

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 four 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," "By Caring for Each Other's Needs," and, "By Telling What God Has Done and Praying" (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 5:

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

By Baptizing People  
Who Trust in and  
Live for ???? !

HINT: What is the name of God's Son?  
It starts with a "J" and it rhymes  
with "sneezes."



VISUAL  
AID  
**#1**

take out  
**? Big  
Question  
Briefcase ?**  
of BQB

ANSWER:

By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for JESUS!

# 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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for ????!”**

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

Can you guess? It’s “Jesus.”

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 Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for JESUS!”**

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

Jesus told His disciples to baptize everyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Him as their Savior. Baptism is a picture of the new life that begins when someone becomes a Christian. God has forgiven their sins and made them His people. God has filled their hearts with His Holy Spirit and made it new. They are leaving their old life behind and beginning a new life of living for Jesus.

Not just anyone gets baptized. Baptism is a big deal. The godly leaders at church want to make sure that the person being baptized really understands the good news of Jesus and what it means to live as one of God’s people. Sometimes a person is ready to be baptized very soon. But sometimes, the leaders think it’s best if the person has more time to make sure that they really understand the good news of Jesus and are ready to live it out. It may not feel good to be told to wait, but the leaders want to do what’s best for this person and what’s best for the church.

On baptism day, God’s people gather together to watch, pray and celebrate. The person being baptized stands up and shares the story of how he came to trust in Jesus as his Savior. He tells of his desire to live God’s way and to gather together with God’s people.

Then at last, it’s baptism time! The new believer wades into the water with one of the pastors. The pastor holds onto the person as they lean back into the water for a few seconds. This is to remember that Jesus died and was buried for their sins. It’s a picture that their old life of disobeying God is over. That life died with Jesus. Then, the pastor helps him/her come up out of the water. This reminds them that Jesus rose from the dead for them. He completely paid God’s punishment for the sins. He has forgiven them once and for all. With God’s help, they are beginning a new life of knowing, loving and obeying God. Often, everyone claps and cheers as the new believer comes up out of the water. They are so happy that someone else is telling the world that they are one of God’s people and want to live for Him forever. We can become one of God’s people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Visual  
Aid

#4

Place  
verse inDDD  
Bible™

take out



of BQB



**"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the forgiveness of your sins." -- Acts 2:38, ESV**

## Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse

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

Acts 2:38 tells us:

### **Acts 2:38, ESV**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

**Learn a Little:** "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

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

What a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus! Through Him, we can be forgiven our sins and can become God's people forever. What do we have to do to receive this gift? Repent of our sins (that is, turning away from wanting to disobey God and live for Him instead) and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to save all who come to Him like this! And what happens when someone does this? God hears his prayers and forgives him. God puts His Holy Spirit in their heart and they begin a whole new life with God.

God wants all who repent and believe in Jesus to be baptized as a special sign to everyone of what has happened inside their heart. Their old way of living is gone. They are forgiven! They are saved! And now they belong to God and live for Him! Have you ever been to a baptism?

We can become one of God's people, too, 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!"

## Repent, Repent and Be Baptized:

### Acts 2:38-39

*DDD ESV Songs 15, track 46*

Repent, repent and be baptized,  
Ev'ry one of you,  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
For forgiveness of your sins.  
You will receive the Holy Spirit,  
he promise is for all,  
For all the Lord our God calls,  
For all the Lord calls.  
Acts Two, thirty-eight and nine.

"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 Up and Down Sign" Matthew 28; Acts 1-2, 8:35-36, 10:47, 16:14-15, 31-34



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What did Jesus tell new believers to do as a sign of their new life in God?
2. Why did they go up and down in the water when they did this special sign?



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

### Acts 2:38, ESV

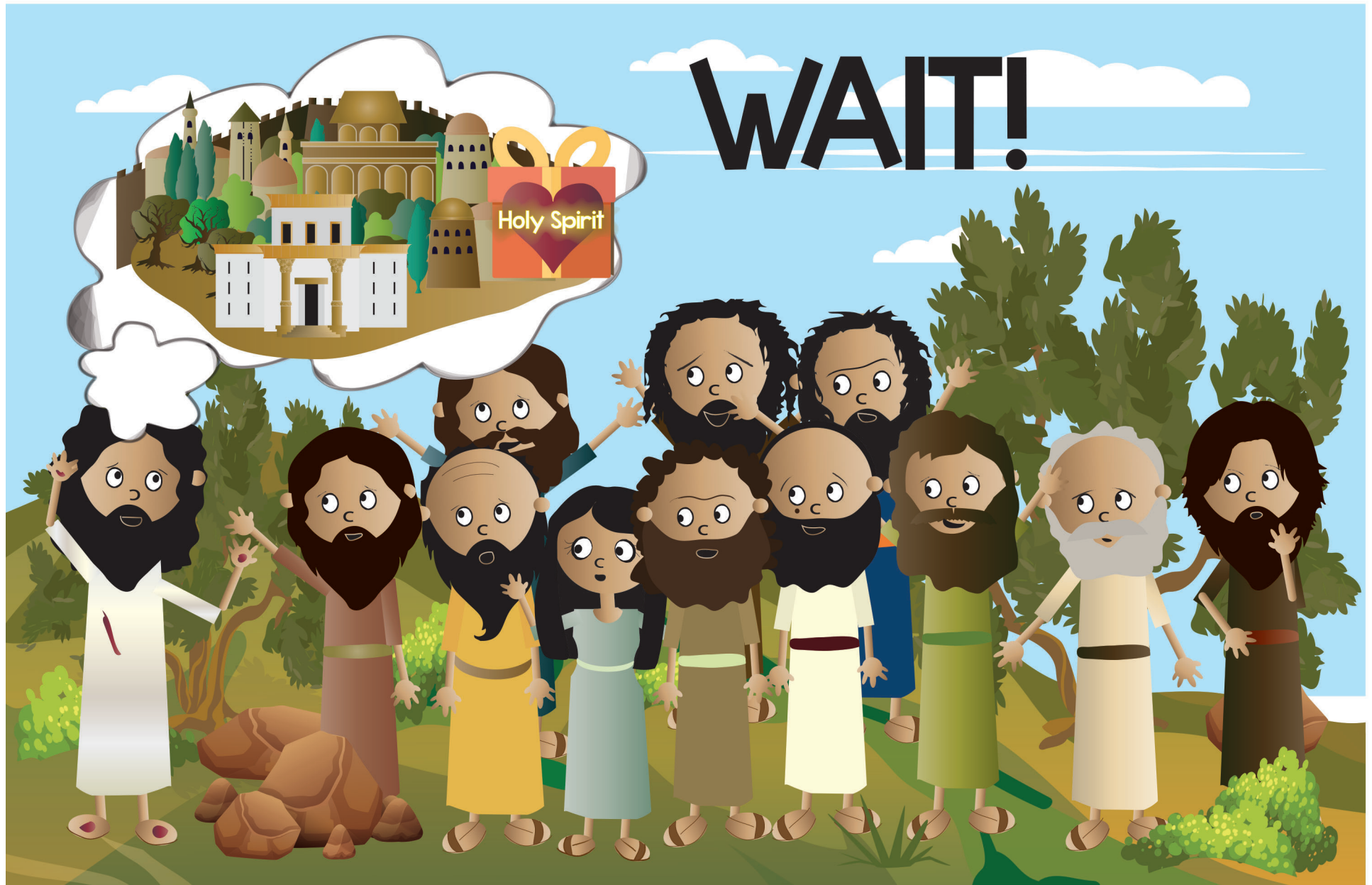
"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

1. Who repented of their sins? How did their lives look different?
2. What did they do as a sign that their lives had changed?

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



# WAIT!



I. "Wait, then go!" Jesus told His disciples. "WAIT in Jerusalem until you receive God's Holy Spirit. He will live in your hearts and will give you the power to do everything God wants you to do," Jesus told them.



2. "Then GO! Go into all the world, to all peoples, everywhere. Tell them about Me," Jesus told His disciples. "Tell them to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Me as their Savior. Teach them everything I've taught you. Baptize these new believers. This tells everyone that they are God's people and My disciples. They are choosing to turn away from their old life and now live to please God, instead," Jesus said.



# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Days



3. "You won't see Me anymore. I'm going to heaven now," Jesus told His disciples. "But I still will be with you always until I return to earth, at the end of time," He promised. And that's just what happened. Jesus went up to heaven, and His disciples went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit. And wait, they did. One day, two days, three days, a week, even nine days! Still no Holy Spirit! Would He ever come? Had Jesus forgotten His promise?



4. NO, Jesus had not forgotten. YES, the Holy Spirit would come! He was waiting for the perfect time: DAY 10, the Day of Pentecost. Suddenly, “Whoosh,” there was a sound like a great wind in the room. Then, “Sparkle, sparkle,” something that looked like flames of fire appeared over their heads. After this grand announcement, the Holy Spirit came quietly to live in the hearts of all the believers who gathered together that day.



# GOOD NEWS



5. The Holy Spirit might have come quietly, but He came powerfully, too! He gave the believers strength and courage and wisdom to do everything God wanted them to do. The believers had waited. The Holy Spirit had come. Now, what it was time to do? Can you remember what Jesus told them? Now, it was time to GO! But go WHERE? To the whole world! And take WHAT special message? The good news of Jesus!



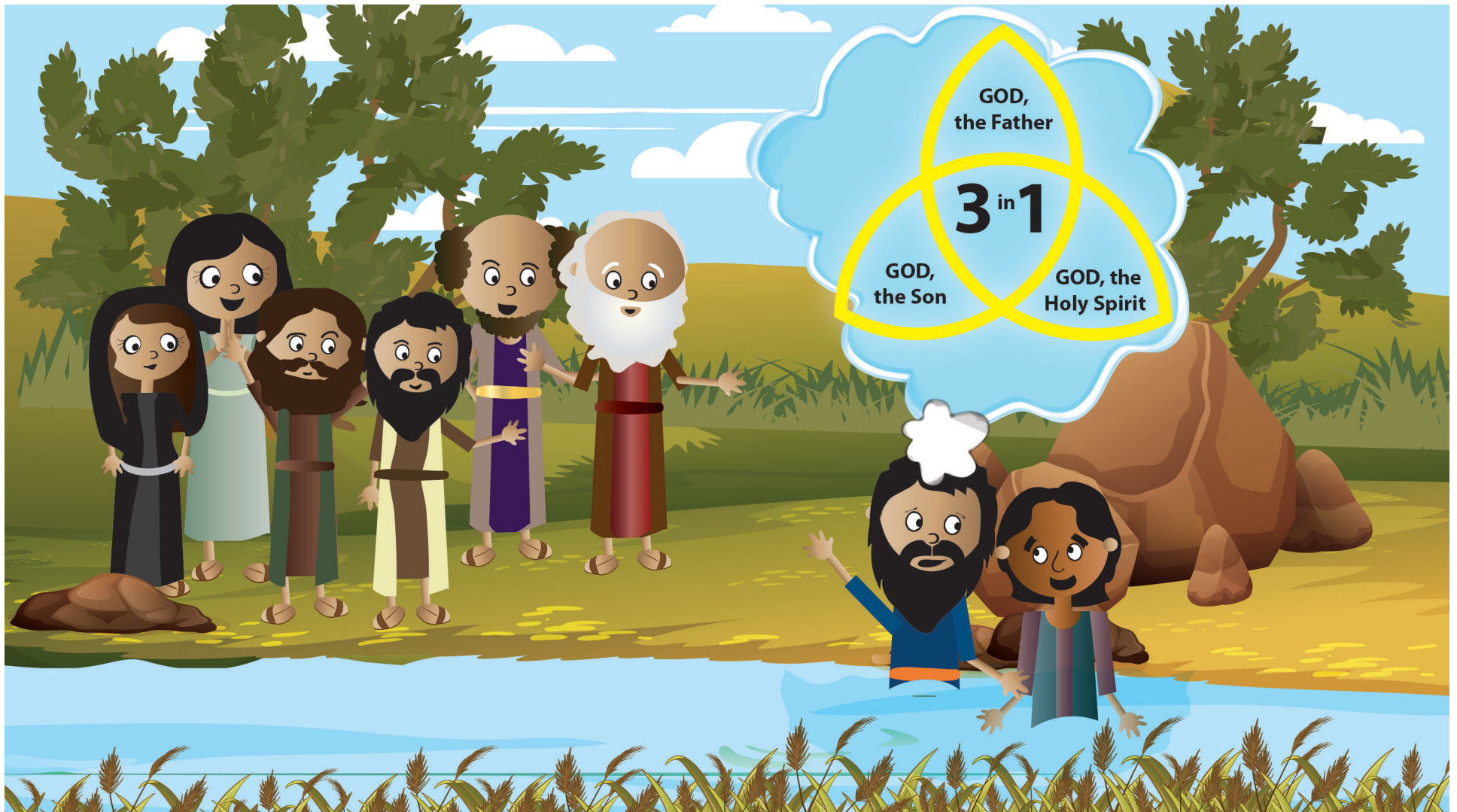


6. So, that's what they did, starting right there in Jerusalem. "Jesus is God's Son, come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," Peter told a huge crowd in Jerusalem. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior!" he urged them. "Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him."



7. The Holy Spirit helped Peter tell the good news of Jesus that day. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of the listeners, too. Many people heard and believed. The Bible tells us about 3000 of them became God's people that one day! How wonderful!





8. When someone becomes one of God's people, God works BIG changes in them. There's a change of heart on the **INSIDE** and a change of life on the **OUTSIDE**. They are like brand-new people. Jesus gave God's people a special sign as a picture of this new beginning. Can you remember what it is? It's baptism. So, one by one, Peter led these new believers into the water to be baptized. "I baptize you in the name of God, the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit," he told each person.



9. Then, Peter carefully lowered each believer down into the water. Down they went, as a picture of their old life gone and their sins forgiven, taken away by Jesus when He died on the cross and was buried in a grave.



# Day 3



10. Then a moment later, Peter lifted them back up out of the water. Up they came, as a picture of their new life for God begun. A new life given to them by Jesus, who rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for them. Now, they would get to live forever with God!





II. Baptism was a big step for these believers. No, it didn't save them from their sins, or make them God's people. God saves all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, whether they are baptized or not. But, baptism WAS a very BIG sign. It told everyone: "This person is a follower of Jesus now. Watch him! Watch her! They will show you what Jesus is like and how God wants us to live, loving Him and loving one another."



12. And others certainly did watch these new believers and all these baptisms. Enemies watched and were angry. But many others watched, and when they saw the changed lives of these new believers, they wanted to hear about Jesus, too.



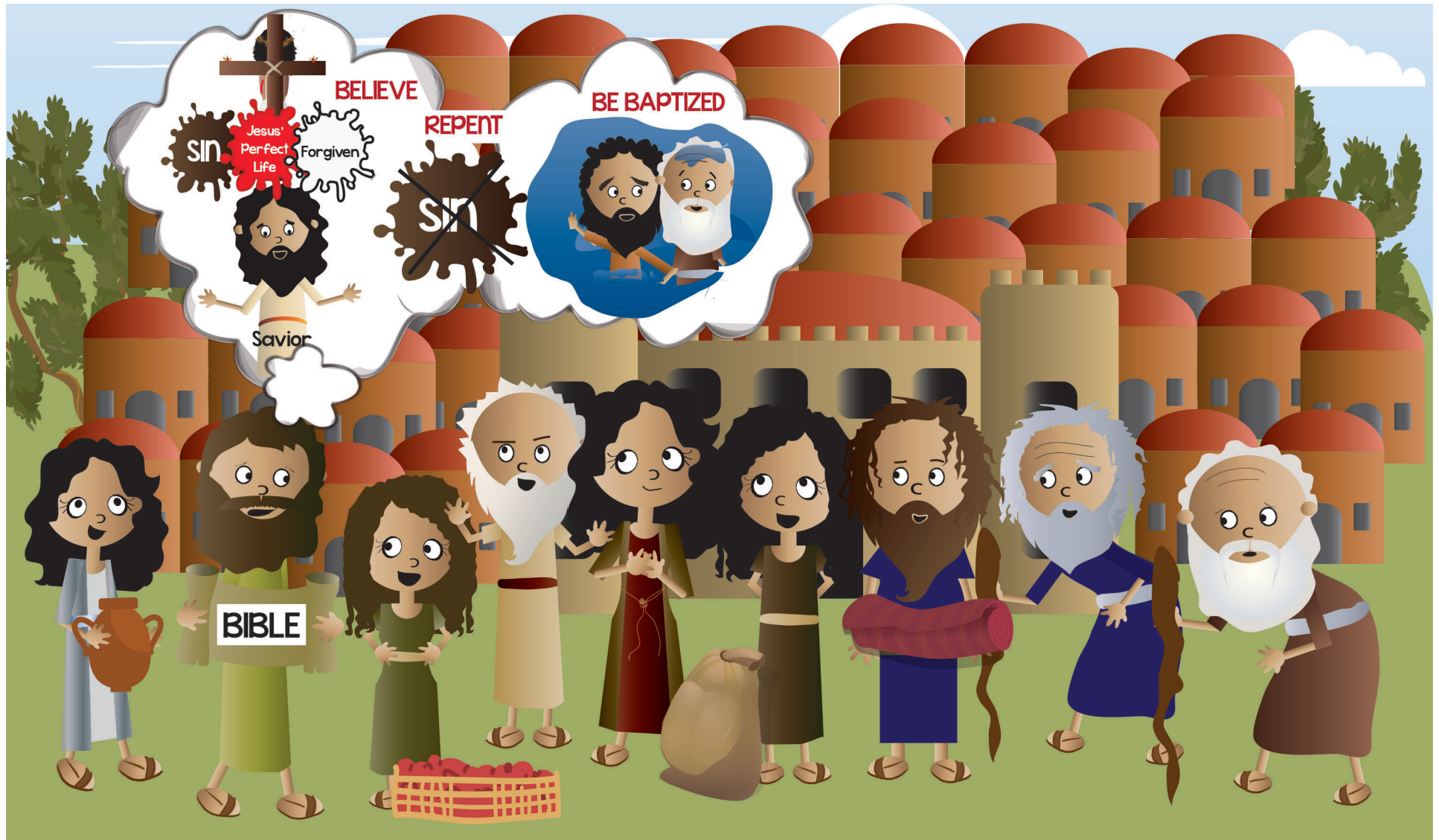


13. Baptism was a sign of another very happy gift from God: the gift of a new family. God had made these new believers a part of His family, the Church. Now, they were God's children, and all the other believers were their new, adopted brothers and sisters through Jesus. They gathered all together, listening to preaching from God's Word and learning how to live as God's people. They praised God and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in Jerusalem was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!



14. But Jerusalem was just the beginning of the “Go” Jesus had given them. Where else did Jesus tell them to go and make disciples? To the **WHOLE WORLD!** So, away they went!





15. Philip went to the land of Samaria, just outside of Israel. The Holy Spirit helped him tell them the good news of Jesus: "Jesus is God's Son. Come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," Philip told the people of Samaria. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him," he urged them.





16. The Holy Spirit helped Philip tell the good news of Jesus that day, and He worked in the hearts of the listeners, too. Many turned away from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and were baptized.



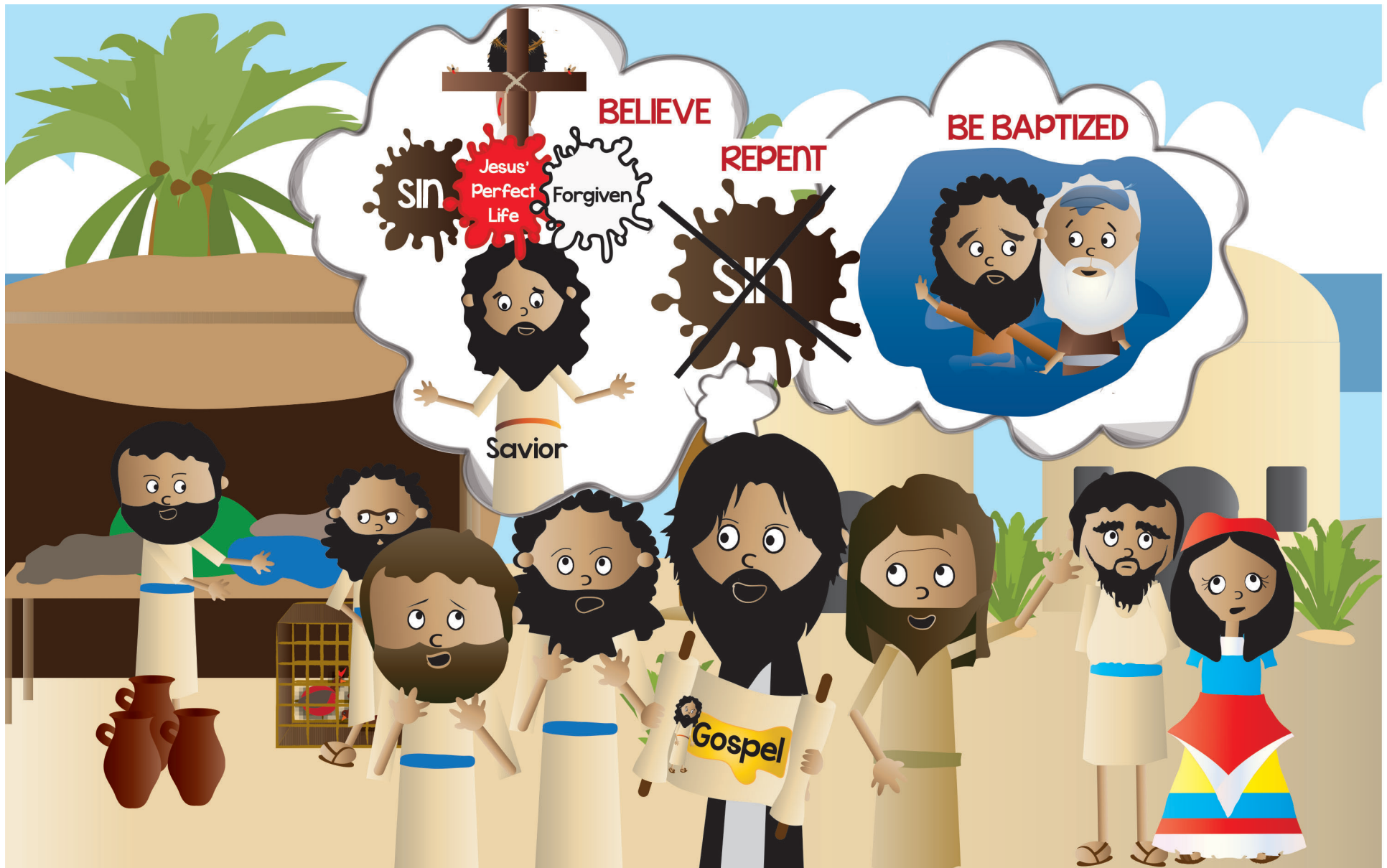
17. Philip gathered them together into a new, little church of believers. They listened to Philip preach God's Word, and they learned how to live as God's people. They praised God together and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in Samaria was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!





18. But Samaria wasn't the ends of the earth. It was only the land next door to Israel. There were many more people, in many other places, who needed to hear the good news of Jesus, too. So, away went people like Paul and Barnabas, Timothy and Titus, over the mountains and across the sea, to tell more people.





19. "Jesus is God's Son, come to save sinners from the punishment they deserve from God," they told all who would listen. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him," they urged everyone.



20. The Holy Spirit helped these men tell the good news of Jesus, and He worked in the hearts of those listening. The Spirit gave them the gift of faith to hear and believe. They turned away from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and THEN what did they do? They were baptized!





21. Then, Paul and Barnabas, Timothy and Titus gathered together these new believers into little churches. The believers listened to these pastors preach God's Word, and they learned how to live as God's people. They praised God together and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in these faraway places was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!





22. Many years have passed since Jesus sent out those first Christians to share the gospel with the world. But sadly, there are still so many people, in so many places, who have never about Jesus. And that's why Christians today are still obeying Jesus' command to go. That's why they are still telling people to turn away from disobeying God and to trust in Jesus as their Savior. And, they are still baptizing all who do, as a sign that they have been forgiven by God and are living a new life for Him.



23. And Christians will keep on going, and telling, and baptizing new believers until the Church has finished growing and Jesus comes back. Then, at last, all of God's people will be gathered all together, as one, big family, to live with God forever. What a wonderful day that will be!



# "The Case of the Up and Down Sign" Matthew 28; Acts 1-2, 8:35-36, 10:47, 16:14-15, 31-34

## SOLVED



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. What did Jesus tell new believers to do as a sign of their new life in God?  
To be baptized.

2. Why did they go up and down in the water when they did this special sign?  
They went down in the water to remember that their sins had been buried down in the grave with Jesus. They went up, out of the water to remember that God had forgiven their sins and was giving them new life with Jesus who rose up from the dead. Jesus had beaten sin and death for them!

For You and Me:

When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, a day will come when we, too, will be baptized. It will be a wonderful day of showing that we are turning from our old life of living for ourselves, and have begun a new life of living for God, by the help of His Holy Spirit.



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Acts 2:38, ESV

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

1. Who repented of their sins? How did their lives look different?

The new believers repented of their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit lived inside of them. He helped them to love God and live for Him, instead of living their old way.

2. What did they do as a sign that their lives had changed? They were baptized so the world could know they were choosing to live as followers of Jesus.

For You and Me:

When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, a day will come when we, too, will be baptized. It will be a wonderful day of showing that we are turning from our old life of living for ourselves, and have begun a new life of living for God, by the help of His Holy Spirit.



Why Do God's People Go to Church?  
To Worship God and Love One Another...  
By Baptizing People Who Trust in and Live for Jesus!

# The Gospel



We all disobey God and deserve His punishment. But God, in His mercy, sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, then on the cross, He gave it 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. They are His people, and He fills their hearts with His Holy Spirit. They want to love Him and live for Him. We can become God's people, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. If we do, there will come a special day when we get to be baptized and share the story of how God worked in our lives and saved us. Ask God to help you do this!

He loves to answer this prayer.



# A Prayer

**A** We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church, through Jesus. He is why we can become Your people.

**C** God, we know that we can never become Your people on our own. We have all turned away from You and Your good ways. We need a Savior!

**T** God, thank You for providing the way for us to become Your people through Jesus. Thank You for giving a new life to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him. Thank You for giving us baptism to help us remember the new way of life You give to all who do this.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to one day be able to stand before God's people and tell the story of how You saved us. Help us to trust our leaders to know when we are ready to be baptized and when we need to still wait and grow.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

