
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 10, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the World's Biggest Building *Genesis; the Gospels; Acts*

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

1. This is the story of God's plan to build the biggest "building" in the world. Not a building of bricks, but one made of millions of people gathering together to worship Him and enjoy all of His Perfect Wonderfulness. God called this amazing gathering He was building "the Church."
2. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit would work together to build the Church. God, the Father, would send Jesus to save His people. God, the Holy Spirit, would live in their hearts, so they could know and love God, and enjoy Him forever. What an amazing plan God had!
3. First comes the plan, then the work. God began His work by creating this world and everything in it, including the people He would make into His Church. He put something special in their bodies, so they could know and love Him: a spirit that would never die.
4. "Go and fill the whole earth with people," God told Adam and Eve, the first people. They had children, and their children had children. They grew and grew and made their homes all over the world.
5. One day, God's Church would be a great gathering of God's people from all these different places. Together, they would love God and each other perfectly forever.
6. But that wonderful day was not yet. From Adam and Eve on, we have all chosen to disobey God. We all deserve His punishment, not to be His people.
7. But not even sin would ruin God's plans to build His Church. God had always planned to send Jesus to save His people. He would pay for their sins with His perfect life on the cross. He would make them beautiful for God. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had done it.
8. "Go to the whole world. Tell them about Me," Jesus told His disciples, after He rose from the dead. "Teach them how they can become God's people. The Holy Spirit will come live in your hearts and help you," He said. It was time to build God's Church from every people, just as God planned!
9. Filled with God's Holy Spirit, the disciples shared the good news of Jesus with everyone. As they spoke, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many. He turned their sinful hearts into the new, God-loving hearts of God's people. God's Church was growing! His plans were coming true!
10. For thousands of years now, Jesus' followers have kept on telling the people of the world the good news of Jesus. And as they share, the Holy Spirit has been working in hearts, helping people turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, and building God's Church.
11. One day, God will be finished building His Church. The good news of Jesus will have gone out to the whole world, and all His people will be saved. Then, Jesus will return to earth, and He will get rid of sin and sadness, sickness and death forever.
12. Then, God's people go to live with Jesus in the new heaven and earth. What a beautiful, happy sight will be God's people, the Church! More people than we can count, all gathered together, enjoying God's Perfect Wonderfulness and singing His praises FOREVER.