

The Case of the Escape that Waited

1 Samuel 17:19,23-24,27,31; 2 Samuel 5-6



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 Escape that Waited. 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 know:

1. Who needed to escape? Who did he need to escape from?
2. How could he have escaped? Why did he wait?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 1 Corinthians 10:13:

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it.”

I need to know:

1. Who was tempted to disobey God? How?
2. How did God help him and provide him a way out?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: A wagon, a cross, a golden box, God’s big rules, an altar, and a camel. *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. Who kept asking God for help to can you say no keep saying no to temptation? How did God answer his 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 Escape that Waited *1 Samuel 17:19,23-24,27,31; 2 Samuel 5-6*

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.

David was quite a man! (SB1) He was a good shepherd who protected his sheep. (SB2) He was a brave fighter who fought off enemies, whether they were (SB3) great giants like Goliath, or (SB4) even whole armies. (SB5) He sang and played the harp, making up beautiful songs for God.

(SB6) But most of all, David was a man after God's own heart.

What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart? (SB7) Well, it means that David loved God and wanted to obey Him, even when it was very tempting to disobey Him.

(SB8) David's people, the people of Israel, loved David! They were proud of how he protected his sheep from fierce, wild animals, like lions and bears. (SB9) They praised David for being a brave fighter who fought off their powerful enemies. (SB10) They loved David's songs and sang them to God.

They were glad that David was a man after God's own heart—who loved God and wanted to obey Him, even when it would be very tempting to disobey Him. They could see that God was pleased with David, too. God helped David in many special ways.

Yes, it seemed that EVERYONE in Israel loved David; but, that was not quite true. There was one man among the people of Israel who certainly did NOT love David.

Who was this man? (SB11) It was none other than Saul, the king of Israel! Yes, King Saul disliked David because he was jealous of him. (Jealous means wishing you had what someone else has.)

Saul's jealousy of David grew bigger and bigger until it turned into anger and hate. David seemed to have everything that HE used to have, and Saul hated that.

Before David came, who did the people praise? (SB12) They had praised HIM, King Saul! They praised HIM for being a brave fighter and for being Israel's first king. They praised HIM as the man God helped in special ways. And, oh, how King Saul loved the people's praise!

(SB13) But now, all that had changed. When Saul had been tempted to disobey God, he didn't say "no." He said "yes"! Saul chose to sin against God and His good ways over and over. God warned Saul many times to turn away from disobeying Him. But what do you think Saul did? Saul kept on disobeying God. How sad!

Can you guess?

Saul kept on disobeying God. How sad!

So at last, after disobeying God over and over and over, (SB14) the prophet Samuel came to Saul with some very sad news. "The LORD says, 'Because you have chosen to keep on disobeying Me, I'm going to make David and his sons the kings over Israel, instead of your family. No longer will you receive the special help I give My kings. Those days are gone for you,'" Samuel told Saul.

This made King Saul even MORE jealous! Now, he hated David even more. (SB15) Saul would NOT let David be king. He would get rid of David! He would make sure HIS family, not David's, would be the kings over Israel!

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

(SB16) King Saul decided to kill David. He threw a long spear at him. Oh, no! Did Saul hit David?

What do you think?

No, he did not! God protected David and he got away!

(SB17, SB18) Next, King Saul sent men to get rid of David as he slept. Oh, no! Did the men get David?

What do you think?

No, they did not! (SB19) God protected David. David's wife, Michal, helped David escape.

Now David knew he was not safe anywhere near King Saul. There was only one thing he could do. He must run far, far away. (SB20) So, away from the king's palace, away from the cities, and out into the dry, desert-y wilderness, David ran. He ran away to where no one lived. Surely King Saul would give up and leave David alone out there. But did he?

What do you think?

But King Saul did NOT! He was determined to get rid of David! So, (SB21) King Saul and his soldiers went out into that dry, desert-y wilderness hunting for David. Nothing would stop King Saul from getting rid of David!

What a hard life David lived! Every day, Saul and his soldiers were after him. He was always on the run. "Run, David, run! Hide, David, hide!"

Where would David make his home? Where would he sleep?

Can you guess?

David had no home. (SB22) He slept on the ground, or sometimes in a cave. David couldn't rest anywhere for long. Saul and his soldiers were never far behind. David had to keep moving and stay alert!

And where in that big, dry, desert-y wilderness could David find food and water?

Can you guess?

(SB23) It wasn't easy. Sometimes, there were only hoppy bugs like locusts to eat! Wriggle, wriggle! Crunch, crunch! Ugh!

God had once called David a man after His own heart, a man who loved God and wanted to obey Him. But NOW what David was thinking inside his heart, with King Saul after him, day after day after day? Did he STILL love God and want to obey Him? David knew that the LORD didn't want him to hate Saul or hurt him. But, oh, it must have been very tempting to want to both hate and hurt Saul after all he had done.

And what would happen if David DID get a chance to kill Saul? Would he keep saying "no" to disobeying God, or would he kill Saul and be rid of him, once and for all?

What do you think?

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

One night, (SB24, SB25) David and his soldier friend, Abishai, found the place where King Saul and his soldiers were sleeping. They tip-toed around all the sleeping soldiers until they came to King Saul, himself.

Right next to King Saul's head were a water jar and a big spear. Tempting thoughts came into David's heart. (SB26) He could use the spear and even kill Saul. What would David do now? How mean Saul had been to him! How tired David was of running away from Saul! This would be an easy way for David to finally get rid of Saul.

Abishai agreed with those tempting thoughts. "Let's get rid of King Saul," Abishai urged David. (SB27) David picked up the water jar and the spear. What would he do with them next?

What do you think David will do?

The LORD helped David NOT give into the temptation to disobey Him and hurt Saul. With jar and spear in hand, David led Abishai away from the camp.

(SB28) When they were a safe distance away from the Saul and his soldiers, David woke them up with a shout. "King Saul, here are your water jar and your spear. I could have killed you with them, but I didn't," David yelled. "Send a man here to me and I will give them back to you. But please, stop trying to kill me. I've done nothing to you," David pleaded.

Did Saul stop trying to kill David?

What do you think?

(SB29) I'm sad to say that he did NOT! But even so, David kept on being a man after God's own heart: he kept saying "no" to disobeying God. He waited for God's perfect timing to rescue him.

At last, that perfect timing did come. (SB30) Saul died, and, David's days of running were over.

NOW, what was David thinking in his heart? (SB31) Would he celebrate that Saul was dead? It would be tempting to be happy about that.

What do you think David did?

But David said "no" to that temptation, too. David was sad for Saul. He even taught the people a special song to honor him at his funeral.

(SB32, SB33) And not long after Saul died, the people of Israel made David their king. Everyone celebrated with fig cakes and roast meat. They sang songs of praise to the LORD and set up His special meeting place in Jerusalem near David's palace. And who led the people in praising the LORD that day?

Can you guess?

Why, it was King David, himself! He wanted all the people to be people after God's own heart: people who loved God and wanted to obey Him, even when it was very, very hard.

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 needed to escape? Who did he need to escape from and why? David needed to escape from King Saul. Saul was jealous and wanted to kill David.

2. How could he have escaped? Why did he wait? David could have killed Saul, but he knew that was wrong. He chose to wait for the LORD to rescue him, in His perfect timing.

For You and Me:

David waited a long time for God to provide his escape from King Saul. How hard it must have been to wait! God helped David wait. He helped him say 'no' to the temptation to get rid of King Saul his own way. And how God blessed David when he waited for His perfect timing! Maybe we will never have someone chasing us and trying to kill us, like David did. Maybe we will never be tempted to kill anybody, like he was. But we have plenty of other temptations that come our way. Every day brings its own set of temptations to disobey God and His good ways. God helped David and He can help us. He can help us turn away and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. And, He can help us to keep on saying 'no' to disobeying Him and to keep on living His good way, instead of giving in to sin.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is 1 Corinthians 10:13:**

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it."

I need to know:

1. Who was tempted to disobey God? How? David was. He was tempted to get rid of King Saul his own way.

2. How did God help him and provide him a way out? God helped him say 'no' to temptation. He helped David wait and trust. And in His perfect timing, God, Himself, provided the way out from King Saul.

For You and Me:

David waited a long time for God to provide his escape from King Saul. How hard it must have been to wait! God helped David wait. He helped him say 'no' to the temptation to get rid of King Saul his own way. And how God blessed David when he waited for His perfect timing! Maybe we will never have someone chasing us and trying to kill us, like David did. Maybe we will never be tempted to kill anybody, like he was. But we have plenty of other temptations that come our way. Every day brings its own set of temptations to disobey God and His good ways. God helped David and He can help us. He can help us turn away and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. And, He can help us to keep on saying 'no' to disobeying Him and to keep on living His good way, instead of giving in to sin.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a harp, a rabbit, Goliath, a water jar, a pumpkin, and a spear. *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 harp, Goliath, the water jar and the spear belong. The rabbit and the pumpkin do not.

For You and Me:

David waited a long time for God to provide his escape from King Saul. How hard it must have been to wait! God helped David wait. He helped him say 'no' to the temptation to get rid of King Saul his own way. And how God blessed David when he waited for His perfect timing! Maybe we will never have someone chasing us and trying to kill us, like David did. Maybe we will never be tempted to kill anybody, like he was. But we have plenty of other temptations that come our way. Every day brings its own set of temptations to disobey God and His good ways. God helped David and He can help us. He can help us turn away and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. And, He can help us to keep on saying 'no' to disobeying Him and to keep on living His good way, instead of giving in to sin.

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 Saying "No" to Disobeying God!**

Our story today tells us about a time when David said "no" to disobeying God. But you know, David was not a perfect man. He was a man after God's own heart, but he was disobeyed God, just like you and me. Yes, there were many times when David sinned against God, just like we do. David, like us, needed a Savior to save him from the punishment he deserved for his sins.

Who was the Savior that David trusted God to send? It was Jesus! Yes, David looked forward to the day when Jesus would come! God forgave David's sins through his faith in this the coming Savior. God can forgive our sins through Jesus, too. How? When we turn away from disobeying God and trust Jesus as our own Savior! Isn't that good news!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for giving us Jesus so we can know how we should live. He lived a perfect life!
- C** God, please forgive us for not saying "no" to disobeying You. Many times, when we are tempted, we choose to forget Your good ways and go ahead and do what we want to do. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for promising to help Your people when they are tempted to do wrong. You promise to always provide them with a way out of sin. Thank You, that we can become Your people through Jesus, too, and You will help us.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to say "no" to disobeying You when we are tempted. Help us to choose to live for You instead, like Jesus did.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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