

The Case of the Third Day Yay*Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2*

of BQB

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 Third Day Yay. 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 find out:

1. **What happened on the third day that Jesus died that made the disciples so happy?**
2. **What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus is followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:3**

"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

I need to find out:

1. **Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday?**
2. **How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

Our six clues are: Jesus, bird, praying together, God's Word, a cross and a hat.

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

I need to figure out:

1. **Which four belong in the story and which two don't?**
2. **What did Jesus is followers celebrate every Sunday? What did they thank God for doing?**

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.

The Case of the Third Day Yay *Exodus 16,20; Luke 22-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics) Numbers correspond to storyboard pictures and placement upon the storyboard. Always 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.

(SB1) Walk! Walk! Walk! Look at all of God's people walk! Where are they going? What are they doing? They aren't staying at home, so where are they going?

Where do you think they are going?

(SB2) Are they going to the market to shop? No, not the market. (SB3) Are they going to the fields to work? No, not this day.

Then where ARE they going? Aren't those the places they go every day? Aren't those the things they do every day? Well, not quite every day. There was one day each week when God told them to go something else and do something else. (SB4) God told His people to put down their work and gather together to worship Him on this special day. Do you know what this special day was called?

Can you tell me what it's called?

(SB5) It's called the Sabbath—the day of rest. And which day was the Sabbath day? It was Saturday, always Saturday...the last day of the week. So that's why all of God's people weren't staying at home or going to shop at the market or going to work in the fields on this day. It was the Sabbath and God's people were going to the worship place to worship God, just as God had told them to in His Ten, Big Laws.

For years and years and years that's the way it was. God's people gathered together to worship God on the Sabbath-Saturday. But then something really big and really wonderful happened that changed that worship day. Someone very, very special came to be the Savior of God's people. Do you know His name?

Can you tell me His name?

(SB6) It was Jesus!

Yes, Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of God's people. (SB7) He lived a perfect life—He never, ever disobeyed God. He was the perfect law-keeper of all of God's laws. (SB8) Then, He gave it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, when He suffered and died on the cross.

(SB9) Friends came and took Jesus' body off of the cross. They covered it in sweet-smelling spices and wound white linen cloth around it. (SB10) Then they buried Jesus' body in a grave cave. (SB11) They rolled the stone in place and left Him. Oh, how sad they were on that Friday when Jesus died.

And in that grave cave Jesus' dead body lay all that Friday and all that Sabbath-Saturday. (SB12) Soldiers stood out front guarding it to make sure no one came and moved His body.

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

But then, early on the next day--Sunday--what a surprise there was for those soldiers and Jesus' disciples ...and really the whole world! Jesus' body didn't stay put AT ALL! Can you tell me what happened?

What happened to Jesus?

(SB13) God raised Jesus from the dead. Out of that grave cave Jesus came. He was alive, never to die again!

Jesus appeared to many people that day. (SB14) He appeared to three women who had come to His grave cave. Yay! Jesus is alive! (SB15) Then to two people as they walked along the road to their home. "Yay! Jesus is alive!" (SB16) Then to a whole group of His disciples that evening. "Yay! Jesus is alive!"

Yes! Jesus was alive, and His friends were so happy! Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people. Now instead of facing God's punishment, God's people were forgiven! They would get to know and love and enjoy God forever! What an amazing day this was! This was the day God's people had waited for, since the beginning of time when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin came into the world.

Jesus' followers would never forget that wonderful Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead! (SB17) They began to gather together every Sunday to remember what He had done for them. They didn't call this special worship day the Sabbath anymore. They gave it a new name that reminded them each week of what Jesus did! Do you know what that new name is?

Can you tell me?

They called it "the Lord's Day" because they were celebrating the wonderful Sunday the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

(SB18) From then on, Jesus' followers kept on gathering together every Lord's Day. They worshiped God and praised their Savior. They remembered how Jesus beat sin and death for them. They prayed and shared with each other stories of the amazing things that God was doing. They cared for each other's needs and learned from God's Word, the Bible. They shared together a special meal to remember that Jesus died for their sins. In all these ways, they worshiped God and loved one another. How loud were their praises every Lord's Day! It was a big celebration day!

But as happy as those first Christians were to celebrate every Sunday in their little gatherings, that wasn't enough. Not enough for them and not enough for God! They wanted more, more, more! Can you guess what they wanted more of?

Can you guess?

(SB19) They wanted MORE people to know the good news of Jesus. They wanted MORE people to turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. They wanted MORE people to know God and love God and sing praises to God. They wanted the WHOLE WORLD to be filled with God's people.

This was what Jesus had told them to do. "Go into the whole world with the gospel," Jesus had said, right before He went up to heaven. "Teach them to repent of their sins and trust in Me as their Savior. Baptize them as My followers. Teach them how to be My disciples. Teach them how to live as God's people," He said. "I will send the Holy Spirit to help you," Jesus promised.

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

And that's just what Jesus' disciples did. (SB20) After the Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts, they began to tell everyone the good news of Jesus. First, in Jerusalem, (SB21) then out to their nearby neighbors they went with the gospel. (SB22) The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many and they turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior! They joined the disciples as they gathered together. Sundays had become their celebration day, too! God's people were growing in number! Their praises were getting louder!

Then, further and further they went to faraway places and (SB23) told the people there the good news of Jesus, too. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of these people, too. They turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior! (SB24, SB25) Little churches of believers sprung up everywhere. Sundays had become their celebration day, too!

(SB26) And since that time, God's people keep on spreading the good news of Jesus. And the Holy Spirit keeps on working in hearts. And what do they keep doing on Sundays?

Can you tell me?

They keep on gathering together on Sundays to celebrate that most wonderful of days when Jesus beat sin and death for all of God's people. Their numbers keep growing and their praises were getting louder!

And that's why we meet together, even today, to celebrate how Jesus rose from the dead and beat sin and death for God's people on that wonderful Sunday, long ago!

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

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

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

1. What happened on the third day that Jesus died that made the disciples so happy? Jesus rose from the dead. He proved that He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

2. What day of the week was that third day? What did Jesus is followers keep doing each week to remember that first, wonderful day? A Sunday. They started gathering together every Sunday to celebrate what Jesus had done for them.

For You and Me:

God's people around the world still celebrate with a "third day yay"! They still gather together on Sundays to celebrate Jesus rising up from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people. We can join in that celebration too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:3: "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1. Who celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that first, wonderful Sunday? Jesus' disciples.

2. How did they receive a new birth into a living hope? What did that mean? They had turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. God forgave their sins and made their hearts new. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of them and help them love Him and live for Him. He filled their hearts with hope in Jesus now and hope in one day going to live with Him forever in heaven. That would be best of all.

For You and Me:

Like those first followers of Jesus, we, too, can receive a new birth into a living hope. We, too, can have our sins forgiven and begin life as one of God's people. We can know God in our hearts now and one day, go to live with Him forever in heaven. How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: Jesus, bird, praying together, God's Word, a cross and a hat

1. Which four belong in our story?

Jesus, people praying, God's Word and the cross belong. The bird and the hat do not.

2. What did Jesus is followers celebrate every Sunday? What did they thank God for doing? They gathered together to celebrate Jesus' beating sin and death for them on that first, wonderful Sunday when He rose from the dead. They thanked God for sending Jesus to be their Savior.

For You and Me:

Gods people around the world still celebrate with a "third day yay"! They still gather together on Sundays to celebrate Jesus rising up from the dead in victory over sin and death for God's people. We can join in that celebration too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****Why Do God's People Go to Church?****To Worship God and Love One Another...****By Praising God for Jesus' Win over Death!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by praising God for Jesus' win over death! What a wonderful day it was when Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus proved that He had really paid for all of the sins of God's people. He had really beaten sin and death for them!

And oh, how we all needed Him to do that! You see, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. No one lives the perfect life that pleases God. That is why we all deserve His punishment!

God would have been perfectly fair to give us all His punishment; but, He is so full of mercy and love that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death for them FOREVER!

Now all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus can be forgiven their sins. God makes them His dearly-loved people. This is God's promise to us, too! Then Sunday will be our special celebration day, too!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for saving Your people, the Church. We praise You for being so powerful that You beat sin and death for them.
- C** God, we know that Sunday should be a special celebration day for us. Jesus rose from the dead to be our Savior. But sometimes, we would rather not go to church and celebrate. Sometimes we would rather just do something else that seems more fun. We do not treasure the amazingly wonderful thing that Jesus did for us when He beat sin and death. We need a Savior!
- T** God, thank You for beating sin and death through Jesus. Thank You that we do not have to face Your punishment for sin. We can know You in our hearts now. We can go to live with You in heaven when we die. You make this Your promise to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This can be Your gift to us, too.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to celebrate Jesus' win over sin and death as we gather together with God's people at church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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