
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 3, Bible Truth 1

The Case of the God Who Was Different Acts 17:16-33

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Gods! Gods! Gods! Athens was a city full of HUNDREDS of fake gods! The people of Athens took good care of their gods. They built them beautiful temples. They laid rich worship gifts at their stony feet. They celebrated them with big, worship parties.
2. They even laid a stone to honor an Unknown God. The people of Athens didn't want to leave out any god.
3. Yes, the people of Athens worshipped hundreds of "gods", but the only God they SHOULD have been worshipping was that "Unknown God." He was the REAL, the one, TRUE God --the LORD! And Paul was coming to tell them about Him, that they might be saved.
4. Paul was shocked at all the fake gods in Athens! He began sharing the good news with everyone who would listen. "Let me tell you about the LORD! Let me tell you about Jesus, His Son, sent to save you! Worship Him, not these fake gods!" Paul urged them all.
5. Word about Paul and his strange, new teaching soon spread to the city leaders. They found Paul and said, "Come up to our important meeting place on Mars Hill and tell us about this new God. We want to hear about Him, ourselves."
6. Up on Mars Hill, Paul spoke to the crowd: "People of Athens, you are worshipping fake gods! Let me tell you about the LORD, the one, true God--the one you call 'the Unknown God.' He's the living God who made everything in heaven and earth. Worship Him!" Paul told them.
7. "The LORD is our King, but we have all disobeyed Him. We deserve His punishment," Paul said. "But He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay for the sins of all who trust in Him. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He beat sin and death for God's people," Paul told them.
8. "So, turn away from your fake gods. Turn to LORD. Trust in His Son, Jesus, and be saved! You can be God's people, too," Paul urged them. The people of Athens had never heard of a God like this! A God who came to die for sinners, then rose from the dead! Incredible!
9. "Your God sounds silly!" many said. But God's Holy Spirit was at work in others, like Dionysius and Damaris. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. How happy Paul was! These new believers could keep on telling the people of Athens about Jesus.