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Uses Their Sadnesses for Good!**

The Gospel



No one likes sadnesses, but we all have them. How wonderful is God's promise to use every single sadness of His people for their good and to show how great He is!

God's people's greatest sadness is that they (like all people) are sinners who have chosen to disobey God. But do you know that God has turned that greatest sadness into the greatest good? You see, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for their sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He had done it! They are forgiven. They have become His dearly-loved people! And they will get to praise God forever for how much He has loved them through Jesus.

We, too, can know God's forgiveness and become His people, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being so good and so powerful! You even use all of Your people's sadnesses for their good. You show how good and great You are!

C God, You promise to use all things for the good in the lives of Your people, but many times we don't trust that You will. We act like Your plans aren't good or that You aren't really in control. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!

T Thank You for Your amazing promises to work good even in all of our sadnesses, when we trust in You as our Savior. Thank You that You can work good things in even the biggest sadnesses and the scariest things that happen to us. Thank You for the good You will do that we do not yet see.

S God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and trust You. Do many good things even through our sadnesses-- good things that show others how good and great You are.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

