

The Case of the Middle of the Mess*2 Chronicles 19-20***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 figures/Story Scenes, 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 Story 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

“Our story is called: The Case of the Middle of the Mess. Here is your listening assignment... ” *Read the assignment for your lesson using Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment sign or the text below:*

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

1. **Who was stuck in the middle between strong enemies? What (trouble) mess were they in?**
2. **Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 40:16, ESV**

“May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

I need to find out:

1. **Who praised the LORD for being so great?**
2. **What did he do that was so great?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a rabbit, an enemy, a pitcher, the Temple, a song of praise, and a praying king.

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 for rescuing them from all of their strong enemies?**

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 Middle of the Mess *2 Chronicles 19-20*

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. OR, if using the Story Scenes to tell the story, disregard the storyboard picture references listed below.

(SB1) Our story is about a king named Jehoshaphat. What a funny-sounding name! Can you say it?

Say "Jehoshaphat."

Well, King Jehoshaphat may have had a funny-sounding name, but let me tell you, he had to face some very scary things that were not funny at all!

You see, Jehoshaphat was king in the little land of Israel (point to Jerusalem/Israel) that was surrounded by lots of powerful enemies! (SB2) There were the Syrians up in the mountains to the north. (SB3) And the Philistines next to the sea in the west. And in the mountains to the east, there were THREE MORE powerful enemies: (SB4) the Ammonites, (SB5) Moabites and (SB6) the Meunites. Now that's a lot of enemies!

Can you count how many enemies that is? One, two, three, four, five!

And what did all these enemies want? They all wanted the same thing: the little land of Israel, where King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel lived.

Did King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel want their enemies to have their land?

What do you think?

No, they certainly did not, and for some very good reasons.

THIS was the special land that the LORD had given the people of Israel to live in. (SB7) THIS was the place where the Temple was-- the LORD's special worship place. There was no other place in the whole world like Israel. THIS was the place where people could come praise the LORD, learn His Word, and live happily by His good laws.

If these enemies came in and took the land, everything would change. Not only would their enemies get rid of King Jehoshaphat and all the people of Israel, but (SB8) they would also get rid of the Temple and the Bible, God's Word, too. They had fake gods they worshiped. They would most certainly stop worshiping the LORD and obeying His Word.

King Jehoshaphat knew this. (SB9) He loved the LORD very much. He wanted the land of Israel to stay a place where people worshiped the LORD, learned the Bible, and happily obeyed His laws. So you can see, it would be a very, very, VERY bad thing for these enemies to come and take the land of Israel. And, you can see why King Jehoshaphat, the king with the very funny-sounding name, had to face something that was not funny at all.

(SB10) One day, King Jehoshaphat received some awful news. "King Jehoshaphat! King Jehoshaphat! The three, powerful enemies in the east mountains have all joined together!" they exclaimed. "They are planning to attack us and take our land!" they told him. "Oh, king! There are so many of them and so few of us. They know we can't beat them! They are so sure that they can win that their soldiers are coming with their bags packed, so they can move in right away!" the people said.

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

This really was bad, bad news! King Jehoshaphat was afraid. What could he do? He knew that his people weren't strong enough to fight off all these big enemies.

But, even though he was afraid, and, even though he knew that he and the people of Israel weren't strong enough to fight off all these big enemies, King Jehoshaphat DID know who WAS strong enough. Do you know who? I bet you can guess.

Who do you think it was?

It was the LORD! HE was strong enough to fight off even the strongest enemies!

(SB11) So, as scared as King Jehoshaphat was, he gathered all the people together in Jerusalem at the Temple, the LORD's special worship place. And there, he led them in praising the LORD: "LORD, You are God in heaven. You rule over everyone, even all of our enemies. You are so powerful that no one can beat You!" he exclaimed.

Then King Jehoshaphat prayed: "LORD, You gave us this land, and now our now our enemies want to take it away. We cannot beat these big enemies. They are too powerful for us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You. Please help us!" he pleaded. Would the LORD hear their prayers? Would He help them?

What do you think?

Yes, indeed! (SB12) The LORD heard their prayers and answered them through Jahaziel, a teacher of God's Word. "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and people of Israel! The LORD says to you: Don't be afraid or worried about all these enemies. The battle is Mine, not yours. I will fight it for you. Go out and face your enemies tomorrow. Have faith in Me and watch Me save you," the LORD promised.

(SB13) How happy were King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel! They bowed down before the LORD. As they worshiped Him with their faces to the ground, the teachers of God's Word stood up, raised their hands, and praised the LORD with a very LOUD VOICE!

(SB14) The people of Israel went out early the next morning to face their enemies. (SB15) Oh, what a lot of enemies there were! All were fierce and all were ready to fight. (SB16) They came with all of their packed things. They were sure they would beat the soldiers of Israel and make Israel their new home that very day!

But King Jehoshaphat and the people stood firm. (SB17) "Believe in the LORD," King Jehoshaphat told the people. "Teachers of God's Word, walk in front of our soldiers. Sing and praise the LORD," he ordered them.

Everyone did just what King Jehoshaphat told them to do. (SB18, SB19) The teachers stepped out first and faced the enemies. The soldiers came and stood behind them. "Give thanks to the LORD for He is faithful. His love never stops," the teachers praised the LORD in their songs.

And as they sang, the LORD kept His promise. (SB20) He caused the enemies to turn on each other and fight until they were all gone. The LORD had fought the battle and WON!

Then, how King Jehoshaphat and all the people rejoiced! How they praised the LORD! Their enemies were gone! Their land was safe! They didn't have to be afraid anymore! And best of all, Israel would still be the place where people could praise the LORD, learn His Word, and live happily by His good laws.

(SB21) Once more King Jehoshaphat, the people, and the teachers of God's Word gathered together to praise the LORD. With harps, trumpets, and lyres they went back to the Temple and sang their joyful praises to the LORD. He was the great, one true God. He had rescued them from their strong enemies!

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 stuck in the middle between strong enemies? What (trouble) mess were they in? King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel. Their strong enemies were planning to take their land and live in it, themselves.

2. Who got them out of the mess and how did He do it? The LORD got them out of the mess. He fought for them. He got rid of their enemies and rescued them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 40:16, ESV

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

I need to find out:

1. Who praised the LORD for being so great? King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel.

2. What did He do that was so great? He fought against their enemies, Himself, and got rid of them.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a rabbit, an enemy, a pitcher, the Temple, a song of praise, and a praying king.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The enemy, Temple, song of praise and the praying king belong. The rabbit and the pitcher do not.

2. Who praised the LORD for rescuing them from all of their strong enemies? King Jehoshaphat and all of the people of Israel with him.

For You and Me:

King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the Lord for rescuing them! He is the great God who does even impossible things to rescue His people. Even greater than the rescue in our story today, is how God rescues us through His Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. God can rescue us from our sins, too. Ask Him to help you become one of His people. He loves to help us do this!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)

Our Bible Truth is:

How Does God Want Us to Pray?

Every Night and Day...

He Wants Us to Praise Him!

How does God want us to pray? Every night and day... He wants us to praise Him. There are many things God's people can praise Him for being, but the greatest one is for being their Savior.

God's people praise Him for sending Jesus to die on the cross and pay the punishment for their sins. They praise Him for working in their hearts and helping them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us and save us. Then, we, too, will be able to join all of God's people in praising God as our great Savior.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God. You are the great, one, true God, yet You invite us to talk to You. How amazing!
- C** God, You alone are God, and how very good You are! Yet, we so often do not praise You as You deserve. We forget who You are and what You have done. Too often, we think more about ourselves than You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for always deserving our praise! You never change! You treat us so much better than we could ever deserve! You are so patient with us! You give us so many reasons to praise You every day.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to praise You throughout the day. Fill our hearts with love for You. Help us live our lives for You so that others can see how good You are and will want to praise You, too.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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