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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 1

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### The Case of the Hardest Thing *Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-21*

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

1. Jesus needed help. Enemies were coming to arrest Him, then hang Him on a cross to die. And on that cross, Jesus would suffer all the punishment for the sins of God's people. Even for Jesus, the thought of all that punishment was terrible. He could only do it with help from God, His Father.

2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the help He needed. "My Father, if it's possible, take this suffering away," Jesus pleaded. "But if this is the only way to save Your people, then I want to do it. I want Your will, not Mine, Father," Jesus prayed.

3. Jesus wasn't the only one who needed help with what was about to happen. Jesus' disciples would, too. "Watch and pray that you might say 'no' to temptation," Jesus urged them. "You WANT to do God's will, but you are very weak." Sadly, the disciples slept instead of praying.

4. But God heard Jesus' prayers. He sent an angel to strengthen Him. And just in time, for up came Judas Iscariot with a crowd of Jesus' enemies. "Hello, Teacher," Judas said, kissing Jesus. "Friend, do what you came to do," Jesus replied. The men grabbed Jesus, and the disciples ran away.

5. The next day, Jesus' enemies put Jesus on the cross to die. There, Jesus took all the punishment for God's people's sins. It was so terrible, but Jesus did it. He had asked for help; and God, His Father, gave it to Him. He helped Jesus do the hardest thing.

6. How do we know Jesus paid for all those sins on the cross? Because of what happened next. On Day Three, Jesus rose from the grave to live forevermore. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, they would get to live with God, knowing, loving, and enjoying Him forever.

7. And what happened to Jesus' disciples? Would God forgive them for leaving Jesus? Yes, He would! Jesus paid for ALL their sins when He died on the cross. And even though the disciples had slept, instead of asking God for help, Jesus had prayed that night for God to help them.

8. Jesus appeared to His disciples on the evening of that wonderful Day Three. "I'm alive and I've beaten sin and death for you and all of God's people!" He exclaimed.

9. Over the next 40 days, Jesus shared God's plans for them to tell whole world the gospel. They could never do this on their own, so Who did Jesus promise to send? The Holy Spirit! He would live in God's people, giving them all the help they needed. Then, Jesus went home to heaven.

10. Jesus was in heaven, but He never forgot God's people on earth. He is always praying for them. Jesus asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts, and He did. He filled them with power and wisdom to carry out God's great plans to tell everyone about Jesus.

11. And, oh, how those first believers had learned their lesson to ask God for His help! There were many times when they were scared, weak, and in trouble. But now, they knew what to do. They prayed to God and He was good to give them the help they needed.

12. God's people today need God's help just as much as those believers did, long ago. And God is just as faithful to give them the help they need. We can become God's people, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God will help us live for Him, too.