

The Case of the Never-Forgotten Food

Exodus 16



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 Never-Forgotten Food. 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. Who needed bread? Why was it so hard to get it?**
- 2. Who never forgot to give them bread? What was special about it?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Psalm 86:1,15,16, ESV:

“Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy... But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant.”

I need to find out:

- 1. What did the people of Israel think the LORD would NOT be faithful to provide for them?**
- 2. How did the LORD show He was faithful to His promises to take care of the people of Israel?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a pie, a rock, a hippo, a weed, a man named Moses, and manna.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in our story?**
- 2. Who thanked the LORD for rescuing them from the mean king of Egypt?**

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 Never-Forgotten Food *Exodus 16*

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) Rocks and weeds. Weeds and rocks. (SB2) That's all that the people of Israel could see around them. No water. No food. They were out in the dry, deserty wilderness.

They USED to live in Egypt. (SB3, SB4) The king had forced them to work very, very hard for him. He had been very mean to them. He didn't care if they were hurt. He just wanted them to work and work and work.

But the LORD cared. He sent (SB5) a man to rescue them and take them away from Egypt and that mean king. Do you know what the man's name was?

Do you know?

It was Moses! Yes, the LORD would use Moses and his brother, Aaron, to show His mighty power to the king and all his people. He would use him to free them from all that hard work, and take them to a wonderful homeland.

At first (SB6) the king refused to let Moses take the people of Israel away. But as the LORD used His mighty power to send (SB7) sad thing after sad thing upon the king and his people, the king (SB8) finally said yes.

(SB9) The people gathered up their things and Moses led them out of Egypt and into the wilderness. They were off to the wonderful homeland the LORD promised them! Yay!

(SB10) How happy the people were as they left Egypt! They had so much to thank the LORD for!

Can you think of what they could thank the LORD for doing for them?

No longer did they have to work for that mean king! No longer did they have to live as his slaves. The LORD was caring for them and He would lead them home.

They shouted their thanksgiving to the LORD: "O LORD, there is no God like You! You fight for your people! You rescue them! You beat the king and lead us away! Your love never fails!"

How happy the people of Israel were that all their troubles were over. But were their troubles really over? Yes, they were far away from that mean king... but now they were in the wilderness, surrounded by all these rocks and weeds! Where would they get food?

(SB11) Now the people weren't so happy anymore. Now they were... well, how would YOU feel if you were out in the hot, dry wilderness with no food in sight?

How would you feel?

The people were scared and upset...VERY UPSET! They didn't know what to do and (SB12) they forgot about the ONE who was with them and COULD take care of them, even out in that wilderness--the LORD!

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

They forgot how good the LORD had been to them already. They forgot that the LORD always keeps His promises. And, they forgot how mighty the LORD is. He could always take care of their needs!

And because they forgot, they began to grumble to (SB13) Moses and his brother, Aaron. “(SB14) It would have been better for the LORD to let us die working for the mean king in Egypt! At least in Egypt we sat by pots of meat and ate our fill of bread!! Now we’re going to die out here in this wilderness surrounded by nothing but these rocks and weeds!” they exclaimed.

Were they right? Had the LORD brought them out into the wilderness to die?

What do you think?

Of course, not! The LORD had brought them out there in that dry wilderness to grow their trust in Him. He had brought them out there to show how great He was. He had brought them out there to lead them home.

The LORD is always faithful to His people, through and through. They could trust Him to take care of them. He wouldn’t let them die! He knew exactly what they needed, and He would give it to them.

The LORD told Moses: “(SB15, SB16) Gather the people together and tell them that I am about to rain bread from heaven...enough to feed EVERYONE! Tell the people to go out every day and gather what they need for the day. On the day before Sabbath worship day, have them gather extra bread. Then they can rest and worship Me on the worship day, instead of gathering food,” the LORD said.

So, Moses got all the people together, and told them: “The LORD has heard you grumble to us about food. He wants you to know that you’re really grumbling against Him. You are acting like He isn’t faithful to you. Now He’s going to show you yet again how faithful He is. (SB17) He’s going to give you meat to eat at night and bread to eat in the morning. He freed you from Egypt, and He will keep on taking care of you,” Moses told them.

But weren’t there just weeds and rocks around? How could the LORD provide meat and bread for all those thousands and thousands of people with hungry, grumbling tummies for even just one meal, let alone every morning and every night over and over and over again?! How would He do it?

Soon the people saw. That evening the air was suddenly filled with a loud, flapping noise. What could it be?

What do you think made that noise?

The people looked up and (SB18) saw the sky filled with more quail birds than you could count! Thousands and thousands of them!

(SB19) That great flock of birds landed all over the camp until it was covered in them. Here was the meat the LORD promised to give them!

The people gladly took the birds and (SB20) roasted them. How they enjoyed that tasty meat that night! The LORD had been faithful to His promises that evening. Everyone went to bed with a full belly that night!

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

The morning brought an even bigger surprise! The people came out of their tents to find thin little flakes of something all over the ground. "What is it?" everyone wondered. No one had ever seen anything like it.

"This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat," Moses told them. "Gather up as much as you need for your families today. God will give you more tomorrow."

What funny-looking bread! But when they tasted it, it tasted so good! It was sweet like honey. The people called it "What is it?" – or manna, as they say in their language. They gathered it up and cooked with it. Yum, yum, yummy! Bread from heaven!

Day after day, the people of Israel traveled for forty, long years. Every day, they walked through the rocks and weeds of the wilderness until, at last, they made it to the beautiful homeland the LORD had promised them. And was there ever a day when HE let them go hungry, those whole, forty years?

What do you think?

No, there was not! The LORD, Himself, fed them with manna from heaven, every single day. How good the LORD was to the His people! He was always faithful, through and through... and He still is, even today!

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 needed bread? Why was it so hard to get it?**

The people of Israel needed bread in the wilderness. It was so hard to get because the wilderness was dry and there were only weeds and rocks! No food!

2. Who never forgot to give them bread? What was special about it? The LORD never forgot to give them bread. He gave them "manna"--special bread from heaven that they collected from the ground every morning.

For You and Me:

The LORD was faithful to take care of the people of Israel. He fed them bread and meat, even when it seemed impossible. The LORD has been faithful to us in an even more amazing way! He promised to send a Savior to save us from our sins and He kept His promise! He sent His Son, Jesus to live a perfect life and offer it up as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then on the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing He had really done it. He had really beaten sin and death for us! And now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, they will be forgiven their sins and become God's dearly loved people! Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus as your Savior! He loves to help us!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 86:1,15,16, ESV:**

"Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy... But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant."

1. What did the people of Israel think the LORD would NOT be faithful to provide for them? Food out in the wilderness.

2. How did the LORD show He was faithful to His promises to take care of the people of Israel?

He rescued them from Egypt and working for the mean king. He provided food for them in the wilderness every day until they reached the homeland He promised to give them.

For You and Me:

The people of Israel had so much to thank the LORD for doing for them! He rescued them from the mean king of Egypt. He took care of them as they traveled through the wilderness and gave them a wonderful, new homeland. How faithful the LORD was to them! The LORD gives us even more to be thankful for than the people of Israel. He offers to forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then we will be His people and He will be our God. He will be faithful to always take care of us every day of our lives here on earth. Then one day, when we die, He will take us to the wonderful homeland of heaven to live with Him forever. That will be best of all! Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to help us!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a pie, a rock, a hippo, a weed, a man named Moses, and manna.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The rock, the weed, Moses and the manna.

2. Who thanked the LORD for rescuing them from the mean king of Egypt?

The people of Israel.

For You and Me:

The people of Israel had so much to thank the LORD for doing for them! He rescued them from the mean king of Egypt. He took care of them as they traveled through the wilderness and gave them a wonderful, new homeland. How faithful the LORD was to them! The LORD gives us even more to be thankful for than the people of Israel. He offers to forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then we will be His people and He will be our God. He will be faithful to always take care of us every day of our lives here on earth. Then one day, when we die, He will take us to the wonderful homeland of heaven to live with Him forever. That will be best of all! Ask Him to help you trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to help us!

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 Always Faithful, through and through!**

The LORD showed Himself faithful to the people of Israel when they were hungry out in the wilderness. He promised to take care of them and He did!

The LORD was so faithful to the people of Israel, but do you know what the greatest way He has been faithful not just to them, but to all of us?

He promised to send a Savior to save us from our sins! You see, we all have disobeyed God and deserve His punishment. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and offer it up as the full payment for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then on the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing He had really done it. He had really beaten sin and death for us! And now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, they will be forgiven their sins and become God's dearly loved people!

God gives them a brand new heart to know and love God. And one day, when they die, they will go to live with God and enjoy Him, as happy as anyone can ever be, forever! Jesus can be our Savior, too. Ask Him! He loves to help us! How faithful the LORD is to us!

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 always faithful!

C God, You are always faithful, but we are not. We break our promises. We do not love You or others the way we should. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!

T

Thank you for wanting us to know and love You, even though we are just little people and You are the great and awesome God. Thank You for being so faithful to people like us who are unfaithful to You. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for the sins of all who would ever turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

S

Help us to tell others about You, so they can know how great and awesome You are. Help us to depend on You. Help us to say no to disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

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