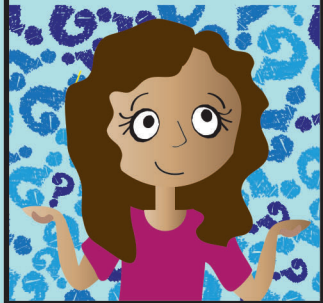


BIG QUESTION II



# 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 two truths about God's free gift of salvation. They are: "When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them"; and, "When We Trust in Jesus as Our Own Savior." (point to picture 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 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 3?

How Can We Be Saved?

It Is God's Free Gift..

When the Holy Spirit  
Works in Our ????!

HINT: What did God put deep inside of us  
so we can know and love Him?

It starts with an "h" and it rhymes with "starts."



ANSWER:

When the Holy Spirit Works in  
Our HEARTS!

# 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 the Holy Spirit Works in Our ????!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What did God put deep inside of us so we can know and love Him? It starts with an “h” and it rhymes with “starts.”

Can you guess? It’s “HEARTS.”

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 the Holy Spirit Works in Our HEARTS!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

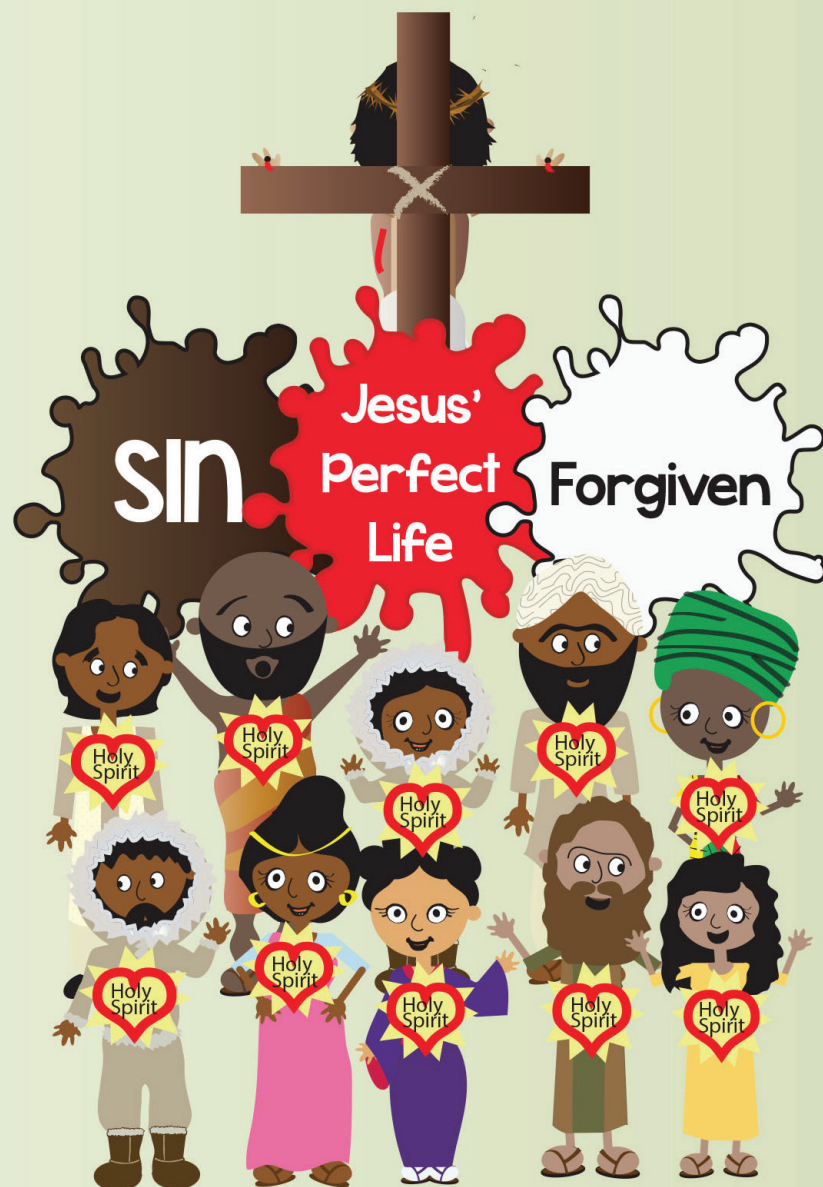
*(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)*

All of us are sinners. We would rather do things our own way rather than obey God. We have hearts that are dead and empty of love for Him and His good ways. We would never choose to love God on our own.

But guess what God does for His people? He treats them so much better than they deserve! He sends His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. When they hear God’s Word, He helps them know they are sinners. He helps them want to stop disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He makes their hearts alive to God. Now, they know God and want to obey and love Him.

We can be God’s people, too! We can ask God to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. He can help us to ask God to forgive our sins, trust Jesus as our Savior, and live for Him. Then we can know God in our hearts, now; and when we die, we will go to live perfectly happily with Him forever.

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” --Titus 3:5-7



## Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

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

Titus 3:5-7 tells us:

### **Titus 3:5-7**

"... He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

**Learn a Little:** "He saved us through the Holy Spirit."

### **What does that mean?**

We can never please God with our own, good works. Only through Jesus' perfect life offered up in the place of sinners can we be saved. And what a salvation it is! God, Himself, sends His Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of His people. He gives them the gift of faith. He helps them turn away from their sins. He makes them clean of their sins and all new on the inside. This is how we, too, can become God's people--His heirs; that is, His children who will receive eternal life and live with Him forever.

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

## He Saved Us:

### **Titus 3:5-7**

*DDD NIV Songs 11, track 20*

He saved us, he saved us,  
Through the washing of re-birth  
And renewal by the Spirit.  
He saved us, he saved us,  
Through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit whom he poured out,  
On us generously,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
The Holy Spirit whom he poured out,  
On us, through Jesus Christ.  
Titus Three, verses five through seven.

"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 Surprising, Second Birthday" John 3



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What special kind of second birthday did Jesus promise to all who trust in him as their Savior?
2. To whom did Jesus tell about this birthday? What did he find so surprising about it?

## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



### Titus 3:5, NIV

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

1. What kind of special, second birthday does God give to each of His people?
2. Who does God send to work in their hearts and give them this special, second birthday?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org))



Country

City



1. To the country, to the cities, went Jesus and His disciples. And everywhere they went, people came. Jesus taught them about God and did amazing things by God's power.



2. What kind of country people came to Jesus? Well, there were plain, country people like shepherds, fishermen, and farmers. And there were important country people, like the teachers of God's Word and government workers. Poor people, rich people. Good people, bad people. Sick people, healthy people. Fathers, mothers, and children. They all came to Jesus to hear Him teach about God and do amazing things.



3. And amazed they certainly were, by what they heard and saw. "This Jesus is not like any other teacher. What amazing things He says about God. What amazing things He does. He even heals sick people with just His words. Let's hear more. Let's see more," they exclaimed. Soon, big crowds of country people followed Jesus, listening to Him teach about God and watching the amazing things He did by God's power.





4. But you know, Jesus wasn't the only one doing amazing things by God's great power. God, the Holy Spirit, was doing some amazing things, too. For as some of those country people listened to Jesus talk and watched the amazing things He did, God, the Holy Spirit, worked in their hearts, changing them. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Yes, by His Holy Spirit, God was giving these people the best gift of all: the gift of being saved by faith in Jesus.



5. This wonderful gift meant God forgave their sins and made them His people. They could know and love God in their hearts. And one day, when they died, they would go live with Him, face-to-face forever. What a wonderful thing the Holy Spirit was doing as those country people listened to Jesus!





6. But God didn't just care about country people. He cared about city people, too. So, Jesus and His disciples left the country and went to the great city of Jerusalem. And what did Jesus do when He went there? He taught them about God and did amazing things by God's great power, just like He had in the country.



7. All sorts of city people came to Jesus. Plain, city people, like the people who sold things in the markets, came. Important city people, like the Pharisees (the teachers of God's Word) and government workers, came, too. Poor people, rich people. Good people, bad people. Sick people, healthy people. Fathers, mothers, and children. They all came to Jesus to hear Him teach about God and do amazing things.





8. And amazed they certainly were, by what they heard and saw. "This Jesus is not like any other teacher. What amazing things He says about God. What amazing things He does. He even heals sick people with just His words. Let's go hear more. Let's go see more," they exclaimed. Soon, big crowds of city people followed Jesus, listening to Him teach about God and watching the amazing things He did by God's power.



9. But you know, Jesus wasn't the only one doing amazing things by God's great power. God, the Holy Spirit was at work, too. He had done amazing things in the country people; and now, He was doing amazing things in the city people, too. For as some of those city people listened to Jesus talk and watched the amazing things He did, God, the Holy Spirit, worked in their hearts, changing them. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Yes, by His Holy Spirit, God was giving these people the best gift of all: the gift of being saved by faith in Jesus.





10. This wonderful gift meant God forgave their sins and made them His people. They could know and love God in their hearts. And one day, when they died, they would go live with Him, face-to-face forever. What a wonderful thing the Holy Spirit was doing as those city people listened to Jesus!



II. Now, among the city people who came to Jesus, was a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was NOT a plain, city person. He was one of the most important people in both city AND country! Nicodemus was one of the head teachers of God's Word. He had spent years and years learning God's Word, then years and years teaching it to others. People looked to Nicodemus to teach them how to live to please God and obey His laws.





12. But when Jesus came to Jerusalem, Nicodemus just shut his mouth and listened and watched. He could see that Jesus was a teacher unlike any other, a teacher especially sent by God. When Nicodemus was around Jesus, he didn't feel like a teacher anymore. He felt like a learner. "No one could do the things Jesus does if God had not sent Him," Nicodemus thought.



13. What amazed Nicodemus the most was what was happening in the city people who came to Jesus. Nicodemus had taught the people to work hard to obey God's good laws. These good works were how to please God, he taught them. People listened to Nicodemus when he taught, but they rarely ever changed. But when Jesus taught, people were turning away from the bad things they had been doing! They were putting their trust in God! Jesus was teaching, and people were CHANGING!



14. What was going on? What was changing these people? Nicodemus wanted to know. He decided he would go to find Jesus and talk to Him, all by himself. So, one night, Nicodemus made his way down the dark streets of Jerusalem to the place where Jesus stayed. That night as they talked, Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions.





15. Nicodemus was a good Pharisee. He taught the people that only by keeping all of God's good laws could they be God's people and be a part of God's kingdom. But Nicodemus had it wrong. Now, Jesus would teach the teacher.



16. "No one can become one of God's people and part of His kingdom unless they are born again," Jesus told him. Nicodemus listened to Jesus' words. This time, he wasn't just amazed. He was confused! "Born again? How can this be, Jesus? I'm a full-grown man. Do I have to be born like a baby from a mother again? I don't understand," Nicodemus told Jesus.

# Holy Spirit

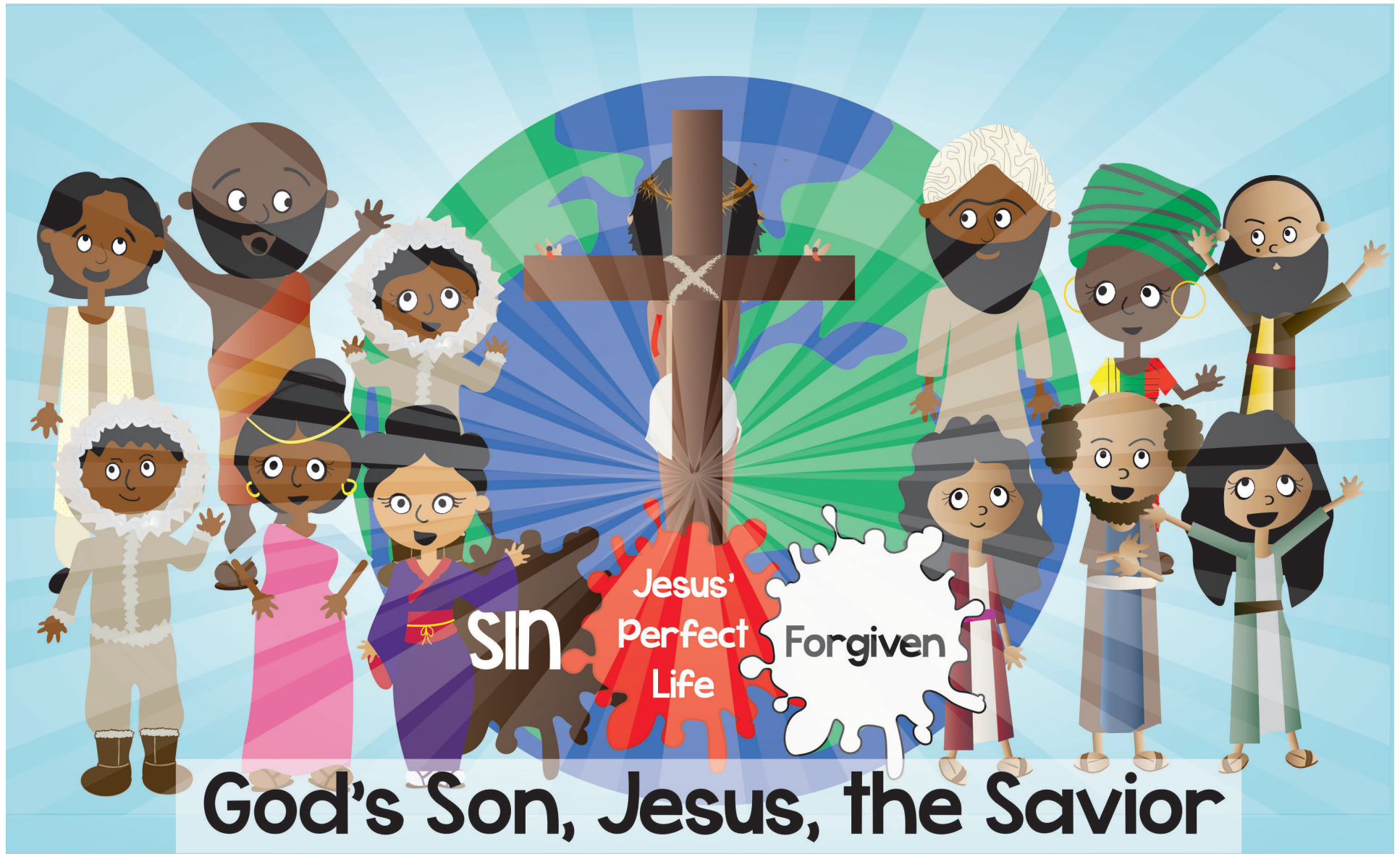


17. "This is a new birth in your heart, not your body. Only God's Holy Spirit working in your heart can make you one of God's people," Jesus explained. "The Holy Spirit cleans a heart of sin, just like water cleans away dirt. He helps people repent. That is, He helps them not want to disobey God anymore. He helps them love God and trust in Me as their Savior," Jesus told Nicodemus. "And when the Holy Spirit works, He makes such a big change in your heart you become a new person on the inside, like being born again," Jesus said.





18. "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked, still trying to understand. "Nicodemus, you are one of the best teachers of God's Word, yet you don't understand?" Jesus replied. "This is why God has sent Me, His Son, from heaven."



19. "For God loved the world so much that He sent Me to be the Savior. Whoever believes in Me won't be punished by God for their sins. They will have eternal life," Jesus said. "I will be lifted up on the cross and will pay for their sins, Myself. They will be God's people. They will live with God in His Kingdom forever," Jesus explained.





20. Nicodemus had much to think about that night as he went home. Jesus had taught him so much about God. New things he had never understood before: Jesus is God's Son, the Savior. The Holy Spirit works inside people to help them believe and make them brand-new people. God's people. What big ideas!



21. Did the Holy Spirit work in Nicodemus' heart as he thought about these things? It seems that He did. Who was it who helped take down Jesus' body from the cross when He died for the sins of God's people? It was Nicodemus! And who was it who took Jesus' body and buried it in a tomb? It was Nicodemus! Some say, Jesus' enemies made Nicodemus stop being a head teacher of God's Word because he believed in Jesus. The Bible doesn't tell us that part of Nicodemus' story.



22. But there's something I DO know for sure. We can ask God's Holy Spirit to work in our hearts right NOW! He can help us to turn away from disobeying God and to trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Yes, God offers to give you and me the wonderful, free gift of salvation through Jesus. This is how we can become God's people and enjoy Him forever. Ask God to work in your heart. He loves to answer this prayer!



# "The Case of the Surprising, Second Birthday" John 3

## SOLVED



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What special kind of second birthday did Jesus promise to all who trust in him as their Savior?  
To be a changed person, forgiven of their sins, and one of God's people forever.

2. To whom did Jesus tell about this birthday? What did he find so surprising about it?  
To Nicodemus. He didn't understand that the Holy Spirit is the One who works inside us and changes our hearts. He is the One who helps us repent and believe, so we can become God's people.

For You and Me:

That special, second birthday wasn't just for important people like Nicodemus. It's for anyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and help you. He loves to answer these prayers!



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Titus 3:5, NIV

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

1. What kind of special, second birthday does God give to each of His people?

To be made a new person inside their heart. God forgives their sins and helps them trust in Jesus as their Savior.

2. Who does God send to work in their hearts and give them this special, second birthday?

The Holy Spirit.

For You and Me:

That special, second birthday that God gave to His people long ago is something He still gives to people today. How? When they turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Ask the Holy Spirit to come and work in your heart and help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

**How Can We Be Saved?**  
**It Is God's Free Gift...**  
**When the Holy Spirit Works in Our Hearts!**

# The Gospel



We all have chosen to disobey God. Our hearts are dead and empty of love for Him and His good ways. We would never choose to love God on our own.

We deserve God's punishment, but God has sent us a Savior-- His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and offered it up as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people.

Now, we can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and help us. God loves to answer this prayer!





# A Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the Changer of the hearts of sinful people, like us.

**C** God, we confess that we are all sinners. We have hard hearts that are slow to believe, love, and obey You. We need Jesus to save us!

**T** Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of people like us, so we can know You, love You, and live for You. You give us what we need but could never get on our own.

**S** God, send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Give us faith as we hear Your Word, the Bible. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us new creations! Give us the new birth! We want to know You and live for You!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

