
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 15, Bible Truth 5

The Case of the Up and Down Sign *Matthew 28; Acts 1-2, 8:35-36, 10:47, 16:14-15, 31-34*

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

1. "WAIT in Jerusalem until you receive the Holy Spirit," Jesus told His disciples. "Then, GO tell the world about Me. Teach them what I've taught you. Baptize these new believers. This shows everyone these are God's people and My disciples," Jesus said. Then, He went up to heaven to rule.

2. The disciples went to Jerusalem and waited ten days, when suddenly "Whoosh," there was a sound like a great wind in the room. Then, "Sparkle, sparkle," something that looked like flames of fire appeared over their heads. Then, Holy Spirit came powerfully into the hearts of the believers.

3. Now, it was time to GO and tell about Jesus. Peter shared the good news with a crowd in Jerusalem. "Turn from your sins. Trust in Jesus as your Savior!" he urged. "Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and your new life in Him." Over 3000 people repented and believed that day.

4. What a happy, new beginning this was for these people. Their old life of sin was gone, and new life in Jesus begun. It was time to be baptized. One by one, Peter led each new believer into the water, saying "I baptize you in the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

5. Then, Peter carefully lowered each believer down into the water, and back up again. Down into the water was a picture of their old life gone and their sins forgiven through Jesus. Up out of the water, was a picture of their new life with God begun and would go on forever.

6. Baptism was a big step for these believers. It didn't save them from their sins or make them God's people. But baptism showed everyone: "This person is a follower of Jesus. Watch them! They will show you what Jesus is like and how God wants us to live, loving Him and loving one another."

7. Baptism was a sign of another very happy gift from God, too: the gift of a new family. God had made these new believers a part of His family, the Church. Now, they were God's children, and all the other believers were their new, adopted brothers and sisters through Jesus.

8. Jerusalem was just the beginning of Jesus' "Go." There was the rest of the world to tell. So, Philip went to nearby Samaria. "Turn from your sins! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you've begun a new life for Him," he urged the people.

9. Many turned from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and were baptized. Philip gathered them together into a new, little church of believers. They worshipped God and cared for each other's needs. Oh, how the Church in Samaria was growing and enjoying new life in Jesus!

10. But Samaria wasn't the whole world. So, away went people like Paul, Barnabas, Timothy and Titus to lands farther away. "Turn from your sins! Trust in Jesus as your Savior! Be baptized as a sign that God has forgiven you and you are living a new life for Him," they urged everyone.

11. Many turned from their sins, trusted in Jesus as their Savior, and were baptized. Paul, Barnabas, Timothy and Titus gathered these new believers into little churches. They worshipped God and cared for each other's needs. The Church in these faraway places was enjoying new life in Jesus!

12. Even today, God's people are still obeying Jesus' "Go." They'll keep on sharing the good news of Jesus, and keep on baptizing those who believe, until Jesus comes back. Then, God's people will be gathered together as one, big family, to live with God forever. That will be Perfect Wonderfulness!