

Bible Story for Big Question 15, Bible Truth 3

use with all THREE lessons

Place
story in

take out

P.1

The Case of the People Who Tried to Look Like Someone Else*John 13-15, 18-20; Acts***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 People Who Tried to Look Like Someone Else. 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:

1. **Who were the people who tried to look like someone else?**
2. **And who was the someone they try to look like? Why?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is John 13:34-35, ESV**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

I need to know:

1. **What was Jesus’ love for His people like?**
2. **Who wanted to obey Jesus’ command to love each other as He had loved them?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a little meal; the Holy Spirit in a heart; a doll; Pastor Peter; a can of soda; and some money.

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. **Who prayed for each other and cared for each other’s needs?**

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 People Who Tried to Look Like Someone Else*John 13-15, 18-20; Acts*

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 order 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) Jesus and his disciples gathered around a table for their last meal together. (SB2) That night Jesus' enemies would send soldiers to arrest Him. The next day, Jesus would suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people. Why was Jesus going to suffer and die? Was it because He had done something wrong?

*What do you think?***No, Jesus was perfect. He had never, EVER done anything wrong.****Was it because He liked to hurt?***What do you think?***Of course, not! Jesus didn't want to suffer any more than you or I want to.**

Yet Jesus was choosing to suffer and die. And He did suffer, because of how much He loved God and God's people! Jesus knew God's people needed Him to be their Savior. It was the only way God could forgive their sins. They would never know or love or enjoy God if Jesus did not pay for their sins. And so, Jesus cared for God's people and their needs so much that He was choosing to suffer and die on the cross that very next day.

There was only a little time left. What would Jesus say to His dear, close friends, the disciples, before He left them to die? What did He want them to know?

What do you think He wanted them to know?

The Bible tells us what He said. (SB3) "I am about to go away," Jesus told His disciples. "I am making the way for you and all of God's people to come to God. I am going to prepare a place for you to live with God forever. One happy day, I will come back for you to take you home to be with Me," Jesus told them.

"I'm not leaving you alone. I am sending you a special Comforter-- the Holy Spirit," Jesus promised them. "He will live in your hearts. He will keep us close. He will give you power to do everything God wants you to do," Jesus explained.

But what DID God want them to do? Jesus was about to tell them. It all came down to one word.*Can you guess what that word is?***That one word was "love."**

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

(SB4) “Show your love for Me by obeying everything I’ve taught you,” Jesus told them. “Love one another as I have loved You. I have loved you so much that I am even going to suffer and die on the cross to be the Savior you need. There is no greater love than that! Now I want you to love each other that much, too!” Jesus told them. “And when you care for each other’s needs like this, others will know that you really are My disciples and God’s people,” He promised them.

Soon everything happened just as Jesus said it would. **(SB5) Soldiers came that night and arrested Jesus. The next day, Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the sins of God’s people. (SB6) Then, friends came for His body, wrapped it in sweet-smelling spices and clean, white linen, and buried Him in a cave grave. It looked like it was the end for Jesus, but was it?**

What do you think?

No, it was not! (SB7) On Sunday, the third day, Jesus rose from the dead.(SB8) He appeared to His disciples and taught them many things. (SB9) Then He went up, up, up through the clouds to rule in heaven. Jesus was gone. Was that the end of His help?

What do you think?

No, it was not! Just as Jesus promised, (SB10) He sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His disciples. And with the Holy Spirit’s help, they lived out what Jesus had told them to do.

“Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!” Jesus had told them. So, they spread the good news in love. (SB11) “Turn away from disobeying God. Trust in Jesus as your Savior. Be baptized,” they urged all who would listen.

The Holy Spirit helped the listeners believe. (SB12) The little church of Christians grew from eleven to 120 to over 3000 people in just a few weeks!

“Love Me by obeying My commands! Love one another as I have loved you!” Jesus had told them. (SB13) So, they gathered together in love: love for God and for each other! (SB14) The little church looked to Peter and Jesus’ other disciples as their pastors/elders. These godly men were chosen to teach them, guide them and help them live out Jesus’ commands. They preached to them from God’s Word. They comforted those who were scared and weak. They warned those who were forgetting how Jesus wanted them to live. The church accepted their loving leadership as God’s good gift to them.

Every day, and especially on Sundays, the little church gathered together. And as they gathered, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and encouraged them. (SB15) They learned from God’s Word. They fellowshiped and prayed together. They shared stories about the amazing things God was doing and urged each other to keep on loving God and live for Him. They ate the Lord’s Supper together—the special meal of bread and wine that Jesus gave them to eat together to remember His death. (SB16) They sang praised to their great God! Oh, how they wanted to worship and love the LORD together, just as Jesus told them to! And the Holy Spirit helped them do this!

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

But they didn't just worship and love the LORD. They loved one another like Jesus did, too. And so, when they gathered together, they promised to care for each other's needs.

(SB17) Why, these believers shared EVERYTHING they had with each other—food, clothes, houses, money... everything! And if anyone needed anything, they would sell their things and buy whatever was needed. (SB18) Some people, like Stephen, Philip, and Phoebe were chosen by the church to be deacons. These godly men and women led the little church in caring for the sick, old, and needy among them. They would make sure that no one was overlooked. Oh, how they wanted to love each other, as Jesus told them to! And with the help of God's Holy Spirit, they did!

What glad and giving hearts those first Christians had! How they praised God! How they loved one another! And as they did, guess who else noticed?

Can you guess?

(SB19) Everyone around them! "Look at these people! How they love God! How they love one another! This is something very special," they exclaimed.

And so it was! For WHO did this church of believers look like, as they loved God and loved one another? Their Savior, Himself. Can you tell me His name?

Can you tell me?

It's Jesus!

"If you like what you see in us, you will LOVE what you see in Jesus!" the believers would tell those others. "Let us tell you about Him!"

Many years have passed since those first believers gathered together. Some things have changed since those early days, but the most important things have not. (SB20) Jesus still calls His people to keep His commands and to love one another. He still wants them to go out in love and tell everyone the good news of the gospel. And He still wants them to gather together in love, to worship God and love one another, under the good care of their elders and deacons. And as they do, the Holy Spirit will continue to work in them and help them look like Jesus, their Savior, to those around them. And hopefully these people will also want to hear about Jesus and become God's people, too!

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:

- 1. Who were the people who tried to look like someone else?** Jesus' followers, God's people.
- 2. And who was the someone they try to look like?** Why? They tried to look like Jesus by how they loved God and loved each other.

For You and Me:

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They know that this pleases God. And, when they love like this, they are not only caring for each other, but they are showing others what God is like. that they might praise God and ask how they can become God's people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is John 13:34-35, ESV

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

I need to find out:

- 1. What was Jesus' love for His people like?** He chose to put their needs first. He loved them so much that He was willing to suffer and die in their place, for their sins. There is no greater love than this!
- 2. Who wanted to obey Jesus' command to love each other as He had loved them? Who helped them do this?** Jesus' followers did! The Holy Spirit living in their hearts helped them.

For You and Me:

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They know that this pleases God. And, when they love like this, they are not only caring for each other, but they are showing others what God is like. that they might praise God and ask how they can become God's people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a little meal; the Holy Spirit in a heart; a doll; Pastor Peter; a can of soda; and some money.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The little meal, the Holy Spirit in a heart, Pastor Peter, and the money belong. The doll and the can of soda do not.

2. Who prayed for each other and cared for each other's needs? Jesus' followers, God's people.**For You and Me:**

God's people want to love each other as Jesus has loved them. They know that this pleases God. And, when they love like this, they are not only caring for each other, but they are showing others what God is like. that they might praise God and ask how they can become God's people, too. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then He will work in our hearts and help us love God and love others, too.

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 Caring for Each Other's Needs!**

Why do God's people go to church? To worship God and love one another... by taking care of each other's needs.

God's people love to tell others the good news of Jesus. Why? Because the greatest need that all people have is for God to forgive their sins! You see, we all have chosen to turn away from God and disobey His good laws. We don't deserve His love or to be His people. We deserve His punishment instead. How sad!

But God, in His great mercy, has provided us a way to be forgiven our sins and to become His people. How? Through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. On the cross, He chose to suffer and die, giving up His life as the full payment for sins. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the grave. He had done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior receive God's forgiveness. This is how they become God's dearly-loved people forever. God can help you do this, too! Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer. *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Savior of Your people, the Church. We praise You for Your kindness and love shown through Your people caring for each other.
- C** God, sometimes we don't want to go to church and care for the needs of others. Sometimes we just want to take care of our own needs. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for giving Your people to each other to care for their needs. Thank You for all the people in church who care for our needs.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Make us Your people! Help us to care for others when we gather at church.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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