

The Big Question

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!

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.

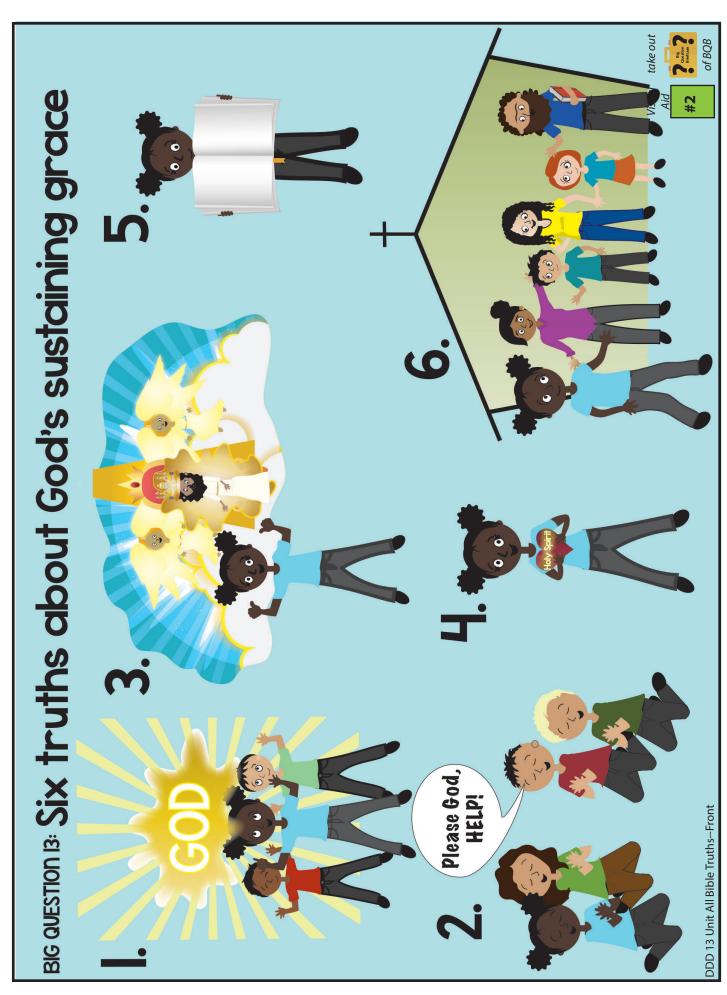
What makes the difference? It's God and His sustaining grace! That is, His gifts of strength to help us keep on believing in Him and living for Him. God will always give His people what they need! He wants them to depend on Him and He loves for them to ask for His help. He will never fail them. God will help you like this, too, if you turn away from your sins and put your trust in Jesus.

Let's sing our Big Question Song:"

Big Q & A I3 Song

DDD ESV Songs 13, track 12 (adapted version of "This Old Man")

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.



This Unit's Bible Truths

"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.

After everyone has had a good look, say...

"Ok, we've learned one truth about how God sustains His people. It's this one: "God Alone Sustains His People." (point to picture as you identify the 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.



Revealing the Bible Truth We Are Learning

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!
God, the ????, Promises to Help His People!"

We're missing one word. Here's the hint to what the missing word is. It says: "Another word for Dad. It starts with an "F" and it rhymes with "bother."

Can you guess? It's "Father."

So, the Bible Truth we are learning today is:

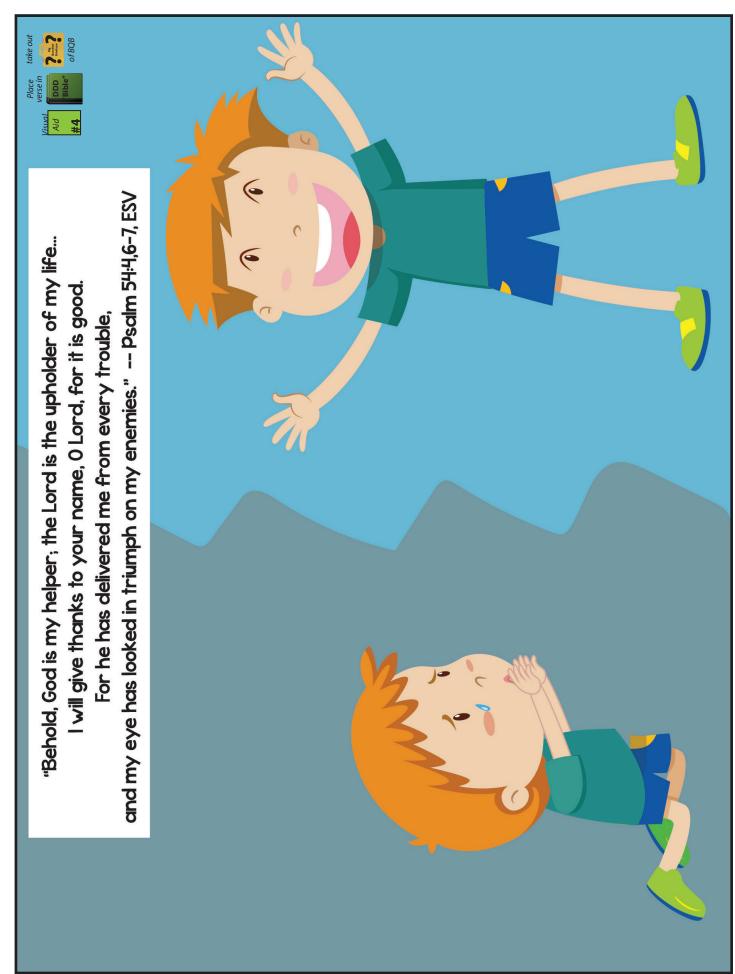
(uncover answer from bottom of sign, show it to them and say:)

"Why Do God's People Keep Believing in Him? It Is God's Sustaining Grace!
God, the FATHER, Promises to Help His People!"

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

God is a good Father to His people--to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He knows that they can't love Him or live for Him by themselves. He knows they need His help and He promises to give it to them.

He promises to take care of all their needs. He promises to comfort them when they are scared. He promises to help them fight against sin in their lives and rescue them in times of trouble. He promises to make everything in their lives work for their good and His glory. He sent Jesus to take the punishment for their sins on the cross to break the strong hold sin and death had on them. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. There is nothing that God's people need that their Heavenly Father will not provide. He will help them do everything He wants them to do, every day of their lives. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Bible Truth 2 Bible Verse

Remove the Bible Verse Picture from the "Bible" folder and hold it up for all the children to see, then say:

Psalm 54:4,7 tells us:

Psalm 54:4,7, ESV

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life...I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good. For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies."

Learn a Little: "The Lord is the upholder of my life."

What does that mean?

God promises to help His people. He promises to uphold their life, so that they keep on loving Him and living for Him. God has a good plan for each one of His people. He may call them to do some that are very hard, but He will deliver them out of all their troubles. He promises to give them the strength they need to go through their troubles. He promises to use every trouble for their good. And at just the right time, He will bring their troubles to an end. God's people know they can depend on Him to help them whenever they need help...and go on helping them for the rest of their lives. He is their sustainer! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

"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?"

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

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

Behold, God Is My Helper: Psalm 54:4,7

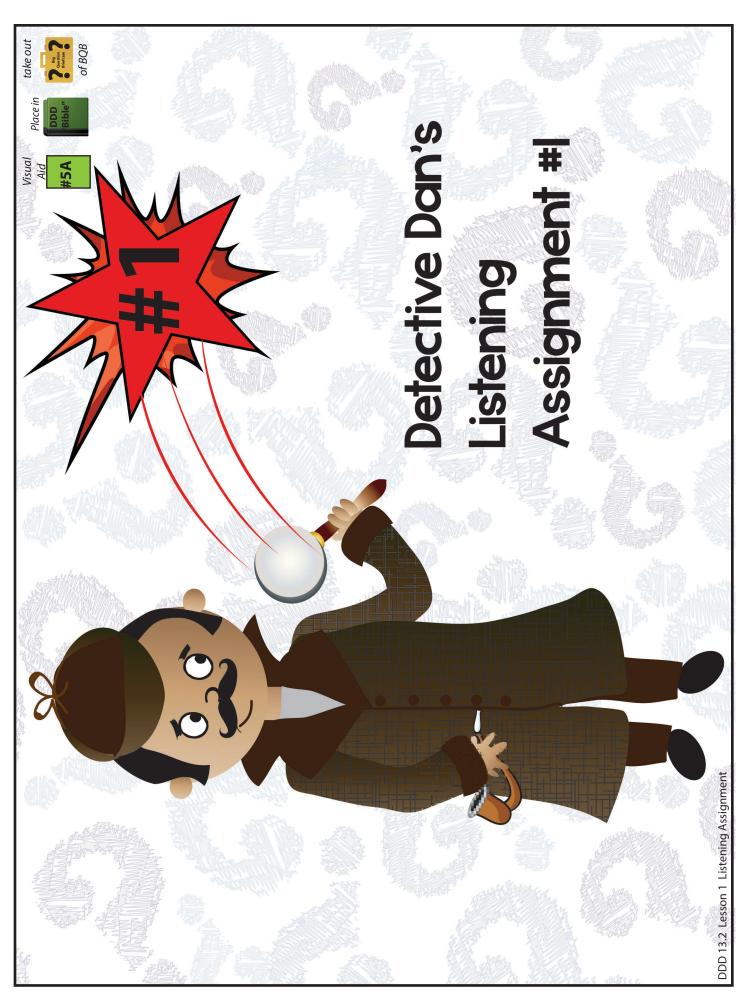
DDD ESV Songs 13, track 22

Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper;The upholder of my life, Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper.

Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper; He's delivered me from every trouble, Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper;

Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper; My eyes have looked in triumph on my enemies. Behold, God is my helper; Behold, God is my helper; Psalm Fifty-four, four and seven.

"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?"



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #1



Hi, Deep Down Detectives!

I'm working on a brand-new case called:

"The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers."

need to find out:

l. Who were the really bad remember-ers? What did they refuse to remember about God?
AND

2. What happened when they did remember God as they should?

Can you help me? Listen carefully to the story and you might just hear the answers!

Thanks!
Detective Dan

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 of his questions."

Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the storyboard pictures as you tell it. At the end of the story, repeat the questions and lead the children in answering them. Present the gospel and close in prayer.

Answers to assignment questions, the gospel and ACTS prayer are also included at the end of the story text.

Answers:

1. Who were the really bad remember-ers? What did they refuse to remember about God? The people of Israel were the bad remember-ers. They chose not to remember the LORD's promises to take care of them. They chose not to remember all the ways the LORD had rescued them from their strong enemies already. Because they did not remember, they refused to trust that the LORD could really defeat the people in Canaan and give them the land as their home.

2. What happened when they remembered the promises? They had courage to go into Canaan. And when they did, the LORD helped them defeat their enemies and made the land their own.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, the LORD wants us to remember who He is and what He is able to do. He wants us to turn to Him and trust Him to take care of us, no matter what we face in life. And what's the most important thing He's done that He wants us to remember? That He sent Jesus to save us from our sins. When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will make us His people. As His people, we can know that God will always sustain us—He will help us to love Him and live for Him, the rest of our lives.



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #2

Hi, Deep Down Detectives!
I'm still working on the case called:

"The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers."

Our Bible verse is Psalm 54:4,6-7, ESV:

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life...! will give thanks to your name, 0 Lord, for it is good. For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies."

need to find out:

- I. What troubles did the people of Israel face?
 AND
- 2. What did the LORD promise to do for them in their troubles?

Can you help me? Listen carefully to the story and you might just hear the answers!

Thanks for your help!
Detective Dan

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 of his questions."

Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the storyboard pictures as you tell it. At the end of the story, repeat the questions and lead the children in answering them. Present the gospel and close in prayer.

Answers to assignment questions, the gospel and ACTS prayer are also included at the end of the story text.

Answers:

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 54:4,6-7, ESV:

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life...I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good. For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies."

- 1. What troubles did the people of Israel face? They faced fierce enemies who lived in strong cities in the land the LORD promised them. These enemies were too strong for them and would kill them, if they fought them on their own.
- 2. What did the LORD promise to do for them in their troubles? The LORD promised to always be with them. He would help them beat their enemies. He would help them win the land He promised them. He would even go before them.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, God holds out His promises to us. Promises to forgive our sins and make us His people. Promises to help us to live for Him, all the days of our lives. How can these promises from God become promises for us? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer!



Detective Dan's Listening Assignment #3

Hi, Deep Down Detectives!
I'm still working on the case called:
"The Case of the Really Bad Remember-ers."

I found SIX clues, but TWO of them are NOT in the story. They are: grapes; a rocket; a giant enemy; Joshua, the Ark of the Covenant; and an elephant.

Hold up each of the six pictures for the children to see as you identify them. Better yet, put them up on your flannelgraph board, off to one side.

need to know:

- I. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?
- 2. Who thanked the LORD for keeping His promise to help them? How did He help them?

Can you help me? Listen carefully to the story and you might just hear the answers!

Thanks!
Detective Dan

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 of his questions."

Read the Bible Truth story, putting up the storyboard pictures as you tell it. At the end of the story, repeat the questions and lead the children in answering them. Present the gospel and close in prayer.

Answers to assignment questions, the gospel and ACTS prayer are also included at the end of the story text.

Answers:

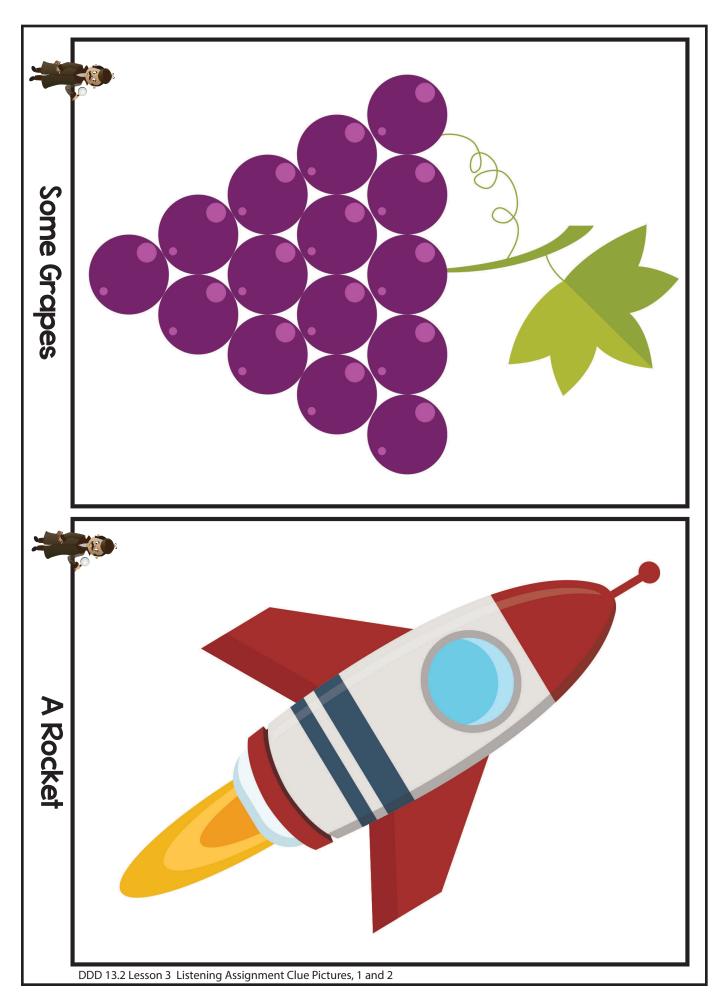
1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?

The grapes; the giant enemy; Joshua, and the Ark of the Covenant belong. The rocket and the elephant do not.

2. Who thanked the LORD for keeping His promise to help them? How did He help them? The people of Israel did. He held back the waters of the River Jordan, so they could cross on dry land. He helped them fight all of their enemies and win, so they could settle the land He promised them.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, God holds out His promises to us. Promises to forgive our sins and make us His people. Promises to help us to live for Him, all the days of our lives. How can these promises from God become promises for us? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, then we, too, will have so very, very much to thank the LORD for!





Question 2

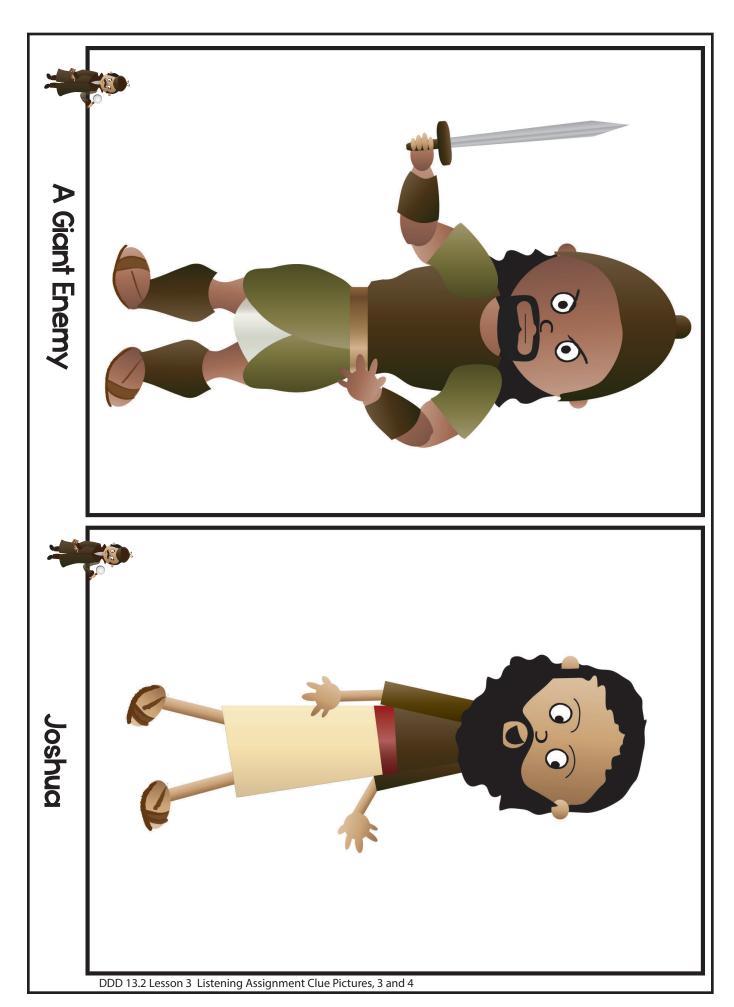
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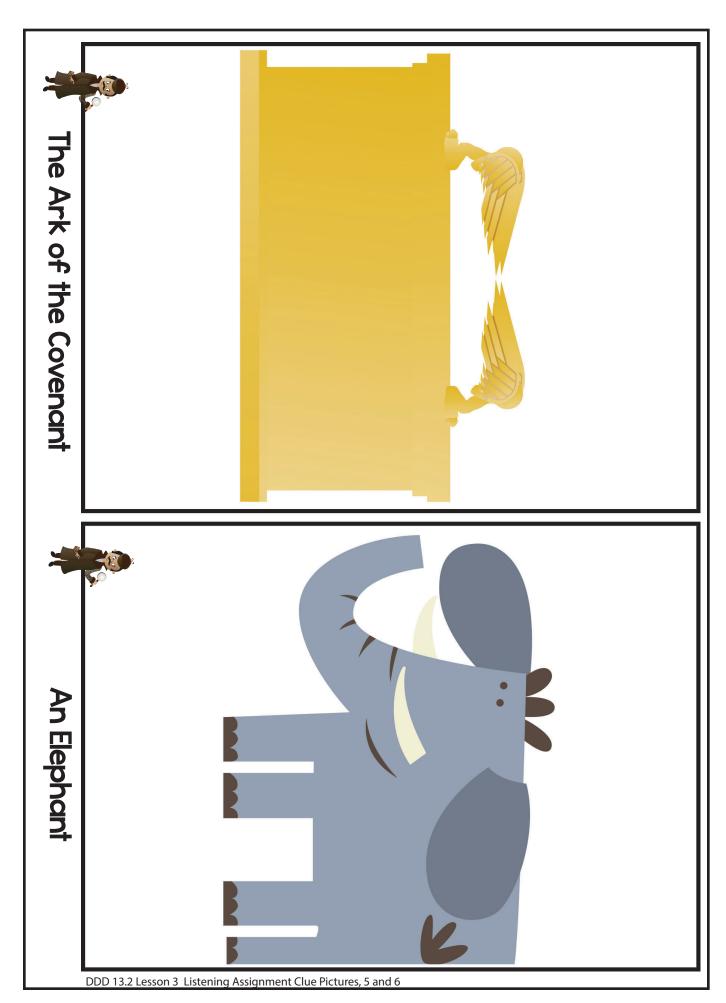
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DDD 13.2 Lesson 3 Listening Assignment Clue Picture 5 for

Question 2

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