

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. What was the “secret weapon” and where did God put it (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 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.

(SB1) Some of the things Jesus taught were happy to learn about at all. "God loved the people of this world so much that He sent Me to be their Savior," Jesus told them. "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," Jesus encouraged them. But best of all were Jesus' promises about life with God in the world to come: "I am going to prepare a place for all in heaven for all who trust in Me. 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 and the leaders will reject Me and kill Me," Jesus told them. "You are going to be My witnesses after I die on the cross, rise from the dead, and go to heaven. Sometimes people will hurt you like they are going to hurt Me," He warned them. "Sometimes you will be arrested, dragged before leaders and sent to jail because Me," He said. "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! Jesus told them. It would be Someone who would help them from inside their hearts.

Can you guess who?

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

Soon, everything happened just as Jesus said it would. The leaders did reject Him 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 He really send the Holy Spirit as He promised?

What do you think?

Yes, He did! Ten days later, (SB7) Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of them and help them.

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) how to love God and others. (SB10) He gave them wisdom to know just the right words to tell others 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. He gave them just the right words to say.

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

Those enemies of Jesus were shocked!"(SB14) These believers in Jesus 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. What's His name, can you remember?

Can you tell me?

The Holy Spirit! He was the one who gave these men peace and joy. He was the one who made them 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 went out and kept on living for God and kept on telling others the good news of Jesus.

But the Holy Spirit wasn't JUST at work inside those first believers as they spoke about Jesus and lived for Him. (SB16) He was also at work in those 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 the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they watched and listened! He helped them turn away from their sins and (SB17) trust in Jesus as their Savior, too. And when they did, He came to live in their hearts to stay. Now they were God's people. Now He would be their Helper, giving them wisdom and helping them live for God!

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 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 inside their hearts of each and every one of them all!

God's people know that the Holy Spirit is God's good gift to them for LIFE! Yes, for the rest of their lives, the Holy Spirit will keep on living inside of God's people like this. He will continue to give them peace and joy. He will continue to give them strength to boldly live God's way every day! And, He will continue to give them God's wisdom to know how God wants them to live and how to tell others the good news of Jesus! What a wonderful gift is God's Holy Spirit!

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

2. What did God use this secret weapon to do? He used the Holy Spirit do to good inside His people. He used the Holy Spirit fight against their helplessness and fear after Jesus went to heaven. He helped them to know God, how He wanted them to live, and how to tell others the good news of Jesus.

For You and Me:

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside Jesus' disciples who lived long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know Him and to know what to tell others about Jesus. He 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**

"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' disciples who lived long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know Him and to know what to tell others about Jesus. He 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' disciples who lived long ago. He gave them so many good gifts, including wisdom to know Him and to know what to tell others about Jesus. He 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 all who turn away from their sins and trust Jesus as their Savior. For all who do, God will forgive their sins and they will enjoy special closeness with God now as His special people. Who brings that special closeness to our hearts? God's Holy Spirit! He comes to live inside us and makes us new. He gives us peace and joy. He makes us bold to live for God. He gives us wisdom to know God and live for Him.

But 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 chose 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 to love You and live for You!
- T** Thank You, God for all the wisdom You offer us from Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for this wisdom You have given us through the Bible, godly parents and friends, our teachers at church, and directly to our hearts as we 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.