



# Detective Dan's Big Question Box



**Big Question #14, Bible Truth 1**  
**The Case of the Middle of the Mess**



"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 Does God Want Us to Pray?’ Come on, everybody. Let’s unlock it and see what’s inside.”



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



DEEP  
DOWN  
DETECTIVES

Q: HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?  
A: EVERY NIGHT AND DAY...

HE WANTS US TO ???? HIM.

PSALM  
40:16

Hint: "Telling someone how  
wonderful they are. Starts with  
a "P" and rhymes with "raise."

The Deep Down Detectives found the clue, and read: "How Does God Want Us to Pray? Every Night and Day... He Wants Us to ???? Him. Psalm 40:16." Hint: "Telling someone how wonderful they are. Starts with a "P" and rhymes with "raise."

**Psalm 40:16**

**“Rejoice  
and  
be glad,**

**say,  
“Great is  
the LORD!”**



May All Who Seek You  
Psalm 40:16

The kids knew what to do next! They opened their Bible to Psalm 40:16, and read: “Rejoice and be glad, say, “Great is the LORD!”





Just then, Detective Dan walked in. "Kids! Have you figured out this first truth about how God wants us to pray?" he asked. "We think so! When we rejoice and say, "How great is the Lord" we are praising Him. God gives us reasons to praise Him every day."



Q: HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

A: EVERY NIGHT AND DAY...

HE WANTS US TO PRAISE HIM.

PSALM  
40:16

"Our Big Question is: How Does God Want Us to Pray? And the answer is: Every Night and Day... He Wants Us to PRAISE Him." "Great job, kids! You did it!"



God's people praise God when they pray. They think about what He's like and tell Him how wonderful He is. They praise Him for being holy, all-powerful, and all-loving. For knowing everything and using all their sadnesses for good. Most of all, they praise Him for being their Savior. In heaven, God's people will praise God forever. They will never run out of praise for Him. We can be God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God wants us to praise Him, too!





Bible Chant  
Song

## ***"The Case of the Middle of the Mess"***

2 Chronicles 19-20



"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 Middle of the Mess.' Listen for what the LORD did when the teachers of God's Word praised Him in front of their enemies."



# "The Case of the Middle of the Mess" 2 Chronicles 19-20 1-2

more depth  
for  
older kids



## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was stuck in the middle between strong enemies? What (trouble) mess were they in?
2. Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it?

## Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

more depth  
for  
older kids



### Psalms 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, 'Great is the LORD!'"

1. Who praised the LORD for being so great?
2. What did He do that was so great?

(more listening and discussion  
questions are included in the  
curriculum at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org))

Something to Grow Into



1. This story is about king with a funny-sounding name: Jehoshaphat. This king's name may sound funny, but his country of Israel was in the middle of a mess that wasn't funny at all. Lots of powerful enemies surrounded Israel on every side, and they all wanted it for their own.



2. Who were these enemies? There were Philistines next to the sea in the west. And, the Syrians up in the mountains to the north. And, in the mountains to the east, there were **THREE MORE** powerful enemies: the Ammonites, Moabites, and the Meunites. Now that's a lot of enemies!



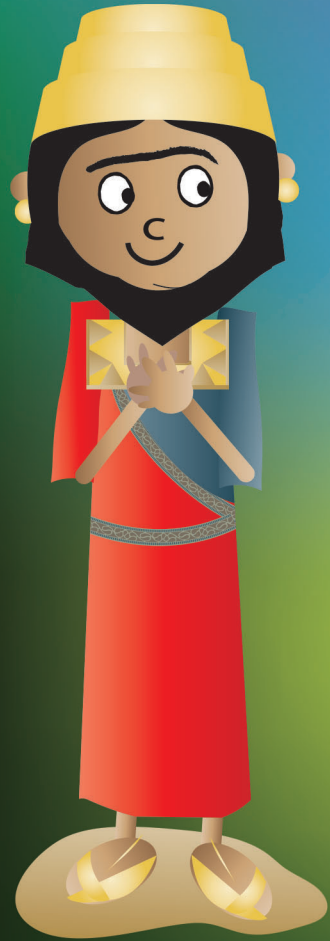


3. It would be terrible if these enemies took Israel! This was where people came to worship the LORD, learn His Word, and live by His good laws. It was where the Temple was - the LORD's special worship place. These enemies would make everyone worship their fake gods, instead.





4. One day, King Jehoshaphat received some awful news: "The powerful enemies in the east are coming to take our land. They're so sure they will win that they're coming with their bags packed to move in right away," the messengers told the king.



# THE LORD

5. This was bad, bad news! King Jehoshaphat was afraid, but he knew what to do. THEY weren't strong enough to fight off these strong enemies, but the LORD, their God, was. HE was strong enough to fight off even the strongest enemies! Jehoshapha would cry out to the LORD for help.



**"Help us! Rescue us!"**

6. King Jehoshaphat gathered the people together at the Temple to pray. "LORD, You are God in heaven. You rule over everyone," he exclaimed. "You gave us this land, and our enemies are coming to take it. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You. Please help us!" he pleaded.





7. The LORD heard their prayers and answered them through Jahaziel, a teacher of God's Word. "The LORD says to you: "Don't be afraid. The battle is Mine, not yours. I will fight it for you. Face your enemies tomorrow. Have faith in Me and watch Me save you," the LORD promised.





8. How happy were King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel! They bowed down before the LORD. As they worshiped Him with their faces to the ground, the teachers of God's Word stood up, raised their hands, and praised the LORD with a very LOUD VOICE.



9. The people of Israel went out early the next morning to face their enemies. There were so many, fierce and ready to fight. And nearby were wagons of their packed things. They were sure they would win and make Israel their new home that very day! How scary!





10. "Don't worry. Trust the LORD," King Jehoshaphat told the people. "Teachers of God's Word, walk in front of our soldiers. Sing and praise the LORD," he ordered. The teachers obeyed, and facing all those fierce enemies, sang, "Give thanks to the LORD for He is faithful. His love never ends."





II. And as they sang, the LORD kept His promise. He caused the enemies to turn and fight each other until they were all gone. The LORD had fought the battle and WON! King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the LORD. Their enemies were gone. They and their land were safe.



12. Then, King Jehoshaphat, the people, and the teachers of God's Word went back to the Temple to praise the LORD. With harps, trumpets, and lyres they sang their joyful praises. He was the great, one true God. He had rescued them from their enemies!



## "The Case of the Middle of the Mess"

Q: "What did the LORD do when the teachers of God's Word praised Him in front of their enemies?"

plenty for  
younger  
kids



# THE LORD

GOD WANTS US TO PRAY...

He Wants Us to Praise Him.

A: "He fought for them and beat their enemies for them."



# "The Case of the Middle of the Mess" 2 Chronicles 19-20 1-2

## SOLVED

more depth  
for  
older kids



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

1. Who was stuck in the middle between strong enemies? What (trouble) mess were they in?  
King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel. Their strong enemies were planning to take their land and live in it, themselves.
2. Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it?  
The LORD got them out of the mess. He fought for them. He got rid of their enemies and rescued them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

more depth  
for  
older kids



### Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Psalm 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, 'Great is the LORD!'"

1. Who praised the LORD for being so great?  
King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel.

2. What did He do that was so great?  
He fought against their enemies, Himself, and got rid of them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

## Something to Grow Into

How Does God Want Us to Pray?  
Every Night and Day...  
He Wants Us to Praise Him!

# The Gospel

God's people praise God for being many wonderful things. But perhaps they love to praise Him most of all for being their Savior.

God's people know that they, like all people, are sinners who have chosen to disobey God. They know that they deserve God's punishment. Yet God in His mercy chose to send His Son, Jesus, to save them.

Jesus lived a perfect life, then He offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory over sin and death for them. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be forgiven and become God's people.

If we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us and make us His people, too. Then, we will be able to join all of God's people in praising God as our great Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to do this!

more depth  
for  
older kids



Gospel Songs



Something to Grow Into



"God delights in our prayers. Let's pray to Him now."

## A Prayer

We praise You, God, for being the one, true God.

Thank You for making the way for us to be Your people.

Work in our hearts. Help us to remember how great You are. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



ACTS Prayer Song

plenty for  
younger  
kids





# Something to Grow Into

## A Prayer

more depth  
for  
older kids

**A** We praise You, God. You are the one, true God, yet You invite us to talk to You. How amazing!

**C** God, You alone are God, and how very good You are! Yet, we so often do not praise You as You deserve. We forget who You are and what You have done. Too often, we think more about ourselves than You. We need a Savior.

**T** Thank You, God, for always deserving our praise! You never change. You treat us so much better than we could ever deserve. You are so patient with us. You give us so many reasons to praise You every day.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to praise You throughout the day. Fill our hearts with love for You. Help us live our lives for You so that others can see how good You are and will want to praise You, too.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



ACTS Prayer Song



A= Adoration (God, we praise You!) C=Confession (God, forgive us!) T= Thanksgiving (Thank You, God!) S=Supplication (Make us like Jesus!)



“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 Q & A #14

### Simple Song

How does God want us to pray?

Ev'ry night and day!

How does God want us to pray?

Ev'ry night and day!

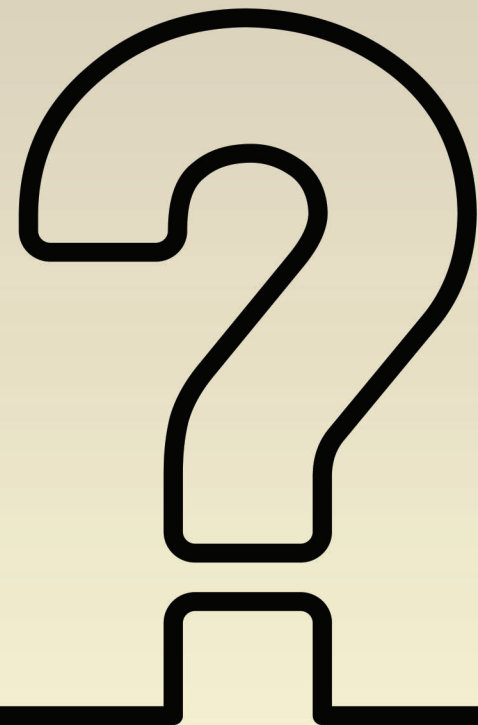
Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,

Ev'ry night, ev'ry day,

Ev'ry night and day!

How does God want us to pray?

Ev'ry night and day!



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



Big Question #14 Tell Me More Song  
How Does God Want Us to Pray?

How does God want us to pray?  
Every night and day the ACTS way!  
How does God want us to pray?  
Every night and day the ACTS way!  
The ACTS way, what's it all about?  
The ACTS way, I just can't figure out!

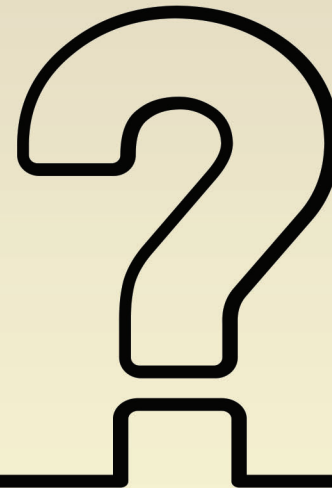
Refrain

A-C-T-S, say it with a shout,  
ACTS! I could tell you more,  
But I'd rather act it out.

A, A, A, stands for Adoration,  
We praise You, God of all creation,  
C, C, C, stands for Confession,  
We're sorry, God, to You our sins confessin,'  
Refrain

T, T, T, stands for Thanksgiving,  
Thank You, God, for the good things  
You have given,  
S, S, S, Stands for Supplication,  
Help us, Lord, the God of our salvation.

A-C-T-S, Say it with a shout, ACTS!  
Now I've told you,  
Now let's go and act it out.



Here are two songs that help us dig even deeper into our Big Question.

Big Question #14, Bible Truth | Bible Verse Song:

May All Who Seek You Rejoice: Psalm 40:16

Refrain:

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,  
May those who love your salvation say,  
May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,  
May those who love your salvation say:  
"Great is the LORD, great is the LORD!  
Great is the LORD, great is the LORD!  
Great is the LORD, great is the LORD!  
Great is the LORD, great is the LORD!"

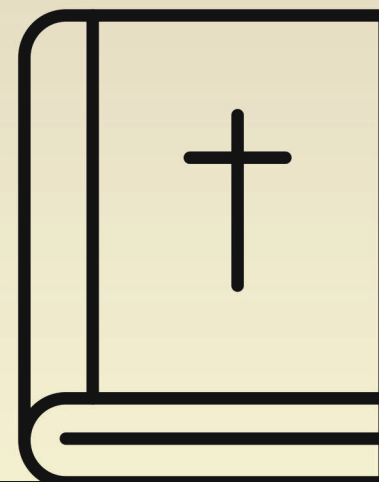
Verse 1

He drew me out from the pit of destruction,  
Out of the miry bog,  
And set my feet upon a rock,  
Making my steps secure. Refrain

Verse 2

He put a new song in my mouth,  
A song of praise to our God,  
Many will see, see and fear,  
And put their trust in the LORD. Refrain

Psalm Forty, verse two, three and sixteen



"Let's hide God's Word in our hearts! Let's sing our Bible verse!"

## Big Question #14 Hymn

### What A Friend We Have in Jesus

#### Verse 1

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our  
sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry,  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

#### Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!



## Big Question #14 Praise Song

### Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#### Verse 1

Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

#### Verse 2

Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

#### Verse 3

Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

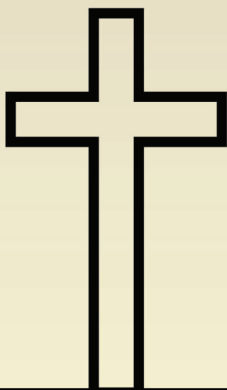
“Let’s praise the Lord for wanting to hear our prayers!”



## 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.

