

**The Case of the Eager Waiters***Acts 1-2***Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/story scenes, if using. (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/hold up storybook scenes 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 (Optional)**

**“Our story is called: The Case of the Eager Waiters. 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. **Who was waiting? What were they eager (excited) to happen?**
2. **What happened inside of them when what they waited for came?**

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19, ESV***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”*

A temple is a special place where we worship God.

I need to find out:

1. **Who came into the disciples’ hearts to live?**
2. **How did He make their hearts like a temple, a place of worship to God?**

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

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

They are: a praying disciple, the world, a cow, the Ten Commandments, a violin, and the Holy Spirit in a heart.

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

I need to figure out:

1. **Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
2. **What did the disciples keep asking God to send them? Why did they want God to send Him so much?**

**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 Eager Waiters** *Acts 1-2*

*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, SB2) "Go to Jerusalem and wait for the gift," Jesus told His disciples, after He died on the cross and rose from the dead. "I'm going home to heaven now, but I won't leave you alone," He said. "I will ask the Father and He will send you a gift. It's good that I'm going away, so you can have this gift," Jesus told them.**

**What kind of gift would Jesus ask His Father to send His disciples?**

*Do you know what the gift was?*

**Could there really be a gift better than having Jesus right BESIDE them each day? (SB3) Yes, there was. It was God, the Holy Spirit, coming to live INSIDE them their whole lives! Wow! What a gift!**

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**"The Holy Spirit will come and live inside you," Jesus said. "(SB4) He will give you power to be my witnesses to the whole world. He will help you, comfort you, guide you, and give you courage," He promised them.**

**(SB5) Up, up, up, went Jesus. Through the clouds, and up to heaven to rule as king. And where did the disciples go? (SB6) They headed to Jerusalem, just as Jesus told them to. And as they went, they spread the news to (SB7) the other believers, "(SB8) Wait in Jerusalem with us for the gift of the Holy Spirit," they told everyone. (SB9) So, all the believers gathered together in a house in Jerusalem. They prayed and waited; and, waited and prayed.**

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**(SB10) One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine days passed, but still no Holy Spirit! Had God forgotten? Had He changed His mind?**

*What do you think? Does God ever NOT keep His promises?*

**NO! God NEVER forgets or changes His mind. His promises always come true. His plans always happen right on time. God was waiting for Day Ten to give the gift of the Holy Spirit to His people. It was all part of His perfect plan to tell the world about Jesus.**

**Why Day Ten? Because Day Ten was a very special celebration day in Jerusalem, called the Day of Pentecost. (SB11) Every Pentecost, thousands of Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem to thank God for giving them His Ten, Big Rules, the Ten Commandments.**

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**So, when Day Ten came, Jerusalem was bursting full of people celebrating Pentecost. Everything was exactly how God wanted it to be when He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to His people. He wanted everyone to know what was happening!**

**So, at nine o'clock that Pentecost morning, the gift came. (SB12) At last, God sent His Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers who had been praying and waiting in that house --all one hundred and twenty of them!**

**(SB13) "Whoosh," a sound like a mighty wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. (SB14) "Crackle, Sparkle," something came down that looked like fire and rested on each of them. Then quietly and powerfully, (SB15) the Holy Spirit came to live in the hearts of them all. He filled them with God's joy, peace, and power! Jesus' followers were so happy! (SB16) They burst out of that house and ran into the streets in joy!**

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

**But that's not all the Holy Spirit did in those first disciples. (SB17) He also made them able to speak in other languages that they had never learned! Why would God do that?**

*Can you guess?*

**So that Jesus' disciples could go out and begin telling the people of the world the good news of Jesus, starting with Jews from around the world in Jerusalem that very morning.**

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**(SB18) Now, not just Israelites, but Romans and Greeks, Egyptians and Arabs, Africans and Asians suddenly could hear the good news of Jesus in their very own language. Everyone was amazed!**

**(SB19) "What's going on? How can these people speak in all of these languages? What gift is this?" many wondered. Others laughed and made fun of the disciples.**

*Can you tell me what gift it was? You know the answer, even if these people didn't!*

**(SB20) The Holy Spirit worked in Peter's heart, making him bold and giving him wise words from God's Word to speak. "These people are speaking your languages by God's Holy Spirit," Peter explained. "God has sent Him to live inside of all who follow Jesus. Come, turn away from your sin, trust in Jesus as your Savior, and be baptized. God will send the Holy Spirit to live inside you, too," Peter promised them.**

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**What would these people do? Would they believe Peter's words? Would they keep laughing and walk away?**

*What do you think?*

**Many DIDN'T walk away, but BELIEVED! (SB21) Over three thousand people turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior that very day.**

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**And guess WHO came to live inside the hearts of those three thousand new believers that day? I bet you know.**

*Can you tell me?*

**(SB22) God's Holy Spirit, just as Peter had promised. The Holy Spirit filled these new believers with God's joy, peace, and power. These new disciples were so happy! Now, they could know God in their hearts, too.**

**Already, God's Holy Spirit had begun to do amazing things in God's people. God's plan to tell the world the good news of Jesus was happening. And this was only the beginning. How many more wonderful things would God's Holy Spirit do!**

**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 waiting? What were they eager (excited) to happen?** Jesus' disciples were waiting for God to send the Holy Spirit to them.

**2. What happened inside of them when what they waited for came?** The Holy Spirit filled their hearts with joy and gave them boldness to tell others the good news of Jesus.

**For You and Me:**

The disciples were so happy to have the Holy Spirit live in their hearts! He was always with them, helping them know and love God, and helping them love others. He gave them the boldness to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit can come and live inside of us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can help us to know and love God. He can help us to love others, too. He can give us boldness to tell others the good news of Jesus, so they can be saved. He won't come with a great show of fire and wind, like He did for those first disciples. He will come gently and quietly in our hearts and be with us, helping us, our whole lives.

**Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19, ESV**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?"

A temple is a special place where we worship God.

I need to find out:

**1. Who came into the disciples' hearts to live?** God's Holy Spirit.

**2. How did He make their hearts like a temple, a place of worship to God?** He came to live in their hearts. He helped them know and love God, and love others, too. This is how we worship God, by living this way.

**For You and Me**

The disciples were so happy to have the Holy Spirit live in their hearts! He was always with them, helping them know and love God, and helping them love others. He gave them the boldness to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit can come and live inside of us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can help us to know and love God. He can help us to love others, too. He can give us boldness to tell others the good news of Jesus, so they can be saved. He won't come with a great show of fire and wind, like He did for those first disciples. He will come gently and quietly in our hearts and be with us, helping us, our whole lives.

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

Our six clues were: a praying disciple, the world, a cow, the Ten Commandments, a violin, and the Holy Spirit in a heart.

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

The praying disciple, the world, the Ten Commandments, and the Holy Spirit in a heart belong. The cow and the violin do not.

**2. What did the disciples keep asking God to send them? Why did they want God to send Him so much?**

The Holy Spirit. They wanted to know and love God more through the Holy Spirit. They wanted Him to help them live for God.

**For You and Me:**

The disciples were so happy to have the Holy Spirit live in their hearts! He was always with them, helping them know and love God, and helping them love others. He gave them the boldness to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit can come and live inside of us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can help us to know and love God. He can help us to love others, too. He can give us boldness to tell others the good news of Jesus, so they can be saved. He won't come with a great show of fire and wind, like He did for those first disciples. He will come gently and quietly in our hearts and be with us, helping us, our whole lives.

**The Gospel** (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What Does the Holy Spirit Do in God's People?****He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus...****The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People!**

God's Holy Spirit is given to all who believe in God's good news, the gospel. What is the gospel? We have all chosen to disobey God and deserve His punishment for our sins! But God is so rich in mercy that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for God's people. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He had beaten sin and death for them. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust Jesus as their Savior God will forgive their sins. They will enjoy special closeness with God now as His special people. And one day, they will get to live with Him forever. How amazing is God's love for His people! We can be God's people, too! When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, He will save us, too! It is His promise to us!

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

- A** God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Holy Spirit to Your people.
- C** God, we confess that we rebel against You in our hearts. We do not love or serve You as we should. We need Jesus to be our Savior! We need the Holy Spirit to change our hearts to love You and live for You!
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of Your people. Thank You for how He helps them to love You and live for You.
- S** God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send Your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, that we might know You and love 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.***