

The Case of the Old Man Who Looked for God

Luke 2:25-32



of BQB

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard pictures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.

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 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 Old Man Who Looked for God. 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. Who was the old man who looked for God?
2. How did he find out what God was like?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Amos 4:13: “He who... reveals his thoughts to man...the LORD God Almighty is his name.”

I need to find out:

1. Who did the LORD reveal His thoughts to?
2. What book did the LORD use to reveal His thoughts?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story.

They are: baby Jesus, a chair, God’s Word (on a scroll, like in Bible times) and a heart.

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

I need to figure out:

1. Which three pictures belong in the story and which one does not?
2. What did God use three of these things to show Simeon?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

1. Who did Simeon want to know more and more?
2. What was something Simeon thanked God for?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

1. Why was Simeon so happy to see baby Jesus?
2. What did God send Jesus to do?

Read the questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Hide ‘n’ Seekers! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can find the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we’ll see what we come up with.”

“The Case of the Old Man Who Looked for God” Luke 2:25-32

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.

Simeon (SB1) was a very, very old man.

Have you seen a very old man? They often have gray hair and sometimes even have a long, grey beard. Simeon looked like that!

Simeon knew and loved God in his heart (SB2).

Can you point to where your heart is?

But oh, how Simeon wanted to know more about God and what He is like!

Simeon knew God created the whole world. He could learn more about God, as he looked at all that God had made. There was so much to see!

The big, tall mountains,

Can you stretch up your arms really high like a tall mountain?

the (SB3) galloping horses,

When horses gallop they run really, really fast and make lots of noise with their feet. Can you stomp your feet like you were a galloping horse?

the (SB4) flying birds,

Let's flap our arms like birds!

the (SB5) buzzing bees.

What sound does a buzzing bee make?

Simeon could see how wonderful God was in all the things He had made. But oh, how Simeon wanted to know more about God and what He is like!

Simeon read the Bible, God's Word, (SB6), too.

Where's our Bible? Have children point to your Bible.

He learned that God is good and great, loving and wise.

But oh, how Simeon wanted to know more about God and what He is like!

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

Then one day, something very good happened to Simeon. God gave Simeon a wonderful promise: "I am sending My Son, Jesus, here to earth. He will show people what I am like, and will make the way for them to know and love Me. He will bring My forgiveness to everyone who trusts in Him as their Savior! They will know Me in their heart. Then one day, they will come to live happily with Me forever!" God promised. "And Simeon, you will get to see My Son, Jesus at my Temple-Church before you die!" God told Simeon.

Simeon gathered with other people to worship God at a special place called the Temple. Where do we gather together to worship God? Why, it's right here! We're in it now! It's a church!

How excited Simeon was! Oh, how wonderful it would be to see God's very own Son!

Simeon went to God's Temple-Church.

Walk! Walk! Walk! Here goes Simeon to God's Temple-Church. Can you make a walking noise with your feet?

And who did Simeon see when he got there? Mary and Joseph (SB7). And who were they carrying? Baby Jesus, God's Son!

Pretend to hold a baby in your arms.

Simeon was very happy to see baby Jesus, God's Son, just as God had promised!

Yes, there was Jesus, just a little baby! But Jesus wouldn't stay a baby. He would grow up, up, up (SB8). He would tell everyone about God (SB9). He would show them what God is like. And, He would die on the cross to save God's people. They would be forgiven by God for disobeying Him! Yay!

Let's cheer really loud! Yay!

Then on Day One, Two, Three, (SB10) Jesus would rise up from the dead, showing He had really done it! Yes, God's people were forgiven! Jesus had beaten sin and death for them! Yay!

Let's cheer really loud again! Yay!

One day, old Simeon died (SB11). Was that a sad day for Simeon? No, it was not!

Shake your head "no."

That was the day when God brought (SB12) Simeon to live with (SB13) Him in heaven. That's what made that day, Simeon's happiest day ever.

Now Simeon would really get to know how wonderful God is... more and more, forever and ever!

Simeon is so happy in heaven where he lives happily with God forever. Let's cheer really loud! Yay!

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. Who was the old man who looked for God?

Simeon.

2. How did he find out what God was like?

He knew God in his heart; he saw what God was like as he looked around him at the things God had made; he learned about Him in the Bible, God's Word; and most of all, he knew what God was like through His Son, Jesus.

For You and Me:

Like Simeon, we can know what God is like. God has given us a heart to know and love Him. We can look around us and see what He's like in the things He has made. We can learn about Him in the Bible; and, we can know what He's like most of all when we learn about Jesus. We can ask God to show us what He's like and help us to know and love Him. He delights to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is: Amos 4:13:

"He who... reveals his thoughts to man...the LORD God Almighty is his name."

1. Who did the LORD reveal His thoughts to?

Simeon.

2. What book did the LORD use to reveal His thoughts? The Bible, God's Word.

For You and Me:

The LORD can show us what He's like, as we look around us at the amazing things He's made. God can declare His thoughts to us, as we read the Bible, His Word, and learn about His Son, Jesus. God can help us know Him in our hearts. Ask God to show Himself to you! He delights to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story. They are: baby Jesus, a chair, God's Word (on a scroll, like in Bible times) and a heart.

I need to know:

1. Which three pictures belong in the story and which one does not? The chair does not belong.

2. What did God use three of these things to show Simeon? God used baby Jesus, the Bible and the heart He gave Simeon to show Simeon what He is like.

For You and Me:

The LORD wants to show us what He's like, too. He can use the heart He's given us, the Bible, and Jesus to show us what He's like, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

1. Who did Simeon want to know more and more about? God.

2. What was something Simeon thanked God for? Simeon thanked God for keeping His promise to let him see Jesus before he died. He was so happy to know that the time had come for God to save His people through Jesus.

For You and Me:

Like Simeon, we can thank God for sending Jesus to save sinners, like you and me.

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

1. Why was Simeon so happy to see baby Jesus? He knew that the time had come for God to save God's people from their sins through Jesus.

2. What did God send Jesus to do? God sent Jesus to show us what He's like. And, to take the punishment for the sins of God's people so they could know God and be His people forever.

For You and Me:

God can show us what He's like through His Son, Jesus. Jesus can save us from our sins and make us God's people, too, when we repent of our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can I Know What God Is Like?****He Shows Me What He's Like!**

God showed Simeon what He is like, and He can show us, too! We can ask Him to work in our heart and help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive our sins and save us! He will live in our heart, helping us to know Him right now. He will satisfy our heart, giving us a special kind of happiness that comes only from knowing Him. And one day, we will go to live with Him in heaven forever. That will be best of all!

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 1 ACTS Prayer

A=Adoration C=Confession T=Thanksgiving S=Supplication

- A** We praise You, God. You show us what You are like!
- C** LORD, in our heart we know that You are God. We know we should obey You, but many times we don't want to. Please forgive us. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for wanting us to know You. Thank You for giving us a heart to know You; and, for making this world that shows us what You are like. Thank You for what we learn about You in Your Word, the Bible. And most of all, thank You for showing us what You are like in Your Son, Jesus.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You. Put in our hearts the special kind of happy that comes only from knowing You. Help us to go and tell others what we've learned.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Return to page 7 of the Lesson Plan
for the script of the rest of this lesson.***