

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, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." --Ephesians 5:1-2

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

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength

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

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: Live a Life of Love Ephesians 5:2, NIV 1984

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

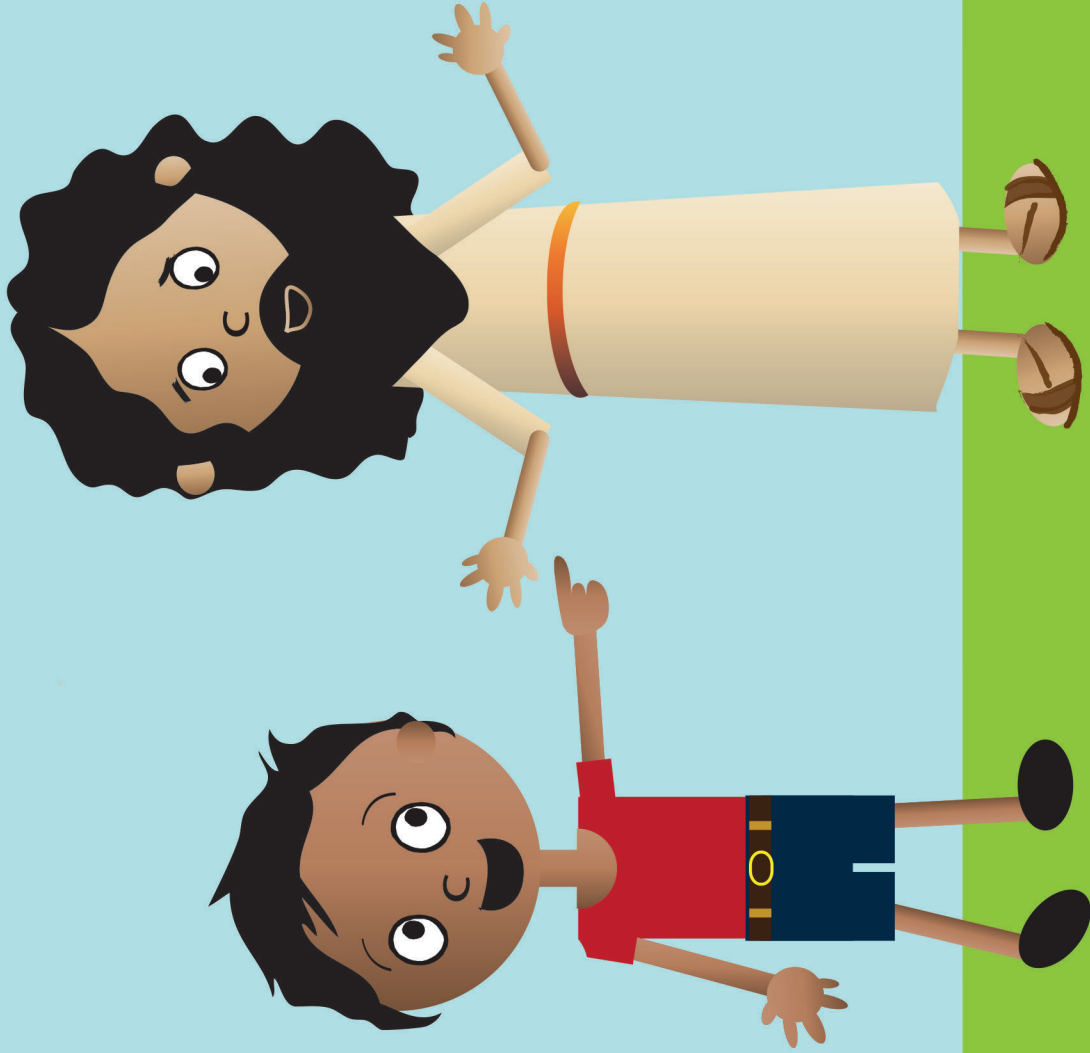
Big Question 12 Praise Song: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse Song: Hear, O Hear Deuteronomy 6:4-5, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 2 Extra Bible Verse: Your Love Is Better than Life Psalm 63:3-4, NIV 1984

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
BIG
QUESTION
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 NIV Songs 12, track 12

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

How should God's people live each day?

They should live like Jesus!

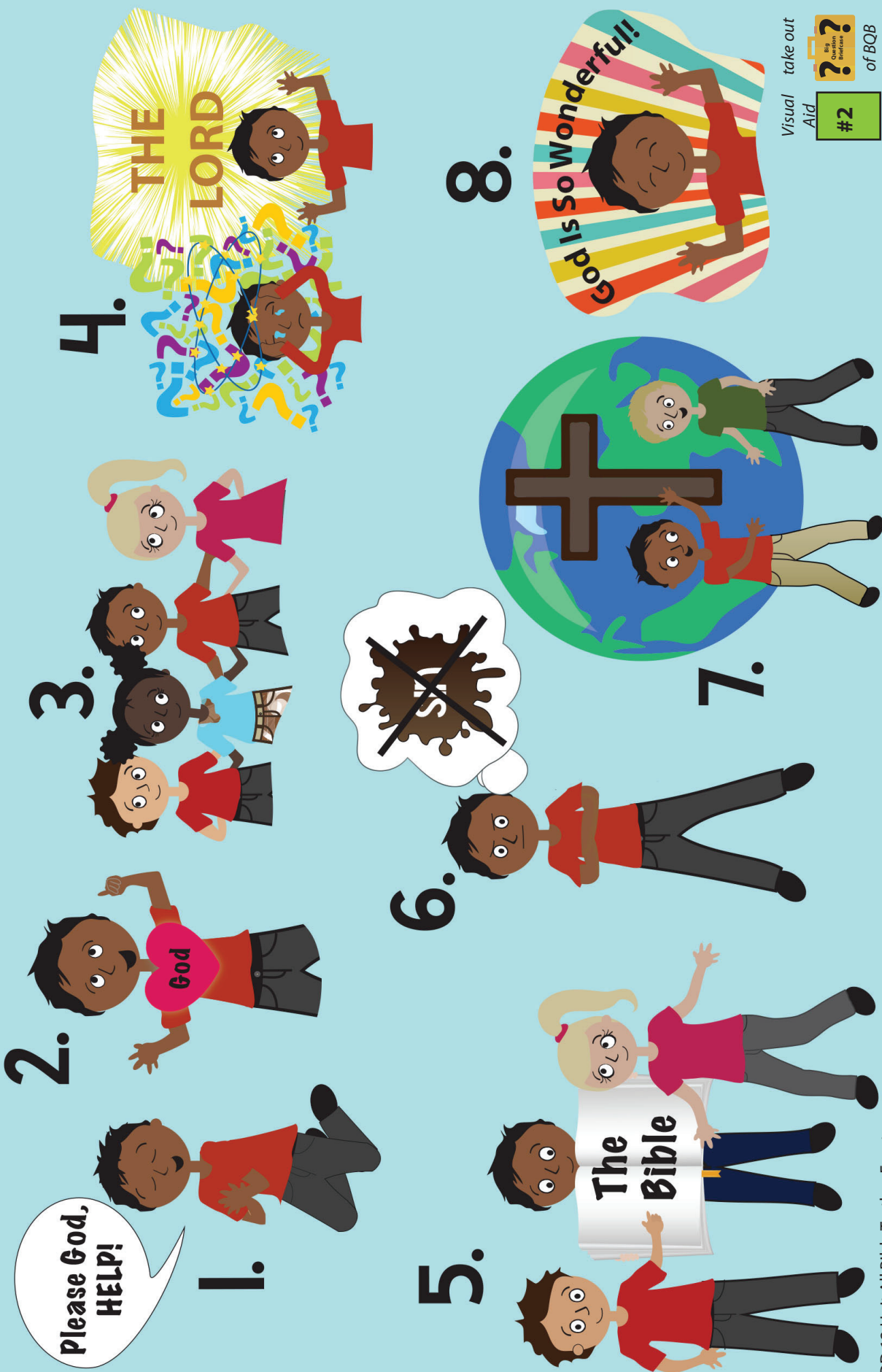
How should God's people live each day?

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
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...

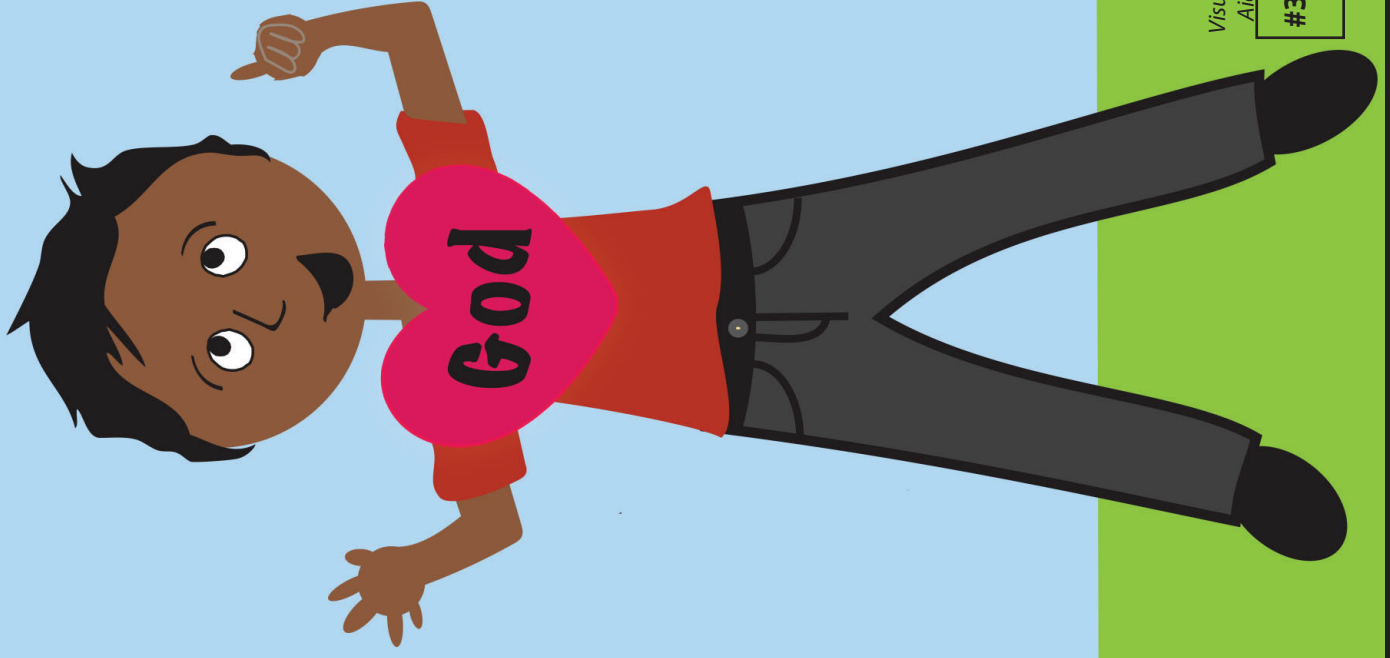
"Ok, we've learned one truth about how to live for God. It's this one: "By Asking God for His Help" (point to picture as you identify the Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these eight truths we will be learning about today. Who would like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

DDD Bible of BQB

**“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength.” -- Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

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:

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Learn a Little:

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

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!"

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

Hear, O Hear:

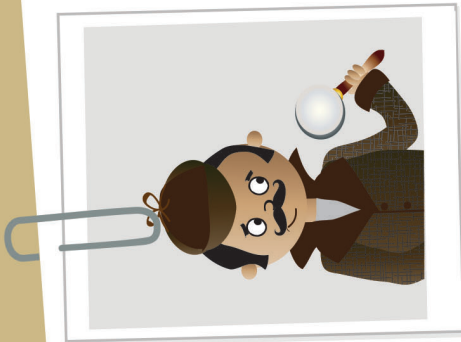
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

DDD NIV Songs 12, track 20

Hear, O hear, O Israel,
Hear, O hear, O Israel,
The LORD your God, the LORD is one.
Love the LORD our God
with all your heart,
Love the LORD our God with all your soul,
Love the LORD our God
with all your strength.
Deuteronomy Six,
verses 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, NIV

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

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)

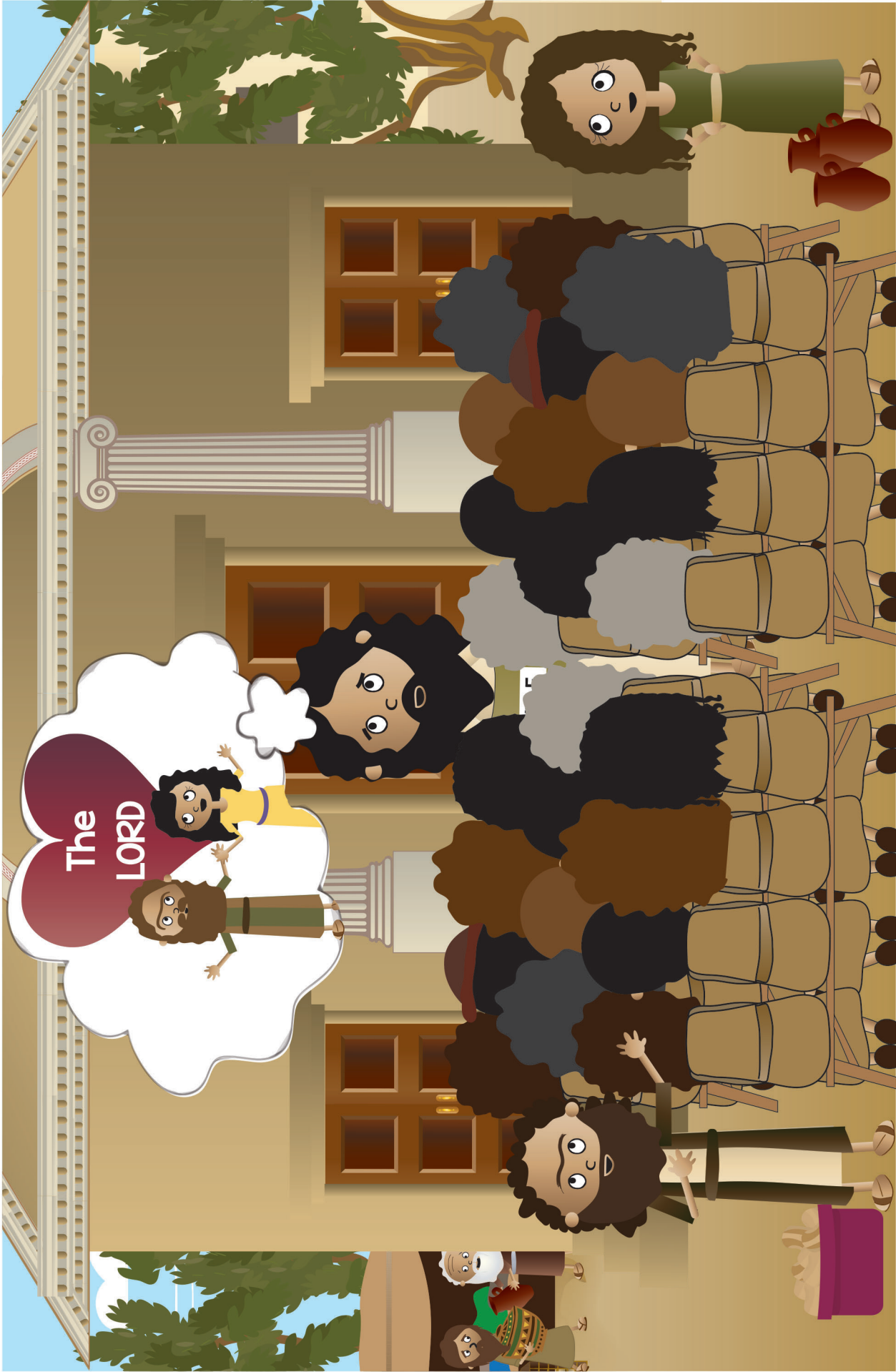
I. Jesus had good news to tell everyone. “The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” Jesus told them.

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.



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.

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.



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.

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.



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.

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!



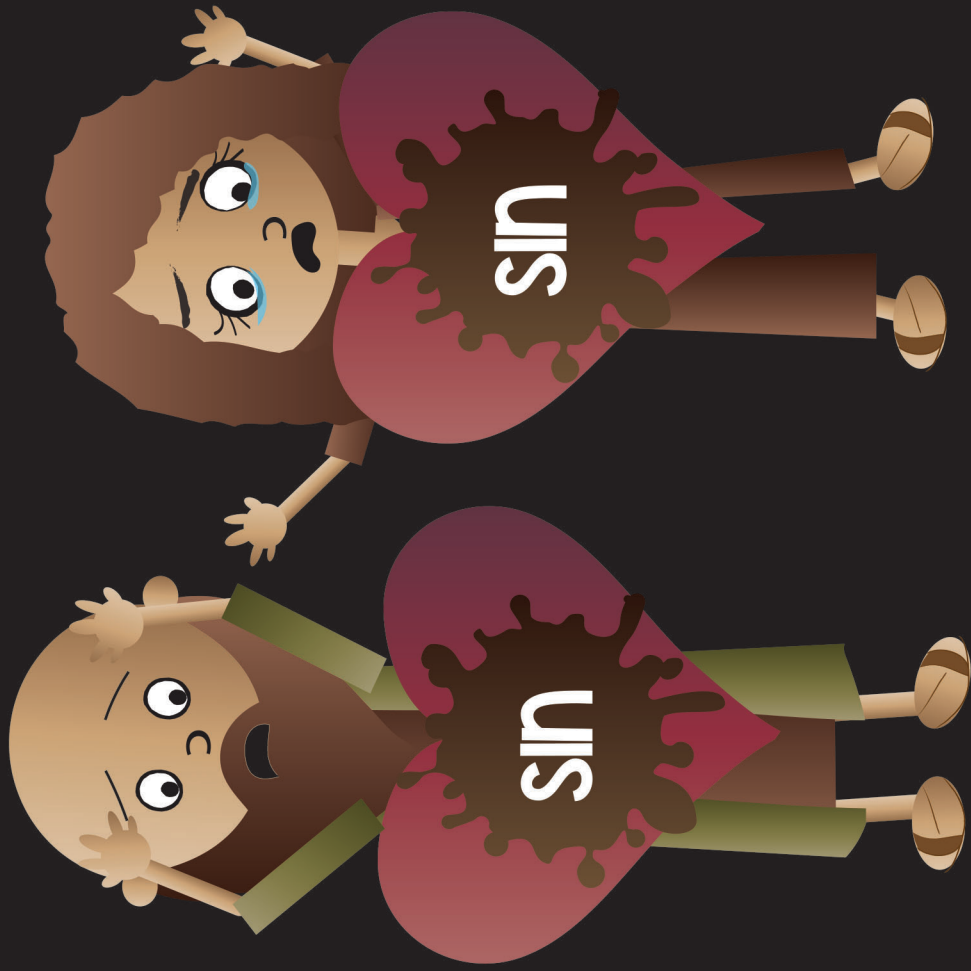
6. But most amazing of all, Jesus told them, “God’s kingdom can be in your HEART – TODAY! Repent --turn away from your sins. Believe -- trust in Me as your Savior.” He said. “This is the gospel, the good news I’ve come to tell you! Come! The kingdom of God is NEAR! It’s NOW!” Jesus exclaimed.

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.



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.

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!

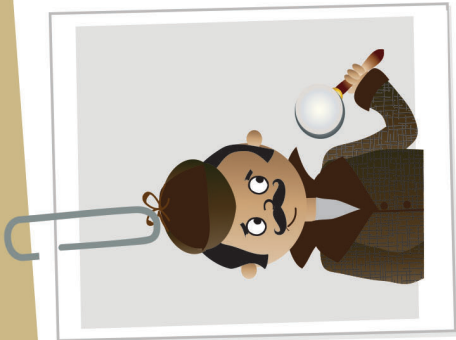


19. And did you know that Matthew even wrote down one of the books in the Bible? It's called the Gospel of Matthew. What a perfect name for Matthew's story about Jesus! "Gospel" is a Bible word that means "good news." And that's exactly what Matthew's story was. For though it wasn't always easy for Matthew 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!

DDD 12.2 Simple Story Scenes

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

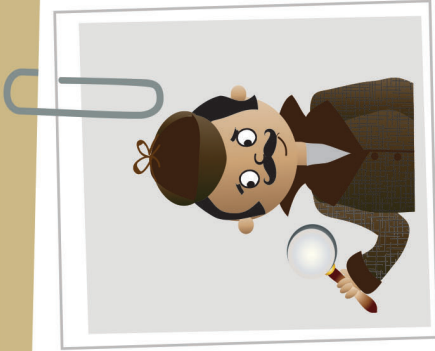
SOLVED



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, NIV

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

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

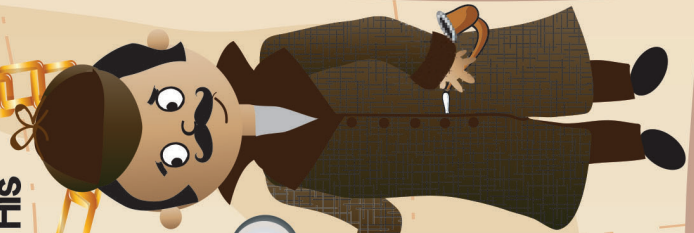


We should love God, our good Creator and King, most of all. He made us and has blessed us with many, good gifts. He has given us His good laws to live by. But sadly, we have all chosen to disobey Him and His good laws. We have all chosen to love other things more than Him. How we deserve God's punishment!

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

DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES



Simple Story Scenes

Unit 12,

Bible Truth 3

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, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." --Ephesians 5:1-2

Bible Truth 3 Concept: They Should Live Like Jesus... By Loving Other People as God Has Loved Them

Jesus always loved people with God's love. He loved them in everything He said and did. Jesus even loved His enemies and did good to them, though they were so mean to Him.

Most of all, Jesus loved people by being our Savior. On the cross, Jesus took God's punishment for the sins of God's people --all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Why? So that they could know God in their hearts, now. And, so they could go live with God forever when they die. There is no one who has ever loved us more than Jesus!

Jesus wants God's people to love other people with God's love, too. He wants them to love others in everything they say and do. He wants them to tell others how they can be saved and become God's people, too. He even wants them to love their enemies and do them good.

God's people need help to live like this. God promises to help them love others, by His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, the Holy Spirit will live inside of us and help us to love others with God's love, too.

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Learn a Little: "Love is patient, love is kind."

Meaning:

These verses tell us how God wants His people to love others. This is how He has treated them through Jesus. He wants them to be like Him and love others this way, too. God's Holy Spirit helps His people love in these ways. He helps them love even when it is very hard. God's Holy Spirit can help us love this way, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.

Bible Truth 3 ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the God who loves and is able to help us love.
- C** God, please forgive us for not loving others as You want us to. Many times, we choose to love ourselves more than others. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Your Son to be our Savior. He loved us in everything He said and did. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who can help us love others 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. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Help us to love You and others as Jesus did. Help us to even love our enemies.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 3 Story

The Case of the Man Who Kept on Loving

Acts 6-7

Songs Used in Bible Truth 3

Big Q & A 12 Song

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

Big Question 12 Bible Verse Song: Live a Life of Love Ephesians 5:2, NIV 1984

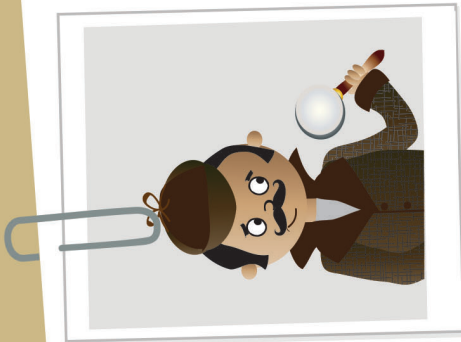
Big Question 12 Hymn: Trust and Obey, v.1

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

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse Song: Love Is Patient 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV1984

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

“The Case of the Man Who Kept on Loving” Acts 6-7



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who kept on loving?
2. Who did he keep on loving?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

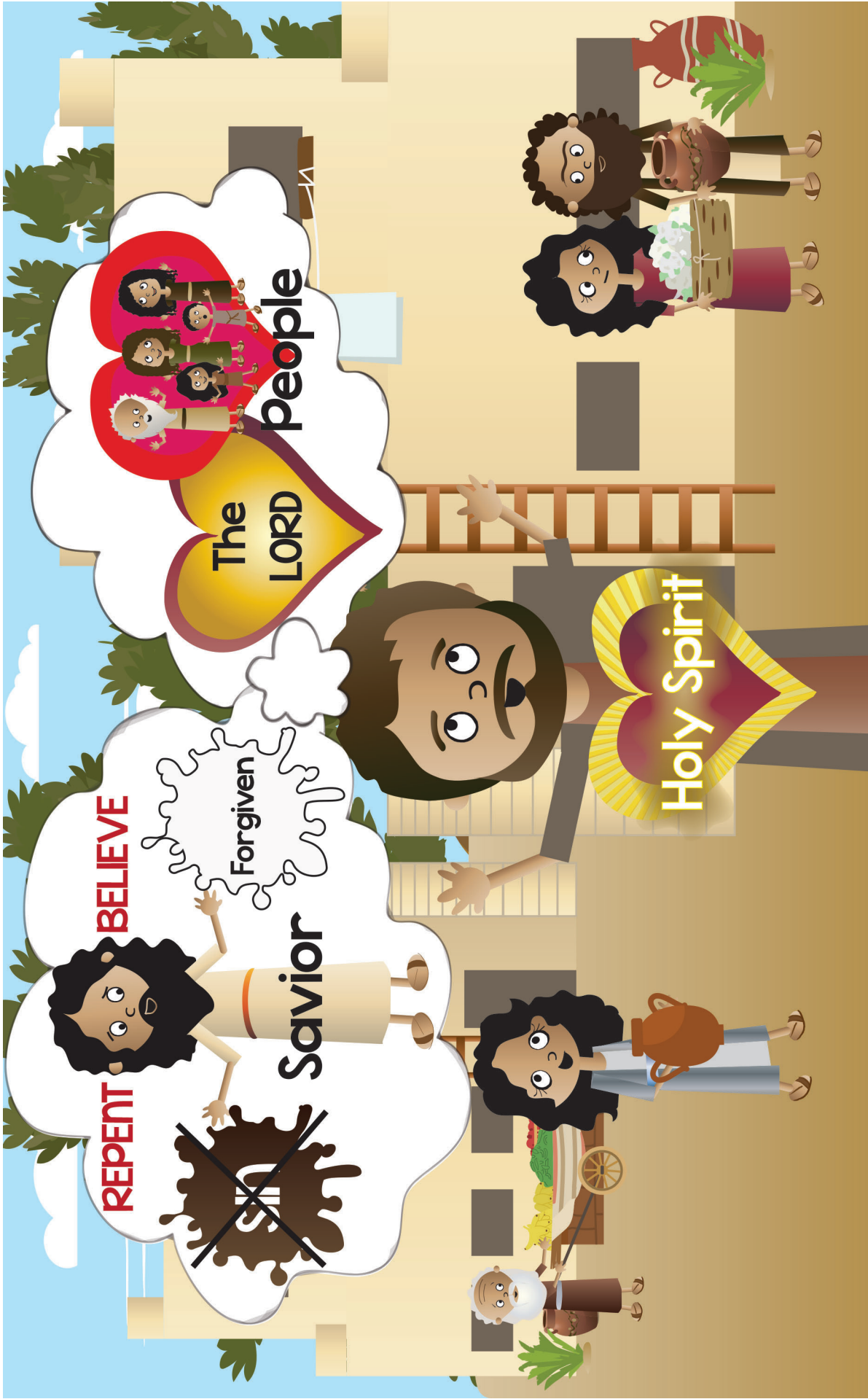
I Corinthians 13:4,8, NIV

“Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

1. Who lived for God by loving others like this?
2. How did his life show this kind of love?

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

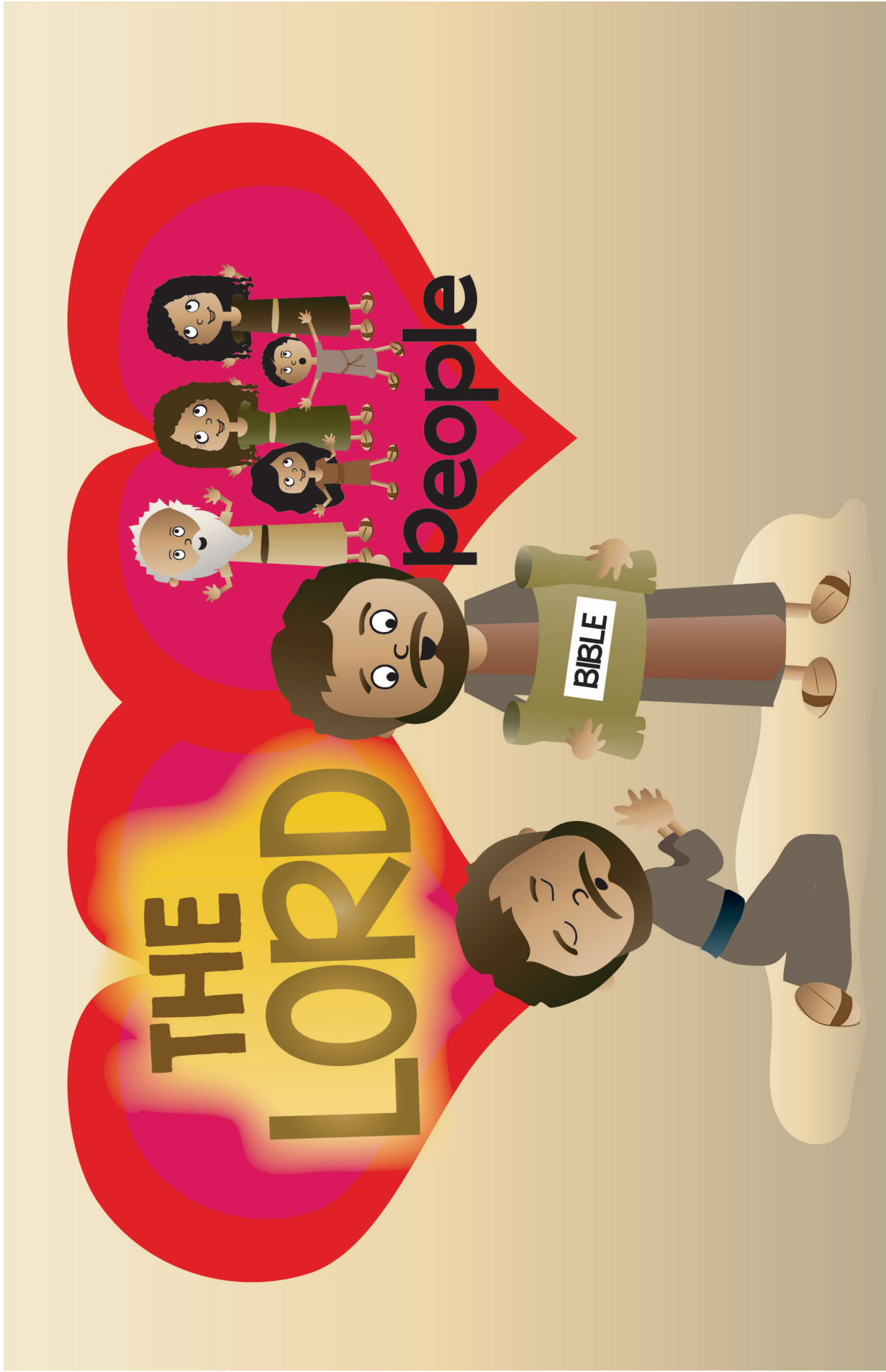
I. Stephen was a follower of Jesus. He heard the good news of Jesus and trusted in Him as his Savior. Stephen turned away from living life his own way. Now, he wanted to live God's good way. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen. He lived in Stephen's heart, filling him with love for God and for other people.



I. Stephen was a follower of Jesus. He heard the good news of Jesus and trusted in Him as his Savior. Stephen turned away from living life his own way. Now, he wanted to live God's good way. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen. He lived in Stephen's heart, filling him with love for God and for other people.

2. But it wasn't just Stephen's heart that was full of love for God and for people. Stephen's life was, too. In everything that Stephen did, he wanted to live out this love for God and for others.

So, Stephen learned God's Word, the Bible, and he prayed.



2. But it wasn't just Stephen's heart that was full of love for God and for people. Stephen's life was, too. In everything that Stephen did, he wanted to live out this love for God and for others. So, Stephen learned God's Word, the Bible, and he prayed.

3. He taught God's Word to others; and, he took care of the older widows in the church (women whose husbands had died and left them with no one to help them). Yes, in these ways and many more,

Stephen lived a life of love for God and for other people.



3. He taught God's Word to others; and, he took care of the older widows in the church (women whose husbands had died and left them with no one to help them). Yes, in these ways and many more, Stephen lived a life of love for God and for other people.

4. But, there was something ELSE Stephen did that showed his love for God and for others. He shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen.



4. But, there was something ELSE Stephen did that showed his love for God and for others. He shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen.

5. “Listen to the good news!” Stephen told them. “Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Savior God promised to send. He suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins,” Stephen told them. “Then on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead to show He had really beaten sin and death.



5. "Listen to the good news!" Stephen told them. "Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Savior God promised to send. He suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins," Stephen told them. "Then on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead to show He had really beaten sin and death.

6. “Come, turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior,” Stephen urged all. “God will forgive your sins. You will be His people. You will get to know and love Him now. And when you die, you will go to live with Him and enjoy Him forever!” he promised them.



6. "Come, turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior," Stephen urged all. "God will forgive your sins. You will be His people. You will get to know and love Him now. And when you die, you will go to live with Him and enjoy Him forever!" he promised them.

7. Sometimes, God did amazing miracles as Stephen shared about Jesus. God did this so everyone would know that this good news was really true. Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior.



7. Sometimes, God did amazing miracles as Stephen shared about Jesus. God did this so everyone would know that this good news was really true. Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior.

8. But the best miracle of all was what God's Holy Spirit did in the hearts of many who listened to Stephen. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Now, they were God's people and the Holy Spirit lived in their hearts! Stephen and the other followers rejoiced to see God save so many people.



8. But the best miracle of all was what God's Holy Spirit did in the hearts of many who listened to Stephen. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Now, they were God's people and the Holy Spirit lived in their hearts! Stephen and the other followers rejoiced to see God save so many people.

9. But while Stephen and the other believers rejoiced, others were very upset.

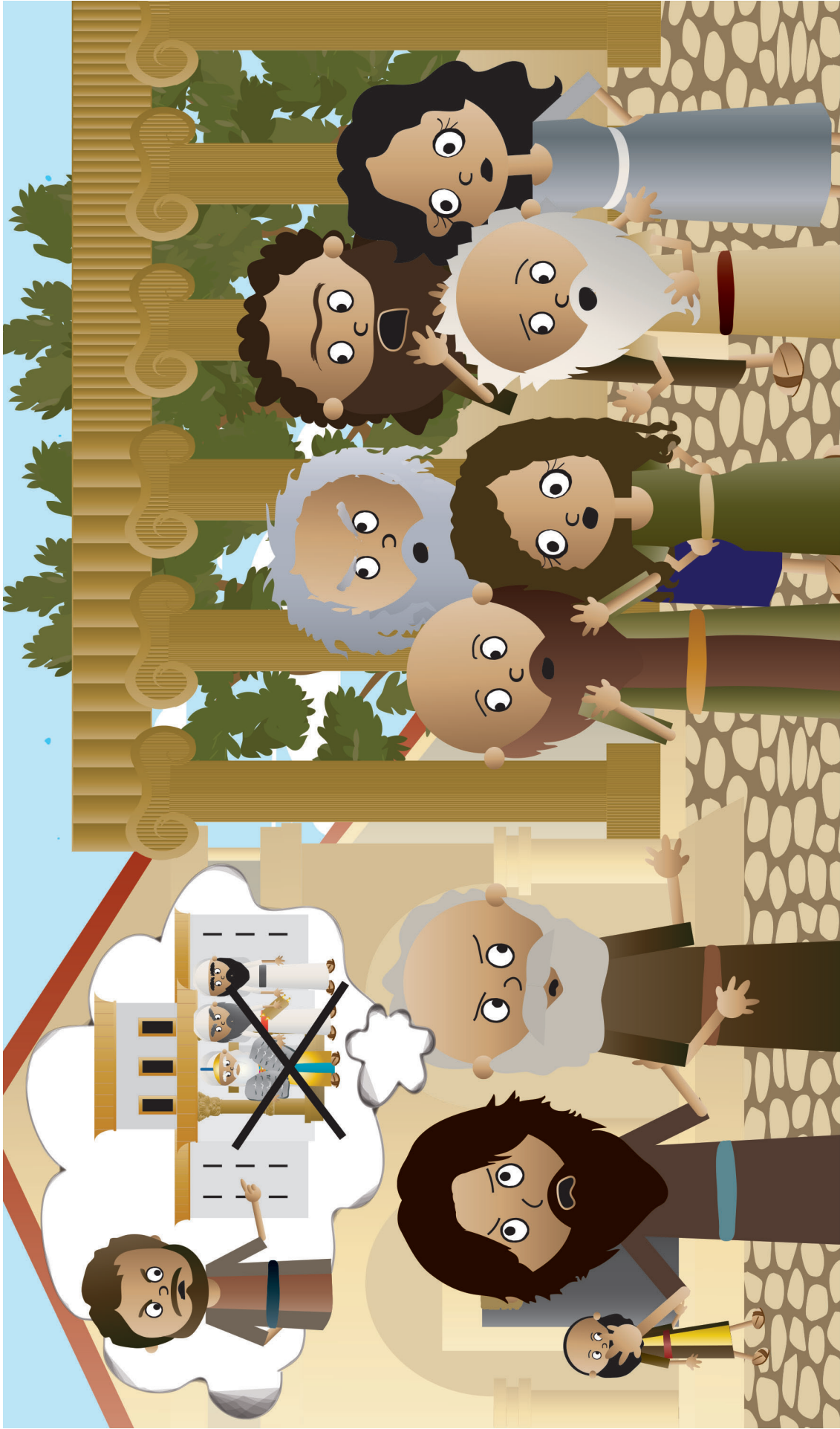
“Something must be done to stop Stephen from saying these things!” these enemies exclaimed. “Stephen is teaching lies to the people,” they said. “Jesus was a fake. He wasn’t really the Son of God. He didn’t save anyone from their sins when he died on the cross. He didn’t rise from the dead,” they said. “We must stop Stephen, but how?” these enemies wondered. “What can be done?”

10. Yes, this was quite a problem. Everyone could see how God did amazing things through Stephen. They heard the great wisdom God gave Stephen as he preached. They saw God's great power in the miracles Stephen did. And, they could see God's love in Stephen's care for others.

"How can you stop a man like this?" his enemies exclaimed.

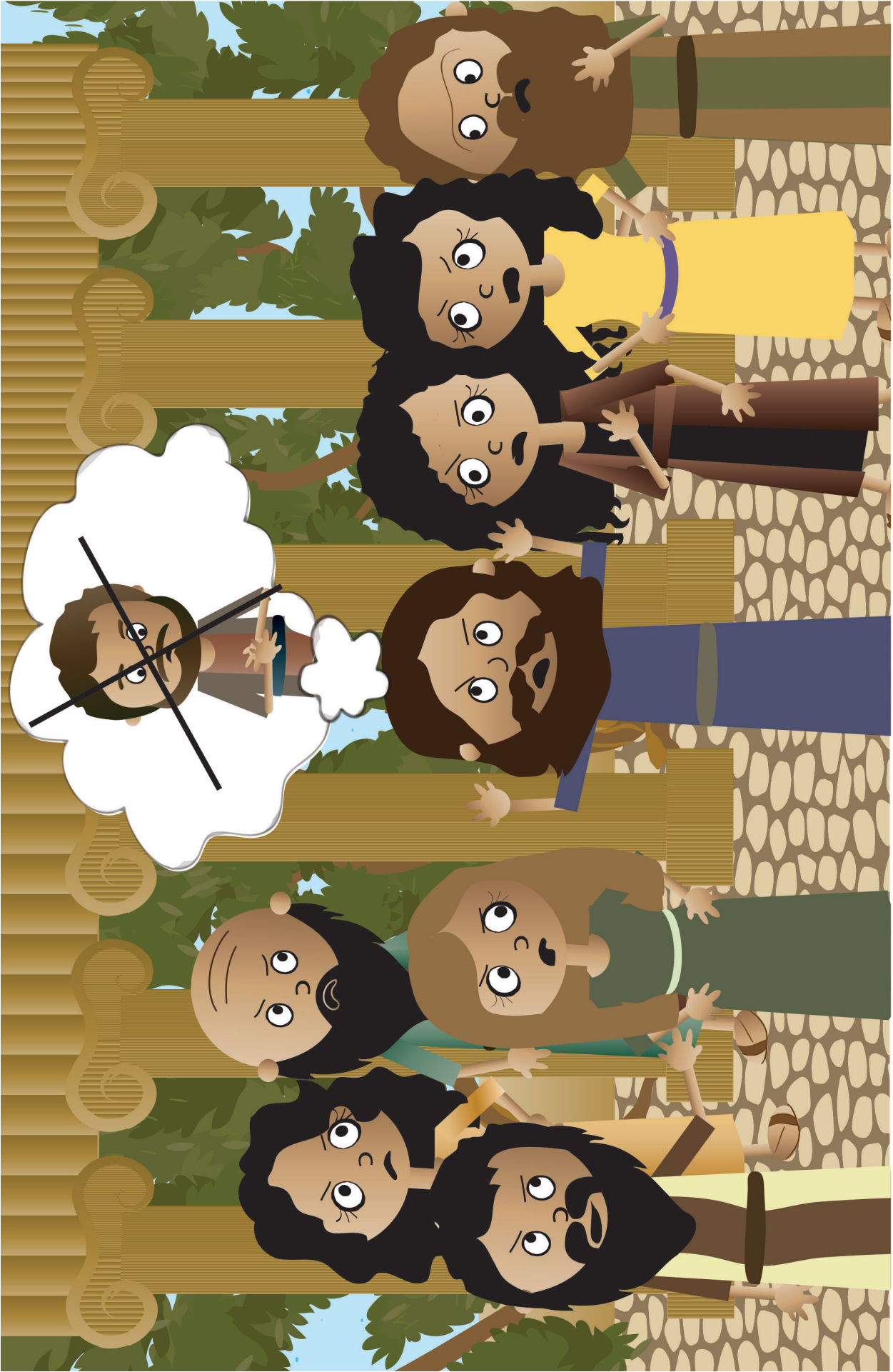
II. But Stephen's enemies DID think of-- a way. A very tricky, bad way. Instead of telling the truth about Stephen, they decided to tell lies about Stephen. Big, bad lies that would get Stephen in trouble.

**"Stephen is saying bad things about God's laws," they told others.
"He's saying bad things about God and the Temple, God's special worship place," they lied. Do you think these lies worked?**



II. But Stephen's enemies DID think of- a way. A very tricky, bad way. Instead of telling the truth about Stephen, they decided to tell lies about Stephen. Big, bad lies that would get Stephen in trouble. "Stephen is saying bad things about God's laws," they told others. "He's saying bad things about God and the Temple, God's special worship place," they lied. Do you think these lies worked?

12. Yes, they did! People forgot about all the amazing things Stephen did by God's power. They forgot his words spoken with God's wisdom, and the loving things he did for others. And instead, they believed the lies of Stephen's enemies, and they became very angry.



12. Yes, they did! People forgot about all the amazing things Stephen did by God's power. They forgot his words spoken with God's wisdom, and the loving things he did for others. And instead, they believed the lies of Stephen's enemies, and they became very angry.

13. “Let’s get rid of Stephen!” they decided. “He’s saying bad things about God. He should be punished,” they exclaimed. “Let’s take him to the leaders of the Temple, God’s special worship place. They will decide what to do with him!” the people said.

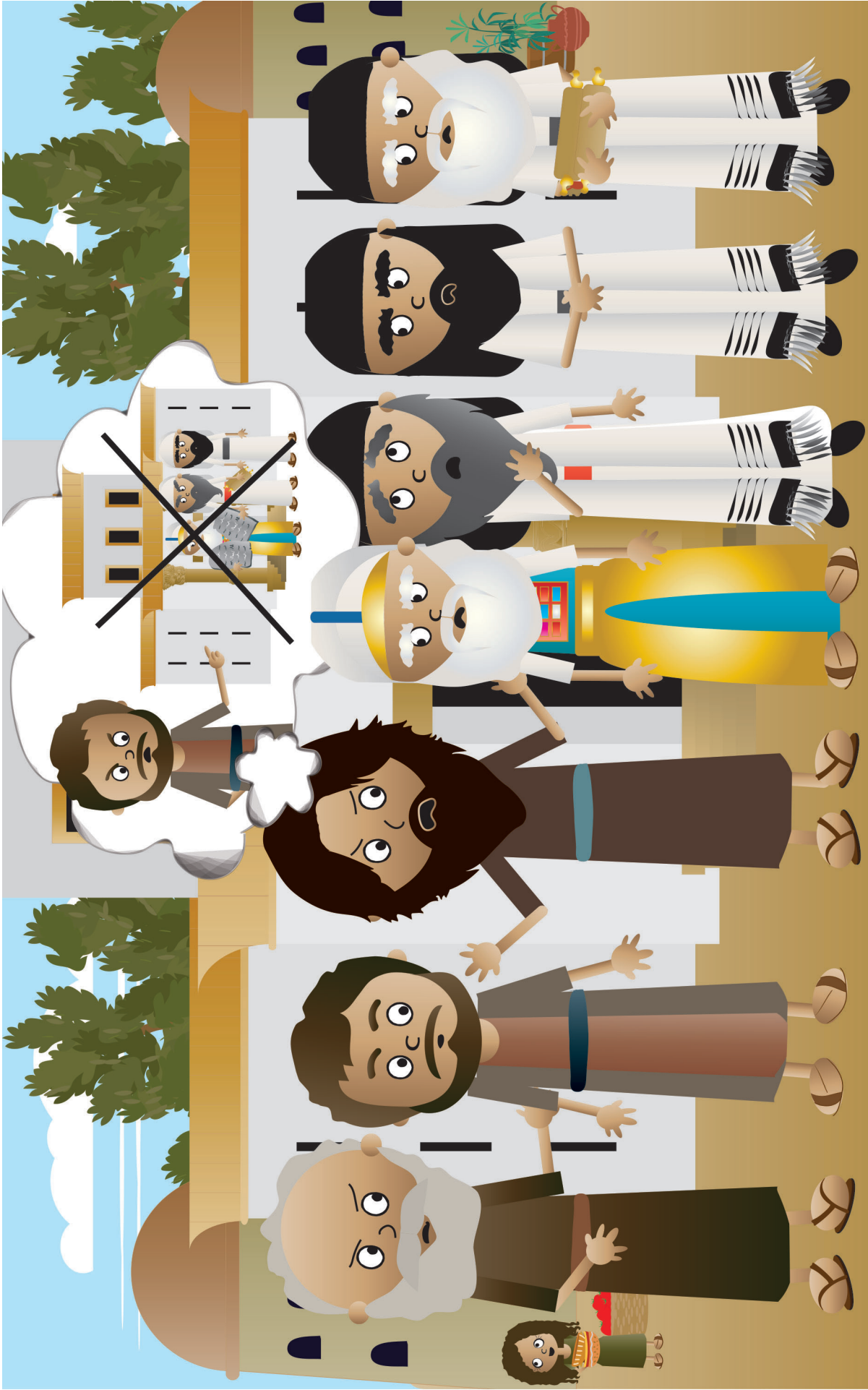
So, they grabbed Stephen and took him to the leaders of the Temple.



13. "Let's get rid of Stephen!" they decided. "He's saying bad things about God. He should be punished," they exclaimed. "Let's take him to the leaders of the Temple, God's special worship place. They will decide what to do with him!" the people said. So, they grabbed Stephen and took him to the leaders of the Temple.

14. As Stephen stood before the leaders of the Temple, his enemies told their lies again: “Stephen says that Jesus will break down the Temple, our special worship place. Stephen says that we shouldn’t keep God’s laws the way God’s Word tells us to,” they said.

The leaders were very upset. What awful things these enemies were saying about Stephen!



14. As Stephen stood before the leaders of the Temple, his enemies told their lies again: "Stephen says that Jesus will break down the Temple, our special worship place. Stephen says that we shouldn't keep God's laws the way God's Word tells us to," they said. The leaders were very upset. What awful things these enemies were saying about Stephen!

15. “What do you say about this, Stephen?” the leaders asked him.

Now, it was Stephen’s turn. What would he say? These men had lied about him and about Jesus, yet he had done nothing wrong to them! They were hoping to get him in trouble and maybe even killed. Would he hate these men with his words?

It would be easy to want to do that, wouldn’t it? They had treated him so badly.

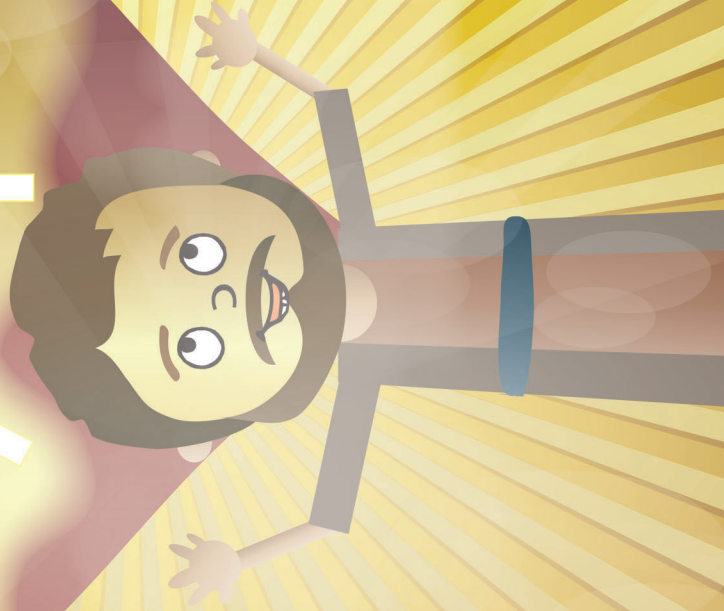


15. “What do you say about this, Stephen?” the leaders asked him. Now, it was Stephen’s turn. What would he say? These men had lied about him and about Jesus, yet he had done nothing wrong to them! They were hoping to get him in trouble and maybe even killed. Would he hate these men with his words? It would be easy to want to do that, wouldn’t it? They had treated him so badly.

16. But no! Stephen's heart was NOT filled with hate. It was filled with love for God and for people, even these enemies!

God's Holy Spirit was at work in Stephen, filling him with the courage to speak God's truth to these leaders and with love to forgive them. Everyone could see it in Stephen's face which shone like an angel's, bright with God's goodness and glory.

Holy Spirit



16. But no! Stephen's heart was NOT filled with hate. It was filled with love for God and for people, even these enemies! God's Holy Spirit was at work in Stephen, filling him with the courage to speak God's truth to these leaders and with love to forgive them. Everyone could see it in Stephen's face which shone like an angel's, bright with God's goodness and glory.

17. Stephen answered the leaders, but he had no mean words for his enemies. He just warned them with stories from God's Word.

"There have always been those who hear God's Word and believe," Stephen told them. "And there have always been those who hear God's Word and refuse to believe," he said. "I am one who has heard God's Word and believed. Jesus IS the Savior God promised to send," he told them.

"But YOU are the ones who have heard God's Word and have refused to believe. YOU put Jesus, the Savior God sent, on the cross to die!" Stephen exclaimed.



17. Stephen answered the leaders, but he had no mean words for his enemies. He just warned them with stories from God's Word. "There have always been those who hear God's Word and believe," Stephen told them. "And there have always been those who hear God's Word and refuse to believe," he said. "I am one who has heard God's Word and believed. Jesus IS the Savior God promised to send," he told them. "But YOU are the ones who have heard God's Word and have refused to believe. YOU put Jesus, the Savior God sent, on the cross to die!" Stephen exclaimed.

18. The leaders were furious! They ground their teeth! They plugged their ears! They shouted out loud! They didn't want to hear anything more from Stephen!

They grabbed Stephen and dragged him down the street and outside the city. They wanted to kill him, just like his other enemies did!

How could Stephen say that THEY refused to believe God's Word? They were the leaders of the Temple, and the keepers of God's Word. Some picked up stones and threw them at him. Oh, no!



18. The leaders were furious! They ground their teeth! They plugged their ears! They shouted out loud! They didn't want to hear anything more from Stephen! They grabbed Stephen and dragged him down the street and outside the city. They wanted to kill him, just like the other enemies did! How could Stephen say that THEY refused to believe God's Word? They were the leaders of the Temple, and the keepers of God's Word. Some picked up stones and threw them at him. Oh, no!

19. What would Stephen say now? What would he do now? NOW, was his heart filled with hate?

No, it was not! Stephen's heart was STILL filled with love for God and for others, even these enemies! Stephen looked up and saw Jesus in heaven. Stephen knew he would soon be home with Him.

Stephen forgave his enemies and asked for God to forgive them, too: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," he pleaded.



19. What would Stephen say now? What would he do now? NOW, was his heart filled with hate? No, it was not! Stephen's heart was STILL filled with love for God and for others, even these enemies! Stephen looked up and saw Jesus in heaven. Stephen knew he would soon be home with Him. Stephen forgave his enemies and asked for God to forgive them, too: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," he pleaded.

20. Then, Stephen died and went to be with Jesus in heaven.

Stephen had lived and died with a heart full of love for God and for people. God's Holy Spirit had helped him love like this. He had even helped Stephen to love his enemies and forgive the mean things they did to him.

Now, in heaven, Stephen would go on living and loving, but in a way far better than he had ever enjoyed on earth. And there, he would be with His dear Savior, Jesus, face to face forever.



20. Then, Stephen died and went to be with Jesus in heaven. Stephen had lived and died with a heart full of love for God and for people. God's Holy Spirit had helped him love like this. He had even helped Stephen to love his enemies and forgive the mean things they did to him. Now, in heaven, Stephen would go on living and loving, but in a way far better than he had ever enjoyed on earth. And there, he would be with His dear Savior, Jesus, face to face forever.

DDD 12.3 Simple Story Scenes

“The Case of the Man Who Kept on Loving” Acts 6-7

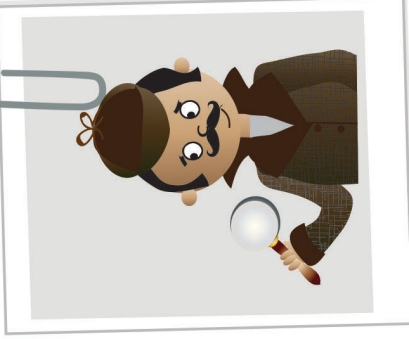
SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the man who kept on loving?
Stephen.
2. Who did he keep on loving?
He kept on loving everyone. He even kept on loving his enemies, even as they were hurting him.

For You and Me:
Stephen loved God and others his whole life. He even loved his enemies who were so mean to him! God wants all His people to love others as Stephen did AND as Jesus did! God knows no one can love others like this on their own, especially enemies. But He promises to give His Holy Spirit to help His people love others, even when it is very hard! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. His Holy Spirit can come live in us and help us love others like this, too.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 Corinthians 13:4,8, NIV

“Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

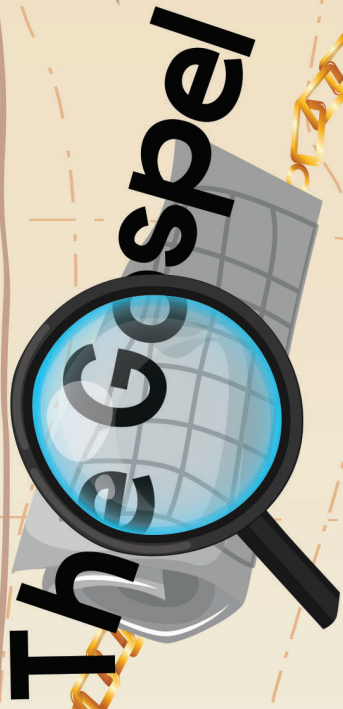
1. Who lived for God by loving others like this? Stephen.
2. How did his life show this love?
He tried to always love others. He even kept on loving his enemies as they were hurting him. He always tried to love God most of all, too. He kept on living for God, even when his enemies told him to stop talking about Jesus. He even chose to die, rather than stop living the way God wanted him to live.

For You and Me:
God wants His people to love Him most of all. He wants them to love others and live like Jesus. But God knows how weak His people are. He knows they can't love Him or others the way He wants them to by themselves. That's why He forgives their sins through Jesus. And that's why He sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of them and help them. He helps them love God and others in ways they could never love on their own. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.

DDD 12.3 Simple Story Scenes

How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!
By Loving Other People as God Has Loved Them!

The Gospel



We need God's help if we are to be His people and love others like He does. Why? Because our hearts have turned away from God and we do not love Him or others as we should.

We all deserve His punishment, and only with His help can we ever be forgiven and become His people. Only with His help, can we love the way He wants us to.

But God, in His mercy, sent that help: His Son, Jesus! Jesus lived a perfect life, then on the cross, He gave it up to pay for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for them!

Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be God's people. They will know Him in their hearts now. His Holy Spirit will help them love others and Him. And one day, they will go live with Him forever. This will be best of all. God can help you become one of His people, too. Ask Him!
He loves to help us!



DDD 12.3 Simple Story Scenes

A Prayer

A God, we praise You for being the God who loves and is able to help us love.

C God, please forgive us for not loving others as You want us to. Many times, we choose to love ourselves more than others. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for sending Your Son to be our Savior. He loved us in everything He said and did. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who can help us love others 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. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Help us to love You and others as Jesus did. Help us to even love our enemies.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



DDD 12.3 Simple Story Scenes