DEEP DOWN DETECTIVES

Curriculum Resources for Unit 13, Bible Truth 4:

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?

It Is God's Sustaining Grace...

The Holy Spirit Works in God's People!

Session Prep (especially good for newbies!)

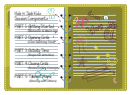
Pray!

Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your and the children's hearts.

Review

If new to the curriculum, look at the **Getting Started with Deep Down Detectives section of the Core Curriculum book.** (p.5) It will be especially helpful to read through the Deep Down Detectives section of **The Praise Factory Tour: Extended Version Book.** This is a visual way to understand what goes on in the classroom. (A pdf of the book is found in the samples section on the website.)

Look through and Learn the Lesson



Read over **lesson plan**. Practice any **songs or action rhymes** you are using. Choose/make up motions to go with these. Choose less with younger children and more with older preschoolers. **Practice the lesson with the visual aids** and using the Big Question Box/Briefcase.

Read and Rehearse the Bible Story with Pictures

Read the Bible story from the Bible. Read the curriculum version. Practice telling it with the storyboard pictures. (If you have not previously laminated the story pictures, do that now.)

Let There Be Music

Download the music and listen to the songs. Choose which of the songs you will use with the children. If using live musicians, make sure they have the sheet music (Appendix A, Core Curriculum book).

Put the Props in Place

1. Prepare your Visual Aids. Put the Big Question, Unit Bible Truths, Bible Truth, Bible Verse, and Listening Assignment signs, as well as the Bible Story script in one side of the Bible folder.
2. Get out your storyboard. Put all background pictures in place (they have a BG by the number). Put the rest of the storyboard pictures (these have a SB by the number) in order of use in the other side of the Bible folder.
3. Put the DDD Bible Folder as well as the Big Question sign in the Big Question Box/Briefcase and shut it. If your box/briefcase has locks and you want to use the unlocking the box as part of your session, lock it now....but make sure you have the key or know the code first.
4. Prepare the music CD or sheet music or mp3 device for use in your session.

Set Out Free Play Activities

Choose and set up free time activities you will use with the children. Choose a variety of different activities that will be enjoyed by different types of children. Rotate the activities you provide to keep them interesting and fresh to your children. (Suggestions in Appendix D, Core Curriculum books.)

Prepare Any Activities

Choose which (if any) of the Bible Truth games and crafts activities you want to use in the session. Bear in mind your time frame as well as the developmental abilities and attention span of your children as you decide which/how many to prepare. **Look over the Discussion Sheet** and choose a few questions you might use to spark discussion with the children as they do their activities (especially good for ages 3's+). Pray for God to give you opportunities to talk about these things with the children.

Let Them Take It with Them

Make copies of the craft/take home sheets, if you are not already using them as one of your activities. You may also want to make copies of the story (see take-home version of each story included in Appendix C with the other take home resources) to have for parents to use with their children at home. There's a link on each craft/take home sheet to the story, if you don't make hard copies.

Store It

After your session is over, collect the resources and store them for future use. This curriculum can be used over and over for years to come.

Unit 13: The God Who Sustains

UNIT OVERVIEW

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.

In this unit we will learn six ways God sustains His people.

UNIT BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 55:22

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall."

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?

ANSWER: It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

OPTIONAL Big Question 13 INTRODUCTION LESSON (Use Hide 'n' Seek Kids Unit 13 Material)
Story: The Case of the People Who Wouldn't Stop *Acts 17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians*
Bible Verse: Psalm 55:22

BIBLE TRUTH 1: God Alone Sustains His People (3 Lessons Available)
Story: The Case of the Impossible, Big, Bad, Scary News *Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15*
Bible Verse: Jude 1:24-25

BIBLE TRUTH 2: God, the Father, Promises to Help His People (3 Lessons Available)
Story: The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers
Exodus 5-15,19-20,24; Numbers 13-14; Joshua 1-5
Bible Verse: Psalm 54:4,7

BIBLE TRUTH 3: Jesus Provides God's People with Everything They Need to Live for God
(3 Lessons Available)
The Case of the Man in the Middle *Leviticus 6,16; Matthew 27; Hebrews 1-5,9,10,18*
Bible Verse: Hebrews 4:15-16

→ **BIBLE TRUTH 4: The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People** (3 Lessons Available)
Story: The Case of the Foolish Forgetters *Galatians*
Bible Verse: Galatians 5:22,25

BIBLE TRUTH 5: The Word of God Feeds God's People (3 Lessons Available)
Story: The Case of the Confused Christians *Colossians*
Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 8:3

BIBLE TRUTH 6: God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other (3 Lessons Available)
Story: The Case of the Prayed-for Prisoner *Philippians*
Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4,10-1

Deep Down Detectives NIV Songs 13 Track Numbers

This is a listing of all songs mentioned in the unit curriculum. You may or may not choose to use all of the songs. They are listed in easy-reference order--NOT in the order used in the curriculum.

You may choose to simply burn a CD/load them onto an mp3 device in this order. Or, you may want to do what we do: choose the songs we want to use and create a play list of them in that order. Then, we burn a CD/upload the play list onto an mp3 device. A teacher only has to click forward to the next song, instead of hunting for the right track. The track number have been included as part of the title of each song, teachers will still have a reference to the track number listed in the curriculum (same as those listed below), even if you change the order on your customized play list.

SONGS USED EVERY UNIT OF THE CURRICULUM

1 The Classroom Song v.1
2 The Classroom Song v.2
3 The Classroom Song v.3
4 The Classroom Song v.4
5 Deep Down Detectives Theme Song
6 The Classroom Rules Song
7 Let's Pray Song
8 The Big Question Box Song
9 The Bible Chant Song
10 ACTS Prayer Song (Short Version)
11 ACTS Prayer Song (Full Version)

Why the Extra Songs?
Deep Down Detectives is a curriculum used by a wide age-span of kids. Sometimes one of the other songs is a better fit for your kids. Or, you may simply want to teach them more songs on the same Bible Truth. Use as many or as few as you want.

UNIT 13: THE GOD WHO SUSTAINS

12 Big Q & A 13 Song
13 Big Question 13 Song: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
14 Big Question 13 Bible Verse Song: Cast Your Cares on the LORD Psalm 55:22, NIV 1984
15 Big Question 13 Bible Verse Song: The LORD Your God Is with You Zephaniah 3:17, NIV 1984
16 Big Question 13 Hymn: Jesus Paid It All, v.1
17 Big Question 13 Praise Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies

Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It's God's Sustaining Grace...

Bible Truth 1: God Alone Sustains His People

18 Bible Verse: To Him Who Is Able Jude 1:24-25, NIV 1984
19 Extra Bible Verse: Jude Doxology Jude 1:24-25, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 2: God, the Father, Promises to Help His People

20 Bible Verse: Surely God Is My Help Psalm 54:4,7, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 3: Jesus Provides God's People with Everything They Need to Live for God

21 Bible Verse: Let Us Then Approach Hebrews 4:16, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 4: The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People

22 Bible Verse: Now It Is God 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV 1984
23 Extra Bible Verse: The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22,25, NIV 1984
24 Extra Bible Verse: I Will Give You a New Heart Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 5: The Word of God Feeds God's People

25 Bible Verse: He Humbled You Deuteronomy 8:3, NIV 1984

Bible Truth 6: God Uses His People to Strengthen and Comfort Each Other

26 Bible Verse: Praise Be to the God and Father 2 Corinthians 1:3-4,10-11, NIV 1984
27 Extra Bible Verse: Let Us Hold Unswervingly Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV 1984

Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 Overview: Key Concepts p.1

Unit 13: The God Who Sustains

Unit Big Question (and Answer): Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Unit Bible Verse: "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall." --Psalm 55:22101

Bible Truth 4 Concept: It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People!

God created all people with a special heart, deep inside of them. It's different from the heart in your body that pumps blood and you feel beating. This special heart is invisible, but it's the part of you that lives forever and can know God. In the Bible, this special heart is also called our spirit.

The sad news is that the beautiful, special heart that God gave us is broken with sin. Yes, we have all chosen to turn away from God and disobey Him. We deserve His punishment, not His friendship. But there's good news, too! God's Holy Spirit can work in our heart and change it. He does this when we listen to God's Word and when we pray. He can help us see our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And when we do, He makes our heart clean and new, able to know God and wanting to love and serve Him. This is how we become God's people.

And that's just the beginning of what the Holy Spirit does inside us when we become God's people. He goes on working in our hearts, making the most amazing changes. He helps us know God and want to live for Him more and more. He gives us wisdom to understand God's Word and boldness to tell others about Him. He helps us turn away from anger, jealousy, hatred and pride and replaces them with love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, goodness and self-control in their place. What a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit is! God's people would never be able to keep on loving God and living for Him, if the Holy Spirit did not live inside them. The Holy Spirit can come and live in our hearts, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Learn a Little "God makes us stand firm in Christ. He put his Spirit in our hearts."

Meaning

God's people keep on believing in God because God, Himself, establishes them. That means He makes sure they keep on standing firm in their trust in Him. Jesus is the Christ. He's the special one sent by God to save sinners and make them God's people forever. It's because of Jesus that God's people stand firm in their faith. Jesus bought them with His blood. He paid for them and owns them. They will always stand firm in the faith because no one can ever take them away from Him. They will be God's dearly-loved people forever. And as His people, forgiven through Jesus, God gives them another, most wonderful gift: He puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts.

The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are God's dearly loved people. He helps them remember the truths of God's Word and believe them. He helps them be strong and brave in Jesus. He reminds them that they belong to God and one day will go to live with Him forever.

God's people never have to go through anything alone. God's Holy Spirit is always with them, living inside of them. And He will go on living inside them their whole lives. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 Overview: Key Concepts

Bible Truth 4 ACTS Prayer

A Holy Spirit, we praise You for the way You can powerfully work in our hearts, changing us from the inside out.

C We confess that many times we are proud, jealous, envious and hateful. We need Jesus to save us. We need Your Holy Spirit to replace with humility and love. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, Holy Spirit, for being stronger than any of our sins. Thank You for being able to work so powerfully in our hearts and truly change us.

S Holy Spirit, work in our hearts, help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our heart with Your good ways. Make us joyful, peaceful, kind, patience, self-controlled, joyful, loving and good. Give us wisdom and make us bold and strong to do God's will. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bible Truth 4 Story

The Case of the Foolish Forgetters
Galatians

Songs Used in Bible Truth 4

Big Q & A 13 Song
Big Question 13 Song: Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
Big Question 13 Bible Verse Song: Cast Your Cares on the LORD Psalm 55:22, NIV 1984
Big Question 13 Extra Bible Verse Song: The LORD Your God Is with You Zephaniah 3:17, NIV 1984
Big Question 13 Hymn: Jesus Paid It All, v.1
Big Question 13 Praise Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies

Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse: Now It Is God 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV 1984
Bible Truth 4 Extra Bible Verse: The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22,25, NIV 1984
Bible Truth 4 Extra Bible Verse: I Will Give You a New Heart Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984

Lesson Plan: Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 — use with all THREE lessons — p.1

1. GETTING STARTED

Intake Activity Ideas

Choose one of these open-ended activities to include children as they join the class:

Free Play Time

suggestions in Appendix D

Offer your own or some of the easy-to-make, free play activities suggested in Appendix D.

OR Sing-along Music Time

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Music *from* Deep Down Detectives (DDD) NIV Songs 13:

Big Q & A 13 Song	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 12*
Big Question 13 Song	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 13*
Big Question 13 (Unit) Bible Verse Song:	
Cast Your Cares on the LORD Psalm 55:22, NIV 1984	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 14*
Extra Big Question 13 (Unit) Bible Verse Song:	
The LORD Your God Is with You Zephaniah 3:17, NIV 1984	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 15*
Big Question 13 Hymn:	
Jesus Paid It All, v.1	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 16*
Big Question 13 Praise Song:	
I Will Sing of the Mercies	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 17*
Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse Song:	
Now It Is God 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV 1984	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 22*
Extra Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse Song:	
The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22,25, NIV 1984	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 23*
Extra Bible Truth 4 Bible Verse Song:	
I Will Give You a New Heart Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984	*DDD NIV Songs 13, track 24*

Add more fun to Sing-along Music Time by adding a Music, Movement & Memory Activity. These activities are listed on p.10 of this lesson plan with the Response Activities. Instructions found in Appendix B.

***OR* Bible Verse Memory Game**

instructions found in Appendix B

Lesson 1 Game: Animal Cube
Lesson 2 Game: Fill 'er Up
Lesson 3 Game: Lily Pad Jump

These activities are also included on p.10 of this lesson plan with the Response Activities.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME *(introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related Bible story)*

Gathering the Children

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Sing verse 1 of The Classroom Song to gather the children for Circle Time.

The Classroom Song, verse 1 *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 1*

Let's gather together to worship God,
Let's gather together to worship God,
Let's gather together to worship God,
Come gather here with me!

Welcome to Deep Down Detectives

"Welcome to Deep Down Detectives. We're so glad you've joined us! Detectives are people who look for answers to questions. In Deep Down Detectives, we look for answers to big questions about God. We dig deep down in the truths of God's Word to find them."

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Deep Down Detectives Theme Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"Let's sing our Deep Down Detectives Theme Song."

Deep Down Detectives Theme Song DDD NIV *Songs 13, track 5*

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!

Classroom Rules Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

There are two very important things that Deep Down Detectives do together: we worship God and we love one another. Our Classroom Rules Song reminds us how we should act. Let's sing it."

Classroom Rules Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 6*

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.

Opening Prayer Time

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"Children, we need God's help to keep these rules. Let's ask Him to help us right now. Let's get ready and pray."

Let's Pray *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 7*

1-2-3!
Fold your hands,
Bow your head,
Close your eyes.
Let's pray! *(repeat)*

"Let's pray:"

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord,
We're so glad to get to gather together to worship You!
Please help us keep the classroom rules.
Please help us to love You and learn about You today.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Reveal the Big Question

Introduce the Big Question Box/Briefcase

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"Detectives INVESTIGATE things. That means they ask questions and look for answers. Deep Down Detectives investigate big questions about God. The Big Question we are investigating today is right inside our Big Question Box/Briefcase.

The Big Question Box Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 8*

We've got a big box,
All closed up and locked,
Filled with the truths of God's Word.

We've got a brief case,
There's no time to waste,
Come on, kids, let's open it up!

The Big Question under Investigation

VISUAL AID #1 *take out* *of BQB*

Big Question & Answer Sign, front side

**found in the DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV Book*

Ok, who would like to open for me and pull out the Big Question?"

Choose a child to open the box/briefcase, take out the Big Question and hand it to you, then hold up the Big Question sign for all the children to see, and say:

The Big Question we are investigating today is Big Question Number 13:
Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
and the Answer is:
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!

Big Question Meaning

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.

Big Question Songs

Big Q & A 13 Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"Let's sing our Big Question Song:

Big Q & A 13 Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 12*

(adapted version of "On Top of Old Smoky")
Why do God's people keep believing in God?
And why do God's people keep living for Him?
Because God sustains them, yes, God alone,
That's why God's people keep believing in God.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Learning about the Big Question

Repeat the Big Question and Answer again:
"Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It is God's Sustaining Grace!"

Say: "Hmmmm, I wonder what that means… Let's do our action rhyme (or sing our song) that explains it."

Then sing the song using any of the optional motions suggested, if desired.

Big Question (Action Rhyme) Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Big Question 13 (Action Rhyme) Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 13*

	(POSSIBLE ACTIONS)
Why do God's people keep believing in Him?	
What keeps them going?	
Why do they persevere?	
There's just one reason for their lasting faith,	*Hold up one finger*
It is grace, God's sustaining grace,	*Point up to God in heaven*
That's why God's people say:	*Point up to God in heaven*
"I'm gonna keep on believing in God,	
I'm gonna keep on living for Him,	
Yes, I'm gonna keep on believing in God,	
And It's all thanks to Him, thanks to Him.	*Raise hands up in praise*
God sustains His people in many ways,	*Touch heart*
His Spirit works inside them	
As they read His Word and pray,	*Make open Bible with open palms,*
He gives them faith to keep in trusting in Him,	*Make prayer hands*
To keep on living for Him to the very end.	
That's why God's people say:	*Point up to God in heaven*
"I'm gonna keep on believing in God,	
I'm gonna keep on living for Him,	
Yes, I'm gonna keep on believing in God,	
And It's all thanks to Him, thanks to Him.	*Raise hands up in praise*

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Learning the Bible Truth

VISUAL AID #2 *take out* *of BQB*

VISUAL AID
All the Bible Truths Sign

"It Is God's Sustaining Grace" is a good beginning, but there's so more to learn. So it's time for us to dig down even deeper for more answers to our Big Question about God. We're going to be learning **SIX** Bible truths that all tell us more about God's sustaining grace.

Who would like to hand me the picture with our six Bible truths on it? It's in the Big Question Box/Briefcase." *Choose a child to get it and hand it to you, then hold it up and show them the pictures of the six truths they will be learning.*

Bible Truth Clue

VISUAL AID #3 *take out* *of BQB*

Bible Truth Clue Sign, front side
VISUAL AID

After everyone has had a good look, say...
"Ok, we've learned three truths about how God sustains His people. They are: "God Alone Sustains His People, "God, the Father, Promises to Help His People," and, "Jesus Provides God's People with Everything They Need to Live for God." (point to pictures as you identify each Bible Truth). Now let's look at our Bible Truth Clue sign and see if we can figure out which of these six truths we will be learning about today. Who would like to get it out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the Bible Truth Clue sign and hand it to you. Hold up the front side for the children to see. Cover up the answer, written along the bottom, and say:

"Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works ???? of God's People!"

Hint

We're missing one word. Here's the hint to what the missing word is. It says: "This word is the opposite of "outside." It starts with an "I" and it rhymes with "thin slide."
Can you guess? It's "INSIDE." So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:
(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

"Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works INSIDE of God's People!"

And here is what this Bible Truth means: *(read the meaning off of the back of the sign, say:)*

Bible Truth Meaning

God created all people with a special heart, deep inside of them. It's different from the heart in your body that pumps blood and you feel beating. This special heart is invisible, but it's the part of you that lives forever and can know God. In the Bible, this special heart is also called our spirit.

The sad news is that the beautiful, special heart that God gave us is broken with sin. Yes, we have all chosen to turn away from God and disobey Him. We deserve His punishment, not His friendship. But there's good news, too! God's Holy Spirit can work in our heart and change it. He does this when we listen to God's Word and when we pray. He can help us see our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And when we do, He makes our heart clean and new, able to know God and wanting to love and serve Him. This is how we become God's people.

And that's just the beginning of what the Holy Spirit does inside us when we become God's people. He goes on working in our hearts, making the most amazing changes. He helps us know God and want to live for Him more and more. He gives us wisdom to understand God's Word and boldness to tell others about Him. He helps us turn away from anger, jealousy, hatred and pride and replaces them with love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, goodness and self-control in their place. What a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit is! God's people would never be able to keep on loving God and living for Him, if the Holy Spirit did not live inside them. The Holy Spirit can come and live in our hearts, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Learning the Bible Verse

The Bible Chant Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"And how do I know this is true? God tells me so in His special book, the Bible."

Say or sing the Bible Chant Song.

The Bible Chant Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 9*

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!

Bible Verse

DDD 13.3 Bible Verse-front side (in the DDD Bible folder)

VISUAL AID *Place verse in* *take out*

DDD Bible Folder *of BQB*

**found in the DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV Book*

"Who would like to get our Bible folder out of the Big Question Briefcase for me?"

Choose a child to open the briefcase, take out the "Bible" folder and hand it to you. Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 tells us:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22
"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Learn a Little: "God makes us stand firm in Christ. He put his Spirit in our hearts."

Bible Verse Meaning

What does that mean?
God's people keep on believing in God because God, Himself, establishes them. That means He makes sure they keep on standing firm in their trust in Him. Jesus is the Christ. He's the special one sent by God to save sinners and make them God's people forever. It's because of Jesus that God's people stand firm in their faith. Jesus bought them with His blood. He paid for them and owns them. They will always stand firm in the faith because no one can ever take them away from Him. They will be God's dearly-loved people forever. And as His people, forgiven through Jesus, God gives them another, most wonderful gift: He puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts.

The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are God's dearly loved people. He helps them remember the truths of God's Word and believe them. He helps them be strong and brave in Jesus. He reminds them that they belong to God and one day will go to live with Him forever.

God's people never have to go through anything alone. God's Holy Spirit is always with them, living inside of them. And He will go on living inside them their whole lives. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Bible Verse Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

You might also enjoy:

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22,25, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 13, track 23

I Will Give You a New Heart
Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984
DDD NIV Songs 13, track 24

We've said our Bible verse, now let's sing it!

Now It Is God: 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 22*

Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ,
Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ.

He anointed us, set His seal on us,
His seal of ownership,
And He put His Spirit in our heart,
As a deposit guaranteeing what's to come, what's to come.

Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ,
Now it is God who makes both us and you,
Stand firm in Christ.
Second Corinthians One, twenty-one and two.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Getting into the Case

"Now it's time to do a bit more deep down investigating. Let's see what Detective Dan wants us to help him figure out. Would someone like to get it out for me?"

Listening Assignments

Place in DDD Bible Folder *take out* Big Question Briefcase *of BQB*

NOTE: Listening assignments are most suitable for ages 3+. Skip straight to the Bible story (see bottom of this page), if working with 2 year olds.

"Let's open up our listening assignment and see what we are supposed to figure out today.

Choose a child to take out the Listening Assignment (from the DDD Bible Folder) and hand it to you. Read Detective Dan's letter to the children that includes the listening assignment. The listening assignments are summarized below:

VISUAL AID **#5** *DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV*

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:
I need to know:
Foolish means doing something without thinking it through well... and something bad happens.
1. Who was foolish? What were they doing without thinking it through well?
2. What did they forget?

VISUAL AID **#6** *DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV*

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 2 Corinthians 1:21-22:
"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."
I need to know:
1. Who did the Galatians forget to depend on to help them live for God?
2. Who did they need to have live in their hearts and help them live for God?

VISUAL AID **#7A,B,C** **Listening Assignment #3 includes the Assignment Sheet, plus 6 clue pictures* DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV*

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:
I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.
They are: God's laws, a beach ball, a Jew, a Gentile, a hot dog, and the Holy Spirit in a heart.
Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:
1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?
2. What did the Galatian believers need to confess to God? Who did they need to turn back to depending upon?

Tell the Bible Story

Place story & pics in DDD Bible Folder *take out* Big Question Briefcase *of BQB*

DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, NIV

Story text included in this book right after this lesson plan and in Visual Aids book

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."

Bible Story: The Case of the Foolish Forgetters

Galatians

Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the storyboard pictures as you tell it. Then, have the children answer the listening assignment. Present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

2. OPENING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Story Response Song(s)

Hymn

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

As attention span and time allow, you might want to end with one of the following songs which also tie in with the unit. If desired, use the Music and Movement activity ideas while singing (listed with the Response Activities).

Jesus Paid It All *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 16*

Verse 1
I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain
Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Tie-in: "What a mighty, loving, Savior is Jesus to those who trust in Him! He paid for all their sins on the cross. He cleans their hearts of sin. He saves them from all their sins so they can be God's people. But that's not all! He gives them strength to do everything God wants them to do. Yes, they may be weak, but Jesus is so strong! They pray to Him for help and He will always give them the help they need. God's people praise their wonderful Savior! They owe everything to Him!"

Praise Song

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Praise Song: I Will Sing of the Mercies *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 17*

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness,
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations.

Tie-in: Mercy is treating someone with love and kindness that they do not deserve. God's people love to sing of the Lord's mercy to them! He has taken away all their sins through His Son Jesus! He has been faithful to them every day of their lives. He always gives them what they need. God's people know that God will go on being faithful to them forever and ever. No wonder they want to praise Him! No wonder they want to use their mouths to tell others about Him!

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)*

Transition to Activities

Well, Deep Down Detectives, you've done a great job diggin' deep down for answers in the truths of God's Word. Now it's time to enjoy some activities."

Tell children what activity/s you are providing for them: either free play or some of the response activities listed below. When you are ready to dismiss them, use this song to help the children transition in an orderly fashion to their next activity.

Classroom Song, verse 2

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

"Children, let's sing our Time to Play Song. When we are finished you may get up and walk over to our next activity."

Classroom Song, verse 2 *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 2*
We've gathered together to worship God,
We've gathered together to worship God,
And now it's time to play.

Dismiss the children to whatever activities you have prepared for them to do.

Lesson Plan: Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 — use with all THREE lessons — p.10

3. TAKING ACTION: Response Activities *(choose from among these activities)*

Response Activities

Choose one or more activities appropriate for your children, based on classroom time and developmental needs. ***Add the Discussion Sheet to any activity for deeper learning.***

Bible Verse Memory Game

game directions, Appendix B

Though listed with the opening activities, you may choose to use this Bible verse game here instead (or as a repeat).

- Lesson 1 Game: Animal Cube
- Lesson 2 Game: Fill 'er Up
- Lesson 3 Game: Lily Pad Jump

Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning

Discussion Questions

Music, Movement & Memory Activity

game directions, Appendix B

A music activity that uses the songs from the Bible Truth and Big Question unit.

- DDD Songs for this Bible Truth, plus:
- Lesson 1 Activity: Thumping Drums
- Lesson 2 Activity: Say, Spring Up and Shout
- Lesson 3 Activity: Freeze Frame

Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review Game

game directions, Appendix B

A game that uses the storyboard pictures from the story to review the story.

- Lesson 1 Game: Look Who's Coming Down the Tracks
- Lesson 2 Game: Can You Remember?
- Lesson 3 Game: Clothespin Line Up and Drop

Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning

Discussion Questions

Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets

in Appendix C

A coloring page related to the lesson assignment question is provided for each lesson. On the back of each are the key concepts, a few questions and a song for parents to use with their children.

NOTE: Upgrade your coloring sheet to a more interesting craft by offering simple embellishments, such as jiggly eyes, craft sand, glitter, glitter glue, colored paper dots (made with a hole punch), fabric scraps, etc. Make cut-to-size glued-on clothes, hair, etc for characters by using a copy of the coloring sheet, cutting out the selected portions and making them the patterns for whatever you want to cut out of fabric, paper, foil, etc.

- Lesson 1 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Truth
- Lesson 2 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: Bible Verse
- Lesson 3 Coloring Sheet Emphasis: ACTS Prayer

Use the Discussion Sheet with this activity for even deeper learning

Discussion Questions

Extra Crafts:

Big Question Craft
in Appendix C

Bible Verse Craft
in Appendix C

Bible Story Puzzle
in Appendix C

These crafts are slightly more complex than the coloring/take home sheets:

The Bible Concept Go-and-Tell Craft is a craft that summarizes the Bible concept and includes the Bible verse is included for those desiring more than a coloring sheet. This more complex craft will involve gluing, sticking, etc. Can be used at any time.

Use the Discussion Sheet with these activities for even deeper learning

Discussion Questions

The **Bible Story Coloring Sheet** provides a tie in between the Bible story and the Bible truth they are learning.

The **Storyboard Picture Placement Page** has been made into a puzzle that can be cut out and re-assembled by the children. This provides a nice summary of the story.

Free Play Activities
ideas in Appendix D

Offer your own or some of the easy-to-make, free play activities suggested in Appendix D.

4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME *(End-of-session activities for the last 5-10 minutes of class time)*

Transition to Closing Circle

Classroom Song, verse 3

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Use this song to help the children transition in an orderly fashion. Start singing this song and ask the children to gather with you for Closing Circle Time.

Classroom Song, verse 3 *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 3*

It's time to get ready to go and tell,
It's time to get ready to go and tell,
Come gather here with me.

Closing Circle Time

Classroom Song, verse 4

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

When children are settled in the circle, say:
"It's almost time for your parents to come pick you up. And do you know what that means? It means…. (draw this out to build anticipation and excitement)…that it's almost time to go home and….it's almost time to…Go and Tell! We have learned some big news about God today. God wants us to take and tell it to the whole world!"

Classroom Song, verse 4 *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 4*

So what's our big news to go and tell,
So what's our big news to go and tell,
Can you tell me now?

Big News to Tell Big Question 13

VISUAL AID

#1

**found in DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, ESV Book*

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Big Question 13, Bible Truth 3

VISUAL AID

#3

"Let's see....there's so much big news to tell! There's so much we've learned!

First of all, can you tell me the answer to our **Big Question: "Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him?"** *Hold up the Bible Truth Clue Picture.*

Say the answer with me: **"It Is God's Sustaining Grace!"**

(If desired, you can sing one/both of the Big Question songs.) *DDD NIV Songs 13, tracks 12,13*

And what's one way He does this? What did we learn? *Point to the picture.*

The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People!

"And how do I know this is true? Can you tell me? Say it with me: **"The Bible tells me so!"** That's right!

Big Question 13 Bible Truth 3 Bible Verse

VISUAL AID

#4

**found in the DDD Unit 13 Visual Aids, ESV Book*

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

We learned: **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Learn a Little: "God makes us stand firm in Christ. He put his Spirit in our hearts."

God's people keep on believing in God because God, Himself, establishes them. That means He makes sure they keep on standing firm in their trust in Him. Jesus is the Christ. He's the special one sent by God to save sinners and make them God's people forever. It's because of Jesus that God's people stand firm in their faith. Jesus bought them with His blood. He paid for them and owns them. They will always stand firm in the faith because no one can ever take them away from Him. They will be God's dearly-loved people forever. And as His people, forgiven through Jesus, God gives them another, most wonderful gift: He puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts. The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are God's dearly loved people. He helps them remember the truths of God's Word and believe them. He helps them be strong and brave in Jesus. He reminds them that they belong to God and one day will go to live with Him forever. God's people never have to go through anything alone. God's Holy Spirit is always with them, living inside of them. And He will go on living inside them their whole lives. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

(If desired, you can sing the Bible verse song.) *DDD NIV Songs 13, track 22*

4. CLOSING CIRCLE TIME, continued

Closing ACTS Prayer Time

ACTS Prayer Chant

lyrics and sheet music, Appendix A

Let's ask God to help us to remember this and even tell others this good news. Let's get ready and pray our ACTS prayer.

And what does ACTS mean? Let's sing/say our ACTS Prayer Chant!

ACTS Prayer Chant Song *DDD NIV Songs 13, tracks 10,11*

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.

That's the ACTS prayer, my friend,
Bow your head, Close your eyes, Shhh,
Let's begin.

Closing ACTS Prayer

"Let's pray!"

Lead the children in the ACTS prayer for this Bible Truth.

A Holy Spirit, we praise You for the way You can powerfully work in our hearts, changing us from the inside out.

C We confess that many times we are proud, jealous, envious and hateful. We need Jesus to save us. We need Your Holy Spirit to replace with humility and love. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, Holy Spirit, for being stronger than any of our sins. Thank You for being able to work so powerfully in our hearts and truly change us.

S Holy Spirit, work in our hearts, help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our heart with Your good ways. Make us joyful, peaceful, kind, patience, self-controlled, joyful, loving and good. Give us wisdom and make us bold and strong to do God's will. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

5. TAKING IT HOME *(Take Home Sheet)*

Clean up and Dismissal

"Now it's time to work together and clean up."
Have the children join you in cleaning up the room.

Coloring Pages/ Take Home Sheets

in Appendix C

Give out the craft/take home sheet and any other papers from the session, as you dismiss children from class.

(Reminder: The back side of the coloring page is the take home sheet for each lesson.)

Bible Story to Take-Home

in Appendix C

You may also want to include a copy of the story along with the take home sheet. (However, each coloring sheet/take home sheet includes a note to parents telling where they can download the story from the Parent Resources section on the website.

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4

use with all THREE lessons

Place story in

take out

of BQB

The Case of the Foolish Forgetters

Galatians

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/Story Scenes, if using. (In Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard figures/Story Scenes, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues/hold up Story Scenes as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
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.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

"Our story is called: The Case of the Foolish Forgetters. Here is your listening assignment." *Read from Detective Dan's Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:*

Detective Dan's Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to know:

Foolish means doing something without thinking it through well... and something bad happens.

1. Who was foolish? What were they doing without thinking it through well?

2. What did they forget?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 2 Corinthians 1:21-22:

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

I need to know:

1. Who did the Galatians forget to depend on to help them live for God?

2. Who did they need to have live in their hearts and help them live for God?

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: God's laws, a beach ball, a Jew, a Gentile, a hot dog, and the Holy Spirit in a heart.

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

I need to know:

1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?

2. What did the Galatian believers need to confess to God? Who did they need to turn back to depending upon?

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.

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 — use with all THREE lessons — P.2

The Case of the Foolish Forgetters

Galatians

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, *optional interaction cues in italics) Numbers correspond to storyboard pictures and placement upon the storyboard. Alway feel free to use less pictures, if it's best for your kids. Simply black out the numbers next to pictures you do not plan to use. All pictures are found in the Visual Aids book. Put BG (background) pictures on storyboard ahead of time. SB pictures (listed below in story text) are added to board as you tell the story. These numbers are also found on the back of each picture. Tip: Stack pictures in numerical before telling story for easy use. Use sticky-back velcro to attach pictures to storyboard felt. Use sticky-tac putty to stick a picture on top of another picture. OR, if using the Story Scenes to tell the story, disregard the storyboard picture references listed below.*

"Good news! Good news! Come hear my good news!" Paul announced. (SB1) Up tall mountains and down low valleys; (SB2) through thick forests and alongside winding rivers, Silas and he had been travelling through the land of Galatia. And everywhere he went, Paul told the people the good news of salvation through faith in God's Son. Can you remember the name of God's Son?

Can you tell me?

It's Jesus! Yes, everywhere Paul went, he told people how they could become God's people through Him.

(SB3) Some of the people Paul talked to were Jews. (SB4) They had grown up knowing about the LORD. They had heard God's Word and were taught God's laws. Each week, they had gathered together to praise God and learn more about Him.(SB5) They tried to keep all of God's laws, but they had sin in their hearts. They were law-breakers, not perfect law-keepers! Oh, how would they ever please God if they couldn't keep His laws?

Do you know how?

Paul opened the Bible, God's Word, and told them how.

(SB6) "I've got good news for you! You can't keep God's laws perfectly, but Jesus could!" Paul said. "Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah, sent to save us from our sins, just as God promised. Jesus obeyed God's laws perfectly. He offered up His life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really fulfilled all of God's laws and beaten sin and death for God's people," Paul told them. "Turn away from trying to please God on your own. Repent of your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is how you can be God's people, not by trying to earn your way to being God's people with your own law-keeping, as you used to!" Paul urged them.

Hmmmm…. This was very, VERY different from anything these Jews had heard before. Could Jesus really be the Messiah? Could He really be the one God promised to save them from their sins? Had He really fulfilled all of God's laws in their place? This was a lot to think about. Would they believe this good news Paul preached this day?

What do you think?

(SB7) The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of those Jews that day. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He filled their hearts with joy and gave them power to live a new life for God. How happy they were that Jesus had saved them! How much better it was to have the Holy Spirit working inside them, helping them know God and live for Him! How glad they were to be free from trying to please God just by keeping His laws and never being able to do it! Yay!

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 use with all THREE lessons P.3

***Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional** interaction cues in italics)*

But Paul's good news wasn't just for the Jews in Galatia. (SB8) It was for the Gentiles who lived there, too. The Gentiles who didn't know God's Word or His laws. (SB9) They had grown up worshipping fake gods, like Hermes and Zeus. (SB10) They took their worship gifts to them and honored them with wild, worship parties and other bad things that they thought pleased these gods. (SB11) How far from the LORD were these Gentiles! Oh, how would they ever please Him, the one, true God, if they kept worshipping these fake gods and doing these bad things?

Do you know how?

It was through Jesus!

So, Paul told the good news of Jesus to all the Gentiles who would listen, too, (SB12) "Your gods are fake gods. I've come to tell you about the LORD, one, true God!" Paul told them. "HE is the One who created this whole world. He created you and gave you food to eat and all the other things that you enjoy," Paul explained. "And now He has sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins and give you eternal life. Come, know the living God! Turn away from your fake gods and your sins! Put your trust in Jesus and be saved!" Paul exclaimed.

Hmmmm…. This was very, VERY different from anything these Gentiles had heard before. Could the LORD be the one, true God? Could Jesus really be His Son, sent to save them? Could they really be forgiven their sins and have eternal life with God. This was a lot to think about. Would they believe this good news Paul preached this day?

What do you think?

(SB13) The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of those Gentiles that day. He helped them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He filled their hearts with joy and gave them power to live a new life for God, just he had in the Jewish believers. How happy they were that Jesus had saved them! How much better it was to have the Holy Spirit working inside them, helping them know God and live for Him! How glad they were to be free from worshipping fake gods and trying to find happiness in their old, hopeless way of living. Yay!

(SB14) These new believers began to gather together to hear God's Word and encourage each other in the wonderful good news they had come to believe. Once they had been Jews and Gentiles. Now they were believers in Jesus, brothers and sisters together in God's family. Soon there were little churches: in Lystra, Derbe, Iconium and other cities-- all over Galatia. How Paul happy was!

Up mountain, down valley. Through forests, along windy rivers went Paul with Silas again. (SB15) Now he was leaving Galatia and going to other places to tell even more people the good news of Jesus. But even though Paul left the land of Galatia far behind, he never forgot about the little churches of believers gathering together there. (SB16) He prayed for them and longed for news of them. Oh, how he hoped they were doing well and growing in the Lord!

(SB17) One day, the news Paul was waiting for came. What kind of news would it be? Good news or bad news?

What do you think?

Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 4 use with all THREE lessons P.4

***Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional** interaction cues in italics)*

I'm sorry to say that it was BAD news! Things had started out well in the little churches of Galatia, but they had not stayed that way. (SB18) Bad teachers had come in. "Paul has it wrong," they told the believers. "Gentiles have to trust in Jesus AND live by the Jews' old laws, if they are to be God's people," they taught. The believers in the little churches were so confused. Some started believing these bad teachers and began to leave Paul and the good news of Jesus behind! Oh, no!

Paul was worried and angry when he heard what was going on. Would EVERYONE in Galatia forget the good news of Jesus that had saved them? He wanted to protect the little churches from these bad teachers! But what could he do?

Can you guess?

(SB19) Paul knew just what to do. He sat down and wrote those churches a letter. He would remind them of the truth!."Quick, take this letter to the churches in Galatia!" Paul told a messenger when he finished.

(SB20) Up mountain, down valley; through forests, along winding rivers the messenger went. He read Paul's letter to little churches scattered throughout Galatia.

(SB21) "You foolish Galatians! Don't listen to those bad teachers!" Paul wrote them. "Don't go back to your old way of living! It didn't make you happy! It didn't make you right with God, or help you live for Him. No, the fruit of your old life was unhappiness and all kinds of sin!" Paul exclaimed.

"Only faith is Jesus can make you right with God. And, only the Holy Spirit living in your heart can help you know God and live for Him," Paul reminded them.

"Go back to the real gospel! Keep trusting in Jesus," Paul urged the believers. "And keep in step with the Holy Spirit whom God has put in your hearts! He's the one who changes you from the inside," Paul explained. "The fruit of the Holy Spirit is so different from the fruit of your old way of living! His fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and self-control. There will never be a law against these good things that the Holy Spirit gives us! He helps us to keep on living for God!"

Paul

Would the little churches forget the gospel and fall apart, or would God sustain them? Would the Holy Spirit use Paul's words to help these believers?

What do you think?

(SB22) Paul, himself, found the answer to that question himself, when a few years later he travelled with Timothy and Silas back up the mountains, down the valleys, through the forests, and along the winding rivers to Galatia once more. (SB23) He rejoiced to find believers gathering together still. He preached God's Word to them and the Holy Spirit strengthened their hearts! God had been faithful to sustain His people and He always will be!

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:
I need to know:
Foolish means doing something without thinking it through well... and something bad happens.
1. Who was foolish? What were they doing without thinking it through well? The new believers in the church in Galatia. They were obeying new, bad teachers who weren't teaching them the good news of Jesus.
2. What did they forget? They forgot that only by trusting in Jesus could they please God. They forgot that only by the Holy Spirit living in their hearts did they love God and live for Him.

For You and Me:
Like the people of Galatia, we need God's help if we are to live for Him. We can never do this on our own. But the good news is that we don't have to! God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to give the Holy Spirit to them. He will live in their hearts and help them live for God. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is 2 Corinthians 1:21-22:
"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

I need to find out:
1. Who did the Galatians forget to depend on to help them live for God? They forgot to depend on God and the good gifts of salvation and life that He gives them through Jesus.
2. Who did they need to have live in their hearts and help them live for God? The Holy Spirit.

For You and Me:
Like the people of Galatia, we need God's help if we are to live for Him. We can never do this on our own. But the good news is that we don't have to! God promises to forgive all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He promises to give the Holy Spirit to them. He will live in their hearts and help them live for God. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:
Our six clues were: God's laws, a beach ball, a Jew, a Gentile, a hot dog, and the Holy Spirit in a heart.

1. Which four belong in our story?
God's laws, the Jew, the Gentile, and the Holy Spirit in a heart belong. The beach ball and the hot dog do not.
2. What did the Galatian believers need to confess to God? Who did they need to turn back to depending upon? That they had turned away from trusting in Jesus to make them right with God, and in the Holy Spirit to help them love God and live for Him. Instead, they were depending on themselves and trying to obey God's laws. They needed to turn back to depending upon Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

For You and Me:
Like the believers in Galatia, we, too, need to put our trust in Jesus. He alone can save us. And His Holy Spirit living in our hearts is the only One who can help us truly live for God. We can ask God to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to put His Holy Spirit in our hearts and help us live for God.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)

Our Bible Truth is:
How Can I Know What God Is Like?
It Is God's Sustaining Grace!
The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People!

Both Jews and Gentiles needed Jesus to be their Savior. They were all sinners who deserved God's punishment we can never please Him by their own goodness. Both Jews and Gentiles needed the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts. They needed Jesus to die on the cross for their sins. They needed Him to rise from the dead on the third day in victory over sin and death for them. And they needed Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them love God and live for Him. This was the only way that they could be God's people and live as God's people. And it's the only way we can be God's people too… by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A Holy Spirit, we praise You for the way You can powerfully work in our hearts, changing us from the inside out.

C We confess that many times we are proud, jealous, envious and hateful. We need Jesus to save us. We need Your Holy Spirit to replace with humility and love. We need a Savior!

T Thank You, Holy Spirit, for being stronger than any of our sins. Thank You for being able to work so powerfully in our hearts and truly change us.

S Holy Spirit, work in our hearts, help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our heart with Your good ways. Make us joyful, peaceful, kind, patience, self-controlled, joyful, loving and good. Give us wisdom and make us bold and strong to do God's will.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

Use with all response activities for deeper learning

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

choose a few

1. Why do God's people keep on believing in Him? *It is God's sustaining grace.*
2. Who enjoys many good things in this world? *Everyone.*
3. Who suffers through bad or sad things in this world? *Everyone.*
4. Who do God's people love more than the good things they enjoy? *God.*
5. Who do they keep trusting in, even as they go through bad or sad things? *God.*
6. Who helps God's people keep believing in God? *God does.*
7. What does God give His people to help them keep on believing in and living for Him? *His sustaining grace.*
8. What is sustaining grace? *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.*
9. Who does God want us to depend upon? *Himself.*
10. What does God love us to ask Him for? *His help.*
11. How can we become one of God's people? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE TRUTH

Meaning

It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People!

God created all people with a special heart, deep inside of them. It's different from the heart in your body that pumps blood and you feel beating. This special heart is invisible, but it's the part of you that lives forever and can know God. In the Bible, this special heart is also called our spirit.

The sad news is that the beautiful, special heart that God gave us is broken with sin. Yes, we have all chosen to turn away from God and disobey Him. We deserve His punishment, not His friendship. But there's good news, too! God's Holy Spirit can work in our heart and change it. He does this when we listen to God's Word and when we pray. He can help us see our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And when we do, He makes our heart clean and new, able to know God and wanting to love and serve Him. This is how we become God's people.

And that's just the beginning of what the Holy Spirit does inside us when we become God's people. He goes on working in our hearts, making the most amazing changes. He helps us know God and want to live for Him more and more. He gives us wisdom to understand God's Word and boldness to tell others about Him. He helps us turn away from anger, jealousy, hatred and pride and replaces them with love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, goodness and self-control in their place. What a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit is! God's people would never be able to keep on loving God and living for Him, if the Holy Spirit did not live inside them. The Holy Spirit can come and live in our hearts, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Discussion Questions

choose a few

1. What is the name of the special heart that God created all people with? *A spirit.*
2. What does this special heart do? *This special heart is the part of us that lives forever and can know God.*
3. What is in the special heart God gave us that caused it to be broken? *Sin.*
4. Who can work in our broken heart and change it? *God's Holy Spirit.*
5. How does the Holy Spirit working in our hearts and change it? *He works in our hearts when we listen to God's word and when we pray. He can help us see our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*
6. What kind of changes does the Holy Spirit make in our heart when we trust in Jesus as our Savior? *He makes our hearts clean and new, able to know God and wanting to know and serve Him.*
7. How else does the Holy Spirit go on working in the hearts of God's people? *He gives us wisdom to know God's word and boldness to tell others about them. He helps them to turn away from sin and fills them with love, peace, patience, and many other good things.*
8. How can we become God's people who have the Holy Spirit live inside of us? *When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons 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? Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? *It Is God's Sustaining Grace... The Holy Spirit Works Inside of God's People. Both Jews and Gentiles needed Jesus to be their Savior. They were all sinners who deserved God's punishment we can never please Him by their own goodness. Both Jews and Gentiles needed the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts. They needed Jesus to die on the cross for their sins. They needed Him to rise from the dead on the third day in victory over sin and death for them. And they needed Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them love God and live for Him. This was the only way that they could be God's people and live as God's people. And it's the only way we can be God's people too… by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!*

BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." --2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Learn a Little: "God makes us stand firm in Christ. He put his Spirit in our hearts."

Meaning

God's people keep on believing in God because God, Himself, establishes them. That means He makes sure they keep on standing firm in their trust in Him. Jesus is the Christ. He's the special one sent by God to save sinners and make them God's people forever. It's because of Jesus that God's people stand firm in their faith. Jesus bought them with His blood. He paid for them and owns them. They will always stand firm in the faith because no one can ever take them away from Him. They will be God's dearly-loved people forever. And as His people, forgiven through Jesus, God gives them another, most wonderful gift: He puts His Holy Spirit in their hearts. The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are God's dearly loved people. He helps them remember the truths of God's Word and believe them. He helps them be strong and brave in Jesus. He reminds them that they belong to God and one day will go to live with Him forever. God's people never have to go through anything alone. God's Holy Spirit is always with them, living inside of them. And He will go on living inside them their whole lives. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Discussion Questions

choose a few

1. What does Christ mean? Who is He? *Christ means special sent one from God. Jesus is the Christ, God's special Sent One who would be the Savior of God's people.*
2. What does establish mean? T*o establish something means to make something happen so that it stays that way.*
3. Who did God send to make people like you and me His dearly-loved people and keep us this way forever? *Jesus, the Christ, the special Savior God sent to save us from our sins.*
4. Who do God's people belong to? Who owns them? *God does! How wonderful!*
5. Who does God send to live in the hearts of His people, helping them to keep on believing in Him, loving Him, and living for Him forever? *His Holy Spirit.*
6. How can we become God's people? How can we be His forever and enjoy His Holy Spirit living in our hearts? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

BIBLE STORY

The Case of the Foolish Forgetters

Discussion Questions

choose a few

1. Who traveled throughout the country land of Galatea, telling everyone the good news of Jesus? *Paul* .
2. Who were Jews and what did they grow up doing? *People who grew up hearing and obeying God's Word.*
3. What did the Jews tried to do to please God? *They tried to please Him by keeping all of His good laws.*
4. Could the Jews really please God by keeping all of his good laws? *No, they could not! None of them could keep God's laws perfectly, which is the only way we can please God by keeping His laws.*
5. Who kept all of God's good laws perfectly? Who did the Jews need to put their trust in? *Jesus kept God's laws perfectly. The Jews needed to put their trust in Him as their Savior.*
6. What did the Jews think when they heard the good news of Jesus? *Many trusted in Jesus as their Savior.*
7. Who came to live inside these Jews to help them love God and live for Him? *God's Holy Spirit.*
8. What is a Gentile? What did they grow up doing? *Gentiles were people who didn't grow up knowing God's Word or obeying his laws. They worshipped fake gods and did what pleased them.*
9. What did Paul urge the Gentiles to do? *To turn away from their fake gods and trust in Jesus as their Savior.*
10. What did the Holy Spirit do in the hearts of the Gentiles who trusted and Jesus? *He filled their hearts and gave them power to live a new life for God.*
11. What happened when the new believers who had been Gentiles and Jews started gathering together as a church? They started to go back to their old ways of living. The Gentiles started doing some of the bad things they used to do when they worshipped fake gods. The Jews started to think everyone needed to live like a Jew. Everyone was forgetting the good news of Jesus that saved them.
12. What did Paul remind the Galatians to do? What did Paul remind the Galatians when he wrote them? *Only by believing in Jesus could they be saved. Only by the Holy Spirit in their hearts could they know and live for God.*
13. How can we know God and live for Him? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior*.

Note: Use sticky tac putty rather than velcro on back of pictures placed on top of other pictures.