



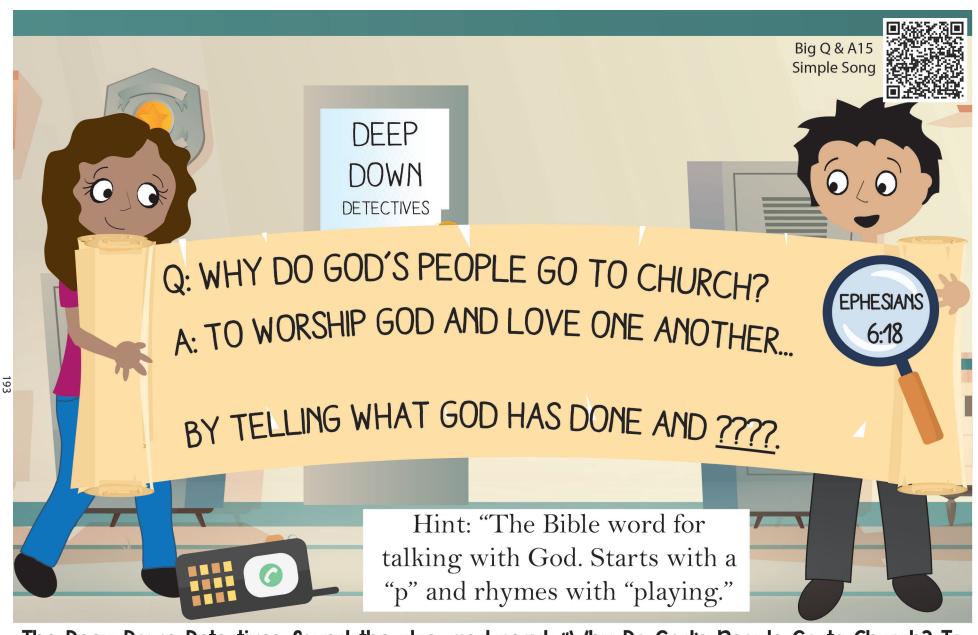
"Hi! Welcome to Deep Down Detectives! We're so glad you've joined us. Detective Dan is going to help us dig deep down into God's Word, the Bible. Come on. Let's go!"



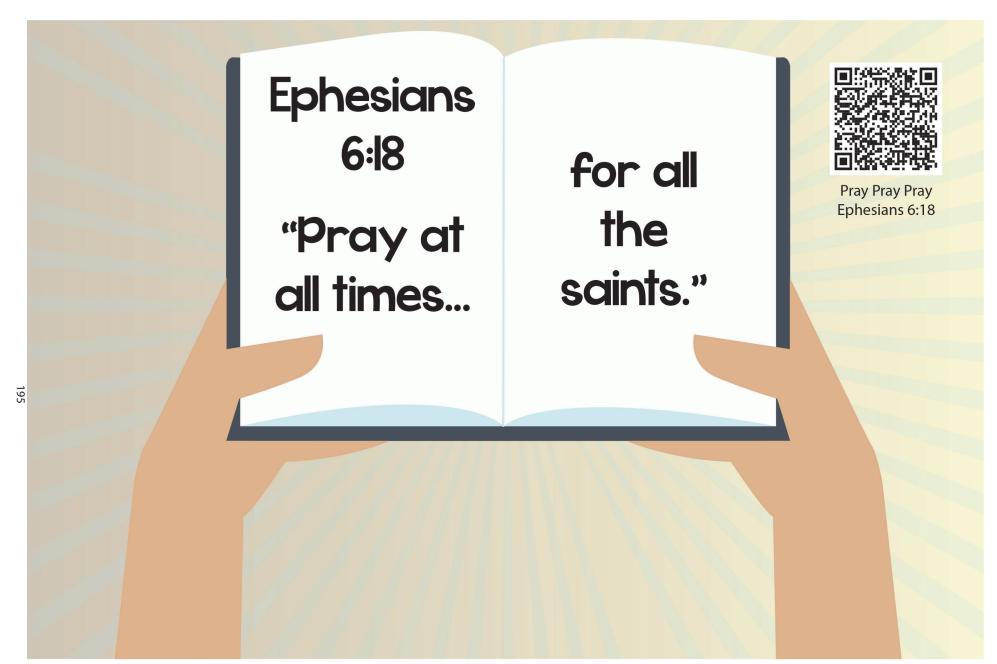
"Wow, look at this! It's Detective Dan's briefcase with a new case for us. It says, 'Why Do God's People Go to Church?' Come on, everybody. Let's unlock it and see what's inside."



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



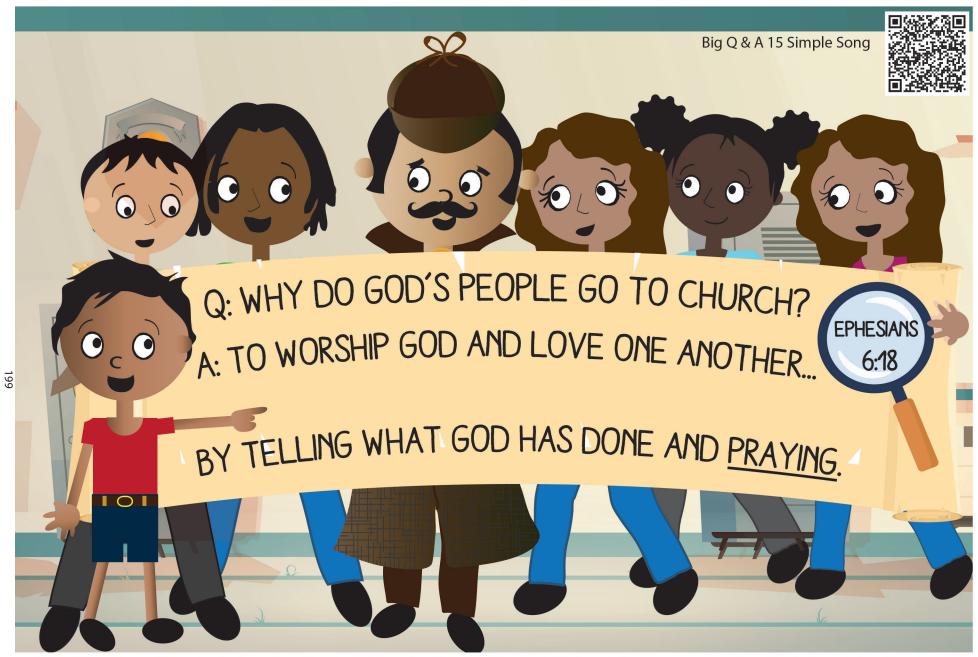
The Deep Down Detectives found the clue, and read: "Why Do God's People Go to Church? To Worship God and Love One Another... By Telling What God Has Done and ?????. Ephesians 6:18." Hint: "The Bible word for talking with God. Starts with a "p" and rhymes with "playing."



The kids knew what to do next. They opened their Bible to Ephesians 6:18, and read: "Pray at all times... for all the saints."



Just then, Detective Dan walked in. "Kids! Have you figured out this fourth truth about why God's people go to church?" he asked. "We think so! When God's people gather together, they pray for one another."



"Our Big Question is: Why Do God's People Go to Church? And the answer is: To Worship God and Love One Another... By Telling What God Has Done and <u>PRAYING.</u>" "Great job, kids! You did it!"



"God delights when His people gather together to encourage one another and pray. They encourage one another by sharing what God has done in their lives. They praise God and ask Him to do great things when they pray together. Jesus said when two or more of God's people gather together to pray that He will there with them in a special way. We can become God's people, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior."



"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 Amazing Answer.' Listen for the

amazing way God answered His people's prayers to free Peter from jail."

"The Case of the Amazing Answer" Acts 12:1-18



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

- I. Who was in trouble? Who prayed for him?
- 2. What was God's amazing answer?

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Ephesians 6:18, HCSB

- "Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints."
- I. What kinds of things did God's people ask God to do?
- 2. How did God answer these prayers?

(more listening and discussion questions are included in the curriculum at praisefactory.org)

Something to Grow Into



I. Life was exciting for Christians in the big city of Jerusalem. They shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen. THOUSANDS of people not only listened but believed! These new believers joined the other Christians as they gathered together as a church. This was so happy!



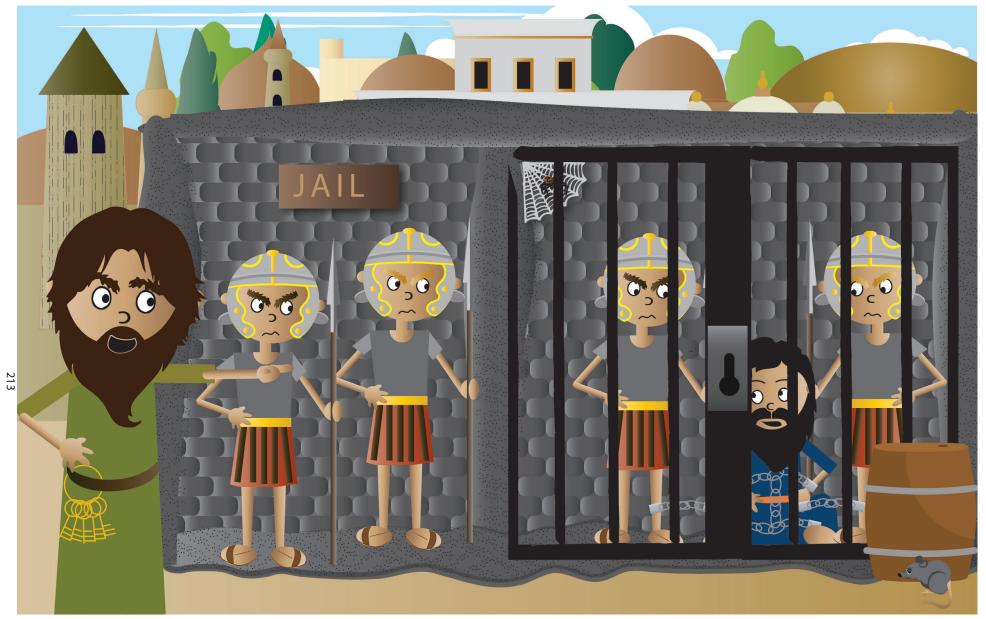
2. But life wasn't just EXCITING for these Christians. It was dangerous, too. For while the Christians were happy about these new believers, the Jewish leaders were very angry about them. "Jesus is a fake. We must stop these Christians," they said. So, they hurt the Christians and put them in jail.



3. But the Christians kept doing the very things their enemies didn't like. They kept sharing about Jesus. They kept gathering together. They prayed and listened to God's Word. They helped each other love God and they cared for each other's needs. THIS made their enemies angrier.



4. "How can we stop these Christians?" they exclaimed. Soon, they found out. Agrippa, the Roman king over Jerusalem, wanted to make the Jewish leaders happy. Getting rid of these Christians would be just the thing. So, he sent in soldiers, first to kill James; then, to put Peter in jail.



5. "Guard Peter carefully! Chain him to two soldiers," the soldiers were told. "Put two extra soldiers outside the door of his jail room, just to be sure," Agrippa ordered. "In a few days, I'll decide what should happen to Peter. Perhaps I will kill him like I did James," he said.



6. What could the Christians do? Their enemies were getting so strong. There was really only one thing to do: PRAY! "Please, God, make Peter bold and brave. Please, God, free him from jail. Please, God, help us to keep on telling people about Jesus," they prayed.



7. Day after day, Peter stayed in jail. Day after day, the believers gathered to pray. But still, nothing happened. Would God not answer their prayers? Yes, He would, but in His perfect way and time.



8. Time was running out. Agrippa would decide whether to kill Peter the next day. The church gathered to pray once more. And at last, God would their prayers... in a great, big, amazing way! Let's see what He did.



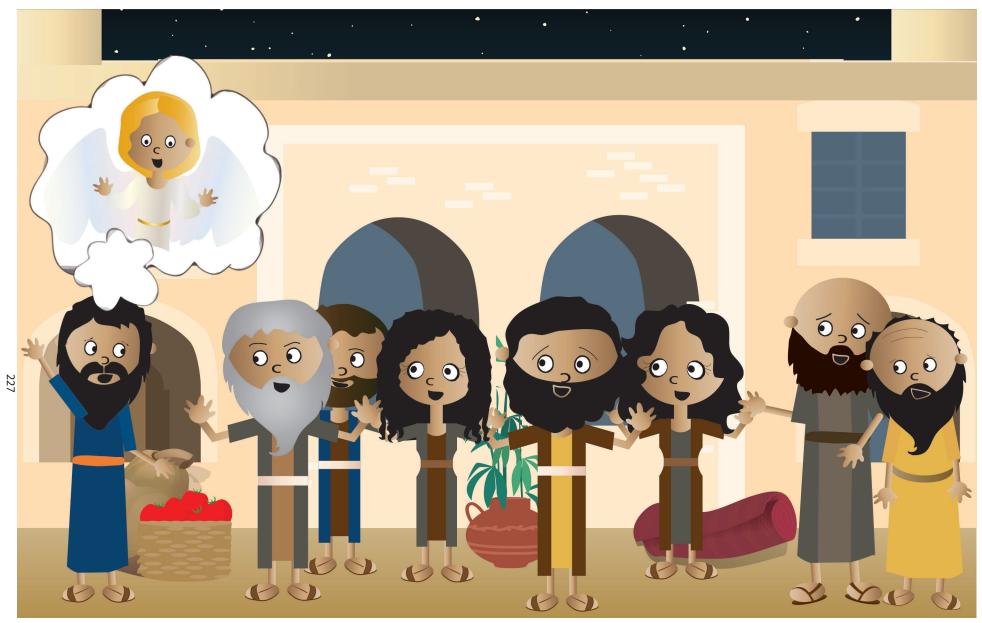
9. That night, an angel appeared in Peter's jail cell. He woke Peter saying, "Get up quickly!" "Clank!" off the chains fell off Peter's hands, by God's power. "Get dressed and put on your sandals," the angel urged Peter. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."



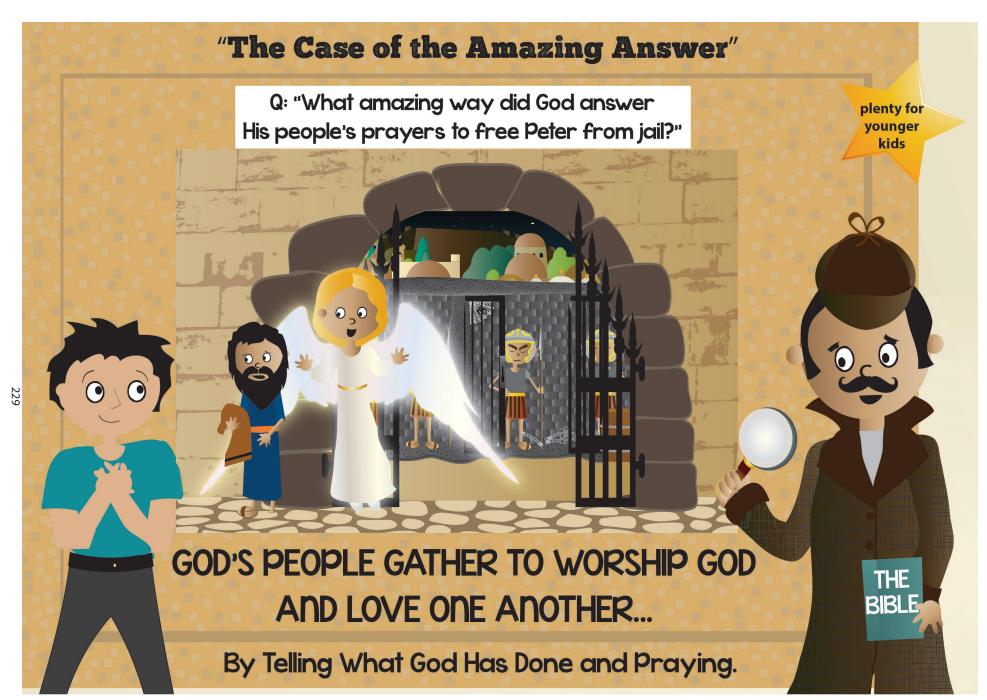
10. Through the prison door, past the guards, and into the dark streets of Jerusalem went the angel and Peter. Then, the angel left Peter as suddenly as he came. Peter stood alone, amazed. The LORD had rescued him! He was free! Peter knew what to do next: go tell the others.



II. Peter knocked on the door where the believers were praying. "It's me! Let me in!" he whispered to Rhoda through the door. Rhoda was so excited that she forgot to open the door. "It's Peter! I know his voice! God has rescued him," Rhoda told the others. But no one believed her.



12. But when Peter kept knocking, they opened the door. It really WAS Peter! Then, Peter shared with the little church the amazing way God had answered their prayers. No enemy could stop God! His plans would always win! And they praised God for the amazing things He had done.



A: "An angel came and led Peter out of the jail."

"The Case of the Amazing Answer" Acts 12:1-18



SOLVED

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1

I. Who was in trouble? Who prayed for him? Peter was in trouble. The little church of believers prayed for him to be rescued.

2. What was God's amazing answer? God sent an angel to free Peter from jail and bring him safely back to them.

For You and Me:

God is the same God today as He was back in Bible times. He wants His people to keep on asking Him to do amazing things. One of the first amazing things we can ask Him to do is help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. God loves to answer this prayer and many other ones just as amazing!

Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2



Ephesians 6:18, HCSB

"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints."

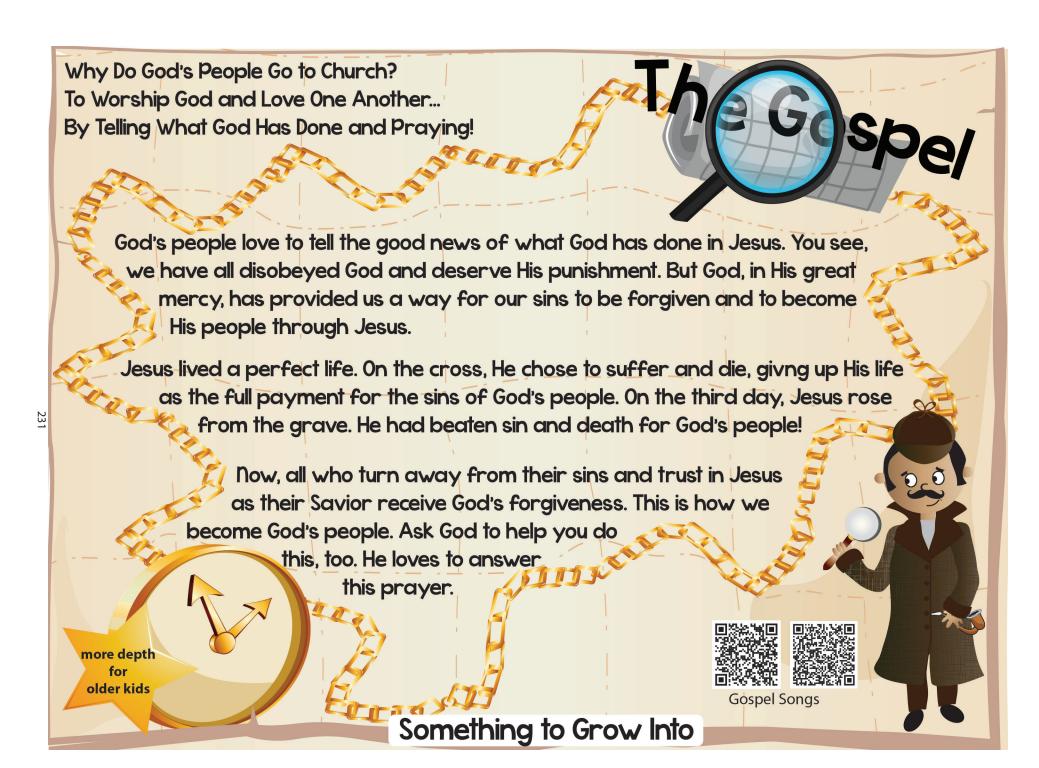
I. What kinds of things did God's people ask God to do? To rescue Peter from being killed.

2. How did God answer these prayers? God sent an angel to free him from jail and bring him safely back to them.

For You and Me:

God is the same God today as He was back in Bible times. He wants His people to keep on asking Him to do amazing things. One of the first amazing things we can ask Him to do is help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. God loves to answer this prayer and many other ones just as amazing!

Something to Grow Into



"God's people gather to worship God. Let's pray to Him now."

A Prayer

We praise You, God, doing so many amazing things that we can tell others about.

Thank You for answering Your people's prayers in the best way.

Work in our hearts. Help us to tell others about You and pray. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in You as our Savior that we might be your people.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



ACTS Prayer Song



Something to Grow Into A Prayer

more depth for older kids

- We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your faithfulness to Your people throughout all time.
- C God, sometimes we don't want to hear about all the wonderful things You've done. Sometimes, we don't want to pray for You to do more. We just want to think about ourselves and do what we want to do. We need a Savior!
- T God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible, that tells us about the great things You did for Your people who lived long ago. Thank You for all You do for Your people today, all around the world. Thank You for letting us hear of Your mighty works, and for using them to help us to keep trusting in You and living for You. Thank You for hearing our prayers to do even more.
- S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior that we might become Your people. Help us to praise You more because of what You have done. Help us to encourage others who gather together with us.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



ACTS Prayer Song



"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 #15 Simple Song

Why do God's people go to church?
Go to church? Go to church?
Why do God's people go to church?
To worship God and to love one another!





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

Big Question #15 Tell Me More Song Why Do God's People Go to Church?

Refrain

Why do God's people go to church?
To worship God and love one another.
Why do God's people go to church?
To worship God and love one another.

Verse I
God's people gather to worship God.
To sing His praises and pray.
They listen to preaching,
From God's Word, the Bible,
To better love Him each day.
Refrain

Verse 2

God's people gather to love one another, In acts of kindness and grace. They love one another, Like sisters and brothers, Helping all to live God's way.

Refrain



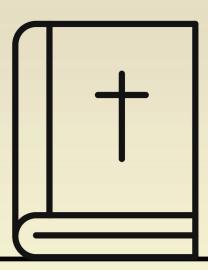


Big Question #15, Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse Song: Pray, Pray, Pray: Ephesians 6:18

Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!
Pray in the Spirit, at all times,
With ev'ry prayer and request,
Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!

And stay alert in this,
Stay alert with all perseverance,
And intercession for all the saints,
For all the saints,
Pray, pray, pray in the Spirit!
Ephesians Six, eighteen.





Big Question #15 Hymn
Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Verse I
Brethren, we have met to worship,
And adore the Lord, our God.
Will you pray with all your power,
While we try to preach the Word?

Big Question #15 Praise Song Praise the Lord Together

Praise the Lord together saying:
"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"
Praise the Lord together saying:
"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" repeat



"Let's praise the Lord for loving people like us more than we could ever deserve!"

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.

