

BIG QUESTION 15



Why do God's people go to church?

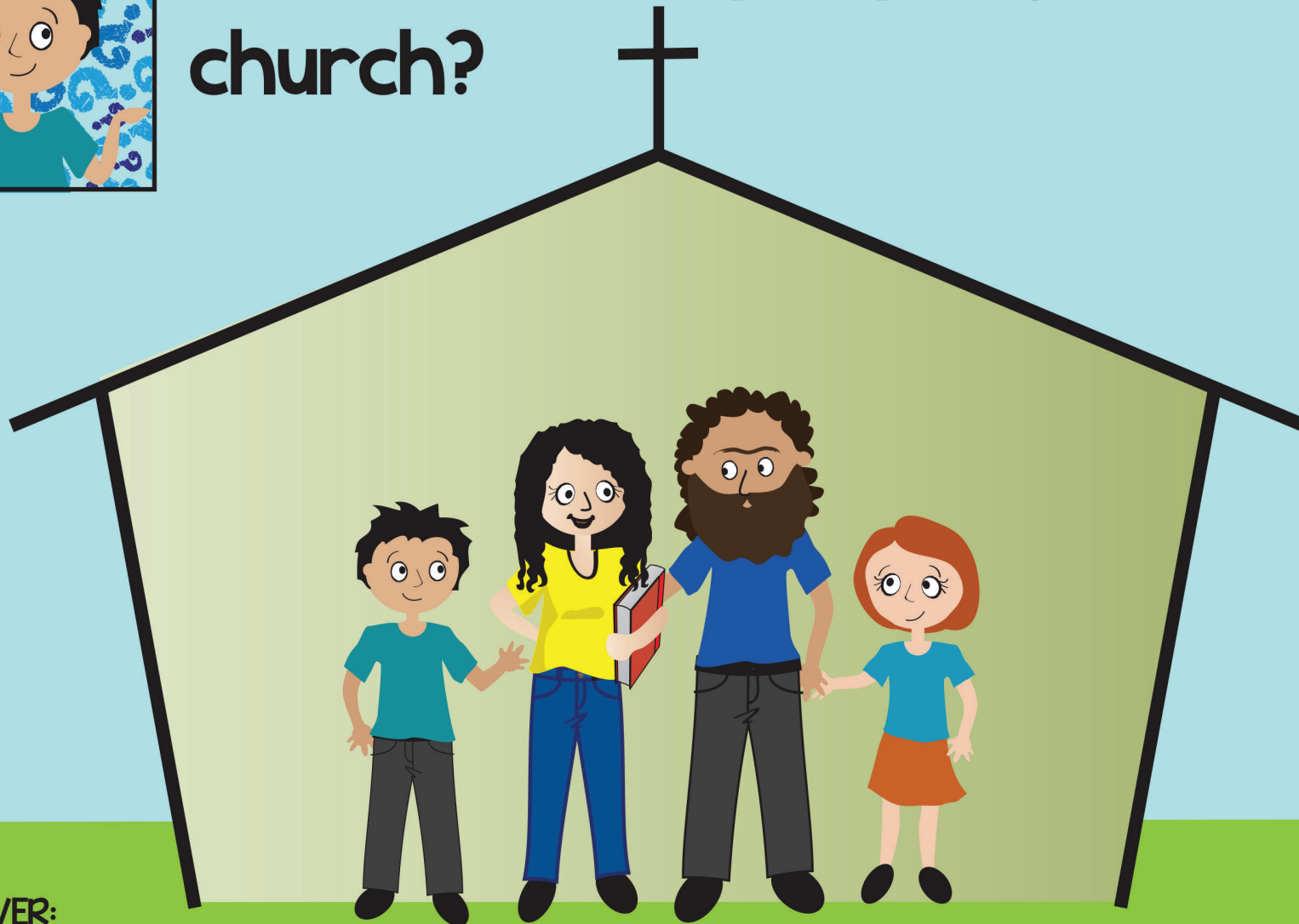
VISUAL
AID

#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:"

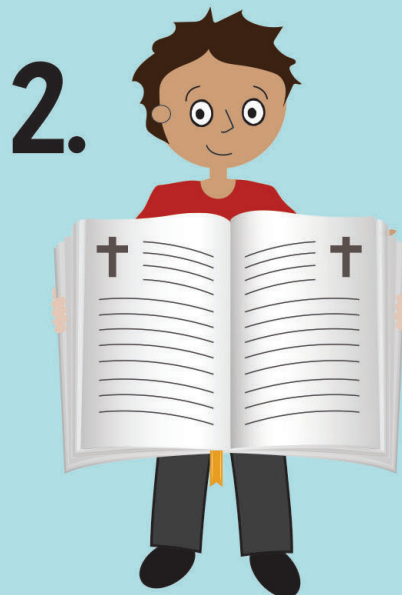
Big Q & A 15 Song

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



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 three truths about why God's people go to church. They are: "By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death," "By Learning from God's Word, the Bible," and "By Caring for Each Other's Needs" (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 4:
**Why Do God's People
Go to Church?
To Worship God and
Love One Another...**

**By Telling What God Has
Done and ????!**

HINT: What is the Bible word for
talking with God? It starts with
a "p" and it rhymes with "playing."



ANSWER:
By Telling What God Has Done and PRAISING!

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 Telling What God Has Done and ????!”**

We’re missing one word. Here’s the hint to what the missing word is. It says: “What is the Bible word for talking with God? It starts with a “p” and it rhymes with “playing.”

Can you guess? It’s “praying.”

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 Telling What God Has Done and PRAYING!”**

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 share with each other wonderful things God has done. They remind each other of the great things God did long ago in Bible times: how God always kept all His promises and did mighty things to save His people. They hear stories about how God has been at work around the world, bringing many other people to put their trust in Jesus as their Savior. They share with each other how God has been at work in their lives, caring for them and helping them live for Him. Oh, how faithful God has been to His people! Oh, how faithful God continues to be to them! All these stories of God’s goodness and faithful helps them to keep on trusting God and living for Him.

But God’s people don’t just talk to each other about what God has done. They also talk to God about them! All these stories of them. They praise and thank Him for what He has done. They confess ways they have disobeyed Him and seek His forgiveness. They ask Him to do more great things, in their lives and around the world.

God delights in His people gathering together to pray. Jesus tells us in the Bible that when two or more of God’s people are gathered together and praying that He will be there with them in a special way. Whether on their own or gathered together, God’s people know God will always answer their prayers in the way He knows is best. We can become God’s people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Visual
Aid

#4

Place
verse in

DDD
Bible™

take out

Big
Question
Briefcase

of BQB

"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints." -- Ephesians 6:18, HCSB

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:

Ephesians 6:18 tells us:

Ephesians 6:18, HCSB:

"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints."

Learn a Little: "Pray at all times... for all the saints."

What does that mean?

"Saints" is a big, Bible word for God's people. God's people pray when they gather together at church. They praise God and they confess their sins to Him. They thank Him for all the ways He has cared for them. They ask Him to do more great things and to help them to love Him and live for Him. There is so much to pray for!

Sometimes God's people get tired of praying. Sometimes God's plans take much longer than they want. It would be easy to stop praying and give up. But there's someone who helps God's people keep on interceding (a big Bible word for praying for others). Who is it? It's God, Himself. Yes, God's Holy Spirit is at work inside of each of them helping them even to talk to God. 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!"

Pray, Pray, Pray: Ephesians 6:18, HCSB

DDD ESV Songs 15, track 43

Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!
Pray in the Spirit, at all times,
With ev'ry prayer and request,
Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!

And stay alert in this,
Stay alert with all perseverance,
And intercession for all the saints,
For all the saints,
Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!
Ephesians Six, eighteen.

"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 Amazing Answer" Acts 12:1-18



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was in trouble? Who prayed for him?
2. What was God's amazing answer?



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Ephesians 6:18, NIV

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

1. What kinds of things did God's people ask God to do?
2. How did God answer these prayers?

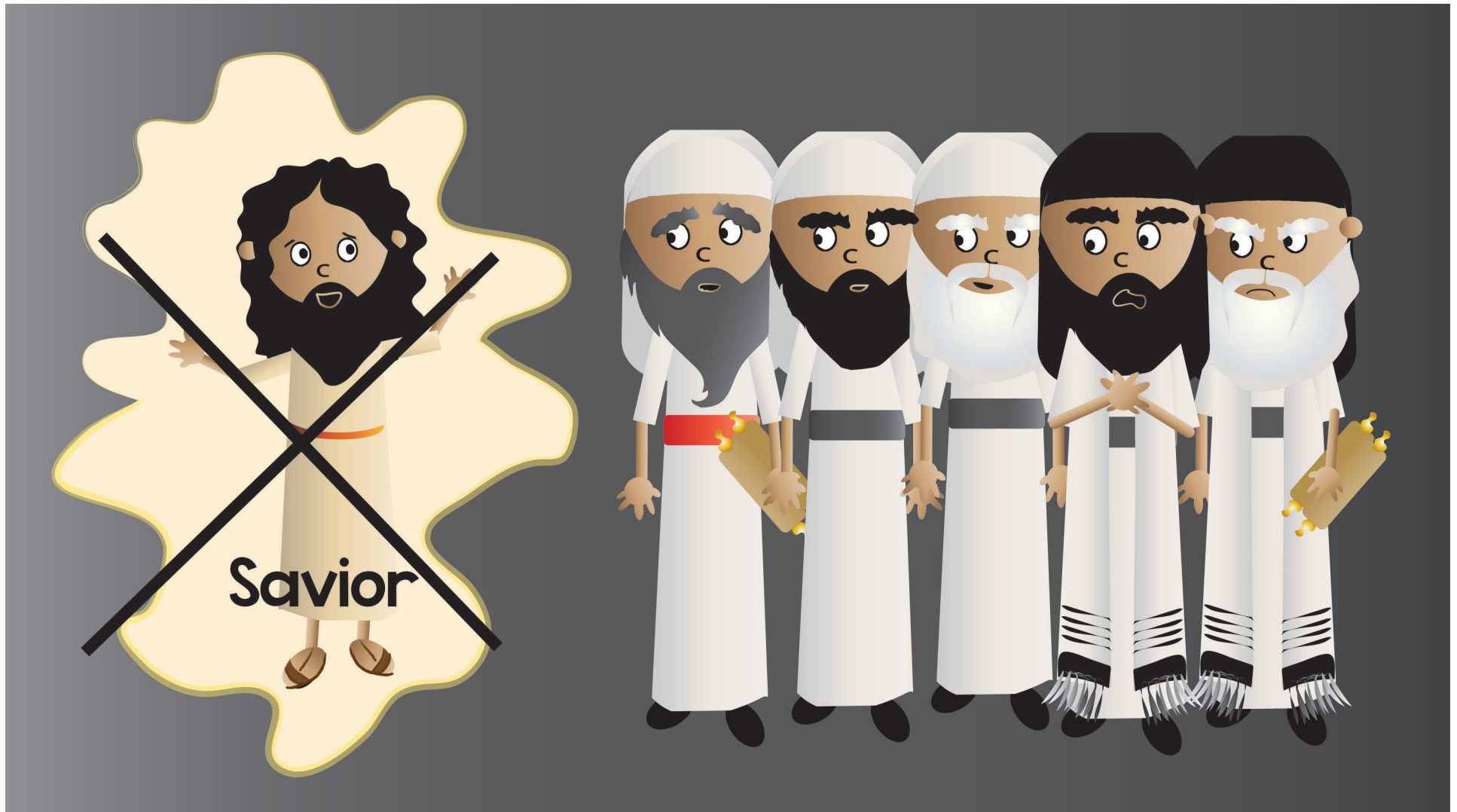
(more listening and discussion
questions are included in the
curriculum at praisefactory.org)



I. Life was exciting for Christians in the big city of Jerusalem. They told the good news of Jesus to all who would listen. Many people not only listened but believed! THOUSANDS of people had turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior, just weeks after Jesus had risen from the dead and gone to heaven!



2. These new believers joined the other Christians as they gathered together as a church. This made the Christians so happy! They wanted everyone to be saved from God's punishment for their sins. They wanted everyone to worship God and love one another. How exciting it was to see the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of so many new people!



3. But life wasn't just EXCITING for these Christians. It was dangerous, too. For while the Christians were happy about all these new believers, there were others in Jerusalem who were very, very angry about it. These enemies would do whatever they could to STOP more people from believing in Jesus. Perhaps angriest of all the angry people, were the important, Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. They did NOT believe that Jesus was God's Son, the Savior. They thought Jesus was just a fake.



4. "We must stop those Christians from telling people about Jesus. They are ruining everything," these important leaders told each other. And so, they began to send soldiers to hurt the Christians and put them in jail. They even began to kill some of them.



5. But no matter what those leaders did, the Christians kept on doing the very things those important leaders did not want them to do. They gathered together to worship God: they prayed together, listened to preaching from God's Word, the Bible, and shared with each other the amazing things God was doing.



6. They gathered together to love one another, too. They cared for each other's needs, making sure everyone had enough food, clothes, and anything else they needed. And when they left their church gatherings, what did they do? They kept on telling people about Jesus, that even more might be saved. "GRRRR," those important leaders were so mad! They must stop these Christians, but how? All Jerusalem waited to see what would happen.



7. It didn't take long to find out. Herod Agrippa, the Roman king over Jerusalem, had been looking for a way to make friends with the Jewish leaders. The people of Jerusalem didn't want a Roman king, and often disobeyed him. But if Herod could make the Jewish leaders happy, they could help the people be happy with him, too. Getting rid of these Christians was just the chance he was looking for. So, King Herod sent his soldiers to arrest Christians. He even had them kill James, one of Jesus' first disciples! Oh, no!



8. Now, the Christians were sad, and the Jewish leaders were happy. Herod liked this. His plan was working. So, he decided to capture and maybe kill another, even more important leader of the Christians. You might even be able to guess his name. It starts with a "P" and he was one of Jesus' closest friends.



9. It was Peter! Yes, King Herod knew catching Peter would make those Jewish leaders really, REALLY happy! No telling what Herod could get them to do for him, if he got rid of Peter. "Catch Peter and put him in jail," King Herod ordered his soldiers. And that's just what they did. They found Peter and locked him up.



10. "Guard Peter carefully! Chain him to two soldiers," the soldiers were told. "And put two extra soldiers outside the door of his jail room, just to be sure," King Herold ordered. "We don't want Peter to escape. I will bring him out to the people in a few days and decide what should happen to him then. Perhaps I will kill him like I did James," Herod said.



II. What would the Christians do now? Their enemies were getting so strong. They had killed James, and now Peter was in jail. What would they do if Herod killed him, too? Should they stop gathering together? Should they stop telling people about Jesus? No, they **SHOULDN'T**! Could they try to get Peter out of jail? No, they **COULDN'T**! Then, what **COULD** they do???

THE LORD



12. The believers knew what to do. They gathered together and asked for help from the One who could always help: the LORD!



13. So, the believers gathered together and prayed and prayed. “Please, God, make Peter bold and brave. Please, God, free him from jail. Please, God, help us to keep on telling people about Jesus,” they asked Him.



14. Day after day, night after night, Peter stayed in jail. Day after day, night after night, the little church of believers kept gathering together to pray for him. But still, nothing happened. Didn't God hear them? Wasn't He listening? Didn't He care? Yes, God heard them. He was listening, and He cared. But, He was doing everything in His perfect way and in His perfect time.



15. At last, it was the very night before King Herod would bring Peter out, and probably kill him. Once again, the church gathered to pray, this time at Mary's house (the mother of John Mark). "Please, God, make Peter bold and brave. Please, God, free him from jail. And please, God, help us to keep on telling people about Jesus," they prayed. And at last, God answered their prayers...



YES!!!!!!

16. ...with a great, big, amazing YES! Let's see what God did.



17. Deep in the jail, Peter slept, still tied to two soldiers with chains. Outside his jail room, two soldiers still kept guard. They wanted to make sure this night of all nights that Peter did not escape! But suddenly, a light shone in the jail cell. God had sent someone to help Peter. Who could it be?



18. It was an angel from heaven! The angel struck Peter on the side and woke him saying, "Get up quickly!" "Clank!" off the chains fell from Peter's hands and to the ground, by God's power. "Get dressed and put on your sandals," the angel urged Peter. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."



19. Peter did just what the angel said. He got dressed, then followed the angel through the door, right past the guards, without anyone noticing them. Then, “CREEAK!” the outer heavy, iron gate of the jail opened for them, all by itself. Peter and the angel passed through the gate and into the dark streets of Jerusalem. Isn’t God amazing!



20. Then, the angel left Peter as suddenly as he came. Peter stood alone in the dark, amazed. The LORD had rescued him! He was free! Where should Peter go? What should Peter do? Who should Peter tell? Peter knew EXACTLY where to go and what to do and who to tell! He would tell the other believers!



21. Peter made his way through the dark streets to the house where the believers gathered to pray. Oh, no! The door was locked. "Knock, knock!" Peter rapped on the door of the gateway until Rhoda, the servant girl came. "It's me! Let me in!" Peter whispered to her. "It's Peter! It's Peter! I know his voice! God has rescued him," Rhoda exclaimed.



22. Rhoda ran to tell to the others the good news, but was so excited that she forgot to let Peter in. "You are crazy! It can't be Peter! Peter is in jail!" they told her. How funny that the believers were praying for God to rescue Peter, but didn't believe God had really done it!



23. But when Peter kept knocking, and at last, they opened the door. It really WAS Peter! Peter motioned for them to be quiet. He had escaped, but how long would it be before his enemies would come looking for him? He must be careful!



24. Then, Peter shared with the little church the amazing way God had answered their prayers. No enemy could stop God's people with God answering their prayers! God's plans would always win! How they all praised God that night for all the amazing things that He had done!

"The Case of the Amazing Answer" Acts 12:1-18

SOLVED



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was in trouble? Who prayed for him?
Peter was in trouble. The little church of believers prayed for him to be rescued.

2. What was God's amazing answer?
God sent an angel to free Peter from jail and bring him safely back to them.

For You and Me:

God is the same God today as He was back in Bible times. He wants His people to keep on asking Him to do amazing things. One of the first amazing things we can ask Him to do is help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. God loves to answer this prayer and many other ones just as amazing!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Ephesians 6:18, NIV

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

1. What kinds of things did God's people ask God to do?
To rescue Peter from being killed.

2. How did God answer these prayers?
God sent an angel to free him from jail and bring him safely back to them.

For You and Me:

God is the same God today as He was back in Bible times. He wants His people to keep on asking Him to do amazing things. One of the first amazing things we can ask Him to do is help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. God loves to answer this prayer and many other ones just as amazing!

Why Do God's People Go to Church?
To Worship God and Love One Another...
By Telling What God Has Done and Praying!

The Gospel



God's people love to tell the good news of what God has done in Jesus. You see, we have all disobeyed God and deserve His punishment. But God, in His great mercy, has provided us a way for our sins to be forgiven and to become His people through Jesus.

Jesus lived a perfect life. On the cross, He chose to suffer and die, giving 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 receive God's forgiveness. This is how we become God's people. Ask God to help you do this, too. He loves to answer this prayer.



A Prayer

A We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your faithfulness to Your people throughout all time.

C God, sometimes we don't want to hear about all the wonderful things You've done. Sometimes, we don't want to pray for You to do more. We just want to think about ourselves and do what we want to do. We need a Savior!

T God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible, that tells us about the great things You did for Your people who lived long ago. Thank You for all You do for Your people today, all around the world. Thank You for letting us hear of Your mighty works, and for using them to help us to keep trusting in You and living for You. Thank You for hearing our prayers to do even more.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might become Your people. Help us to praise You more because of what You have done. Help us to encourage others who gather together with us.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

