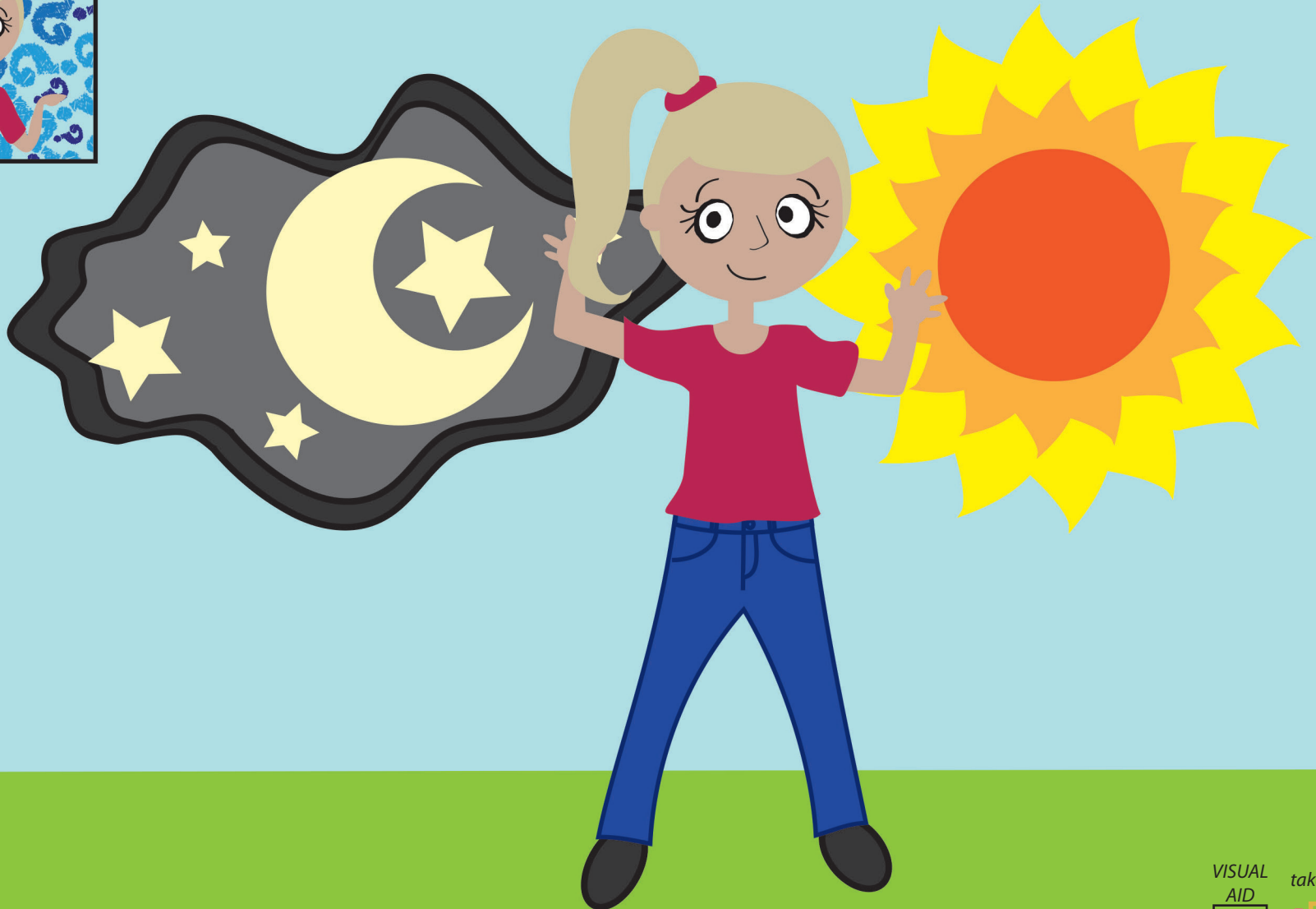


BIG QUESTION 14



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 three truths about how God wants us to pray. They are: "He Wants Us to Praise Him," "He Wants Us to Confess Our Sins to Him," and "He Wants Us to Thank 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 4:

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

He wants us to
???? Him to do
great things!

HINT: What do we do when we
need someone to help us?
This word starts with the letter "A"
and it rhymes with "mask."



PLEASE,
GOD!

ANSWER:

He wants us to ASK Him to do great things!

Visual Aid

#3



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 to Do Great Things!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What do we do when we need someone to help us? This word starts with the letter “A” and it rhymes with “mask.”

Can you guess? It’s “Ask.”

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 ASK Him to Do Great Things!”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

One part of praying is a big word called “supplication.” Supplication sounds like “supply” and that’s what it means: asking God to supply us with something we need.

God’s people ask God to supply them with many things. They know that there is so much they cannot do or supply for themselves. They need God to give them these things. They ask God to help them honor Him in how they live. They want Him to help them obey His laws so that when other people see how they live, they will praise God. They want Him to help them tell others about the wonderful things He has done. God’s people also ask Him to take care of their needs and worries. Every day there are many things they need. Sometimes they are worried or scared about things. They tell God about them all. They know He delights to take care of His people.

They also ask God to help other people. They pray for God’s people that He would help them. They pray for God to save people who don’t trust in Jesus as their Savior., yet. They want to pray for everyone-- even people who are mean to them! God’s people ask God to do many great things. That’s because they know that He is a very great God. Nothing is too hard for Him to do. We can become God’s people, too, when we turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This is the first, most wonderful thing we can ask God to do for us!



**“I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me
and hear my prayer.” Psalm 17:6**

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:

Psalm 17:6 tells us:

Psalm 17:6

"I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

Learn a Little: "I call on you, O God, for you will answer me."

What does that mean?

God's people love to talk to God. They talk to Him every day. They know He is the great King over everything and everyone. He is the one, true God. He loves them and is mighty to help them. They know He will always hear their prayers and help them. How amazing that such a great God would care for people like you and me so much! He loves to hear our prayers and answer them in the way and in the timing, He knows is best. And what is the best, first prayer we can ask God to answer? To help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people! Ask Him to help you.

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

I Call on You, O God:

Psalm 17:6

DDD NIV Songs 24, track 30

I call on You, on You, O God,
For You will answer me, answer me,
Give ear to me, to me, O God.
And hear, hear my prayer.

I call on You, on You, O God,
For You will answer me, answer me,
Give ear to me, to me, O God.
And hear, hear my prayer.
Psalm Seventeen, 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 Daring Pray-ers" Acts 3-4



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What happened when Peter prayed for the lame man?
2. What happened when the believers asked God to make them bold?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 17:6, NIV

"I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

1. Who called on God to make them bold?
2. How did God answer their prayers?

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



I. The first Christians gathered together to pray. They had so much to talk to God about! They praised Him for being the great God who loved His people and raised Jesus from the dead.



2. They confessed their sins to God, and thanked Him for sending Jesus to die on the cross to forgive their sins and save them.

THE LORD



3. But there was something else those first Christians prayed as they gathered together. They asked God to do amazing things that would bring Him **GLORY**. That is, they wanted others to know Him and see how great He is.



4. "Help us to love each other as You have loved us in Jesus," they prayed. "Help us to show and tell others that Jesus really is Your Son and He really is the Savior," they asked. "Help us not to be scared of our enemies who want to hurt us because we believe in Jesus. Work in the hearts of many people. Help them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior," they prayed. All these things would bring glory to God's name.

YES!



5. And did God answer these prayers? Did He do these amazing things? Oh yes, He did answer them! The Bible has lots of stories of the amazing things God did in answer to their prayers. Let's hear one.



6. Lots of people were walking to the Temple, God's special worship place in Jerusalem. It was time for evening prayers. Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, were going there to pray, too. There was so much to pray for! They wanted to live for Jesus. They wanted to tell the world about Jesus. They wanted God to do amazing things to show how great He is that all might praise and worship Him. These are the kinds of prayers God loves to answer.



7. But even before Peter and John entered the Temple to pray, God was already answering their prayers. At the Temple gate, there was a man begging for money. Why was he begging instead of working for it? Because he had been born lame. (That means when he was born, his legs didn't work, and he never was able to walk.) And back then, if your legs didn't work, then you couldn't work. All you could do is beg. So that's why, day after day, this man was carried to the Temple gates and begged for money from the people coming to worship God.



8. "Help me! Give me money, please," the lame man asked Peter and John, as they passed by. What would Peter and John do? Would they give this poor man some money? No, they would NOT! Does that surprise you? Does it sound like Peter and John were being mean? Didn't they care about this man?

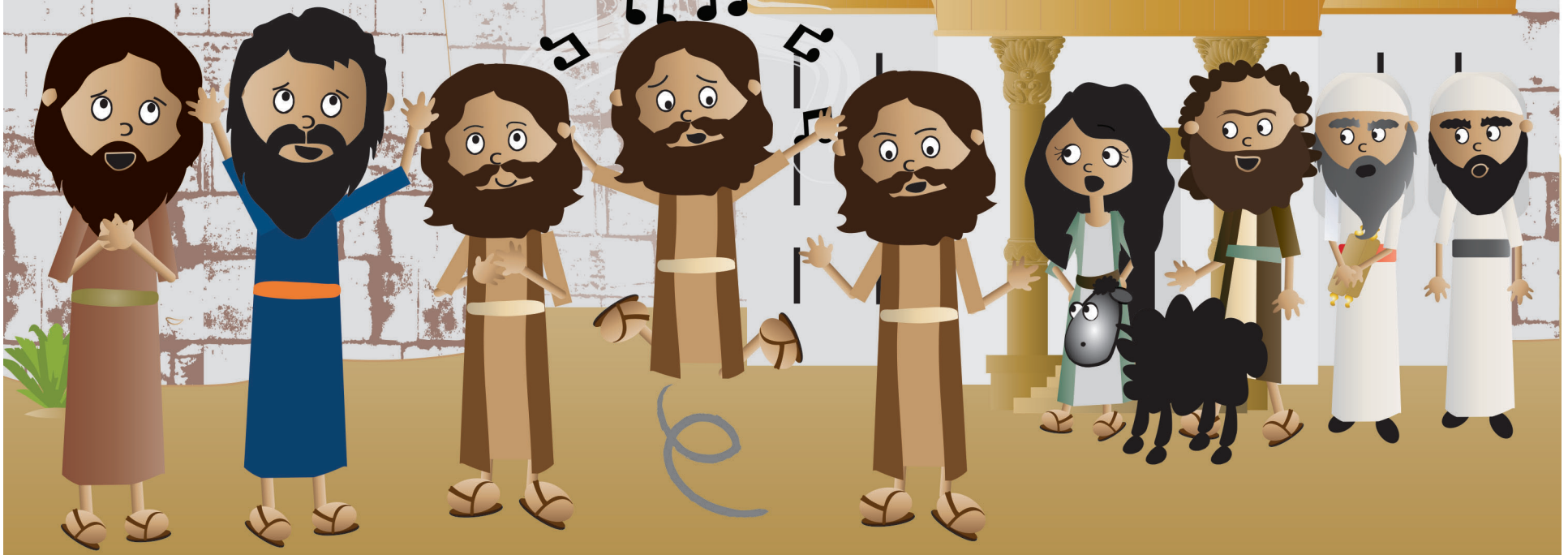


9. But Peter and John were NOT being mean, and they DID care about this man. They weren't going to give this man MONEY because God had something FAR BETTER to give this lame man. And God was going to use Peter and John to give it to him. Can you guess what God would do?



10. "I don't have money to give you," Peter said to the man, "but what I do have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk!" Peter took the man by the hand and raised him up to his feet. And wonder of wonders, the lame man's feet and ankles got strong. His legs worked. God had healed this man through Jesus. The man was so happy!

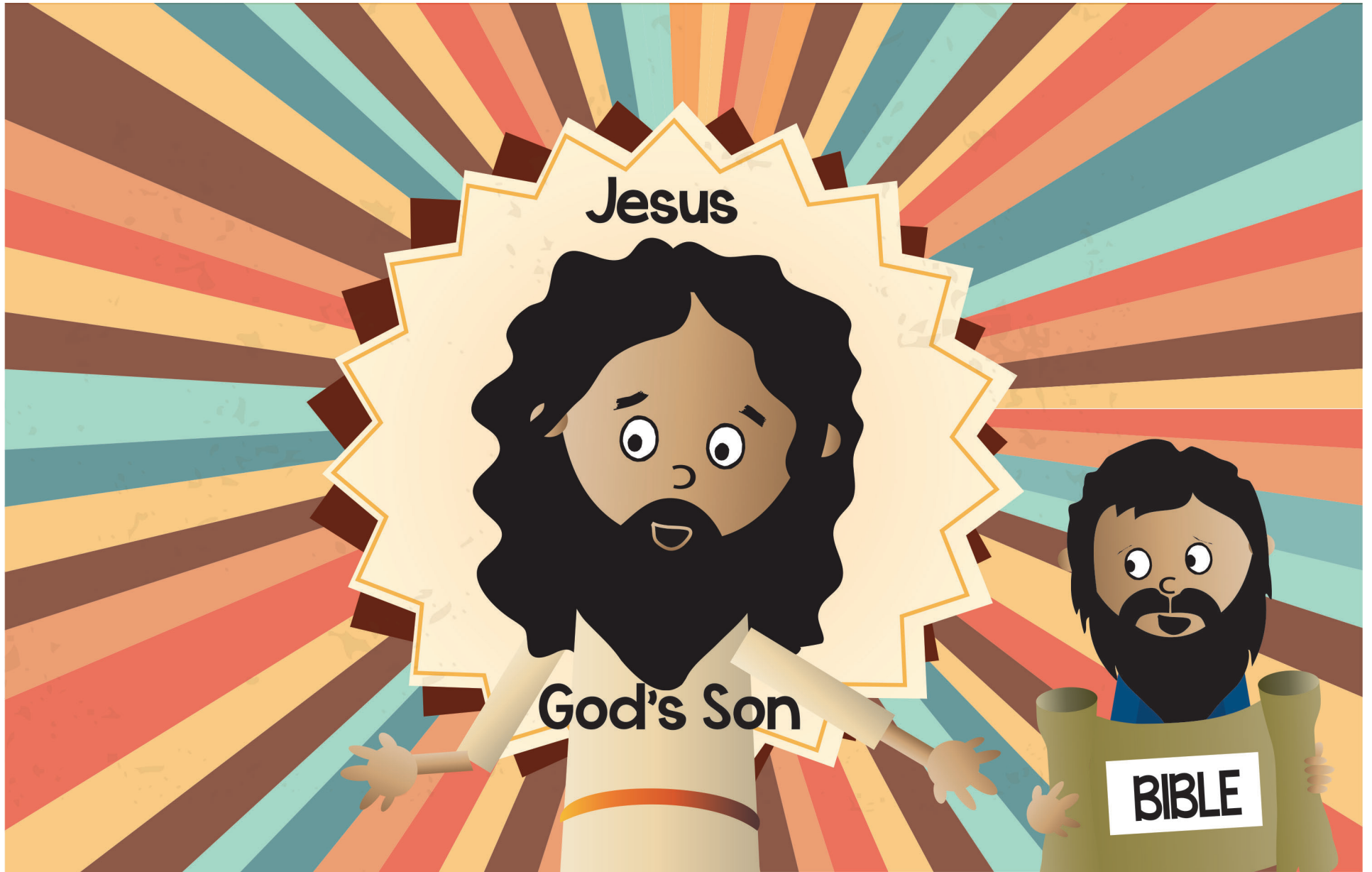
“praise God! He is so good and great!”



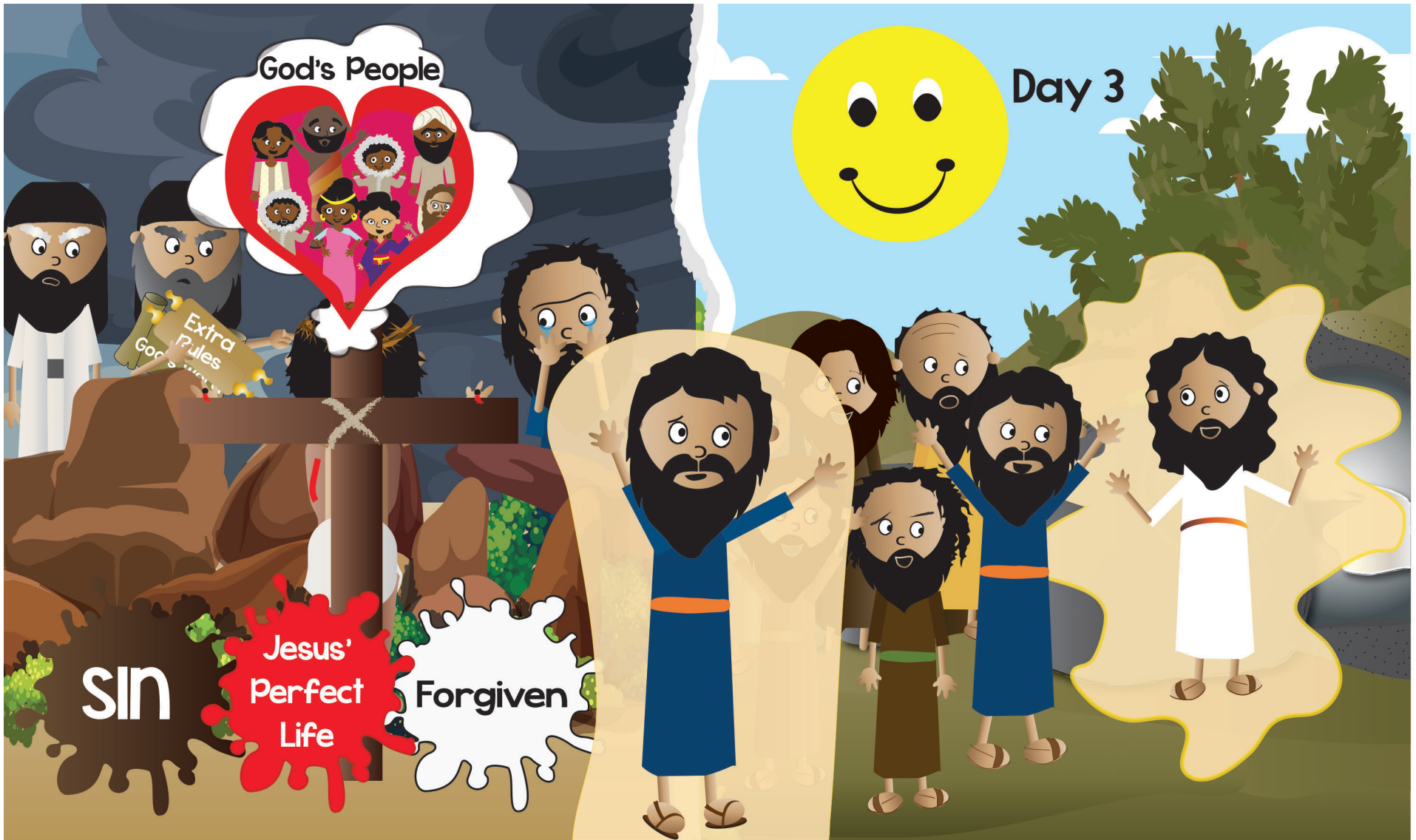
II. Together Peter, John, and the beggar man went into the Temple. Peter and John walked, but not that beggar man. No! He couldn't just walk. He was so excited! He had to do more than that. Can you guess what he did? The Bible tells us that he went into the Temple walking and leaping and praising God. Peter and John praised God, too. God was answering their prayers to do amazing things, things that would show others that Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior.



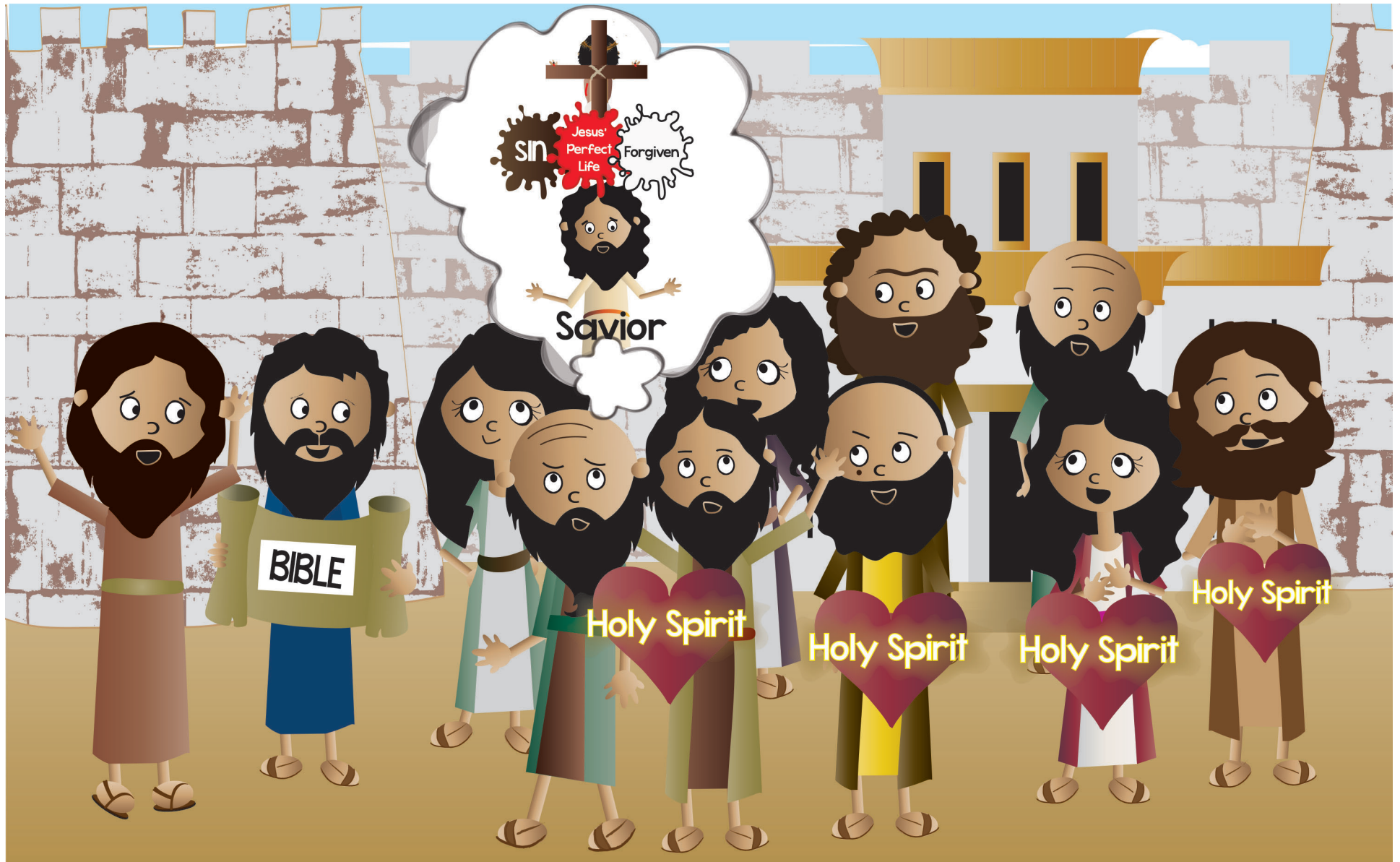
12. But God was not done answering their prayers that day. He was just beginning! Now, He would answer their prayers to tell others about Jesus so they might be saved. As Peter, John, and the beggar man came into the Temple area, everyone saw the man and was amazed. "Look! It's the lame man! He's been healed! Look at him, walking and leaping and praising God!" they exclaimed. The crowd rushed over to the three men, eager to hear how this amazing thing had happened.



13. Peter was happy to tell them: "God used us to heal this man, but it's not because we are anything special," Peter told them. "This man has been healed through Jesus. Jesus is the One who is special!" Peter explained.



14. "Jesus is the Savior God promised to send. He lived a perfect life and offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross," Peter told the people. "On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for God's people," Peter exclaimed. "Turn away from your sins, trust in Jesus as your Savior, and be saved. This is how you can become God's people, too," Peter told them.



15. Many people heard Peter share the good news of Jesus, but would many people believe? Yes, they did! God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened. He helped them believe. "We want to turn away from our sins. We want to trust in Jesus as our Savior," they told Peter and John. Peter and John praised God for answering their prayers in such big ways.



16. But guess what? God was STILL NOT DONE answering their prayers that day! He planned to do EVEN MORE through Peter, John, and that beggar man. And this time, it was with Jesus' enemies: the leaders in the Temple. Someone in the crowd went to the leaders and told them the big news: "The lame beggarman, he's healed! Those Christians, Peter and John, healed him in the name of Jesus! "Now, there's a huge crowd listening to them. Many are putting their trust in Jesus as their Savior," they were told.



17. The leaders rushed over to see for themselves. "Oh, no! This is terrible!" The leaders said to each other. "Jesus isn't God's promised Savior. He's just a fake. We must stop Peter and John from talking about Jesus and from doing amazing things in His name. Send out the soldiers! Arrest those men! Right now!" The soldiers quickly obeyed. They grabbed Peter and John and put them in jail for the night. The next day, the Temple leaders would decide how to punish them and stop them from talking about Jesus.

God, we praise You! You are great!



18. Peter and John had so much to talk to God about that night! They could praise Him for being the great God who was all-powerful. He could take care of them, even in jail.



GLORY

Save us! Help us! Do great things!

19. And, they could ask God to do more amazing things the next day when they faced the Temple leaders. That night, they may have prayed: "Lord, help us not to be afraid of our enemies. Help us to keep on telling people about Jesus, no matter what!" The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what they prayed, but the next day, God certainly answered all these kinds of prayers.



20. Soldiers came and took Peter and John to the Temple leaders that morning. “Stop telling people about Jesus! Stop saying that God is doing these amazing things through Jesus!” the leaders ordered Peter and John. “If you don’t stop, we will have to hurt you,” they warned. These were scary warnings! Peter and John knew those soldiers who could hurt them badly. It would be easy for them to be scared. It would be easy to stop talking about Jesus and not get hurt. What would Peter and John do?



21. Peter and John stood firm! God was at work in them, answering their prayers with amazing things once more. God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He made Peter and John brave. He gave them just the right words to say back to those leaders. "We will not stop talking about Jesus," Peter and John told them. "We will not stop doing amazing things through Jesus. He really is the Savior! We don't care what you do to us," The leaders were amazed. They had nothing else they could do. They let Peter and John go.

“Praise God! He is so good and great!”
“Save more people! Help us be brave!”



22. And what did Peter and John do when they were freed? They gathered the other Christians together and told them about all the amazing things that God had done. Then, all together, they asked God to keep making them bold and to keep doing amazing things. They wanted Him to use them to tell others about Jesus.

Holy Spirit



23. And that just what God did! He filled them with His Holy Spirit and made them bold to tell others about Jesus and to show them amazing things about God.

"The Case of the Daring Pray-ers" Acts 3-4

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What happened when Peter prayed for the lame man?
God healed him so he could walk!

2. What happened when the believers asked God to make them bold?
God worked in their hearts and made them bold to keep on telling about Jesus.

For You and Me:

God loves for His people to ask Him to help them. They need His help to live for Him. God wants them to depend upon Him. This shows them how much He loves them and what a great God He is. God wants us to pray and ask Him for help, too. He wants us to ask him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And He wants us to ask Him to help us live for Him all the days of our lives.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalms 17:6, NIV

"I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer."

1. Who called on God to make them bold?
God's people, gathered together.

2. How did God answer their prayers?
God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and made them bold to speak about Him.

For You and Me:

God loves for His people to ask Him to help them. They need His help to live for Him. God wants them to depend upon Him. This shows them how much He loves them and what a great God He is. God wants us to pray and ask Him for help, too. He wants us to ask him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And He wants us to ask Him to help us live for Him all the days of our lives.

How Does God Want Us to Pray?
Every Night and Day...
He Wants Us to Ask Him to Do Great Things!

The Gospel



God's people ask God to do many things. They know that He can do great things, since He's already done the greatest thing of all: save them from their sins.

You see, all people have chosen to disobey God and deserve His punishment for their sins. But God, in His mercy, sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, and He offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people as He died on the cross. Then, on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had beaten sin and death! God's people know if Jesus could do this for them, there is nothing He cannot do for their good and to show how great God is. They ask Him to do more great things in them and in the world.

God can do great things in us, too. If we ask Him, He can work in our hearts and make us His people. He can help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being so great and so able to help us. You are the God who listens and answers prayer!

C God, we know You answer prayers and can help us, but many times we don't even remember to ask for Your help. We forget You. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, that nothing is too hard for You! Thank You that You are always near and always hear our prayers. Thank You that You have given us what we need most of all: Jesus, to save us from our sins.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to keep talking to You throughout our day. Do great things in our lives. Help us to live for You. Do great things in this world. Help us all to trust in You as our Savior
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

