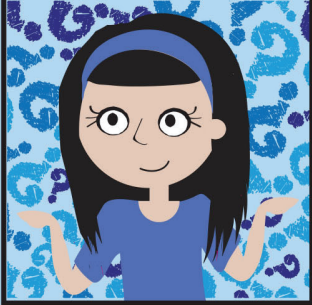
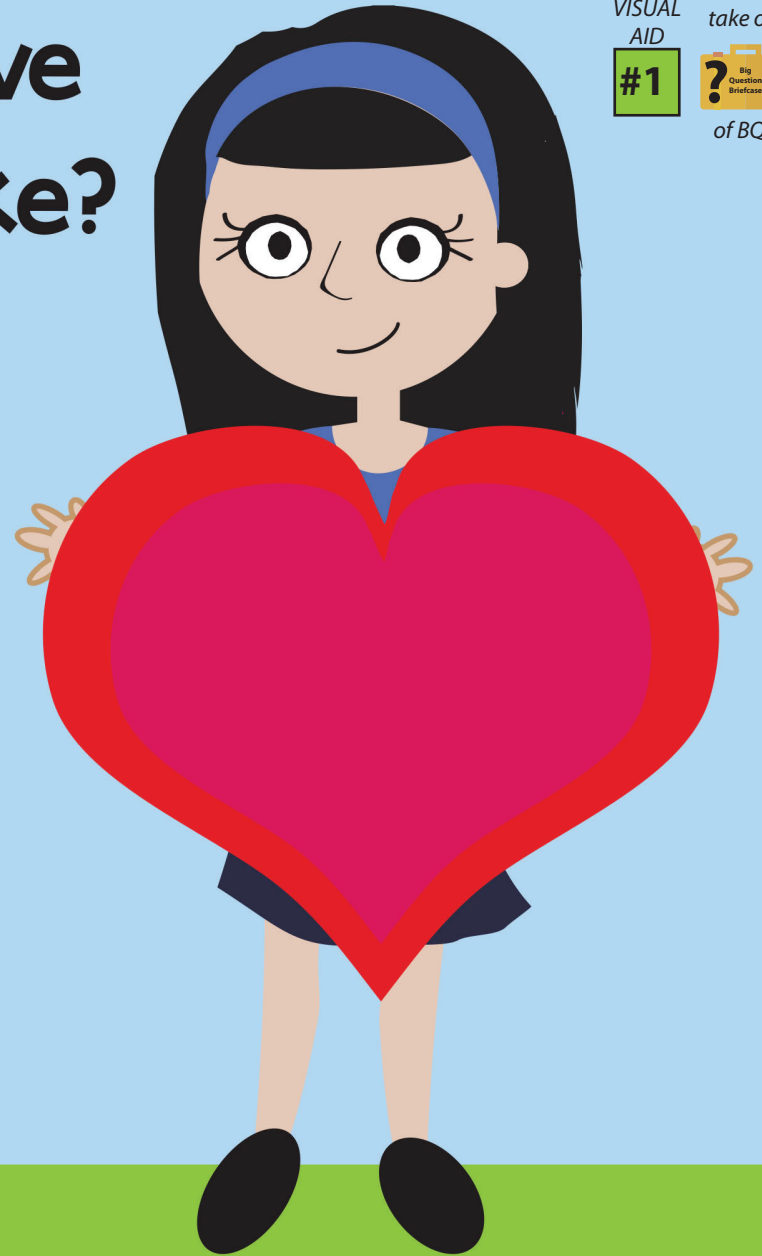


BIG QUESTION 8



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:"

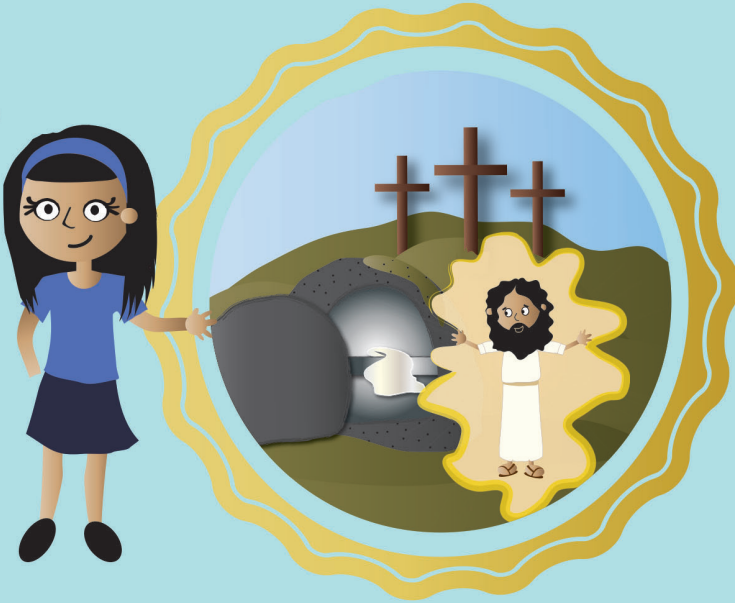
Big Q & A 8 Song

*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.

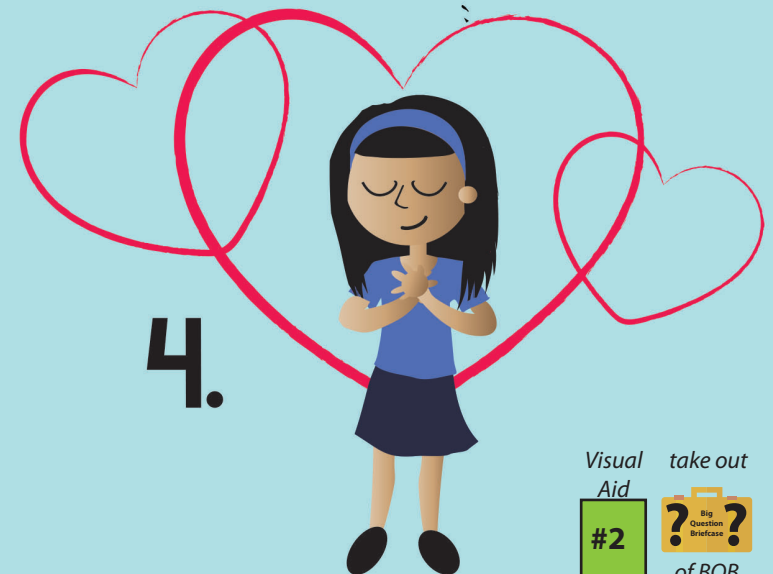


2.



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 three truths about God's love for His people. They are: "God Gave His Son, Jesus, to Save Them", "God Always Takes Care of Them"; and, "God Uses Their Sadnesses for Good." (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 4?

What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Will Never ????
Loving His People!

Visual Aid #3
take out
Big Question Briefcase
of BQB



HINT: What is the opposite of "Go"?
It starts with the letter "S" and
it rhymes with "hop."

God Will Never **STOP** Loving His People!

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 Will Never ???? Loving His People!**

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

Can you guess? It’s “stop.”

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 Will Never STOP Loving His People!**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

Our love for others changes. Sometimes we love others a lot. Sometimes we don’t love them very much.

But God’s love for His people is not like that. God’s love for His people never changes. God loved His people before they loved Him or even knew Him. He paid for their sins through Jesus’ perfect life, when He suffered and died on the cross. He adopts them as His people, when they turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Nothing will ever stop God from loving His people! They are bound in love to Him through Jesus, and that is a love that will never, ever end! We can become God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

THE LORD

Visual Aid

#4

Place verse in



take out



“I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.” Hosea 2:19, ESV

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

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

Hosea 2:19 tells us:

Hosea 2:19, ESV

"I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy."

Learn a Little: "I will betroth you to me forever... in steadfast love."

What does that mean?

To be betrothed to someone is to make a special promise to love them always. Men and women in Bible times used to make special betrothal promises to each other before they got married.

In the Bible, God tells us that He betroths Himself to His people. That means He promises to always love them. He will always be faithful to them. He will always love and care for them. He will always be righteous and just in how He treats them--that means He will always love His people by doing the right thing. He will never do anything evil or treat them badly. He will always show them mercy and treat them with tenderness and kindness.

The Bible also tells us that at the end of time, all of God's people will live with God forever. Jesus will be like the bridegroom who greets his bride on his wedding day with great joy and begins his life with the one he loves. There will never be anything better than this life with God!

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!"

I Will Betroth You to Me:

Hosea 2:19, ESV

DDD ESV Songs 8, track 29

I will betroth you to me forever,
I will betroth you to me forever,
In righteousness and justice,
In steadfast love and mercy.
I will betroth you to me forever,
I will betroth you to me forever,
Hosea Two, nineteen.

"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 One Who Would Not Stop" 1 & 2 Samuel, Psalms 16, 23



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the One who would not stop loving David?
2. Why was it surprising that He would not stop loving him?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Hosea 2:19, ESV

"I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy."

1. Who did the LORD love with this kind of unstoppable love in our story?
2. How did the LORD show His love and compassion to this person?

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



1. Our story today is about one of the most famous people in the whole Bible. Let me tell you some of the good things he is famous for. Maybe you can guess his name.



2. When this man was just a boy, he took care of his father's sheep. He made up many beautiful songs about God. He sang them and played them on his harp as he watched the sheep. This boy was a very good and very brave shepherd. He fought off lions and bears with his sling, and sometimes, even with his bare hands!



3. A few years later, this young man faced a giant soldier named Goliath. Goliath was threatening the armies of Israel and shouting out terrible things about the LORD. All the soldiers of Israel were too scared to fight Goliath, but not this young man. With his sling and one, smooth stone, the LORD helped him fight Goliath and win! King Saul saw how brave he was and made him one of his most important soldiers.



4. This young man grew up to be a great king, himself. He took good care of the people of Israel for many years. He captured the beautiful city of Jerusalem and built a fine palace there. How God blessed the people of Israel through this man!

“praise God! He is so good and great!”



5. But even though life was so good, this man never forgot the LORD. He kept writing songs to the LORD. He sang them and he shared them with other people to sing, too. Sometimes thousands of people would sing his songs as they gathered together to worship the LORD. Many of his songs are written down in the Bible, God's Word, and we still enjoy reading them and singing them today. (They are called the Psalms.)



6. Can you guess the name of this very famous Bible man? I bet you can! His name was David! And yes, he was a man who did many good things, even great things.



7. But did you know that David was also a man who suffered some very sad things, too? David had many enemies who tried to kill him, including King Saul, the very king David had once served so faithfully. Saul was jealous of David and wanted him dead. He and his soldiers chased David for years, trying to kill him, even though David never did anything wrong to him.



8. And, don't think David never did anything bad, because he did. He was a sinner just like the rest of us. When David became king, he saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba and he took her to be his. But Bathsheba was already the wife of Uriah, one of David's bravest, most faithful soldiers. David made a tricky plan to get rid of Uriah, so he could hide what he had done. David had Uriah killed in a fierce battle, so it would look like it was an accident. Then, David took Bathsheba to be his own wife. What terribly bad things David did!



9. One of David's greatest sadnesses came from his son, Absalom. Absalom turned against David. He made a tricky plan to get rid of David, so he could be king in David's place. Absalom turned many of the people against David, too. David had to run away from his palace in Jerusalem and hide. Many people wept as David left Jerusalem, but others, like Shimei called David bad names and even threw rocks at him.



10. David and his friends camped out in the dry, lonely wilderness, so Absalom's men wouldn't find him. David did go back to be king in Jerusalem again, but only after Absalom had been killed. How sad David was! How David loved Absalom and missed him, even though he had treated David so terribly! So, yes, David WAS a man who did many good, even great things. But David was also a man who did some very bad things, and suffered some very sad things.

WHO

HOW

WHY



II. But there is something else you need to know about David. Something that was more important than all these other things. It was the **WHY** behind all those great, good things that David did. And, it was **HOW** David made it through all those bad and sad things. The **WHY** and **HOW** behind them all was Someone who loved David. **WHO** do you think it was?

THE LORD



12. It was the LORD! The LORD loved David so much!



13. It was God's great love for David that gave David the courage to fight off lions and bears. It was God's great love for David that gave him thea courage to face the fierce giant, Goliath. And, it was God's great love that helped David to care for the people of Israel as their king. No wonder David wanted to sing all those beautiful songs to the LORD! Yes, the LORD's great love for David was behind all the great and good things that David did.



14. But, what happened to God's great love for David when David did those bad things and went through all those sad things? Did it go away? No, it did not. God's love for David never stopped. He kept on loving David and kept on helping him, even then.

In His great love for David, the LORD sent the prophet Nathan to help David see his sins, turn away from them, and ask for forgiveness. Do you think the LORD forgave David? Yes, He did!

THE LORD



15. It was God's great love that comforted David when King Saul tried to kill him. God provided David with everything he needed, all those years when he had to hide from Saul and his soldiers. And, it was God's love for David that later protected him from Absalom and the others who wanted to kill him.



16. Yes, God's love for David was **WHY** David did **ALL** the great, good things he did. And, it was **HOW** David made it through **ALL** the bad and sad things.

But God's great love for David did something else, too. God's love filled David's heart with great love for... Can you guess who? For God! No wonder David sang so many songs to the **LORD!**



17. When LORD protected David from Saul and his soldiers, David sang: "I love you, O LORD. You are my strength. You will deliver me and save me from my enemies. I praise Your name!" (from Psalm 18:1-3) And, when the LORD used Nathan to show David his sin, David sang: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, take away my sins... Deliver me, my God, my Savior, and I will sing aloud of your perfect goodness. I will praise you!" (from Psalm 51:1-2,14)



18. And even when Absalom tried to kill him, David sang to God, out in the wilderness: "O LORD, how many are my enemies! Many are saying You will not save me. But you, O LORD, are a shield about me. You hear my prayers and You will take care of me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around me. You will rescue me from my enemies. You will save me!" (from Psalm 3)

“praise God! He is so good and great!”



THE
LORD



19. Yes, the LORD filled David's heart with songs of love for Him. So, every day of David's life --in the great and good times, and even the bad and sad times-- David praised the LORD for His great love for him. It was a love that never stopped.

And, David looked forward to the day when God's greatest promise to him and all of God's people will come true. David sang about it, too. Do you know what that greatest promise is?



20. God's greatest promise is to bring His people home to live with Him forever. Then, at last, they will enjoy God's love for them in the closest, most wonderful ways. That's why David sang: "Surely the LORD will show me goodness and mercy all the days of my life, and I will go to live with Him forever." (from Psalm 23:6)



21. For David knew the same thing that we are learning today: God's love for His people is more than they could ever deserve. It goes on and on. God will never stop loving His people. This was the most wonderful thing that David could think of. And, it's what he, along with all of God's people who have already died, is enjoying right now, and will keep on enjoying forever.

We can enjoy God's amazing, unending love, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. Ask Him to help you!

"The Case of the One Who Would Not Stop" 1 & 2 Samuel, Psalms 16, 23

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the One who would not stop loving David?
The LORD.
2. Why was it surprising that He would not stop loving him?
Because David did some very bad things that broke God's law.

For You and Me:

Like David, we, too, are sinners. We do not deserve God's love. We deserve His punishment. How sad! But the great news is that God offers to forgive our sins and make us His people, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Like David, we can know God and His great love forever!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Hosea 2:19, ESV

"I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy."

1. Who did the LORD love with this kind of unstoppable love in our story?
David.
2. How did the LORD show His love and compassion to this person?
He helped David do the good things that David did. He helped David see that he was a sinner and turn away from his sins when he did bad things. He took care of David through all the sad times, too. He never stopped loving David throughout his whole life.

For You and Me

David knew the LORD's unstoppable love and so can we! How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's dearly-loved people forever!

**What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Will Never Stop Loving His People!**

The Gospel



Why does God never stop loving His people, even though they are all sinners who have rebelled against Him? It is because of Jesus!

God sent His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life that we should have lived, but never do. On the cross, Jesus gave His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people, so they could be forgiven and could know God as their Heavenly Father. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for them. And that's why God's love for His people will go on forever. Jesus paid it all!

We can become God's people, forever loved by Him, too! How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A We praise you, God, for being so full of love for Your people. You love them with a love that will never end.

C God, You offer us a love that will never end, but many times, we choose to not love You. We choose to live life our own way, even if it means breaking Your good laws. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You that all who put their trust in You can rest in Your love forever.

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 to know Your love. Make us Your people who enjoy Your love forever.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

