
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the Foolish Forgetters *Galatians*

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

1. "Come hear the good news of Jesus!" Paul and Silas urged the Jews of Galatia. The Jews grew up knowing about God and the Bible. They tried to please God by obeying His laws, but they couldn't. They had sin in their hearts, just like we do. That's why they needed Paul's good news.
2. "Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah. He obeyed God's laws perfectly, then on the cross, He gave His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people. On Day Three, He rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for them," Paul said.
3. "Turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. Stop trying to deserve to be God's people with your own law-keeping. No one is good enough to do that," Paul told the Jews. Many heard and believed. How happy they were for this free gift of salvation through Jesus!
4. But Paul's good news wasn't just for the Jews in Galatia. It was for the Gentiles, too. Gentiles were people who didn't know God's Word or His laws. They worshipped fake gods who could never save them. That's why they needed Paul's good news.
5. "Your gods are fake gods," Paul told them. "The LORD is the one, true God, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins and give you eternal life. Come, know the living God! Turn away from your fake gods and your sins! Put your trust in Jesus and be saved!" Paul exclaimed.
6. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many Gentiles, and they believed. He filled their hearts with joy and gave them power to live a new life for God, just He had in the Jewish believers. How happy the Gentiles were for this free gift of salvation through Jesus!
7. These believers gathered as little churches all over Galatia. Once, they had been Jews and Gentiles. Now, they were brothers and sisters together in God's family. They gathered together to hear God's Word and encourage one another to live like Jesus. How Paul happy was!
8. Paul and Silas left Galatia to tell other people, in other places, the good news of Jesus. But he never forgot the little churches of believers in Galatia. He prayed for them and longed to hear how they were doing. One day, the news Paul was waiting for came, but it was BAD NEWS!
9. Bad teachers had come, saying, "Paul has it wrong. Christians must trust in Jesus AND keep the Jews' old laws, if they are to be God's people." The believers were so confused. Some believed these bad teachers and left the good news of Jesus behind! Oh, no!
10. Paul was worried. Would all the believers forget the good news of Jesus? Something must be done, and Paul wasted no time doing it. He wrote a letter to be taken to the churches, reminding the believers of the go*++od news that saved them.
11. The Galatian Christians gathered to hear what Paul wrote: "You foolish Galatians! Go back to the real gospel! Keeping the old laws can't save you. Only faith in Jesus can make you right with God. And only the Holy Spirit living in your hearts can help you know God and live for Him," Paul told them.
12. Did the little churches forget the gospel, or did God sustain them? A few years later, Paul went back to Galatia and found out. It was GOOD NEWS! The believers were holding onto Jesus. The Holy Spirit was sustaining them. God had been faithful to His people and always will be!