

The Case of the Most Important Question

Acts 16

HSK
Bible
FolderBig
Question
Bookcase
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 Most Important Question. 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:

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

1. Who had one, important question?
2. What was the question?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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

1. Who was worried about his sins?
2. How did he find out about the gift of being saved through Jesus? Did he receive it?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a broken building; a earthquake; big sticks; and a rat.

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 picture was not in the story?
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 confessed their sins to God--that is, who told God they were sorry for disobeying Him and asked for God’s forgiveness?
2. What did God do for this man?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What were Paul and Silas doing that got them into trouble?
2. Did they stop doing it, even after they got in trouble? Why or why not?

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 Most Important Question” Acts 16

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.

One night in Troas, as (SB1) Paul was sleeping, Jesus spoke to him in a dream, (SB2) “Go tell the Greek people about Me.” Paul was happy to obey. Off he went (SB3) with his friend, Silas. (SB4) They sailed across the Mediterranean Sea and went up to the big city of Philippi.

(SB5) Now, many people went to Philippi because of the (SB6) goldmines in the mountains. These people wanted to (SB7) be rich, rich, rich. But God wanted to give the people something even better than lots of gold. Do you know what He wanted to give them?

Can you guess?

God wanted to give the people in Philippi (SB8) eternal life through Jesus! We call this (SB9) the gospel: the good news of God. The people of Philippi needed this good news very much. That's because they were (SB10) sinners, just like you and me and everyone else in the whole world. They had all chosen to disobey God and deserved His punishment. But God chose to make a way to save them (and us), through Jesus! (SB11) On the cross, Jesus paid for our sins with His perfect life, so we could be forgiven by God. And then, Jesus (SB12) rose to life after being dead three days! He had beaten sin and death for God's people, and this proved it!

Now, God was sending Paul to tell the Philippian people this wonderful news, so they might turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus their Savior. Then God would forgive their sins and they would be His dearly loved people forever... and that is far, far, FAR better than gold!

When Paul and Silas (SB13) arrived in Philippi, they went down to the river. They shared the gospel with the people gathering there to worship God. Some, like (SB14) Lydia, listened and believed.

But back in town, others (SB15) were angry. They didn't this gospel was good news at all!

Can you make an angry face? That's how those people felt about Paul and Silas.

(SB16) They hit Paul and Silas with big sticks. They hurt all over. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!

Can you say “ouch” like you are hurting all over your body?

They took Paul and Silas and put them in (remove BG5 to reveal BG6) jail. They threw them in a dark room and tied up their feet.

Paul and Silas should have been crying. Boo, hoo! Boo, hoo! Their bodies hurt so much. Ouch, ouch, ouch!

Rub eyes as say, “Boo, hoo!” and hold body and say “Ouch!”

But Paul and Silas weren't crying! Do you know what they were doing? They were (SB17) praying and singing to God. “Praise God! Praise God!” they sang.

Let's help Paul and Silas praise God: “Praise God! Praise God!”

Their bodies hurt. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! BUT, their hearts were happy! “We're happy we get to tell others about Jesus, even if we get hurt,” Paul and Saul exclaimed. “We want people to hear how they can be saved. We know God will take care of us,” they believed.

Do you think God would take care of them? Yes, He would. What do you think God did next?

Paul and Silas were right! God DID take care of them! Suddenly, the room shook and Paul and Silas' chains shook. Their bodies shook, too! Why, everything shook, shook, shook! And then, (SB18) the ground split wide open! What was going on?!

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

God had sent a HUGE earthquake!

The earthquake shook and shook and shook! It shook everything so much that (SB19) the walls of Paul and Silas' room tumbled down.

Can you help me make the ground shake? Stomp your feet!

Their feet came loose from the chains... and THEY WERE FREE!

Can you make your feet move fast (in place) like you are running?

Now Paul and Silas could get away from the angry people who hurt them! "Run away, Paul! Run away, Silas! You can be free!"

But what's this? But Paul and Silas did NOT run away! Instead, they (SB20) went right up to the jailer man. Wasn't he the one who had put them in that dark room and tied up their legs? What were Paul and Silas thinking!

What do you think they were going to do instead of run away?

Why weren't they running away? Because God had sent Paul and Silas to Philippi to give the people that gift that was better than gold and anything else. Can you remember what that gift was?

Can you remember? Eternal life!

God was about to use Paul and Silas to give this jailer man (SB21) that very wonderful gift of eternal life.

The jailer man (SB22) fell down before Paul and Silas, trembling.

Can you make your body shake like you were trembling?

He had a big question for them. "Tell me, Paul. Tell me, Silas. What must I do to be saved?," the man asked them.

Paul and Silas were so happy! Here was someone else who wanted to hear about Jesus! "WE'D LOVE TO TELL YOU!" Paul and Silas said. They told the man the (SB23) wonderful, good news of Jesus--the gospel!

"Ask God to forgive your sins. Turn away from disobeying Him," Paul told the jailer man. "Ask Jesus to be your Savior. Yes, repent of your sins and believe in Jesus as your Savior, and God will save you. It is His free gift!" Paul exclaimed.

The (SB24) Holy Spirit worked in that jailer man's heart as he listened to Paul and Silas. And do you know what that man did, right then and there? He asked God to forgive his sins. He turned away from disobeying God. He asked Jesus to be his Savior. Yes, right then and there, the Holy Spirit helped that man repent of his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior.

And do you know what GOD did, right then and there? God forgave that man and saved him through Jesus! This man had been a sad, trembling man, but not any longer! Now he was (SB25) a happy, happy man! God had saved him through Jesus that very night! Paul and Silas were very happy, too! They praised God for getting to tell about His wonderful free gift of forgiveness through Jesus, and for seeing this man receive it! Oh, how they loved the gospel!

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:

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

- 1. Who had the most important question?** The jailer.
- 2. What was the question? Why was it so important?** "What must I do to be saved?" is the question, and it is so important because we all need to be saved.

For You and Me:

The jailer was right. His question was a very big question and it was a very good question. It's a question we all need to know the answer to. What was the answer Paul gave the man? He told him to turn away from disobeying God and to ask God to for forgiveness. He told him to trust in Jesus as his Savior. This is called repenting and believing. The man did this and he was saved! God will saved us, too, if we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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

- 1. Who was worried about his sins?** The jailer.
- 2. How did he find out about the gift of being saved through Jesus? Did he receive it?** Paul told the jailer when he asked him. Yes, he did! He receive it! repented of his sins and trusted in Jesus that very night he heard it!

For You and Me:

That jailer isn't the only one who has sins to think about. We all have disobeyed God. We all need His forgiveness, if we are to know God and enjoy eternal life with Him. Just like the jailer, we can receive that wonderful gift of eternal life, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story. They are: a broken building; a earthquake; big sticks; and a rat.

- 1. Which of the three pictures belong in the story and which one does not?** The rat does not.
- 2. How were the other three things important in our story?** Paul and Silas got in trouble for telling the good news of Jesus. They were hurt with big sticks and put in prison. God sent an earthquake that shook the ground and broke the jail building. Paul and Silas could run away, but instead they went to the jailer. The jailer was

amazed and asked Paul what he must to do be saved. Paul shared the gospel with him, and the jailer was was saved!

For You and Me:

God is control over everything in this world. He uses it all for His good plans...even earthquakes and enemies! Paul and Silas knew they could trust God. So can we, when like the jailer, we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, as God's dearly loved people, we know He will use everything in our lives for the good, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

- 1. Who confessed their sins to God--that is, who told God they were sorry for disobeying Him and asked for God's forgiveness? Who turned away from disobeying God and trusted in Jesus as his Savior?** The jailer did.
- 2. What did God do for this man?** God forgave the jailer and made him one of His dearly loved people.

For You and Me:

God delighted to hear that jailer's prayer! He was happy to forgive his sins and make him one of His people. The same can be true for us. God wants to hear us tell Him how we have disobeyed Him and ask for His forgiveness. He loves to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

- 1. What were Paul and Silas doing that got them into trouble?** They were telling the good news of Jesus.
- 2. Did they stop doing it, even after they got in trouble? Why or why not?** They did not stop. They even told the jailer who hurt them with the sticks and had them put in jail! This was the most important message that everyone needed to know. Nothing would stop Paul and Silas from telling it!

For You and Me:

The good news of Jesus is as important to us as it was to the people back in Paul and Silas' time. We all still need to hear it, believe it, and tell it! We all need to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God will help us. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)

Our Bible Truth is:
How Can We Be Saved?
It Is God's Free Gift!

We all need God's free gift of salvation through Jesus, just like the man in our story. Why? Because ALL of us disobey God! We are ALL sinners! We need God to save us from the punishment we deserve for disobeying Him!

How can WE be saved? It's just like Paul and Silas told the man in our story: "Say 'sorry' to God for disobeying Him. Say 'no' to sin. Ask Jesus to be your Savior, and God will forgive you and save you. It is His free gift!"

Yes! When we turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us... and save us!

What a wonderful beginning that will be! We will get to know Him in our hearts now. Then one day, we will go to live happily with God forever.

Let's thank God and praise God right now for sending Jesus to save us! Let's ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 11 ACTS Prayer

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

- A** We praise You, God for being our Savior, who came to rescue us from our sins as Your free gift.
- C** God, we know we choose to disobey You and Your good laws. We need a Savior. Please forgive us and help us to live for You.
- T** Thank You for sending Jesus to be the Savior we need. We could never save ourselves!
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from disobeying You. Help us to trust in Jesus as our own Savior. We want Your free gift!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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