

BIG QUESTION 12



How should God's people live?



ANSWER:

They should live like Jesus!

VISUAL
AID
#1
take out
Big
Question
Briefcase
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

Please God,
HELP!

1.



2.



3.



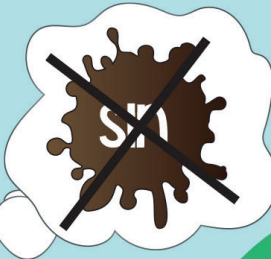
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Visual Aid #2 take out 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 two truths about how to live for God. They are: "By Asking God for His Help" and "By Loving God Most of All." (point to pictures 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 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 3?

How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus...

By Loving Other ????
as God Has Loved Them!

HINT: This is another word for
lots of men and women,
boys and girls.
It starts with a "P" and
it rhymes with "steeple."



ANSWER:

By Loving Other PEOPLE
as God Has Loved Them!

Visual Aid
#3
take out
Big Question Briefcase
of BQB

Revealing the Bible Truth We Are Learning

Hold up the front side for the children to see. Cover up the answer, written along the bottom, and say:

**“How Should God’s People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus!
By Loving Other ???? as God Has Loved Them!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This is another word for lots of men and women, boys and girls. It starts with a ‘P’ and it rhymes with ‘steeple.’”

Can you guess? It’s “PEOPLE.”

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 Other People as God Has Loved Them!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

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.

Jesus loved people most of all by dying on the cross to save us from our sins. He took God’s punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Why? So that they could have special closeness with God now. And so that one day when they die, they could live happily with God forever. How great is Jesus’ love for people!

Jesus wants His people to love other people with God’s great, amazing love, too. He wants them to help people in need. He wants them to tell others how they can be saved and become God’s people, too. He wants them to love each other with a love that puts others first. He even wants them to be kind to their enemies and pray for them.

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.



“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” --1 Corinthians 13:4-8,13 ESV

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:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Learn a Little:

"Love is patient, love is kind."

What does that mean?

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.

"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!"

Love:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

DDD ESV Songs 12, track 24

Love is patient, love is kind,
Love does not envy or boast,
It is not arrogant or rude,
Does not insist on its own way,
It is not irritable, or resentful,
Does not rejoice in wrong-doing,
but with the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes and endures all things,
Faith, hope and love abide these three,
but the greatest is love.
Love never ends, love never ends,
love never ends.
Faith, hope and love abide these three,
but the greatest is love.

First Corinthians Thirteen,
four through eight, and thirteen.

"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 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



1 Corinthians 13:4,8, ESV

"Love is patient and kind... Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

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.



The LORD

People

BIBLE

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.



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.



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.



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?



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.



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.



Holy Spirit

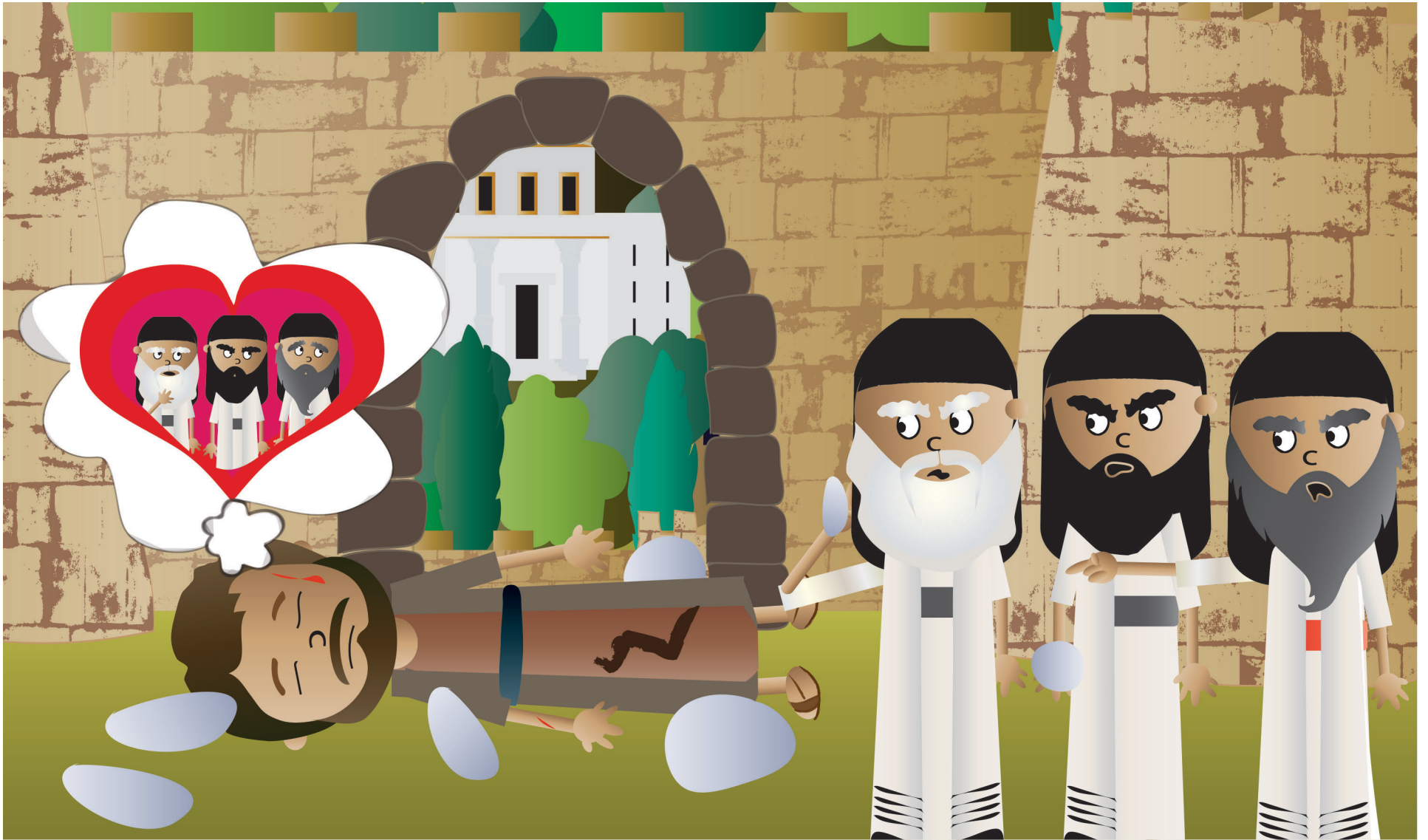
16. But no! Stephen's heart was NOT filled with hate. It was filled with love for God and for people, even these enemies! God's Holy Spirit was at work in Stephen, filling him with the courage to speak God's truth to these leaders and with love to forgive them. Everyone could see it in Stephen's face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



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.



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.

"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, ESV

"Love is patient and kind... Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

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.

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!



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.

