

BIG QUESTION 13



Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?



ANSWER:

It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

VISUAL
AID

#1

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 13:

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
and the Answer is:
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Meaning:

Everyone enjoys good times and goes through bad times in their lives. Sometimes, people choose to turn away from God as they enjoy the good times or go through bad times. They love the good things too much or get mad at God for the bad things that happen.

But that's not what happens with God's people. They have put their trust in Jesus. They want to love God most of all, even more than the good times they enjoy. They trust God and His good plans--even as they go through bad or sad times.

What makes the difference? It's God and His sustaining grace! That is, God's gifts of strength to help God's people keep on believing in Him and living for Him. God will always give His people what they need! He wants them to depend on Him, and He loves for them to ask for His help. God will never fail them. He will help you like this, too, if you turn away from your sins and put your trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to do this!

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 13 Song

*HSK NIV Songs 13, track 12
(adapted version of "On Top of Old Smokey")*

Why do God's people,
Keep believing in God?
And why do God's people,
Keep living for Him?
Because God sustains them,
Yes, God alone,
That's why God's people,
Keep believing in God.

**“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous fall.” Psalm 55:22**



Unit 13 Bible Verse

"Who would like to get our Bible verse out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the "Bible" with the Bible Verse in it and hand it to you. Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" (held in place by velcro) and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

Psalm 55:22

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."

Meaning:

Sometimes we have to go through very scary things. Sometimes we have to go through very sad things. But, never do we have to go through them alone, if we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to always help the righteous--all who have had their sins forgiven through Jesus. They tell Him their troubles and He is with them, helping them through them. He promises to always sustain them--always give them everything they need to keep on believing in Him and living in Him. We, too, can be His people when we put our trust in Jesus. He will always care for us, too! How wonderful!

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

Cast Your Burden on the LORD:

Psalm 55:22

HSK NIV Songs 13, track 14

Cast your cares on the LORD
And He will sustain you,
He will never let the righteous fall,
Cast your cares on the LORD
And He will sustain you,
He will never, never, never
Let the righteous fall.
Psalm Fifty-five, twenty-two.

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's read Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

"The Case of the Big Trouble" Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who asked God to help the believers in Thessalonica?
2. How did God answer his prayers?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 55:22, NIV

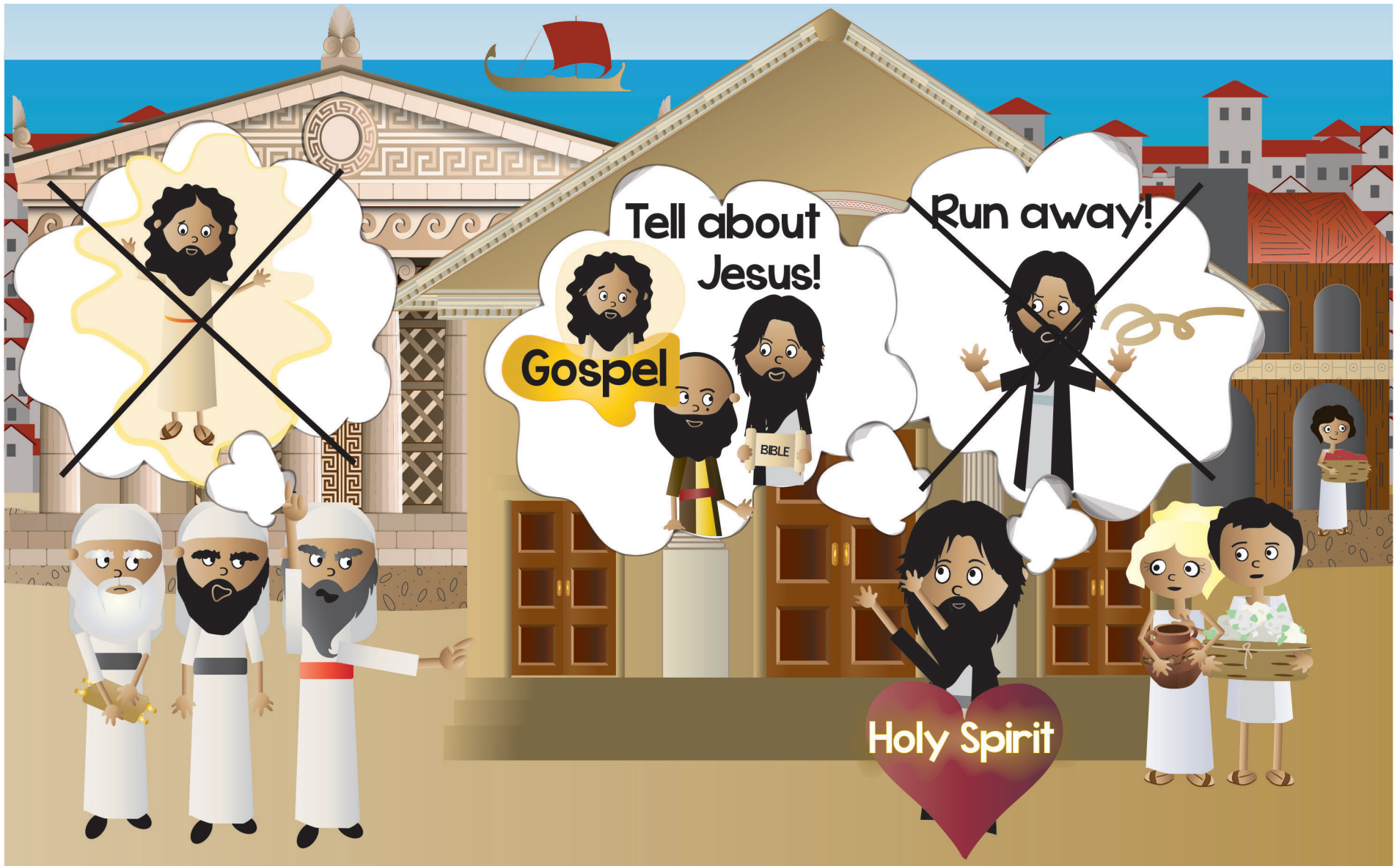
"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you."

1. Who cast their cares on the LORD?
2. How did the LORD sustain them through their troubles?

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



I. There was big trouble in Thessalonica for followers of Jesus. The trouble began when Paul went to the worship house and shared the good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many as Paul spoke. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. How happy were these new believers! How they loved the good news of Jesus!



2. But others at the worship house were very angry. "Be quiet, Paul!" they said. "The Bible doesn't say those things about Jesus. You're wrong! Stop talking about Him or you're going to be in big trouble!" they warned. Paul could have stopped talking or even run away, but with God's help, Paul did not! God's Holy Spirit gave him courage to keep on telling others about Jesus.



3. No, Paul didn't stop, but neither did his enemies. They decided to make big, **BIG TROUBLE** for Paul in Thessalonica. They went to the marketplace and found some bad men. "We'll pay you lots of money, if you will tell lies about Paul," they offered. "Stir up trouble in Thessalonica for him. Get lots of people angry. Get them to shout, 'Get rid of Paul! He says we should disobey the king!'"



4. The bad men agreed. They liked money a lot! All around Thessalonica, they began to tell lies about Paul. Many people believed what the bad men said. Soon, the whole city was angry at Paul. "Find Paul and get rid of him!" the crowd shouted. "He says we should disobey the king." Oh, what big trouble those enemies had stirred up for Paul in Thessalonica!



5. The angry crowd went looking for Paul. "Maybe he's at Jason's house," they thought. Jason was one of the new believers, and a friend of Paul's. "Bang, bang, bang," the crowd beat on Jason's door. "Give us Paul! He's bad. He needs to be punished," they demanded. But neither Paul nor his friends, Timothy and Silas, were there. They were hiding safely at another house.



6. The crowd was still angry. They couldn't have Paul, so they took Jason and some of the other believers instead. They dragged them before the city leaders and tried to get them in trouble. The city leaders made Jason and the others pay a lot of money. What big trouble there was for Paul and the new believers in Thessalonica that day!



7. After the angry crowds left, the believers found Paul and his friends. "Leave Thessalonica! There's nothing but trouble here for you," they warned. "Go to other cities and tell more people about Jesus," they urged them. "We will stay here and keep on sharing the good news of Jesus. God will help us." Paul, Silas, and Timothy agreed. Later that night, they said goodbye and went on their way.



8. Maybe Paul and his friends had left the troubles in Thessalonica behind, but Paul kept thinking about the new believers who lived there. Were they still believing in Jesus and living for Him? Paul had to find out! "Would you go back to Thessalonica and check up on Jason and the others?" Paul asked Timothy. "I need to know how they are doing!" Paul exclaimed.



9. Timothy went back to Thessalonica, and what did he find? Enemies were still causing trouble for the believers, but God was helping them, by His Holy Spirit and His Word. He was making them brave. He was sustaining their faith. What good news Timothy had to take back to Paul! Even in troubled Thessalonica, God was helping His people to keep on believing in Him and living for Him.

"The Case of the Big Trouble" Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who asked God to help the believers in Thessalonica?
Paul.

2. How did God answer his prayers?
God helped the believers keep on believing in Him and living for Him, even though they had enemies who gave them such terrible trouble.

For You and Me:
Whatever troubles we face, we know that God can help us to keep on believing in Him and living for Him, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 55:22, NIV

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you."

Casting your cares on the LORD means asking Him to take care of you and help you to keep on living for Him, even when it is very hard.

1. Who cast their cares on the LORD?

Paul and the new believers in Thessalonica.

2. How did the LORD sustain them through their troubles?

The LORD helped them to keep on believing in Him and to keep on living for Him through all their troubles.

For You and Me:

God's people know they never have to go through their troubles on their own. God is always there to help them. It's His promise.

We can become God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, this promise from God will be a promise He makes to us, too. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Our Bible Truth is:

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?

It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

The Gospel



Why would Paul go through so much trouble to tell the people of Thessalonica the good news of Jesus? Because this was the only way for them to be saved from their sins and become God's people.

Here's the good news Paul told them: All of us were created to love God and others, but none of us do. We all have sinful hearts and choose to live our own way, instead of God's good way. And for this, we deserve God's punishment.

Yet God is so merciful that He chose to send His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life and offered it up on the cross, as the full payment for the sins of God's people. Jesus died and was buried, but on the third day, He rose up from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. This proved it!

We can become God's people if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We will get to know God in our hearts now. And one day, we will get to live with God in heaven forever. That will be best of all!



A Prayer

A We praise you, God. You for being the One who sustains Your people through every day of their lives, and all the way home to live with You forever.

C God, You promise to sustain all who trust in You, but too many times we complain and whine when we have to go through something hard. We don't trust You to take care of us. Please forgive us!

T Thank You for promising to always take care of Your people. Thank You that they never have to worry. You love them so much.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us become Your people. Give us everything we need to live for You and to love You and others, every day of our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

