

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

Use with all
response activities
for deeper learning**P.1***Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games*

Be familiar with these questions and answers. Look for opportunities to ask questions and discuss their answers, such as while the children work on their coloring pages, as part of their response games, or during play time. Remember: your goal isn't to ask all these questions or only talk to the children about these things. It's to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

BIG QUESTION Meaning	Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It Is God's Sustaining Grace! All people enjoy many good things and suffer many bad or sad things in this world. Enjoying good things or going through bad things make some people turn away from God. They love the good things too much or get mad at God for the bad things that happen. But that's not what happens with God's people. They have put their trust in Jesus. They want to love God most of all, even more than the good things they enjoy. They trust God and His good plans, even as they go through bad or sad things. What makes the difference? It's God and His sustaining grace! That is, His gifts of strength to help us keep on believing in Him and living for Him. God will always give His people what they need! He wants them to depend on Him and He loves for them to ask for His help. He will never fail them. God will help you like this, too, if you turn away from your sins and put your trust in Jesus.
Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	1. Why do God's people keep on believing in Him? <i>It is God's sustaining grace.</i> 2. Who enjoys many good things in this world? <i>Everyone.</i> 3. Who suffers through bad or sad things in this world? <i>Everyone.</i> 4. Who do God's people love more than the good things they enjoy? <i>God.</i> 5. Who do they keep trusting in, even as they go through bad or sad things? <i>God.</i> 6. Who helps God's people keep believing in God? <i>God does.</i> 7. What does God give His people to help them keep on believing in and living for Him? <i>His sustaining grace.</i> 8. What is sustaining grace? <i>Grace is a big, Bible word that means a gift we get that we don't deserve. Sustaining means to keep on going. Sustaining grace is God giving us the amazing gift of strength to keep on believing and living for Him.</i> 9. Who does God want us to depend upon? <i>Himself.</i> 10. What does God love us to ask Him for? <i>His help.</i> 11. How can we become one of God's people? <i>By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
BIBLE TRUTH Meaning	It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Word of God Feeds God's People! When your body is hungry you feed it food. The food makes your body strong to do what you need it to do. But did you know that the spirit God put inside our bodies needs to be fed, too? Not hamburgers or hot dogs, but a spiritual kind of food. What is this spiritual food? It's the Word of God, the Bible. When God's people read God's Word, the Holy Spirit uses it to feed their spirits. He uses it to help them know God better, to guide them in God's will, and to give them strength to do whatever God wants them to do.
Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	And just like our bodies work best if we feed them each day, God's people know that it is best for their spirits if they read and think about God's Word every day. They know that God uses His Word to sustain them, even through the most difficult times. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God will use His Word to help us to keep on loving and living for Him, too. 1. What does our body need to grow strong? <i>Food.</i> 2. What does our spirit need to grow strong? <i>God's Word, the Bible.</i> 3. Who helps God's people grow strong as they read the Bible? <i>The Holy Spirit.</i> 4. How does the Holy Spirit use God's Word to make His people strong? <i>He uses it to help them know God better, to guide them in God's will, and to give them strength to do whatever God wants them to do.</i> 5. Why is it good for God's people to take time to read the Bible each day? <i>Every day, God's people need His help to live for them. They know God uses His Word to help them do this. He helps them be ready for whatever each day brings.</i> 6. How can we become God's people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>

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P.2*Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games*

THE GOSPEL	What is God's good news for you and me? <i>The gospel! Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Word of God Feeds God's People.</i> God's Word worked powerfully in Epaphras and the believers in Colossae when they heard the good news of Jesus. They could see that they were sinners who deserved God's punishment, not His friendship. They knew they needed a Savior. They believed that Jesus died on the cross as the perfect payment for their sins. They rejoiced that He rose from the dead on the third day, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. The Holy Spirit used God's Word to help Epaphras and the people in Colossae to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Then, He used it to help Epaphras and the believers in Colossae love God and live for Him the rest of their lives. God's Word can work in us powerfully, too. God's Holy Spirit can work in our hearts as we listen to God's Word. He can help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can help us to love God and live for Him the rest of our lives. Ask God to use His Word to work in your heart. He loves to answer this prayer.
BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE	"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." --Romans 15:4, ESV
Meaning	Learn a Little: "Through the encouragement of the Scriptures we have hope."
Discussion Questions	God's Word, the Bible, was written long ago. God made sure everything was written down just right. He wanted His people to be able to trust every promise, and have hope that He would always take care of them and always be working for their good and His glory. He wanted them to read His Word and be instructed--that is, learn--how He wants them to love Him and live for Him. God's Word may have been written long, long ago, but it still is just as true as ever. God still uses it to give God's people hope. He uses it to help them keep on loving Him and living for Him. He uses it to help them keep looking forward to the day when they will live with Him forever. Read God's Word! He can use it to help you to trust in Him and live for Him, too! He can give you hope!
<i>choose a few</i>	1. What is the name of God's Word that was written down long ago? <i>The Bible.</i> 2. Why did God give us His Word? Why did He write it down? <i>To instruct us; that is, to teach us.</i> 3. What did God want to teach us through His Word? <i>How to love Him and live for Him. He wanted us to hope in His good promises.</i> 4. What is the biggest and best promise God has given us? <i>The promise that tells us how we can become God's people? He promises to forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
BIBLE STORY	The Case of the Confused Christians
Discussion Questions	1. What happened when Epaphras listened to Paul preach God's Word? <i>The Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his heart. He believed God's Word, turned away from his sins, and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.</i> 2. Where did Epaphras go after he went to Ephesus? <i>Epaphras went back home to Colossae.</i> 3. What did the people in Colossae think when they heard the good news of Jesus? <i>Many believed it. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.</i> 4. What did the new believers in Colossae start? Why? <i>A little church. They did that to worship God and love one another. They wanted to hear God's Word so they could know God and live for Him more.</i> 5. What did Epaphras hope and pray that God's Word would do inside of the believers in Colossae? <i>He hoped that it would change them from their old way of life. He hoped it would help them love God and live for Him.</i> 6. Why did some people in the little church in Colossae want everyone to keep the old rules and the old ways that had nothing to do with God's Word or Jesus? <i>They were still scared the Jesus might not be enough to protect them from bad things they were afraid of.</i> 7. Who did Epaphras go see to help him know how to care for these new believers and stop the bad teachers from the wrong things they were doing? <i>Epaphras travelled to Rome to see Paul.</i> 8. What did Paul write in the letter he sent with Epaphras back to the believers of Colossae? <i>He told them that they did not need to keep the old special rules or wear magic stones to keep safe from the evil things they feared. Jesus had beaten all those bad things when He died on the cross. Paul told them to keep on learning God's Word and let it work in their hearts. They should remind each other of the good things written in God's Word and even sing them in their songs.</i> 9. What happened to the believers in Colossae after they read Paul's letter to them? <i>Some continued to have a hard time with what the bad teachers taught, but many heard Paul's words and were helped. They depended on what God's Word told them about Jesus, not on the old special rules or old, magic stones.</i> 10. What was the good news that Paul preached from God's Word and changed Epaphras ... and can change ask, too? <i>That Jesus is the Savior God sent to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God forgives us our sins and makes it His people forever. God can help us do this, too.</i>
<i>choose a few</i>	