

**The Case of the Son Who Came Down***The Gospels***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 Son Who Came Down. 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 was the son who came down?
2. Where did he come down from and what did he come to do?

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**

Our Bible verse is 1 Peter 3:18: “Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.”

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

1. Who did Jesus die for?
2. Who did Jesus bring us to?

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:**

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

They are: a manger; a dead man; a rainbow; and a sick man.

*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 one does not belong in the story?
2. How were the other 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 do God’s people thank Jesus for doing?
2. What are some things they thank Jesus for doing when He came to earth?

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:**

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

1. What bad thing did Jesus’ enemies do to Jesus?
2. What good thing did God use that bad thing to do for God’s people?

**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 Son Who Came Down” The Gospels**

**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.*

**This story starts out in the most amazing home there has ever been. It was a home that was always filled with love, and goodness, and happiness, and beauty, and light. (SB1) It was a home better than any home you can ever imagine. It was perfect and wonderful.**

**And what made it so perfect and wonderful? God (SB2) did. This was His home. It's called heaven. And it is a place so perfectly wonderful that you would never want to leave.**

*Have you ever been to a place you loved so much that you never wanted to leave? Heaven is even better than that!*

**But you know, there was someone who DID choose to leave that perfectly wonderful home. It was Jesus, God's Son.**

**Now Jesus didn't choose to leave heaven because He didn't like it or because He was bored or anything like that. No, sirree! Jesus LOVED His home! He LOVED shining with the beautiful brightness of God's glory! He LOVED that there was never any sadness or badness! He LOVED hearing the angels praising God. And most of all, Jesus LOVED the special closeness of God in heaven!**

**But, if Jesus loved His home in heaven so much, why did He leave it? There was just one reason: God's great love for people like you and me. You see, long ago people started disobeying God and His good ways (SB3); and while God LOVES people, He hates badness. The big Bible word for badness is "sin." This sin (SB4) broke the special closeness that people could have with God. It broke it so badly that we could never fix it by ourselves.**

*Can you think of something bad or sad in our world now? I can! All those bad and sad things came through sin.*

**God wanted people to know Him and enjoy special closeness with Him. But first, something had to be done about that sin that separated people from Him, and God knew He was the only one who could do it. (SB5) So, God chose to send His Son, Jesus, to rescue us—to be our Savior. And Jesus delighted to obey. God loves us that much!**

**That's why Jesus left His wonderful home in heaven; and one night, long ago, He was born a baby right here on earth. (SB6) Jesus was still God, but now He was a human, too: with arms, legs, ears, and a nose, like you and me.**

*Can you pretend you are rocking a baby in your arms, like Mary might have rocked baby Jesus?*

**Jesus was a human just like us, and yet, He was also VERY different from us in one VERY BIG way. Jesus was born perfect! He had no badness or sin in His heart! It was full of perfect love and goodness. Isn't that amazing! There has never been anyone like Jesus before, and there never will be again!**

**Jesus was born a tiny, baby boy that Christmas night. He was born out in a barn-like place where they kept animals. And instead of a bed, he slept in a manger, the animal feeding bowl! and put in a manger—the animal feeding bowl! Oh, how very different this new home was from Jesus' home in heaven! Oh, how much God loved us to send His Son here to be our Savior like this! Beautiful angels appeared in the sky. They shone with the light of God's goodness. They sang out the good news: "God's Son has come from heaven to bring you to God! He has come to be your Savior! Yay!"**

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

**Jesus was born a baby, but He didn't stay that way! He (SB7) grew up to be a little boy...then, a big boy... then, a teenager...and then, a full-grown man!**

*Squat down with arms near the ground, palms facing up, then stand up, raising your arms as you go.*

**When Jesus was all grown up, He did a lot of great and amazing things.**

**What kind of things did He do? Well... Jesus (SB8) taught people lots of things about God. And, Jesus (SB9) forgave people for disobeying God. Jesus made (SB10) sick people well, and He even (SB11) raised dead people back to life... and NOT with medicine, but just by God's great power! Can you imagine that?!**

**Jesus did these and many other wonderful things. Do you know why He did them? To show us that He had come to bring us to God, and to help us to trust in Him as our Savior.**

**Many people listened to what Jesus said and saw the wonderful things He did. And do you know what they began to think? (SB12) "Jesus is God's Son! He came to bring us to God!"**

**But then one day, something very hard and sad happened. It was something that no one but Jesus thought would happen. Jesus' enemies (SB13) took Him and hurt Him. They (SB14) put Him up on cross to suffer and die.**

*Can you make a cross shape with your pointer fingers?*

**Jesus' body hurt so much! His spirit hurt so much, too. Why did Jesus hurt so much? Why did His enemies get to do this to Him? Was it because of something Jesus had done wrong? No, it was not! Jesus hurt so much NOT because of anything bad He had done. Jesus hurt so much for God's people and their sins. He was giving up His perfect life as the perfect payment for their sins. He chose to take ALL the punishment that they deserved for disobeying God. Jesus took all their punishment, so they wouldn't have to! God forgave their sins because of Jesus!**

**Why would Jesus do that? Because Jesus came to bring us to God...and that was the only way to do it!**

**Jesus suffered and died on the cross that day. His friends came and (SB15) buried His body in a cave-grave, sealed shut with a (SB16) HUGE stone! They were (SB17) so sad that Jesus had died! Jesus had told His friends that something amazing would happen after He died. He told them He wouldn't stay dead, but would come back to life. He was God's Son. He couldn't stay dead! But Jesus' friends didn't see how this could happen. They stayed sad. They had given up. They thought that this was the end of the story for Jesus.**

*Can you show me your saddest face? That's how Jesus' friends felt about Jesus being dead.*

**Jesus' enemies put (SB18) strong soldiers in front of Jesus' cave-grave to guard it. They wanted to make sure Jesus' body stayed put.**

**But a big stone and strong guards weren't enough to stop God's plans! No way! That cave-grave wasn't the end of the story for Jesus AT ALL! Maybe Jesus stayed dead in that cave-grave on (SB19) Day One and Day Two, but on (SB20) Day Three, EVERYTHING CHANGED!**

*Hold up one finger, then add a second finger, then a third.*

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

**What a big surprise met (SB21) Jesus' friends when they went to the cave-grave early Sunday morning on Day Three!**

**The ground rumbled with an earthquake-shake! shake! shake!--as (SB22) a beautiful, bright, shiny angel came down from heaven. He went to the cave-grave and he rolled back that huge stone all by himself. Then he sat down right on top of it!**

*Can you flap your arms like angel wings? Can you stomp your feet and make the rumbling sound of an earthquake?*

**The soldiers and Jesus' friends were so afraid (SB23)! But the angel said to Jesus' friends, "Don't be afraid! Jesus isn't here! He's risen from the dead, just as He said He would! Go look in the cave and see for yourselves! Then go, tell the others: Jesus is alive!" the angel urged them. "Tell them that soon they will see Him, too."**

**Jesus' friends looked inside the cave. Sure enough--NO JESUS! Only the (SB24) white cloth He had been buried in was there. Jesus was gone, just as the angel said!**

**Still afraid, but filled with joy and so EXCITED, Jesus' friends ran off to tell the others the good news: God had really raised Jesus from the dead, never to die again! Jesus had beaten sin and death! God had completely forgiven His people for disobeying Him! Now, they could have the special closeness with God He created them to have! Yay!**

*Let's clap and cheer! Jesus did it!*

**After (SB25) Jesus rose from the dead, He went to see His friends, just as He promised. Jesus visited them that day and many other days. He told them more things about God and His good plans. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts, giving them (SB26) special closeness with God. And, He told them about His wonderful home in heaven, where (SB27) everyone who lives for God and trusts in Him as their Savior would come and live with Him one day. That would be best of all!**

**Then up, up, up went (SB28) Jesus to heaven, His home, to fully enjoy all the special closeness of God again.**

*Point up to heaven.*

**Do you know why? Because Jesus came to bring us to God...and yay! He had done it!**

**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 son who came down?**

Jesus, the Son of God.

**2. Where did he come down from and what did he come to do?** He came down from heaven to bring us to God.

**For You and Me:**

Isn't it amazing that Jesus would leave His wonderful home in heaven to bring us to God! Isn't it amazing that He would love us so much to suffer and die for the sins of God's people! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**

**Our Bible Verse is: 1 Peter 3:18:**

"Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."

**1. Who did Jesus die for?**

For the unrighteous--that is, for people like you and me who do bad things.

**2. Who did Jesus bring us to?**

To God. We can know God and live as His people because of Jesus!

**For You and Me:**

Jesus was so perfectly good (righteous) and He gave up His life so that we could be forgiven for all the bad things we do and could be God's people. You and I can become God's people, 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 manger; a dead man; a rainbow and a sick person.

I need to know:

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

**2. How were the other three things important in our story?**

Jesus was put in a manger (a place where they put animal food) when He was born. Jesus healed many sick people and even raised dead people back to life. He showed people that He was God's Son and He had come to bring them to God.

**For You and Me:**

Jesus left His home in heaven and came to earth to show us what God is like and to bring us to God. How much He loved sinful people like you and me! He did all of these things to save us!

**Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:**

**1. What do God's people thank Jesus for doing?**

For bringing them to God.

**2. What are some things they thank Jesus for doing when He came to earth?**

They thank Him for teaching them about God; for showing them His mighty power by the great things He did; and, most of all, for suffering and dying on the cross to pay for their sins.

**For You and Me:**

God's people have so much to thank Jesus for doing when He came to earth. We do, too. We can learn from what Jesus taught when we read His words in the Bible. We can learn about the amazing things He did. We can turn from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior, too. Then we will be God's people, too!

**Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:**

**1. What bad thing did Jesus' enemies do to Jesus?**

They hurt Jesus and put Him on a cross to suffer and die.

**2. What good thing did God use that bad thing to do for God's people?**

Jesus took the punishment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, showing that He had really beat sin and death for them!

**For You and Me:**

We all disobey God. We need a Savior. 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. God loves to help us do this!

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

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**What Did Jesus Come to Do?**

**Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!**

This is the good news the friends of Jesus believed and celebrated, long ago.

It's also good news for us today! For now, ANYONE who says sorry to God for disobeying Him and asks Jesus to be their Savior, God will forgive them and will save them. This promise is even for you and me! Yes! WE can know God in our hearts now. Then one day, we can go to live happily with God forever in His perfectly wonderful home.

*Close in prayer.*

### **Closing Unit 9 ACTS Prayer**

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

- A** Jesus, we praise You for being our Savior. You came to bring us to God.
- C** God, You sent Jesus to save us, and we certainly do need a Savior! We are all sinners who choose to disobey You and Your good rules. We deserve Your punishment, not Your love. Please forgive us for disobeying You and Your good rules. Please rescue us from the punishment our sins deserve!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross to save all who trust in You as their Savior. You took the punishment they deserved for disobeying God. You made the way to bring us to God.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to see that we are sinners who have disobeyed you. Help us to turn away from our sins and ask You to save us. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You in our hearts even today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.