

**The Case of the Lost Treasure**

*2 Kings 22; 23:1-20; 24; 2 Chronicles 34:8-33*



**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 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/hold up storybook 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 Lost Treasure. 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. What was the treasure? And why was it hidden?**
- 2. Who found it and what did they do with it?**

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**

**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 119:11,15,16, ESV**

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”

I need to find out:

- 1. Who was supposed to hide God’s Word in their hearts by writing down their very own copy of it?**
- 2. What happened when they did this? What happened when they did not?**

**Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:**

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

They are: a bee, a scroll, a fake god, a cake, King Amon, and a big, covenant promise.

*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 asked God to forgive them for hiding away God’s word? Did God forgive 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.*

**The Case of the Lost Treasure** *2 Kings 22; 23:1-20; 24; 2 Chronicles 34:8-33*

*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.*

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**(SB1) Moses was a very old man. For many years, the LORD had used him to lead the people of Israel. (SB2) Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt, then (SB3) up to great Mt. Sinai to meet with the LORD. There, they made big, covenant promises. The LORD promised to always be their God, who would care for them. And the people promised to always be His people, who would love Him and keep His good laws. For forty, long years, (SB4) Moses led the people through the dry, desert-y wilderness. Finally, came the wonderful day they were waiting for: the day when Moses brought them to the edge of the Promised Land. It was time to enter the good land the LORD promised to give them as their home.**

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**Moses had been a good leader. He had written down God's Word. He had taught the people to obey the LORD and His good laws. But now, Moses' work was done. It was time for him to die and to go heaven to live with the LORD forever. So there, just outside the Promised Land, Moses gathered all the people together to teach them one last time.**

**(SB6) "Love the LORD with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength. Keep on learning God's laws. Know them and obey them!" Moses urged the people of Israel. "If you do, God will keep you as His special people. He will protect you. He will use everything you go through to do good in your lives and to show everyone how great He is," Moses promised them.**

**(SB7) "And make sure your kings know God's laws, too," Moses warned them. "Each king should write down their own copy of God's Word. Every, single word! This will help them know and obey God. This will help them be good kings for you," Moses told the people.**

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**Moses knew there was nothing like God's Word. It is powerful and good. It is always true. It tells us how to live. It helps us know and love God. And God promises to bless those who obey it. God's Word is a treasure. A precious treasure! Moses wanted to make sure the people understood this.**

**(SB8) The people of Israel listened to Moses and said, "We will do everything you say. We will learn God's laws and obey them. We will tell our kings to write them down and obey them, too," they promised.**

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**But DID the people of Israel keep their promise? DID they learn God's Word and obey it? DID they have their kings write it down and obey it, too?**

*What do you think?*

**Well, sometimes they did; but many times, they didn't. They acted as if it didn't matter if they or their kings learned and obeyed God's Word.**

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**But it DID matter, as the people of Israel found out over and over. (SB9) For whenever they learned and obeyed God's Word, they grew closer to the LORD. They worshipped Him and lived for Him. (SB10) And the LORD blessed them with good things, their whole lives.**

**The LORD also used His Word to make their kings good kings. (SB11) When they copied it down as the LORD told them to, He taught them His good ways and helped them live them out. They took good care of the people, and the LORD protected their land from all their enemies. Life was so good when the people and their kings learned and obeyed God's Word! (SB12) The LORD blessed them in so many ways!**

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

**But how very different life was when the people and their kings STOPPED learning God's Word and obeying it. (SB13) The people did not grow closer to Him. They stopped obeying God's good laws, too. They hurt each other and broke their promises to the LORD.**

**(SB14) The kings stopped copying down God's Word and reading it. Without the LORD and His Word, they stopped being good kings. No longer did they take good care of the people. No longer did their enemies stay away. (SB15) What sad times came upon them, just as the LORD said would happen!**

**(SB16) Some of these kings even brought in the fake gods of their enemies and (SB17) worshipped them instead. They ordered the people to worship these fake gods (SB18) and give their worship gifts to them. (Remove BG 1 to reveal BG 2) They let the Temple fall apart. They didn't care about the LORD.**

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**And what happened to God's Word when the kings and the people turned away from the LORD and His good ways?**

*Can you guess?*

**(SB19, SB20) They got rid of it! They threw it away like useless trash, instead of treating it like the treasure it was. Oh, what terrible things the people and their kings had done! And oh, what terrible punishment they deserved for breaking their promises to God!**

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**This is how things were when (SB21) Josiah became king. (SB22) Josiah's father, Amon, had been one of the bad kings. He worshipped fake gods, and gave his worship gifts to them, instead of the LORD. He ordered the people to worship these fake gods, too. He forgot about God's Word and let it be lost. What a terrible king he was!**

**But Josiah was very different from his father. (SB23) While he was still just a little boy, he began to seek after the LORD. He turned away from those fake gods and turned to the LORD. And when he became king, he led the people in turning back to the LORD, too. "(SB24; Remove SB16,17,18) "Get rid of these fake gods," Josiah commanded his workers. "Worship the LORD," Josiah told the people. "Give your worship gifts to Him, the one true God," Josiah said.**

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**To the Temple, went the king's workers. (SB25) Out went all the fake gods. "Smash, crash, crumble," the workers broke them into pieces and ground them into powder. No one would worship them again!**

**(SB26) Then, "Bang, whack, thump," up went new wood and new stone as they fixed up the broken places in the Temple. (Reveal BG3) The beautiful, golden things used to worship the LORD were brought out again. They were cleaned up and made ready. The tables, the plates, the candlesticks, the altar, (SB27) the wash basin... everything! The workers worked and worked. What a lot there was to clean up and fix!**

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**(SB28) And as they worked, they found a book, forgotten and hidden away.**

*Can you guess what book they found?*

**It was God's Word, the Bible!**

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

**(SB29) Hilkiyah, the Temple leader, brought God's Word to Shaphan, King Josiah's helper. "I have found God's Word in the Temple. Take it."**

Shaphan took it and read it. **(SB30) Then, HE took it to King Josiah and read it to HIM. King Josiah listened to every word. For the first time, Josiah heard how LORD created the world. He heard how the LORD had rescued the people from Pharaoh in Egypt and given them His good laws at Mt. Sinai. He heard about the big, covenant promises He made with the people of Israel to always be their God. What wonderful stories these were! This book had been hidden away and forgotten. It had been treated like trash. But Josiah could see that this book was a treasure, more precious than gold. How happy he was to hear God's Word!**

**As King Josiah kept listening, his happiness turned to worry. (SB31) Yes, the LORD had made big, covenant promises with the people of Israel to be their God; but, THEY had made promises with the LORD, too. They had promised to worship Him and obey His good laws, but they had NOT done that. Nor had they learned God's Word or obeyed it as they had promised. The kings had NOT written God's Word and learned it either. No! They had all forgotten the LORD and broken His good laws. Now, they all deserved the LORD's punishment. Uh, oh!**

**King Josiah was so upset that he stood up and tore his clothes. (That's what they used to do long ago when they were very, very upset—but we shouldn't do it!) "Oh, no! What should we do?" said King Josiah. "We deserve God's terrible punishment for breaking our promises to Him!" he exclaimed.**

**The LORD gave Josiah His answer through the prophetess Huldah. "(SB32) Yes, you deserve My punishment for breaking your promise to keep My laws, but I am a God of mercy," the LORD said. "Since you want to learn my Word and obey it, I will not punish the people as they deserve. And when I do finally punish them, I will use that punishment to bring them back to love and obey Me," He promised.**

**King Josiah was so happy! He would learn God's Word and obey it. He would teach the people of Israel to obey it, too. He was so glad that the LORD would keep them as His people!**

**(Put BG1 back in place) So at last, when the Temple was all repaired, (SB33) King Josiah gathered all the people together in front of it. Then he, himself, read out loud to them. Can you guess what he read?**

*Can you guess?*

**He read God's Word to them. Every single word of it!**

**As the people heard God's Word, God worked in their hearts. He helped them be sorry for their sins. He helped them turn back to Him and His good laws.**

**(SB34) Then all together, King Josiah and the people prayed to the LORD, "We promise to worship You. We promise to learn Your Word and obey it." And so they did, all the days that Josiah was their king.**

**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 was the treasure? And why was it hidden?**

It was a book: the Bible, God's Word. It was hidden because King Amon and the people didn't care about it. They put it in a room and forgot about it until it was lost.

**2. Who found it and what did they do with it?** King Josiah's workers found it. They gave it to the king to read. He asked God for forgiveness and helped the people obey it again.

**For You and Me:**

God's Word is filled with good things for God's people, who lived long ago. But it is filled with good things for us, too. God's Word can teach us. From it, we can learn about God and how He wants us to live. He can use it to help us turn away from our sins and put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. It can be a great treasure that God uses to bless us every day of our lives.

**Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:****Our Bible Verse is Psalm 119:11,15,16 ESV:**

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

**1. Who was supposed to hide God's Word in their hearts by writing down their very own copy of it?**

**Why?** The kings so they would know God's Word and lead the people in loving and obeying God.

**2. What happened when they did this? What happened when they did not?** God helped them to love Him. He helped them obey it. He blessed the people. But, when they didn't, they turned away from loving God and obeying His Word. The people suffered.

**For You and Me:**

God didn't just want people long ago to know His Word and obey it from their hearts. He wants us to, also. God loves to work in our hearts as we learn His Word. He loves to use it to help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He loves to use it to help us know Him and to live for Him. Ask Him to use His Word to work in your heart! He loves to answer this prayer.

**Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:**

Our six clues were: a bee, a scroll, a fake god, a cake, King Amon, and a big, covenant promise.

**1. Which four belong in our story?** The scroll, the fake god, King Amon, and the big covenant promise belong.

**2. Who asked God to forgive them for hiding away God's word? Did God forgive them?** King Josiah and the people asked for God's forgiveness. God was merciful and forgave them. He promised to only discipline them to help bring them back to live like His people again.

**For You and Me:**

Like the people of Israel, we, too, forget God's Word. We choose to disobey it. We choose to do things our own way. But, we, too, can come to God and ask for His forgiveness. We can ask Him to use His Word to work in our hearts and help us trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us to love His Word and obey it. God loves to answer these prayers! Ask Him to help you!

The Bible can teach us these things, too. We can also turn away from disobeying God and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can learn from it how to love God and live to please Him more and more with the help of His powerful Holy Spirit.

**The Gospel** (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Should God's People Live?****They Should Live Like Jesus...****By Learning God's Word and Obeying It!**

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus... by learning God's Word and obeying it! God's people love the Bible! The Bible is how they learned they were sinners who deserved God's punishment. The Bible is how they learned about God's great mercy in sending Jesus to die as the Savior for all who would ever turn away from disobeying God and trust Jesus as their Savior. And through the Bible, they know God will teach them more and more about how to love Him and how to live to please Him.

The Bible can teach us these things, too. We can also turn away from disobeying God and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can learn from it how to love God and live to please Him more and more with the help of His powerful Holy Spirit.

*Close in prayer.*

**Closing ACTS Prayer**

- A** God, we praise You for being the Giver of Your Word, the Bible. You are amazing!
- C** God, please forgive us for not loving Your Word as we should. Too many times we choose to not read Your Word but do other things instead. Too many times, even when we do read Your Word, we forget it and do not obey it. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for telling us so much about Yourself and Your great plans through the Bible. Thank You for telling us about Jesus and how we can be saved when we read it. Thank You for showing us how to live and promising to help us through Your powerful Word.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love Your Word, the Bible. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us understand it and obey it. Help us to live like You want us to live. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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