

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES



Simple Story Scenes

Unit 12,

Bible Truth 2

Using Simple Story Scenes as a Curriculum

Introduce the Key Concept and Bible Verse

Simple Story Scenes give you the basics for the core of your lesson. You can use the overview sheet to introduce and explain the key concept and Bible verse.

Give the Case Assignment

Give the children a Detective Dan listening assignment. Two are provided. You can add a third using the ideas on the bonus, third take-home sheet, if desired. Each listening assignment, let's you teach the story with a different learning emphasis.

Show & Tell the Story

Hold up the pictures and tell the story from the story scenes. Alternatively, you can find in the and Pieces section for this unit at praisefactory.org, these same listening assignments and story scenes, gospel and ACTS prayer modified for view on a screen. Simply download them or open them online and show through your own monitor (tablet, big screen, whatever).

Solve the Case

Repeat Detective Dan's listening assignment question and discuss the answer.

Share the Gospel

Share the gospel tie-in with the kids.

Close in ACTS Prayer

Pray the ACTS prayer with the kids. If using the curriculum with older children, give them a chance to think up their own ACTS tie-ins to the story, using the one provided as cues/ideas for you.

Review Time

Give out the take-home sheet (there are three: two that correlates to the two Detective Dan assignments in the Story Scenes, and a bonus third one.) As the children are coloring, use the take-home sheet discussion questions or your own questions to further review and apply the key concepts, Bible verse, and story truths to the children.

Looking for more?

Online, in the Bits and Pieces section for this unit, you will find review games, crafts, storyboard flannelgraph figures, and audio and sheet music for all of the songs. There are also full lesson plans that offer more of a script and take this curriculum's possibilities to much more depth. Don't forget to tell the parents about the Parents Resources section where they can read through the Story scenes and download take homes with their kids.

Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit Big Question (and Answer): How Should God's People Live? They Should Live Like Jesus!

Unit Bible Verse: "Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." --Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV

Bible Truth 2 Concept: They Should Live Like Jesus... By Loving God Most of All!

Jesus loved God most of all. Jesus' love was more than a nice feeling inside His heart. Jesus lived out His love for God. He lived it out by loving God with the thoughts in His mind. He lived out His love with every word He spoke. He lived it out by always obeying God's laws in all that He did.

God wants His people to love Him like Jesus did, too. He wants them to love Him more than anyone or anything else. He wants them to love Him in their thoughts and their words. He wants them to love Him by obeying His good laws in all that they do, too.

God's people know that they can never love God perfectly like Jesus did. They are sinners. He is the perfect Son of God. But, they know that God promises to help them love Him most of all, by His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God will help us love Him most of all, too.

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Learn a Little: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might."

Meaning

These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He's the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for us all. God wants everyone to love Him most of all. He wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and strength. That's every bit of us! The best, first step to loving God most of all is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.

Bible Truth 2 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for giving us Jesus so we can know how we should love You.
- C** God, please forgive us for not loving You most of all. Too often we choose to love other people, things, and even ourselves, more than we love You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for promising to help us live like Jesus. You can help us to love You the way You want us to.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people. Help us to love You and live like You want us to live. Help us to love You most of all.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 2 Story

The Case of the Man Who Left His Money *Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5*

Songs Used in Bible Truth 2

Big Q & A 12 Song

Big Question 12 Song: How Should God's People Live?

Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song: Walk in Love Ephesians 5:1-2, ESV

Extra Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song: Let Everyone Who Names the Name 2 Timothy 2:19,22, ESV

Big Question 12 Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1

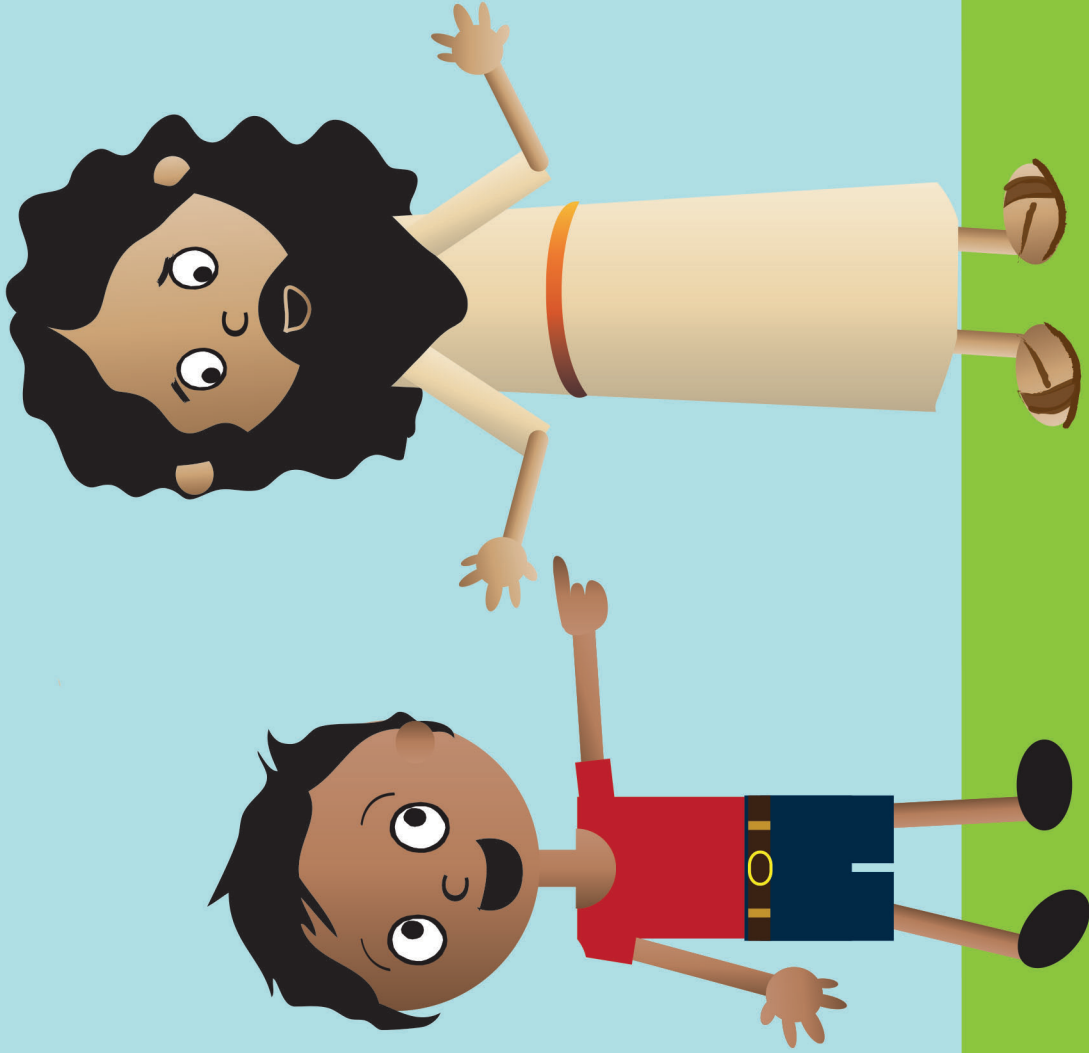
Big Question 12 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: Hear, O Hear Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

Extra Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: Your Steadfast Love Is Better than Life Psalm 63:3-4, ESV

listen to or download songs for free at <https://praisefactory.org>: Deep Down Detectives Music page

How should God's people live?



ANSWER:

They should live like Jesus!

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 12:

How Should God's People Live?

and the Answer is:

They Should Live Like Jesus!

Meaning:

We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God forgives our sins and we begin a whole new way of life. God's people no longer live life just to please themselves. They want to honor God with their whole lives, like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.

Let's sing our Big Question Song: "

Big Q & A 12 Song

DDD ESV Songs 12, track 12

(adapted version of "Pop, Goes the Weasel")

How should God's people live each day?

They should live like Jesus!

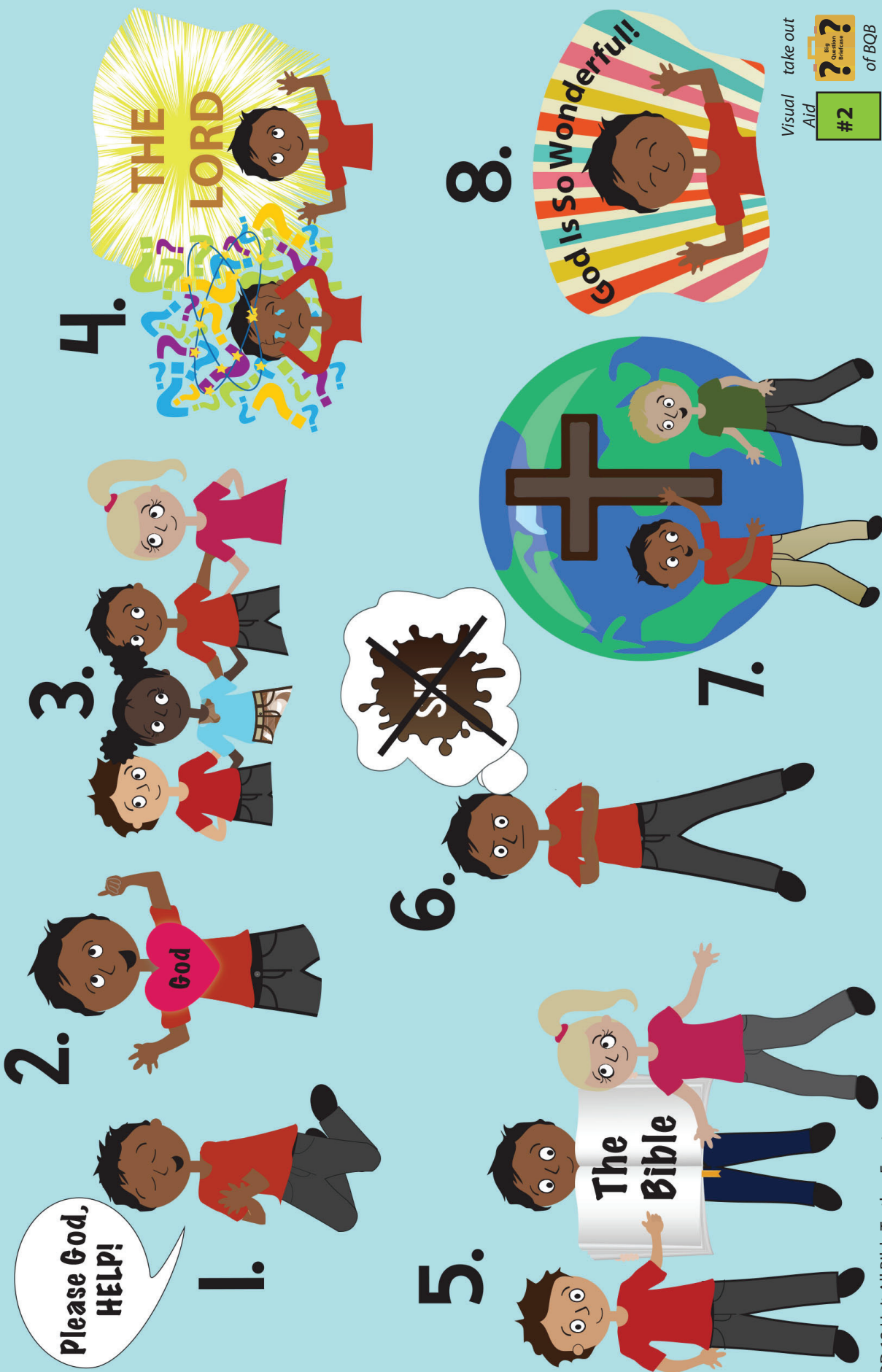
How should God's people live each day?

How should God's people live each day?

How should God's people live each day?

They should live like Jesus!

BIG QUESTION 12: Eight truths about how God's people live



Visual take out
Aid #2
The Question Briefcase
of BQB

This Unit's Bible Truths

"They Should Live Like Jesus" 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 EIGHT Bible truths that all tell us more about how God wants His people to live.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our eight 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 eight truths they will be learning.

After everyone has had a good look say...

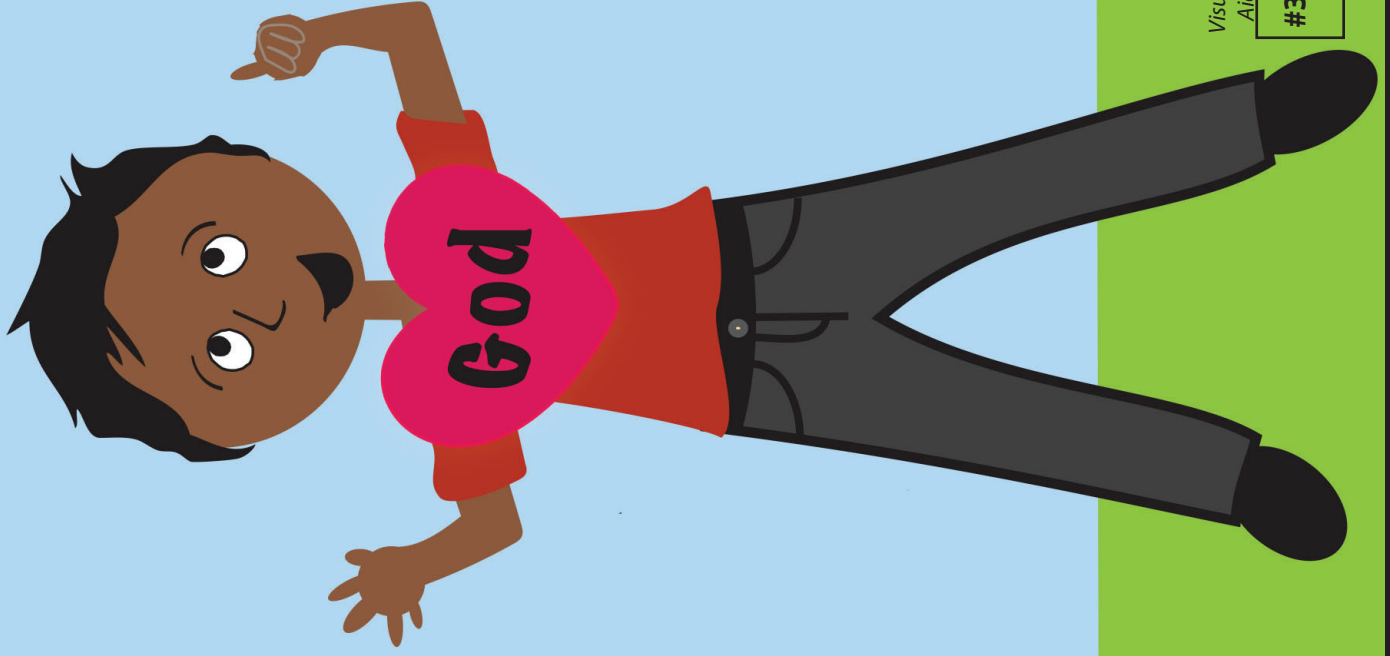
"Ok, we've learned one truth about how to live for God. It's this one: "By Asking God for His Help" (point to picture as you identify the Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these eight truths we will be learning about today. Who would like 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 Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus...
By Loving God ???? of All!**

HINT: This word means that we love God more than anyone or anything else. It starts with an "m" and it rhymes with "toast."



**ANSWER:
By Loving God MOST of All!**

Visual Aid
#3

take out
Big Question
Review
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 Should God’s People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!
By Loving God ???? of All!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word means that we love God more than anyone or anything else. It starts with an “m” and it rhymes with “toast.”

Can you guess? It’s “MOST.”

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

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

**“How Should God’s People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!
By Loving God MOST of All!”**

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

Jesus loved God most of all. Jesus’ love was more than a nice feeling inside His heart. Jesus lived out His love for God. He lived it out by loving God with the thoughts in His mind. He lived out His love with every word He spoke. He lived it out by always obeying God’s laws in all that He did.

God wants His people to love Him like Jesus did, too. He wants them to love Him more than anyone or anything else. He wants them to love Him in their thoughts and their words. He wants them to love Him by obeying His good laws in all that they do, too.

God’s people know that they can never love God perfectly like Jesus did. They are sinners. He is the perfect Son of God. But, they know that God promises to help them love Him most of all, by His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. We can become God’s people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God will help us love Him most of all, too.



Visual Aid

#4



take out



of BOB

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”-- Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

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:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 tells us:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Learn a Little:

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might."

What does that mean?

These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He's the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for us all. God wants everyone to love Him most of all. He wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and strength. That's every bit of us! The best, first step to loving God most of all is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.

"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?"

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

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Hear, O Hear:

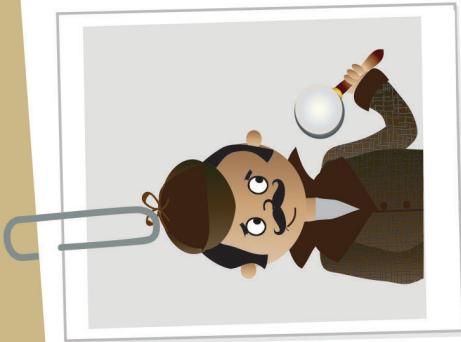
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

DDD ESV Songs 12, track 22

Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The LORD your God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God
with all your heart,
You shall love the LORD your God
with all your soul,
You shall love the LORD your God
with all your might.
Deuteronomy Six, four through five.

"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 Man Who Left His Money” Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who left his money? Why did he leave it behind?
2. Who did he decide to love even more than his money?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

1. Who loved money and the nice things in this world more than God?
2. Why did he leave his money and nice things behind? Who did he find was even better to love?

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

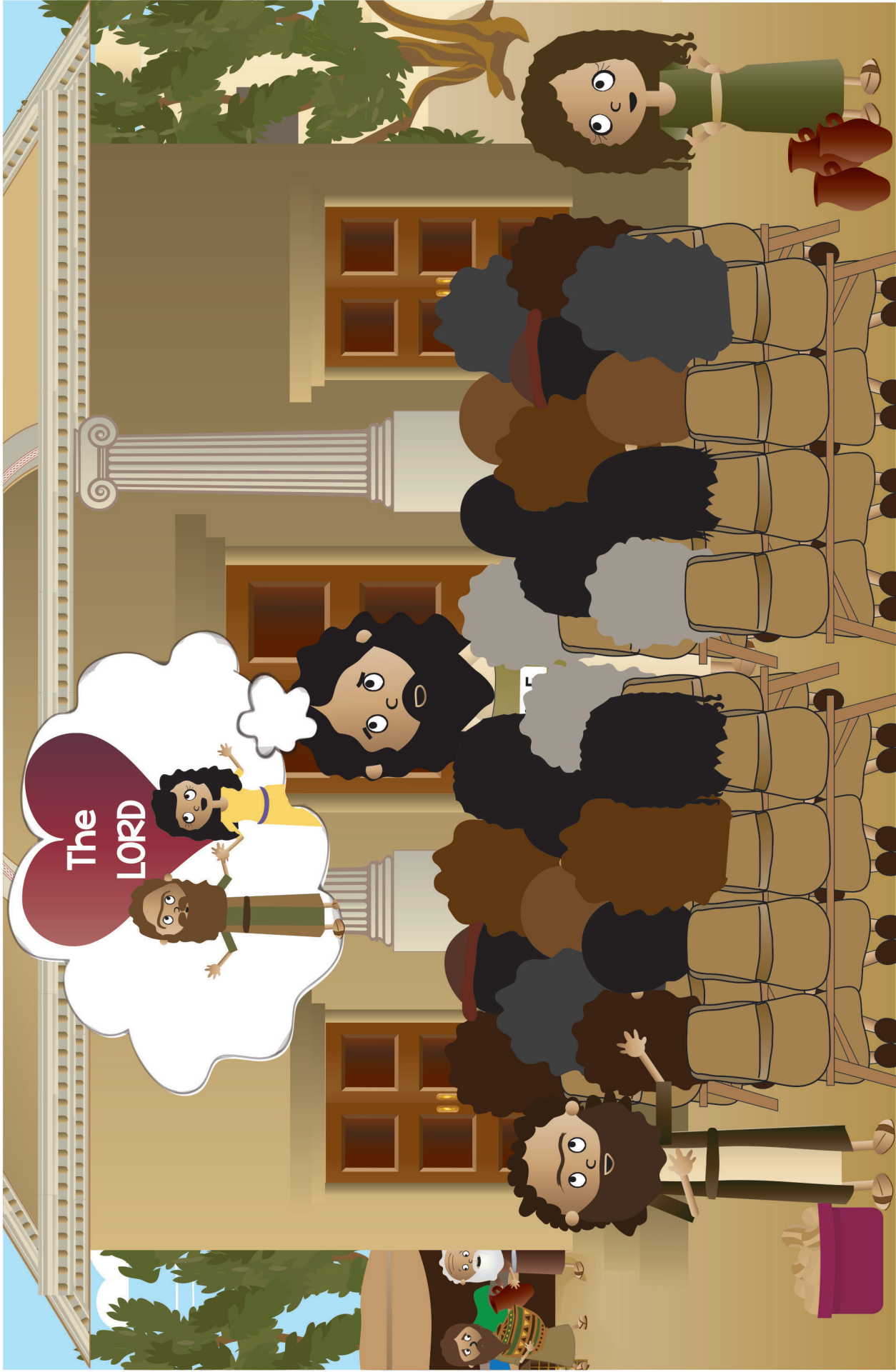
I. Jesus had good news to tell everyone. “The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” Jesus told them.

The kingdom of God is NEAR? What did THAT mean? What IS this kingdom of God? How can we be part of it?” many wondered. They gathered around Jesus to hear what He would say.



I. Jesus had good news to tell everyone. "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Jesus told them. The kingdom of God is **NEAR**? What did **THAT** mean? What **IS** this kingdom of God? How can we be part of it?" many wondered. They gathered around Jesus to hear what He would say.

2. “The kingdom of God is so wonderful. It’s worth giving up everything to be a part of it. It’s knowing and enjoying God as His people. It’s loving God most of all and living for Him,” Jesus taught the people.



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3. “But WHERE is this kingdom of God, and WHEN is it coming?” the people wanted to know.

The other teachers taught that God’s great Messiah-King would come soon and get rid of God’s enemies. He would rule in the land of Israel. Now, they wanted to hear what Jesus had to say.



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4. Jesus amazed the people with His different teaching.

Jesus taught them that the kingdom of God is ALREADY in HEAVEN with God. It's a place where everyone loves God most and lives for Him always. It's where God's people go to live with God when they die.



Home with God forever!

4. Jesus amazed the people with His different teaching. Jesus taught them that the kingdom of God is **ALREADY** in **HEAVEN** with God. It's a place where everyone loves God most and lives for Him always. It's where God's people go to live with God when they die.

5. And, the Kingdom of God is COMING to EARTH, Jesus promised.

One day, He, God's great Messiah-king, will come back to end sin and death. He will be king forever over God's people in the new earth God promised to make.



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6. But most amazing of all, Jesus told them, “God’s kingdom can be in your HEART-TODAY! Repent! Turn away from your sins. Believe! Trust in Me as your Savior,” He said. “This is the gospel, the good news I’ve come to tell you! Come! The kingdom of God is NEAR! It’s NOW!” Jesus exclaimed.

Wow! Jesus’ good news was the BEST news the people had ever heard! They didn’t have to wait for heaven or even until Jesus came back. They could be part of God’s kingdom that very day!



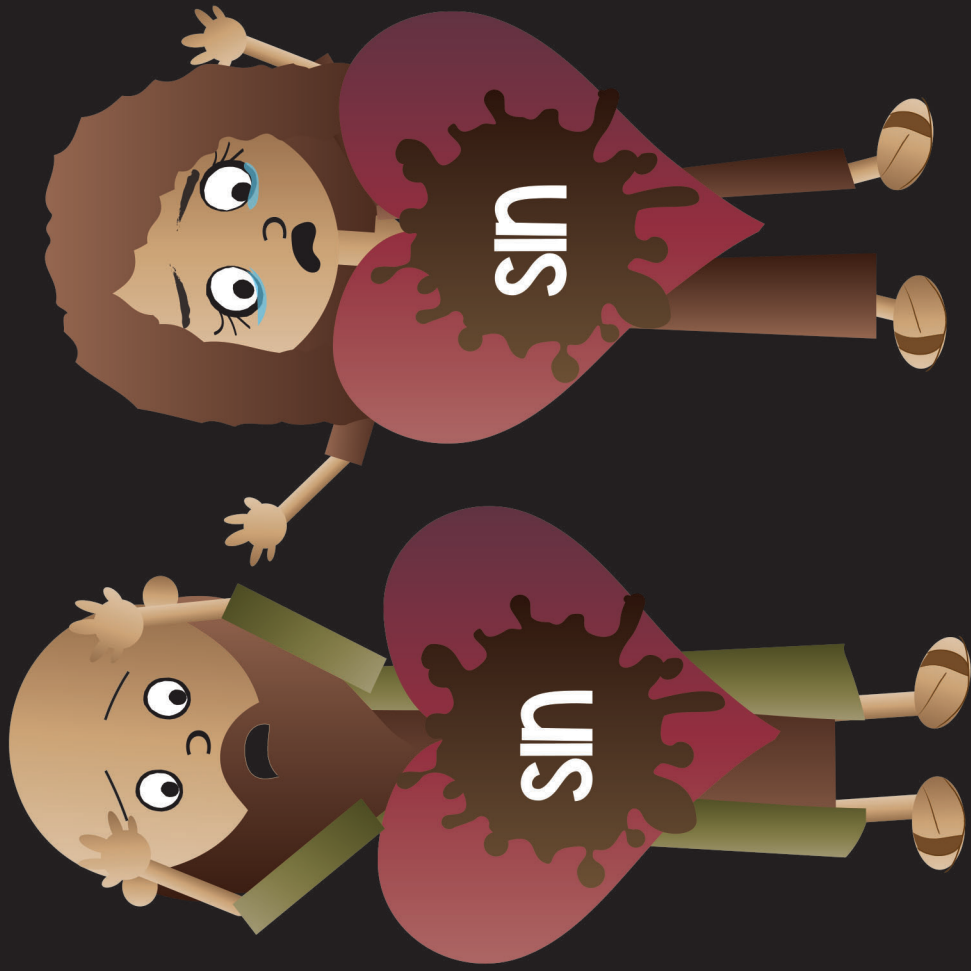
6. But most amazing of all, Jesus told them, "God's kingdom can be in your HEART - TODAY! Repent --turn away from your sins. Believe -- trust in Me as your Savior." He said. "This is the gospel, the good news I've come to tell you! Come! The kingdom of God is NEAR! It's NOW!" Jesus exclaimed.

Wow! Jesus' good news was the BEST news the people had ever heard! They didn't have to wait for heaven or even until Jesus came back. They could be part of God's kingdom that very day!

7. But as BIG and as GOOD as this news was, it wasn't EASY news to live out.

Why? Because our hearts are sinful. We find other THINGS to LOVE more than God. We choose other WAYS to LIVE instead of God's good way. There are so many things that we must STOP loving and STOP doing if we are to love God most of all. That can be so very, very hard!

Oh, how the sin in our hearts gives us trouble!



7. But as **BIG** and as **GOOD** as this news was, it wasn't **EASY** news to live out. Why? Because our hearts are sinful. We find other **THINGS** to **LOVE** more than God. We choose other **WAYS** to **LIVE** instead of God's good way. There are so many things that we must **STOP** loving and **STOP** doing if we are to love God most of all. That can be so very, very hard! Oh, how the sin in our hearts gives us trouble!

8. A man named Matthew knew this. Matthew did NOT love God most of all. He loved money and the nice things he could buy, instead.

And, while Matthew had grown up learning about God and His good laws, he had chosen NOT to obey them. Matter of fact, Matthew had chosen to do the very opposite: He had chosen to break God's good laws to get more money and more nice things for himself.



8. A man named Matthew knew this. Matthew did NOT love God most of all. He loved money and the nice things he could buy, instead. And, while Matthew had grown up learning about God and His good laws, he had chosen NOT to obey them. Matter of fact, Matthew had chosen to do the very opposite: He had chosen to break God's good laws to get more money and more nice things for himself.

q. For like Zacchaeus (who we learned about a few stories earlier), Matthew was a tax collector who gathered money for Caesar, the big, Roman king who had taken over the land of Israel. And like Zacchaeus,

Matthew did many bad things to make people give him lots of money, so he could be rich, rich, rich!



9. For like Zacchaeus (who we learned about a few stories earlier), Matthew was a tax collector who gathered money for Caesar, the big, Roman king who had taken over the land of Israel. And like Zacchaeus, Matthew did many bad things to make people give him lots of money, so he could be rich, rich, rich!

10. Day after day, Matthew sat in his tax house on the road near the Sea of Galilee and the town of Capernaum.

“Stop! Pay your taxes,” Matthew would say to the people loaded down with things to sell. He looked over their loads and told them how much to pay. The more stuff, the more taxes they owed.

Matthew always made them pay enough to make big, King Caesar happy, plus a lot more to keep for himself.



10. Day after day, Matthew sat in his tax house on the road near the Sea of Galilee and the town of Capernaum. “Stop! Pay your taxes,” Matthew would say to the people loaded down with things to sell. He looked over their loads and told them how much to pay. The more stuff, the more taxes they owed. Matthew always made them pay enough to make big, King Caesar happy, plus a lot more to keep for himself.

II. Matthew squeezed lots of tax money from the people of Capernaum, too. He did whatever it took to get enough for Caesar, plus a lot more for himself. '

The people hated Matthew. They wanted nothing to do with him. They wouldn't even let him in the worship place to worship God.

Perhaps Matthew had a big house, lots of nice things, and loads of money, but he had lost many friends. He had broken his friendship with them by the mean, greedy things he had done.

12. But Matthew's bad life had broken his friendship with SOMEONE ELSE, too. Someone far more important than the people in Matthew's town. Can you guess who?

It was God! Matthew had chosen to love money and nice things most of all. He had chosen to break God's good laws, and he refused to repent.

Oh, how very broken was Matthew's friendship with God! Oh, how very sinful was his heart! Surely, there was no hope for him to ever be right with God again. Wherever God's kingdom was. Whenever it could come. Matthew certainly would not be a part of it.



12. But Matthew's bad life had broken his friendship with **SOMEONE ELSE**, too. Someone far more important than the people in Matthew's town. Can you guess who? It was God! Matthew had chosen to love money and nice things most of all. He had chosen to break God's good laws, and he refused to repent. Oh, how very broken was Matthew's friendship with God! Oh, how very sinful was his heart! Surely, there was no hope for him to ever be right with God again. Wherever God's kingdom was. Whenever it could come. Matthew certainly would not be a part of it.

**13. But there WAS hope for Matthew, and that hope came through
Jesus!**



13. But there WAS hope for Matthew, and that hope came through Jesus!

14. Jesus came to Matthew's town and began to teach.

"The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Jesus told Matthew and many others.

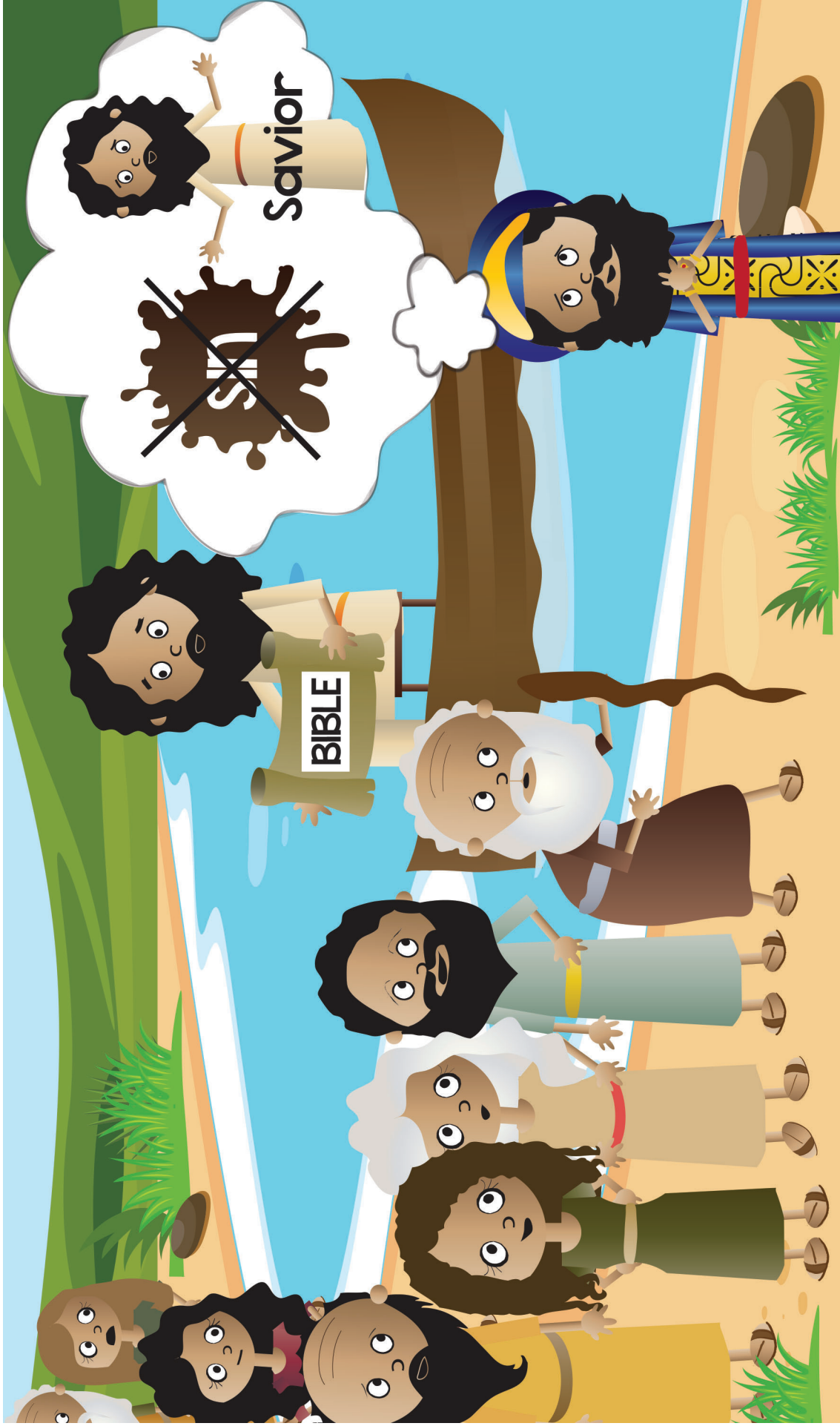


14. Jesus came to Matthew's town and began to teach. "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Jesus told Matthew and many others.

15. As Matthew listened to Jesus, the Holy Spirit began to work in his heart and change it.

No longer did Matthew want to love money and nice things most of all. Now, he wanted to love God most of all. He wanted to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as his Savior. He wanted to be one of God's people and have the kingdom of God be in his heart.

Could God really make such a big change inside a man like Matthew?



15. As Matthew listened to Jesus, the Holy Spirit began to work in his heart and change it. No longer did Matthew want to love money and nice things most of all. Now, he wanted to love God most of all. He wanted to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as his Savior. He wanted to be one of God's people and have the kingdom of God be in his heart. Could God really make such a big change inside a man like Matthew?

16. Yes, He could!

Jesus knew what was happening inside Matthew's heart. He went to Matthew at his tax house, and said to him, "Matthew, follow me! Come be one of my disciples, one of my close friends who lives with me and learns from me each day."



16. Yes, He could! Jesus knew what was happening inside Matthew's heart. He went to Matthew at his tax house, and said to him, "Matthew, follow Me! Come be one of my disciples, one of my close friends who lives with Me and learns from Me each day."

17. “Yes, Jesus, I will,” Matthew told Jesus.

Matthew left his tax house and followed Jesus, right then and there. He trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Matthew had become one of God’s people.

The kingdom of God had begun its rule in his heart, that very day! Matthew was turning away from loving money and lots of nice things most of all. Now, he would seek to love God most of all and live to obey Him.



17. “Yes, Jesus, I will,” Matthew told Jesus. Matthew left his tax house and followed Jesus, right then and there. He trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Matthew had become one of God’s people. The kingdom of God had begun its rule in his heart, that very day! Matthew was turning away from loving money and lots of nice things most of all. Now, he would seek to love God most of all and live to obey Him.

18. What happened to Matthew after that? Did he ever go back to loving money most of all?

No, he did NOT! For the rest of his life, Matthew followed Jesus and sought to love God most of all.



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19. And did you know that Matthew even wrote down one of the books in the Bible? It's called the Gospel of Matthew.

What a perfect name for Matthew's story about Jesus! "Gospel" is a Bible word that means "good news." And that's exactly what Matthew's story was. For though it wasn't always easy for Matthew to follow Jesus and live God's way, it was always good.

Jesus said that being one of God's people in God's kingdom was worth giving up everything. Matthew knew this was right. There really was no one more wonderful to know, love, and obey than God!



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DDD 12.2 Simple Story Scenes

“The Case of the Man Who Left His Money” Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5

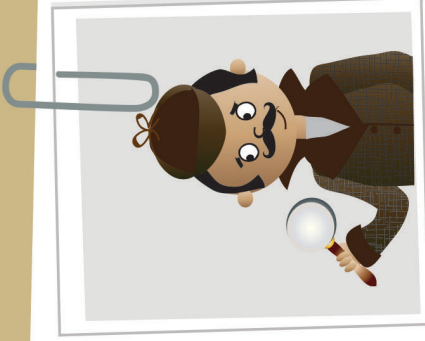
SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who left his money? Why did he leave it behind? The Holy Spirit worked in his heart as he Matthew did. The Holy Spirit worked in his heart as he listened to Jesus teach. He helped Matthew turn away from his old life of loving money and nice things, and love God and live for Him, instead.
2. Who did he decide to love even more than his money? God!

For You and Me:
Matthew had a lot of money and he loved nice things, but he learned that God was better than even the world's best things. There are many nice things we may enjoy in this world, too. But we will never find anything that is better than loving God and being one of God's people. We can become one of God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

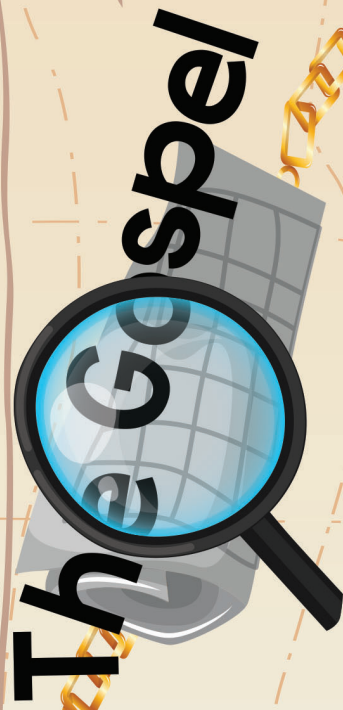
1. Who loved money and the nice things in this world more than God? Matthew did.
2. Why did he leave his money and nice things behind? Who did he find was even better to love? The Holy Spirit worked in his heart as he listened to Jesus teach. He helped Matthew turn away from his old life of loving money and nice things, and love God and live for Him, instead.

For You and Me:
Matthew had a lot of money and he loved nice things, but he learned that God was better than even the world's best things. There are many nice things we may enjoy in this world, too. But we will never find anything that is better than loving God and being one of God's people. We can become one of God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

DDD 12.2 Simple Story Scenes

How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus...
By Loving God Most of All!

The Gospel

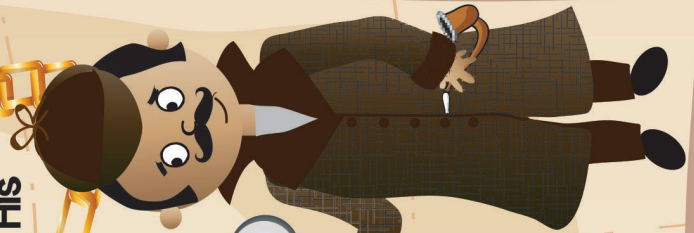


We should love God, our good Creator and King, most of all. He made us and has blessed us with many, good gifts. He has given us His good laws to live by. But sadly, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have all chosen to love other things more than Him. How we deserve God's punishment!

But God has been so kind! He offers us forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. He loved God most of all. Then, on the cross, Jesus gave His life as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had really beaten sin and death for them.

Now, we can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can save us and send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.

He can help us love God most of all.
Ask Him to help you. He loves to!



DDD 12.2 Simple Story Scenes

A Prayer

A God, we praise You for giving us Jesus so we can know how we should love You.

C God, please forgive us for not loving You most of all. Too often we choose to love other people, things, and even ourselves, more than we love You. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for promising to help people like us to live like Jesus. You can help us to love You the way You want us to.

S God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people. Help us to love You and live like You want us to live. Help us to love You most of all.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 12.2 Simple Story Scenes