

BIG QUESTION 15



Why do God's people go to church?

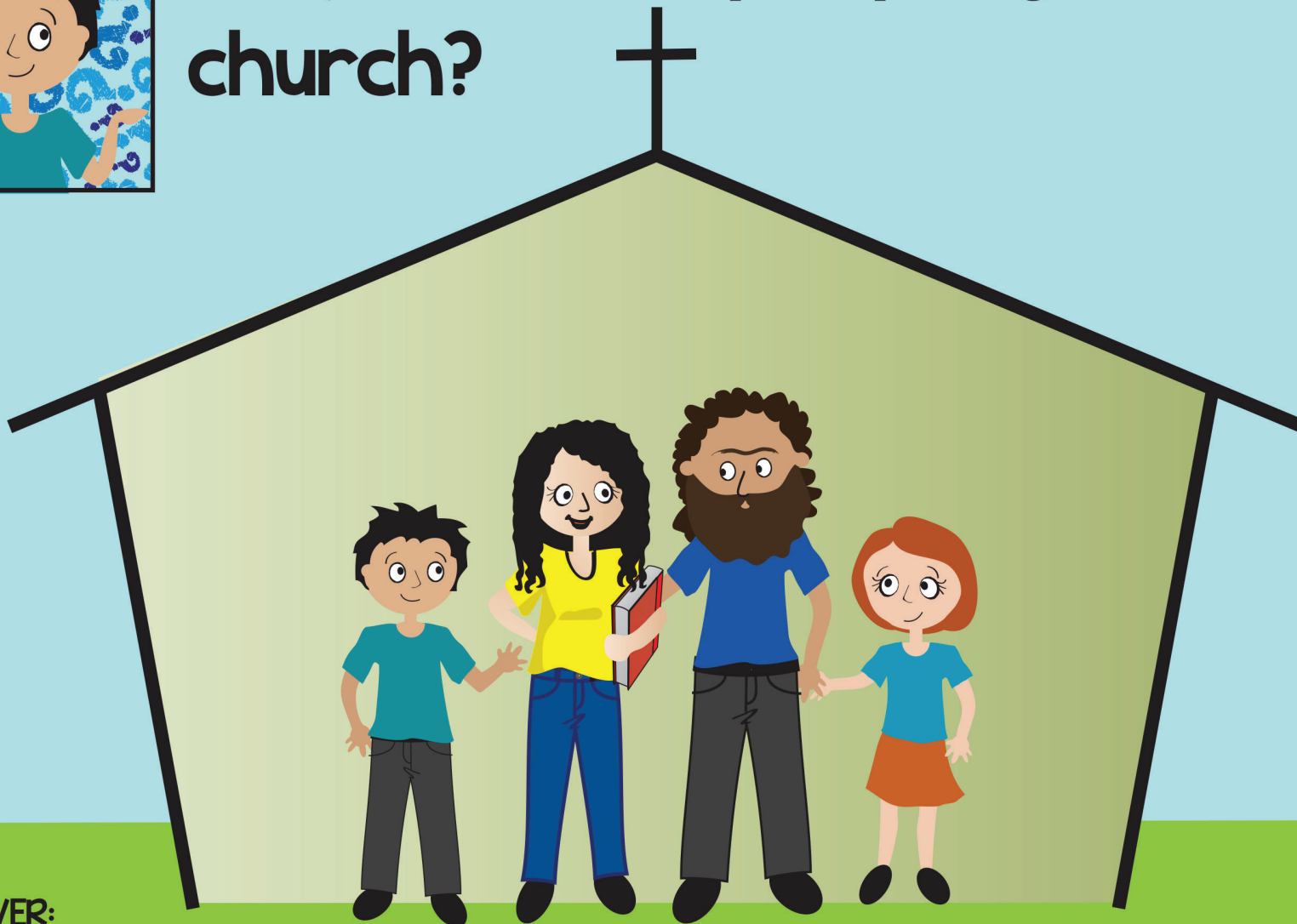
VISUAL
AID

#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, we've learned one truth about what Jesus. It's this one: "By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death" (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 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. Hold up the front side for the children to see.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 2:

Why Do God's People
Go to Church?

To Worship God and
Love One Another...

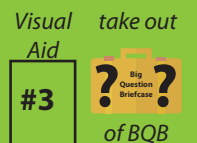
By Learning from God's
Word, the ????!

HINT: What is the name of
God's Word? It starts with a
"B" and it rhymes with "tribal."



ANSWER:

By Learning from God's Word, the BIBLE!



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 Learning from God’s Word, the ????!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the name of God’s Word? It starts with a “B” and it rhymes with “tribal.”

Can you guess? It’s “Bible”

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 Learning from God’s Word, the BIBLE!”**

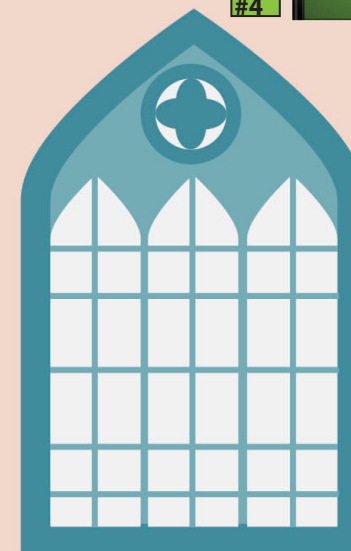
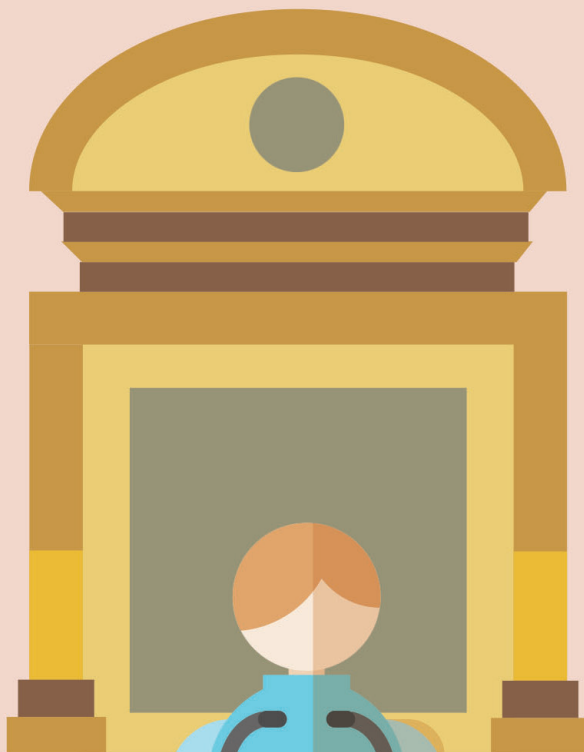
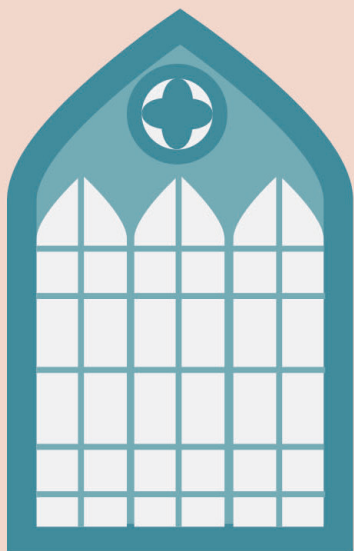
And here is what this Bible Truth means:
(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)

God’s people gather together to learn from the Bible. There is no other book like it. It alone is God’s Word. It is the best place to find out about God and how to obey Him. But that’s not all! The Bible is not just words that God’s people listen to and learn from. God’s Word is powerful! The Holy Spirit works inside of people as they hear God’s Word. He uses it to help them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This is how we become God’s people. (The big, Bible word for this is “conversion.”) And, He uses it to help us to know God better, to give us hope, and to obey Him. This is how we live as God’s people. (The big, Bible word for this is “discipleship.”)

Sometimes God’s people learn from the Bible in little groups. (You are probably learning about the Bible in one of these right now!) But the most important way God’s people learn from God’s Word is when they all gather together as a congregation and listen to a godly man preach from the Bible. The Bible calls these men, pastors (or elders). God has called them to preach God’s Word and to lead God’s people in living for Him. What a great gift they are to God’s people!

The pastor stands in front of the congregation (God’s people gathered together). He reads to them from the Bible and explains what it means. He helps them understand how to live it out. (The big, Bible word for this is “expositional preaching.”) The Holy Spirit helps the pastor and the congregation as they study God’s Word together.

It is very important for God’s people to hear the Bible when they gather together. God uses it to work powerfully in their lives. We can be God’s people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God can use His Word to work powerfully in our lives, too.



Visual
Aid
#4

Place
verse in
DDD
Bible™

take out
Big
Question
of BQB



"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching." --1 Timothy 4:13, ESV

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:

1 Timothy 4:13 tells us:

1 Timothy 4:13

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Learn a Little: "Devote yourself to the reading of Scripture."

What does that mean?

God's people gather together to worship God and love one another. And what book tells them how to do this best of all? God's Word, the Bible! The Bible helps God's people know how God wants them to live; and, it is powerful to help them live that way. No wonder God's people devote themselves to the Bible. They want their leaders to read it to them and to teach them what it means when they gather together. It alone is God's Word! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God can use His Word to work powerfully in our lives, too.

"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!"

Devote Yourself: 1 Timothy 4:13, ESV

DDD ESV Songs 15, track 27

Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself.

To the public reading of Scripture,
Exhortation, and teaching,
To the public reading of Scripture,
Exhortation, and teaching.

Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself,
Devote yourself, devote yourself.
First Timothy Four, thirteen.

"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 Faithful Leader" Acts 16:1, 1 & 2 Timothy



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the pastor chosen to care for the believers in Ephesus?
2. What did Paul tell him to be faithful to do for those believers?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



1 Timothy 4:13, ESV

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

1. Whom did Paul write to when he was in prison and about to die?
2. What did Paul tell this person to be faithful to do for the believers in Ephesus?

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



1. Paul was an old man who was about to die. His enemies had put him in jail for telling people about Jesus, and now they planned to kill him. Paul sat in his cold cell making the best of the little time he had left.



2. Even in jail, Paul found ways to love God and His people. Paul prayed. He shared the good news of Jesus with the soldiers who guarded him and with many others. And, he wrote letters to the little churches of believers in many places.



3. Paul's life in jail was very different from what it used to be. Paul had been a missionary. He travelled to many faraway places, preaching the good news of Jesus to all who would listen. Many people turned away from disobeying God and trusted in Jesus as their Savior when they heard Paul preach. Soon, there were little churches of these new Christians all over. They gathered together each week to worship God and love one another.

DEACONS



4. Godly leaders were chosen to take care of the members of each little church gathering. Some of these leaders were called “deacons.” They were used by God to serve their little church in a special way. They spent their time caring for the needs of others in the church. Men like Stephen made sure everyone had enough to eat. Women like Phoebe spent their days serving the needs of others in so many ways, too.



6. A young man named Timothy would become one of these godly pastors.



7. Paul met Timothy on one of his traveling trips and asked him to be his helper. Mile after mile, Timothy walked with Paul. Up mountains and down valleys. Over land and over sea. Through every kind of weather. To every kind of people.



8. There were happy, friendly people who wanted to hear about Jesus, and welcomed them. And, there were angry, fierce people who hated Paul, and wanted to make him stop telling about Jesus. They hurt Paul, and sent him to live in cold, prison cells. Timothy stayed by Paul through it all.



9. But most of all, it was the love in Timothy's heart that made him such a good helper for Paul. Timothy had a heart devoted to God and His good plans. Timothy loved God's Word and knew it well. He loved God, and Paul, and God's people so much, that he put them first, instead of himself!



10. So, you can see why Paul loved Timothy so much, and why Timothy was such a good helper for Paul. After a while, Paul treated Timothy not just as a helper, or even a very good friend, but like Timothy was his very own son.



II. Yes, Timothy was a big help to Paul, but did you know that Paul was a big help to Timothy, too? As Timothy travelled with Paul, he was listening and learning. He listened to Paul preach from God's Word and share the good news of Jesus. He saw many people turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.



12. Timothy listened to Paul teach these new believers how to live as Jesus' disciples, who would love God and live for Him their whole lives. Timothy listened to Paul use God's Word to comfort sad people and to warn others who had stopped living for God. Timothy watched Paul pray for the little churches to stay faithful and grow. And as Timothy listened and watched, God was preparing him for His plans for him. Can you guess what God planned for Timothy to be? A pastor, himself!



13. One day, Paul and Timothy came to city of Ephesus. They had come to check up on the little church of believers there. Uh oh, Paul could see there was a problem! This little church of believers needed a good pastor. Who could help them? Who knew God's Word well enough to help them grow to worship God and love one another the way God wanted them to? None of the new believers in the little Ephesus church could do this yet.



14. Perhaps there was no one in the little church who could be their pastor, but there WAS someone with Paul who could stay and lead them. Can you guess who? It was Timothy! "Would you stay and care for this little church of believers?" Paul asked Timothy. "You are young, but I know that God will help you do a good job preaching the Bible and leading them," he said.



15. Timothy agreed to stay. He would miss Paul, but he was happy to help. The little church in Ephesus was happy, too. Now, they had a godly pastor who could help them love God and live for Him. Paul was so glad that he could leave the little church in Ephesus under Timothy's care.



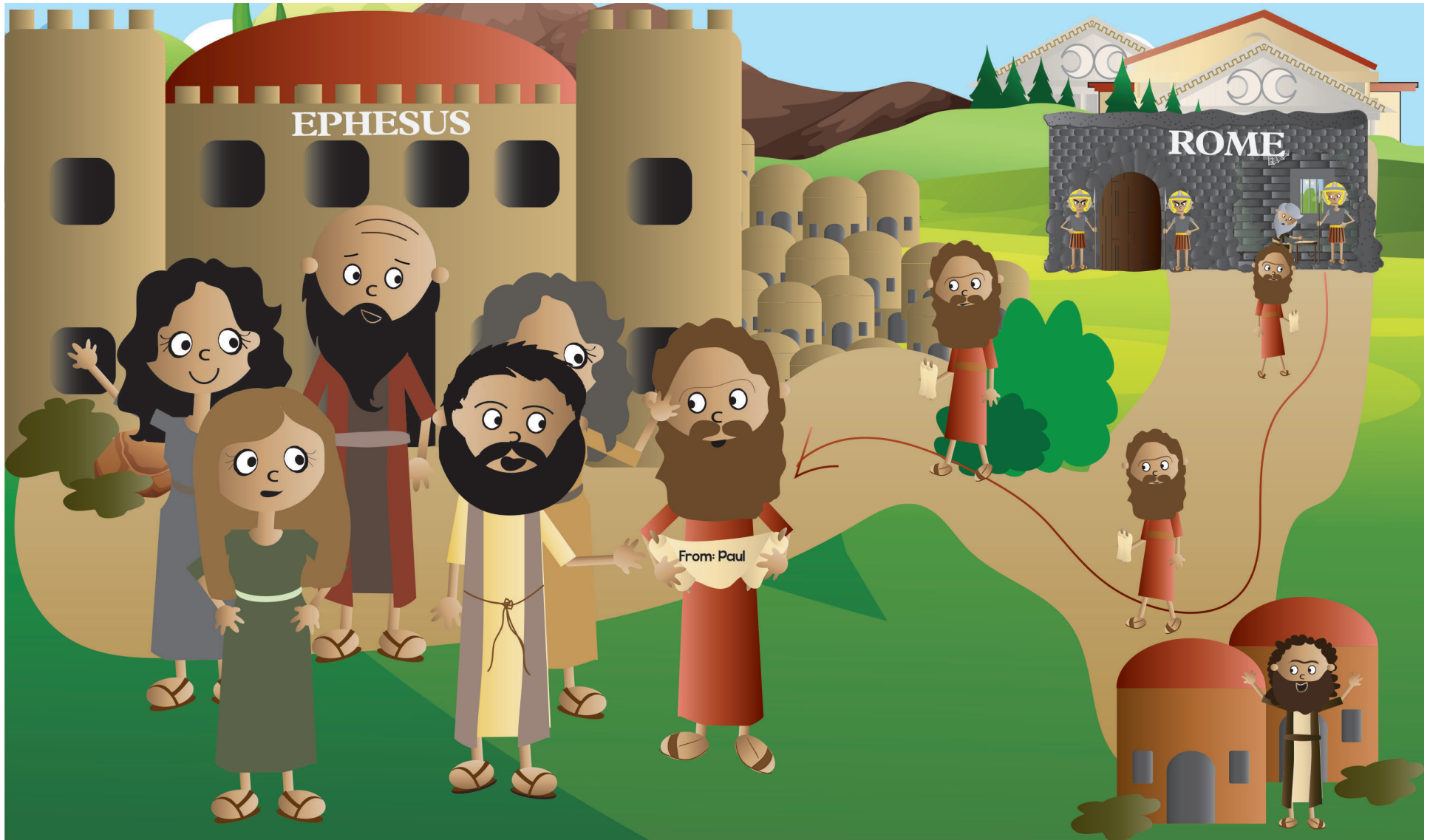
16. But now, so many years had passed since Paul left Timothy in Ephesus. What a lot of journeys Paul had taken since then. What a lot of people got to hear the good news of Jesus and trusted in Him as their Savior! Little churches of new believers gathered every Sunday, where there used to be none. God had filled Paul's years with good things.



17. But, oh, what troubles had come to Paul along with those blessings! Preaching the good news of Jesus was no easy thing. It was why Paul was in jail in Rome, alone, shivering in the cold, and soon to die. Paul longed to see that closest friend of his: Timothy! Paul missed his dear Timothy so very much! Paul wanted him to come and care for him. Paul wanted him to bring him his heavy cloak to keep him warm, and his books and papers, so he could study.



18. Paul wondered if he would get to see Timothy again before he died. He hoped he would. But Ephesus was so far away from Rome! And there were no telephones or even postmen back then. How could Paul tell Timothy he needed him? What could Paul do? Paul could write to Timothy and find someone to take it to him. And even if Timothy could not get to Rome before he died, at least Paul could give him one last message. And so, that's what he did.

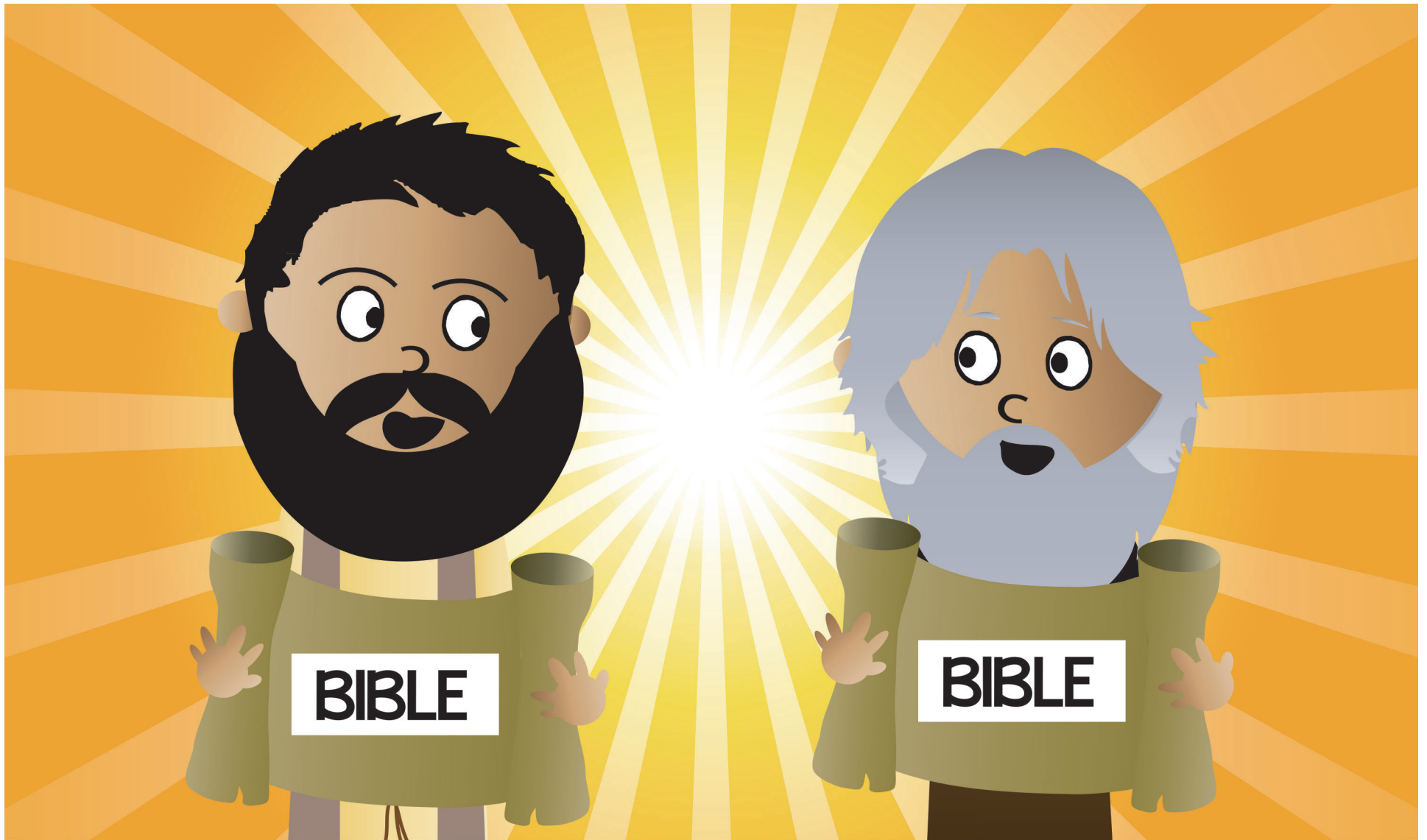


19. Before long, a messenger was on his way to Ephesus with Paul's letter. Walk, walk, walk, he went. At last, after many days, he handed the letter to Timothy to read.

Timothy was so happy to hear from Paul. How he missed Paul and loved him! Here was news, at last! Timothy eagerly opened the letter and read. "Timothy, my dear son," Paul started. "I thank God every time I think of you. I long with tears to see you. Do your best to come to me soon."



20. "Here are some important things I want you to remember that will help you lead the little church in Ephesus," Paul wrote. "You were my helper for many years. You watched me preach about Jesus from the Bible. You watched people try to get me to stop talking about Jesus by hurting me," Paul wrote. "You saw how God gave me strength to keep on preaching, and loving, and caring for all the Christians in the little churches we went to. Don't forget what you saw me do! Do these same things for the people in your little church."



21. "Keep on learning God's Word! Keep on preaching God's Word!" Paul told Timothy. "Sometimes this will be really hard. Sometimes people won't want to hear what the Bible says. But keep on teaching it to them, no matter what!" Paul urged Timothy. "Only the Bible is God's Word. It makes God's people ready for everything God wants them to do. Don't forget these things and please, come see me soon --before winter comes. Paul."



22. Did Timothy ever make it to see Paul before he died? We don't know. But we DO know that Timothy did what Paul wanted him to do most of all: be a good pastor for the little church in Ephesus and teach them God's Word.

"The Case of the Faithful Leader" Acts 16:1, 1 & 2 Timothy

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was the pastor chosen to care for the believers in Ephesus?
Timothy.
2. What did Paul tell him to be faithful to do for those believers? Paul told Timothy to be faithful to preach God's Word to them and help them keep on loving God and living for Him.

For You and Me:

Paul encouraged Timothy to be faithful to teach God's Word to the believers who gathered together as a little church in Ephesus. By being faithful like this, God could use Timothy powerfully. Timothy could help the believers know how to keep on loving God and living for Him. When we go to church and listen to faithful teachers tell us about God's Word, God can use it to help us to love Him and live for Him, too. And the very first thing that every faithful teacher hopes and prays that you will do when you hear God's Word is to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is how we become God's people. It is the best, first step in loving God and living for Him.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

1 Timothy 4:13, ESV

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

1. Whom did Paul write to when he was in prison and about to die? Timothy.
2. What did Paul tell this person to be faithful to do for the believers in Ephesus? Paul told Timothy to be faithful to preach God's Word to them and help them keep on loving God and living for Him.

For You and Me:

Paul encouraged Timothy to be faithful to teach God's Word to the believers who gathered together as a little church in Ephesus. By being faithful like this, God could use Timothy powerfully. Timothy could help the believers know how to keep on loving God and living for Him. When we go to church and listen to faithful teachers tell us about God's Word, God can use it to help us to love Him and live for Him, too. And the very first thing that every faithful teacher hopes and prays that you will do when you hear God's Word is to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is how we become God's people. It is the best, first step in loving God and living for Him.

**Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and Love One Another...
By Learning from God's Word, the Bible!**

The Gospel



God's people love the Bible. Each time they gather together, they want to learn more from it. The Bible is how they learned they were sinners who deserved God's punishment for disobeying Him, and of God's rich mercy in sending Jesus to be our Savior. It tells how Jesus lived a perfect life and offered it on the cross as the full payment for the sins of God's people. And, how He rose from the dead on the third day, beating sin and death for them.

The Bible tells us how we can become God's people by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. And, how we can know and love God better, and live for Him. Ask God to use the Bible to teach you and help you do these things, too. He loves to answer this prayer!



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for giving us the Bible and godly leaders to teach it to us.

C God, sometimes we don't want to learn from the Bible. Sometimes, we don't want to listen to the pastors preach from Your Word. There are other things we would rather do. We need a Savior!

T God, thank You for not leaving us on our own, but giving us Your Word, the Bible, to learn from and live by. Thank You for all the people in church who help us understand Your Word and live it out. Thank You for our pastors and teachers.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love Your Word and learn it. Help us live it out. Help our pastors and teachers to teach us well about You.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

