

The Case of the Secret Weapon Within

Mark 13:9-13; 15-16; Acts 1-4

**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 Secret Weapon Within. 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 “secret weapon” and in where did God put Him?
2. What did God use this secret weapon to do?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984**

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

I need to know:

1. Who did Jesus promise to send to His disciples to help them know God and live for Him?
2. What did this Helper give Jesus’ disciples wisdom to do?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a hat, a heart, a leader, a ball, jail, and a school.

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 kind of help did the disciples thank God for giving them through His Holy Spirit?

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 Secret Weapon Within *Mark 13:9-13; 15-16; Acts 1-4*

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.

For one, two, three years, Jesus taught His followers many things about God and His plans.

(SB1) **Jesus taught His followers many things about God and His plans. Jesus taught them happy things like: "God loved the people of this world so much that He sent Me to be their Savior." And, "Come to Me all you who are weary and I will give rest for your souls. I will save you from your sins. I will give you strength to live God's way."**

Best of all, were Jesus' promises about life with God in the world to come: "I am going home to heaven to prepare a place for all who trust in Me as their Savior," Jesus told them. "All sin and sadness will be gone. We will live together in perfect happiness forever and ever," He promised.

But other things Jesus taught were not happy to hear about at all. (SB2) "I am going to suffer many things. The leaders will reject Me and kill Me," Jesus told His followers. "You are going to be My witnesses after I die on the cross, rise from the dead, and go to heaven," He said. "Sometimes people will hurt you like they are going to hurt Me. Sometimes you will be arrested, dragged before kings, and sent to jail because of Me," He warned them. "But the one who keeps on believing in Me to the end will be saved." He promised.

This was very hard to hear! How would they ever endure these terrible things, especially if Jesus was going to leave them?

Can you guess how?

Jesus told them: "You won't have to do these very hard things on your own," He comforted them. "After I leave you and go to heaven, (SB3) , I will ask My Father to send the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of you. He will give you wisdom," Jesus told them. "Even when you have to stand before mighty leaders and tell about Me, the Holy Spirit will give you just the right words to say. He will speak through you!" Jesus promised.

Soon, everything happened just as Jesus said it would. The leaders did reject Jesus and kill Him. (SB4) Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a cave-grave. Then on the third day, He rose from the dead in victory. (SB5) Jesus stayed with His disciples for forty days, teaching them many things; then, (SB6) He went up to heaven to rule.

Jesus was gone. His followers missed Him. Would the Holy Spirit really come, as Jesus promised?

What do you think?

Yes, He would! Ten days later, (SB7) He Holy Spirit came to live inside of them as their special Helper.

And oh, what wonderful gifts the Holy Spirit gave to Jesus' believers!

The Holy Spirit gave them wisdom to (SB8) understand God's Word and (SB9) to know how to love God and others. (SB10) He gave them wisdom to teach others the good news of Jesus. And even when (SB11) they were arrested and (SB12) dragged before mighty leaders, the Holy Spirit was with them, working inside their hearts. They should have been scared, but (SB13) the Holy Spirit gave them peace and joy. And, He gave them just the right words to say.

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

These enemies of Jesus were shocked! (SB14) **Jesus' followers haven't been to school like us. They are just plain people. How is it that they stand before us so boldly? How is it that they have so much peace and joy? How can they speak such wise words about Jesus?** they wondered.

They didn't know the answer, but we do, don't we? It was that wonderful, secret weapon of God who had come to live inside those believers. Can you remember His name?

Can you tell me?

The Holy Spirit! He was the One who gave these followers of Jesus such peace and joy. He was the One who made these plain men so bold and wise! *How Jesus' disciples praised God and thanked Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit living in their hearts!* And with His help, (SB15) they kept on living for God and kept on telling others the good news of Jesus.

But the Holy Spirit wasn't ONLY at work inside those first believers, as they spoke about Jesus and lived for Him. (SB16) He was also at work in the people who watched them and listened to them.

Yes, tens of people, hundreds of people, even THOUSANDS of people, watched and listened to those first believers in Jesus! And as they watched and listened, the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He helped them turn away from their sins and (SB17) trust in Jesus as their Savior. And when they did, He came to live in their hearts to stay. Now, they were God's people, too. Now, He would be their Helper, giving them wisdom and helping them live for God, too!

And that's way it has been for Jesus' followers ever since those first days, long ago. The Holy Spirit has helped more and more people turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Not just tens, hundreds, or thousands of people; but now, (SB18) millions and millions of people from all over the world. So many people that you can't even count them! And the Holy Spirit has come to live in the heart of every one of them.

The Holy Spirit is God's good gift to His people. He gives them peace and joy. He helps them know and love God. He gives them wisdom and strength to live for God and to tell others the good news of Jesus. And He will keep on helping them and giving to them their whole lives. Thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit to live inside Your people!

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 "secret weapon" and in where did God put Him? The Holy Spirit. He put it in the hearts of His people.

2. What did God use this secret weapon to do? God used His Holy Spirit to help His people from inside their hearts. The Holy Spirit gave them courage instead of fear, after Jesus went to heaven. He helped them to know God. He gave them wisdom to know how to live for God and to teach others the good news of Jesus.

For You and Me:

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside Jesus' first disciples, long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know God, and to know what to tell others about Jesus. God promises those gifts to us today, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God's Holy Spirit will come into our hearts and give us wisdom, too! What a wonderful gift!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Ephesians 1:17, NIV 1984**

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

1. Who did Jesus promise to send to His disciples to help them know God and live for Him? The Holy Spirit.

2. What did this Helper give Jesus' disciples wisdom to do? To know God; to know how God wanted them to live; and, to know what to say, as they told others about Jesus.

For You and Me:

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside Jesus' first disciples, long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know God, and to know what to tell others about Jesus. God promises those gifts to us today, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God's Holy Spirit will come into our hearts and give us wisdom, too! What a wonderful gift!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a hat, a heart, a leader, a ball, jail, and a school.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The heart, the leader, the jail, and the school belong. The hat and the ball do not.

2. What kind of help did the disciples thank God for giving them through His Holy Spirit? For giving them peace and joy; giving them boldness and strength to tell others about Jesus and face their enemies; and, giving them wisdom to know what to say when they did.

For You and Me:

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside Jesus' first disciples, long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know God, and to know what to tell others about Jesus. God promises those gifts to us today, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, God's Holy Spirit will come into our hearts and give us wisdom, too! What a wonderful gift!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can I Know What God Is Like?****He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus...****The Holy Spirit Gives God's People Wisdom!**

What great changes the Holy Spirit made inside of Jesus' disciples long ago! Even the leaders were amazed at the wisdom God gave them through His Holy Spirit!

God can change our hearts, too, when we believe the gospel, the good news about Jesus. What is the gospel?

Well, it starts out with bad news about us. You see, we all choose to disobey God. We all deserve God's punishment for our sins, and He would have been perfectly fair to give us all His punishment for breaking His laws and leave it at that. But what good news God has for us in Jesus! 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, Jesus rose in victory for them. We, too, can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He will forgive our sins and give us special closeness with Himself. Who will bring that special closeness to our hearts? God's Holy Spirit! He will live inside us and make us new. He will give us peace and joy. He gives us wisdom and boldness to live for God. And best of all will be the day when God's people die and go to live with God forever. Isn't the gospel such good news!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the Giver of wisdom through Your Holy Spirit.
- C** God, we confess that many times we choose not to ask You for wisdom. Instead, we choose to do things our own way. We need Jesus to be our Savior. We need Your Holy Spirit to change our hearts, so we might love You and live for You!
- T** Thank You, God, for all the wisdom You offer us through Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the wisdom You give us through the Bible, godly parents and friends, our teachers at church, and directly to the hearts of Your people, as they pray.
- S** God, work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. Give us wisdom to know how to love You and others; and, to know how You want us to live. Help us to live out the wisdom You give us!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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