

The Case of the Heart Helper*Acts 1-2***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 Heart Helper. Here is your listening assignment... ”

Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

(Note: These questions are most appropriate for older preschoolers)

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

1. Who was the helper who was coming?
2. Whose heart would he come to live inside of?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.”

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What did God promise to give to His people?
2. Who would this new spirit be? What would He do?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a heart, an apple, wind, and something like fire.

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

I need to know:

1. Which of these things was not in our story today?
2. How were the other three things important in our story?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who did the disciples ask God to send?
2. Did God answer their prayers right away or did they have to wait? Why?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who did God give the Holy Spirit to?
2. What did the Holy Spirit help God’s people do?

Read the questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Hide ‘n’ Seekers! 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.”

“The Case of the Heart Helper” Acts 1-2

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.

Walk and talk; show and tell. For (SB1) one, two, three years Jesus walked around the land of Judah and talked to many people about God. He showed them what God was like and He did many amazing things, like (SB2) heal sick people without medicine, and even (SB3) raise the dead. Jesus told the people that He was the (SB4) Messiah, the special one sent to save God's people from their sins.

Can you say, “Messiah”? That's the special Bible word for Jesus, our Savior.

Walk and talk; show and tell... For one, two, three years. Now it was all going to end! Jesus (SB5) gathered together His special friends, the disciples, to tell them what would happen next: “The time has come for Me to leave you. My enemies are coming to get Me tonight. They will kill Me.” Jesus told them. “And when they come for Me, you will all run away and leave Me.”

What (SB6) sad news this was for Jesus' friends! Jesus was going to leave them and die, and they wouldn't even be brave enough to stay with Him! This was so terrible that they could hardly believe it!

Can you show me your saddest face? That's how Jesus' friends felt about what was going to happen to Jesus.

The disciples weren't just sad; they were (SB7) scared, too. They had walked and talked with Jesus day after day for three, whole years. If He left, who would show and tell them about God? They were so scared! How could they live without Jesus with them?

Jesus knew how sad and scared the disciples were. He comforted them: “Yes, My enemies will carry out their bad plans. They will kill Me. But God will be up to His good plans in it ALL! When I die, I'm going to make the way for you to go to heaven and live with (SB8) God forever,” Jesus told them. “I'm going there to prepare a place for you to come and be with Me,” He promised them.

Think of your favorite place to go and your favorite people to be with. Life with God in heaven will be much, much better than that!

“And, even though I'm going away, I won't leave you alone. God,” Jesus promised. “God, My Father will send you the (SB9) Holy Spirit to help you. He will comfort you and make you bold and give you wisdom. He will always be with you, but He won't talk and walk alongside you like I did. No! He will come and live INSIDE YOU, showing and telling you what God is like...and that's even better!” Jesus told them.

What new place would God's Holy Spirit come to live and stay? Inside of God's people! How wonderful!

Later that night, everything started happening just like Jesus said it would—both bad and good. (SB10) Jesus' enemies came for Jesus and (SB11) Jesus' disciples ran away. His enemies took Jesus away to (SB12) suffer and die on a cross. How terribly did Jesus hurt! But as He hurt, Jesus paid for all the sins of God's people with His perfect life so they could be forgiven by God. Jesus died that day and was buried in a cave-grave. But on the third day, (SB13) Jesus rose up from the grave. He had really done it. Jesus had really beaten sin and death for God's people!

Yay! Jesus beat sin and death for God's people! Let's clap and cheer!

Jesus appeared to (SB14) His friends, the disciples, on that wonderful, third day and on many more days afterwards. For forty fabulous days Jesus walked and talked with them, showing them and telling them more about God and His good plans. How happy the disciples were! Oh, how wonderful it was to have Jesus with them again, walking, talking, showing them and telling them about God!

Smile your biggest smile for how happy the disciples were to have Jesus with them again.

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

But on Day Forty, it was time for Jesus to go home to heaven. On a hill called the Mount of Olives, Jesus said goodbye to (SB15) his friends. "I'm going home to heaven now, and I'm sending YOU out into the (SB16) whole world. Now it's time for you to walk and talk, show and tell everyone about Me! I want them to know how they can be saved from their sins by trusting in Me as their Savior."

"This is BIG job. You can't do it on your own, but you don't have to!" Jesus promised them. "I am sending (SB17) the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of you. He will change you. He will give you wisdom to know what to say and wisdom to understand God's Word, the Bible. He will make you bold to do all the things I want you to do. Go to the big city of Jerusalem. Gather the other disciples. I will send Holy Spirit to you there," Jesus told them. Then right before their eyes, the disciples watched Jesus rise off the ground, and go up, up, up through the clouds and up to (SB18) heaven.

Jesus was gone. That was so sad! But the Holy Spirit was coming! That was so happy! "Come on! Let's go to Jerusalem and gather the others!" the disciples exclaimed. "Let's get ready for the Holy Spirit!"

So off to Jerusalem, the disciples went. They (SB19) gathered the others together in a house. There were over a hundred of God's people, all together, waiting and excited! Day after day they waited and prayed. When would the Holy Spirit come? No one knew exactly, but they hoped it would be soon!

Close your eyes and fold your hands in prayer.

At last the day did come. God made sure everyone in Jerusalem knew about it, in a very big way!

As the disciples gathered, something that sounded like a (SB20) great wind began to blow right inside their room! Then, something that looked like (SB21) fire rested on each of them. Wow! Then came God's wonderful gift: His Holy Spirit (SB22) came to live inside their hearts. It was amazing! Now they would know God in a new, very close way in their hearts. Now He would be with them as they walked and talked and showed and told the world about Jesus. The Holy Spirit would help them do the great, big job of telling the world about Jesus—starting right then!

Then, on that extra special, amazing, first day, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples an extra special, amazing gift! He helped them speak to others in languages they had never learned! They burst out of the house and began speaking to (SB23) people about Jesus in these new languages. A (SB24) huge, noisy crowd gathered near the disciples and wondered," What in the world is going on????!!!"

"Shhh. I'll tell you," the (SB25) disciple Peter told the crowd. "Long ago, God promised to send the Holy Spirit to live inside His people in a new and special way. Today's the day His promise has come true! It's the gift He gives to all who believes in Jesus. If you turn away from your sins and believe in Jesus, God will save you and He will send His Holy Spirit to live inside you, too," Peter exclaimed.

This was such exciting news! Imagine: God's Holy Spirit living inside your heart, helping you know God and live for Him! Thousands of people in the crowd turned away from their sins and believed in Jesus that day. And God filled them all with (SB26) His Holy Spirit, too. Oh, how wonderful it was to have this new, special closeness with God in their hearts! Oh, how wonderful it was to have His comfort and His help!

What a day that was, when God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside His people for the first time! Who could forget all that whooshing wind, fiery flames and speaking in new languages! But far better than all those wonderful, big things God did that day, was Who each one of God's people knew had quietly come to live in their hearts—God's Holy Spirit. How happy they were that He would go on living inside them every day of their lives. He would change them to be more like Jesus. He would walk and talk, show and tell the world about Jesus. And He still is doing that in His people, even today!

Let's clap and praise God for giving His people this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit living inside their heart!

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 helper Jesus promised to send?

The Holy Spirit.

2. How would He help God's people?

He would come to live in their heart, helping them to love God and live for Him.

For You and Me:

God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside God's people long ago; and, He still sends Him to live inside of them, even today. He is God's wonderful gift to all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What did God promise to give to His people? He would put a new heart/new spirit within them.

2. Who would this new spirit be? What would He do? God's own Holy Spirit. He would change their heart and help them to love God and live for Him.

For You and Me:

God wants us to love Him and live for Him, but He knows we cannot do this on our own. We need His Holy Spirit to live within us and change our hearts. God gives His Holy Spirit to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story. They are: a heart, an apple, wind, and something like fire.

1. Which of these things was not in our story today?

An apple.

2. How were the other three things important in our story? Jesus promised to send His Holy Spirit to live inside His friends, the disciples, when He left them. He would be their helper. The disciples waited and waited for the Holy Spirit to come. At last He did, in a very exciting way. There was the sound of a great wind, then something that looked like fire appeared above their heads. Then, the Holy Spirit came into their hearts.

For You and Me:

God showed the world in an exciting way that He was sending the Holy Spirit to live inside His people's hearts. How amazing was that wind and fire! But the most important thing that happened that day was the Holy Spirit who came quietly into each person's heart to live. When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, too. There won't be wind and fire, like there was long ago. There will just be the Holy Spirit coming quietly into our hearts, helping us love God and live for Him.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

1. Who did the disciples ask God to send? His Holy Spirit.

2. Did God answer their prayers right away or did they have to wait? Why? They had to wait. God knew the best time for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

For You and Me:

God always knows what is best for us. He even knows when it is the best time for us to receive His good gifts. How wonderful it is to be one of God's people! We can know God is always caring for us in the best way. It truly is the best gift of all. We can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

1. Who did God give the Holy Spirit to? All who turned away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

2. What did the Holy Spirit help God's people do? He gave them a special closeness with God. He helped them love God and live for Him. He helped them tell others about Jesus.

For You and Me:

God will send the Holy Spirit to live in us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will come quietly to live in our hearts. Then He will help us to know and love God and live for Him.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:
What Does the Holy Spirit Do in God's People?
He Changes Their Heart!**

The disciples were so sad when Jesus left! They missed Him so much! But what a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit was, when God sent Him to live in their hearts. The Holy Spirit gave them a new, special closeness with God. He helped them love God and live for Him. How excited the disciples were to tell others how they could be saved through Jesus and have the Holy Spirit live in their hearts, too.

We, too, can have the Holy Spirit live in our hearts. We can know God in this wonderful way, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 10 ACTS Prayer

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

- A** God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Holy Spirit to Your people.
- C** God, we confess that we like our own way. Sometimes, we choose to disobey You to get what we want. We need Jesus to be our Savior! We need new hearts.
- T** Thank You, God, for being able to change our hearts. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to live inside Your people and change their hearts. Thank You for sending Jesus, so we can be Your people.
- S** God, work in our hearts, that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, that we might love You and live for You, more and more.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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