

The Case of the Great Price

Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19



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 Great Price. 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 find out:

- 1. What did Jesus do that cost a great price?**
- 2. Who did He do it for? Why?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Hosea 13:14, HCSB:

"I will ransom them from the power of Sheol. I will redeem them from death."

I need to find out:

- 1. Sheol is another word for death. To ransom means to pay whatever it costs to rescue someone. Who ransomed God's people from death?**
- 2. What had to be done to ransom God's people from death?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: an alligator; Jesus; a robber; a jail; sin; and a harp. *Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.*

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in our story?**
- 2. What do God's people thank Jesus for doing for them on the cross?**

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 Great Price *Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19*

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.

(SB1) The Roman king did NOT put up with (SB2) lawbreakers! Some lawbreakers he punished by (SB3) putting them in jail for a long time. And some, he punished by (SB4) whipping them with painful, sharp ropes. Others, (SB5) he sent away to sea to row big warships for his soldiers. But the worst kinds of lawbreakers, (SB6) the king sent to a hill outside of Jerusalem called Golgotha. And there, these worst kinds of men were given the worst kind of punishment. (SB7, SB8) They were put up on big, wooden crosses (with nails!), and they were left there to suffer and die.

The cross was a terrible punishment! It was so terrible that people in Jesus' day would not even say the word "cross". (SB9) "Cross" was a bad word that good people did not say, let alone think about.

What kinds of lawbreakers died on crosses? (SB10) Traitors died on crosses (men who tried to get rid of the king). (SB11) Murderers died on crosses (men who killed other people). (SB12) Robbers died on crosses (men who took other people's things). These worst kinds of lawbreakers were given the worst kind of punishment.

The cross. It was for bad men being punished for the bad things they had done. That's the way it was back in those days. At least, that was the way it was supposed to be.

But what a strange thing people saw on Golgotha, one Friday long ago! For there, on that, hill stood three crosses for three men. Two of the men were robbers, but (SB13) the third one was a man no one expected to see there. Can you guess who it was?

Can you guess?

It was Jesus!

Now, everyone could understand why the two robbers had been put on their crosses. (SB14) These men had snatched other people's things, and now they were being punished for the bad things they had done. That was the Roman king's law.

(SB15) But Jesus? Why was He there? What bad thing had He done? Can you tell me?

Can you think of anything bad that Jesus had done?

Had Jesus snatched other people's things, like the robbers? No! Had He killed someone like, the murderers? No! Had He tried to get rid of the king, like the traitors? No! Jesus had never done any of these bad things. As a matter of fact, (SB16) Jesus had never sinned. He had never done EVEN ONE bad thing in His whole life!

(SB17) Jesus always kept God's laws. He always loved God most of all. He always loved others as the Bible tells us to. In EVERYTHING Jesus thought in His heart; and in EVERYTHING Jesus said and did, He never, ever disobeyed God. Jesus was the only person who ever lived a PERFECT LIFE. That's why Jesus, of all people, did not deserve to be up there on that cross!

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

So, why WAS Jesus on that cross, if not for bad things He had done? Was it all just a big mistake?

What do you think?

Far from it! This was God's plan. Yes, it was the Roman king who ordered Jesus to be put on that cross, and it was his soldiers who put Jesus on it. But God had woven their evil deeds into His much, much bigger, GLORIOUS, LOVING, GOOD plan to rescue His people from their sins.

Jesus was up on that cross because He CHOSE (SB18) to be there to take the punishment God's people deserved from GOD (SB19)!

From God?! Why would HE need to punish His people? Didn't He love them? Yes, He loved them very much.

But you see, the LORD is the one, true, perfectly good God, and (SB20) He is the big king over everyone. (SB21) He has given us His perfectly good laws to live by, but have we obeyed them?

Have we?

No, we have not! None of us! We have ALL disobeyed God, and we ALL deserve His punishment for disobeying Him and His good laws. That makes us all sinners. And oh, what a terrible punishment we all deserve! We deserve to be separated from God and all His goodness forever. Forever punishment! Isn't that awful?

(SB22) But God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on that cross. He took the punishment for the sins of God's people upon Himself, so they wouldn't have to. (SB23) Jesus' perfect life paid for their sins, so they could be FORGIVEN. And, so they could be loved by God forever, instead of punished!

Who are God's people? They are all who would ever turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. All who come to God like this are God's people! So, that's why Jesus suffered and died on the cross that day. Not for anything He had done, but (SB24) because He loved God, His Father, and God's people so much. Isn't Jesus amazing!

And how do we KNOW that Jesus really took all of the punishment for God's people that day? It's because of what happened on the third day after Jesus died. Do you know what happened?

Can you tell me?

(SB25, SB26) On Day One, Jesus' body stayed dead in the cave-grave. On Day Two, Jesus' body stayed dead in the cave-grave. (Move (BG4 to the side, then remove SB25 and add SB27) But on Day Three, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing that He had really done it!

Now, God's people were forgiven forever! Now, they never would have to have God's punishment. (SB28) Now, they would get to know and love Him in their hearts their whole lives! And one day, when they die, (SB29) they would get to go live with God forever! What a wonderful thing it is to be God's dearly-loved people!

Thank You, Jesus, for taking all of God's punishment for God's people on the cross! Thank You, that You offer for us to become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in You as our Savior! Help us to do this, even today!

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. What did Jesus do that cost a great price? He suffered and died on the cross.

2. Who did He do it for? Why? He did it for God's people, so they could be saved from their sins.

For You and Me:

How amazing is God's love for His people! That He would send His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die in their place! We can become 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 Hosea 13:14, HCSB:**

"I will ransom them from the power of Sheol. I will redeem them from death."

1. Sheol is another word for death. To ransom means to pay whatever it costs to rescue someone. Who ransomed God's people from death? Jesus did.

2. What had to be done to ransom God's people from death? Jesus had to pay for their sins, Himself, as He suffered and died on the cross.

For You and Me

How amazing is God's love for His people! That He would send His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die in their place! We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: an alligator; Jesus; a robber; a jail; sin; and a harp. Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

1. Which four belong in our story?

Jesus, the robber, the jail and sin belong. The butterfly and the harp do not.

2. What do God's people thank Jesus for doing for them on the cross? For suffering and dying on the cross for their sins so they could be forgiven.

For You and Me

How amazing is God's love for His people! That He would send His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die in their place! We can become God's people, too, when 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 Did Jesus Come to Do?****Jesus Came to Bring Us to God...****He Died on the Cross for the Sins of God's People!**

What did Jesus come to do? Jesus came to bring us to God... He died on the cross for the sins of God's people.

That was the only way God's people could be forgiven their sins. You see, all people have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. No one lives the perfect life that pleases God. That is why we all deserve His punishment!

God would have been perfectly fair to punish us for our sins. But, He is so full of mercy and love that He chose to make a way for us to be saved. He sent Jesus to live the perfectly obedient life that none of us have lived. Then, Jesus offered up His perfect life to be the full payment for the sins of all who would ever turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He had really done it! We, too, can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. *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 being willing to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God's people.
- C** Jesus, how we need You to be our Savior! We are all sinners who disobey God. We all deserve God's punishment. Please forgive us!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for suffering and dying on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in You as their Savior. Thank You for taking all of God's punishment, so we might be forgiven. Thank You that no one is too sinful for You to save. You are a big enough Savior for any of us.
- 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 and live for You more and more. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.