

The Case of the God Who Was Different*Acts 17:16-33***Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Practice telling story with expression. Look for words that might be new to your children. Plan to explain the meaning of them to the children. The numbers in the story correspond to elements of the picture. Practice pointing to the pictures as you read the story. Shorten the story, if necessary, for your child/group of children.
3. If desired, choose a listening assignment for the children (listed below). These are best for children ages 4 and older. Listen with a purpose helps the children keep focused and glean more from the story. Answers to the listening assignments are found at the end of the story.

During your presentation:

1. If you are telling the story to a group of children, maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Tell the story with enthusiasm and expression. Take time to show each story scene to the children as you tell it. Use the cue numbers in the story to highlight corresponding parts of the picture as you tell the story.
2. The Clue Catcher question at the bottom of each scene helps the children keep engaged with the story.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
4. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.
5. At end of the story, repeat the listening assignment question and ask for answers. Close in prayer.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS (Optional)

“Our story is called: The Case of the God Who Was Different. Here is your listening assignment...” *Read the assignment for your lesson using Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment sign or the text below:*

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

- 1. Who was the God who was different?**
- 2. What made Him so different?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 100:1-6**

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

I need to find out:

- 1. Who urged people to worship the LORD and serve Him as their king?**
- 2. Who did worship Him? Who did not?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: a camera; a temple; a stone altar; a sword; the world; and, laughing people.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

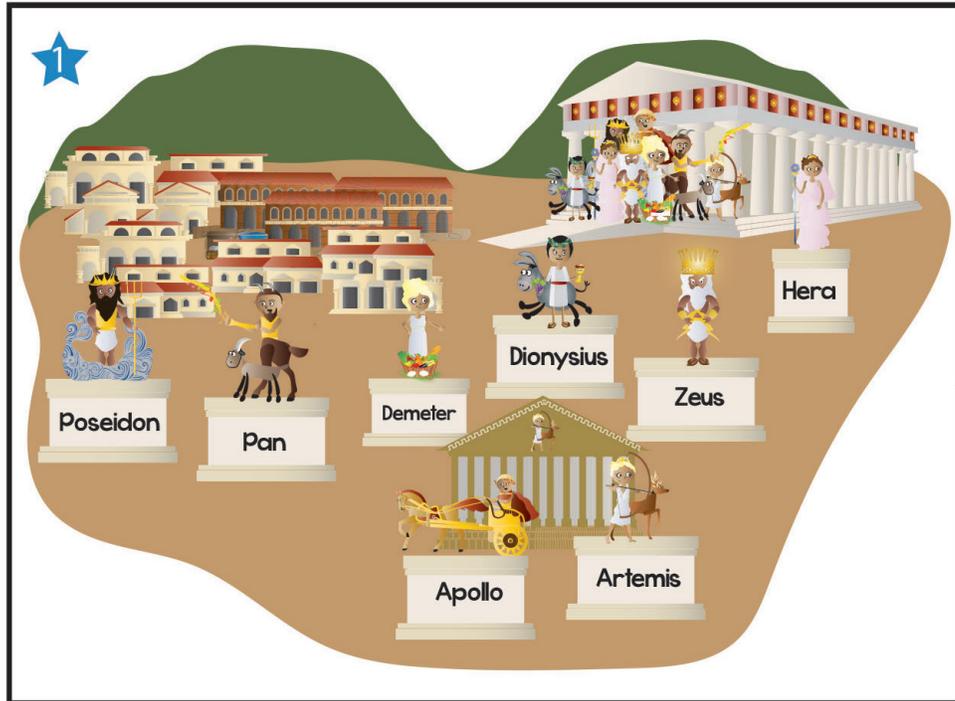
- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. What did the people of Athens need to confess to the LORD? Did any do this?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer. Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

Script for Story Scene 1



★ Gods! Gods! Gods! Athens was a city full of fake gods! On buildings. On hills. Everywhere you looked, there was another god.

Apollo and Artemis. Demeter and Dionysius; Pan and Poseidon. Hera and, of course, Zeus, the king of all the gods.

You might not know these names, but the people of Athens certainly did. And these were just a FEW of the HUNDREDS of gods they worshipped! Wow!



Clue Catchers

How many fake gods do you see in this picture?

Script for Story Scene 2



The people of Athens took good care of their gods.

★ They built them beautiful temples. They laid rich worship gifts at their stony feet.

★ They celebrated them with big, worship parties.

★ They even laid a stone to honor an Unknown God.

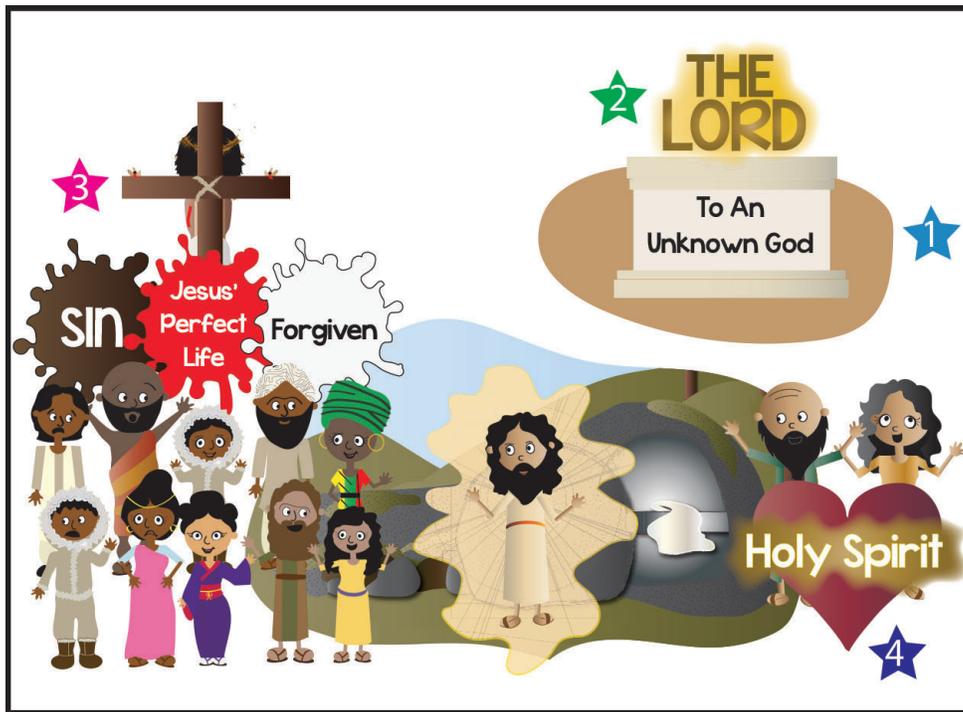
The people of Athens didn't want to leave out any god.



Clue Catchers

Can you find the stone to honor the Unknown God?

Story Scene 3



Yes, the people of Athens worshipped hundreds of gods; but, the only god they **SHOULD** have been worshipping was that ★1 “Unknown God.”

He was the **REAL**, the one, true God! Not many people in Athens knew His name, but I think you do.

Can you tell me His name?

It was ★2 the **LORD!**

He was God the Father who sent ★3 His Son Jesus to be our Savior. He sent ★4 His Holy Spirit to live inside those who trusted in Jesus as their Savior. He made the way for us to become His people forever.

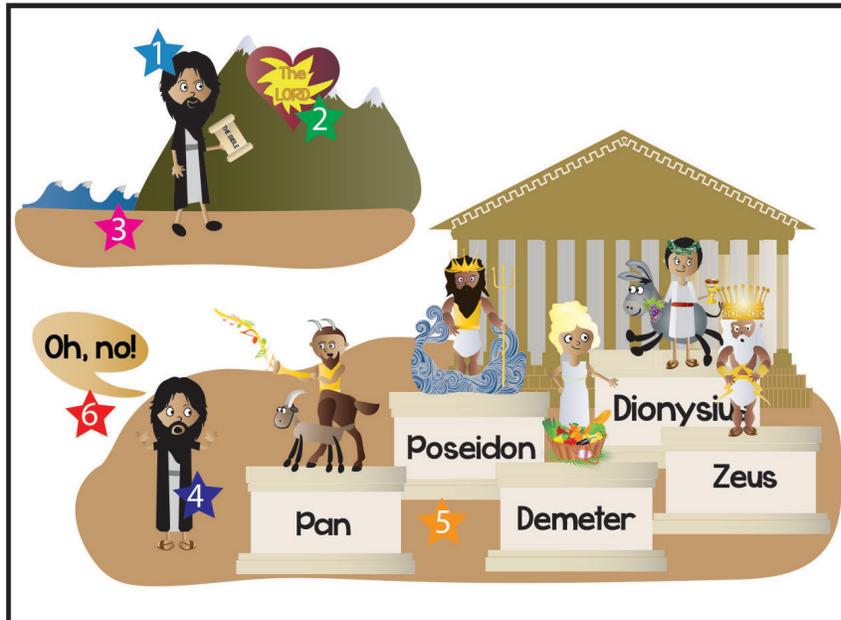
What an amazing God was this one, true God! He was not like of the fake gods of Athens!



Clue Catchers

Can you find Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead?

Story Scene 4



Maybe most of the people in Athens didn't know about the one, true God, but there was **1** a man named Paul who did. Paul knew the LORD and **2** loved the LORD and lived for the LORD. He trusted in Jesus, His Son, as his Savior. He had the Holy Spirit living in his heart.

And if there was ONE thing that Paul wanted to do with his life, it was to tell others how they could know and love and live for the LORD...and trust in Jesus as their Savior, too. **3** So... across the sea, over mountains, and down through valleys went Paul, telling everyone he could about the LORD and how they could know Him through Jesus.

One day, **4** all this traveling led Paul to a city he had never been to before.

Can you guess the name of this new city?

It was Athens!

Now Paul had been to many cities that were SMALLER than Athens. And Paul had been to cities that were BIGGER than Athens. But there was something that Paul saw in Athens that he had NEVER seen before in any of those other cities--big or small. **5** It was this many fake gods!

How do you think Paul felt when he saw all those fake gods?

6 Paul was so upset! Oh, how these people needed to hear about the LORD, the one, true God! How they needed to stop worshipping these fake gods and start worshipping the LORD, instead! How they needed to know His Son, the Savior Jesus! And Paul decided to do something about that, right then and there!



Clue Catchers

Can you find Paul travelling to other lands with the gospel?

Story Scene 5



Into **1** the synagogue-worship place went Paul.

“**2** The gods of Athens are just fakes. The LORD has sent **3** His Son Jesus to save you, just as He promised. Believe in Him!” he told the people gathered there.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Paul preaching from the Bible?

Story Scene 6



Then down by the temples and **1** into the marketplace, went **2** Paul. "Let me tell you about the LORD! Let me tell you about **3** Jesus, His Son, sent to save you! Worship Him, **4** not these fake gods!" Paul urged **5** everyone who would listen.

Word about Paul and his strange, new teaching soon spread through the city and **6** to the city leaders.

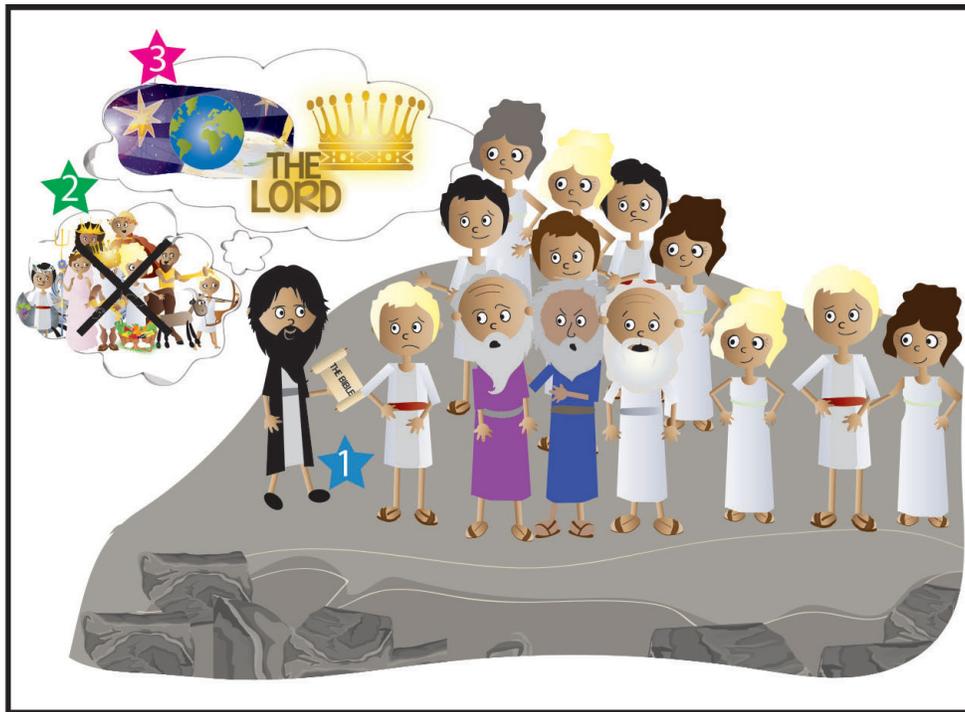
They found Paul and said, "Come up to our important meeting place on Mars Hill and tell us about this new god. We want to hear about him, ourselves."



Clue Catchers

Can you find the leaders listening to Paul?

Story Scene 7



So up, up, up **★** the big, stony hill called Mars Hill went Paul with the city leaders and many others. How excited Paul was to tell them about the real, one, true God and His Son Jesus! He hoped they would put their trust in Him!

On top of Mars Hill, Paul spoke to the crowd. "People of Athens, what a lot of gods you worship! he exclaimed.

"**★** But you are worshipping the wrong one! I've come to tell you about the one, true God--the one you call 'the Unknown God.' His name is **★** the LORD. He's the one you should worship. He's the one who made heaven and earth and everything in it," Paul told them.

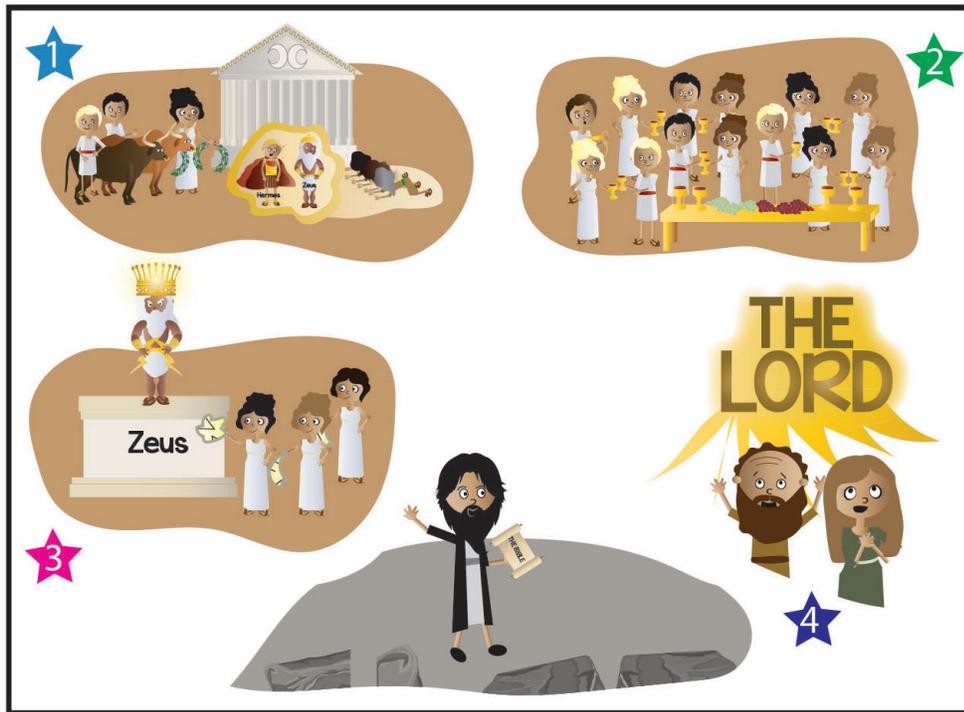
"Your city is filled with the big temples you built to worship your gods, but the LORD is too great to live inside even your biggest temple!" Paul exclaimed.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Paul telling the people not to worship fake gods?

Story Scene 8



“You bring **1** worship gifts to take care of your gods. You **2** honor them with worship parties. **3** You keep them looking bright and shiny. You make sure they don’t fall over.

But the LORD doesn’t need people to take care of Him,” Paul explained. “**4** He’s the living God...He takes care of Himself...and all of us, too! He made us and gave us life.”



Clue Catchers

Can you find the people having a big, worship party for their fake gods?

Story Scene 9



“**1** The LORD is our king and we should obey Him and His good laws; but, the sad news is that we don’t. **2** We have all disobeyed Him and deserve His punishment for our sins,” Paul told them.

“But the LORD is so merciful that He made the way for us to be forgiven.” Paul explained.

Who did God send so we could be forgiven, do you know His name?

“**3** God sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to pay for sins. On the third day, **4** He raised up Jesus from the dead in victory.

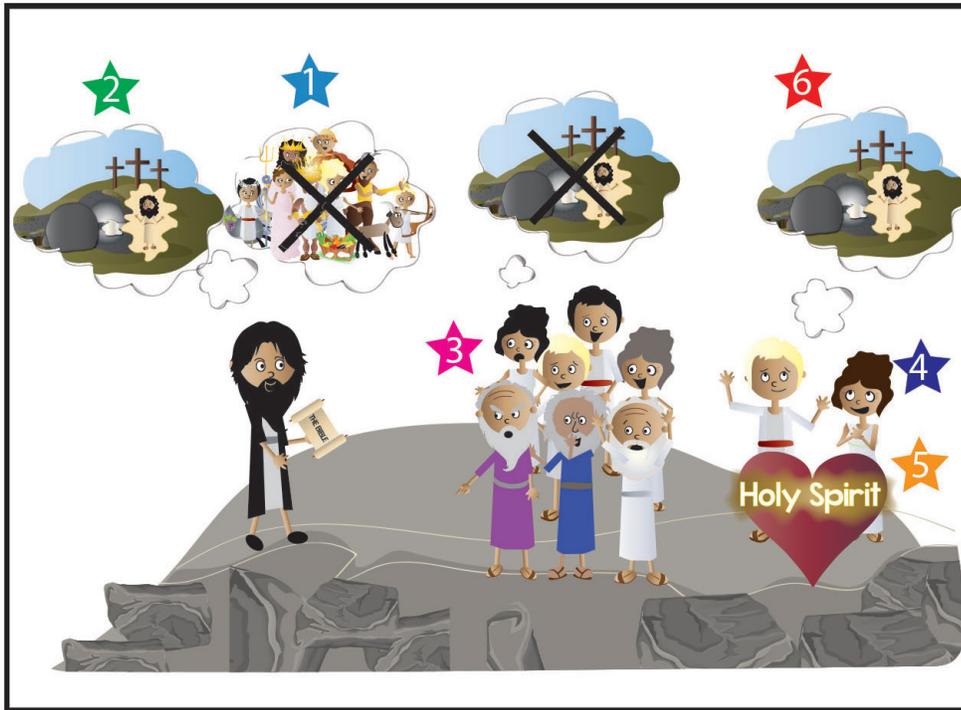
Now **5** all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be saved. They can be God’s people and have eternal life with Him,” Paul told them.



Clue Catchers

Can you find God’s people who Jesus died to save?

Story Scene 10



“So **1** turn away from worshipping your fake gods. Turn to LORD. **2** Trust in His Son Jesus and be saved! You can be God’s people, too,” Paul urged them.

What do you think the people of Athens will do? Will they believe in the LORD or not?

The people of Athens hardly knew what to think. They had never heard of a god like this!

A god who was supposed to be greater than Zeus, the king of their gods; yet, who came to die for sinners...then rose from the dead! Incredible!

3 Many people laughed. “Ha, ha! Your god sounds silly! Who would ever believe in him?” they said.

But others, **4** like Dionysius and Damaris, went to Paul to hear more. As Paul talked, **5** God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and **6** trust in Jesus as their Savior.

How happy Paul was! Maybe there still were many fake gods in Athens, but now there was a little group of believers living there, who could keep on telling others the good news of Jesus.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Damaris and Dionysius who believed in Jesus?

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

1. Who was the god who was different? The LORD was the god who was so different.

2. What made Him so different? He was the one, true, living God. He was no fake god, like those the people of Athens worshipped.

For You and Me:

The people of Athens worshipped many gods, but only the LORD was the one, true God who created them and they should obey. Paul told the people of Athens how they could know the LORD as their God, by turning away from worshipping their fake gods and trusting in Jesus as their Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 100:1-6**

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

1. Who urged the people to worship the LORD and serve Him as their king? Paul did.

2. Who did worship the LORD? Who did not? Dionysius and Damaris and a few others worshipped the LORD. The rest laughed and kept worshipping their fake gods.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Athens, we have so much to worship the LORD for being and doing. He is the one, true God! He has made us and wants us to know Him and love Him. He has offered us to be saved from our sins through Jesus, just like the people of Athens heard.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a camera; a temple; a stone altar; a sword; the world; and, laughing people.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The temple; stone; world; and laughing people.

2. What did the people of Athens need to confess to the LORD? Did any do this?

The people of Athens needed to confess that they had worshipped fake gods, not the LORD, the one, true God. They needed to trust in Jesus as their Savior. Dionysius, Damaris and others did this.

For You and Me:

Like Damaris and Dionysius, we should also confess our sins to God. Perhaps we have not worshipped fake gods like they did, but we have all disobeyed God and lived our own way. We all deserve His punishment. But, if we confess our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us and make us His people, just like He did for Dionysius and Damaris, long ago.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What is the Gospel?****It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ...****God made us and we should obey Him!**

God made all people--including you and me! And He made us to know Him, love Him and obey Him. He's our good king. But just like the people of Athens, we need God's forgiveness for disobeying Him. God freely offers it to us when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the good Creator and King of the world.
- C** We confess that many times we rebel against You and Your good ways. We choose to live life our own way, instead. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for being our good Creator and King. Thank You for making everything in the world for Your good purposes. Thank You for being so merciful to us! Thank You for offering us salvation through Jesus, when we repent of our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from rebelling against You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to joyfully obey You, our good and great King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.

Big Question 3, Bible Truth 1 Story Picture Scenes

Each story scene is a two-page spread, labelled "A" and "B." Cut out the two pages and laminate them together in a 12" x 18" laminating pouch, leaving a small gap in the middle between the two pages so you can fold up the picture. See illustration below.

Alternatively, you can just glue/tape the two pages together and put each picture in a sheet protector for 11" x 17" pictures. These sheet protectors and laminating pouches are available online and through many office supply stores.



leave slight gap here to create a "hinge" for easy folding

1



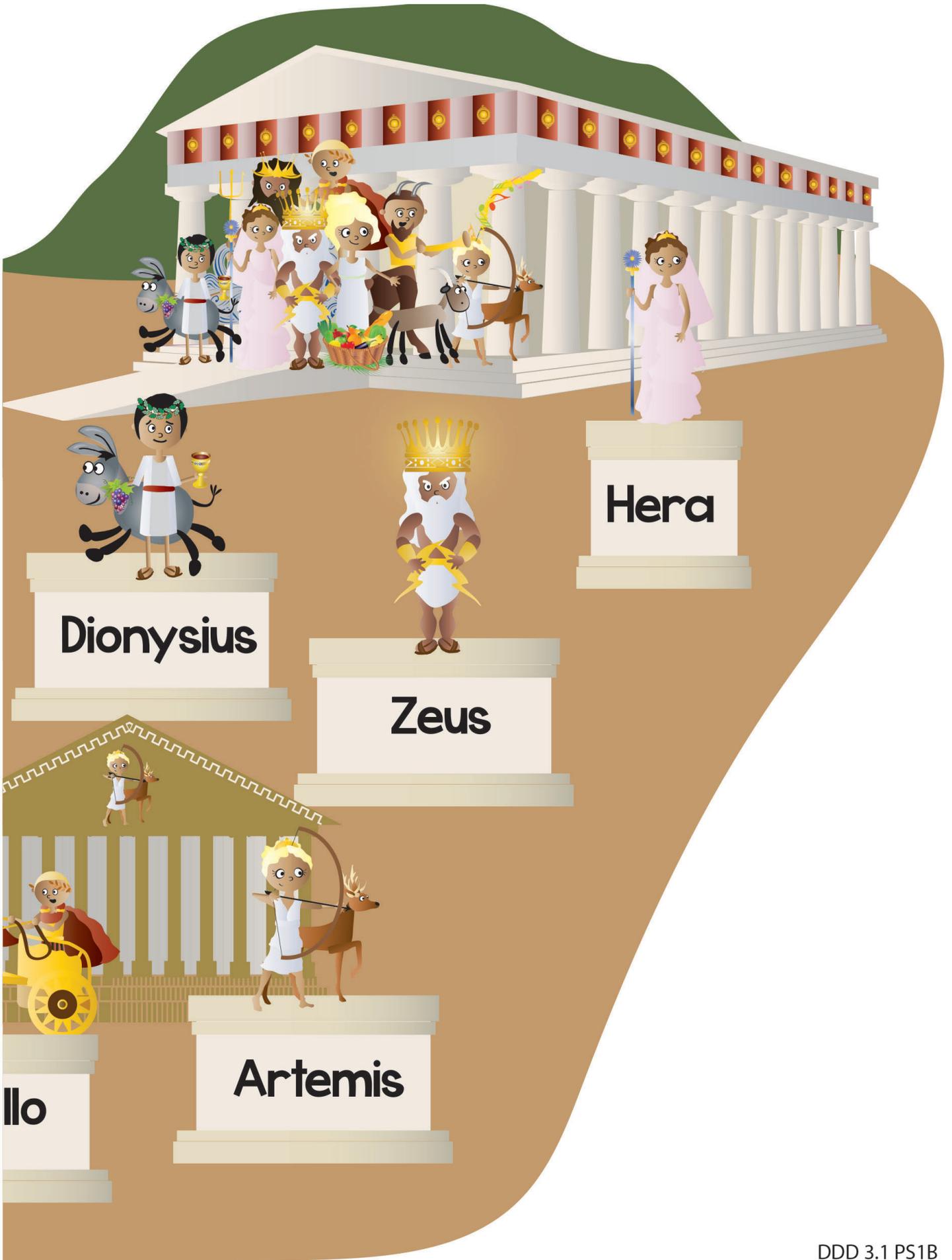
Poseidon

Pan

Demeter

Apo

1B.



Dionysius

Zeus

Hera

Artemis

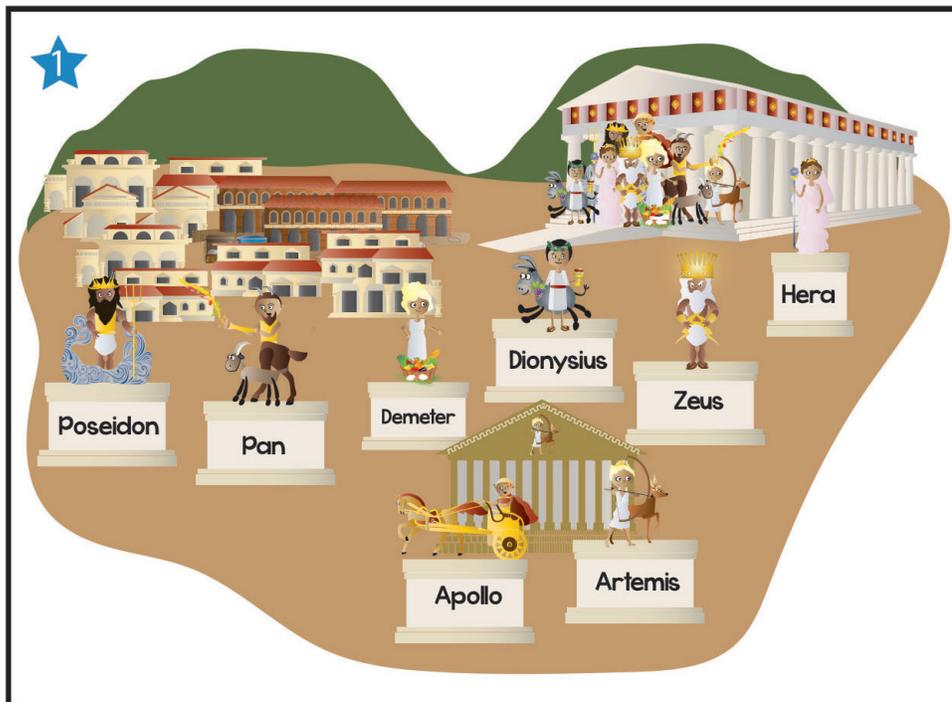
llo

1A.

★ 1 Gods! Gods! Gods! Athens was a city full of fake gods! On buildings. On hills. Everywhere you looked, there was another god.

Apollo and Artemis. Demeter and Dionysius; Pan and Poseidon. Hera and, of course, Zeus, the king of all the gods.

You might not know these names, but the people of Athens certainly did. And these were just a FEW of the HUNDREDS of gods they worshipped! Wow!



Clue Catchers

How many fake gods do you see in this picture?

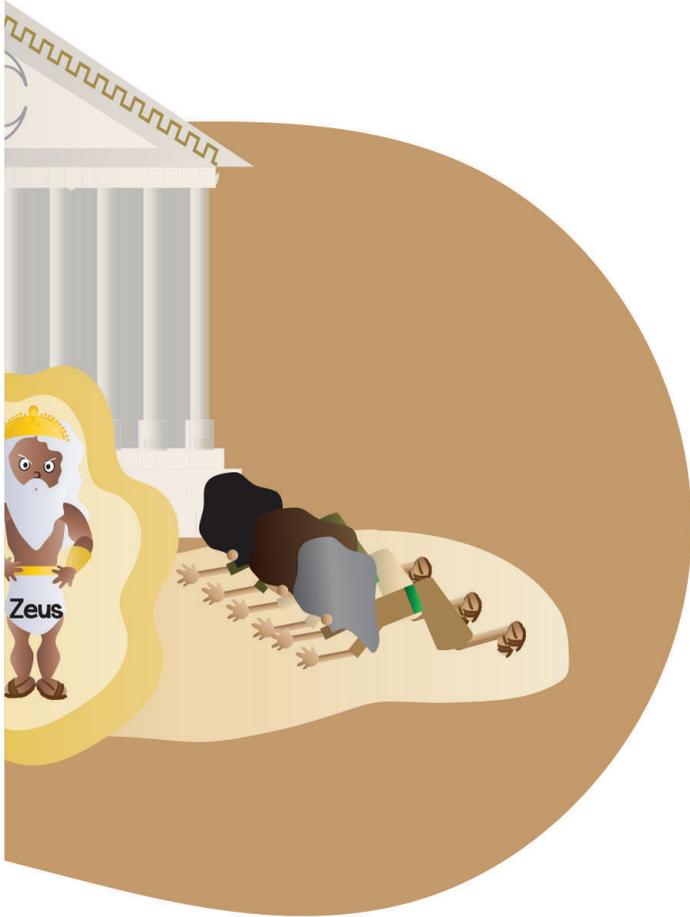
1



To An
Unknown God

2

2B.



3



2A.

The people of Athens took good care of their gods.

1 They built them beautiful temples. They laid rich worship gifts at their stony feet.

2 They celebrated them with big, worship parties.

3 They even laid a stone to honor an Unknown God.

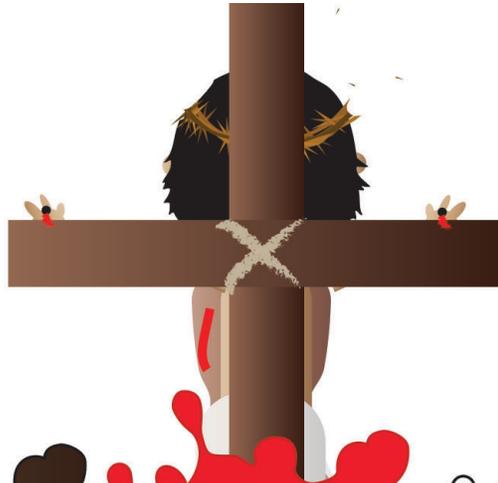
The people of Athens didn't want to leave out any god.



Clue Catchers

Can you find the stone to honor the Unknown God?

3



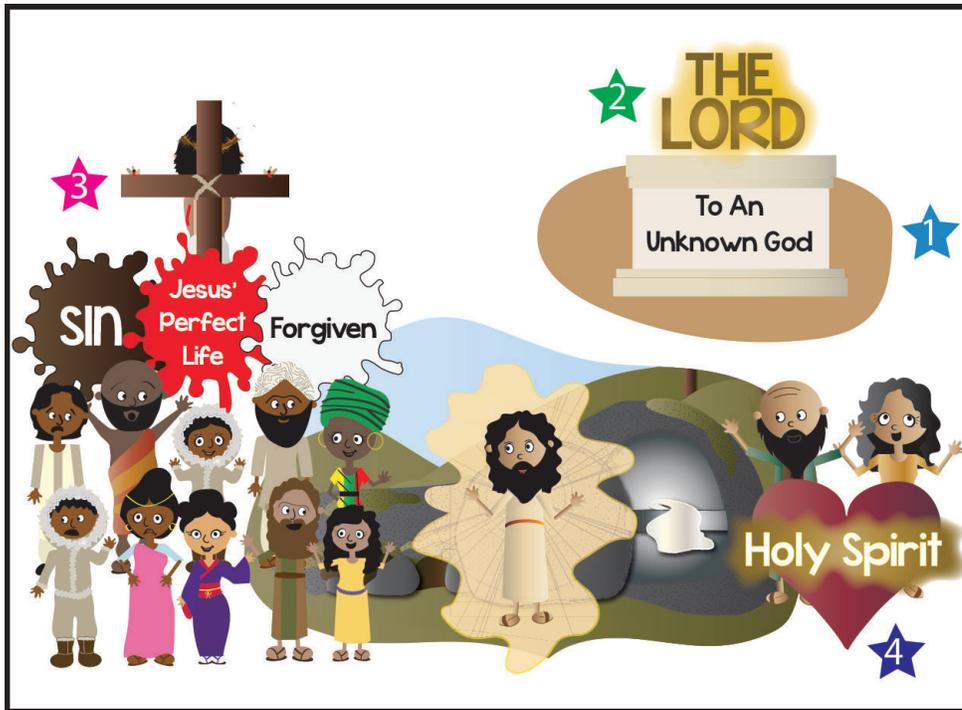
Sin

Jesus' Perfect Life

Forgiven



3B.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the dead?



THE LORD

To An
Unknown God



3A.

Yes, the people of Athens worshipped hundreds of gods; but, the only god they SHOULD have been worshipping was that  "Unknown God."

He was the REAL, the one, true God! Not many people in Athens knew His name, but I think you do.

Can you tell me His name?

It was  the LORD!

He was God the Father who sent  His Son Jesus to be our Savior.

He sent  His Holy Spirit to live inside those who trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

He made the way for us to become His people forever.

What an amazing God was this one, true God! He was not like of the fake gods of Athens!

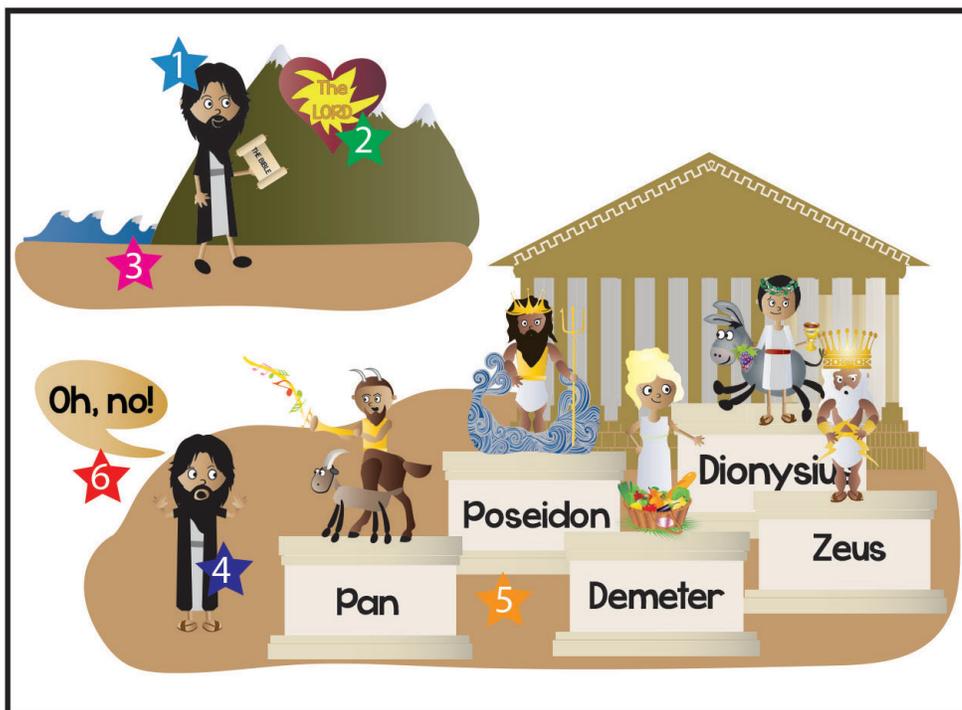


4B.

Now Paul had been to many cities that were **SMALLER** than Athens. And Paul had been to cities that were **BIGGER** than Athens. But there was something that Paul saw in Athens that he had **NEVER** seen before in any of those other cities--big or small. **5** It was this many fake gods!

How do you think Paul felt when he saw all those fake gods?

6 Paul was so upset! Oh, how these people needed to hear about the **LORD**, the one, true God! How they needed to stop worshipping these fake gods and start worshipping the **LORD**, instead! How they needed to know His Son, the Savior Jesus! And Paul decided to do something about that, right then and there!



Clue Catchers

Can you find Paul travelling to other lands with the gospel?



oseidon

Dionysius

Zeus

Demeter

5

4A.

Maybe most of the people in Athens didn't know about the one, true God, but there was  a man named Paul who did.

Paul knew the LORD and  loved the LORD and lived for the LORD. He trusted in Jesus, His Son, as his Savior. He had the Holy Spirit living in his heart.

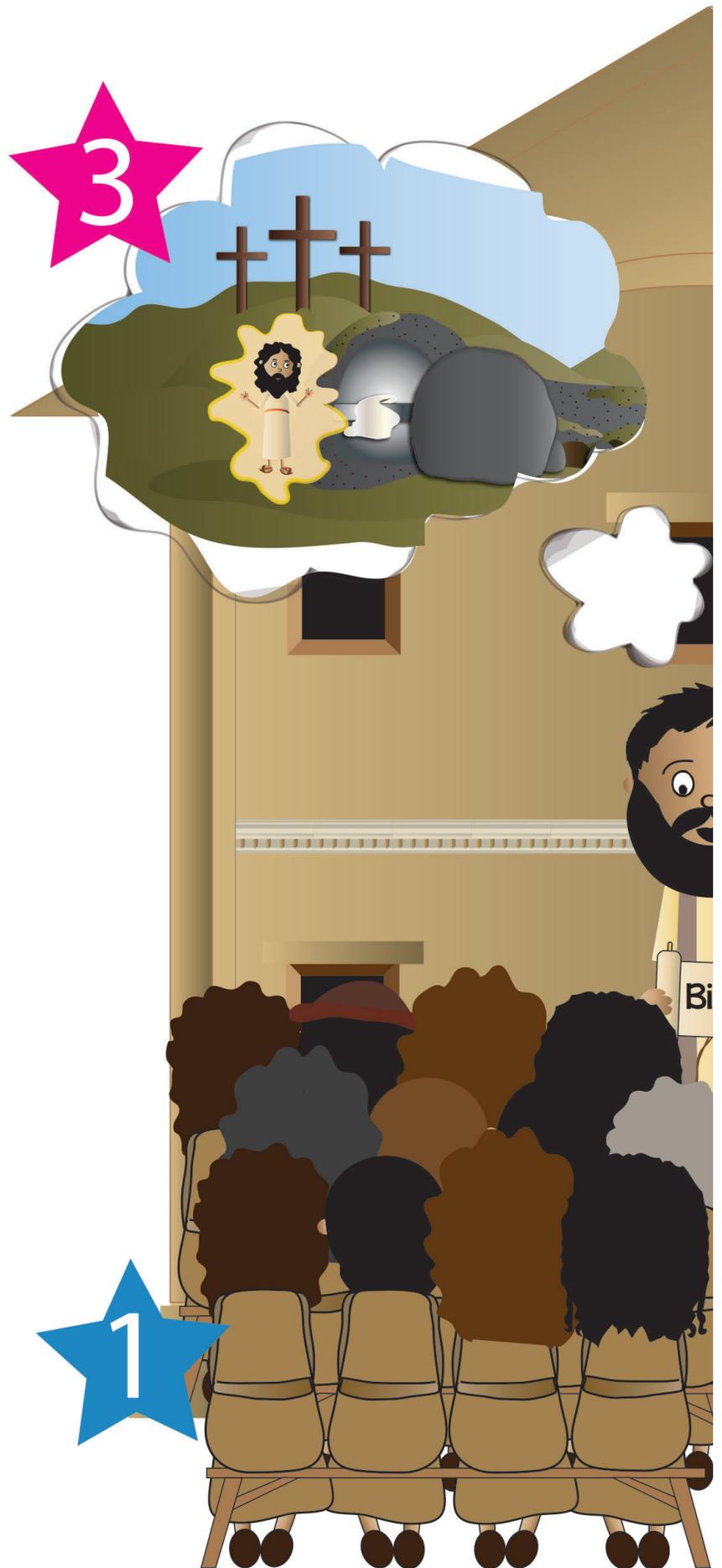
And if there was ONE thing that Paul wanted to do with his life, it was to tell others how they could know and love and live for the LORD...and trust in Jesus as their Savior, too.

 So... across the sea, over mountains, and down through valleys went Paul, telling everyone he could about the LORD and how they could know Him through Jesus.

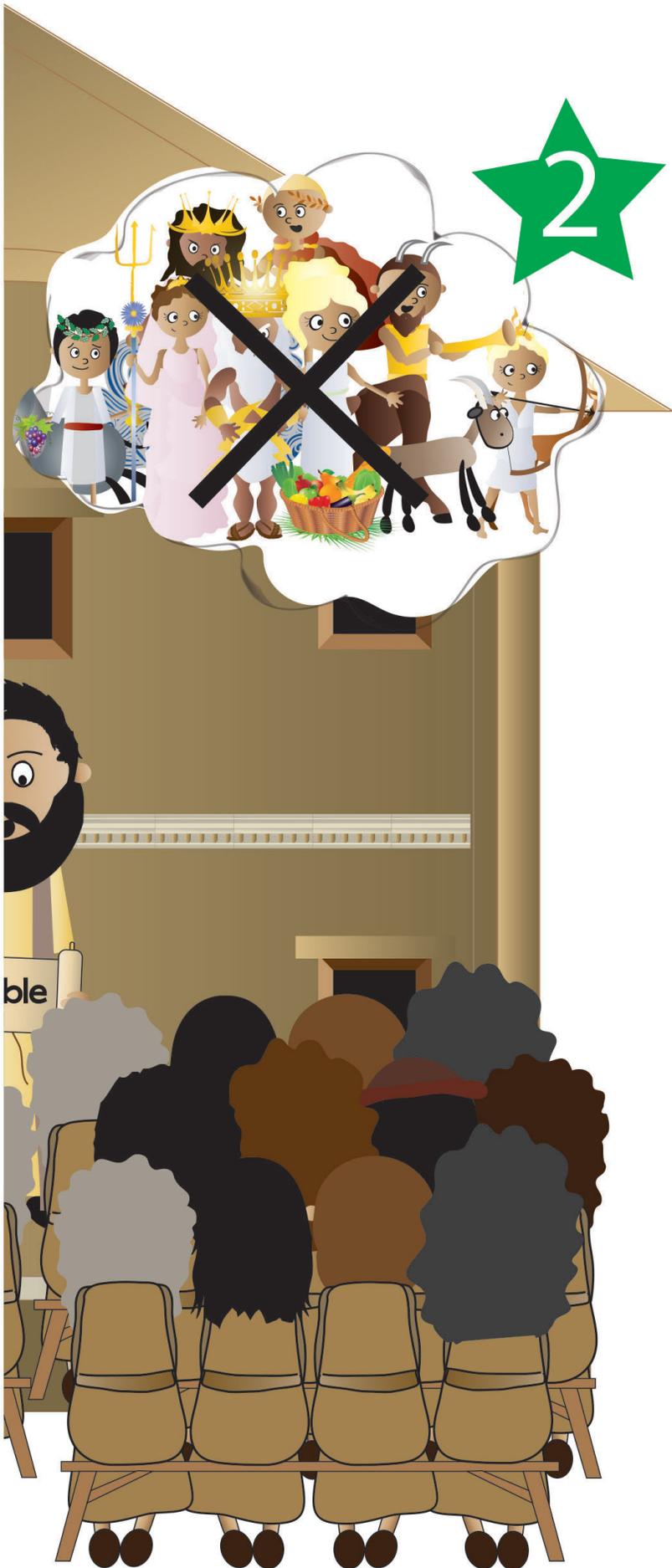
One day,  all this traveling led Paul to a city he had never been to before.

Can you guess the name of this new city?

It was Athens!



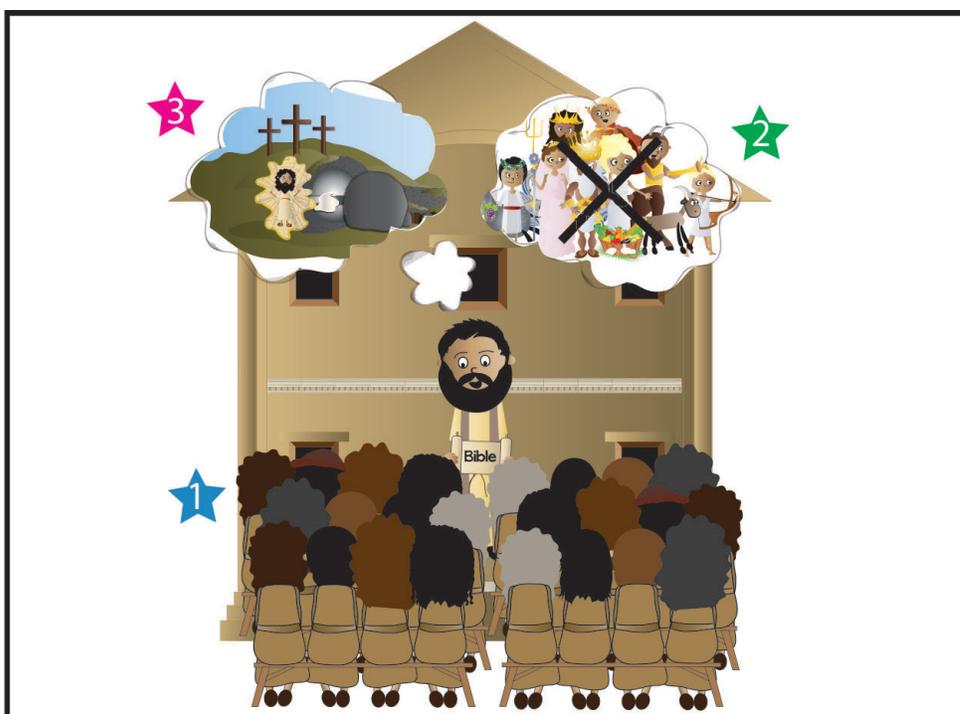
5B.



5A.

Into **1** the synagogue-worship place, went Paul.

“**2** The gods of Athens are just fakes. The LORD has sent **3** His Son, Jesus to save you, just as He promised. Believe in Him!” he told the people gathered there.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Paul preaching from the Bible?

1



6B.

3



4



6A.

Then down by the temples and **1** into the marketplace, went **2** Paul. "Let me tell you about the LORD and **3** Jesus, His Son, sent to save you! Worship Him, **4** not these fake gods!" Paul urged **5** everyone who would listen.

Word about Paul and his strange, new teaching soon spread through the city and **6** to the city leaders.

They found Paul and said, "Come up to our important meeting place on Mars Hill and tell us about this new god. We want to hear about him, ourselves."

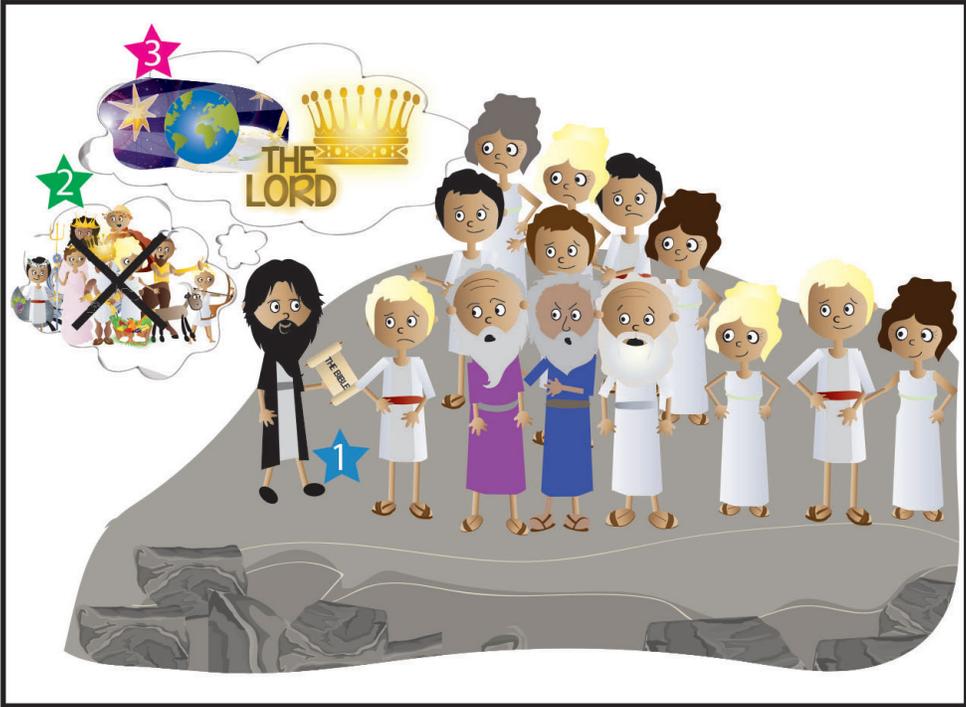


Clue Catchers

Can you find the leaders listening to Paul?



7B.



Clue Catchers
Can you find Paul telling the people not to worship fake gods?



7A.

So up, up, up  the big, stony hill called Mars Hill went Paul with the city leaders and many others. How excited Paul was to tell them about the real, one, true God and His Son, Jesus! He hoped they would put their trust in Him!

On top of Mars Hill, Paul spoke to the crowd. “People of Athens, what a lot of gods you worship! he exclaimed.

“ But you are worshipping the wrong one! I’ve come to tell you about the one, true God--the one you call ‘the Unknown God.’ His name is  the LORD. He’s the one you should worship. He’s the one who made heaven and earth and everything in it,” Paul told them.

“Your city is filled with the big temples you built to worship your gods, but the LORD is too great to live inside even your biggest temple!” Paul exclaimed.

1



3



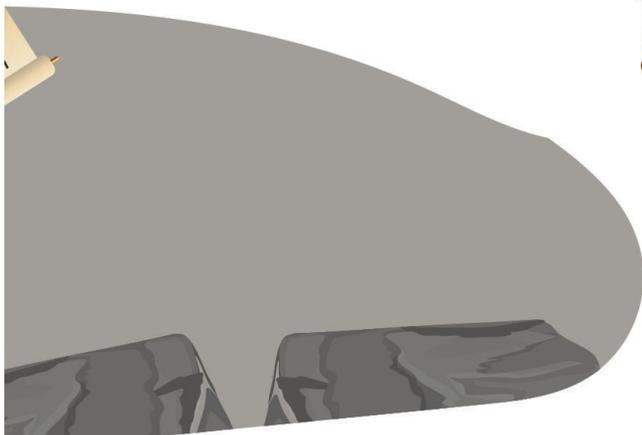
8B.

2



THE LORD

4



8A.

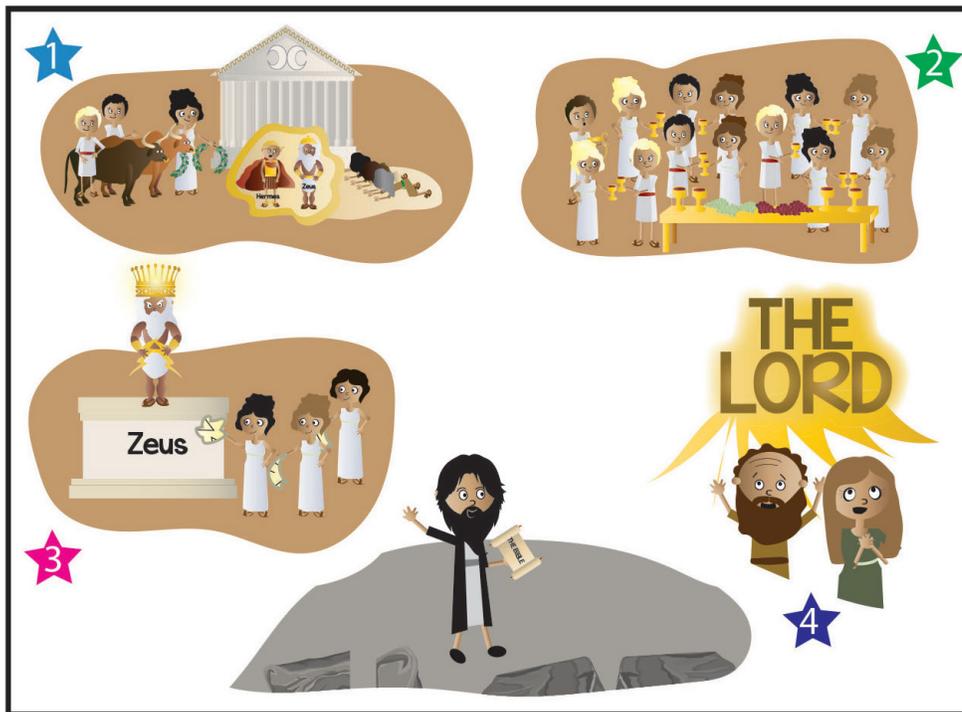
“You bring  worship gifts to take care of your gods. You  honor them with worship parties.  You keep them looking bright and shiny. You make sure they don’t fall over.

But the LORD doesn’t need people to take care of Him,” Paul explained. “ He’s the living God...He takes care of Himself...and all of us, too! He made us and gave us life.”



Clue Catchers

Can you find the people having a big, worship party for their fake gods?





9B.



Clue Catchers
Can you find God's people who Jesus died to save?



9A.

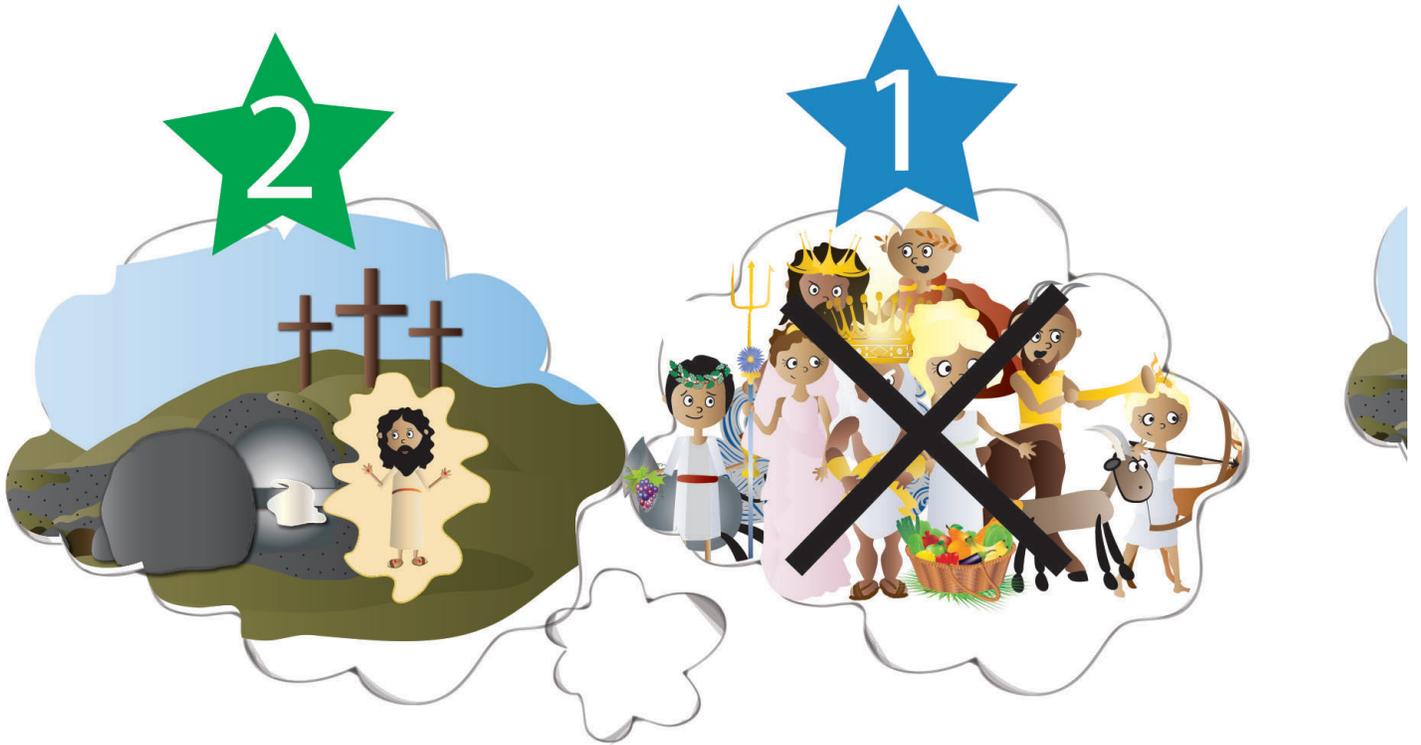
“**1** The LORD is our king and we should obey Him and His good laws; but, the sad news is that we don't. **2** We have all disobeyed Him and deserve His punishment for our sins,” Paul told them.

“But the LORD is so merciful that He made the way for us to be forgiven.” Paul explained.

Who did God send so we could be forgiven, do you know His name?

“**3** God sent His Son, Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to pay for sins. On the third day, He raised up Jesus from the dead in victory.

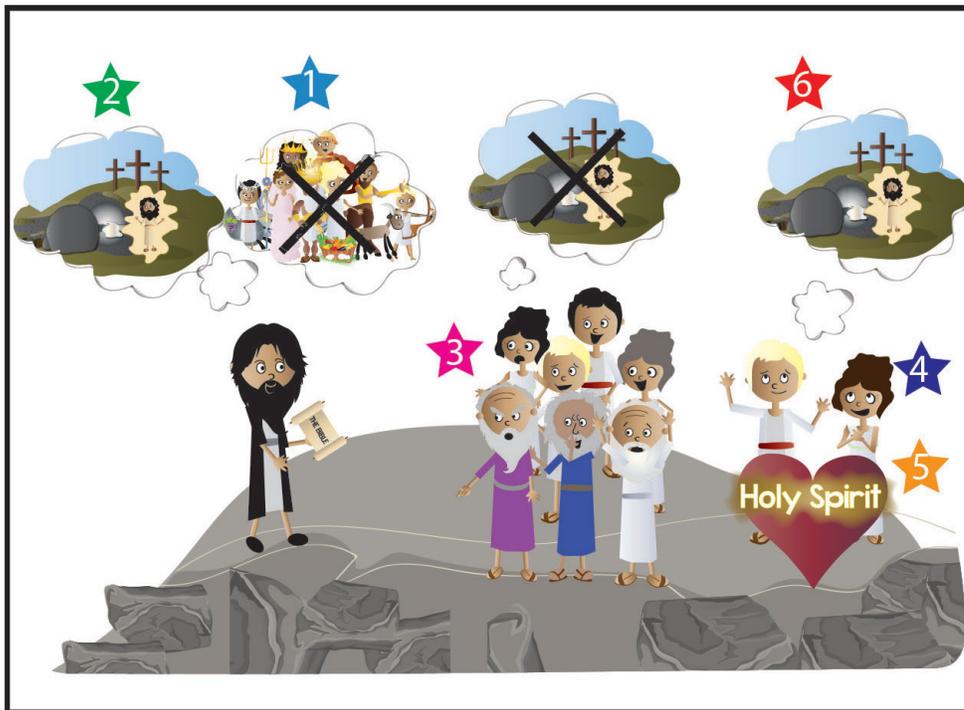
Now **4** all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be saved. They can be God's people and have eternal life with Him,” Paul told them.



10B.

But others, **4** like Dionysius and Damaris, went to Paul to hear more. As Paul talked, **5** God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and **6** trust in Jesus as their Savior.

How happy Paul was! Maybe there still were many fake gods in Athens, but now there was a little group of believers living there, who could keep on telling others the good news of Jesus.



Clue Catchers

Can you find Damaris and Dionysius who believed in Jesus?



10A.

“So  1 turn away from worshipping your fake gods. Turn to LORD.  2 Trust in His Son Jesus and be saved! You can be God’s people, too,” Paul urged them.

What do you think the people of Athens will do? Will they believe in the LORD or not?

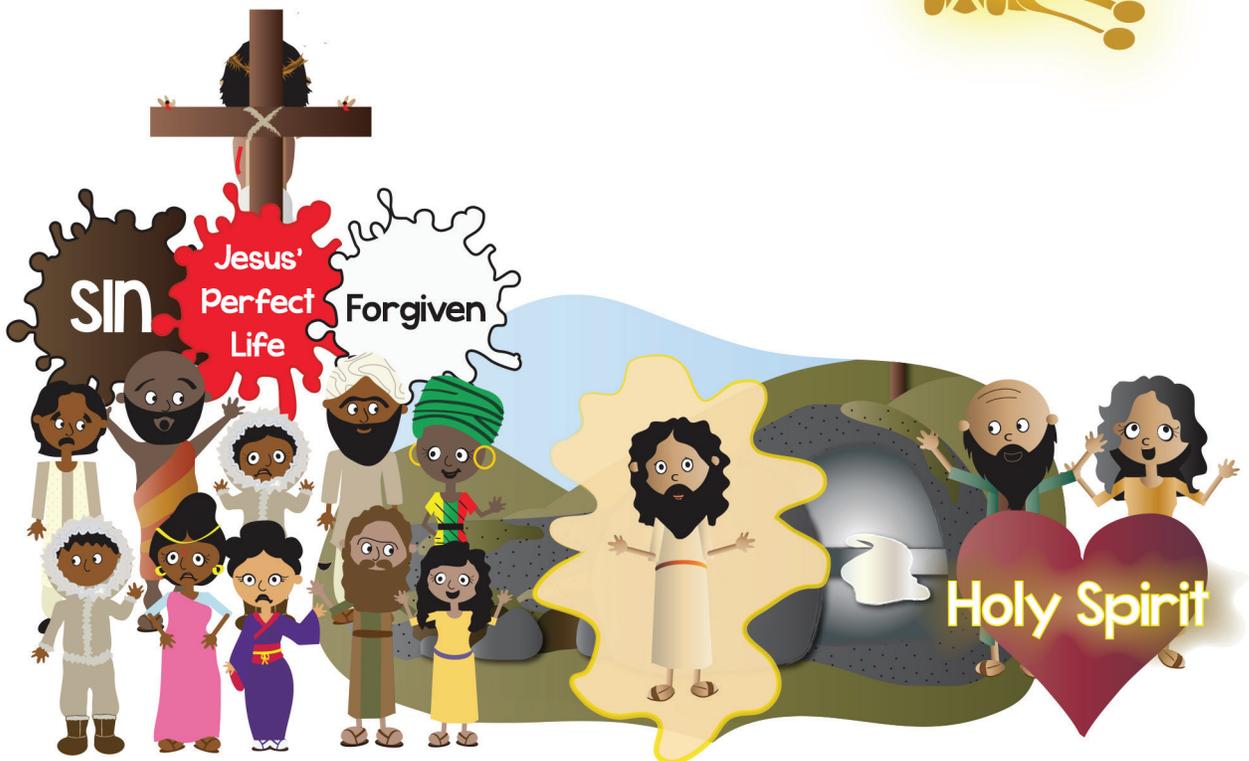
The people of Athens hardly knew what to think. They had never heard of a god like this!

A god who was supposed to be greater than Zeus, the king of their gods; yet, who came to die for sinners... then rose from the dead! Incredible!

 3 Many people laughed. “Ha, ha! Your god sounds silly! Who would ever believe in him?” they said.

Big Question 3, Bible Truth 1 Story Pictures for Story Review Games

Here are 10 important pictures from the story to use with your story review games. Cut out and laminate individually.



The LORD Is King and Creator
DDD 3.1 Story

Paul Preaching in the Synagogue
DDD 3.1 Story

The Gospel
DDD 3.1 Story

THE LORD



To An
Unknown God

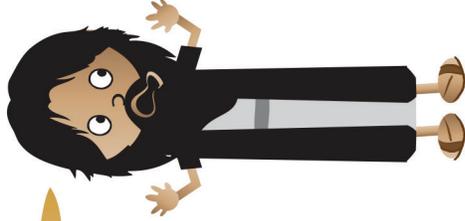


The LORD Gave Us Life
and Takes Care of Us
DDD 3.1 Story

Fake Gods of Athens
DDD 3.1 Story

The Unknown God
of the Greeks
DDD 3.1 Story

Paul Takes the Gospel
to Other Lands
DDD 3.1 Story



Oh, no!



Paul Preaching Gospel at
Marketplace
DDD 3.1 Story

Upset Paul
DDD 3.1 Story

Demetrius and Damaris
Believe and Are Saved!
DDD 3.1 Story

We Are All Sinners
DDD 3.1 Story