

The Case of the Daring Pray-ers

Acts 3-4

**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 Daring Pray-ers. 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. What happened when Peter prayed for the lame man?**
- 2. What happened when the believers asked God to make them bold?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 17:6, ESV:***“I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words.”*

I need to find out:

- 1. Who called on God to make them bold?**
- 2. How did God answer their prayers?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a cake, a jail, a leader, a lame man, a rug, the Holy Spirit in a heart..

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 prayed for a lame man to be healed? Who prayed for God to help them boldly tell others about him? How did God answer these prayers?**

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 Daring Prayers Acts 3-4

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 order 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) The first Christians gathered together to pray. They had so much to talk to God about!

(SB2) They praised Him for being the great God who loved His people and raised Jesus from the dead. (SB3) They confessed their sins to God, (SB4) and they thanked Him sending Jesus to die on the cross to forgive their sins and save them.

But there was something else those first Christians prayed as they gathered together. (SB5) They asked God to do amazing things that would bring Him GLORY. That is, they wanted others to know Him and see how great He is.

“Help us to love each other as You have loved us in Jesus,” they prayed. “Help us to show and tell others that Jesus really is Your Son and He really is the Savior,” they asked. “Help us not to be scared of our enemies who want to hurt us because we believe in Jesus. Work in the hearts of many people. Help them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior,” they prayed. All these things would bring glory to God’s name.

And did God answer these prayers? Did He do these amazing things?

What do you think?

Oh yes, He did answer them! The Bible has lots of stories of the amazing things God did in answer to their prayers. Let’s hear one.

(SB6) Lots of people were walking to the Temple, God’s special worship place in Jerusalem. It was time for evening prayers. (SB7) Peter and John, two of Jesus’ disciples, were going there to pray, too. There was so much to pray for! They wanted to live for Jesus. They wanted to tell the world about Jesus. They wanted God to do amazing things to show how great He is that all might praise and worship Him. These are the kinds of prayers God loves to answer.

But even before Peter and John entered the Temple to pray, God was already answering their prayers. (SB8) At the Temple gate, there was a man begging for money. Why was he begging instead of working for it?

What do you think?

He was begging because he had been born lame. (That means when he was born, his legs didn’t work, and he never was able to walk.) And back then, if your legs didn’t work, then you couldn’t work. All you could do is beg. So that’s why, day after day, this man was carried to the Temple gates and begged for money from the people coming to worship God.

“Help me! Give me money, please,” the lame man asked Peter and John, as they passed by. What would Peter and John do? Would they give this poor man some money?

What do you think?

No, they would NOT!

Does that surprise you? Does it sound like Peter and John were being mean? Didn’t they care about this man?

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

But Peter and John were NOT being mean, and they DID care about this man. They weren't going to give this man MONEY because God had something FAR BETTER to give this lame man. And God was going to use Peter and John to give it to him. Can you guess what God would do?

Can you guess?

(SB9) "I don't have money to give you," Peter said to the man, "but what I do have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk!" Peter took the man by the hand and raised him up to his feet. (SB10) And wonder of wonders, the lame man's feet and ankles got strong. His legs worked. God had healed this man through Jesus. The man was so happy!

(SB11) Together Peter, John, and the man went into the Temple. Peter and John walked, but not that man. No! He couldn't just walk! He was so excited. He had to do more than that. Can you guess what he did?

Can you guess?

The Bible tells us that he went into the Temple walking and leaping and praising God. Peter and John praised God, too. God was answering their prayers to do amazing things, things that would show others that Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior.

But God was not done answering their prayers that day. He was just beginning! Now, He would answer their prayers to tell others about Jesus so they might be saved.

(SB12) As Peter, John, and the beggar man came into the Temple area, everyone saw the man and was amazed. "Look! It's the lame man! He's been healed! Look at him, walking and leaping and praising God!" they exclaimed.

The crowd rushed over to the three men, eager to hear how this amazing thing had happened. Peter was happy to tell them: (SB13) "God used us to heal this man, but it's not because we are anything special," Peter told them. "This man has been healed through Jesus. Jesus is the One who is special!" Peter explained.

"Jesus is the Savior God promised to send. He lived a perfect life and offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross," Peter told the people. "On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death for God's people," Peter exclaimed. "Turn away from your sins, trust in Jesus as your Savior, and be saved. This is how you can become God's people, too," Peter told them.

Many people heard Peter share the good news of Jesus, but would many people believe?

What do you think?

Yes, they did! (SB14) God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts as they listened. He helped them believe. (SB15) "We want to turn away from our sins. We want to trust in Jesus as our Savior," they told Peter and John. Peter and John praised God for answering their prayers in such big ways.

But guess what? God was STILL NOT DONE answering their prayers that day! He planned to do EVEN MORE through Peter, John, and that beggar man. And this time, it was with Jesus' enemies: the leaders in the Temple.

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

(SB16) Someone in the crowd went to the leaders and told them the big news: “The lame beggarman, he’s healed! Those Christians, Peter and John, healed him in the name of Jesus! “Now, there’s a huge crowd listening to them. Many are putting their trust in Jesus as their Savior;” they were told.

The leaders rushed over to see for themselves. “Oh, no! This is terrible!” The leaders said to each other. “Jesus isn’t God’s promised Savior. He’s just a fake. We must stop Peter and John from talking about Jesus and from doing amazing things in His name. Send out the soldiers! Arrest those men! Right now!”

(SB17) The soldiers quickly obeyed. They grabbed Peter and John and **(SB18)** put them in jail for the night. The next day, the Temple leaders would decide how to punish them and stop them from talking about Jesus.

(SB19) Peter and John had so much to talk to God about that night! They could praise Him for being the great God who was all-powerful. He could take care of them, even in jail. And, they could ask God to do more amazing things the next day when they faced the Temple leaders.

That night, they may have prayed: “Lord, help us not to be afraid of our enemies. Help us to keep on telling people about Jesus, no matter what!” The Bible doesn’t tell us exactly what they prayed, but the next day, God certainly answered all these kinds of prayers.

(SB20) Soldiers came and took Peter and John to the Temple leaders that morning. “Stop telling people about Jesus! Stop saying that God is doing these amazing things through Jesus!” the leaders ordered Peter and John. “If you don’t stop, we will have to hurt you,” they warned.

These were scary warnings. Peter and John knew those soldiers who could hurt them badly. It would be easy for them to be scared. It would be easy to stop talking about Jesus and not get hurt. What would Peter and John do?

What do you think they did?

Peter and John stood firm. God was at work in them, answering their prayers with amazing things once more. God’s Holy Spirit worked in their hearts. He made Peter and John brave. He gave them just the right words to say back to those leaders. “We will not stop talking about Jesus;” Peter and John told them. “We will not stop doing amazing things through Jesus. He really is the Savior! We don’t care what you do to us.”

The leaders were amazed. They had nothing else they could do. They let Peter and John go.

(SB21) And what did Peter and John do when they were freed? They gathered the other Christians together and told them about all the amazing things that God had done. Then, all together, they asked God to keep making them bold and to keep doing amazing things. They wanted everyone to put their trust in Jesus.

And that’s just what God did!

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 happened when Peter prayed for the lame man? God healed him so he could walk!

2. What happened when the believers asked God to make them bold? God worked in their hearts and made them bold to keep on telling about Jesus.

For You and Me:

God loves for His people to ask Him to help them. They need His help to live for Him. God wants them to depend upon Him. This shows them how much He loves them and what a great God He is. God wants us to pray and ask Him for help, too. He wants us to ask him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And He wants us to ask Him to help us live for Him all the days of our lives.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 17:6, ESV:**

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words."

1. Who called on God to make them bold? God's people, gathered together.

2. How did God answer their prayers? God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and made them bold to speak about Him.

For You and Me:

God loves for His people to ask Him to help them. They need His help to live for Him. God wants them to depend upon Him. This shows them how much He loves them and what a great God He is. God wants us to pray and ask Him for help, too. He wants us to ask him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And He wants us to ask Him to help us live for Him all the days of our lives.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a cake, a jail, a leader, a lame man, a rug, the Holy Spirit in a heart.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The jail, leader, lame man, and Holy Spirit in a heart belong. The cake and the rug do not.

2. Who prayed for a lame man to be healed? Who prayed for God to help them boldly tell others about him? How did God answer these prayers?

Peter prayed for the lame man to be healed. Peter, John and other Christians gathered together to pray. God answered their prayers by making them bold and helping them tell more people the good news of Jesus.

For You and Me:

God loves for His people to ask Him to help them. They need His help to live for Him. God wants them to depend upon Him. This shows them how much He loves them and what a great God He is. God wants us to pray and ask Him for help, too. He wants us to ask him to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And He wants us to ask Him to help us live for Him all the days of our lives.

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 Ask Him to Do Great Things!**

How does God want us to pray? Every night and day... He wants us to ask Him to do great things.

God's people ask Him for many things. They know that He can do great things, since He's already done the greatest thing of all: save them from their sins. You see, all people have chosen to disobey God and deserve His punishment for their sins. But God, in His mercy, sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, and He offered it as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He died on the cross. Then, on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had beaten sin and death! God's people know if Jesus could do this for them, there is nothing He cannot do for their good and to show how great God is. They pray and ask Him to do more great things in them and in the world. God can do great things in us, too. If we ask Him, He can work in our hearts and make us His people. He can help us turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can help us to ask Him to do other great things, too.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being so great and so able to help us. You are the God who listens and answers prayer!

- C** God, we know You answer prayers and can help us, but many times we don't even remember to ask for Your help. We forget You. We need a Savior!

- T** Thank You, God, that nothing is too hard for You! Thank You that You are always near and always hear our prayers. Thank You that You have given us what we need most of all: Jesus, to save us from our sins.

- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to keep talking to You throughout our day. Do great things in our lives. Help us to live for You. Do great things in this world. Help us all to trust in You as our Savior. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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