

The Case of the Day of Blazing Brightness

1 Kings 6:8; 2 Chronicles 3-4,6-7



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.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Day of Blazing Brightness. 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 was the special celebration on the Day of Blazing Brightness?**
- 2. What caused the Blazing Brightness? What did it mean?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is John 4:24

“God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

I need to find out:

- 1. What did God do on the Day of Blazing Brightness that showed the people He had come to meet with them in the new, worship house?**
- 2. What did the people do that showed they wanted to worship the LORD in spirit and truth?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

Our six clues were: gold; popcorn; a special box; a trumpet; a man named Hiram, and a ball.

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. Who praised the LORD on the Day of Blazing Brightness? What did they ask Him to do?**

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 Day of Blazing Brightness *1 Kings 6:8; 2 Chronicles 3-4,6-7*

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) King David lived in a big, beautiful house made of the finest wood, but the (Take off BG3) Ark of the Covenant (the special, golden box where God would meet with His people) lived in a tent.

“Why should I live in a palace and God meet with us in just a tent! I want to (SB2) build a fine, worship house for the LORD,” he told Nathan, God’s messenger.

But (SB3) Nathan told King David, “The LORD says, “No, I don’t want you to build the Worship House for Me. I want your son, Solomon to build it. He will build it when he becomes king, after you die.”

David obeyed the LORD. He did not build the Worship House; BUT, he did do something to get ready for it.

Can you guess what he did?

King David saved up (SB4) lots of golden money. He would make sure that Solomon could buy everything needed to build the beautiful Worship House when he became king.

At last, David died and (SB5) Solomon became king. Solomon didn’t forget that he was to build the Worship House for the LORD. He went right to work!

Solomon hired thousands of workers. He sent some of them to Lebanon, a nearby country where there were the best building supplies. “Go to the (SB6) forests of Lebanon and cut down lots of the tall, cedar trees. (SB7) Float them down the sea and bring them here to Jerusalem,” the king told the workers.

Other workers he sent deep down to the stone quarries. “Go down to the (SB8) quarries and cut huge blocks of the beautiful, white, limestone. Drag them up here,” Solomon told others. “This Worship House will be made from the best wood and the most beautiful stone!” he exclaimed.

The men worked hard. They brought all (SB9) the wood and the (SB10) stone to Jerusalem. Now it was time to build!

King Solomon searched for the best builder he could find. He chose (SB11) a man named Hiram. “Hiram, take all of this wood and limestone. Build the best Worship House you can. My workers will help you. (SB12) Carve it with beautiful designs. Decorate it with fine cloth. Cover it with gold, too. Nothing is too good for the LORD’s Worship House. It will be His Temple,” Solomon told him.

Hiram and the workers (SB13) worked for a long, long time. They used the wood and the stones, the fine cloth, and the gold to make the Temple. The LORD helped Hiram make it just right.

Hiram used the white limestone on (SB14) the outside of the Worship House. It glistened in the sun. It reminded the people of the LORD’s glory--the beautiful shiny, brightness that shines out from His Spirit.

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

Hiram used the wood (SB15) inside the Temple to make walls. He carved angels and trees, fruits and flowers into it. He covered the floors and walls in gold and there were lots of beautiful, sparkly jewels. It would remind the people of the perfect Garden God had put people in, way back at the beginning of the world--the place where people had enjoyed special closeness with God before them disobeyed Him.

Best of all was the little room where the Ark of the Covenant would be. God would meet with His people there. It was hidden behind tall curtains decorated with angels and trees. Everything in the room was covered in gold! When Hiram finished everything, it was time to gather the people.

At last the Worship House was done. Can you guess what it was time for now?

Can you guess?

It was time for everyone to worship the LORD!

King Solomon sent (SB16) messages to the people, far and wide: "The Worship House is done. It's time to get ready to worship the LORD!"

"People, bring your worship gifts of sheep and goats and cows. Come and gather with me at the great altar outside the Worship House," the king told them. "Come, priests and Levites! You are the only ones allowed to carry the Ark and other special, worship things into the new, Worship House. It's time to put them in," the king ordered. "Come, worship leaders, get ready to lead us! Wash yourselves and put on your special, white, worship clothes. Get your musical instruments ready to play," Solomon told them. "You're going to lead us all in worshipping the LORD."

Everyone did what King Solomon told them to do. " (SB17) Maa, maa, baa, baa, moo, moo!" (SB18) The people came with thousands and thousands of worship gifts of sheep and goats and cows. They gathered together with the (SB19, SB20) King by the altar outside of the Temple, the new Worship House.

"(SB21) Wash, wash, scrub, scrub," the worship leaders washed themselves and put on their special, white clothes. They (SB22) got out their musical instruments and tuned them up. There were trumpets and cymbals and harps and lyres. Everyone waited by the altar. What were they waiting for?

Can you guess?

It was the Ark and all of the other special worship things! And here they came: (SB23) the priests and Levites carrying them all from the tent and to the new Worship House. And as they came, King Solomon and the people began to offer their worship gifts to the LORD.

Everyone watched as (SB24) the Levites and priests set all the golden, worship things in place in the big room. Then last of all, they put the Ark beneath the cherubim in its special, little room. As the priests and Levites came out of the Temple, the musicians picked up their instruments and began to play and sing, "(SB25) Praise to the LORD, for He is good, for His love goes on and on and on." How happy they were that the Ark of the Covenant had come home to the new Worship House!

King Solomon and the people kept offering their worship gifts (SB26). Higher and higher and higher the worship gifts piled up. Oh, how everyone wanted to honor the LORD!

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

Then, shhhh! Everyone got very quiet as King Solomon led them in a prayer to the LORD.

(SB27) Solomon spread out his hands before God and prayed: "LORD, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth. You are too great to live in this Worship House. The whole world isn't even big enough to hold You," the king prayed. "But please, LORD, make this a special, Worship House where all people can come and pray to You, and praise You, and bring their worship gifts to You. Please have Your special presence dwell here. Accept our prayers," he prayed.

The LORD heard King Solomon's prayer. He WOULD have His special presence dwell there at the Worship House. He WOULD listen to their prayers and receive their praises and worship gifts!

But how would King Solomon and the people know that the LORD answered their prayer? After all, the LORD is a Spirit. They could not see Him with their eyes. They could not touch Him with their hands. How would they know if His special presence had really come to dwell in the new Worship House?

Can you guess what the LORD would do?

King Solomon and the people did not have to wait long to find out. (SB28) Suddenly, there was a bright flash of light and a big wave of heat as the LORD sent a great fire down from heaven that whooshed down and burned up that huge pile of worship gifts on the altar. That was one, amazing "yes" answer to their prayers!

But that was not all. Next, the LORD did something even more amazing than that great fire from heaven. Something that would show the people FOR SURE that He can chosen the special, Worship House as His meeting place with them.

Can you guess what He did?

God showed the people some of His beautiful, shiny glory--the wonderful, shiny brightness that shines out from His Spirit.

Yes! King Solomon, the priests, Levites, worship leaders, and all the people watched (SB29) as God's beautiful glory came down from heaven like a great, sparkly cloud. It covered up the top of the whole Worship House. And inside, it filled (move SB29) so full that none of the worship leaders could even go in!

Now everyone really knew that the LORD had said "yes" to all of their prayers!

He had accepted all their worship gifts and showed them some of His glory. His presence would dwell in the worship house. He would meet with the people there.

Then, everyone including (SB30, SB31) the great, King Solomon, himself, fell down flat on his face and worshiped the LORD. They gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "Praise to the LORD, for He is good, for His love goes on and on and on."

And they stayed right there next to the Worship House for seven, whole days, (SB32) worshipping and celebrating with a big party.

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 special celebration on the Day of Blazing Brightness? The new Worship House was finished and ready to be used for worship.

2. What caused the Blazing Brightness? What did it mean? The blazing brightness was the glory of the LORD that came down from heaven and filled the special worship house. It was how the LORD showed the people that He would meet with them in the new Worship House.

For You and Me:

How wonderful it must have been to see the beautiful glory of the LORD's Spirit that day! But how more amazing it is that God's own Son, Jesus would come to earth to live among us, and to suffer and die for our sins! He can be our Savior, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Then, He will send the Holy Spirit to live inside our very hearts and meet with us, His dearly-loved people, there!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."

1. What did God do on the Day of Blazing Brightness that showed He had come to meet with the people in the new Worship House? He let them see the blazing brightness from the glory of His Spirit as it came down and filled the new Worship House.

2. What did the people do that showed they wanted to worship the LORD in spirit and truth? They brought their worship gifts to the LORD. They sang praises to Him. They prayed to Him and bowed before Him.

For You and Me:

God wants us to worship Him in spirit and truth, too. How can we do that? We can sing praises to Him and pray to Him, like those people did long ago. Most of all, we can turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God can help us do this. Ask Him!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: gold; popcorn; a special box; a trumpet; a man named Hiram, and a ball.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The gold; the special box; the trumpet; and, Hiram.

2. Who praised the LORD on the Day of Blazing Brightness? What did they ask Him to do? The King, the worship leaders and all the people praised the LORD. King Solomon asked the LORD to make the special, worship house the place where He would meet with them.

For You and Me:

Long ago, the people needed the special, worship house to meet with God, but no more! Jesus came and He made the way for us to meet with God and be His people without the special, worship house. Jesus paid for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead on the third day, showing He had done it! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, can be saved. They can know special closeness with God in their hearts by His Holy Spirit. And one day, they will go to live with Him in all His glory forever! God can help us become His people. Ask Him!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else...

He is a Glorious Spirit!

God is a glorious Spirit who we cannot see. But God sent Jesus, His Son to earth to be our Savior. He was still God, but now He was human, too. How amazing!

And what did Jesus have to do to be our Savior? He lived a perfect life, then He gave it up as He suffered and died on the cross. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve so we could be God's people. He was our special worship gift. The last one we would ever need. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing He had really beaten sin and death for us. Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will be forgiven. They will enjoy wonderful special closeness with God as His people, now. And when they die, they will go to live in His glorious presence forever. God can help you become one of His people, too. Ask Him! He loves to do this!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, that You are the great and awesome God. There is no god like You. You are a glorious spirit!
- C** God, many times we forget how great You are. We cannot see You and we act like You are not there. We forget to praise You. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You, God, for wanting us to know and love You, even though we are just little people and You are the great and awesome God, a glorious spirit. Thank You for giving us a spirit to know and love You.
- S** God, help us to tell others about You so they can know how great and awesome You are. Help us to know and love You truly from our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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