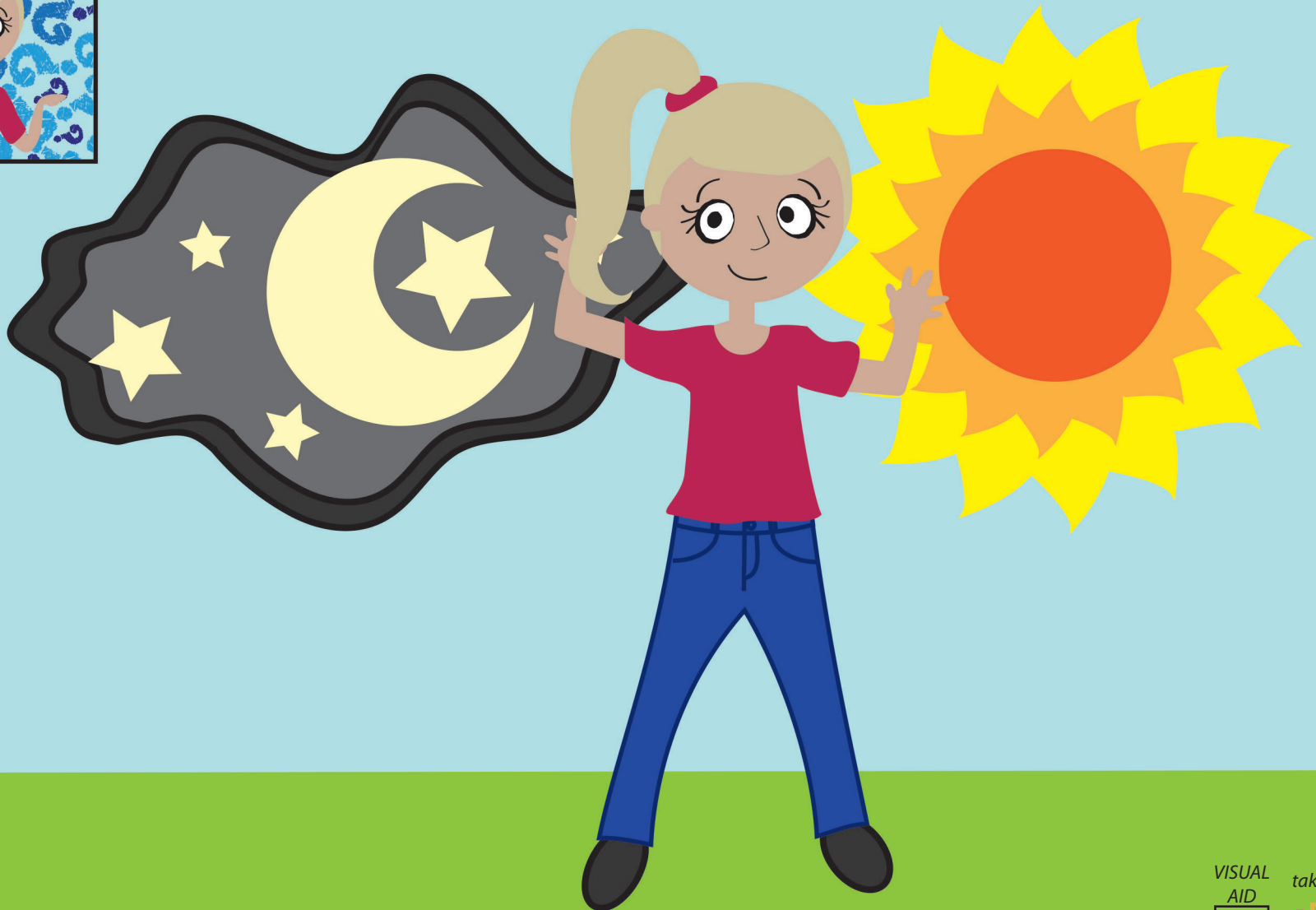


BIG QUESTION 14



How does God want us to pray?



ANSWER:

Every night and day... all the time!

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 14:

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
and the Answer is:
Every Night and Day...

Meaning:

Prayer is talking and listening to God. It's how God's people enjoy more of the special closeness they have with Him. It is a little bit like the forever happiness they will have with God when they live with Him in heaven.

God's people pray to God every night and day...and many times in between. There is so much to talk to Him about and God always wants to listen!

God's people tell God how wonderful He is. They say sorry for how they have disobeyed Him. They thank Him for all He's done for them and others. They ask Him to do great things. God's people want to stay close to God because He is the most wonderful person that anyone can ever know.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A 14 Song

*DDD ESV Songs 14, track 12
(adapted version of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")*

How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,
Ev'ry night and day!
How does God want us to pray?
Ev'ry night and day!

BIG QUESTION 14: Four truths about how we can pray



This Unit's Bible Truths

"Every Night and Day!" 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 FOUR Bible truths that all tell us more about how God wants us to pray.

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

After everyone has had a good look say...

"Ok, now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these four 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 I:

How Does God
Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and
Day...

He wants us to
???? Him!



HINT: This word means telling
someone how wonderful they are.
This word starts with the
letter "P" and it rhymes with "raise."

ANSWER:

God ALONE sustains His people!

Visual Aid

#3



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 Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day...
He Wants Us to ???? Him!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “This word means telling someone how wonderful they are. This word starts with the letter “P” and it rhymes with “raise.”

Can you guess? It’s “Praise.”

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

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

**“How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day...
He Wants Us to PRAISE Him!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

Prayer is talking to God and listening to Him. Prayer is a little taste of the forever happiness God’s people will have with Him in heaven.

God’s people praise God when they pray. They think about what God is like and they tell Him how wonderful He is. God’s people praise Him for being their Maker. They praise Him for being all-powerful and all-loving. They praise Him for knowing everything and using all their sadnesses for good. They praise Him for being holy. Most of all, they praise Him for being their Savior. In heaven, God’s people will praise God forever and ever. They will never run out of ways to praise Him.

We can be God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God wants us to praise Him, too!

Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse in



take out



“May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!” Psalm 40:16, ESV

Bible Truth | Bible Verse

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

Psalm 40:16 tells us:

Psalm 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Learn a Little: "Rejoice and be glad, say, "Great is the LORD!"

What does that mean?

God's people love to think about God and praise His name! He is the one, true God. He is so great, and He has been so very good to them! He has saved them from their sins through Jesus!

"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!"

May All Who Seek You Rejoice:

Psalm 40:16, ESV

DDD ESV Songs 14, track 20

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,
May those who love your salvation,

Say continually,

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,
May those who love your salvation,

Say continually,

"Great is the LORD!

"Great is the LORD!

"Great is the LORD!

"Great is the LORD!

Psalm Forty, verse sixteen.

"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 Middle of the Mess" 2 Chronicles 19-20 1-2



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was stuck in the middle between strong enemies?
What (trouble) mess were they in?
2. Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

1. Who praised the LORD for being so great?
2. What did He do that was so great?

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



1. Our story is about a king named Jehoshaphat. What a funny-sounding name! Can you say it?



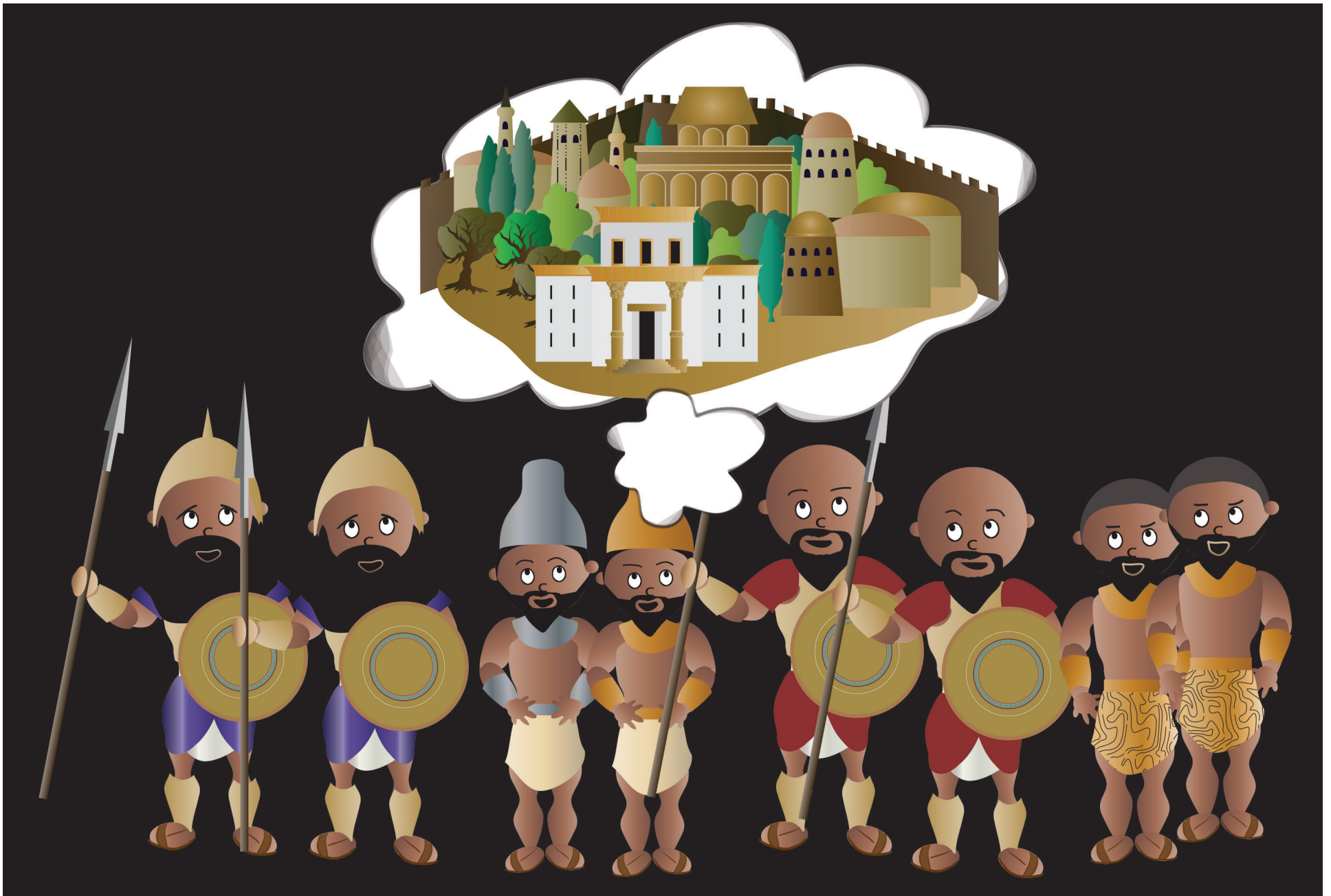
2. King Jehoshaphat may have had a funny-sounding name, but let me tell you, he had to face some very scary things that were not funny at all! You see, Jehoshaphat was king in the little land of Israel which was surrounded by lots of powerful enemies!



3. There were Philistines next to the sea in the west. And, the Syrians up in the mountains to the north.



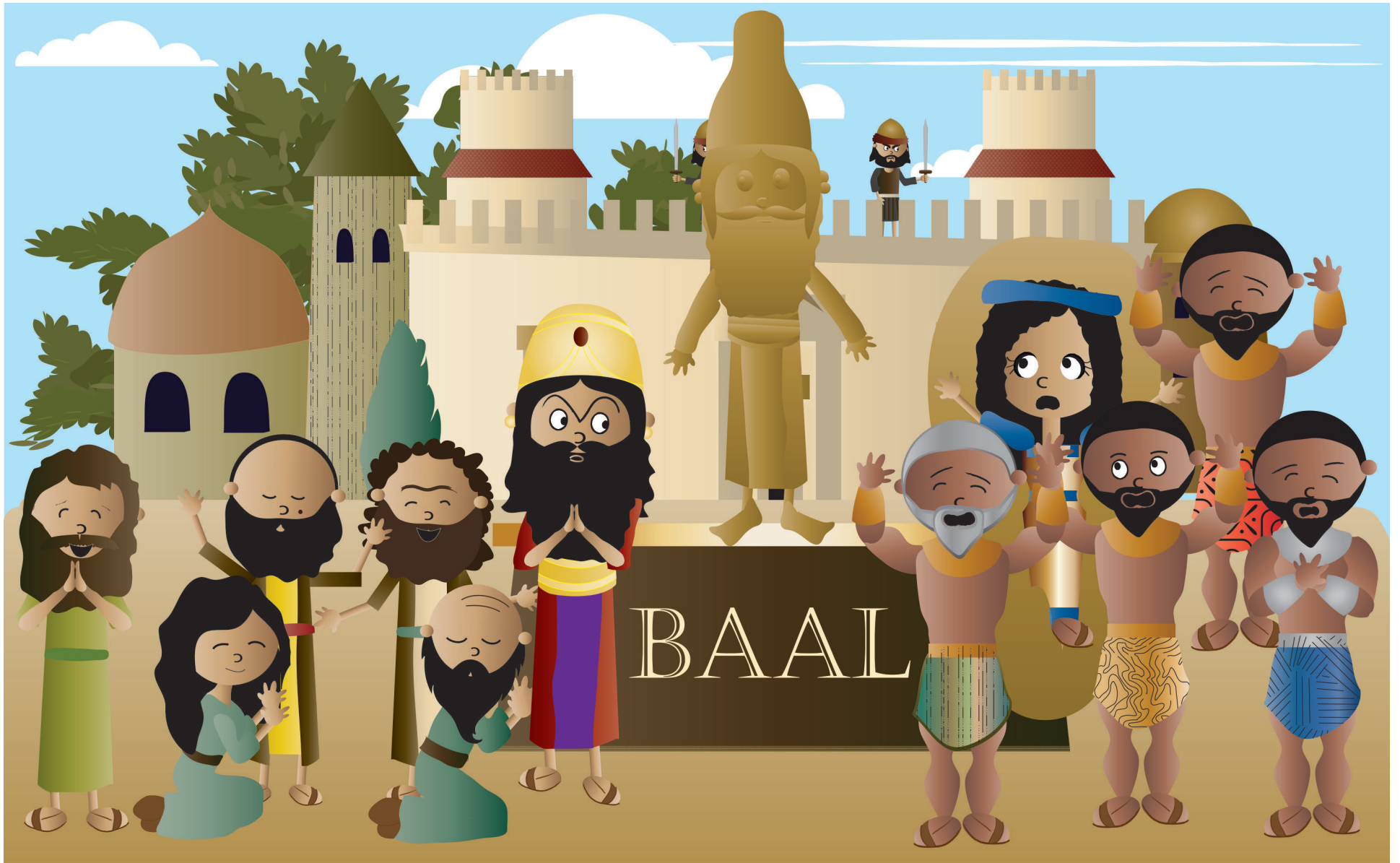
4. And, in the mountains to the east, there were **THREE MORE** powerful enemies: the Ammonites, Moabites, and the Meunites. Now that's a lot of enemies!



5. And what did all these enemies want? They all wanted the same thing: the little land of Israel, where King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel lived.



6. Did King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel want their enemies to have their land? No, they certainly did not, and for some very good reasons. THIS was the special land that the LORD had given the people of Israel to live in. THIS was the place where the Temple was --the LORD's special worship place. There was no other place in the whole world like Israel. THIS was the place where people could come praise the LORD, learn His Word, and live happily by His good laws.



7. If these enemies came in and took the land, everything would change. Not only would their enemies get rid of King Jehoshaphat and all the people of Israel, but they would also get rid of the Temple and the Bible, God's Word, too. They had fake gods they worshiped. They would most certainly stop worshiping the LORD and obeying His Word.



8. King Jehoshaphat knew this. He loved the LORD very much. He wanted the land of Israel to stay a place where people worshiped the LORD, learned the Bible, and happily obeyed His laws. So you can see, it would be a very, very, VERY bad thing for these enemies to come and take the land of Israel. And, you can see why King Jehoshaphat, the king with the very funny-sounding name, had to face something that was not funny at all.

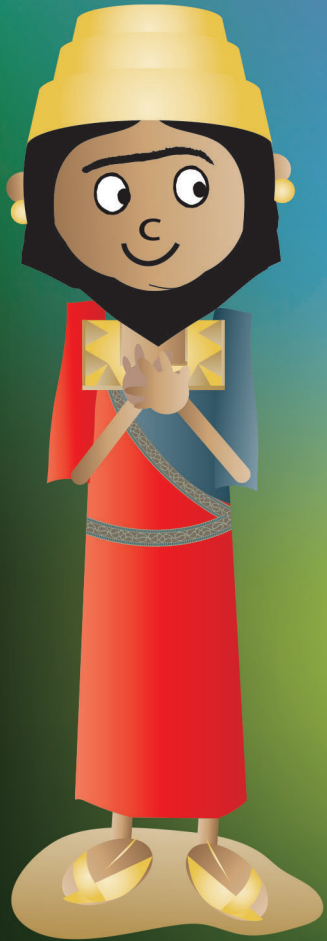


9. One day, King Jehoshaphat received some awful news. “King Jehoshaphat! King Jehoshaphat! The three, powerful enemies in the east mountains have all joined together!” they exclaimed. “They are planning to attack us and take our land!” they told him. “Oh, king! There are so many of them and so few of us. They know we can’t beat them. They are so sure they will win that they are coming with their bags packed. They plan to move in right away!” the messengers said.



10. This really was bad, bad news! King Jehoshaphat was afraid. What could he do? He knew that his people weren't strong enough to fight off all these big enemies.

THE LORD



II. But, even though he was afraid, and even though he knew that he and the people of Israel weren't strong enough to fight off all these big enemies, King Jehoshaphat DID know who WAS strong enough. Do you know who? I bet you can guess. It was the LORD! HE was strong enough to fight off even the strongest enemies!



12. So, King Jehoshaphat gathered all the people together in Jerusalem at the Temple, the LORD's special worship place. And there, he led them in praising the LORD: "LORD, You are God in heaven. You rule over everyone, even all of our enemies. You are so powerful that no one can beat You!" he exclaimed.



13. Then King Jehoshaphat prayed: "LORD, You gave us this land, and now our enemies want to take it away. We can't beat them. They are too powerful for us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You. Please help us!" he pleaded. Would the LORD hear their prayers? Would He help them?



14. Yes, indeed! The LORD heard their prayers and answered them through Jahaziel, a teacher of God's Word. "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and people of Israel! The LORD says to you: "Don't be afraid or worried about all these enemies. The battle is Mine, not yours. I will fight it for you. Go out and face your enemies tomorrow. Have faith in Me and watch Me save you," the LORD promised.



15. How happy were King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel! They bowed down before the LORD. As they worshiped Him with their faces to the ground, the teachers of God's Word stood up, raised their hands, and praised the LORD with a very LOUD VOICE!



16. The people of Israel went out early the next morning to face their enemies. Oh, what a lot of enemies there were! All were fierce and all were ready to fight. And they had come with all of their packed things. They were sure they would beat the soldiers of Israel and make Israel their new home that very day!



17. But King Jehoshaphat and the people stood firm. "Believe in the LORD," King Jehoshaphat told the people. "Teachers of God's Word, walk in front of our soldiers. Sing and praise the LORD," he ordered. Everyone did what the king told them to do. The teachers stepped out first; then, the soldiers came and stood behind them. They faced the enemy armies, and the teachers began to praise the LORD. "Give thanks to the LORD for He is faithful. His love never stops," they sang.



18. And as they sang, the LORD kept His promise. He caused the enemies to turn on each other and fight until they were all gone. The LORD had fought the battle and WON! Then, how King Jehoshaphat and the people rejoiced! How they praised the LORD! Their enemies were gone! Their land was safe! They didn't have to be afraid anymore! And best of all, Israel would still be the place where people could praise the LORD, learn His Word, and live happily by His good laws.



19. Once more King Jehoshaphat, the people, and the teachers of God's Word gathered together to praise the LORD. With harps, trumpets, and lyres they went back to the Temple and sang their joyful praises to the LORD. He was the great, one true God. He had rescued them from their strong enemies!

"The Case of the Middle of the Mess" 2 Chronicles 19-20 1-2

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was stuck in the middle between strong enemies? What (trouble) mess were they in?
King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel. Their strong enemies were planning to take their land and live in it, themselves.
2. Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it?
The LORD got them out of the mess. He fought for them. He got rid of their enemies and rescued them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

1. Who praised the LORD for being so great?
King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel.
2. What did He do that was so great?
He fought against their enemies, Himself, and got rid of them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day..
He Wants Us to Praise Him!

The Gospel



God's people praise God for being many wonderful things. But perhaps they love to praise Him most of all for being their Savior.

God's people know that they, like all people, are sinners who have chosen to disobey God. They know that they deserve God's punishment. Yet God in His mercy chose to send His Son, Jesus, to save them.

Jesus lived a perfect life, then He offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory over sin and death for them. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be forgiven and become God's people.

If we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us and make us His people, too. Then, we will be able to join all of God's people in praising God as our great Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God. You are the one, true God, yet You invite us to talk to You. How amazing!

C God, You alone are God, and how very good You are! Yet, we so often do not praise You as You deserve. We forget who You are and what You have done. Too often, we think more about ourselves than You. We need a Savior.

T Thank You, God, for always deserving our praise! You never change. You treat us so much better than we could ever deserve. You are so patient with us. You give us so many reasons to praise You every day.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to praise You throughout the day. Fill our hearts with love for You. Help us live our lives for You so that others can see how good You are and will want to praise You, too.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

