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## **Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 9, Bible Truth 5**

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### **The Case of the Unexpected Ending** *Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 24; John 20-21*

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

1. Soldiers led Jesus and two robbers outside of Jerusalem and put them on crosses. The robbers were there as punishment for bad things they had done. But Jesus was there to take God's punishment for the bad things God's people had done.
2. From noon to three, Jesus hung on that cross. The sun stopped shining, and the land went dark. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out, as the punishment for the sins of God's people bore down upon Him.
3. At last, Jesus said, "It is finished," and died. The ground shook and the curtain in the Temple that separated God from the people tore in two. "Surely, this was the Son of God," exclaimed one soldier, who watched it all.
4. Jesus' followers buried His body in a cave-grave and rolled the huge stone in place. Jesus' enemies sent soldiers to make sure no one took Jesus' body. "It is finished," Jesus' enemies happily thought. "Jesus is dead. His life is over. That fake is gone for good."
5. "It is finished," Jesus' friends sadly thought, too. "Jesus is dead. His life is over. The Messiah King is gone for good." It certainly looked like Jesus' enemies and friends were right. Jesus' life seemed finished.
6. But they were WRONG! Jesus didn't mean His LIFE was finished. He meant His JOB was finished. He had finished suffering and dying for the sins of God's people. He had beaten sin and death for them. Jesus was NOT gone, only the sins of God's people were.
7. On Sunday, Day Three, a mighty change happened in that grave. Jesus had beaten death, and death could no longer hold Him. God raised Him to life with a new resurrection body, especially made to live forever in heaven. Jesus was alive forevermore! It was time to tell the world!
8. The ground shook as an angel came down and rolled away the stone from the cave-grave. The soldiers were terrified. Jesus' friends were excited, but scared, too. "He's not here, He's risen! Look for yourselves," the angel told them. Yes, the grave was empty! Jesus was alive!
9. Jesus appeared to many of His followers on that wonderful Sunday. "It is I. I am alive. I've risen from the dead. Go and tell the others," Jesus said to the women who had come to his cave-grave early that morning. And the women rejoiced, then hurried to tell the good news.
10. Later that day, Jesus explained God's plan to two of His disciples as they walked to Emmaus. "God's Word promised I would suffer and die for God's people. Now, it is finished," Jesus told them.
11. And last of all, Jesus appeared to His closest followers on that wonderful Sunday, "Peace be with you!" He said, then showed them his hands and side. They were overjoyed. Jesus really was alive and had beaten sin and death for God's people.
12. What good gifts Jesus gave God's people by His death! Now, they could know God in their hearts through the Holy Spirit. And one day, they would go to live forever with God in heaven. We can become God's people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.