
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 15, Bible Truth 1

The Case of the Third Day Yay *Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2*

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

1. Look at all of God's people. Where are they going? Not to the market for food or to the fields for work. Not to any of the places they usually go on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
2. This was SATURDAY, the Sabbath, the last day of the week. God told His people to keep it as a day of rest and worship. And that's why this day, God's people weren't going to the market or the fields. They were going to gather together to worship God.
3. For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Sabbath-Saturday was the day God's people were to rest from their work, and gather together to worship God. But then, something really big and wonderful happened that changed everything: Jesus came.
4. Yes, Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of God's people. He lived a perfect life. He never, ever disobeyed God. He kept God's laws perfectly --every single one! Then, Jesus gave His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross.
5. Jesus died and buried that day. In that grave, Jesus' dead body lay all that Friday and all that Sabbath-Saturday. But early the next day--Sunday--God raised Jesus from the dead. Out of that grave came, Jesus came. He was alive, never to die again.
6. Jesus appeared to many people that day. First, to the women at the empty tomb that morning. And later, to His disciples in Jerusalem that evening. They were all so happy! Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, they could know and love God and enjoy Him forever!
7. What an amazing day was this rise-from-the-dead, Resurrection Sunday! Jesus' followers never wanted to forget it. They started calling Sundays "The Lord's Day." And they started gathering together on IT their special day to worship God, instead of Sabbath-Saturdays.
8. From then on, Jesus' followers gathered every Lord's Day to worship God and love one another. They learned from God's Word, prayed together, and cared for each other's needs. And oh, how loud were their praises because Jesus rose from the dead. Sunday was a big celebration day!
9. But as happy as those first Christians were to celebrate in their little gatherings every Sunday, that wasn't enough. They wanted MORE people to know and love God, and sing His praises. They wanted the WHOLE WORLD to be filled with God's people, and they knew just what to do.
10. "Go into the whole world with the gospel. Teach them how to be My disciples," Jesus had told them. And now, that's just what they would do!
11. Starting in Jerusalem, then further and further into the world they went, sharing the good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many, and they trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Little churches of believers sprang up all over with Sundays as their celebration day, too.
12. Since then, God's people keep spreading the good news of Jesus and gathering together on Sundays. It's why WE gather together on Sundays, too. We want to celebrate how Jesus beat sin and death for God's people on that wonderful rise-from-the-dead, Resurrection Sunday, long ago!