

The Case of the People Who Loved A Lot Acts 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 People Who Loved A Lot. 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 were the people who loved a lot? Who was it that they loved this way?
2. How did they show their love?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Hebrews 10:24-25: “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together.”

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

1. To neglect something means to not do it as much as you should. Who didn’t neglect to meet together on the special worship day?
2. On what day did they meet together? What good things did they help each other do?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a soldier; a gathering place; a Bible; and a jar of food.

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 three pictures belong in the story and which one does not?
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. What did the people in the story thank God for?
2. What did they ask God to help them do?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What did Jesus do for the people?
2. What is the good news that they believed?

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 People Who Loved a Lot” Acts 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 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.

(SB1) Walk, walk, walk! Walk, walk, walk! Look at all the people walking!

Can you walk in place?

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight... and so many, many more. More than I can count!

How high can you count? Up to ten....twenty...a hundred...a thousand? There were more than even that many people walking to the same place that day!

Who are these people? Where are they going?

Who do you think these people are? Where do you think they are going?

These are God's people, the people who (SB2) love Jesus. They are (SB3) gathering together as a church.

The Temple was a special place where God's people gathered long ago when Jesus lived on earth. Where do God's people gather today? In churches...just like the one we are right now!

Let's see what they are doing...**They're gathering together to (SB4) worship the LORD God. They are (SB5) singing to God together: "Praise God! Praise God! He is so good and so great! He loves us so much!"**

Let's say, "Praise God" too!

And they are (SB6) praying to God together, "God, forgive our sins. Thank you for sending Jesus. Help us live like Him by loving You and loving others."

What do we do when we pray? Fold our hands, bow our heads, close our eyes and pray!

They are (SB7) listening to teaching from Bible, God's Word, together. They want to know more about God and how to love Him and each other.

Where is your Bible? Can you point to it?

They are remembering Jesus (SB8) died to save them and praising God: "Praise God for Jesus! Praise God for Jesus!" they say. "He has saved us! He is bringing us to God!"**That's what God's people do when they gather together. They worship God for all the wonderful things He has done for them.****But that's not all God's people do when they gather together. They also gather together to (SB9) love one another.****They take care of each other and make sure everyone has everything they need. They (SB10) share with each other--their money and everything else.**

What's something God has given us that we can share with others?

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

They (SB11) comfort each other when they have sickness or sadness.

Can you show me your sad face?

They are (SB12) happy when good things happen to each other and celebrate together.

Cheer!

They (SB13) pray for each other.

They help (SB14) each other love God more and live for Him. They help each other love one another, too. They help each other (SB15) learn God's Word and live it out.

And Who is working inside their heart, helping them to worship God and love one another like this? (SB16) God's Holy Spirit! He is doing beautiful things inside of them, changing them to be like Jesus.

Put your hand over your heart.

Week after week, God's people gather together on Sunday, their special worship day. That's the day Jesus rose from the dead. They love to remember how He beat sin and death for them!

Some people might stay in (SB17) bed on that day, but not God's people! Nope! They (SB18) get up and go walk, walk, walking to gather together at the worship place. It's time to gather together! It's time to worship God and love one another.

Pretend like you are sleeping in bed and get up!

And some people might keep on working on the special worship day, but not God's people! Nope! They (SB19) set their work aside and walking to gather together at the worship place. How they want to worship God and love one another!

(SB20) Other people watch God's people. What do they think? What do they say?

They say: "Look at God's people as they gather together. See how much they love Jesus! See how they worship Him! See how much they love each other! It is amazing how these people worship God and love one another. I want to know about Jesus, too!" they exclaim.

"(SB21) Come gather together with us," God's people invite them. "Come worship God with us! Come let us love you. Come hear (SB22) the gospel--the wonderful good news of Jesus."

"Jesus died on the cross for people who disobey God, like you and me. He paid for our sins with His perfect life. He rose from the dead to show He beat sin and death. He did all of this so we could be forgiven by God and live happily with Him forever! That's the gospel! Turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is how you can become one of God's people, too!" God's people tell them.

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 were the people who loved a lot? Who was it that they loved this way? God's people--the people who love Jesus-- were the people who loved a lot. They loved everyone, but especially God and each other.

2. How did they show their love? By gathering together to worship God and love one another. By praising God and learning to live His way. And, by caring for each other.

For You and Me:

We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will make us His people. He will help us to gather together with God's people. He will help us to worship Him and love each other.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Hebrews 10:24-25: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together."

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

1. To neglect something means to not do it as much as you should. Who didn't neglect to meet together on the special worship day? God's people didn't neglect to meet together to worship God and love one another.

2. On what day did they meet together? What good things did they help each other do? They met together on Sunday, their special worship day each week. They learned from God's Word and prayed to God. They cared for each others' needs.

For You and Me:

God wants us to meet together with His people on the special worship day, too. He wants us to learn from God's Word, the Bible, to pray to Him, and to care for each other's needs. God wants us to be His people and we can be, when we turn 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 soldier; a gathering place; a Bible; and a jar of food.

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

2. How were the other three things important in our story? God's people gathered together at the God's Temple-Church to worship God and love one another. They learned from God's Word, the Bible. They cared for each other's needs. They made sure everyone had enough food to eat.

For You and Me:

God wants us to meet together with His people on the special worship day, too. He wants us to learn from God's Word, the Bible, to pray to Him, and to care for each other's needs. God wants us to be His people and we can be, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What did the people in the story thank God for? God's people remembered how Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save them. How they thanked God for giving them a Savior so they could become His people!

2. What did they ask God to help them do? God's people asked God to help them live for Him and love one another.

For You and Me:

We have much to thank God for, too. He offers to forgive our sins through Jesus, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We have much to ask God to do in us, too. Just like God's people long ago, we can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to live for Him and love one another. God loves to answer these prayers!

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What did Jesus do for the people? Jesus suffered and died on the cross save them from their sins. Then on the third day, He rose from the dead, showing He had beaten sin and death.

2. What is the good news that they believed? They believed that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will have God's forgiveness for their sins. He will make them His dearly loved people for ever!

For You and Me:

Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. We can be God's dearly loved people, too. And by His Holy Spirit, He can help us to worship God and love one another, just like He helped those people who lived long ago.

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!**

When God's people go to church, they praise God for Jesus. Why? Because Jesus has saved them from the punishment they deserved for disobeying God. Oh, how wonderful Jesus is to be their Savior!

You and me, we have disobeyed God, too... and we deserve God's punishment, too! But we can praise God for Jesus, too. Do you know why? Because if we turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as OUR Savior, He will forgive us and save us, too!

If we do, 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 turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 15 ACTS Prayer

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

- A** We praise You, God, for being the mighty Savior of your people--the Church.
- C** God, we confess that too many times we don't want to go to church to worship You or love others. Please forgive us. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for all the people who help us to worship You and love one other when we gather together. Thank You for saving millions and millions of people and making them part of Your people, the Church.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us become Your people, by turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to worship You and love others when we gather together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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