

**The Case of the New King**

*Matthew 2*



**Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

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

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 New King. 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 know:

- 1. Who was the new king and who was looking for him?**
- 2. How did they find him?.**

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

**Our Bible Verse is Isaiah 46:9-11:**

“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please...What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.”

I need to know:

- 1. Who did Paul want to learn about God by looking at the sky and everything else God had made?**
- 2. What did he want those people to know and do?**

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

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a little house; a bird; a cross; gold; a teacher; and a palm tree.

*Hold up each of them for the children to see as you identify them.*

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. Who worshipped the new king?**

**Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,**

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! 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.”

*Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.*

*Listening Assignments answers; the gospel; and, an ACTS prayer are included with the story text at the end.*

**The Case of the New King** *Matthew 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.*

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**(SB1)** "Have you heard the exciting news? Have you seen who has come to town?" the people of Jerusalem asked each other. **(SB2)** "Magi! Important men from a faraway land are here! And they're asking the most amazing question: 'Where is your new king? We saw **(SB3)** a bright, new star in the sky. It tells us that he's been born and must be very great. Take us to him so we can worship him,' they say! Can you iMagine that! A great, new king of the Jews has been born! Where is he? What could this mean!?" everyone in Jerusalem wondered.

*Who do you think this new king is? Do you know his name? It's Jesus!*

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Now it made perfect sense for the Magi to come to Jerusalem. This was where the kings of the Jews had been born and had lived for years, and years, and years! And there most certainly was a **(SB4)** king living there right now, up in his magnificent palace. His name was King Herod the Great.

Why was Herod called "the Great?" Well, he certainly lived a great, rich life in his great, rich palace. He even did some great things. So, yes, perhaps in a way he was a great king.

But Herod was not THE great king of the Jews, the one the Magi were trying to find. For you see, King Herod only ruled as king OVER the Jews. He was not the real king of the Jews. He was really just an enemy who had been put in place to rule over the Jews as king. And oh, how Herod loved having big, kingly power to rule over them however he wanted!

*What is something that you might enjoy about being king, if you were one?*

So, when Herod **(SB5)** heard the news about the important Magi coming to worship the new, baby king of the Jews, he was not happy at all! Not one...little...bit! He was UPSET...and very worried!

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"What if there really is a new king?" thought Herod. "What if he really is great...greater than ME? What if he is the Christ, the great King the Jews believe God will send one day to save them?" he worried. "This new king might get rid of me and take away my magnificent palace! Then HE would be king of the Jews. I cannot let that happen! I want to be king. **(SB6)** I must get rid of this baby," thought the king. "I must find out more and make a plan! There will be no new king! I will see to that!" Herod decided.

*Do you think it would be hard to stop being a king and let someone else be king instead?*

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But if King Herod was to get rid of this new king, he would first have to find him first. But, how? HE didn't know where the child was. The PEOPLE didn't know where he was. Not even the Magi knew where he was. How could this baby ever be found?!!

*Where do you think he should look?*

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

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**There was just one place to look. (SB7) In a book. A very old, very special book. God's Book. What was it called? The Bible! Long ago, God had godly men write down many of His plans for this world, including His promise to send the Christ, the great Savior-King. Perhaps God had told where this king would be born in God's Word, the Bible, Herod hoped.**

**"(SB8) Get the teachers of God's Word, and bring them to me!" Herod demanded. "I must speak to them at once."**

**So, Herod gathered together all the teachers of God's Word. "Where is the Christ, God's great Savior-King, supposed to be born?" he asked them.**

*Do you know where the Christ, God's great Savior-King was to be born? In Bethlehem!*

**The teachers knew just where to look. They knew God's promises well. They had been waiting and waiting for this special Savior-King to come. "Bethlehem. That's where the Savior-King is to be born," they replied. "That's what God promised in His Word many years ago," the teachers told Herod.**

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**"Ah, ha! Bethlehem! That's not far from here at all! I will find this child and get rid of him before he grows up and gets rid of ME!" King Herod thought. "But I must be sneaky about this. I'll use these Magi to help me, without them even knowing it," he decided.**

**Herod called for (SB9) the Magi, and said "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the young child. When you find him, come back and report to me. I want to go worship him, too," he lied. What a terrible, tricky plan Herod had made! How he hoped it would work!**

**The Magi obeyed Herod. (SB10) They set out across the hills of Judah for the village of Bethlehem. What would they find? Would the promise God made so many years ago really come true? Could God's Word really be trusted?**

*What do you think? Would God's Word be true?*

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**The beautiful star of the king, itself, seemed to sparkle out a big, bright, beautiful "yes" from the night sky! (Move SB3) The star went before the Magi all the way to Bethlehem and shone down upon a little house. (SB11) Who would they find there? Was this really the home of THE great king? Could it be? The door opened and who did they see...**

*Can you guess?*

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**They saw (SB12) Mary, Joseph and little Jesus. God's Word had been true! It could be trusted! Here was the great king they had been looking for!**

**The (SB13) Magi fell down on their knees and worshipped Jesus. They gave him their expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. How happy they were to have found the special Savior-King at last!**

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

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**But what about King Herod and his evil plans? Would he really get rid of the Christ, the Savior-King? No, he would not! No, he COULD not! Herod could make all the plans he wanted; but, he was just a man. God's Word was filled with God's plans for Jesus, the Savior-King, and it would always prove true! God warned the Magi and they never went back to King Herod in Jerusalem. They went back home another way.**

**God sent an angel to warn Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a dream, too. They left Bethlehem before Herod could find them. Herod's plans failed. God's plans came true... and they always will! God always wins!**

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**Just as God had planned, Jesus (SB16) would grow up to be a man. He would show everyone what God is like. He would teach them about God. He would show (SB17) God's great power in the wonderful things He did. Jesus would live a perfect life; and then, He would do the most amazing thing of all. He would choose to give it up as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people, as He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He would rise from the dead in victory and go back to heaven to rule. All, just exactly as God promised in His Word.**

**And that's the way it always will be with all of God's plans, written down in the Bible. They will always come true, just as God tells us they will. You can always count on that!**

*Let's cheer for God and His Word, the Bible! His plans always come true!*

**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:**

I need to know:

**1. Who was the new king and who was looking for him?**

Jesus was the new king. The Magi (and King Herod) were looking for him.

**2. How did they find him?** The Bible, God's Word, told them where He would be born.

**For You and Me:**

The Magi found God's Word to be true. It told them of God's plans to send a Savior; and, it told them where He would be found. But the most wonderful of God's plans written down in the Bible was what God had planned for that Savior to do. This Savior-- Jesus-- would choose to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. That's a plan that God wants you and me to be a part of. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

**Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is Isaiah 46:9-11:**

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please... What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do."

I need to know:

**1. Where did God plan for the new king to be born?**

Bethlehem.

**2. What did God plan for the new king to do?** He planned for the new king to save God's people from their sins.

**For You and Me:**

From before the beginning, God planned to send Jesus to save His people from their sins. And nothing would ever get in the way of that plan! God's wonderful plan can be for us, too. How? When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

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

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a little house; a bird; a cross; gold; a teacher; and a palm tree.

*Hold up each of them for the children to see as you identify them.*

I need to know:

**1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?** The little house, the cross, the gold and the teacher belong in the story. The bird and the palm tree do not.

**2. Who worshipped the new king?**

The Magi worshipped Jesus, the new king.

**For You and Me:**

The Magi worshipped Jesus when he was just a little child. They only saw a little part of God's great, big plan for Jesus. We know so much more of God's plan and have so much more to worship Him for. We know that Jesus would give up His life as the perfect payment for the sins of God's people. He would be their Savior. He can be our Savior, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

**The Gospel** (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

**What's So Special about the Bible?**

**It Alone Is God's Word...**

**it tells us about God and His plans!**

How good it is that God's plans always come true! How good it is that no one can stop them! God promised us in His Word, the Bible, that He would send a Savior-King to save us and He did! Because of Jesus, we can have our sins forgiven and become some of God's people! Ask God to help you to turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to answer these prayers.

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

- A** We praise you, God for being so good and perfect. We praise You for making good and perfect plans.
  
- C** God, You've told us that Your plans are good and perfect, but sometimes we don't trust You. Please forgive us.
  
- T** Thank You for sharing some of Your good and perfect plans with us. Thank You for making sure that all Your plans happen. Thank You for planning to save people through Jesus.
  
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, that we might be Your special people, too. Help us to trust Your good and perfect plans, even when we don't understand them completely.