



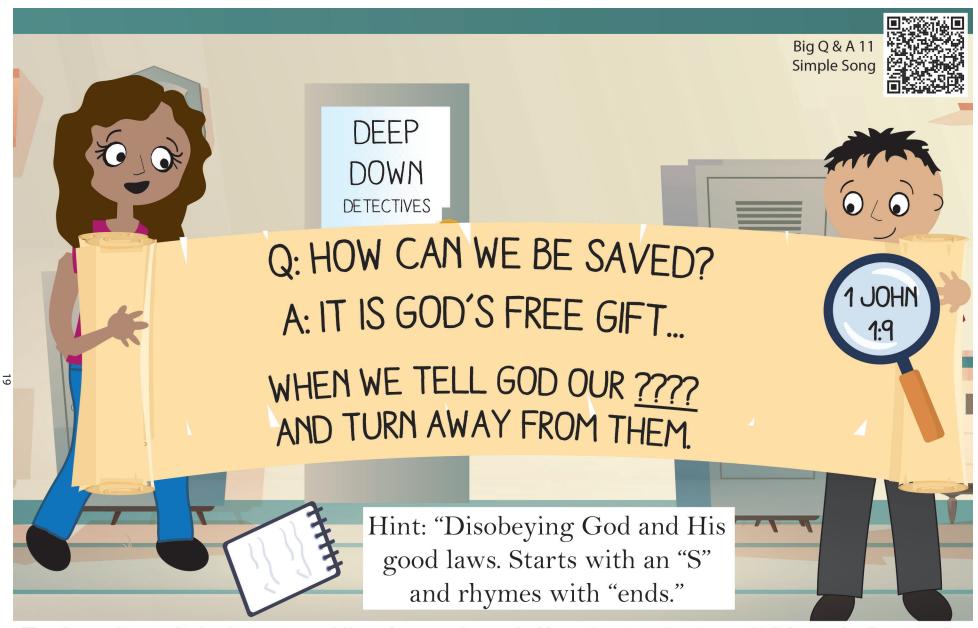
"Hi! Welcome to Deep Down Detectives! We're so glad you've joined us. Detective Dan is going to help us dig deep down into God's Word, the Bible. Come on. Let's go!"



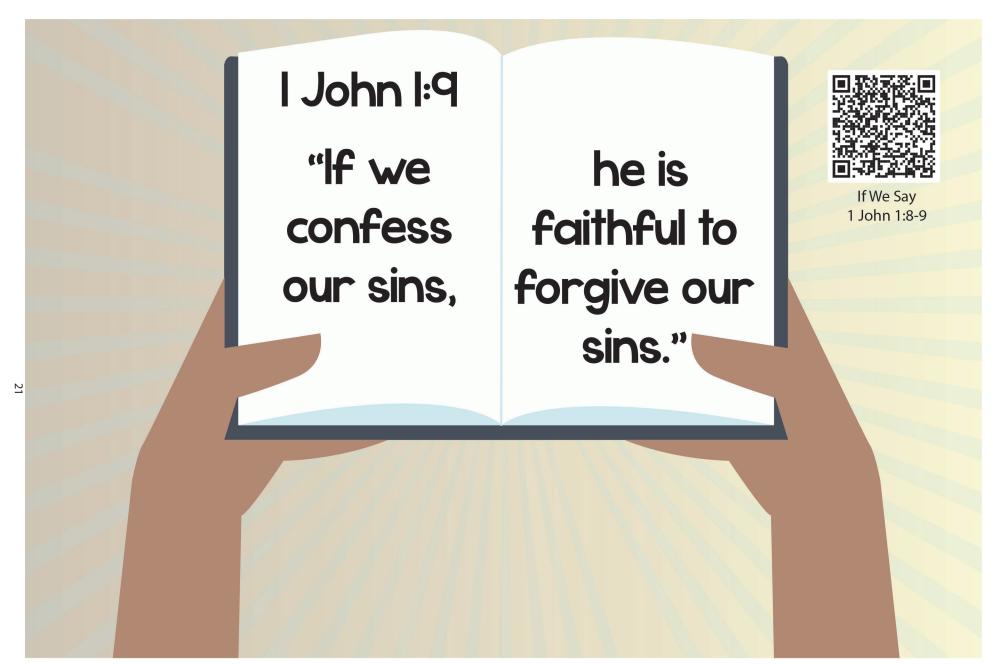
"Wow, look at this! It's Detective Dan's briefcase with a new Big Question for us. It says, 'How Can We Be Saved?' Come on, everybody. Let's unlock it and see what's inside."



"Deep Down Detectives! This is your first of three missions in this Big Question. Look for your clue in my notepad. See if you can find the answer in God's Word. See you soon, Detective Dan!"



The Deep Down Detectives found the clue, and read: "How Can We Be Saved? It Is God's Free Gift... When We Tell God Our ????? and Turn Away from Them. I John I:9" Hint: "Disobeying God and His good laws. Starts with an "S" and rhymes with "ends."



The kids knew what to do next! They opened their Bible to I John I:9, and read: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive our sins."



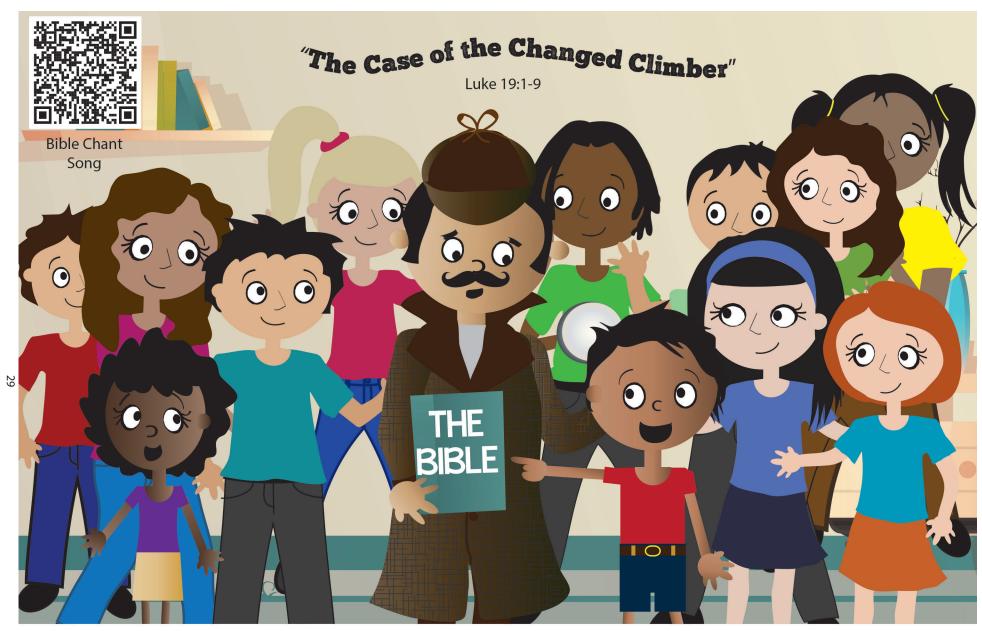
Just then, Detective Dan walked in. "Kids! Have you figured out this first truth about how we can be saved?" he asked. "We think so! We need God's forgiveness for our sins if we are to be God's people. He wants us to tell Him our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior."



"Our Big Question is: How Can We Be Saved? And the answer is: It Is God's Free Gift... When We Tell God Our <u>SINS</u> and Turn Away from Them." "Great job, kids! You did it!"



"We are all sinners who disobey God. We deserve His punishment. We can't save ourselves, but God can. He promises to save all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Repenting means telling God your sins and turning away from them. If we do these things, God promises to forgive our sins and make us His people. We will get to know Him in our hearts by His Holy Spirit now. And one day, when we die, we will go to live with Him forever."



"Tell us a Bible story, Detective Dan. We want to dig deeper into God's Word."

"Sure, kids! I know just the story. It's called 'The Case of the Changed Climber.' Listen for who turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus."

# "The Case of the Changed Climber" Luke 19:1-9



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

- I. Who was the climber and why did he climb?
- 2. How did he change?

### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



I John I:8-9, ESV

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- I. Who wanted to confess his sins and be forgiven by God?
- 2. Who didn't think he should be forgiven? Who did think he should be forgiven?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at praisefactory.org)



I. Zacchaeus was a VERY rich man. He could have lots of fine clothes and a big, big house. He could eat all the yummiest foods and buy all the nice things he wanted. Yes. Zacchaeus could buy anything he wanted. Anything, that is, except God's forgiveness for his sins.



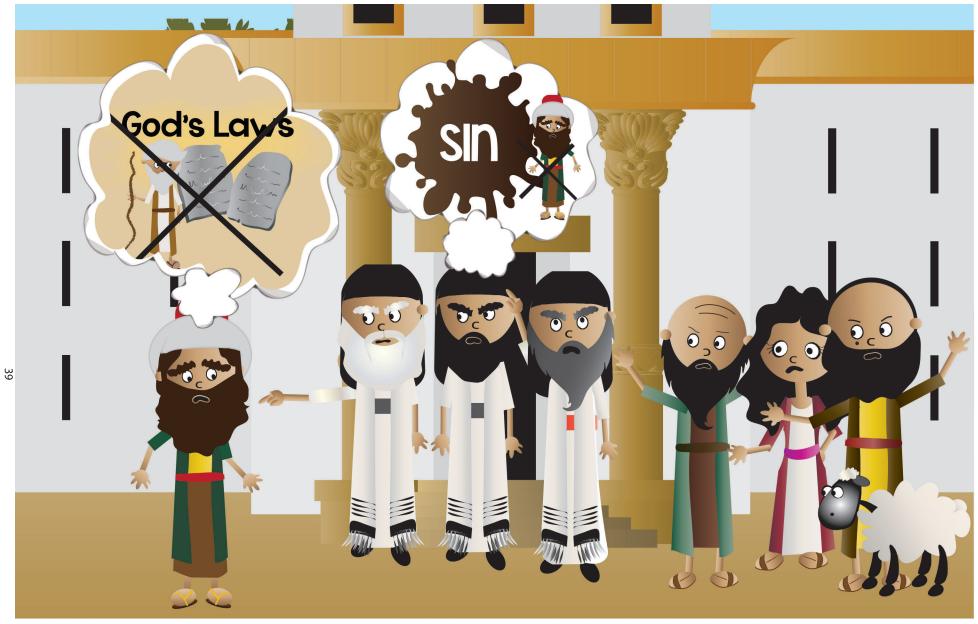
2. Zacchaeus certainly had plenty of sins that needed forgiving. He collected taxes from the people in Jericho for Caesar, the enemy king. He used the king's soldiers to make people pay, even when they couldn't. He took extra money and kept it for himself, even if it hurt others.



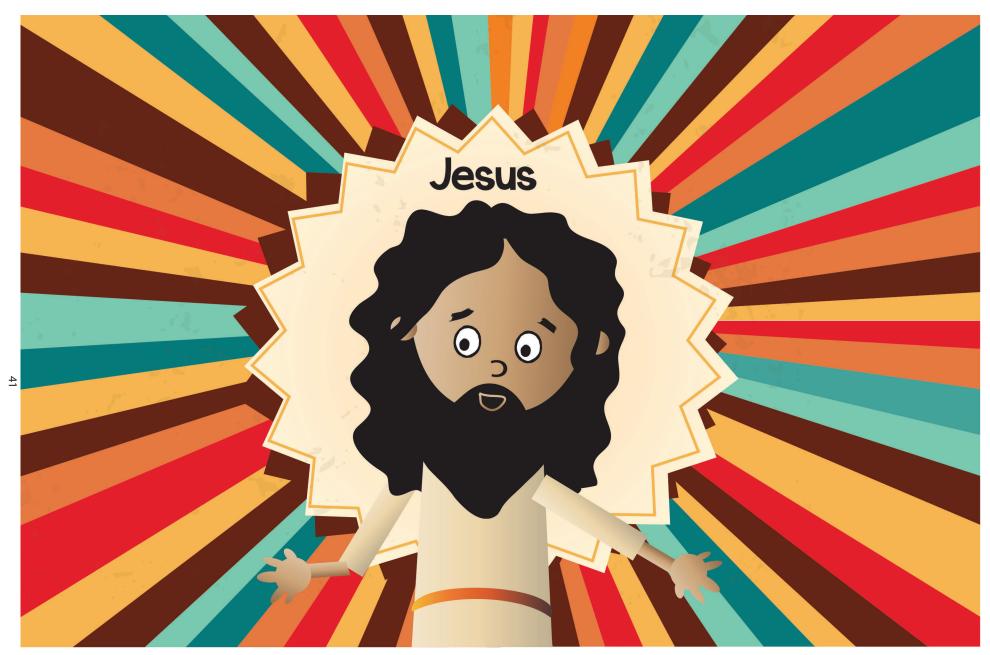
3. That's how Zacchaeus got to be so rich. And that's why people thought Zacchaeus ESPECIALLY didn't deserve God's forgiveness. "How could God forgive someone like Zacchaeus," they exclaimed. "He's such a mean, greedy bully. Surely, there is no forgiveness for someone like that!"



4. You might think all that money made Zacchaeus happy, but, it wasn't enough. God made us to know, love, and obey Him. He, alone, can make us truly happy. And that's why deep down in his heart Zacchaeus was very UN-happy. All his riches would never be enough to satisfy him.



5. What was worse, Zacchaeus knew God's laws, and that he had broken them. A man who had done such bad things wasn't even allowed to go in the worship house to worship God. There seemed to be no way for Zacchaeus to come back to God now.



6. But there WAS a way to be forgiven. God had made a way through His Son, Jesus, as Zacchaeus found out one day.



7. "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!" the exciting news spread through Jericho. A crowd of people gathered along the road to see Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, too, but he was too short to see over the crowd. And he was so hated that no one would let him through.



8. But Zacchaeus didn't give up. He ran down the road and climbed up a big tree. It would have been so easy for Jesus to miss the short, little man hiding up among the leaves. But Jesus didn't miss Zacchaeus. He was LOOKING for him. Jesus had come to bring Zacchaeus God's forgiveness.



9. Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus, and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus was shocked and so happy. Good teachers like Jesus never asked to stay at the house of bad men like him.



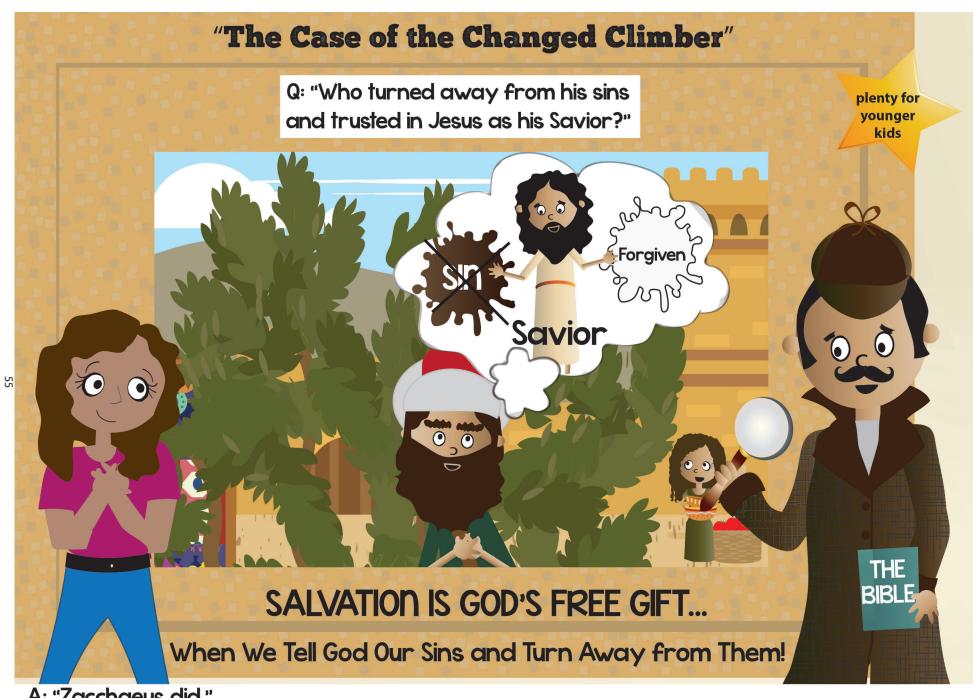
10. Zacchaeus knew what this meant. Jesus wasn't asking to stay at his big house to enjoy his nice things and yummy food. Jesus was asking to stay at his house to welcome him back to God. What wonderful news! How he wanted God to forgive his sins, more than anything in the world!



II. Right then and there, God's Holy Spirit did a wonderful thing in Zacchaeus' heart. He helped Zacchaeus turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as his Savior. Zacchaeus was forgiven by God for all the terrible things he had done. God had saved Zacchaeus through Jesus.



12. The change in Zacchaeus' heart showed in his life. "I'll pay back everyone I've wronged," Zacchaeus told the crowd. He would rather have God's forgiveness than riches. The people were amazed. "Salvation has come to this man today," Jesus told them all. And surely, it had.



A: "Zacchaeus did."

# "The Case of the Changed Climber" Luke 19:1-9



# **Detective Dan's** Listening Assignment #1

I. Who was the climber and why did he climb? Zacchaeus was the climber. He climbed up a tree, so he could see Jesus.

### 2. How did he change?

Zacchaeus turned away from his sins. He stopped being a mean, greedy cheat. He put his trust in Jesus as his Savior and God forgave his sins and made him one of His people.

### What about You and Me?

Like Zacchaeus, we All have disobeyed God and deserve His punishment. How sad! But like Zacchaeus, we, too, can confess our sins to God and turn away from them. We can trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, God will forgive our sins and make us one of His people, just like He did for Zacchaeus.

## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



#### I John I:8-9. ESV

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- I. Who wanted to confess his sins and be forgiven by God? Zacchaeus did
- 2. Who didn't think he should be forgiven? Who did think he should be forgiven?

The people in Zacchaeus' town of Jericho didn't think Zacchaeus should be forgiven by God. He was too bad of a man. But Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus to be forgiven by God.

### What about you and me?

No one is too bad to be forgiven their sins by God. All who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven their sins and saved! God can do this for you and me, too. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer.

# Something to Grow Into

When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them!



We all have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We deserve His punishment, not His love. And there's nothing we can do on our own to earn God's love.

But God is so merciful! He made the way for us to be saved from our sins and become His people, as His free gift. How? Through Jesus, His Son.

Jesus lived a perfect life; then, on the cross, He gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people.

Now, we can receive God's free gift of salvation when we tell God our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.

Ask Him to help you. He loves to do this!





**Gospel Songs** 

Something to Grow Into

"God offers us His free gift of salvation, too. Let's pray to Him

# A Prayer

We praise You, LORD. You are our Savior!

God, we disobey You and deserve Your punishment, yet You offer to save us through Jesus. Thank You!

Work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



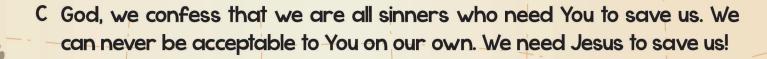
ACTS Prayer Song

plenty for younger kids

# A Prayer

more depth for older kids

A God, we praise You for being faithful and just, and able to forgive our sins.



T Thank You, God, for being willing to forgive all our sins, when we confess them, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts. Show us our sins and our need for Jesus to save us. Help us to confess our sins to You and turn away from them. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Be our Heavenly Father! Make us Your adopted children who love You and whom You will love forever.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



**ACTS Prayer Song** 



"Deep Down Detectives, it's almost time for me to go. But first, let's celebrate what we've learned with a little Wiggle and Worship Time. Stand up and let's get bouncy!"

Big Qu & A #II Simple Song

How can we be saved? How can we be saved? How can we be saved? It is God's free gift!





Kids! Let's sing the Big Question and Answer Detective Dan taught us today.

### Big Question #II Tell Me More Song How Can We Be Saved?

Refrain

How can we be saved?

How can we be saved?

How can we be saved?

It's God' free gift.

How can we be saved?

How can we be saved?

How can we be saved?

It's God's free gift through Christ.

Verse 2

Verse I

I disobey God, I need a Savior,

You disobey God, You need a Savior,

We all disobey God, We need a Savior.

To save us from our sins.

Refrain



Jesus, He paid the price, the perfect sacrifice, On the cross, gave His life, Bought us eternal life, Takes away all our sin, Makes our hearts clean within. When we repent and believe in Him. Refrain

Big Question #II, Bible Truth | Bible Verse Song: If We Say: | John | 1:8-9

Big Question #II, Bible Truth | Bible Verse Song: If We Say We Have No Sin: | John |:8-9

If we say we have no sin, If we say we have no sin, If we say we have no sin, We deceive ourselves, And the truth is not in us. If we say we have no sin, We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, the truth is not in us.

But...If we confess our sins...

God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
Faithful and just to forgive us our sin
Faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
And purify us from,
All unrighteousness.

First John One, verses eight and nine.

If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just, to forgive our sins.

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousnes.

First John One, verses eight and nine.





Big Question #II Hymn
Grace That Is Greater Than All Our Sin

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Big Question #Il Praise Song Blessed Be the Name

All praise to Him who reigns above in majesty supreme.
Who gave His Son for man to die,
That He might man redeem!
Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name,





### The Gospel Song (Short)

We've all disobeyed God's good ways, But God sent His Son to save, All who turn back to Him, and pray: "Jesus, be my Savior, Take all my sins away."

This is the gospel,
This is God's good news:
Jesus died on the cross,
Then on the 3rd day...
He rose from the dead.
Ask Him to be your Savior, too.
Ask Him to be your Savior, too!



The Gospel Song (Full)

Refrain:

What is the gospel? G-O-S-P-E-L?
What is the gospel? Can anybody tell me?
What is the gospel? Yes, I know what it is!
Salvation through faith in Christ,
That's what the gospel is.

"G" is for God, our good King and Creator,
"O", we should obey Him,
but instead we're disobeyers,
So "S", we need a Savior to save us from our sins,
That Savior is Jesus, who "P" took the punishment.
Yes, Jesus died upon the cross, the perfect sacrifice,
Then on Day Three, He rose again
To prove He'd won the fight,
And now "E" everyone who repents & believes in Him,
He gives "E-L" eternal life: forever life with Him.

"Let's sing about the gospel: God's best good news that we can become His people through Jesus. Deep Down Detectives Theme Song

We're Deep Down Detectives, diggin' deep in God's Word, For truths about God and His plans for this world, We're seeking to love Him, with all of our heart, We're Deep Down Detectives!

Come on! Let's start!



Bible Chant Song

The Bible, the Bible, Let's get out the Bible. Let's hear what God has to say. The Bible, the Bible, God's given us the Bible.



It's His Word for us to learn and obey! Yay!

### Classroom Rules Song

Shh, be quiet while someone is talking,
Raise your hand,
if you have something to say,
Don't touch your friend,
sitting beside you,
Obey your teachers,
Be kind as you play.
These are our classroom rules,
These are our classroom rules,
They help us worship God
and love one another,
These are our classroom rules.

### **ACTS Prayer Song**

A, Adoration: God, we praise You!

C, Confession: Forgive us our sins.

T, Thanksgiving,: Thank You for Jesus,

S, Supplication: Help us to live like Him. (repeat)

That's the ACTS prayer, my friend, Bow head, Close your eyes, Shhh, Let's begin.

