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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 4, Bible Truth 3

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**The Case of the Amazing Plan of the Three-in-One** Mt. 3:11-17; Mark 1:7-11; Luke 3:15-18, 21-23; John 1:19-34

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

1. Long ago, before this world was made, there was just the LORD. That might sound lonely, but it was Perfect Wonderfulness. Why? Because the LORD is God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: three Persons, but just one God. He enjoyed perfect happiness, just in Himself.
2. The LORD did not need anything to be happy. But nonetheless, He wanted to make this world, and a people to share in His Perfect Wonderfulness with Him forever. So, He did. And at first, everything was Perfect Wonderfulness.
3. Then, God's enemy came. He tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying God. Now, the world was broken with sin. Worst of all, people lost the bit of God's Perfect Wonderfulness they knew in their hearts. They deserved to stay separated from God forever. What a sad day!
4. But God is so kind. He had already planned to rescue His people through Jesus, so they could share in His Perfect Wonderfulness once more. At just the right time, Jesus left heaven and was born in Bethlehem. He was still the Son of God, but now He was human, too.
5. Jesus grew up. He slept and played. He did chores and learned a job. And all the while, He never did anything wrong. Then one day, Jesus went down to the River Jordan to see His funny-looking, funny-living cousin, John. It was time to tell the world the Savior had come!
6. Crowds of people had been going to hear the message God gave John: "It's time! The LORD is sending His Savior! Repent! Stop disobeying God and turn back to Him. Be baptized," John told them. Many were baptized. They wanted to be ready for the Savior.
7. When Jesus came, John exclaimed, "He's here! The Savior I told you about. He's come to take away God's punishment for your sins!" "John, I've come for you to baptize Me. I must do this to be the Savior," Jesus explained. So, John baptized Jesus.
8. Jesus prayed, and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Him. Then, God, the Father spoke: "This is my dear Son whom I love! I am so pleased with Him." Together, God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit would carry out this plan to save God's people.
9. Over the next, three years, Jesus taught the people about God, His Father. He did amazing things, showing them that He was the Son of God, the Savior. And He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of God's people as their Helper.
10. Then, came the most amazing part of God's plan of all: Jesus chose to suffer and die on the cross as the full payment for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. This is how He would save God's people.
11. Then on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. He went up to heaven, to the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God, the Father, and God, the Holy Spirit again. And Who did Jesus remember to send to God's people?
12. The Holy Spirit! He would live in their hearts and give them a taste of the Perfect Wonderfulness of fellowship with God until in heaven they would enjoy all the Perfect Wonderfulness of God that they possibly can, forever!