Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

Use with all response activities for deeper learning

Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

Be familiar with these questions and answers. Look for opportunities to ask questions and discuss their answers, such as while the children work on their coloring pages, as part of their response games, or during play time. Remember: your goal isn't to ask all these questions or only talk to the children about these things. It's to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

BIG QUESTION

What Did Jesus Come to Do? Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!

Meaning

In the beginning, God created the world perfectly. What a wonderful, special closeness people enjoyed with Him! Yes, it was "Perfect Wonderfulness" knowing God and living in His world. It could have stayed that way forever, but it did not. All of this perfection was broken when people disobeyed God. The big Bible word for disobeying God is "sin." When we look around us, we can see the sadness that sin brought into God's good world. So much in this world is not perfect or wonderful anymore! We've lost the special closeness with God, too. Yes, when sin came into the world, it spoiled so many things. But would all this sin and sadness last forever? People certainly deserved it to. After all, they had turned away from God. Now people deserved His punishment, not His love. But God treats us so much better than we deserve! From the beginning, He had an amazing plan to bring sinful people like us back to Himself. How? He promised to send a Savior. That Savior was Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus lived a perfect life, then He gave it up as the full payment for sins as He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had really done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we will get to know God in our hearts; and one day, we will get to go live with God and enjoy all of His Perfect Wonderfulness forever!

Discussion Questions

- 1. What did Jesus come to do? Jesus came to bring us to God!
- 2. Who did people have a wonderful closeness with in the beginning? With God.
- 3. What did people do that caused the wonderful closeness with God to end? They disobeyed Him.

choose a few

- 4. What did all people deserve for disobeying God? God's punishment that keeps them separated from Him and all His goodness forever. How sad!
- 5. Who did God send to bring His people to Him? Jesus.
- 6. What did Jesus take for God's people on the cross? The punishment for their sins.
- 7. What happens to us when we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior? God forgives our sins. He makes us His people. We have special closeness with God now. Then, when our bodies die, we will go on living happily with God forever.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus Came to Bring Us to God... He Died on the Cross for the Sins of God's People!

Meaning

Sadly, we are all sinners who disobey God. We all deserve God's punishment for our sins. But Jesus never, ever sinned. He never deserved any punishment from God. Yet Jesus chose to suffer and die on the cross. He didn't suffer and die because He deserved to. He suffered and died in the place of God's people so they wouldn't have to. Yes, He offered up His perfect life as the full payment for their sins. Jesus suffered so much on the cross! His body hurt so badly as He hung there by the nails. But Jesus' spirit inside Him hurt even more, as He took the punishment for our sins and was separated from God, His Father. But when at last Jesus finished suffering on the cross, He had paid for all of the sins of God's people. Jesus died and was buried in a cave-grave that day, but He didn't stay there! On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave to live forevermore. He had really done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people. Now they could have special closeness with God in their hearts. Now they would be His dearly loved people forever. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God will forgive our sins. He will give us special closeness in our hearts with Him now. And one day, we can go to live with God forever.

Discussion **Questions**

- 1. Who are sinners? All people.
- 2. What do all sinners deserve? God's punishment for their sins.
- 3. Did Jesus sin? No, He did not.

choose a few

- 4. Whose punishment for sins did Jesus take on the cross? God's people's.
- 5. Why did Jesus take God's people's punishment for sins on the cross? So they wouldn't have to.
- 6. What hurt when Jesus died on the cross? Jesus' body and Jesus' spirit.
- 7. How much of God's people's punishment did Jesus take when He suffered and died? All of it!
- 8. What kind of closeness with God did Jesus win for God's people? A special closeness that lasts forever.
- 9. Can we become God's people? How? Yes! By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus our Savior.

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Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

THE GOSPEL

What is God's good news for you and me? The gospel! What did Jesus come to do? Jesus came to bring us to God... He died on the cross for the sins of God's people. That was the only way God's people could be forgiven their sins. You see, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. No one lives the perfect life that pleases God. That is why we all deserve His punishment! God would have been perfectly fair to punish us for our sins. But, He is so full of mercy and love that He chose to make a way for us to be saved. He sent Jesus to live the perfectly obedient life that none of us have lived. Then, Jesus offered up His perfect life to be the full payment for the sins of God's people. On Day Three, He rose from the dead in victory. We, too, can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE

"I will ransom them from the power of Sheol. I will redeem them from death." -- Hosea 13:14

Learn a Little: "I will redeem them from death."

Meaning

Ransom! Redeem! What do those big words mean? To pay the price to rescue someone and make them your very own. What did God ransom His people from? The power of the grave and death

Yes, indeed! When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He paid for all of the sins of God's people so they could be forgiven! When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus, we can be God's people, too. All of our sins will be forgiven through Him, so we can know God now and get to live with Him forever!

Discussion **Questions**

- 1. What does it mean to ransom or redeem someone? To pay the price needed to rescue someone and make them your very own.
- 2. Who did God ransom? His people.

choose a few

- 3. From what did God ransom His people from? From the punishment they deserved for their sins. From death!
- 4. What do God's people get to enjoy because God ransomed them? They get to be His dearly loved people forever! They get to know Him in their hearts now; and one day, they will go to live with Him forever.
- 5. How did Jesus ransom God's people? He suffered and died in their place on the cross.
- 6. How can we become one of God's people? We can ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to answer these prayers!

BIBLE STORY

The Case of the Great Price

Discussion Questions

choose a few

- 1. What kind of people did the king punish on crosses? Bad men who did really bad things, such as robbers, murderers and men who tried to get rid of the king.
- 2. What bad thing had Jesus done that he would be punished with death on a cross? Nothing.
- 3. Whose bad things did Jesus choose to die on the cross for? The sins of God's people.
- 4. What did Jesus enemies think Jesus should do to prove He was God's Son, the Savior of God's people? *Come down from the cross*.
- 5. Why did Jesus not come down from the cross? *Because only by suffering and dying on the cross could He save God's people from their sins.*
- 6. What did Jesus' enemies and even His friends think was finished when Jesus said, "It is finished" when He died on the cross? They thought Jesus' life seemed finished. That Jesus was gone for good --never to live again.
- 7. What was really finished when Jesus died on the cross? Not Jesus' life, but the punishment God's people deserved for their sins.
- 8. What did Jesus do that proved that He had beaten sin and death for God's people? God raised Him from the dead on the third day.