
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 3, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Squabbling Brothers and Sisters *Romans*

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

1. Squibble, squabble, squibble squabble. The believers in the big city of Rome were fighting with each other. They were all part of God's family. And they should have been loving each other like sisters and brothers; but, they weren't! They were fighting with each other, instead.
2. They weren't fighting each other with fists, like you might be thinking. This was a fight with words. They were fighting over families – whether you came from a family of Jews or a family of Gentiles. Jew and Gentile. Have you ever heard of those Bible family names? Let's find out what they are.
3. Some of the believers grew up as Jews. They came from families who worshipped the LORD. They grew up learning the Bible and trying to obey its laws... ALL of them... and there were A LOT! (Laws is another word for rules.)
4. There were the Ten, Big Laws God gave them, the 10 Commandments. They were the LOVE laws. These laws told how to love God and love one another. That was the FIRST kind of laws that God gave the Jews to obey, and these are the way God wants us all to live.
5. But the Jews had more laws. These laws were the LIVE TOGETHER laws. These told the Jews how to live their everyday lives--what clothes they should wear; what food they should eat; and, other things like that. And some of these were just extra rules, not even in the Bible.
6. After the Jews believed in Jesus as their Savior, they knew they should live by the LOVE laws, but they also thought even Christians should keep all those other laws, too. And that's where all the squibbling and squabbling came in with that other kind of family—the Gentiles.
7. You see, the other believers grew up Gentiles, from families who worshipped fake gods.
8. They DIDN'T grow up with the Jews' laws. But when they became Christians, they knew they should obey God's LOVE Laws—all people should live by them.
9. But they refused to keep the Jews' LIVE TOGETHER laws. They were Christians, not Jews!
10. "We're right. You're wrong. Live our way. We're better than you. No, you aren't," the Gentile and Jew believers fought back and forth.
11. Faraway in Corinth, Paul heard about their squabbles and wrote them a letter, "Dear believers in Rome, no one's better. You ALL have sinned against God and deserve His punishment. Only through faith in Jesus are you saved," he reminded them.
12. "You are ALL part of God's family. The Holy Spirit lives in ALL of you. Stop your squibble- squabbling! Love each other like sisters and brothers should. Loving each other fulfills God's law. He gives us everything we need to do this through Jesus, our Savior," signed Paul.
13. Phoebe took Paul's letter to the believers in Rome. What happened when the believers read Paul's letter? The Bible doesn't tell us. I hope it helped them remember that they ALL needed Jesus to be their Savior! And, to love God and love one another through Him.