

Why do God's people go to church?

VISUAL AID #1

take out Big Question Briefcase of BQB



ANSWER:

To worship God and love one another!

DDD 16 Big Question and Answer Sign

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.



Visual Aid *take out* #2 Big Question Briefcase *of BQB*

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 two truths about why God's people go to church. They are: "By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death" and "By Learning from God's Word, the Bible" (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.

CAN YOU GUESS BIBLE TRUTH 3:

Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another...

By Caring for Each Other's ???? !

HINT: This word means "something we have to have." It starts with an "N" and it rhymes with "seeds."



ANSWER:

By Caring for Each Other's NEEDS!

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 Caring for Each Other's <u>????</u> !"

We're missing a word. Here is the hint for the missing word. It says: "This word means "something we have to have." It starts with an "N" and it rhymes with "seeds."

Can you guess? The answer is: "Needs".

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 Caring for Each Other's <u>Nee</u>ds!"

And here is what this Bible Truth means:

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

When God's people gather together, they make special promises to believe God's Word and to care for each other. They promise to help each other keep on loving God and living for Him.

How do God's people help each other keep these promises? They help each other love God and live for Him. They tell each other about their lives—the many happy things, the sad things, even their sins and their struggles. They pray for each other and remind each other of the truths in God's Word. They want to help everyone to keep growing in their life with God.

But they also care for each other's needs. They share their money and their things when someone is hungry or has lost their job. They visit each other when they are sick. They cheer each other up when they are sad or lonely. They want to help everyone to be well-cared for.

God gives each little church special leaders that help them care for each other, too. He gives them pastors/elders to teach them God's Word and help them live it out. They comfort those who are scared and weak. They strengthen those who are struggling with sin. They pray for all.

God gives each little church special leaders called deacons, too. Deacons help everyone to better care for each other's needs. They spend extra time finding out what people need and helping them get it.

Jesus told God's people to love each other and take care of each other just as He has loved and taken care of them. If they do this, Jesus promised that others will see their love and know that they are God's people. They will praise God for how wonderful He is and want to become His people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." -- John 13:34-35, ESV

Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

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

John 13:34-35 tells us:

John 13:34-35, ESV
"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Learn a Little: "Love one another: just as I have loved you."

What does that mean?
A commandment is a big rule God tells us to obey! What does Jesus command His people to do? To love one another like He has loved them! Wow! That's a lot of love! Only with God's help can God's people do that! But when they do, others will know that they really are God's people! We can become 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!"

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

A New Commandment: John 13:34-35, ESV

DDD ESV Songs 15, track 32

A new commandment I give to you,
A new commandment I give to you,
Love one another!
Love one another!
Love one another!

By this all will know that you are My disciples,
By this all will know that you are My disciples,
Love one another!
Love one another!
Love one another!

John Thirteen, thirty-four and thirty-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 Copycats" John 13-15, 18-20; Acts



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

A copycat is a nickname for someone who tries to act like someone else.

1. Who were the people who tried to act like someone else?

2. And who was the someone they try to act like? Why?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



John 13:34, NIV

"Love one another. As I have loved you."

1. What was Jesus' love for His people like?

2. Who wanted to obey Jesus' command to love one another as He had loved them? Who helped them do this

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



1. The sun was setting as Jesus and his disciples gathered for supper. It was their last meal together, their last hours together, before "IT" happened. What was "IT"? Enemies would come and take Jesus. He would suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people.



2. Jesus knew "IT" was about to happen, but His disciples did not. With only a little time left to teach and prepare them, what did Jesus want them to remember? And how would He tell them? Jesus would use FEET and FOOD, right there at the table, to teach them.



3. Now, feet are always dirty, but they were especially so in Jesus' world. There were no cars back then and very few stone roads. It was walk, walk, walk on sandy, muddy, dirty ground. Camels and donkeys shared with roads, adding more stuff to step in. And, since people wore sandals or went barefoot, you can imagine just how yucky your feet could get. Yes, feet were yucky things and washing them was an everyday, before each meal, dirty business. And so dirty, that only you or your lowest servant would ever touch your feet.



4. Imagine how horrified the disciples were when Jesus got up from the table that night and began to wash their feet! "Teacher, never wash my feet!" Peter exclaimed. The others agreed. Jesus was God's Son. He shouldn't use His holy, perfect life to clean their dirty, yucky feet!



5. But Jesus just kept washing. "You can have no part in what I'm doing, if I don't wash your feet," Jesus told Peter. This was a teaching picture about the "IT" Jesus was about to do for them the next day, when He would give up His life on the cross to clean the sin from their hearts. It was something only He could do for them.



6. Jesus had taught them with feet, now He would teach them more about "IT" with food. Jesus took the bread and wine and gave them to his disciples as two more teaching pictures. "This is my body, broken for you," He told them, as He held out the bread to them to eat. "This is my blood, poured out for you," He told them, as He held out the wine for them to drink.



7. These were pictures of what Jesus would do that next day for them. On the cross, Jesus' body would be broken, and His blood would be poured as the full payment for the sins of God's people. Jesus would use His holy, perfect life to clean the sin from their hearts.



8. Why would Jesus do such a thing? Why would He suffer and die for God's people? There is only one reason: love. Love for God, His Father. And love for God's people. This was God's plan to save His people. This was the only way. And, as much as Jesus did not like to hurt and suffer, He loved His Father and God's people even more.



9. "I am about to go away," Jesus told His disciples. "I am making the way for you and all of God's people to come to God. I am going to prepare a place for you to live with God forever. One happy day, I will come back for you to take you home to be with Me," Jesus told them.



10. "I'm not leaving you alone. I am sending you a special Comforter, the Holy Spirit," Jesus promised them. "He will live in your hearts. He will keep us close. He will give you power to do everything God wants you to do," Jesus explained. But what DID God want them to do? It went back to that one word for everything Jesus did: love.



11. "Show your love for Me by obeying everything I've taught you," Jesus told His disciples. "Love one another as I have loved You. I have loved you so much that I am even going to suffer and die on the cross to be the Savior you need. There is no greater love than that! Now, I want you to love each other that much, too!" Jesus told them. "And when you care for each other's needs like this, others will know that you really are My disciples and God's people," He promised them.



12. Soon, everything happened just as Jesus said it would. Soldiers came that night and arrested Jesus. The next day, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the sins of God's people. Then, friends came for His body, wrapped it in sweet-smelling spices and clean, white linen, and buried Him in a cave grave. It looked like it was the end for Jesus, but was it?



13. No, it was not! On Sunday, the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to His disciples and taught them many things. Then He went up, up, up through the clouds to rule in heaven. Jesus was gone. Was His help gone, too?



14. No, it was not! Just as Jesus promised, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His disciples. And with the Holy Spirit's help, they lived out what Jesus had told them to do.



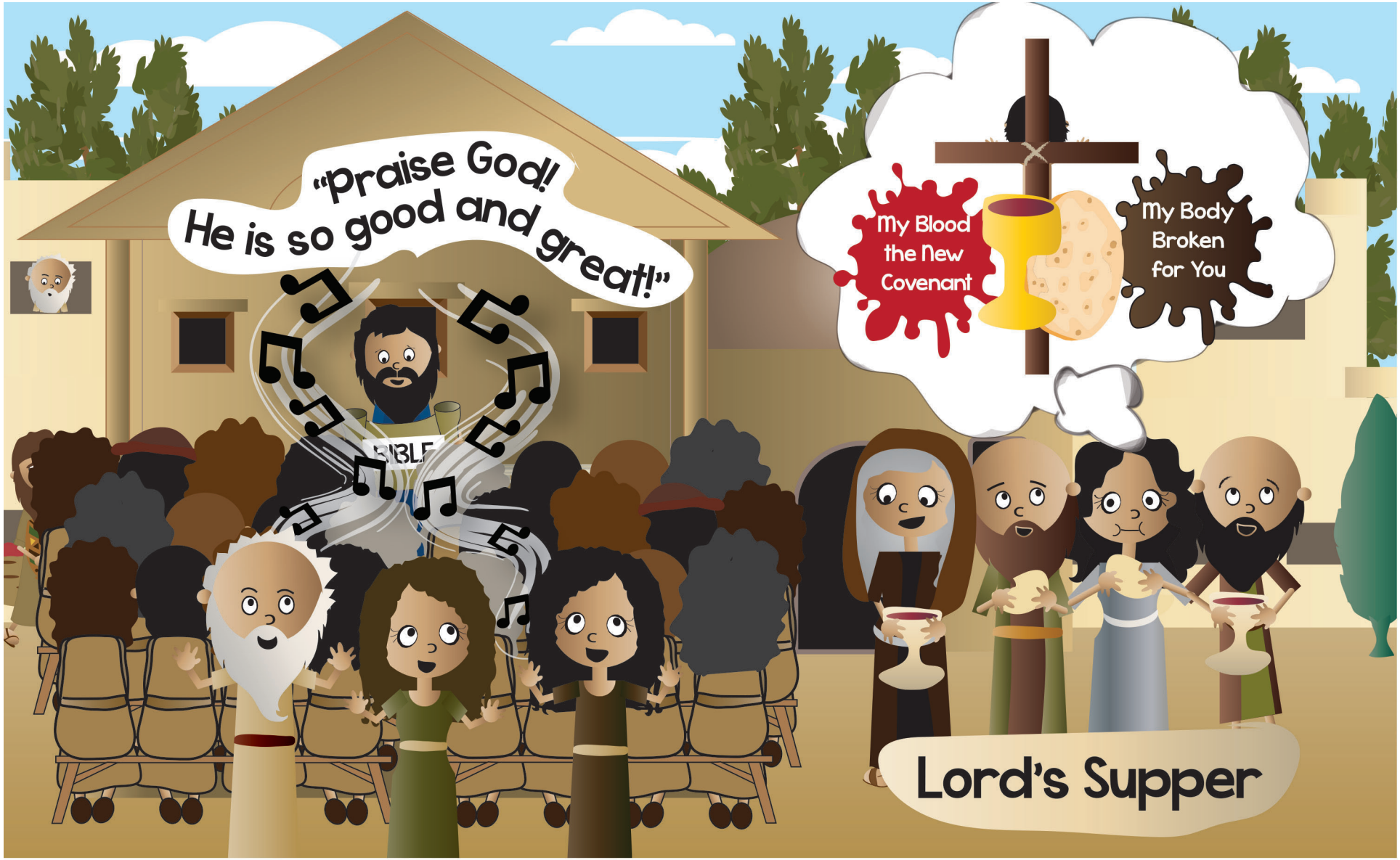
15. "Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!" Jesus had told them. So, they spread the good news in love. "Turn away from disobeying God. Trust in Jesus as your Savior. Be baptized," they urged all who would listen. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many. The little church of Christians grew from 11 to 120 to over 3000 people in just a few weeks!



16. "Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!" Jesus had told them. So, the church gathered together in love: love for God and for each other. Peter and Jesus' other disciples led the believers as their pastors/elders. They preached from God's Word. They comforted those who were scared and weak. They warned those who were forgetting how Jesus wanted them to live. They helped everyone live out Jesus' commands. Their loving leadership was God's good gift to His Church.



17. Every day, and especially on Sundays, the little church gathered together. As they gathered, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and encouraged them. They learned from God's Word. They fellowshipped and prayed together. They shared stories about the amazing things God was doing and urged each other to keep on loving God and living for Him.



18. They ate the Lord's Supper together --the special meal of bread and wine that Jesus gave them to eat together to remember His death. They sang praised to their great God. Oh, how they wanted to worship and love the LORD together, just as Jesus told them to! And the Holy Spirit helped them do this.



19. But they didn't just worship and love the LORD. They loved one another like Jesus did, too. And so, when they gathered together, they promised to care for each other's needs. Why, these believers shared everything they had with each other–food, clothes, houses, money... EVERYTHING! And if anyone needed anything, they would sell their things and buy whatever was needed.



20. Some people, like Stephen, Philip, and Phoebe were chosen by the church to be deacons. These godly men and women led the little church in caring for the sick, old, and needy among them. They would make sure that no one was overlooked. Oh, how they wanted to love each other, as Jesus told them to! And with the help of God's Holy Spirit, they did.



21. What glad and giving hearts those first Christians had! How they loved God and loved one another! And as they did, guess who else noticed? Everyone around them. "Look at these people! How they love God and love one another! This is something very special," they exclaimed. And so it was. For WHO did this church of believers look like, as they loved God and loved one another? Their Savior, Himself. Jesus!



22. "If you like what you see in us, it's because of Jesus!" the believers explained. "He has saved us and filled us with His Holy Spirit. He's the One changing our hearts, helping us love God and one another. Come gather with us! Let tell you about Jesus, and how you can become God's people, too!" they exclaimed.



23. Many years have passed since those first believers gathered together. Some things have changed since those early days, but the most important things have not. Jesus still calls His people to keep His commands and to love one another. He still wants them to share the good news of the gospel with everyone. And, He still wants them to gather together each week to worship God and love one another.



24. And as they do, the Holy Spirit will keep on working in God's people, helping them look like Jesus to others. "Tell us about Jesus who helps you love like this!" these people will say, and hopefully as they hear the good news of Jesus, they will trust in Him as their Savior, too!

"The Case of the Copycats" John 13-15, 18-20; Acts

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

A copycat is a nickname for someone who tries to act like someone else.

1. Who were the people who tried to act like someone else?
Jesus' followers, God's people.

2. And who was the someone they try to act like? Why?
They tried to act like Jesus by how they loved God and loved each other.

For You and Me:
God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They love being a part of God's care for His people. And, when God's people love like Jesus, they help others see what God is like, and be a part of God's plan to tell them the good news of Jesus. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



John 13:34, NIV
"Love one another. As I have loved you."

1. What was Jesus' love for His people like?
He chose to put their needs first. He loved them so much that He was willing to suffer and die in their place, for their sins. There is no greater love than this!

2. Who wanted to obey Jesus' command to love one another as He had loved them? Who helped them do this?
Jesus' followers did. The Holy Spirit living in their hearts helped them.

For You and Me:
God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They love being a part of God's care for His people. And, when God's people love like Jesus, they help others see what God is like, and be a part of God's plan to tell them the good news of Jesus. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and Love One Another...
By Caring for Each Other's Needs!

The Gospel

God's people love to tell others the good news of Jesus. Why? Because the greatest need we all have is for God to forgive their sins! You see, we all have chosen to disobey God. We deserve His punishment, not His love or to be His people.

But God, in His great mercy, sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life. Then, on the cross, He gave up His life as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior are forgiven. This is how we become God's people. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!





A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your kindness and love shown through Your people caring for each other.

C God, sometimes we don't want to go to church and care for the needs of others. Sometimes we just want to take care of our own needs. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, God, for giving Your people to each other to care for their needs. Thank You for all the people in church who care for our needs.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Help us to care for others when we gather at church.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



A= Adoration (God, we praise You!) C=Confession (God, forgive us!) T= Thanksgiving (Thank You, God!) S=Supplication (Make us like Jesus!)