

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.
Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	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. 1. Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? <i>It Is God's Sustaining Grace!</i> 2. Who did people have a wonderful closeness with in the beginning? <i>With God.</i> 3. What did people do that caused the wonderful closeness with God to end? <i>They disobeyed Him.</i> 4. What did all people deserve for disobeying God? <i>God's punishment that keeps them separated from Him and all His goodness forever. How sad!</i> 5. Who did God send to bring His people to Him? <i>Jesus.</i> 6. What did Jesus take for God's people on the cross? <i>The punishment for their sins.</i> 7. What happens to us when we turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior? <i>God forgives our sins. He makes us His people. We have special closeness with God now. Then, when our bodies die, we will go on living happily with God forever.</i>
BIBLE TRUTH Meaning Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	It Is God's Sustaining Grace... God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other! No matter who we are, we all go through times of need. Sometimes, we are learning something new, and we need help learning how to do it. Sometimes, we are going through something that is very sad or very hard, and we need comfort and strength. God loves to help His people all the time, especially in their times of need. He uses His Word, the Bible, to guide and comfort them. His Holy Spirit strengthens them inside their heart. But God also helps His people through their prayers and comfort for each other. God's people comfort each other by reminding one another that God is always with them and how great and good He is. They read the Bible to each other and hold on to His wonderful promises to take care of them. They pray for each other, asking God to give them wisdom, strength, and joy; and, to rescue them from their troubles. They ask God to use their hard and sad times for their good and to bring glory to His name. God loves to sustain His people through their comfort and prayers for one another. It is a wonderful display of His love both to His people and to others who watch how God's people love and care for one another. We, too, can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, He can use us to comfort others in this special way, too. 1. Who goes through sad and hard times? <i>We all do!</i> 2. Who needs comfort and strength in those times? <i>We all do.</i> 3. How does God help His people in these sad and hard times? <i>He uses His Word, the Bible, to guide and comfort them. His Holy Spirit strengthens them inside their hearts.</i> 4. How does God use His people to help each other in sad and hard times? <i>He uses them to comfort and pray for each other.</i> 5. How do God's people use the Bible to strengthen and comfort each other? <i>They read the Bible to each other and remind each other of God's wonderful promises to take care of them.</i> 6. How do God's people pray for each other when they are going through sad and hard times? <i>They ask God to give them strength and joy. They ask God to rescue them from their troubles. They ask God to use the hard and sad times to make them more like Jesus and to show everybody what a great God He is.</i> 7. What do others say about God when God's people comfort each other? <i>They tell what God's love for His people is like. It helps them want to know God, too.</i> 8. 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... God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other! God helped Paul and the believers in Philippi comfort and strengthen each other by the good news of Jesus. They remembered that though they were sinners deserving God's punishment, that God had chosen to save them. He sent His Son, Jesus, to give up His life on the cross as the full payment for the sins of all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. He lives and reigns in heaven, caring and praying for God's people, and carrying out God's good plans. One day, He will come back and put an end to sin and death once and for all; and, God's people will live happy with Him forever. As God's people, Paul and the other believers knew that God would always help them love Him and live for Him... And it was all thanks to what Jesus did! This good news can save us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, as God's people, we can know that God will always help us love Him and live for Him all of our lives... And it will all be thanks to what Jesus did for us.</i>
BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE	"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God... On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many." --2 Corinthians 1:3-4,10-11, ESV
Meaning	Learn a Little "We comfort those in any affliction, with the comfort we are comforted by God." God loves His people so much! He is full of mercy and compassion. He cares about their sadnesses and troubles, and He comforts them. Many times, God uses His people to comfort each other. They listen to each other. They encourage each other and pray. They remind each other of God's promises. They help each other turn away from disobeying God. No wonder God's people praise Him for giving them each other! He uses them to show His love to each other and to keep on believing in Him their whole lives. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	1. Who comforts God's people in all of their afflictions (sad and hard times)? Why? <i>God does. God comforts His people in sad and hard times because he cares for them; but also, because He wants them to use the comfort He gives them to comfort others when they need it.</i> 2. Who does God want His people to comfort? <i>He wants them to comfort other people, especially God's people.</i> 3. Who do God's people hope in when they need help? <i>They hope in God to help them and deliver them.</i> 4. Who do God's people comfort by praying for them? <i>They pray for other people, especially God's people.</i> 5. How can we become God's people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
BIBLE STORY	The Case of the Prayed-for Prisoner
Discussion Questions <i>choose a few</i>	1. Who was in prison for telling people about Jesus? <i>Paul was.</i> 2. Who wanted to do something to help Paul while he was in prison? <i>The believers in Philippi.</i> 3. How did the believers in Philippi help Paul, even though he was so very far away? <i>They prayed for him, they gave money to him, and they sent someone to go to help him.</i> 4. Who did the people the believers in Philippi send to Paul in Rome? <i>A man named Epaphroditus.</i> 5. How was Paul when Epaphroditus visited him? <i>Paul was chained to a soldier. He was an old man and his body was sick and hurting. Life was hard, but Paul was still joyfully living for God and telling everyone the good news of Jesus.</i> 6. How did Epaphroditus comfort Paul? <i>He took care of his needs. He talked and prayed with him. He told Paul about how the believers in Philippi were doing.</i> 7. What did Paul write to the believers in Philippi after Epaphroditus visited him? <i>He thanked God for them and the comfort they gave him through Epaphroditus and their gift of money. He told them he would pray for them. He told them that though life was hard in prison, God was giving him joy. God was helping him to keep on loving God and living for Him, thanks to their prayers and to the Holy Spirit, working in his heart.</i> 8. What good news did Paul and the believers of Philippi believe in? How did that good news help them? How can it help us? <i>God helped Paul and the believers in Philippi comfort and strengthen each other by the good news of Jesus. They remembered how God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for the sins of all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. As God's people, Paul and the other believers knew that God would always help them love Him and live for Him... And it was all thanks to what Jesus did! This good news can save us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, as God's people, we can know that God will always help us love Him and live for Him all of our lives... And it will all be thanks to what Jesus did for us.</i>