

BIG QUESTION 15



# Why do God's people go to church?

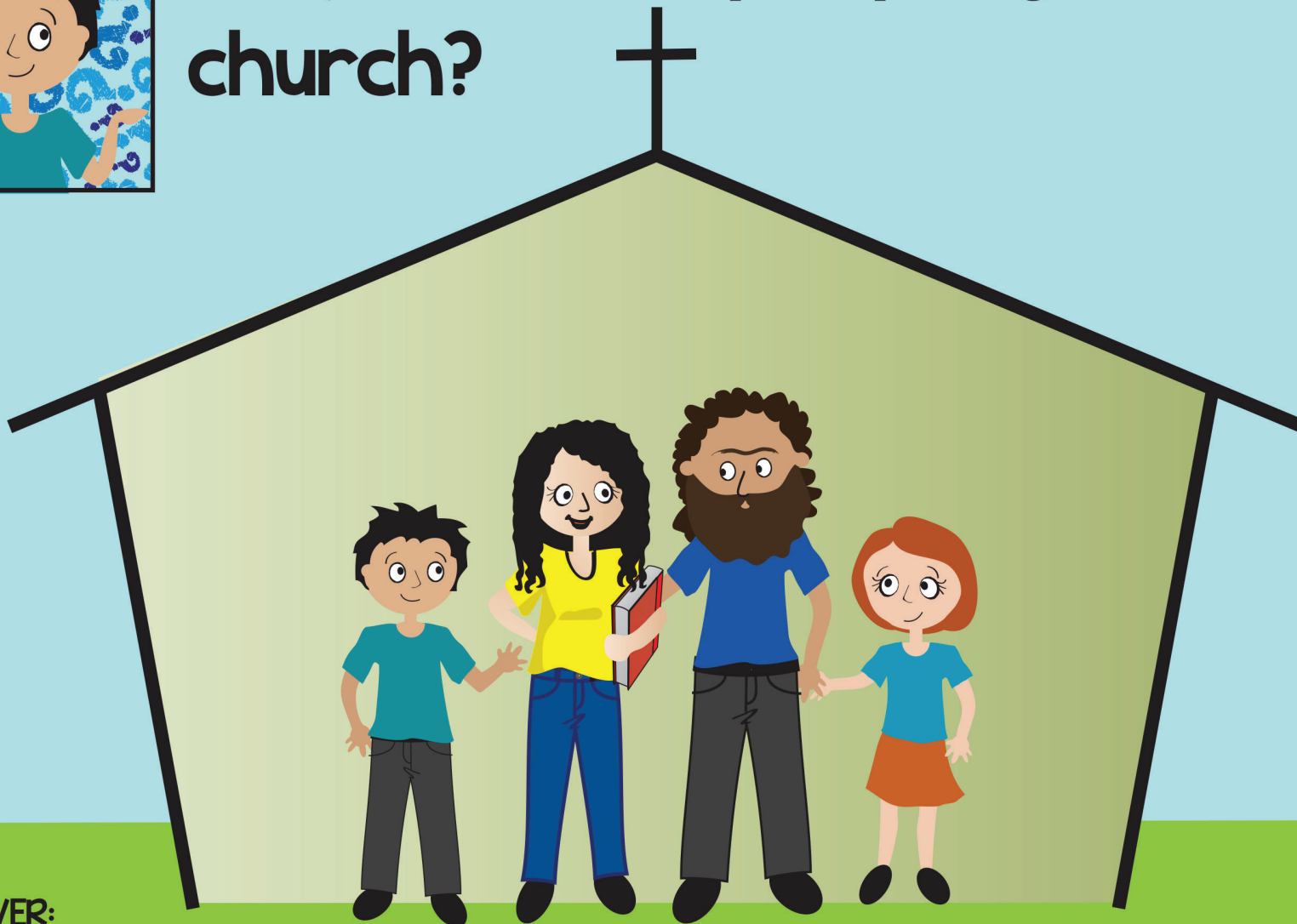
VISUAL  
AID

#1

take out



of BQB



ANSWER:

## To worship God and love one another!

## 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 15:

**Why Do God's People Go to Church?**  
and the Answer is:  
**To Worship God and Love One Another!**

### Meaning:

A church is God's people gathering together. Some churches meet in special buildings. Some churches meet in homes. Some meet outside. No matter where they meet, when God's people gather together, they are a church. When God's people gather together as a church, they worship God. They worship Him for being the one, true God who is not like anyone else. They worship Him for saving them through Jesus. They sing songs and pray to God. They listen to the Bible and learn how to obey it. God's people also gather together to love one another. They talk with each other, and take care of each other, and pray for each other. The Bible tells us that God's people are to meet together often. It tells us that when they gather together, Jesus will be there with them in a special way. We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we will gather together with God's people to worship God and love one another, too!

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

## Big Q & A 15 Song

*DDD ESV Songs 15, track 12*

*(adapted version of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")*

Why do God's people go to church?  
Go to church? Go to church?  
Why do God's people go to church?  
To worship God and to  
love one another!

# BIG QUESTION 15: Six truths about why God's people go to church

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



## This Unit's Bible Truths

"To Worship God and Love One Another" 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 SIX Bible truths that all tell us more about why God's people go to church.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our six 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 six 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 six 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:

Why Do God's People  
Go to Church?

To Worship God and  
Love One Another...

By Praising God for  
Jesus' Win over ????!

HINT: What is the opposite of alive?  
It starts with a "D" and it rhymes  
with "breath."

ANSWER:

By Praising God for Jesus' Win over DEATH!



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:*

**“Why Do God’s People Go to Church?  
To Worship God and Love One Another!  
By Praising God for Jesus’ Win over ???? !”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the opposite of alive? It starts with a “D” and it rhymes with “breath.”

Can you guess? It’s “death.”

So the Bible Truth we are learning today is:  
*(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)*

**“Why Do God’s People Go to Church?  
To Worship God and Love One Another!  
By Praising God for Jesus’ Win over DEATH !”**

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

On one sad Friday, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for God’s people. He was buried in a grave, but He didn’t stay there. He rose up from the grave on Day Three—Sunday! He was alive and would be forevermore!

Ever since that first and best Sunday when Jesus beat sin and death, God’s people have been gathering together each week to celebrate. (The big, Bible word for God’s people gathered together is “congregation.”) They sing and pray and listen to God’s Word. They rejoice that Jesus had beaten sin and death for them. They are happy the Holy Spirit lives in their hearts. They look forward to the day when Jesus will come back and all of God’s people will at last gather together forever as one, big family. That will be the biggest and best celebration of all!

Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God’s forgiveness for their sins. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and helps them love God and live for Him the rest of their lives. Forever they will be God’s dearly-loved people! What an amazing gift God has given us through Jesus!

God’s people love to celebrate together, but they are always hoping for more to join them. That’s why they tell their neighbors nearby the good news of Jesus. (The big, Bible word for telling others about Jesus is “evangelism.”) And that’s why they even travel to faraway lands to tell people there about Jesus, too. (The big, Bible word for going to another land to tell people about Jesus is “missions.”) They want everyone to hear the good news of Jesus, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. (The big, Bible word for the good news of Jesus is “the gospel.”) They want them all to become God’s people and join the Sunday celebration of what God has done through Jesus! We can be God’s people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Sundays will be our celebration day, too!

Visual  
Aid

#4

Place  
verse in



take out



of BQB

23



"He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." --1 Peter 1:3, HCSB

## 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:*

1 Peter 1:3 tells us:

### **1 Peter 1:3, HCSB**

"He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

**Learn a Little:** He has given us a new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

### **What does that mean?**

When we are born as babies, we have our first birth. But did you know that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are given a new birth? Not a new birth as a baby again. This isn't a new birth for our bodies. God gives our heart a new birth. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit --a heart that knows God, and wants to love Him and live for Him.

Jesus is why God's people get to have this wonderful new birth. He died on the cross for their sins. He made the way for them to be God's people. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He was resurrected. (That's a big Bible word meaning that He rose from the dead.) Yes, on that third day--that glorious Easter Sunday morning-- He rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. Jesus is alive for evermore. And He is the living hope of God's people that one day, they, too, will live face to face with God forever! We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"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!"

## He Has Given Us a New Birth:

### 1 Peter 1:3, HCSB

*DDD ESV Songs 15, track 17*

He has given us a new birth,  
Into a living hope,  
He has given us a new birth,  
Into a living hope,  
Through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from the dead,  
Through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from the dead.  
He has given us a new birth,  
Into a living hope,  
He has given us a new birth,  
Into a living hope.  
First Peter One, three.

"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 Third Day Yay"

Exodus 16:20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What happened on the third day after Jesus died that made the disciples so happy?
2. What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus' followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day?

## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



### 1 Peter 1:3, HCSB

"He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1. Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday?
2. How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org))





I. Walk! Walk! Walk! Look at all of God's people walking! Where are they going? What are they doing? They aren't staying at home, so where are they going?



2. Are they going to the market to shop? No, not the market. Are they going to the fields to work? No, not this day. Then, where ARE they going? Aren't those the places they go every day? Aren't those the things they do every day: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday?

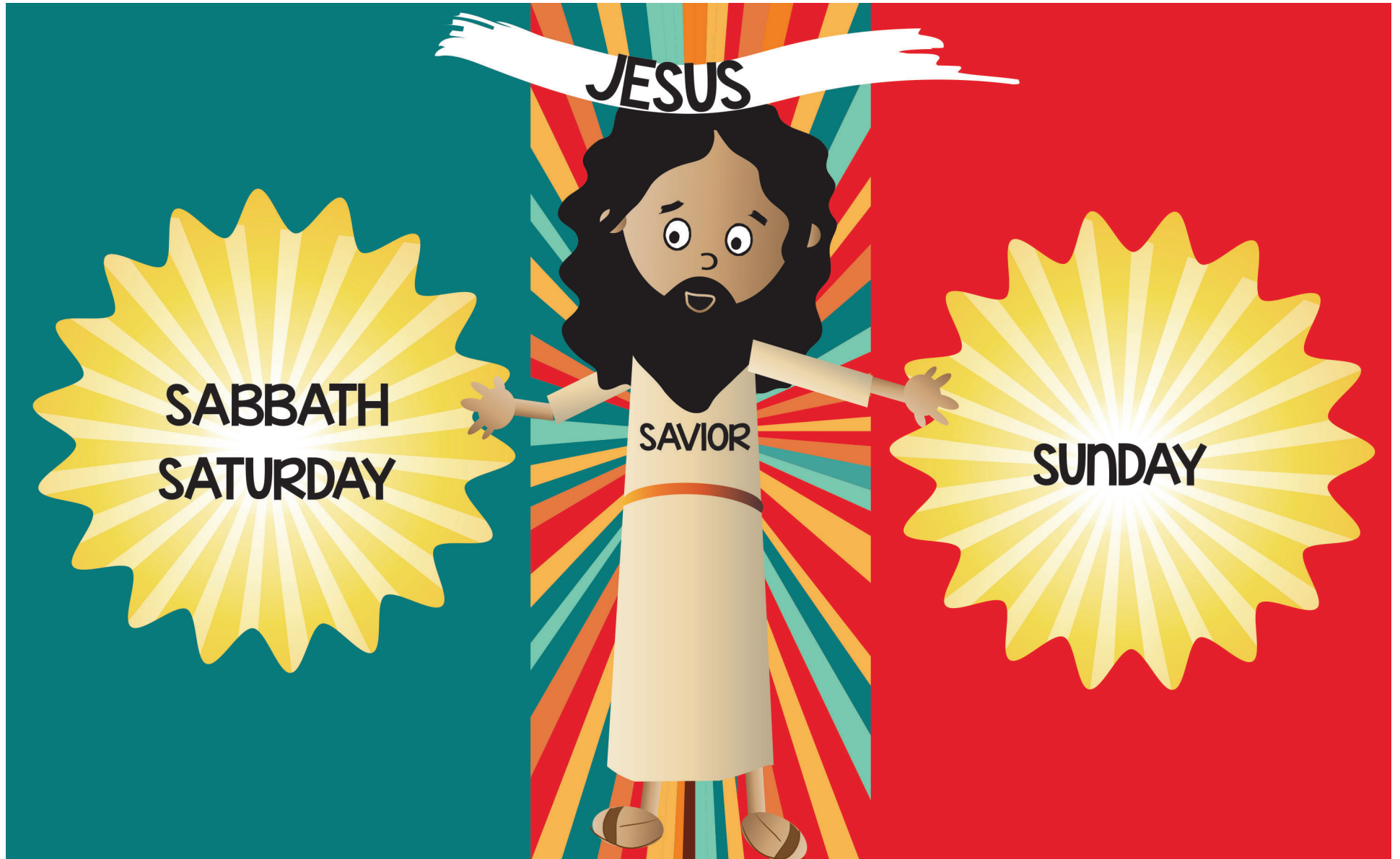




3. Well, not quite every day. There was one day, each week, that God told them to do something very different. On this day, they were to rest. And, instead of going about their regular work, they were to go to the worship place. This was the day they were to gather together and worship the LORD. Do you know what this special day was called? It was called the Sabbath --from the Hebrew word for "rest." And which day of the week was the Sabbath? It was Saturday, always Saturday --the last day of the week.



4. That's why, in our story, God's people weren't staying at home, or going to shop at the market, or going to work in the fields on this day. This was the Sabbath Day, and God's people were going to worship God, as God told them to in the Ten, Big Laws He gave them through Moses.

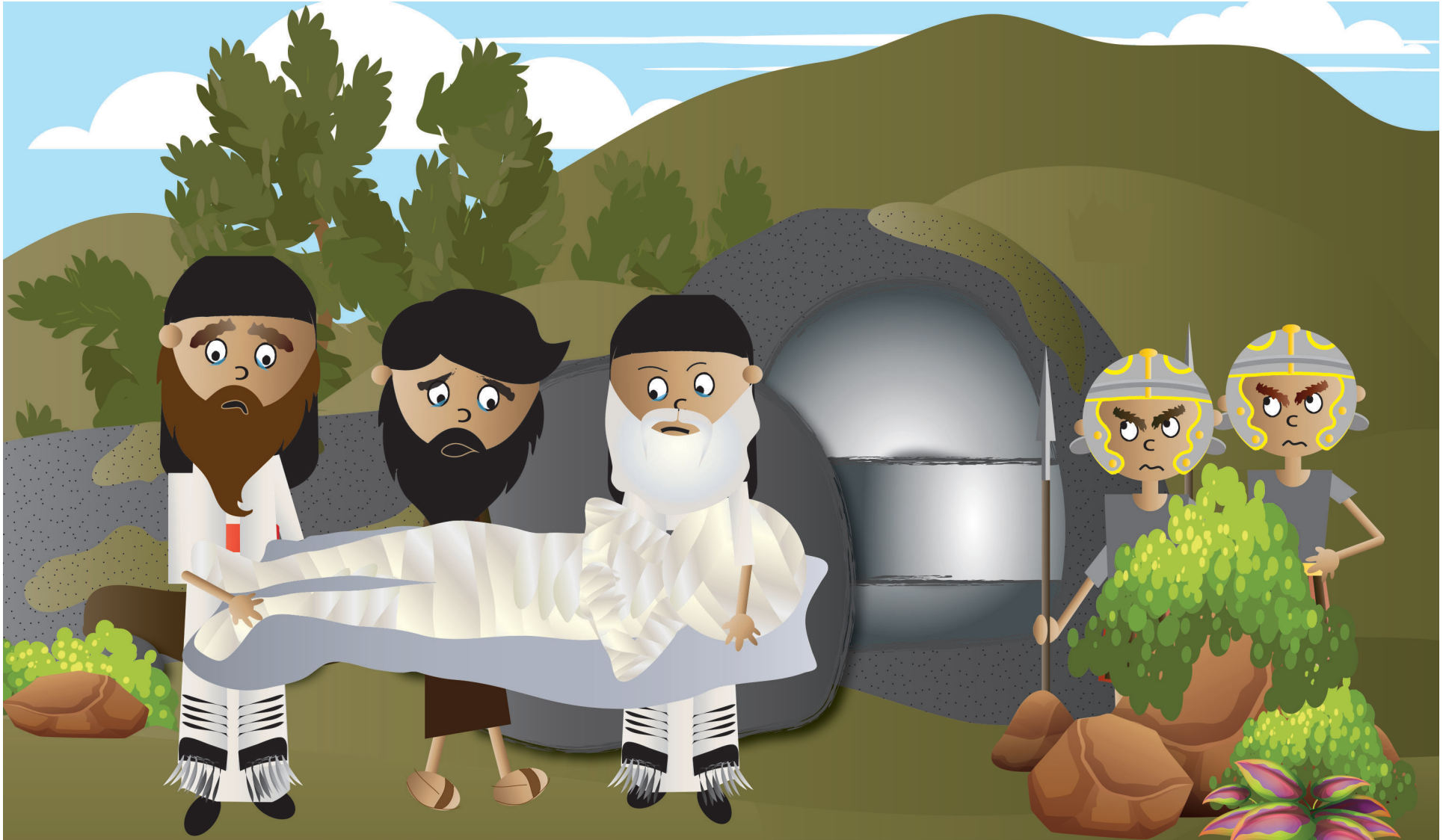


5. For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Sabbath-Saturday was the day God's people were to rest from their work, and to gather together to worship God. But then, something really big and wonderful happened: the Savior came. And something He did changed that worship day from Saturday to Sunday. Do you know the Savior's name? It's Jesus!





6. Yes, Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of God's people. He lived a perfect life. He never, ever disobeyed God. He was the perfect law-keeper of all of God's laws. Then, Jesus gave His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross.



7. Friends came and took Jesus' body off the cross. They covered it in sweet-smelling spices and wound white, linen cloth around it. They buried Jesus' body in a grave cave, rolled a huge stone in place to shut the cave, and left Him. Oh, how sad they were on that Friday when Jesus died!

In that grave cave, Jesus' dead body lay all that Friday and all that Sabbath-Saturday. Soldiers stood guard over the grave cave, making sure no one came and took Jesus body.





8. But then, early on the next day--Sunday--what a surprise there was for those soldiers and Jesus' disciples ...and really the whole world! Jesus' body didn't stay put AT ALL! Can you tell me what happened? God raised Jesus from the dead! Out of that grave cave, Jesus came. He was alive, never to die again!



9. Jesus appeared to many people that day. He appeared to three women who had come to His grave cave. Yay! Jesus is alive! Then, to two people as they walked along the road to their home. "Yay! Jesus is alive!"



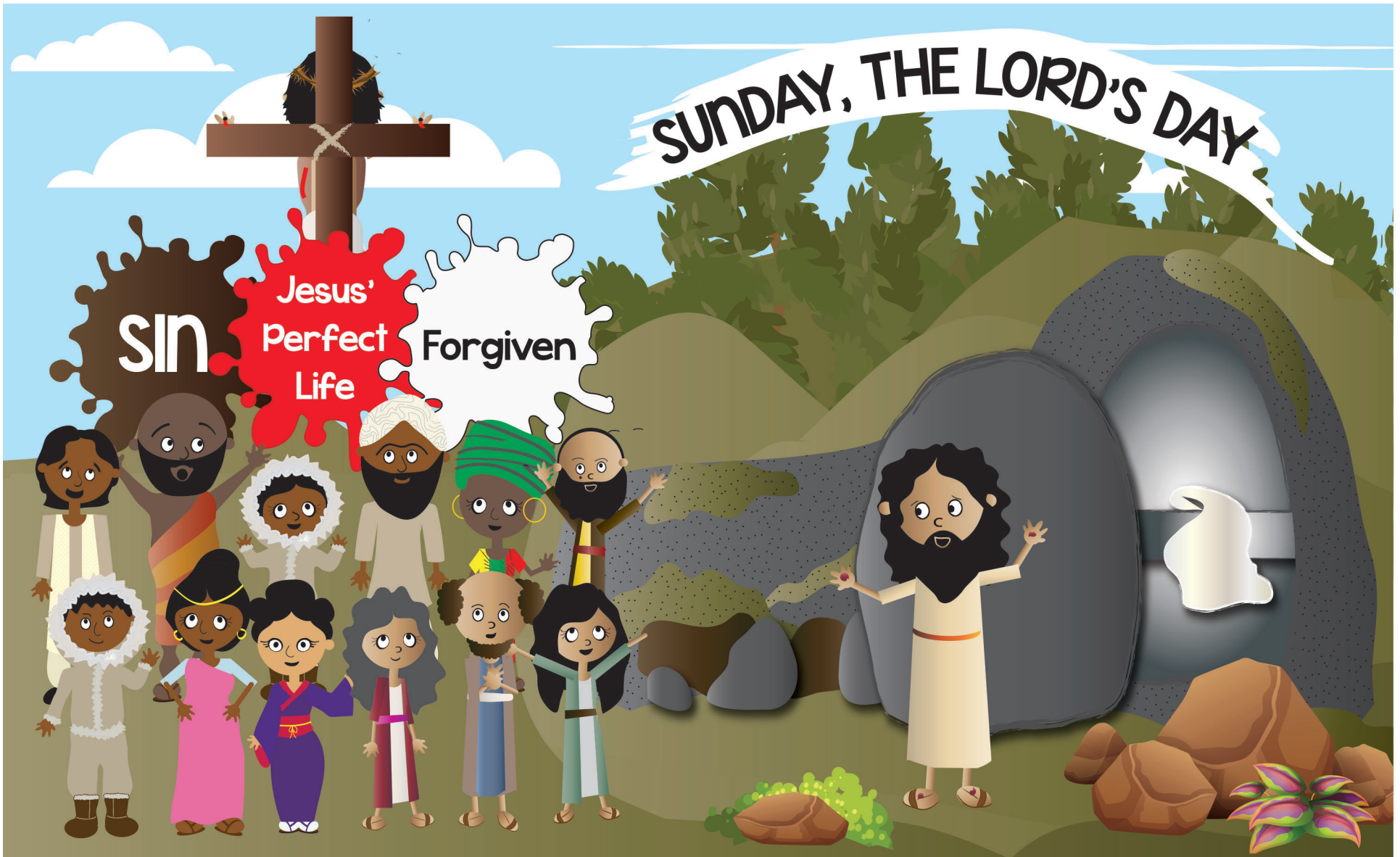


10. And at the end of the day, Jesus appeared to a whole group of His disciples. "Yay! Jesus is alive!" Yes! Jesus was alive, and His friends were so happy! Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, instead of facing God's punishment, God's people were forgiven! They would get to know God, and love and enjoy Him forever!





II. What an amazing day this was! This was the day God's people had been waiting for since the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin came into the world. Jesus' followers never wanted to forget this wonderful Sunday. So, they began to gather together every Sunday to celebrate what He had done for them.



12. They didn't call this special worship day the Sabbath anymore. They gave it a new name to remind them of what Jesus had done. Do you know what that new name is? They called it "the Lord's Day" because they were celebrating the wonderful Sunday the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.





13. From then on, Jesus' followers kept on gathering together every Lord's Day to worship God and love one another. They worshiped God and praised Jesus, their Savior, who beat sin and death for them. They shared stories of the amazing things that God was doing, and asked God to do more.



14. They learned from God's Word, the Bible, and shared a special meal together to remember that Jesus died for their sins.

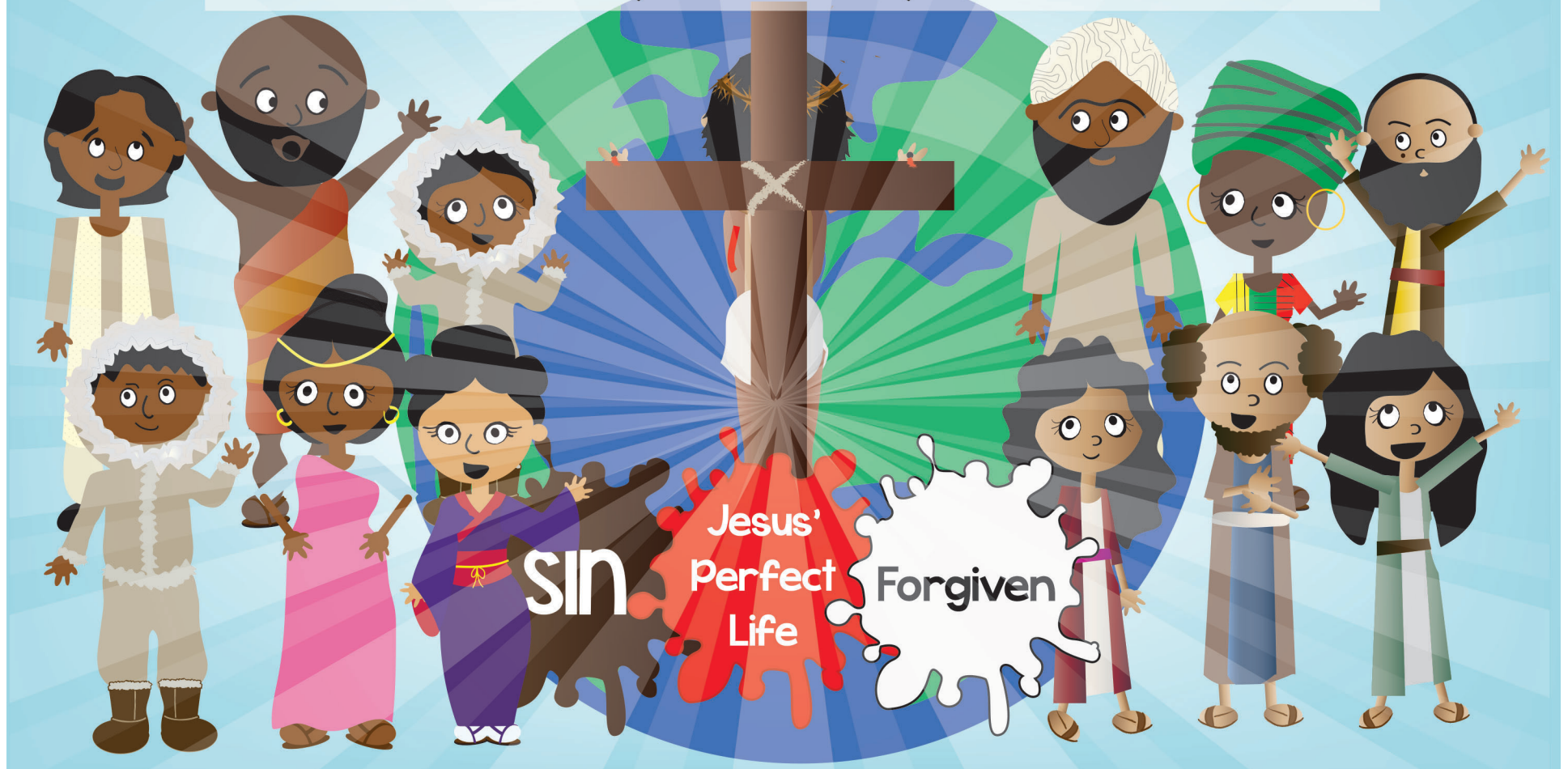




15. They prayed and care for each other's needs. In all these ways, they worshipped God and loved one another. How loud were their praises every Lord's Day! Sunday was a big celebration day!



# God's Son, Jesus, the Savior



16. But as happy as those first Christians were to celebrate every Sunday in their little gatherings, that wasn't enough. Not enough for them and not enough for God. They wanted more, more, more! Can you guess what they wanted more of? They wanted MORE people to know the good news of Jesus. They wanted MORE people to turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. They wanted MORE people to know God, love God, and sing praises to Him. They wanted the WHOLE WORLD to be filled with God's people.



17. This was what Jesus had told them to do. "Go into the whole world with the gospel," Jesus had said, right before He went up to heaven. "Teach them to repent of their sins and trust in Me as their Savior. Baptize them as My followers. Teach them how to be My disciples. Teach them how to live as God's people," He said. "I will send the Holy Spirit to help you," Jesus promised.





18. And that's just what Jesus' disciples did. After the Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts, they began to tell everyone the good news of Jesus. First, to the people living in Jerusalem, then out to their nearby neighbors, they went with the gospel. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many, and they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. These new believers joined the disciples as they gathered together. Sundays had become their celebration day, too. God's people were growing in number. Their praises were getting louder!



19. Then, further and further away they went to tell the good news of Jesus to others in faraway places. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of these people, too. They turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Little churches of believers sprung up everywhere. Sundays had become their celebration day, too.





20. Since then, God's people keep on spreading the good news of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit keeps on working in hearts. And what do God's people keep doing on Sundays? They keep on gathering together to celebrate that most wonderful Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. Their numbers keep growing and their praises get louder, as more people put their faith in Jesus. And this is why we gather together today: to celebrate how Jesus proved He beat sin and death for God's people on that wonderful Sunday, long ago!



# "The Case of the Third Day Yay"

Exodus 16:20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2

## SOLVED



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What happened on the third day after Jesus died that made the disciples so happy?  
Jesus rose from the dead. He proved that He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

2. What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus' followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day?  
A Sunday. They started gathering together every Sunday to celebrate what Jesus had done for them.

For You and Me:  
God's people around the world still celebrate with a "third day yay"! They still gather together on Sundays to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people. We can join in that celebration, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 Peter 1:3, HCSB

"He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1. Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday? Jesus' disciples.

2. How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean?

They had turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. God forgave their sins and made their hearts new. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of them, so they could know Him, and to help them love Him and live for Him. He filled their hearts with hope in Jesus now, and hope in one day going to live with Him forever in heaven. That would be best of all.

For You and Me:

Like those first followers of Jesus, we, too, can receive a new birth into a living hope. We, too, can have our sins forgiven and begin life as one of God's people. We can know God in our hearts now and one day, go to live with Him forever in heaven. How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Why Do God's People Go to Church?  
To Worship God and Love One Another...  
By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death!

# The Gospel



What a wonderful day it was when Jesus rose from the dead! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Oh, how we needed Him to do that! You see, all people have chosen to disobey God. We all deserve His punishment.

God would have been perfectly fair to punish us all for our sins; but, He is so full of mercy that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, then offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. On Day Three, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death for them.

Now, all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven their sins, and become God's people. Ask God to help you do this. Then, Sunday will be your special celebration day, too!





# A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for being so powerful that You beat sin and death for them.

C God, we know that Sunday should be a special celebration day. It's the day Jesus rose from the dead. But sometimes, we would rather not go to church and celebrate. We would rather do something else that seems more fun. We don't treasure what Jesus did on the cross. We need a Savior!

T God, thank You for beating sin and death for God's people through Jesus. Thank You that they don't have to face Your punishment for sin. They get to know You in their hearts now, and get to live with You in heaven when they die. Thank You that we can be Your people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus' win over sin and death as we gather together with God's people at church.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

