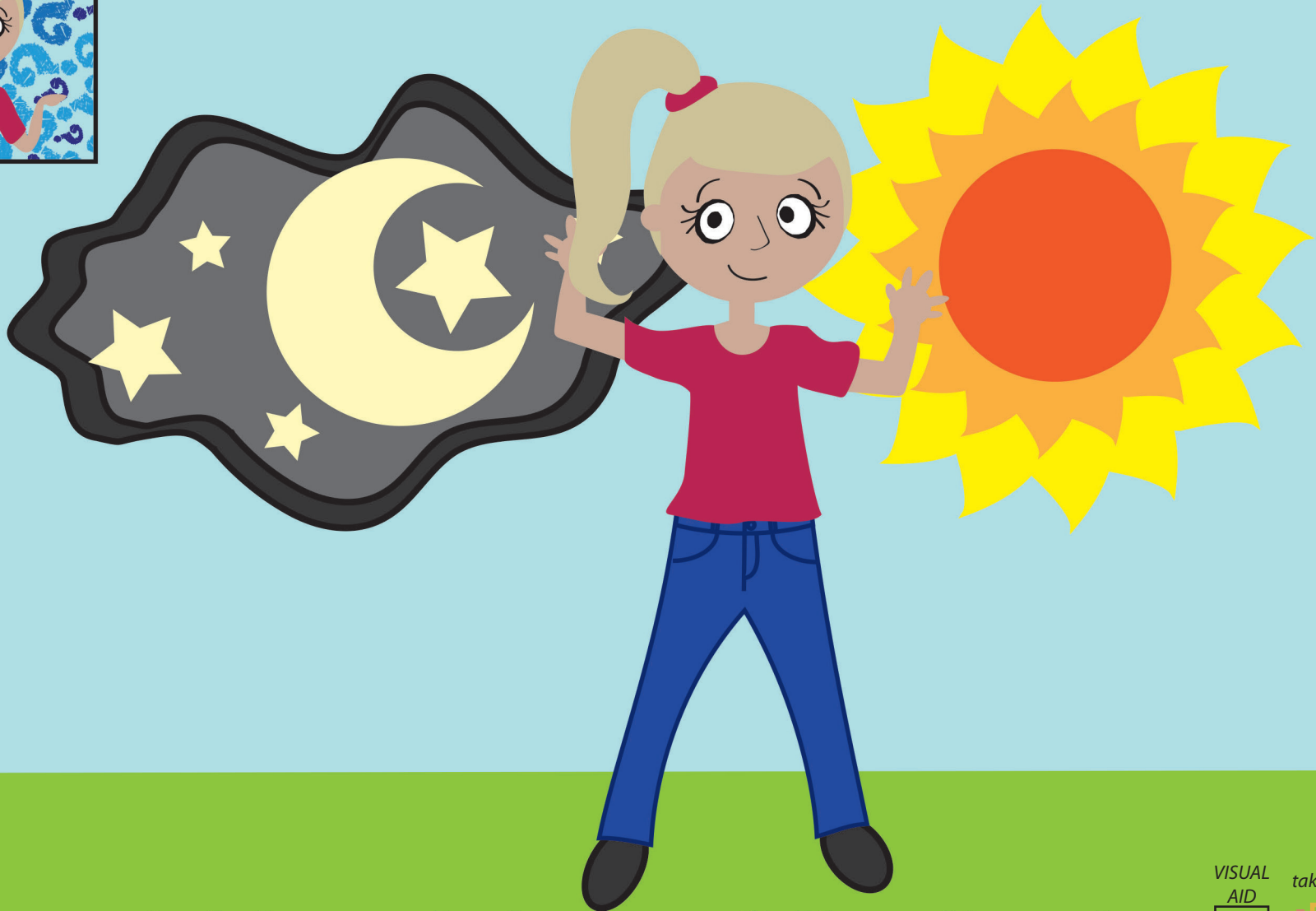


BIG QUESTION 14



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 NIV 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, we've learned one truth about how God wants us to pray. It's this one: "He Wants Us to Praise Him." (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 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 2:

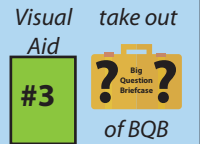
How Does God
Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and
Day...

He wants us to
confess our ???? to Him!

HINT: What's the Bible word for
disobeying God and His good laws?
This word starts with the letter "S"
and rhymes with "wins."

ANSWER:

He wants us to confess our SINS to Him!



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 Confess Our ???? to Him!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What’s the Bible word for disobeying God and His good laws? This word starts with the letter “S” and rhymes with “wins.”

Can you guess? It’s “Sins.”

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 Confess Our SINS to 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 confess their sins to God when they pray. Confessing our sins means telling God we have disobeyed Him and His good laws and asking for His forgiveness.

God wants His people to tell Him how they’ve disobeyed Him. He wants them to tell Him how they have disobeyed Him in their hearts --like when they stay mad at someone who has hurt them and won’t forgive them. He wants them to tell Him how they’ve disobeyed Him with their words --like when they lie to someone. He wants us to tell Him how they’ve disobeyed Him in what they’ve done --when they hurt someone or disobey their parents. God wants His people to tell Him about all of these ways they have disobeyed Him and ask for His forgiveness. And, He wants them to ask Him to help them to turn away from doing these things and live for Him instead. God loves to forgive and help His people.

Why does God forgive the sins of His people? Because of Jesus! When Jesus died on the cross, He took upon Himself all of the punishment that God’s people deserved for their sins. He paid for their sins, so they wouldn’t have to. He is their Savior! God wants us to confess our sins to Him, too! Anyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior has God’s promise that He will forgive their sins --every single one of them. This is how we become God’s people and live as God’s people. Isn’t that good news!



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



"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity ... and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Psalm 32:5

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:

Psalm 32:5 tells us:

Psalm 32:5

"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

Learn a Little: "I acknowledged my sin to you....and you forgave my sin."

What does that mean?

This verse has two, big Bible words in it: "sin" and "iniquity." Both words mean the same thing: disobeying God. When we disobey God, we deserve His punishment. This is why we like to cover up the bad things we do. We don't want anyone to know about them, and we don't want to be punished for them. But our Bible verse tells us that God's people confess their sins to God, instead of covering them up. And what does God do then? He forgives them! God can forgive our sins, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. That's how we become God's people and that's how we live as God's people. That's very good news!

"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!"

I Acknowledged My Sin:

Psalm 32:5

DDD NIV Songs 14, track 19

I acknowledged my sin to you,
And did not cover up my iniquity,
And you forgave, and you forgave,
Yes, you forgave the guilt of my sin.

I acknowledged my sin to you,
And did not cover up my iniquity,
And you forgave, and you forgave,
Yes, you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Psalm Thirty-two, verse 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 Slow Sorry" 2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God and ask for forgiveness? What did he need to confess to doing?
2. What did God do when he finally did confess his sins and ask for forgiveness?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 32:5, NIV

"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God?
2. What did God do for him when he did confess his sins?

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



I. Prince Manasseh was a boy who grew up hearing about the LORD and knowing the right way to live. He grew up learning God's Word, the Bible. He grew up going to the Temple with his godly father, King Hezekiah, to offer worship gifts and pray to the LORD.

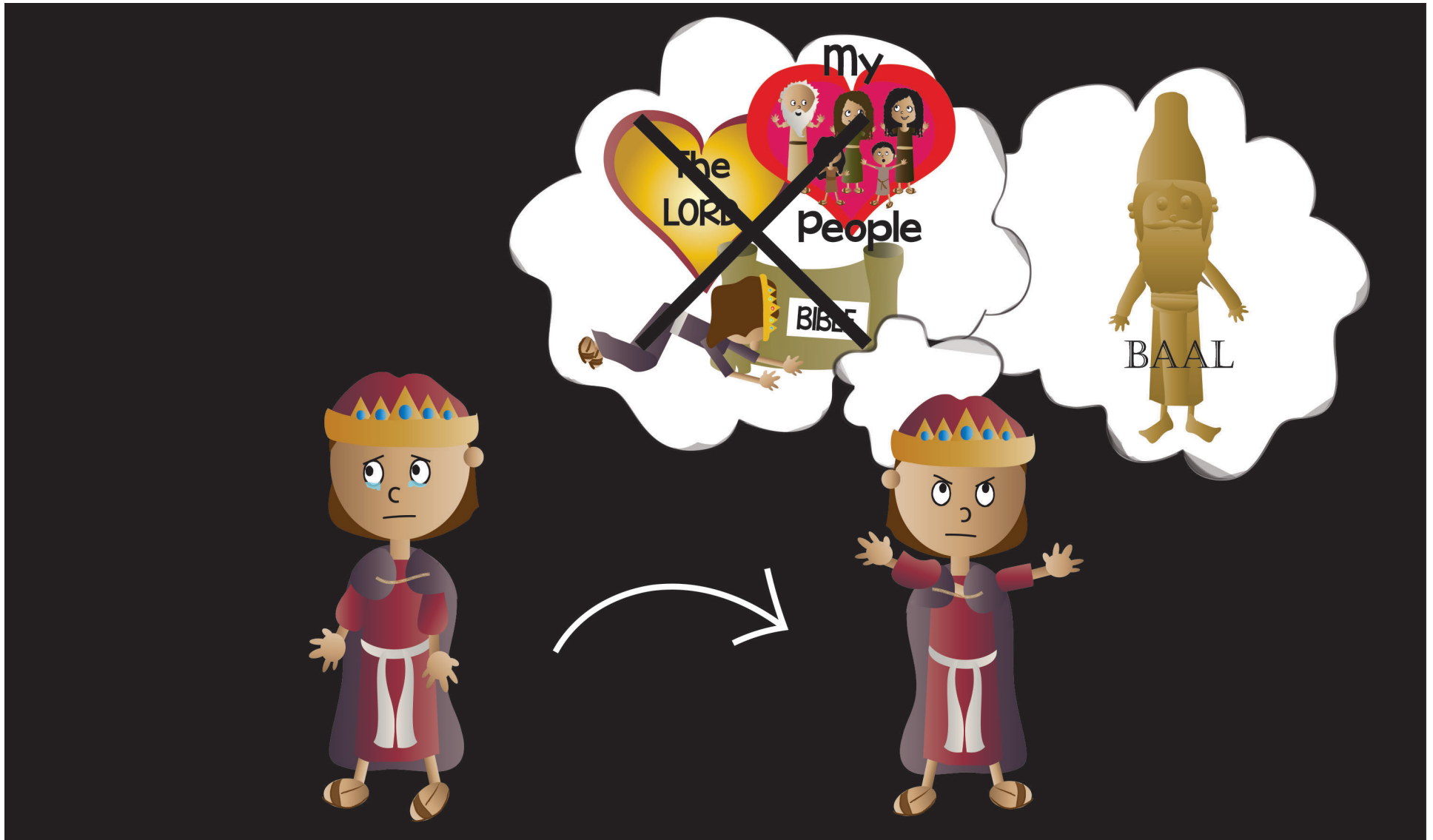
THE LORD



2. He grew up watching the LORD use His mighty power to protect the people of Israel from their powerful enemies, the Philistines and the Assyrians. Yes, Prince Manasseh was a boy who grew up hearing about the LORD and knowing the right way to live.



3. But, when Prince Manasseh was just twelve years old, his father died, and he became KING Manasseh.



4. When Manasseh became king, he **REFUSED** to worship the LORD and to do those right things anymore. This made him a very, **VERY** bad king! What kinds of things did King Manasseh do? He stopped learning God's Word. He put fake gods in the Temple and offered worship gifts to them, instead of the LORD. And, he ordered all the people of Israel to stop worshiping the LORD and to worship those fake gods, too.

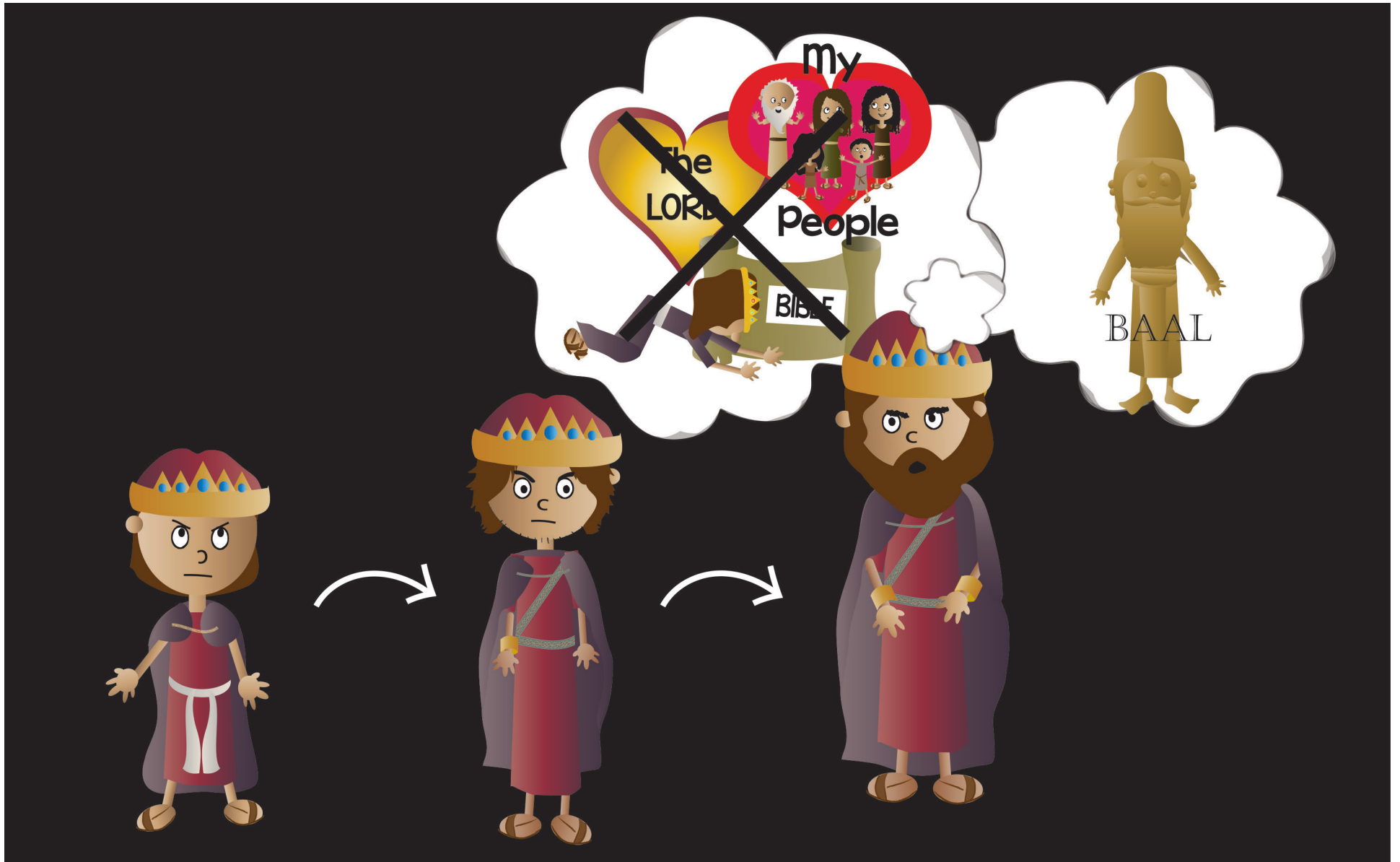


5. King Manasseh deserved the LORD's punishment for all the terrible things he did. He even deserved to DIE for all of these terrible sins! The people of Israel deserved God's punishment, too. But do you know what the LORD did? He is a God, so merciful and gracious that He gave King Manasseh and the people of Israel a chance to turn away from their sins and be forgiven instead.



6. "King Manasseh! People of Israel! Stop what you are doing!" the LORD urged them through His messengers, the prophets. "Repent! Turn away from worshiping the fake gods! Turn back and worship Me!" the LORD said. "But if you do not, you will be punished. I will discipline you to help you turn back to Me and My good ways," the LORD warned. Uh, oh!

What do you think King Manasseh and the people did next? What would YOU do, if it were you?



7. I am sad to say that King Manasseh and the people of Israel did NOT listen. Years went by. King Manasseh grew up to be a man; but still, he paid no attention to the LORD's warning. Both he and the people just kept on worshiping those fake gods and forgetting about the LORD and His Word. So, at last, the LORD disciplined them, just as He warned them He would.



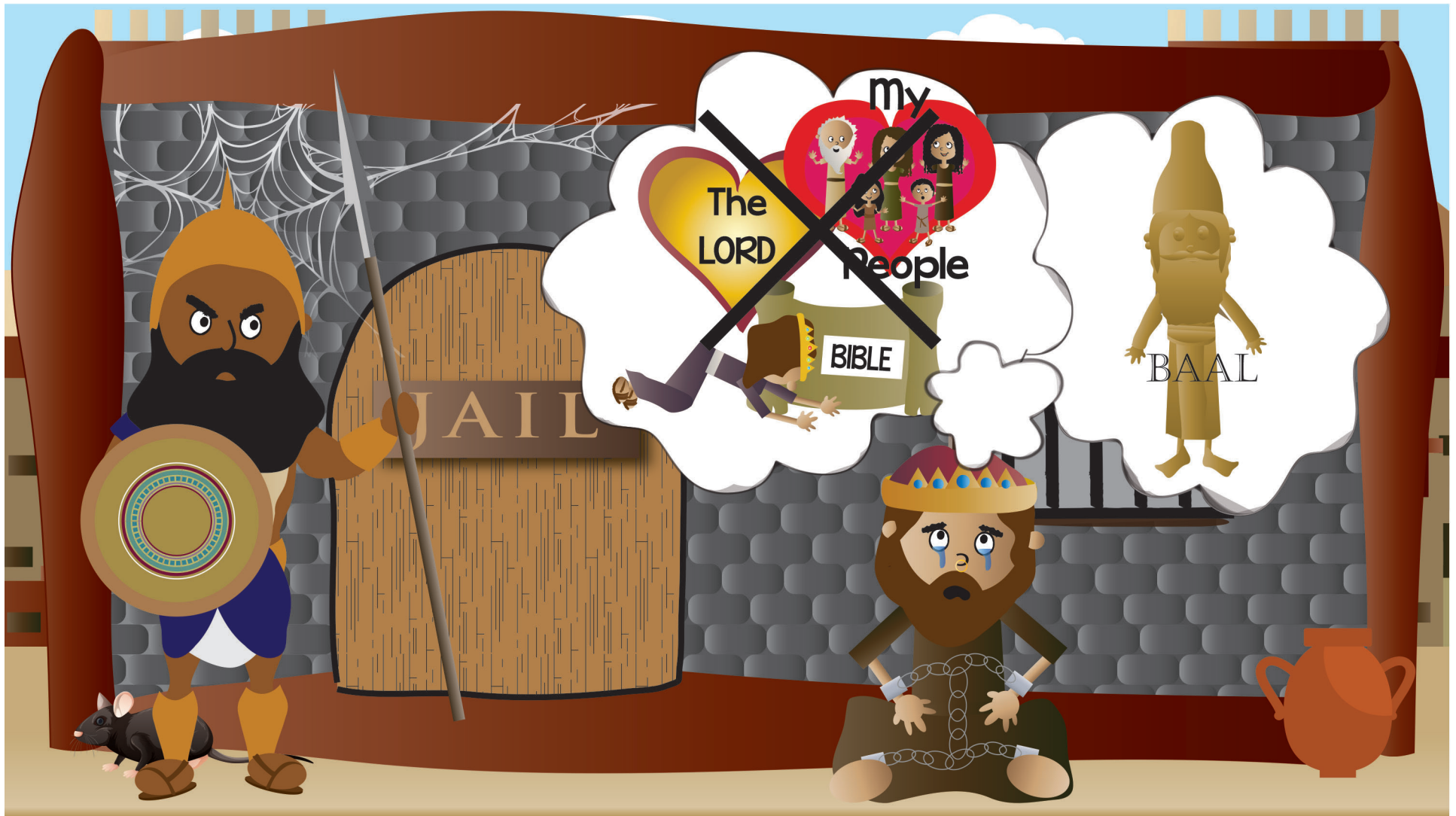
8. "March, march, march," across the great, dry wilderness and over the hills of Judah, came the commanders of the mighty Assyrian army with their men.



9. They sent soldiers into Jerusalem and captured King Manasseh. They grabbed him and tied him up with heavy metal chains. They even put a hook through his NOSE, like he was a slave, for that was exactly what he was now: an Assyrian slave!



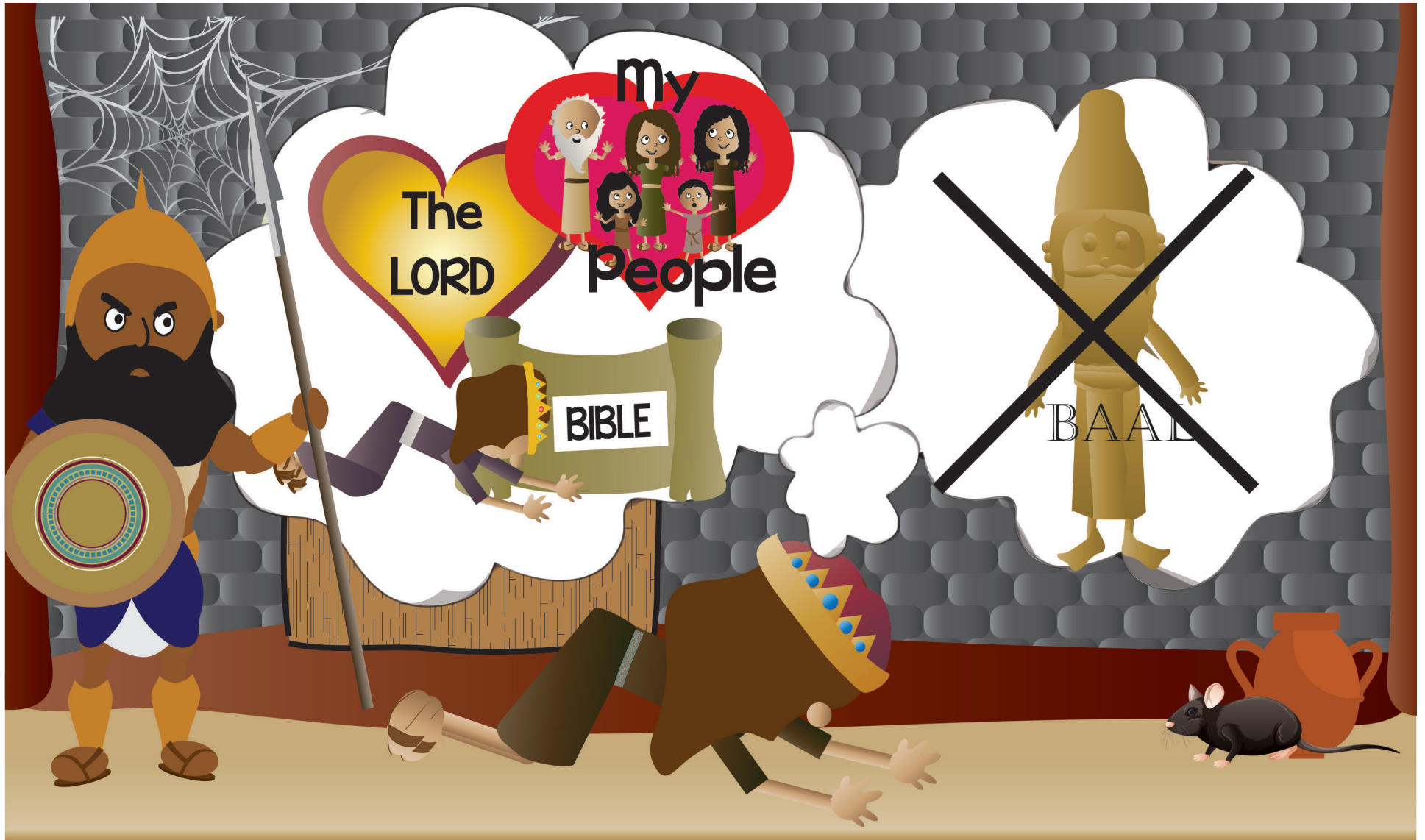
10. "March, march, march," went King Manasseh with the Assyrians, over the hills of Judah and across the great, dry wilderness to their big city, called Nineveh. And there, they put him in jail.



II. King Manasseh had a lot of time to think in jail. He thought about God's Word and all the right things he had grown up learning and doing. He thought about all the terrible things he had done when he became king. He had turned the Temple into a worship place for terrible, fake gods. He had worshiped those fake gods and given them his worship gifts. He had made the people of Israel worship them, too. He had even refused to listen when the LORD warned him to stop and offered him forgiveness.



12. Now, Manasseh could see just how very sinful he had been. He knew he deserved God's punishment. He knew deserved to be in jail. He had treated God like his enemy. King Manasseh knew that he deserved for the LORD to never forgive him or help him. And yet, King Manasseh decided to confess his sins and ask for the LORD's forgiveness anyway.



13. "Help me, LORD. Forgive me, LORD," King Manasseh pleaded. "I have done terrible things. I have disobeyed You and made the people of Israel disobey You, too," he confessed. "But have mercy on me, LORD. I am turning away from my life of sin. Please forgive me!" he asked. Manasseh was asking, but would the LORD answer? Would He really forgive someone who had done such terrible things as King Manasseh?



14. Yes, He would! How very gracious and kind the LORD is to those who confess their sins and turn away from them! He loves to forgive their sins, even when they are terrible sinners like King Manasseh. The LORD heard King Manasseh confess his sins and He forgave him. The LORD had Manasseh released from jail and let him go back home to Jerusalem. He even let Manasseh be king over Israel again.



15. What a different king Manasseh was now! Manasseh grew up knowing what was right, and now he lived it out. He turned away from his sins. He got rid of all those fake gods and brought back the worship of the LORD in the Temple. He led the people of Israel in loving and praising their great God.



16. King Manasseh never forgot how the LORD forgave him when he confessed his sins to Him. And King Manasseh showed it, by loving the LORD and living for Him for the rest of his life.

"The Case of the Slow Sorry" 2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God and ask for forgiveness? What did he need to confess to doing? King Manasseh. He needed to confess worshipping fake gods and many other terrible things.

2. What did God do when he finally did confess his sins and ask for forgiveness?
God forgave him. He had him freed from prison to go home. He gave Manasseh another chance to get rid of the fake gods and stop doing the terrible things he used to do.

For You and Me:

Like King Manasseh, we are all sinners with sinful hearts and lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. Like King Manasseh, we can never deserve God's forgiveness. But also, like King Manasseh, when we turn away from our sins and turn to God, He will forgive our sins. Isn't God so good to us through Jesus!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 32:5, NIV

"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God?
King Manasseh.

2. What did God do for him when he did confess his sins?
God forgave his sins and even set him free to return home to be king again. How merciful is the LORD!

For You and Me:

Like King Manasseh, we are all sinners with sinful hearts and lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. Like King Manasseh, we can never deserve God's forgiveness. But also, like King Manasseh, when we turn away from our sins and turn to God, He will forgive our sins. Isn't God so good to us through Jesus!

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

The Gospel



God's people know that they, like all people, are sinners who have disobeyed God. They know they deserve His punishment. But, they also know that God, in His mercy, sent His Son, Jesus, to be their Savior.

Jesus lived a perfect life, and 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. He had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, all who confess their sins to God, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be forgiven. They get to be God's people. We can become God's people, too, when we confess our sins to God and turn away from them, trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to do this!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being perfectly holy. You are good and great. You hate sin!

C God, we know that You and Your laws are good, yet we have all chosen to rebel against You. We have chosen not to love You as You deserve. We have chosen to break Your good laws. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for offering forgiveness for our sins through Jesus when we trust in Him as our Savior. Thank You for providing a way for us to be Your people.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Show us how we rebel against You and Your good laws. Help us to confess our sins to You and turn away from them. Help us to live for You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

