



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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Detective Pikachu (2019) | *Seeing the Big Picture* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators and parents to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

Pokemon has long given us lovable creatures that could be companions or wild beasts and everything in between, and each one says one word. Detective Pikachu gives us a new twist on these companions by introducing a pokemon that can talk to people and even interpret for other Pokemon.

Ask: If you could talk to Pokemon, which one would you talk to and what would you ask it?

EQUIP

Detective Pikachu was full of twists. Very twisty twists. The reason twists work so well in mystery movies is because the story is given in small segments. It's not until the very end of the story that we really understand what is going on. Sometimes Detective Pikachu was even frustrating to watch because the characters only knew their small segment of the story and made quick decisions based on their limited information.

Tim made the decision to hate his dad because he thought his father didn't want him. Pikachu decided to leave Tim because he thought he had betrayed Harry and didn't want to betray another friend. Both of them worked hard to help the mayor because they believed he was the good guy, but he turned out to be the villain. One of the few characters in the film who could be trusted was Mewtwo, and he was feared because they had been told only part of his story.

In our life, we seldom have the full story, but we often make our decisions based on what we think we know before trying to find out more. God asks us to trust him, even when we do not understand what is going on because he can see the full picture at the end and we cannot. Pikachu and Tim would have had an easier time if they had known the full story from the start, but then there would have been no adventure or room for growth. Through their struggle, they became good friends and were able to work through personal issues that needed to be dealt with. As Christians, God gives us similar situations to help us grow by only showing us our part of the story.

LEVEL UP

1 Corinthians 13:12 "Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I knew now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."

What is Paul talking about when he says "then" in this verse?

We can't see the whole picture until the end of our lives, but God already knows the whole picture. We are working with a small and often distorted picture. When you look in a foggy mirror, you can't really see your face, much less the room around you. That is why hope is so important. Without the hope we will eventually understand what is going on, our lives and especially our suffering, can seem meaningless.

A good example of this is the story of Joseph. This story can be found in **Genesis 37-50**. If you are not familiar with this story, take a few minutes to read these highlights for a short summary: **Genesis 37:23-28; Genesis 39:4-5, 17-23; and Genesis 41:37-40**.

Joseph didn't know his full story when he was thrown into a pit and then sold by his brothers into slavery. He didn't know what would happen when he was accused of a crime he didn't commit and thrown in prison. God didn't magically reveal his plan to Joseph while he waited in prison for years until he was finally remembered and summoned to help the Pharaoh. But nonetheless, Joseph thrived in every situation because he trusted God. At the end, he realized God had a plan the whole time and he could see it when he looked back. If he had given up at any part in the story, he would never have been able to save an entire nation. He had hope.

Because of this hope, he was reunited with his brothers and saved his family, but they were afraid of him. They knew what they did was wrong and he had every reason to be angry. But when they begged for forgiveness, Joseph responded by saying, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so that I could save the lives of many people." (**Genesis 50:19-20**). Because of his faithfulness, God showed him the result of his patience and he was able to see the whole picture. We might not get the chance to see our big picture in this lifetime, but if we continue to have hope and follow Him, he will reveal it to us in heaven.

Pikachu told Tim magic brought them together and that magic was called hope. At that time, he had almost none of the story, and had even lost his own memories, but he could feel it in his "jellies." He trusted in friendship and their ability to solve the case, and in the end, it all worked out. We have something even more powerful than "jellies" and friendship. We have a God who loved us so much he was willing to die for us.

In the middle of a passage about suffering, **Romans 8:28** tells us "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." We may only see a small portion of the story now, but we already know the ending. We can have hope God is doing what is best, even when we can't see it.

MOD

Have you ever had something bad happen to you that ended up being good? What happened? How did the bad thing bring you close to God's plan for you?

How was Joseph able to stay hopeful in the middle of all that was happening to him? How can we have that same hope?

Tim and Pikachu were able to make it so far because they had encouragement and friendship. How can we encourage others who are going through suffering and are blind to the bigger picture of God's plan?

PRAY

Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?

Pray and thank God for always having a plan for us and praise him for knowing what is best in our lives. Ask Him to give us hope, even when things seem hopeless and the strength to follow him even when things seem impossible.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Hebrews 10:23 *“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.”*

Romans 12:12 *“Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.”*

Psalms 71:14 *“But I will keep on hoping for your help; I will praise you more and more.”*

Hebrews 11:1 *“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”*

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