

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

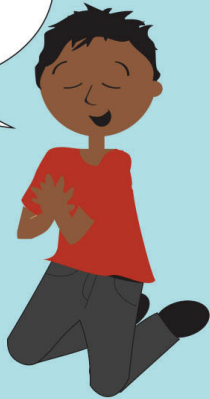
(adapted version of "Pop, Goes the Weasel")

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 Big 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 three truths about how to live for God. They are: "By Asking God for His Help," "By Loving God Most of All," and "By Loving Other People as God Has Loved Them." (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?"

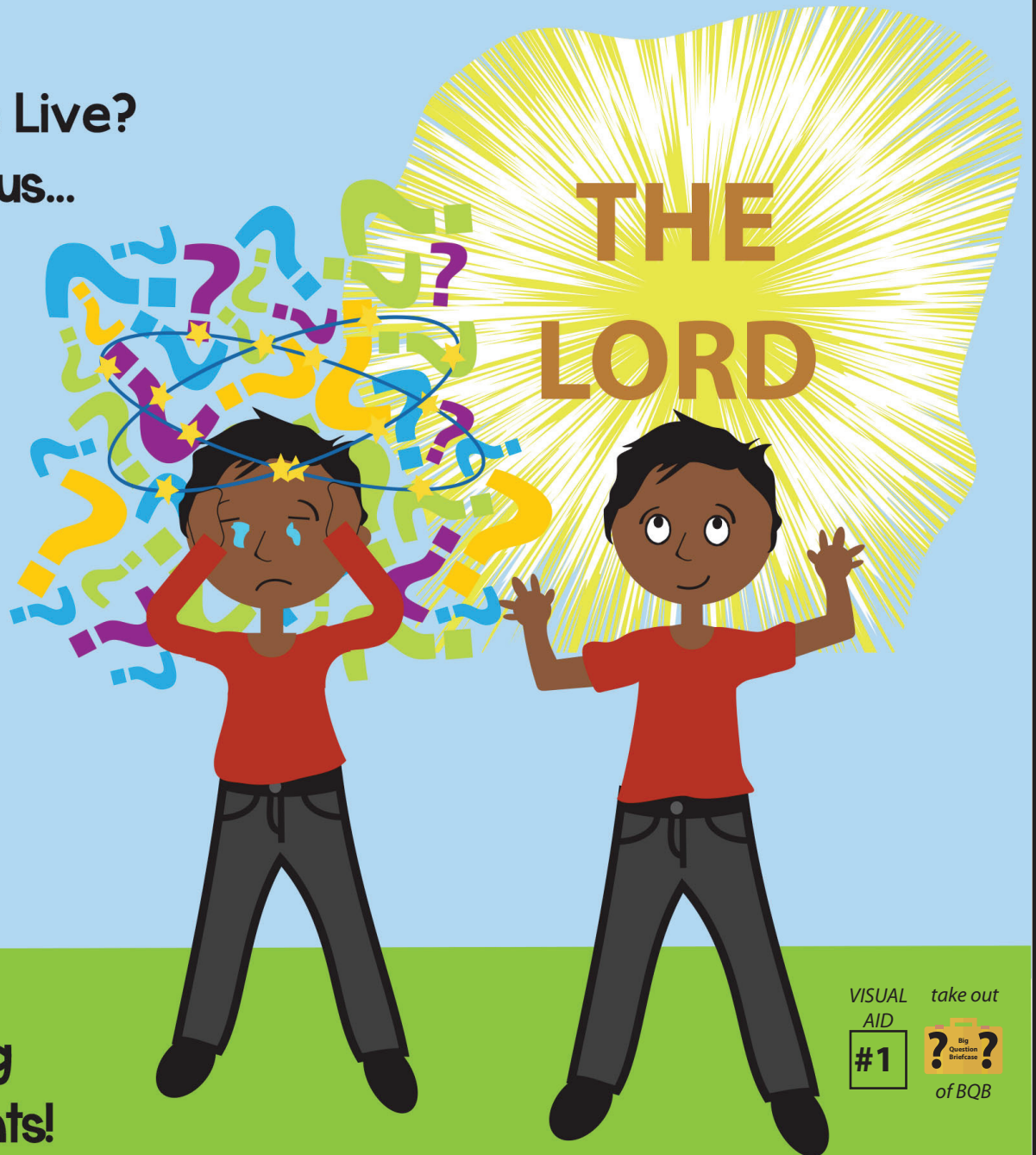
Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 4?

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

By Trusting God
and Being ????
with What He Wants!

HINT: "What is the opposite of
being sad? It starts with an
"H" and it rhymes with "snappy."



ANSWER:
By Trusting God and Being
HAPPY with What He Wants!

VISUAL AID #1 take out
the 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 Trusting God and Being ???? with What He Wants!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the opposite of being sad? It starts with an “H” and it rhymes with “snappy.”

Can you guess? It’s “HAPPY.”

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 Trusting God and Being HAPPY with What He Wants!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

Jesus trusted God, His Father, completely. He knew that what His Father wanted Him to do was always best. He knew His Father would always give Him strength to do whatever He wanted Him to do. Sometimes His Father’s plans were very hard, but Jesus knew that His plans were still always best.

God wants His people to trust Him like Jesus did. God promises to always take care of them. He promises that even all the sad or bad things they go through, He will use to do good things. He promises to always give them the Holy Spirit to give them the strength to do what He wants them to do.

Sometimes it is very hard for God’s people to keep trusting God and His plans. Sometimes they want to grumble or be mad at God because of what happens to them. But God wants them to keep on trusting Him, even in those very hard times. He wants them to be happy and keep on believing that He is doing what is best for them. He wants them to keep trusting that He will show Himself to be the good and great God He is. For indeed, God IS so very good and great; and, what He has planned is always best!

We can become God’s people who trust God, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Visual Aid #4
Place verse in DDD Bible
take out Big Question Briefcase of BQB



**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”
-- Proverbs 3:5- 6, ESV**

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse

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

Proverbs 3:5- 6 tells us:

Proverbs 3:5- 6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Learn a Little:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart."

What does that mean?

These verses remind us that we can always trust the LORD and His good plans, even when we don't understand what He is doing. He wants us not to depend on ourselves or what we see, but on Him, His Word, and His good plans. And when we do, we can know that He will show us what He wants us to do, every day of our lives.

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

Trust in the Lord

Proverbs 3:5-6

DDD ESV Songs 12, track 26

Trust in the LORD,
Trust in the LORD,
Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And do not lean,
And do not lean,
On your own understanding,
In all your ways, acknowledge Him,
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make straight your paths,
And He will make straight your paths.
Proverbs Three, five and six.

"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 Faith that Faced Fire" Daniel 1-3



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who did the king order to be thrown into the fire?
2. What did God give them faith to do?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Proverbs 3:5- 6, ESV

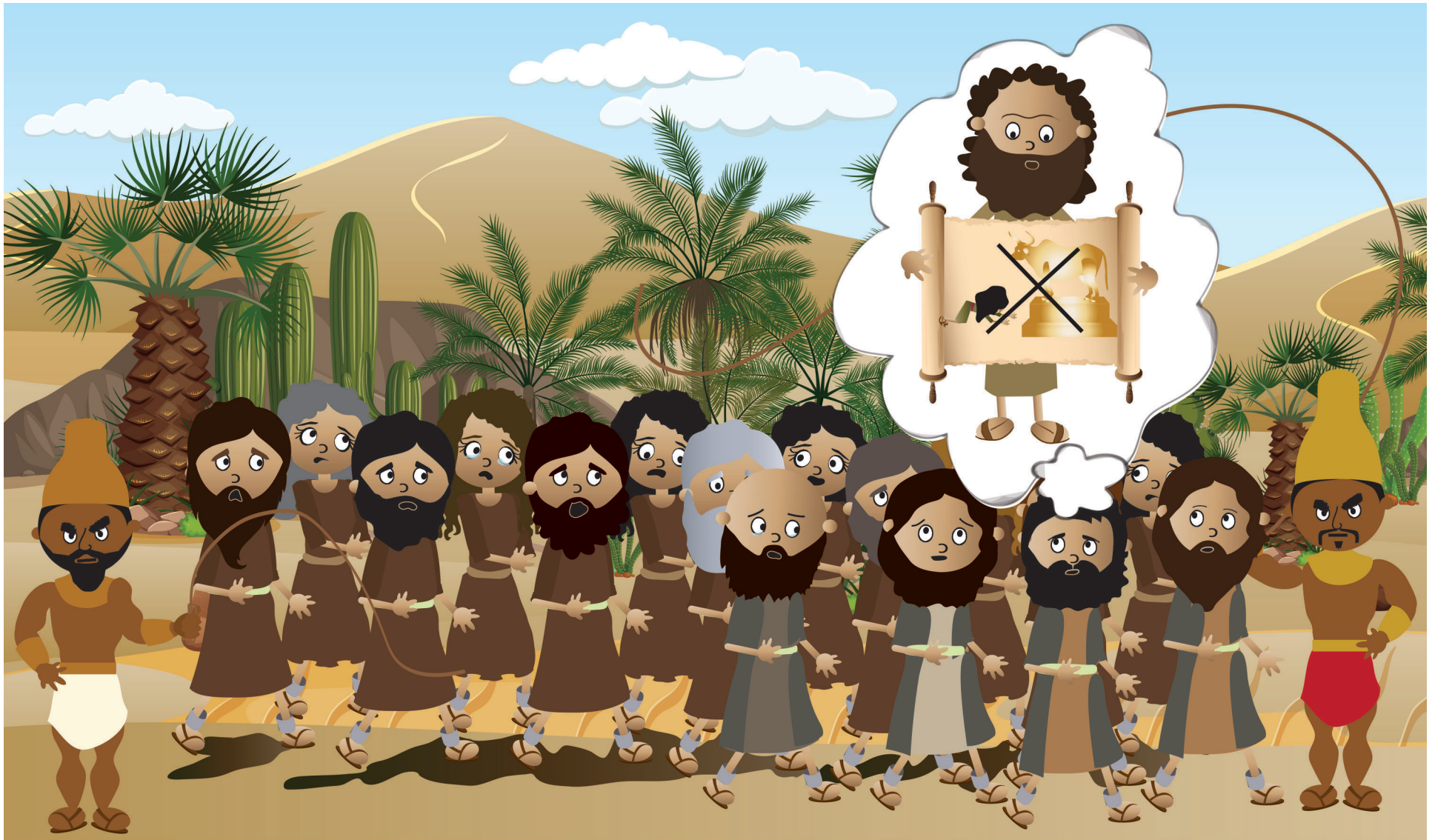
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

1. Who had to trust in the LORD in ways far bigger than they could understand?
2. How did the LORD show His faithfulness to them?

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



I. "March, march, march!" Enemy soldiers marched into Jerusalem. They tore down the Temple. They burned up the city. And now, they were forcing Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and many others to leave Jerusalem and go far away to Babylon to be their slaves.



2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were sad to leave their home and work for their enemies; but, they remembered the LORD's messages through His prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. "You people of Judah have kept on disobeying Me and worshipping fake gods. I've been patient for a long time. I've warned you and urged you to change, but you still disobey Me. Now, I will let your enemies attack you and take you away to work for them in Babylon," the LORD told them.



3. "I'm punishing you that you might turn from your sins and return to Me. Don't be afraid. I'll take care of you. I'll be with you. I'll change your hearts with my Spirit, so you will want to obey Me. I'll bring you back home to Judah," He comforted them. "And best of all, one day, I'll send a Savior to save you from your sins. So, trust in Me! Be happy with what I want! I am the LORD, the great, one, true God," the LORD promised them.



4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego held onto the LORD's promises. They chose to trust in Him and be happy with what He wanted, even though they had to live far away in Babylon and work for their enemies.



5. Now, there was a mighty king who ruled over Babylon. He had a BIG name. Are you ready for it? It's King Nebuchadnezzar!



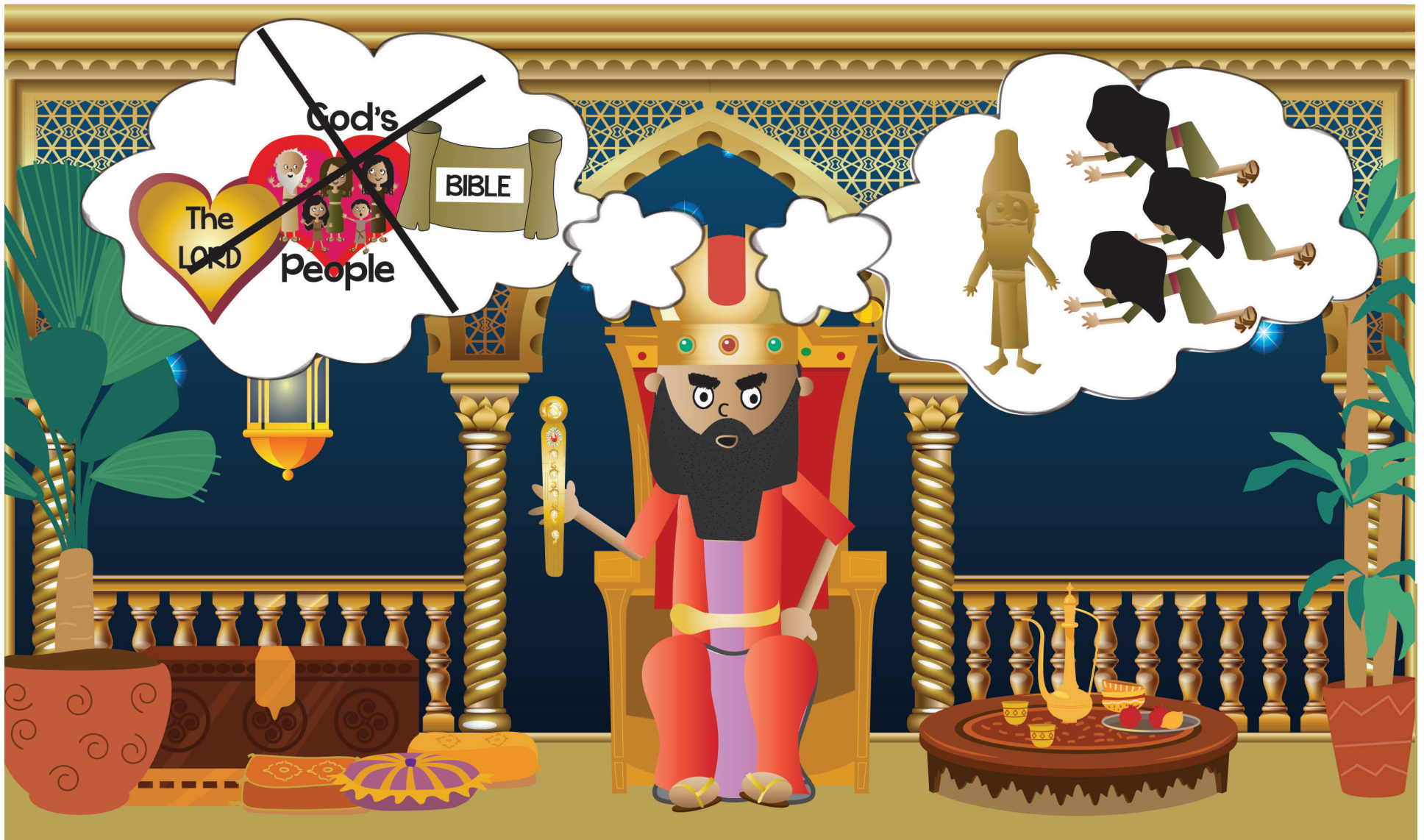
6. King Nebuchadnezzar had a helper named Ashpenaz. Ashpenaz had a very important job. He was supposed to pick out the smartest, most handsome, young men from among the slaves and teach them to be new helpers for King Nebuchadnezzar. When Ashpenaz looked among the people of Judah for the smartest, most handsome, young men, who do you think he picked?



7. He picked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! "Come with me. You're the kind of men King Nebuchadnezzar wants for his new helpers," Ashpenaz told them. "You are to go to the King's helper school. You'll eat the best food and wear the finest robes and hats," Ashpenaz told them. "You'll learn about mighty King Nebuchadnezzar and the great gods of Babylon. Then, you'll work in the king's beautiful palace and help him make good decisions," Ashpenaz explained.



8. Wow! What a good life King Nebuchadnezzar was offering Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! The best food to eat, the finest robes and hats to wear, and the honor of working in the rich palace of the mighty king, himself! What could be better than this?



9. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew the truth. King Nebuchadnezzar was being tricky! He was giving them all these nice things so they would forget their home, the LORD, and the Bible, God's Word. Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to honor him and his fake gods instead! And what would happen to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego if they didn't honor King Nebuchadnezzar and his fake gods? They were soon to find out.



10. King Nebuchadnezzar was very proud of himself. "I am the greatest king on earth! Look at all the lands I've captured and all the people I've made into my workers," he boasted. "I'm going to make a great, golden statue for everyone to worship," he decided. "Then, everyone will honor me and serve the great gods I worship."



II. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his workers to get started. "Build me a great, golden statue. Make it as high as a tall building. Put it where everyone can gather around it and worship it," the king told them.



12. The workers obeyed the king. They built the statue, just as the king ordered. And when it was finished, oh, how tall it was! And oh, how golden it was! It was amazing!



13. Then, King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to all the people: "When the musicians play their music, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue. This shows you honor me and serve my gods," he said. "But if anyone refuses to worship, I'll have him thrown straight into a hot, fiery furnace," the king warned. No one wanted to be thrown into furnace and die. So, when the musicians played their music, everyone was quick to obey. They all fell down before the statue and worshipped.



14. All, that is, except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Yes, these three men **REFUSED** to fall down and worship that great, golden statue. The LORD was the only God they worshipped. He alone was the one, true God, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew it. They weren't going to stop worshipping the LORD, even though the king threatened to throw them in a fiery furnace. So, there they stood while everyone else bowed down, sure that someone would notice.



15. Someone did notice! They went straight to the king with the news. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego don't care about you or your gods," they exclaimed. "They refuse to fall down and worship your great, golden statue," they told the king.



16. Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought before him. "Listen to the music and fall down before my great, golden statue. Show me that you worship the statue and serve my gods," he ordered. "Do it now or be thrown into the fiery furnace! Then, what god can rescue you?" the king demanded.



17. Was the king right? Was there really no god who could rescue them? No! He was **WRONG!** There **WAS** a God who could rescue them. It was the **LORD!** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew it and they remembered the **LORD's** promises to them. They would keep on worshiping Him. They would trust in Him alone.



18. They said to the king, "King Nebuchadnezzar, you're wrong. The LORD, the God whom we serve, can deliver us from your hot, fiery furnace if He wants to. And even if He doesn't choose to rescue us, we'll keep on worshipping Him and we'll still be happy with what He wants," they told the king. "The LORD is the one, true God and He knows what is best!"



19. King Nebuchadnezzar was even more furious! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were still refusing to bow down and worship his great, golden statue. Now, they would have to die. “Add more wood to the fire! Make it seven times hotter! Tie up these men and throw them in!” the king ordered. Soon, the fire was raging hot. It was so hot that the king’s mighty men died from the heat as they threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the flames.



20. This should have been the end of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but it wasn't. King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fiery furnace and was amazed. There were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walking around in the furnace and the flames didn't burn them up. And strangest of all, was the shining, heavenly person with them, protecting them from the fire with God's great power. (Some people think it was an angel, but others think it was Jesus.)



21. King Nebuchadnezzar could hardly believe his eyes! "Come out of the fire," the king ordered the men. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed. They walked through the flames and out of that hot furnace. They stood before the king, without a burn on their skin or the smell of smoke on their clothes! Amazing!



THE
LORD

22. King Nebuchadnezzar knew there was only one reason why Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not killed or even hurt in that fiery, hot furnace. It was because the LORD their God really WAS the great, one, true God! He was to be trusted and worshipped, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had said!



23. No longer did the king want anyone to bow down before his great, golden statue. It was great. It was golden. But it was NOT God. So, King Nebuchadnezzar sent out a new announcement through the land, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They trusted in Him rather than worship my great, golden statue. He sent His angel to rescue them. These men deserve to be great leaders in my kingdom; and the LORD, their God, deserves all peoples in my kingdom to honor Him," the king declared. "What a great God He is!" And King Nebuchadnezzar was right!

"The Case of the Faith that Faced Fire" Daniel 1-3

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who did the king order to be thrown into the fire? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
2. What did God give them faith to do?
To NOT bow down to the golden statue, but to keep believing and trusting in Him with their whole lives.

For You and Me:

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the LORD wants us to trust Him and be happy with what He wants, even when it is very hard. The LORD is always good, and His plans are always right, even if we don't understand them. And, He promises to always help His people keep trusting in Him, no matter what. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus as your Savior, and to help you trust Him with every day of your life! He loves to answer these prayers!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Proverbs 3:5- 6, ESV

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

1. Who had to trust in the LORD in ways far bigger than they could understand? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
2. How did the LORD show His faithfulness to them?
He helped them to NOT bow down to the golden statue, but to keep on believing and trusting in Him with their whole lives. He protected them from dying in the fiery furnace, too.

For You and Me:

The LORD can always be trusted. He is always up to good. His plans are always perfect. And because He is so much bigger and greater than us, there will be many times when we don't understand the good things He's up to. That's why God's people are told not to lean on their own understanding, but to keep trusting in the LORD. The LORD knows they can't do this on their own. They need His help. And He is happy to give it! He will always give His people everything they need to keep trusting in Him and be happy with what He wants. 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 trust Him and be happy with what He wants for our lives, too.

How Should God's People Live?
They Should Live Like Jesus...
By Trusting God and Being Happy with What He Wants!

The Gospel



God is always good and we can always trust Him and His plans. But sadly, we all have chosen to doubt God and His good plans. We have all chosen to do things our own way. And for this, we all deserve God's punishment.

But God is so merciful! He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life. Then, on the cross, He gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On Day Three, 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. This is how we can become God's people, too. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A God, we praise You for always being good and deserving of our trust. You are always wise and perfect in everything You do and plan.

C God, please forgive us for not trusting You when things happen that we don't like or don't understand. Many times, we start doubting that You know what is best when we should keep on trusting You. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for always doing what is best. Thank You that we can always trust You and be happy with what You allow in our lives. Even if we don't understand, we know You do.

S God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You. Help us to trust You with everything in our lives. Help us to be happy with what You choose, even when it is hard and even when we don't understand.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

