

Bible Story: The Case of the Slow Sorry*2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21***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 Slow Sorry. 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 know:

- 1. Who was slow to say sorry to God? What did he need to say sorry to God for doing?**
- 2. What did God do when he finally said sorry?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 32:5:**

“I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

I need to know:

- 1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God?**
- 2. What did God do for him when he did confess his sins?**

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

They are: a hook, a tomato, a fake god, a bad king, a hat, and a jail.

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 did the bad king ask God to do when he was in jail? How did God answer his prayer?**

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 Slow Sorry *2 Chronicles 33; 2 Kings 21*

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) Prince Manasseh was a boy who grew up hearing about the LORD and knowing the right way to live. He grew up learning God's Word, the Bible. He grew up going to the Temple with his godly father, King Hezekiah, (SB2) to offer worship gifts and pray to the LORD. He grew up watching the LORD use His mighty power to protect the people of Israel from their powerful enemies, (SB3) the Philistines and (SB4) the Assyrians.

Yes, Prince Manasseh was a boy who grew up hearing about the LORD and knowing the right way to live. **(SB5) But, when Prince Manasseh was just twelve years old, his father died, and he became KING Manasseh. When he became king, Manasseh REFUSED to worship the LORD and to do those right things anymore. This made him a very, VERY bad king!**

What kinds of things did King Manasseh do? **(SB6, take off SB1 and SB2) He stopped learning God's Word. He put fake gods in the Temple and offered worship gifts to them, instead of the LORD. (SB7) And he ordered all the people of Israel to stop worshiping the LORD and to worship those fake gods, too.**

(SB8) King Manasseh deserved the LORD's punishment for all the terrible things he did. He even deserved to DIE for all of these terrible sins! (SB9) The people of Israel deserved God's punishment, too. But do you know what the LORD did? He is a God, so merciful and gracious that He gave King Manasseh and the people of Israel a chance to turn away from their sins and be forgiven instead.

(S10) "King Manasseh! People of Israel! Stop what you are doing!" the LORD urged them through His messengers, the prophets. "Repent! Turn away from worshiping the fake gods! Turn back and worship Me!" the LORD said. "But if you do not, you will be punished. I will discipline you to help you turn back to Me and My good ways," the LORD warned.

Uh, oh! What do you think King Manasseh and the people did next? What would YOU do, if it were you?

What do you think they did?

I am sad to say that King Manasseh and the people of Israel did NOT listen. Years went by. **(SB11) King Manasseh grew up to be a man; but still, he paid no attention to the LORD's warning. Both he and the people just kept on worshiping those fake gods and forgetting about the LORD and His Word. So, at last, the LORD disciplined them, just as He warned them He would.**

(SB12, SB13) "March, march, march," across the great, dry wilderness and over the hills of Judah, came the commanders of the mighty Assyrian army with their men. (SB14) They sent soldiers into Jerusalem and captured King Manasseh. They grabbed him and tied him up with heavy metal chains. They even put a hook through his NOSE, like he was a slave, for that was exactly what he was now: an Assyrian slave!

Then, march, "March, march, march," went King Manasseh with the Assyrians, over the hills of Judah and across the great, dry wilderness to their big city, called Nineveh. And there, they put **(SB15) him in jail, a prisoner of his enemies.**

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

King Manasseh had a lot of time to think in jail. (SB16) He thought about God's Word and all the right things he had grown up learning and doing. He thought about all the terrible things he had done when he became king. He had turned the Temple into a worship place for terrible, fake gods. He had worshiped those fake gods and given them his worship gifts. He had made the people of Israel worship them, too. He had even refused to listen when the LORD warned him to stop and offered him forgiveness. Now, Manasseh could see just how very sinful he had been. He knew he deserved God's punishment. He knew deserved to be in jail. He had treated God like his enemy. King Manasseh knew that he deserved for the LORD to never forgive him or help him.

(SB17) And yet, King Manasseh decided to confess his sins and ask for the LORD's forgiveness anyway. "Help me, LORD. Forgive me, LORD," King Manasseh pleaded. "I have done terrible things. I have disobeyed You and made the people of Israel disobey You, too," he confessed. "But have mercy on me, LORD. I am turning away from my life of sin. Please forgive me!" he asked.

Manasseh was asking, but would the LORD answer? Would He really forgive someone who had done such terrible things as King Manasseh?

What do you think?

Yes, He would! How very gracious and kind the LORD is to those who confess their sins and turn away from them! He loves to forgive their sins, even when they are terrible sinners like King Manasseh. (SB18) The LORD heard King Manasseh confess his sins and He forgave him.

The LORD had Manasseh released from jail and let him go back home to Jerusalem. (SB19) He even let Manasseh be king over Israel again!

What a different king Manasseh was now! (SB20) Manasseh grew up knowing what was right, and now he lived it out. He turned away from his sins. He got rid of all those fake gods and (Replace SB2) brought back the worship of the LORD in the Temple. (SB21) He led the people of Israel in loving and praising their great God.

King Manasseh never forgot how the LORD forgave him when he confessed his sins to Him. And King Manasseh showed it, by loving the LORD and living for Him for the rest of his life.

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 was slow to confess his sins to God and ask for forgiveness? What did he need to confess to doing?

King Manasseh. He needed to confess worshiping fake gods and many other terrible things.

2. What did God do when he finally did confess his sins and ask for forgiveness?

God forgave him. He had him freed from prison to go home. He gave Manasseh another chance to get rid of the fake gods and stop doing the terrible things he used to do.

For You and Me:

Like King Manasseh, we are all sinners with sinful hearts and lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. Like King Manasseh, we can never deserve God's forgiveness. But also, like King Manasseh, when we turn away from our sins and turn to God, He will forgive our sins. Isn't God so good to us through Jesus!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 32:5:**

"I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity... and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

I need to know:

1. Who was slow to confess his sins to God?

King Manasseh.

2. What did God do for him when he did confess his sins?

God forgave his sins and even set him free to return home to be king again. How merciful is the LORD!

For You and Me:

Like King Manasseh, we are all sinners with sinful hearts and lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. Like King Manasseh, we can never deserve God's forgiveness. But also, like King Manasseh, when we turn away from our sins and turn to God, He will forgive our sins. Isn't God so good to us through Jesus!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They were: a hook, a tomato, a fake god, a bad king, a hat, and a jail.

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 hook, fake god, bad king and jail belong. The tomato and the hat do not.

2. What did the bad king ask God to do when he was in jail? How did God answer his prayer?

Manasseh was the bad king. He confessed his sins to God and asked for His forgiveness. God forgave him and set him free from jail. He let him go home and get rid of the fake gods he had put in place.

For You and Me:

Like King Manasseh, we are all sinners with sinful hearts and lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Him to forgive us. Like King Manasseh, we can never deserve God's forgiveness. But also, like King Manasseh, when we turn away from our sins and turn to God, He will forgive our sins. Isn't God so good to us through Jesus!

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 Confess Our Sins to Him!**

Manasseh was so grateful that the LORD would forgive his sins! He had disobeyed the LORD so many times and in such terrible ways. But no one is too sinful for the LORD to forgive, when they repent and put their trust in Him. Why can the LORD forgive sinners like Manasseh and sinners like us? Because of Jesus! Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He offered it up on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all who repent and believe in Him. He suffered and died that day and was buried in a grave. But on the third day, He rose from the grave in victory. He had really beaten sin and death for all of God's people. No matter how sinful we have been, we can become God's people, too, when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this! He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being perfectly holy. You are good and great. You hate sin!
- C** God, we know that You and Your laws are good, yet we have all chosen to rebel against You. We have chosen not to love You as You deserve. We have chosen to break Your good laws. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for offering forgiveness for our sins through Jesus when we trust in Him as our Savior. Thank You for providing a way for us to be Your people.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Show us how we rebel against You and Your good laws. Help us to confess our sins to You and turn away from them. Help us to live for You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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