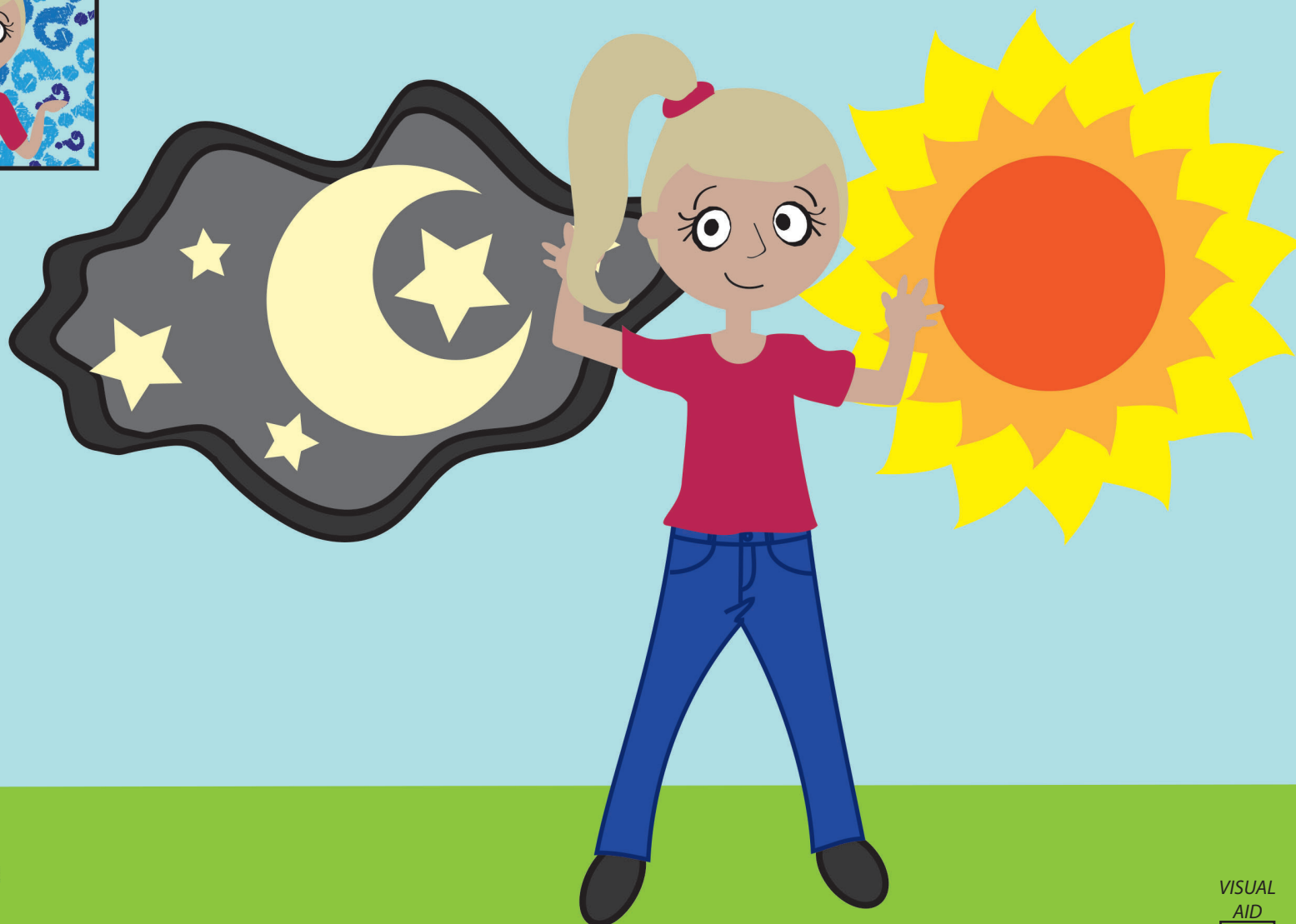


BIG QUESTION 14



How does God want us to pray?



ANSWER:

Every night and day... all the time!

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
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 14:

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
and the Answer is:
Every Night and Day!

Meaning:

Prayer is talking and listening to God. It's how God's people enjoy more of the special closeness they have with Him. It is a little bit like the forever happiness they will have with God when they live with Him in heaven.

God's people pray to God every night and day...and many times in between. There is so much to talk to Him about and God always wants to listen!

God's people tell God how wonderful He is. They say sorry for how they have disobeyed Him. They thank Him for all He's done for them and others. They ask Him to do great things. God's people want to stay close to God because He is the most wonderful person anyone can ever know. How happy they are that He is always there to listen and to help them! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 14 Song

*HSK NIV Songs 14, track 12
(adapted version of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")*

How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!



“Always pray...



AND DO NOT GIVE UP!”

Luke 18:1

Unit 14 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:

Luke 18:1

"...always pray and do not give up." Luke 18:1

Meaning:

God delights to hear our prayers! He loves to answer the prayers of His people-- those who turn to Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior! They can go to God with all their needs and requests. Sometimes they have to wait for God to answer their prayers, but God tells them to never give up and keep asking. He promises to answer them with what is best for them, at the time it's best for them. Ask God to help you become one of His people, too!

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

Always, Always Pray: Luke 18:1

HSK NIV Songs 14, track 14

Always, always pray and do not give up,
Always, always pray and do not give up,
Always, always pray,
Always, always pray,
Always, always pray and do not give up.

"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 Man with the Big Teeth" Daniel 6



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who had big teeth and who was the man who was with them?
2. Who did the man ask for help and did He help him?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Luke 18:1, NIV

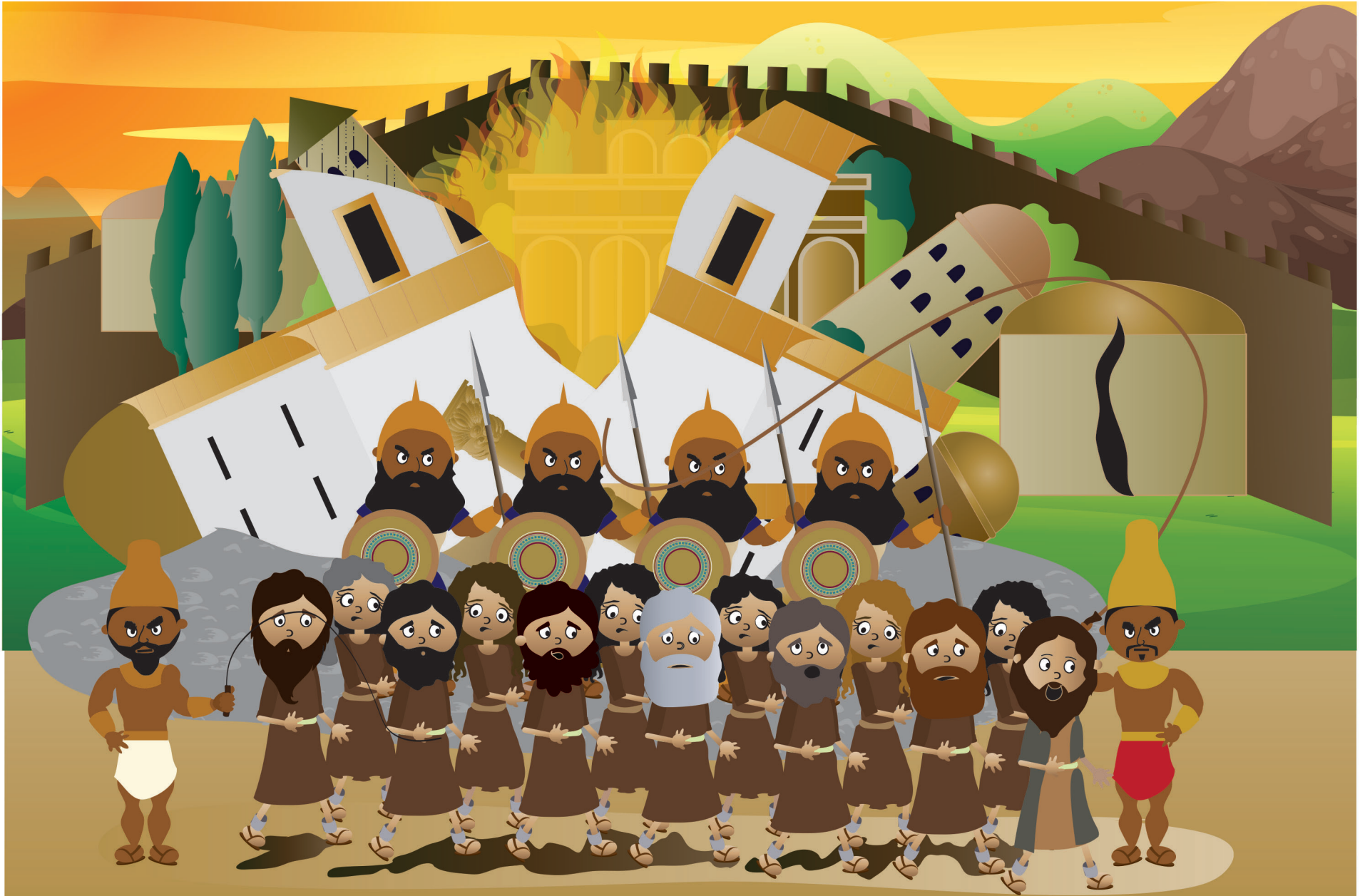
"Always pray and do not give up."

1. Who ordered people to give up praying to the LORD?
2. Who kept on praying? How did the LORD answer his prayers?

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



I. Daniel loved the LORD. He loved to live for Him and talk to Him. Daniel would go to the Temple in Jerusalem and pray to the LORD. Daniel prayed things like this: "Oh, LORD, You are the one, true God, I praise You! You are so good to Your people! Thank You! Help me to love You and live for You this day!" Yes, Daniel loved the LORD. He prayed to Him every night and day.



2. But one day, enemies came and broke down Jerusalem and its beautiful Temple. They made Daniel and many other people go with them back to their country-- a land called Babylon. They made Daniel and the others work hard for them as their slaves. It was so sad!



3. Now, the people in Babylon didn't worship the LORD. They worshipped other gods. Why, some even worshipped the king! What would Daniel do? Would he stop worshipping the LORD, too? No, he would not! Daniel would work hard for the king, but he would keep on loving the LORD. He would live for the LORD, and he would pray to Him, every night and day, even in Babylon.



4. Daniel was chosen to be one of the king's special helpers. Soon, the king called Daniel his BEST worker. The king's other helpers became jealous. They wanted to get rid of Daniel. "Let's get Daniel in trouble for praying to his God," they planned. They tricked the king into making a bad, new rule. Everyone was to worship the king as God, or else be thrown to hungry lions to be eaten up!



5. The king's helpers watched and waited. What Daniel would do? Daniel knew the king was just a man. He couldn't worship the king! So, Daniel went to his window to pray to the LORD. He would keep on loving the LORD, and living for Him. Daniel would keep on praying to the LORD, every night and day. The bad rule and the hungry lions wouldn't stop Daniel from worshipping the LORD.



6. The bad helpers' plan had worked. They went to Daniel's room and snatched him away. "Now we will be rid of Daniel!" they exclaimed. They threw Daniel into a big, dark pit, full of snarling lions with hungry, grumbly tummies. "Roar! Roar! Grumble! Grumble! We need something good to eat!" the lions thought. "Let's gobble up this man! Yum, yum, yummy in our tummies!"



7. What would happen to Daniel? Would those lions eat him up? It seemed like they would. But, Daniel did what he always did. He went on loving the LORD and living for Him. So right there, in the middle of those snarly lions, with their hungry, grumbly tummies, and their wide-open mouths with big, sharp teeth, Daniel prayed to the LORD. Daniel knew the LORD could help him.



8. The next morning, the king went to the lion pit. He hoped Daniel wasn't dead. He looked down into the pit to check on Daniel. Was he alive?



9. Yes, he was! The LORD had answered Daniel's prayers. He had sent an angel to shut the mouths of those snarly lions with hungry, grumbly tummies. Daniel would not be their breakfast, lunch, or dinner! No, he would NOT!

THE LORD

The One, True God!



10. The king was so happy! He had men lift Daniel out of that pit, then he and Daniel praised the LORD together. The king got rid of the bad workers and the bad rule, too. He made a new rule instead: "Everyone, worship the LORD, not me!" the king proclaimed. "Who is God like Him? He rescued Daniel from hungry lions! He alone should be worshipped! He is the One, True God!"

"The Case of the Man with the Big Teeth" Daniel 6

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who had big teeth and who was the man who was with them?
Lions. Daniel.

2. Who did the man ask for help and did He help him?
The LORD. Daniel asked the LORD for help and the LORD answered Daniel's prayers. He even sent an angel to close the lions' mouths.

For You and Me:
Daniel knew the LORD was the one, true God. He knew the LORD could always help him. Nothing was too hard for Him! The LORD is still the one, true God. He still always hears and helps His people. We can be His people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to help us do this. Ask Him to help you!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Luke 18:1, NIV

"Always pray and do not give up."

1. Who ordered people to give up praying to the LORD?
The king (and his bad workers).

2. Who kept on praying? How did the LORD answer his prayers?

Daniel kept on praying. The LORD sent an angel to close the lions' mouths and kept Daniel safe. He showed everyone that He is the one, true God.

For You and Me:

Just like Daniel, we should never stop praying to the LORD. He is the one, true God. There is no other God, but Him. The LORD helped Daniel to keep on praying to Him, no matter what. He can help us to keep on praying to Him, too. He loves to help us. Just ask Him!

Our Bible Truth is:
How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day!

The Gospel



Daniel was a man who loved God and prayed to Him every night and day. God heard Daniel's prayers and answered him! God wants us to love Him and pray to Him, too. We can pray to God about everything, like Daniel did. But did you know, there is something God especially wants us to pray about? He wants us to ask Him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. That is how we can become God's people!

You see, all of us were created to love God and others, but none of us do. We all have sinful hearts and have chosen 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 when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can know God in our hearts now. Then one day, we can go to live with God forever in heaven. That will be best of all!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being the One, True God who delights to hear our prayers.

C God, we confess that even though You love to hear our prayers, many times we do not take time to talk with You. We forget You or think we don't really need You. Please forgive us. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for always hearing our prayers and never getting tired of listening. Thank You for caring about us so much. Every day, we see so many ways You answer prayers.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You. Help us to trust in Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us to pray to You as we go through our day. Help us to know You are near and love to hear us when we talk to You. Help us to live out Your good rules for our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

