

The Case of the Man with the Big Name

2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32



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 Man with the Big Name. 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 man with the big name? What did he think he could do?
2. Who proved to be even more powerful than him?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Psalm 135:5-6, ESV:

"For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

I need to know:

1. Who did not believe the LORD was great?
2. How did the LORD show He can do whatever pleases Him?

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are NOT in the story.

They are: a man named Hezekiah, a donut, a soldier, a tree, a wall, and gold.

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. Who cried out to the LORD to do great things to save them?

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.

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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.

Long ago, there was a king with a very big name. His name was (SB1) Sennacherib. He lived in a beautiful palace in a city called Nineveh.

Can you say that name? Let's try: "Sennacherib."

Now not only did this king have a very big name; but he also had (SB2) a very big army with thousands and thousands of brave, fighting men.

And what did King Sennacherib do with his big army of brave fighting men? Well, he did just what you think he would do. He (SB3, SB4) sent his soldiers to fight the soldiers of other kings in other lands. And most every time his soldiers fought, they won. Oh, how very powerful were King Sennacherib and his soldiers!

Now, the king didn't send his soldiers to fight for fun. He sent them to fight to TAKE. And take, they did! (SB5, SB6) They took the other kings' lands and the other kings' stuff. They even took the other kings' people! If King Sennacherib wanted something, he got it: lands, riches, and people. But no matter how much Sennacherib took, he was never satisfied. He always wanted to take more. Really, he wanted to take EVERYTHING and be MOST POWERFUL. He wanted to be king over everyone, in every land.

One day, King Sennacherib sent (SB7) his army to the land of Judah--the land the LORD had given to His people. Sennacherib's army swooped down across the countryside and (SB8) gobbled up little cities along the way. Sennacherib was happy to have these little cities, but his eyes were on one, biggest, best and most beautiful city in Judah. Do you have any idea what that city is called?

Can you tell me it's name?

It was the city of Jerusalem. Sennacherib wanted to own Jerusalem's lovely Temple (SB9) with its beautiful golden things. He wanted all the riches of the people and their king, King Hezekiah, too.

So (SB10) march, march, march went Sennacherib's soldiers towards Jerusalem. Soon they would shake its thick walls and break its big, city gates. And if this city was like the others they had attacked, the people would soon surrender and Jerusalem would belong to Sennacherib.

(SB11) Up in his palace, news of Sennacherib's soldiers reached Hezekiah, king of Judah. Hezekiah was a good king. He (SB12) loved the LORD and obeyed his laws. He helped the people love and obey the LORD, too. Hezekiah believed the LORD was the one, true God. He knew the LORD was powerful. He had read the amazing stories of how the LORD rescued His people in Egypt.

But when Hezekiah heard about those thousands and thousands of soldiers coming to shake the walls of Jerusalem and break its big, city gates, he panicked. He had no army big enough to fight off all those soldiers, and he couldn't imagine how the LORD could rescue Jerusalem from this powerful enemy.

And, because Hezekiah knew that HE didn't have what he needed to fight the enemy....and he couldn't imagine how the LORD could, he (SB13) stopped trusting the LORD as he should have. He decided to take matters into his own hands: he would make a deal with King Sennacherib.

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

So Hezekiah sent (SB14) a message to King Sennacherib saying: **“I’ll pay you as much money as you want if you will send your soldiers away and leave us alone.”**

King Sennacherib loved money, so he sent a message back to King Hezekiah with his deal. **“(SB15) Pay me eleven tons of gold and one ton of silver, then I will leave you alone,”** Sennacherib promised.

King Hezekiah was horrified! Eleven tons of gold! One ton of silver! Why that would be wagons and wagons and wagons of gold and silver! Why, that would be all the gold and silver in Jerusalem! They would even have to strip the gold off of the Temple to have enough! Should Hezekiah give King Sennacherib all their riches? Should he take the gold off of the Temple to pay off this wicked king? Was that really the only way to get rid of this powerful enemy? Hezekiah thought it was. So he gathered all the silver and gold he had (SB16), then (remove BG 7,8,9 from Temple and put on SB16) he stripped it off the Temple and sent it away to King Sennacherib. Would that be enough to make him happy?

What do you think?

No, it was not! King Sennacherib wanted more than money. He wanted King Hezekiah’s lands and King Hezekiah’s people, too. So, (move SB10 close to BG5 Jerusalem) march, march, march, went King Sennacherib’s soldiers again, through the hills of Judah, and right up to the very walls of Jerusalem, itself.

The (SB17) leader of the army shouted mean words at (SB18) Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah, King Hezekiah’s helpers: **“Give this message to your king,”** he ordered them. **“Tell him: ‘If you think you can beat King Sennacherib’s army you are wrong. If you think the LORD your God can take care of you, you are wrong. No other king’s army could beat us. No other god took care of the other peoples when we attacked them. You will be no different. We have come to destroy your land and take over everything,”** the army leader boasted.

King Hezekiah was very upset when his helpers brought him this message. He knew he didn’t have enough soldiers to fight this strong enemy. He knew they could shake Jerusalem’s strong walls and break their city gates. But this time, he put his trust in the only one who had been powerful enough to rescue them in the past. The one who was even more powerful than Sennacherib.

Who did King Hezekiah decide to trust in?

This time, Hezekiah trusted in the LORD! (SB19) He and his special helpers put on special clothes for times of sadness. Hezekiah (SB20) went to the Temple to pray to the LORD and he (SB21) sent Eliakim, Shebna and Joah to ask the prophet Isaiah, the LORD’s special messenger, for help. **“This is a terrible day! This is terrible news!”** was Hezekiah’s message to Isaiah. **“But let’s pray to the LORD. Perhaps He will help us.”**

The LORD did indeed hear their prayer. He sent Isaiah with a message for King Hezekiah: **“The LORD says: ‘Do not be afraid of what King Sennacherib or his men say to you. (SB22) I will take care of him and his army,’”** Isaiah told Hezekiah.

But back outside of Jerusalem, King Sennacherib’s army leader kept shouting out more mean words: **“Don’t trust in the LORD your God. He can’t help you!”**

This time King Hezekiah didn’t listen. He just went and prayed more to the LORD: **“(SB23) O LORD, You rule over every king on earth. You are stronger than King Sennacherib. You can do anything you want to do. Please, LORD, rescue us. Show King Sennacherib and his soldiers that You alone are the true God. Show them that You are more powerful than they are.”**

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

Once more, Isaiah brought God's answer: "Don't worry. I've heard your prayer. I will take care of Jerusalem and Judah. King Sennacherib's soldiers won't come into this city. They won't even shoot an arrow at it or attack it. I will get rid of them without you doing any fighting at all. I will turn them back on My own."

And so that night, (SB24) many of King Sennacherib's soldiers were struck down dead. And in the morning, the rest of Sennacherib's soldiers went home, never to return again.

Inside the city, (SB25) King Hezekiah and all the people praised the LORD. He had done just what He said He would do. He had beaten the huge, mighty army of King Sennacherib all by Himself so that everyone would know that He is the one true God. He is all powerful. He can do anything He wants to 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 the man with the big name? What did he think he could do? Sennacherib. He thought he could defeat any people, any army, any god, with his great army.

2. Who proved to be even more powerful than him?

The LORD did. Sennacherib was no match for Him! Not in the least!

For You and Me:

There will never be any enemy who is more powerful than the LORD. The LORD and His good plans will always win. He will always do what is best for His people, and will always show that He is the one, true God. And who knows this most of all? God's people—all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Ask God to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 135:5-6, ESV**

"For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."

I need to find out:

1. Who did not believe the LORD was great? King Sennacherib and his army leaders.

2. How did the LORD show He can do whatever pleases Him? The LORD defeated King Sennacherib's army without King Hezekiah or any of the people of Jerusalem having to fight at all.

For You and Me:

Isn't it amazing to think that the LORD is always great enough to do whatever pleases Him. And, what pleases Him is to love sinners like you and me, and to show the world how great and good He is! And who knows this most of all? God's people—all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Ask God to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a man named Hezekiah, a donut, a soldier, a tree, a wall, and gold.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The man named Hezekiah, the soldier, the wall and the gold belong. The donut and the tree do not.

2. Who cried out to the LORD to do great things to save them? King Hezekiah cried out to the LORD to do great things and He did them! He saved them from Sennacherib's great army.

For You and Me:

Perhaps there will not be a great army trying to beat down our door and defeat us, but there are plenty of difficulties we face that are too big for us to handle on our own. But when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can know that the LORD will always be with us. He will use His great power to take care of us and make sure that everything we go through is always for our good as well as His glory (to show others how great and good He is). How wonderful it is to know that nothing can ever stop the LORD from doing good for His people! How wonderful it is to be one of those people! 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:**

How Can I Know What God Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else...

He Can Do Anything He Wants to Do!

Our story today was about how the LORD was even mightier than great King Sennacherib and his big army. The LORD showed everyone that He was much more powerful than even this mighty king and his mighty army. Why? Because the LORD can do anything He wants to do. He is all powerful. But the LORD has done something that took a lot more power than it took to beat Sennacherib and his army. He has even beaten sin and death for us through Jesus. Yes, Jesus, God's Son came to live a perfect life and offer it up on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all who put their trust in Him. He rose from the dead on the third day showing He had really beaten sin and death for them! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior can know God's forgiveness and become His people. They will get to know Him in their hearts now, and one day, when they die, they will go to live with Him forever. God can help you put your trust in Jesus. Ask Him! He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, LORD. There is no god like you. You can do anything You want to do.
- C** God, we know You can do anything You want to do. We know You only do good. But too many times, we do not trust You. We don't think You are able to take care of us. Or, we don't trust that what You want to do is really best. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!
- T** LORD, thank You for being so powerful! Thank You that we can always ask for Your help and You can always give us the help we need. Thank You that You love to use Your power to do good. You will never use it to do anything bad. Thank You for even using Your great power to make the way for us to be forgiven of our sins. Thank You for sending Jesus!
- S** Work in our hearts, LORD. Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to depend on You to take care of us. Use Your great power to do all of Your wonderful will in us and in this world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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