

The Case of the Fluffy Farewell*Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20; Acts 1***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 Fluffy Farewell. 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 said goodbye to Jesus' disciples after teaching them for forty days?**
- 2. Where did He go when He said goodbye? What was fluffy about His farewell (goodbye)?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 3:21-22, ESV:**

"Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."

I need to know:

- 1. How did Jesus go up to heaven to rule?**
- 2. What does He rule over from heaven? When will He come back?**

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

They are: A cloud; a feather duster; an ostrich; a disciple; the Holy Spirit in a heart; and the world. *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 job did Jesus give His disciples to do? Who would help them do it?**

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 Fluffy Farewell *Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 23-24; John 19-20; Acts 1*

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.

What a strange, three days it had been for the people of Jerusalem! On Friday, (SB1, SB2) they had watched Jesus suffer and die on a cross. He was the teacher who had taught them about God and done such amazing things. Many hoped He was the Messiah God had promised to send to save God's people and to be their King. But those hopes left as they watched (SB3) Jesus' dead body be taken away to be buried. (SB4) His body was laid in the cave-grave and (move BG4 in place) the stone rolled in place. Jesus was gone.

Who would have imagined Jesus would die like this! Death on a cross was for men who did terrible things, like the robbers who died next to Jesus that day. But Jesus had NEVER done anything wrong. EVER! How strange! How very strange, that He should die this way!

But if Friday was strange, then what happened on Sunday was even stranger!

Do you know what happened?

People --lots of people-- were saying that Jesus was alive, that He had risen from the DEAD!

(SB5) The soldiers who guarded the cave-grave saw with their own eyes what happened early that Sunday morning. (SB6) So did the women who came with spices to care for Jesus' body. "How will we move the big stone from in front of the cave?" they wondered. Just then, (SB7) there was a great earthquake, and (SB8) an angel in gleaming, white clothes came down from heaven. He pushed the big stone out of the way (move BG4) for the women, and said, "Jesus is not here! He has risen from the dead! Come look in the cave for yourselves. Then go to His disciples. Tell them He is risen and is coming to meet with them." (SB9) When the guards heard and saw this, they fell down to the ground and shook with fright.

After the angel and the women had left, (SB10) the soldiers ran to tell Jesus' enemies what they had seen and heard. "Shh! Don't tell anyone this story!" Jesus' enemies replied. "Here's lots of money. Keep quiet! Tell everyone that Jesus' disciples stole His body," they ordered the soldiers. "No one must know the truth!"

But this news couldn't be kept quiet. Jesus WAS alive and He was appearing to His followers. (SB11) "It's Me! I'm alive," Jesus told the women that Sunday morning, after they had seen the angel and the empty cave-grave. (SB12) "It's Me! I'm alive," Jesus showed two other friends, as He walked with them that afternoon to the town of Emmaus, then served them bread at dinner, as He used to. (Remove BG6, add SB13) "It's Me! I'm alive!" Jesus said to ten of His disciples, when He appeared to them at their house in Jerusalem, that evening.

Soon, all Jerusalem was buzzing with the news! Jesus' body was gone! He had risen from the dead! And while some, like Jesus' enemies, did not believe, (SB13) many others put their trust in Jesus and were saved.

For forty days, Jesus kept on meeting with His followers. (SB14) One time, Jesus even appeared to a whole crowd of His followers --more than five hundred people at once!

Can you count to five hundred? It is a really big number! More than five hundred people saw Jesus at the same time! Wow!

And what did Jesus do when He met with His followers? (SB15) He ate with them, and He encouraged them to believe in Him. (SB16) Best of all, Jesus taught them about God's plan to save His people from the Bible. God had kept all His promises to His people through Jesus! "Now we understand why You had to die on the cross," the disciples told Jesus. "Now we see how God sent You to save us from our sins."

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

But Jesus didn't just tell His followers about God's plans, completed. (SB17) He also told them about God's wonderful plans, yet to come. Plans that THEY were a part of! There was so much for them to learn! For you see, Jesus was about to leave them. He had risen from the dead not just to live on earth again. No, He was about to go HOME! Can you remember where Jesus' home was?

Can you remember?

That's right! Jesus would be going back home to heaven to (SB18) enjoy the FULL Perfect Wonderfulness of God again --complete, wonderful closeness with God, His Father, and God, the Holy Spirit.

So for ten, twenty, thirty, forty days, Jesus walked and talked with His followers. He taught them all the things they needed to know, until at last, on Day Forty, it was time for Him to go home to heaven.

(SB19) Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives to say goodbye. "I'm going to heaven to rule now, but I'm not leaving you alone," He told them. "I'm sending you Someone special to live in your hearts." Do you know whom Jesus would send?

Do you know?

(SB20) It was God's Holy Spirit!

"Yes, The Holy Spirit will live inside your hearts," Jesus told them. "He will comfort you. He will teach you more about God and His wonderful plans. And, He will give you the power to do everything God, My Father, has planned for you to do," Jesus said. "Power to tell the whole world how they can become God's people by turning away from their sins and trusting in Me as their Savior," He promised. "Power to live for God."

Then up, up, up went Jesus into the sky, through the clouds until they couldn't see Him. Jesus' friends stood there staring up into the sky, watching Him rise until they could no longer see Him.

"Would Jesus come back? When? How?" Jesus' friends wondered, as they looked up into the sky.

What do you think?

(SB21) God sent two angels in sparkling, white robes to them with the answers: "Why do you stand here looking into heaven?" the angels asked Jesus' friends. "This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back one day, in the same way you saw him go up to heaven," they promised.

How sad Jesus' friends must have been to see Jesus leave! They didn't want to wait to be with Him. They wanted to be with Him right then! There is nothing so wonderful as being close to Jesus!

BUT, they were very, VERY happy to know that the Holy Spirit would come live in their hearts. And, that one day, they would get to live face-to-face with Jesus forever. They just wished that day was right then!

(SB22, SB23) How loudly the thousands and thousands of angels must have sung, as Jesus entered heaven! He had beaten sin and death for God's people! Now, He was back home! Yay! And once more, Jesus knew full, Perfect Wonderfulness with God, His Father, and God, the Holy Spirit. All of that special closeness Jesus had known before He came to earth was now His to enjoy again and would be forevermore.

Where is Jesus now? He is still in heaven, ruling as the great King of Kings over everything in heaven and earth. (SB24) He is praying and caring for God's people. He is working out all of God's great plans for this world, until the day when He will come back through the clouds and down to earth again. What a great day that will be for God's people! (SB25) Then, Jesus will get rid of sin and sadness, sickness and death forever. And at last, all of God's people will live together with Jesus in the new heaven and earth. They will see Him in all His glory and enjoy as much of the Perfect Wonderfulness of God as they possibly can! I can hardly wait!

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:

I need to know:

- 1. Who said goodbye to Jesus' disciples after teaching them for forty days?** Jesus did.
- 2. Where did He go when He said goodbye? What was fluffy about His farewell (goodbye)?** He went up to heaven to rule. Jesus rose up through the fluffy clouds in the sky on His way to heaven.

For You and Me:

Jesus went up to heaven and is there now ruling over all things. He is still caring for His people and bringing about God's plans for this world. One day, God's plans will be finished, and Jesus will come back. He will bring an end to sin and death and this world forever. He will make a wonderful, new world for God's people to live in with Him forever. That will be best of all! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 3:21-22, ESV:**

"Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."

I need to know:

- 1. How did Jesus go up to heaven to rule?** He rose up through the clouds in the sky.
- 2. What does He rule over from heaven?** When will He come back? Jesus rules over all things. He will come back at the end of time when God's plans for this world are finished.

For You and Me:

Jesus went up to heaven and is there now ruling over all things. He is still caring for His people and bringing about God's plans for this world. One day, God's plans will be finished, and Jesus will come back. He will bring an end to sin and death and this world forever. He will make a wonderful, new world for God's people to live in with Him forever. That will be best of all! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They were: a cloud; a feather duster; an ostrich; a disciple; the Holy Spirit in a heart; and the world. *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?** The cloud, the disciples, the Holy Spirit in a heart; and the world belong. The feather duster and the ostrich do not.
- 2. What job did Jesus give His disciples to do? Who would help them do it?** To tell the whole world the good news of Jesus that they might turn from their sins and be saved. God's Holy Spirit, living in their hearts would help them.

For You and Me:

Jesus went up to heaven and is there now ruling over all things. He is still caring for His people and bringing about God's plans for this world. One day, God's plans will be finished. The good news of Jesus will be told to the whole world, and Jesus will come back. He will bring an end to sin and death and this world forever. He will make a wonderful, new world for God's people to live in with Him forever. That will be best of all! We can be God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

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 Went Up to Rule in Heaven!**

Jesus finished the job His Father, God, gave Him to do on earth. He paid for God's people's sins when He died on the cross. On Day Three, He rose from the dead in victory. He made the way for them to come to God. Now Jesus is in heaven, preparing a place for God's people to live with God forever. He is ruling as King. One day He will come back to earth and put an end to sin and death forever. Oh, how sad that day will be for those who kept on disobeying God and did not trust in Jesus as their Savior. They will be separated from God and His goodness forever. But oh, how wonderful for all who have turned away from their sins and have trusted in Jesus as their Savior! They will live with God forever happy. We, too, can live forever happy with God. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. How good God is to us! Ask God to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!
Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** Jesus, we praise You for being our Savior. You came to bring us to God. You died and rose again. You went up to heaven. We praise You for being our great King of Kings who rules over everything.
- C** Jesus, we are all sinners who have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We deserve His punishment. We need to turn to You for forgiveness. We need You to be our Savior!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross and for rising from the dead in victory! Thank You for ruling over all things from heaven. Thank You for the promise that You will come back one day and bring an end to sin and death forever.
- S** Jesus, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins. Help us to trust in You as our Savior. We want to become God's people. Jesus, come back soon! We long for the day when You will bring sin and death to an end forever, and will rule as the great forever king over God's kingdom. Help us to be ready for that day! In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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