
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 8

The Case of the Boastful Man *Acts 7-9,22; Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Ephesians; Philippians*

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

1. Paul was a man who was always boasting. At first, he was a bad boaster, who boasted in himself and his good gifts. But then, Paul became a good boaster. Can you guess who Paul learned to boast in? It was the LORD! Yes, Paul loved to make much of the one, true God!
2. "I used to boast in myself," Paul told people. "I was born a Roman and treated special. I grew up a Jew and learned God's Word. I obeyed the teachers' extra, little rules and thought I pleased God by being a good law-keeper. I thought I was better than everyone else," Paul admitted.
3. "But I was wrong," Paul sadly said. "My heart was full of sin. I could never please God by obeying laws and rules. Just like everyone else, I was a lawbreaker, not a law-keeper," he confessed.
4. "I did some terrible things. I hated Jesus and told everyone that He was a fake Savior. I hunted down His followers. I had them hurt and put in jail. I thought these things pleased God. But I was wrong. So terribly wrong!" Paul exclaimed. "And I deserved God's punishment for my sins."
5. "But God saved me through His Son, Jesus. He forgave me," Paul shared. "That's why now I love to boast in God. That's why I want to do anything for Him. I want to make much of Him because of what He's done for sinners like me!"
6. So, for the rest of his life, Paul boasted in the LORD --in everything he did, everything he said, and to EVERYONE he met. There was never a time when Paul could not think of a way to make much of God!
7. Sometimes, Paul traveled to big cities and talked to smart people who thought believing in Jesus was silly. Paul boasted in God to them: "You may think believing in Jesus is silly, but God's silliness is smarter than your smartness! Turn from your sins. Trust in Jesus as your Savior!" he urged them.
8. Sometimes, Paul talked to people who hurt him and threw him in jail. Paul boasted in God to them: "My suffering is nothing compared to what Jesus did on the cross to save me. Turn from your sins. Trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can save you, too!" he urged them.
9. Sometimes, Paul preached God's Word to little churches. Paul boasted in God to them: "How amazing is God's love! He loved His people while they were still sinners. He always planned to send Jesus to be the Savior," Paul said. He loved to tell how deep and wide is God's love for His people.
10. Sometimes, Paul was weak and sick. His eyes hurt and he could hardly write. But still, Paul boasted in God. "God always makes me strong to do whatever He wants me to do. When I am weak, He can show everyone how strong He is!" Paul exclaimed.
11. Paul faced death many times. Once, at the teeth of wild animals. Another time, out on a sinking boat on stormy seas. Paul boasted in God in these times, too. "There is nothing God cannot do. He is always able to rescue His people," Paul said. And sure enough, God DID save him!
12. "And when I DO die," Paul told people, "God will take me to live with Him forever in heaven. Through Jesus, God has already beat sin and death for me! Going to live with Him will be best of all!" Paul exclaimed. In life, in death, Paul boasted in the LORD. He loved to make much of Him!