

**The Case of the Eyewitness**

Luke 4:31ff; 5; 9:28-36; 11:23-24; John 2; 6:16-21; 11



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 figures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
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 Eyewitness. 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:**

**An eyewitness is someone who knows something is true because he saw it happen.**

I need to know:

- 1. Who was an eyewitness who saw what Jesus did?**
- 2. What did this eyewitness see Jesus do that was most amazing of all?**

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

**Our Bible Verse is Matthew 4:23:**

"Jesus went... preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

I need to know:

- 1. What did people think as they listened to Jesus teach?**
- 2. What did people think as they watched Jesus heal their sicknesses?**

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

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

They are: a man named Peter; a bumblebee; a sick woman; some medicine; a worship place; and, God's Word, the Bible.

*Hold each of them up 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. What did many sick people thank Jesus for doing for them?**

**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.*

*Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.*

**The Case of the Eyewitness**

*Luke 4:31ff; 5; 9:28-36; 11:23-24; John 2; 6:16-21; 11*

**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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**"Have you heard about Jesus?" everyone was asking.**

**(SB1) In the market, as they sold their sheep and bought their fruit and vegetables. (SB2) In the fields, as they gathered in their wheat. (SB3) In the boats, as they pulled in their nets full of flopping fish. (SB4) On the dusty road, as they walked along. (SB5) In their beds, as they went to sleep. Everywhere people lived and worked and played, they were asking that same question: "Have you heard about Jesus?"**

**And why wouldn't people want to talk about Jesus? He was saying and doing the most amazing things! No one had ever met anyone like Jesus.**

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**Perhaps no one knew this better than (SB6) Peter. One Sabbath worship day, Peter joined (SB7) the people gathering at the synagogue, the worship place in his town. And who was teaching there that day?**

*Can you guess?*

**It was Jesus!**

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**Peter and the others watched as Jesus took out a scroll of the Bible and read from it, just like the other teachers did. But what would this new teacher say? Would He teach just like (SB8) the other teachers?**

**(SB9) Now, the other teachers taught the people about God's 613 laws written down in the Bible. And, they gave the people lots of extra, little DO's and DON'Ts rules that they thought would help everyone obey God's laws better. They taught "DO's" like: "Do say a special prayer as you wash your hands when you wake up in the morning, or you won't please God." And "DON'T's" like: "Don't use the same spoon to stir milk and cook meat, or you won't please God." And even though NONE of these little rules were in the Bible, those teachers were SURE that obeying them was the way to please God.**

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**But, oh, But, oh, how all those extra, little rules weighed down upon the people! Would Jesus teach the people the same extra, little, when He preached from God's Word?**

*What do you think?*

**No, He would not! What Jesus taught from God's Word wasn't ANYTHING like what the other rabbis (teachers) taught. When Jesus preached, (SB10) He told people what the Bible REALLY meant. He told them what God was like and how God wanted them to live. How powerfully Jesus preached that morning! Peter and the others were amazed at what they heard. This Jesus was not like any other teacher. He was giving them words filled with life. Their hearts leaped with excitement to hear more. What would Jesus say next?**

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**Suddenly, right in the middle of Jesus' preaching, a man stood up and started shouting at Jesus as loud as he could: "(SB11) Go away! What do You want with us, Jesus? Have You come to get rid of us? I know who You are! You are God's Son!" he yelled.**

**The man was right. Jesus WAS God's Son. He had come to save God's people and to break the power of sin and death. But something was terribly wrong here. God's great enemy, Satan, was using this poor man to get in the way of Jesus telling people this good news, not to help anyone put their trust in Him as their Savior.**

**"(SB12) Go away! Leave this man alone!" Jesus ordered. (SB13) Instantly, the man was freed. He became happy and calm. Peter and the others were shocked! Jesus had complete power over God's great enemy,**

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

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But if Peter thought that was the only amazing thing he would see Jesus do that day, he was wrong. After the worship service, (SB14) Jesus went home with Peter. (SB15) Peter's mother in law was in bed with a hot, hot fever.

Usually, she would be up, welcoming Peter and his important guest home, and serving them a delicious, homemade meal. Not this time. She was so sick that she couldn't even get out of bed.

But now, Jesus had come. He would help her. (SB16) "Leave this woman," Jesus said to the fever, and it did. She was healed! (SB17) She got up from her bed and helped serve the food. How happy and grateful she was for this amazing teacher!

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News about Jesus spread around town quickly. (SB18) Neither Peter's family nor the people in the synagogue could keep quiet. "Have you heard about Jesus? Have you heard about Jesus?" they exclaimed. And when the sun set on that Sabbath worship day, (SB19) crowds of sick people hurried to Peter's house. Blind people, deaf people, people with hurting legs, and many other sicknesses came. They were all there with one hope. Do you know what it was?

*Can you guess?*

They all hoped that Jesus would heal them, too. And sure enough, (SB20) Peter watched as Jesus placed His hands on them, one by one. (SB21) With God's great power, Jesus healed them all.

Wow! What a worship day that had been! Peter had heard Jesus teach about God like no one else he had ever heard. Peter had seen Jesus do so many amazing things by God's great power. What a day, indeed!

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That worship day was just the beginning. (SB22) Peter left his home and followed Jesus everywhere He went. Peter became one of Jesus' disciples and one of His closest friends. Peter wanted to hear Jesus tell MORE about God, and see Him do MORE amazing things, by God's great power.

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And so Peter did, day after day. Peter heard Jesus (SB23) teach that He was God's Son, come to save sinners. He heard Jesus teach about how God wants His people to live.

Peter watched Jesus do more amazing things, by God's power, too. (SB24) Peter watched Jesus turn water into delicious wine at a wedding. (SB25) He watched Jesus walk on top of the wavy waters of the Sea of Galilee, one night. Jesus even invited Peter to walk on the water with Him! (SB26) High up on a mountain, Peter saw Jesus shine with God's beautiful, bright glory. (SB27) And Peter even saw Jesus raise a man named Lazarus back to life after he had been dead for FOUR DAYS!

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But it wasn't until the very end of Jesus' life that Peter saw Jesus do the greatest thing He would ever do. Can you guess what that was?

*Can you guess?*

(SB28) Peter watched Jesus suffer and die on a cross for the sins of God's people. (Remove BG3 to reveal SB29) Then on the third day, Peter saw Jesus, risen from the dead. Jesus had done it! He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

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As Peter heard Jesus teach all these things and watched Him do all these things, (SB30) God gave Peter faith to believe. Yes! Jesus WAS God's Son, the Savior come down from heaven to save them from their sins! Peter turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. (SB31) The Holy Spirit came to live in Peter's heart, helping him love God and tell others the good news of Jesus, too.

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(SB32) Peter spent the rest of his life telling others that good news. He praised God as many people heard and trusted in Jesus as their Savior, too.

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(SB33) But for Peter, the best day of all was when he died and went to heaven. Then Peter could see for himself how everything Jesus had taught was true! All of Peter's sins HAD been forgiven! God HAD given him eternal life through Jesus. Now Peter would live face-to-face with Jesus, once more. But this time, it would last forever and ever.

**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:**

An eyewitness is someone who knows something is true because he saw it happen.

**I need to know:**

**1. Who was an eyewitness who saw what Jesus did?** Peter.

**2. What did this eyewitness see Jesus do that was most amazing of all?** Peter saw Jesus die on the cross for the sins of God's people, then rise from the dead, three days later.

**For You and Me:**

Peter turned from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He spent the rest of his life loving God and living for Him. That's exactly what God wants us to do, too. Ask Him to help you. He loves to answer prayers like this!

**Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is Matthew 4:23:**

"Jesus went... preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people."

**I need to find out:**

**1. What did people think as they listened to Jesus teach?** They had never heard anyone speak about God as He did.

**2. What did people think as they watched Jesus heal their sicknesses?** They had never seen anyone do such amazing things by God's power as He did.

**For You and Me:**

Jesus taught amazing things and did amazing things, all by God's power. Why? Because He wanted people to put their trust in Him as their Savior. And that's exactly what Jesus wants us to do, as we hear about Him today. He wants us to turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. If we do, we will become God's dearly-loved people. We will get to know God now in our hearts. And one day, get to go live with Him forever.

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

Our six clues were: a man named Peter; a bumblebee; a sick woman; some medicine; a worship place; and, God's Word, the Bible.

**1. Which four belong in our story?**

Peter, the sick woman, the worship place and the Bible belong. The moose and the medicine do not.

**2. What did many sick people thank Jesus for doing for them?** For healing them of their sicknesses.**For You and Me:**

Many sick people thanked Jesus for healing them by God's power, but Jesus did something far greater for them, by God's power. He suffered and died on the cross that they might be forgiven their sins and have eternal life with God. This is something we can thank Jesus for doing, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Then, we will be God's dearly-loved people. We will get to know God now in our hearts. And one day, get to go live with Him forever.

**The Gospel** (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can I Know What God Is Like?****Jesus Came to Bring Us to God!****He Taught about God and Did Amazing Things!**

Today, we have heard some of the amazing things that Jesus taught and did. Like Simon Peter, God can use these things to help us to believe in Jesus, too. He can help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, too. Then, like Simon Peter, we will be God's people, too. We can know and become one of His people, even today!

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

- A** Jesus, we praise You for being our Savior. You came to bring us to God. We praise You for all the wonderful things You taught us about God and all the amazing things You did, by God's great power. No one is like You!
- C** Jesus, when we read in the Bible what You taught, we see that we are all sinners who have disobeyed God. Oh, how we need You to be our Savior!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for showing us what God is like in all that You taught and all the amazing things You did. Thank You for dying on the cross to save all who trust in You as their Savior.
- S** Jesus, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins. Help us to trust in You as our Savior. Help us to love You more and live for You more, as we read in the Bible what You taught and all the amazing things You did. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.