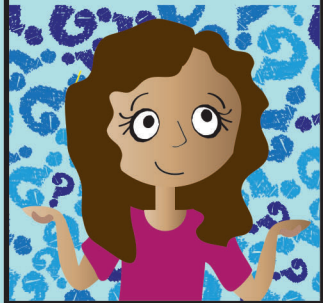


BIG QUESTION II



How can we be saved?



ANSWER:

It is God's free gift!

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 11:

How Can We Be Saved?
and the Answer is:
It Is God's Free Gift!

Meaning:

We all have disobeyed God. We have all lost the wonderful special closeness with God that He meant for us to have with Him. No matter how hard we try, we can't ever be good enough to win back special closeness with God. No, we can't save ourselves, but God can. That's why He sent Jesus: to save us as a free gift from Him. Anyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, will receive His forgiveness. They will become His people, who know Him in their hearts by His Holy Spirit. And one day, God will take them to live with Him forever. This is the free gift God offers to you and me. God is so kind to us!

Let's sing our Big Question Song: "

Big Q & A II Song

*DDD NIV Songs 11, track 12
(adapted version of "Pop, Goes the Weasel")*

How can we be saved?
How can we be saved?
How can we be saved?
It is God's free gift!

BIG QUESTION II: Three truths about how we can be saved

1.



2.



3.



This Unit's Bible Truths

"It is God's free gift" 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 THREE Bible truths that all tell us more about this wonderful, free gift God offers us.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our three 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 three truths they will be learning. After everyone has had a good look, say...

"Ok, now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these three 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 I?

How Can We Be Saved?

It Is God's Free Gift..

When We Tell God Our ????
and Turn Away from Them!

HINT: What is the Bible word for
disobeying God and His good laws?
It starts with an "s" and
it rhymes with "ends."

ANSWER:

When We Tell God Our SINS
and Turn Away from Them!



Visual
Aid
#3

take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
of BQB

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:

**“How Can We Be Saved?
It Is God’s Free Gift!
When We Tell God Our ???? and Turn Away from Them!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the Bible word for disobeying God and His good laws? It starts with an “s” and it rhymes with “ends.”

Can you guess? It’s “SINS.”

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

**“How Can We Be Saved?
It Is God’s Free Gift!
When We Tell God Our SINS and Turn Away from Them!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

We are all sinners who disobey God. We hear God’s laws from the Bible and we know that we have broken them. We hear how we are supposed to love God and His good ways, and we know that we do not. We hear about God’s punishment for sin, and we know that we deserve it.

But God is so merciful! He has provided a way to save us from His punishment. How? God wants us to tell (confess) our sins to Him and ask for His forgiveness through His Son, Jesus, who died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of God’s people. And, God wants us to turn away from a life of disobeying Him and ask Him to help us to live for Him instead (that’s what it means to repent of our sins.)

If we do these things, God promises to forgive our sins and make us His very own people. We will get to know Him in our hearts by His Holy Spirit now. And one day, when we die, we will go to live perfectly happily with Him forever.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -- 1 John 1:8-9



Bible Truth | Bible Verse

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

1 John 1:8-9 tells us:

1 John 1:8-9

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Learn a Little: "If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins."

What does that mean?

This verse reminds us that we are all sinners. We deceive ourselves if we think we are not. But, the good news is, that if we admit we are sinners and confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and save us through Jesus.

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

If We Claim We Have No Sin

1 John 1:8-9

DDD NIV Songs 11, track 17

If we claim to be without sin,
If we claim to be without sin,
If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves,
And the truth is not in us.

But...If we confess our sins...
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
Faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
Faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
And to cleanse us from,
All unrighteousness.

First John One, verses 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 Changed Climber" Luke 19:1-9



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the climber and why did he climb?
2. How did he change?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



1 John 1:8-9, NIV

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1. Who wanted to confess his sins and be forgiven by God?
2. Who didn't think he should be forgiven?
Who did think he should be forgiven?

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



I. Zacchaeus was a rich, rich, rich man! He could have lots of fine clothes. He could have a big, big house. He could eat all the yummiest foods. He could buy all the nice things he liked. Yes. Zacchaeus could have almost anything he wanted because he was so rich.



2. But even though Zacchaeus could have almost **ANYTHING** he wanted, and almost **ANYTHING** money could buy, there was something that Zacchaeus did **NOT** have. It was something money could **NOT** buy. Zacchaeus wanted God to forgive his sins.



3. Now, we know that no one deserves God's forgiveness of their sins. We have all disobeyed God. We all deserve His punishment. But to many, Zacchaeus ESPECIALLY didn't deserve to have his sins forgiven. You see, Zacchaeus had chosen to work for Caesar, the big king in Rome. Caesar's soldiers had taken over Israel, the country where Zacchaeus and the other people lived. And one of the big things Caesar wanted from the people in Israel was MONEY. TAX MONEY.



4. The people of Israel hated to give the Roman king tax money, and most of them refused to help him collect it. But not Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus loved money and when the king offered to give him lots of money to collect taxes, Zacchaeus agreed. "Zacchaeus, collect my tax money, and any extra you get, you can keep for yourself," the big, Roman king promised.



5. So, that's what Zacchaeus did! He became the head tax collector in the important city of Jericho. Zacchaeus and his men worked to get lots of money for Caesar and for themselves. Zacchaeus set up a booth along the road outside of Jericho. He stopped everyone along the road and made them pay taxes on their things. "Stop! No one passes by without paying the king's tax," demanded Zacchaeus and his men.



6. They did the same thing to the people of Jericho. Zacchaeus and his men knocked on every door. "Bang, bang, bang! Pay your tax money right now," they ordered everyone. Rich people, poor people. Healthy people, sick people. Everyone was ordered to pay, no matter how hard it was for them. No one wanted to pay. Many couldn't pay.



7. But that didn't stop Zacchaeus. He and his men took soldiers with them to do whatever was needed to make people pay. So, pay they did, the amount Caesar wanted for his taxes, and a lot more that Zacchaeus and his men kept for themselves. Zacchaeus didn't mind if the people were scared. He didn't mind if he took too much money or made their lives sad. He didn't care what happened to anyone else. He only wanted more money for himself.



8. So, that's how Zacchaeus got to be so rich, rich, rich. And that's why people of Jericho and many others, thought Zacchaeus **ESPECIALLY** didn't deserve God's forgiveness. "How could God forgive someone like Zacchaeus," they exclaimed. "He's such a mean, greedy bully. Surely, there is no forgiveness for someone like that!"



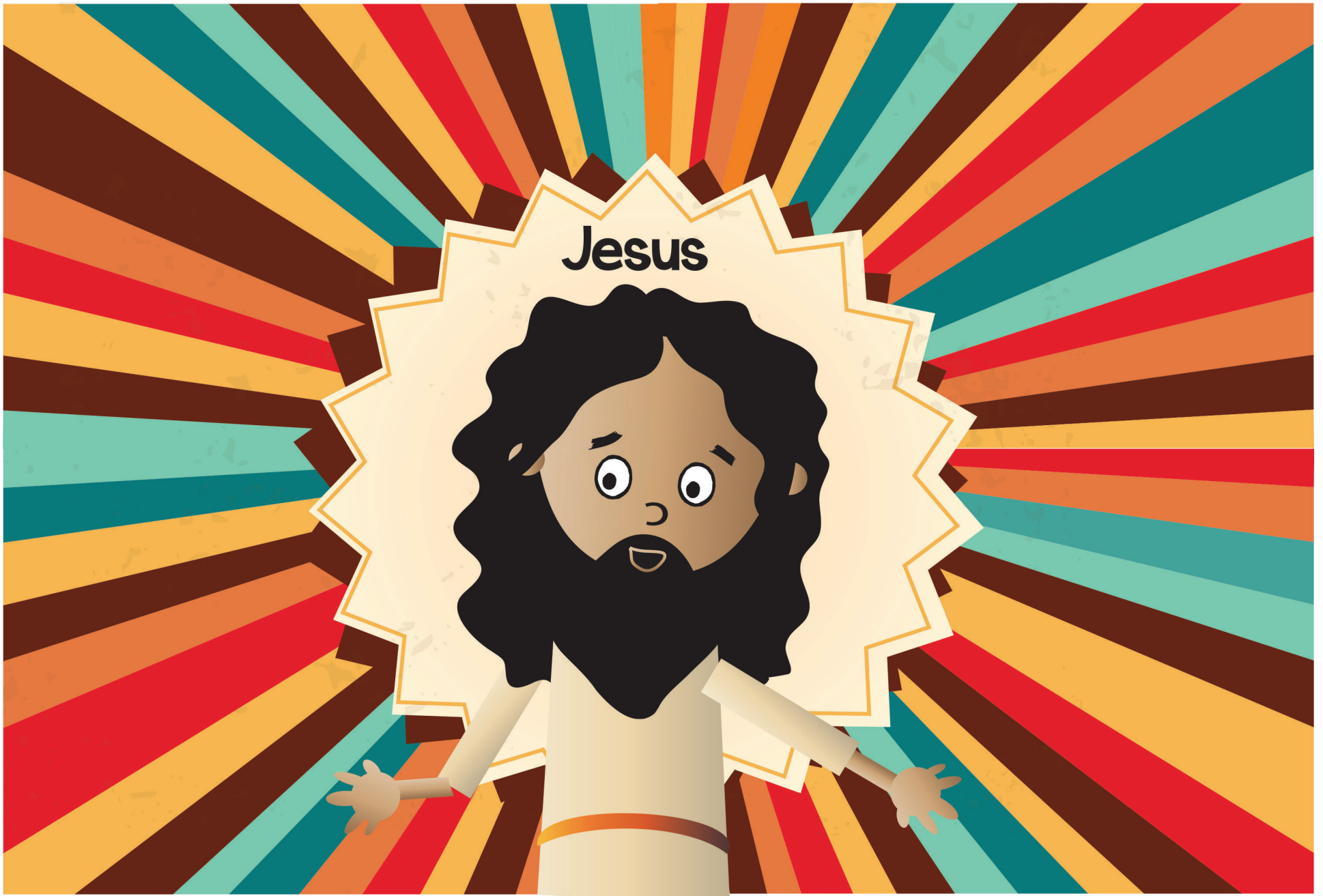
9. You might think all that money made Zacchaeus happy, and perhaps it did for a while. You see, fine clothes, a big house, yummy food, and nice things are wonderful. But, in the end, none of them are enough. Why? Because God made us to know, love, and obey Him. He, alone, can make us truly happy. And that's why deep down in his heart, Zacchaeus was very UN-happy, even with all that money and those nice things. They would never be enough to satisfy him.



10. What was worse, Zacchaeus knew God's laws, and he knew that he had broken them. He had done many terrible things to the people in his town and the people who passed along the road. He had hurt those people and now they hated him. Zacchaeus knew that he had chosen to turn away from God and His good ways. He had rebelled against God and deserved His punishment.



II. It seemed like there was no way for Zacchaeus to come back to God now. Why, a man who had done such bad things wasn't even allowed to go in the worship house to worship God! How could a man this bad ever find forgiveness from God? Surely, there was no way!



12. But there **WAS** a way to be forgiven. God had made a way through His Son, Jesus, as Zacchaeus found out one day.



13. Jesus and a crowd of people were passing through Jericho on the way to the big city of Jerusalem. “Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!” the exciting news spread throughout the town. Many gathered along the side of the road to see Jesus, squeezing together until there was no more room. Everyone wanted to hear Jesus teach about God and watch Him do amazing things by God’s great power.



14. Zacchaeus tried to join the crowd to see Jesus, too, but no one would make room for him. Zacchaeus stood behind the crowd and tried to look over their heads, but he was such a short, little man that he couldn't see anything. Oh, if someone would just let him through to the front so he could see Jesus, too! But why would people help HIM after all the terrible things he had done? "I must see Jesus! I must see Jesus!" Zacchaeus thought. He would not give up. Up! Why that was it. Zacchaeus had an idea.



15. Zacchaeus would climb up a tree, then he could see Jesus without anyone getting in his way. So, that's just what Zacchaeus did! He ran down the road, beyond the crowd, and climbed up a big, sycamore tree. Zacchaeus sat on his tree branch and watched as Jesus and the crowd with him came closer and closer and closer. What would happen? Would Jesus see Zacchaeus?



16. It would have been so easy for Jesus to miss the short, little man hiding up among the leaves. But Jesus did NOT miss Zacchaeus. Jesus was LOOKING for him. Jesus knew all the terrible things Zacchaeus had done. He knew the sin in Zacchaeus' heart that made him so unhappy and separated him from God. And Jesus knew that He could bring Zacchaeus the forgiveness from God he longed for.



17. So, instead of passing by Zacchaeus, Jesus led the crowd of people right up to that tree and stopped. He looked up through the leaves and straight at Zacchaeus. What would Jesus say to Zacchaeus? What would Jesus DO to Zacchaeus? Zacchaeus was such a bad man and Jesus was so good! Would Jesus say angry things to Zacchaeus for all the bad things he had done? Would Jesus tell him there was no hope for a bad man like him?



18. Jesus had GOOD news for Zacchaeus. He had come to bring people like him to God! People who knew they had broken God's laws. Jesus had come to bring them God's forgiveness and to save them from God's punishment, no matter how bad they had been. So, Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus, and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus was shocked and so happy. Good teachers like Jesus never asked to stay at the house of bad men like him, no matter how rich they were!



19. Zacchaeus knew what this meant. Jesus wasn't just asking to stay at his big house to enjoy his nice things and yummy food. Jesus was asking to stay at his house to welcome him back to God. Oh, what wonderful news! More than all the fine clothes, the big house, the yummy food, and the nice things in the world, Zacchaeus wanted to be welcomed back by God. Oh, how he wanted God to forgive his sins!



20. Right there, God's Holy Spirit did a wonderful thing in Zacchaeus' heart. He helped Zacchaeus turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as his Savior. Zacchaeus was forgiven by God for all the terrible things he had done. God had saved Zacchaeus through Jesus!



21. The town's people were shocked at Jesus' words and very unhappy! "How can Jesus stay with such a bad man who's done such terrible things and broken God's laws? Zacchaeus has lied and cheated us. He has shouted at us and hurt us. Zacchaeus has used soldiers to scare us. He's not even allowed in the worship place, he's so bad! A good teacher like Jesus shouldn't have anything to do with Zacchaeus, and He CERTAINLY shouldn't stay at his house!" they grumbled.



22. Jesus and Zacchaeus knew the people were right. Zacchaeus had been a very bad man. He had done terrible things and broken God's laws. He didn't deserve for Jesus to stay with him. But Jesus and Zacchaeus knew the people were wrong about something, too. God had worked in Zacchaeus' heart. God had helped Zacchaeus turn away from his old, bad ways, and trust in Jesus as his Savior. God had forgiven Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a changed man!



23. Zacchaeus came down from that tree and showed just how changed he was. In front of everyone he said, "Jesus, I'm going to give half of my money and nice things to poor people. And to the people I cheated, I'll give back everything I took and give them a whole lot more!" he promised.



24. "How amazing!" thought the town's people. "This doesn't sound like the same bad man who lied, cheated, and hurt us. This sounds like a NEW man, who loves God and wants to obey Him," they exclaimed. And that's exactly what happened. God had changed Zacchaeus that day. God had helped him repent of his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior.



25. Then, Jesus said to Zacchaeus and all the people, "God sent Me to seek and save people lost in their sins. And this is just what's happened today. God has forgiven Zacchaeus and made him one of His people!" Jesus! What a Savior for sinners!

"The Case of the Changed Climber" Luke 19:1-9

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the climber and why did he climb?
Zacchaeus was the climber. He climbed up a tree, so he could see Jesus.

2. How did he change?
Zacchaeus turned away from his sins. He stopped being a mean, greedy cheat. He put his trust in Jesus as his Savior and God forgave his sins and made him one of His people.

What about You and Me?
Like Zacchaeus, we All have disobeyed God and deserve His punishment. How sad! But like Zacchaeus, we, too, can confess our sins to God and turn away from them. We can trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, God will forgive our sins and make us one of His people, just like He did for Zacchaeus.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 John 1:8-9, NIV

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1. Who wanted to confess his sins and be forgiven by God?
Zacchaeus did.

2. Who didn't think he should be forgiven? Who did think he should be forgiven?

The people in Zacchaeus' town of Jericho didn't think Zacchaeus should be forgiven by God. He was too bad of a man. But Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus to be forgiven by God.

What about you and me?

No one is too bad to be forgiven their sins by God. All who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven their sins and saved! God can do this for you and me, too. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer.

How Can We Be Saved?

It Is God's Free Gift...

When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them!

The Gospel



We all have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We deserve His punishment, not His love. And there's nothing we can do on our own to earn God's love.

But God is so merciful! He made the way for us to be saved from our sins and become His people, as His free gift. How? Through Jesus, His Son.

Jesus lived a perfect life; then, on the cross, He gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people.

Now, we can receive God's free gift of salvation when we tell God our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.

Ask Him to help you. He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being faithful and just, and able to forgive our sins.

C God, we confess that we are all sinners who need You to save us. We can never be acceptable to You on our own. We need Jesus to save us!

T Thank You, God, for being willing to forgive all our sins, when we confess them, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts. Show us our sins and our need for Jesus to save us. Help us to confess our sins to You and turn away from them. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Be our Heavenly Father! Make us Your adopted children who love You and whom You will love forever.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

