
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 8, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the One Who Would Not Stop 1 & 2 Samuel, Psalms 16, 23

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

1. David was a man who loved God. From young boy to grown man, God helped David trust in Him and live for Him his whole life. God blessed David with many good things. He even made David king over Israel. How God blessed the people of Israel through David!
2. David wrote songs to praise the LORD for all His blessings. David shared his songs with the people of Israel. Sometimes thousands of people sang them together as they worshipped the LORD. Many of David's songs are written down in the Bible. They're called the Psalms.
3. But David didn't only know happy times of blessings. He also suffered some very sad things. David had many enemies, including King Saul. Saul was jealous of David. Saul and his soldiers chased David for years, trying to kill him, though David never did anything wrong to him.
4. And don't think David never did anything bad. He did. He was a sinner just like us. David even had Uriah, one of his bravest soldiers, killed so he could take Uriah's wife to be his own! Oh, what a terrible thing David did!
5. David praised the LORD when he enjoyed God's blessings, but what happened when David went through those sad and bad times? How would David keep loving and praising the LORD in the sad times? And could the LORD keep loving David when he sinned?
6. There was only one way: God's never-ending love. God loved David better than he deserved. He comforted David when he was sad. He helped David turn back to Him when he sinned.
7. So, when David hid from King Saul and his soldiers, the LORD was with him, helping him. David praised the LORD for His faithful love, singing: "I love you, O LORD. You are my strength. You will deliver me and save me from my enemies. I praise You!" (Psalm 18:1-3)
8. And even when David killed Uriah and took his wife, the LORD loved David by sending the prophet Nathan to him. Nathan helped David see his sin and ask for God's forgiveness.
9. Then, David sang: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, take away my sins... Deliver me, my God, my Savior, and I will sing aloud of your perfect goodness. I will praise you!" (Psalm 51:1-2,14)
10. Every day of David's life --in the good times, and even in the sad and bad times-- David praised the LORD for His great love for him. It was a love that never stopped. It was always more than he could ever deserve.
11. But most of all, David looked forward to the day when God's greatest promise to him and all of God's people would come true: the day when God will bring His people home to live with Him forever. Then, at last, they will enjoy God's love for them in the closest, most wonderful way.
12. That's why David sang: "Surely the LORD will show me goodness and mercy all the days of my life, and I will go to live with Him forever." (Psalm 23:6) We can become God's people and enjoy His amazing, unending love, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.