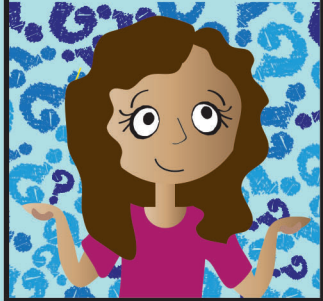


BIG QUESTION II



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 "The Farmer in the Dell")*

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, we've learned one truth about God's free gift of salvation. It's this one: "When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them." (point to picture as you identify the Bible Truth). 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 2?

How Can We Be Saved?

It Is God's Free Gift..

When We Trust in ????

As Our Own Savior!

HINT: What's the name of God's Son?

His name starts with a "J" and

it sounds like "sneezes."

ANSWER:

When We Trust in JESUS as
Our Own Savior!



Visual Aid

#3

take out



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 Trust in ???? As Our Own Savior!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What’s the name of God’s Son? His name starts with a “J” and it sounds like “sneezes.”

Can you guess? It’s “JESUS.”

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 Trust in JESUS As Our Own Savior!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:
(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

God created us to love and obey Him, but we have all chosen to disobey Him. That’s why we all deserve His punishment, instead of His friendship. Our sins separate us from Him. God would be fair to punish us for our sins, but He has chosen to be so kind to us. He offers to forgive our sins and make us His people through Jesus, His Son.

Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He never, ever disobeyed God. Then on the cross, Jesus chose to offer up His perfect life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God’s people. He took the punishment for sins they deserved to save them from their sins.

Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a grave, but He didn’t stay there. He had beaten sin and death for God’s people. He rose from the dead in victory, never to die again! Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, are forgiven their sins. They are God’s people who know Him in their hearts by His Holy Spirit. And when they die, they will go to live perfectly happy with Him forever. This wonderful, free gift can be ours, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Isn’t that wonderful news!

**"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,'
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

**For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**

--Romans 10:9-10



Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse

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

Romans 10:9-10 tells us:

Romans 10:9-10

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Learn a Little: "If you confess 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

To believe something in your heart is to think that something is true. To confess something is to tell others what you think is true. Christians are those who believe in their hearts that Jesus is the Son of God, who died on the cross to save God's people from their sins. They believe that He rose from the dead on the third day, showing that He had beaten sin and death for them. They love telling this good news to others that they might believe and be saved, too. We must believe in our own hearts that He is our Savior and be willing to confess to others that He is our Lord, if we are to be saved, too!

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

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

If You Confess with Your Mouth:

Romans 10:9-10

DDD NIV Songs 11, track 18

If you confess, with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
And believe in your heart,
That God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved, you will be saved.
For it is with your heart,
That you believe and are justified.

If you confess, with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
And believe in your heart,
That God raised Him from the dead,
You will be saved, you will be saved.
For it is with your mouth,
That you confess and are saved.
Romans Ten: nine and ten.

"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 Amazed, Mad Man" Acts 8-9



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who was so mad? What was he so mad about?
2. What amazing thing happened to him? How did he change when it happened?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 10:9-10, NIV

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified."

1. Who told people to stop saying Jesus is the Savior?
2. Why did he change his mind?

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



1. Jesus' followers had good news to tell the people of Jerusalem: "Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. On Day Three, He rose from the dead, beating sin and death for them," they said. "Turn away from disobeying God. Trust in Jesus as your Savior, and God will forgive your sins. You will be saved!" they exclaimed. "You can become one of God's people, too," they told everyone.



2. Many people in Jerusalem listened, and they believed. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their own Savior. God forgave their sins and saved them. How happy they were to become God's people!



3. But some people listened to Jesus' followers, and they were NOT happy. They were ANGRY. Saul was one of those angry people. He HATED Jesus and the people who believed in Him.



4. "Be quiet! Stop saying Jesus is God's Son! Stop saying He died on the cross for the sins of God's people and rose from the dead! Stop saying He's the Savior," Saul told Jesus' followers. "Jesus is just a fake!" he exclaimed. "You are all wrong. And if you don't stop telling people about Jesus, I'm going to have you hurt and put you in jail," he warned them. Oh, no! What would Jesus' followers do now?



5. But no matter what Saul said, Jesus' followers didn't stop. They kept spreading the good news of Jesus. They kept urging everyone to turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Uh, oh! NOW, what would Saul do?



6. Saul did exactly what he said he would do. He went from house to house with men to arrest them. "Bang, bang, bang!" they knocked on the door. "Open up!" Saul and the men dragged Jesus' followers out of their houses. They hurt them and put them in jail.



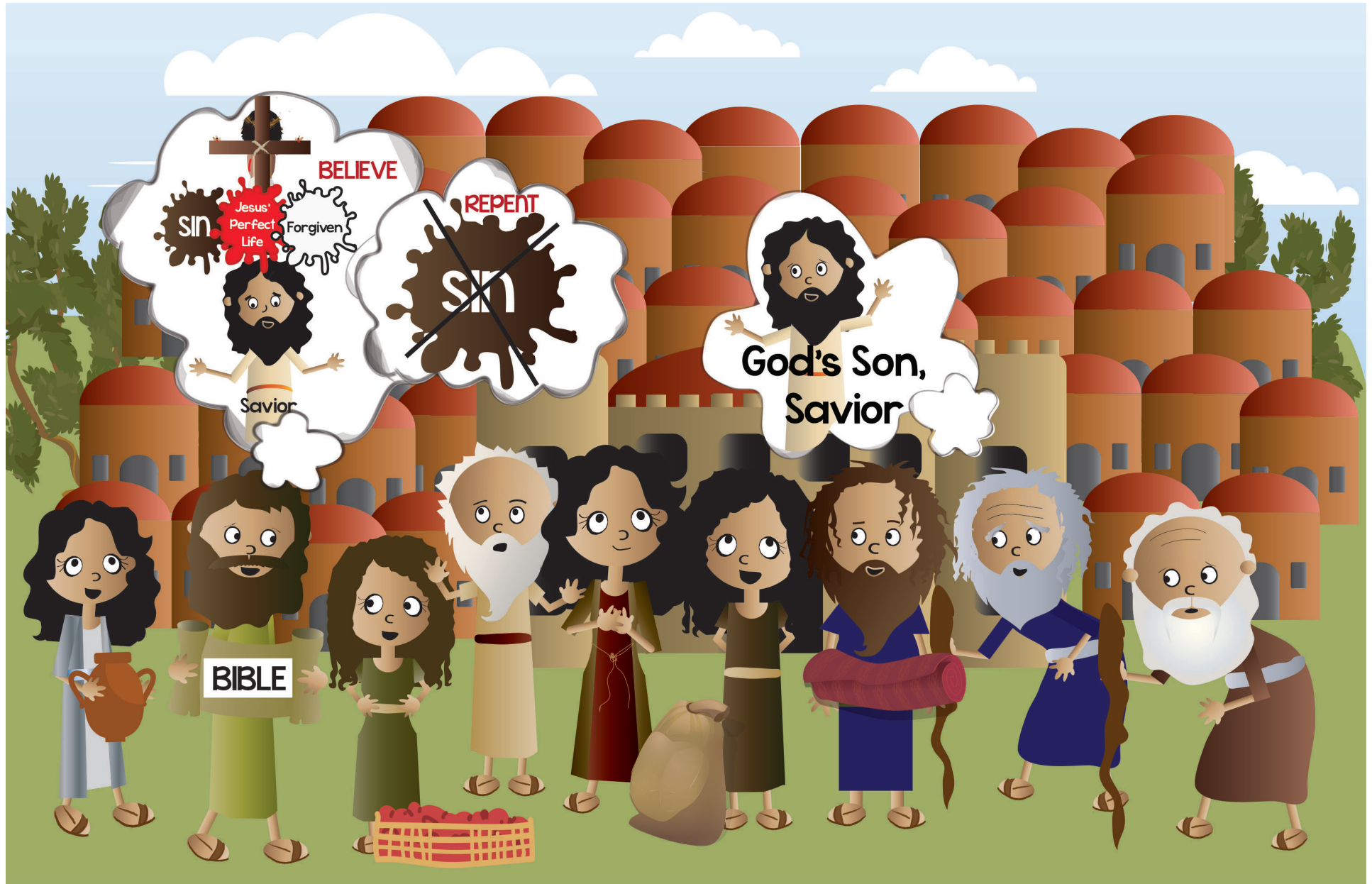
7. Saul kept making it hard to tell the good news of Jesus in Jerusalem, but even this was part of God's plan. "Jesus told us to tell the whole world about Him," Jesus' followers remembered. "Now it's time to go. A few of us will stay here in Jerusalem, but everyone else should move away to other cities," they decided. "People in those cities need to hear the good news of Jesus, too."



8. So, they packed up their things and moved to other cities. Some went to nearby cities. Others went to faraway cities. But wherever they went, they told everyone the same, good news about Jesus.



9. "Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people," they told everyone. "Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He beat sin and death for God's people," they explained. "So, turn away from your sins. Trust in Jesus as your Savior. God will forgive your sins and make you one of His people, too. You will be saved!" they exclaimed.



10. What good news this was! Many people in these cities listened and received the gospel with joy. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. How happy Jesus' followers were to see the people in these new cities believing in Jesus, too!



II. But there was someone who was very angry when he heard about this. Can you guess who it was? It was Saul! He heard what was going on and he was furious! "I will stop these Christians," he vowed. So, Saul went to the high priest, the leader of Jesus' enemies, and said, "If you give me men to go to these other cities, I will arrest the Christians. I will bring them back to Jerusalem and put them in jail. I will stop them," Saul promised.



12. The high priest agreed. He gave Saul men to help him arrest the Christians in the other cities. Saul was pleased. "March, march, march," Saul and the men headed straight for the first city: Damascus. Saul could hardly wait to arrest those Christians and put them in jail. Now, he would stop all this talk about Jesus... or would he?



13. Well, as it turned out, God, Himself, had very, very different plans for Saul. God was about change Saul's life completely. He would use Saul to spread the gospel, not stop it. Saul believed Jesus was a fake; but, of course, He wasn't. Jesus was the REAL Son of God. He really died on the cross and rose from the dead, beating sin and death for God's people. And now, God was going to give Saul the gift of faith in Jesus. He would make Saul one of His people, then use Saul to spread the good news to many. Aren't God's plans amazing?



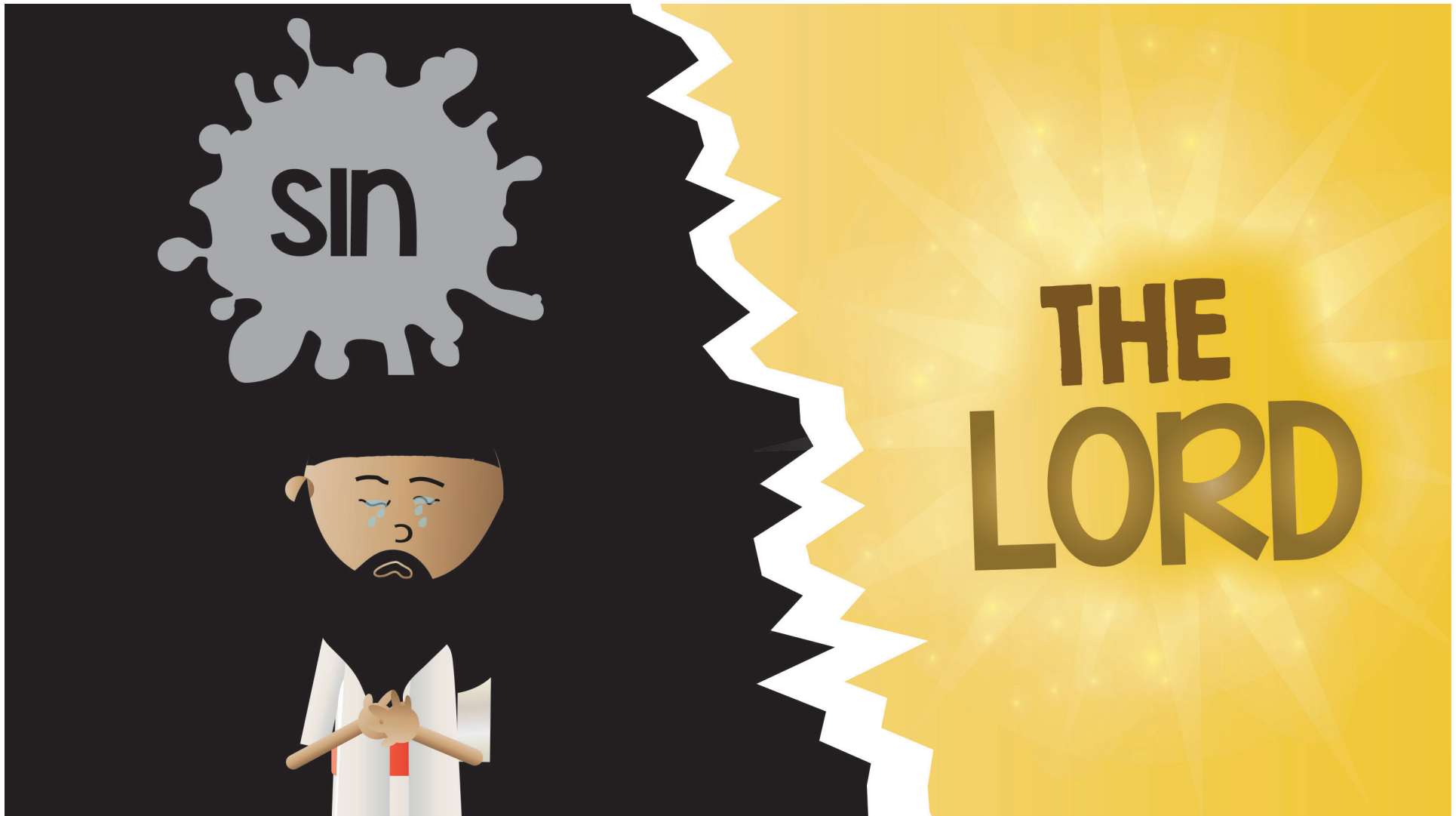
14. But how would Saul, a man who **HATED** Jesus and His followers, change into someone who trusted Jesus as his own Savior? God chose to change Saul in a most amazing way. Just as Saul and the soldiers were almost to Damascus, a light from heaven, much brighter than the sun, suddenly shone down on them.



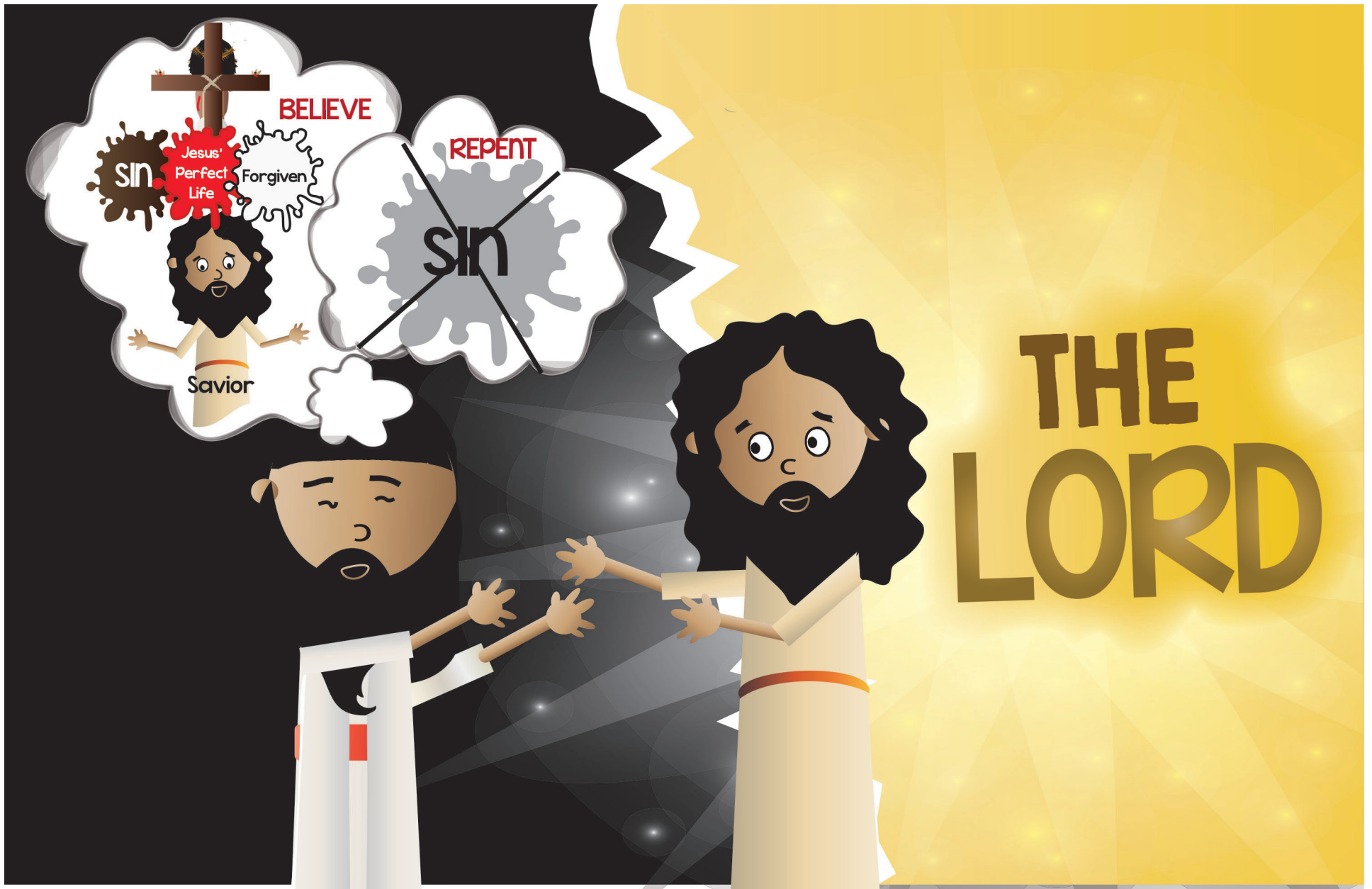
15. Saul shut his eyes tight and he fell to the ground. Then, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting me? "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are hurting," Jesus told Saul. "But get up now and go to Damascus and you will be told what to do." The men with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the voice, but didn't see anyone.



16. The bright, heavenly light vanished as quickly as it came, but not without leaving Saul with a problem. When he stood up and went to open his eyes, he couldn't see anything. Saul was blind!



17. The men took Saul by hand the rest of the way to Judas' house in Damascus. For three days, Saul didn't eat or drink. He just prayed and thought about everything Jesus said. Now, Saul knew the truth. He thought Jesus was a fake, and His believers were wrong. Now, Saul knew HE was the one who was wrong. Jesus WAS the Savior. He WAS God's Son. And Jesus' followers, they were GOD'S people! Oh my! He had been hurting God's people! Saul knew he deserved God's punishment for the terrible things he had done.



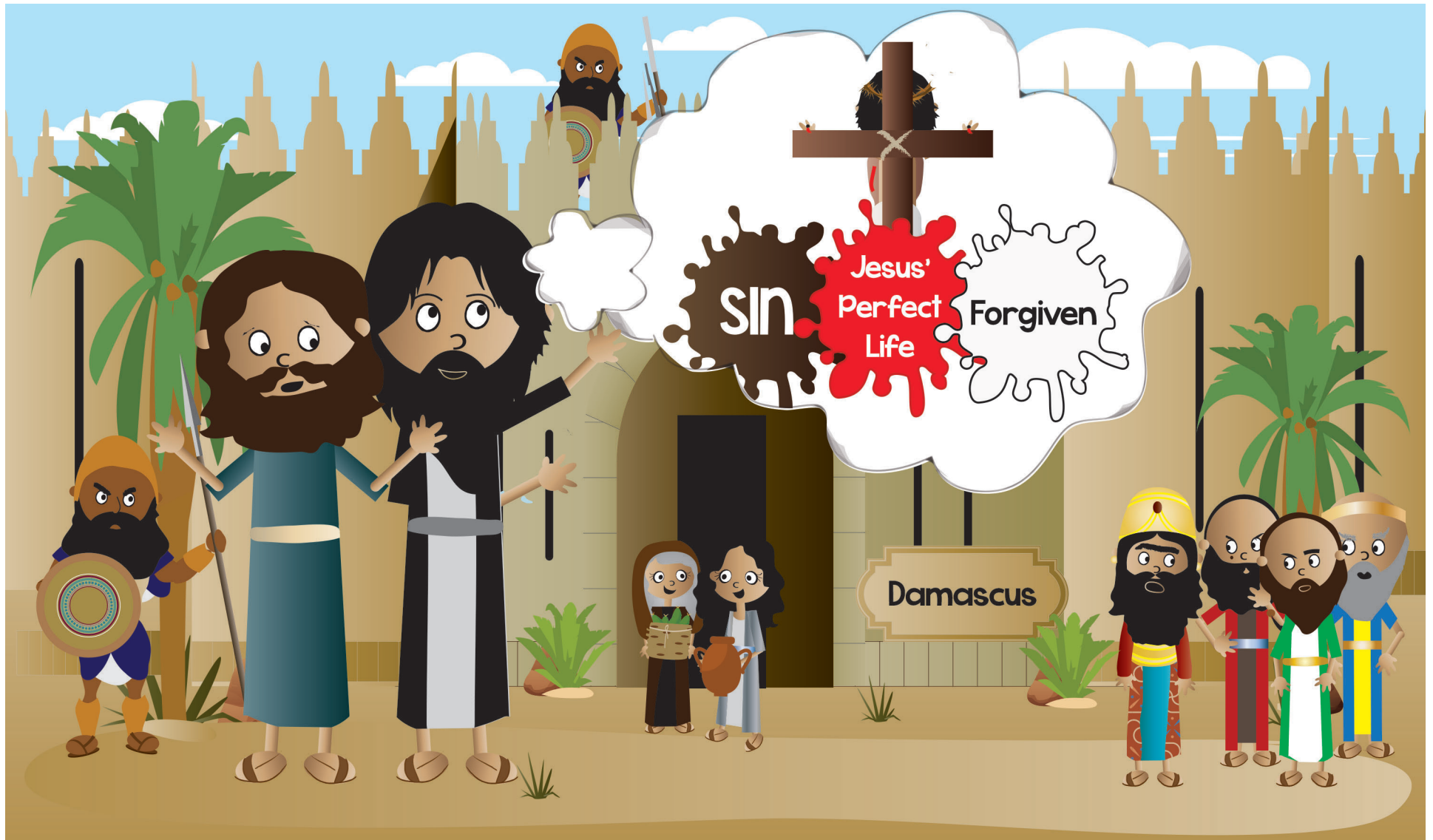
18. But as Saul prayed, he asked God for more than he deserved. He asked for forgiveness. And what did God do? God helped Saul turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus as his own Savior. Saul was forgiven! He was saved! How kind God is to sinners like Saul, and like us!



19. After three days, God sent a Christian named Ananias to Saul. "Brother Saul, Jesus, who appeared to you, has sent me so you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit," he told Saul. Ananias laid his hands on Saul and something like scales fell off his eyes. God had healed him! But what happened next was even better: God's Holy Spirit came to live in Saul's heart.



20. Saul was so happy. God had saved him from his sins through Jesus. He had made Saul one of His people. Saul was a new man! He got up and was baptized, as Jesus commanded. Saul was beginning a new life of living for God, with Jesus as his Savior. Then, Saul went out and did something else. Something he never, ever dreamed he would do. Can you guess what he did?



21. Saul went out to tell the good news of Jesus to the people of Damascus. "Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people," Saul told them. "On the third day, He rose from the dead. He beat sin and death for God's people!" he exclaimed. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior. God will forgive your sins and save you. You can be one of God's people!"



22. How surprised the people were! “Wasn’t this the man who hated Jesus and His followers? Wasn’t this the man who hurt them and put them in jail? And now HE is one of THEM!” they exclaimed. And as Saul preached about Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. All of God’s good plans were coming true. His good plans for Saul, and His good plans for the many others, who would trust in Jesus as their Savior through Saul’s message. How amazing God is!

"The Case of the Amazed, Mad Man" Acts 8-9

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who was so mad? What was he so mad about?
Saul. He was mad that Jesus' followers were telling people to trust in Jesus as their Savior.

2. What amazing thing happened to him? How did he change when it happened?
Jesus appeared to Saul and Saul knew that He really was the Savior. Saul turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He started telling everyone the good news of Jesus.

For You and Me:
God turned Saul from a man who hated Jesus and wanted to hurt God's people, to someone who loved Jesus and served Him his whole life. God can work powerfully in our lives, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Romans 10:9-10, NIV

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified."

1. Who told people to stop saying Jesus is the Savior?
Saul did.

2. Why did he change his mind?

Jesus appeared to Saul and Saul knew that He really was the Savior. Saul turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.

For You and Me:

How amazing it is that God could change someone like Saul from a man who hated Jesus to a man who loved Him and trusted in Him as his Savior. God can change us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

How Can We Be Saved?

It Is God's Free Gift...

When We Trust in Jesus as Our Own Savior!

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 good and just. We honor You as the One we should all obey.

C God, we confess that we are all sinners who have disobeyed You. We know that we can never deserve to be Your people by good things we do. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for sending Jesus as the Savior we need. Thank You that He made the way for us to become Your people with His perfect life given as the full payment for the sins of God's people.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins to You and turn away from them. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might become Your people. Help us to know and love You. Help us to live for You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

