

The Case of the Beautiful, Busy Feet

Acts

**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 Beautiful, Busy Feet. 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 had beautiful, busy feet?
2. What made the feet beautiful? What were they busy doing?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Romans 10:13-15, ESV**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

I need to know:

1. What message about Jesus did Jesus' followers tell everyone?
2. Why were their feet so busy traveling to faraway places to tell everyone this message?

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

They are: a sunflower, Jesus' followers, a bird, God's Holy Spirit in a heart, a boat, and a cross. 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 Jesus's followers ask the Holy Spirit to do in the hearts of those who listened to their good news? How did God answer those 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 Beautiful, Busy Feet Acts

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) Jesus and His disciples stood together on the Mount of Olives, a hill near the city of Jerusalem. This would be the last time they would be together on earth.

(SB2) Jesus had died on the cross and was buried in a grave. Then, on Day Three, He rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples. For the next forty days, Jesus taught them about God's good plans from the Bible. How wonderful it had been to have Jesus with them again!

But now, those days were over. It was time for Jesus to go to heaven and rule. Before He went, Jesus told his disciples about the job He had for them. "Be My witnesses," Jesus told them. "Tell everyone what I've done. Tell them how they can become God's people. Teach them everything I've taught you. Make them My disciples," Jesus said. (SB3) Start right here in Jerusalem, but don't stop there! This good news is for the whole world," Jesus told them.

"Go through all of Judea, this land you live in. Tell everyone the good news. But don't stop there! (SB4) Go to Samaria, to your enemies who live in the land next to you. Tell them the good news, but don't stop there, either!" Jesus said, "Keep on going and telling, to the very ends of the earth. Every people, in every part of the world, need to hear this wonderful, good news of salvation through faith in Me!"

Wow! Jesus was giving His disciples a big job! Could they really do all of this? Tell the WHOLE WORLD?

What do you think?

Wow! Jesus was giving His disciples a big job! Could they really do all of this? Tell the WHOLE WORLD? Well... no, they couldn't. Not on their own. But yes, they could, because God was going to give them a powerful Helper. (SB5) "I will ask the Father and He will send the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts," Jesus told them. "He will give you the wisdom and power you need to tell the whole world," Jesus told them. "And, when this wonderful, good news of salvation has reached all peoples, in all places, I will come back," Jesus promised. (SB6) When Jesus finished saying all these things, He went up through the clouds to heaven.

(SB7) The disciples were sad for Jesus to leave them, but they were happy about His promises. How exciting! (SB8) The Holy Spirit would live inside their hearts! They would get to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. And one day, when their job was finished, Jesus would come back! Yes, this was all very, very exciting!

But what should they do first? Where should they go? Jesus told them. What did He say?

Can you remember?

"Start in Jerusalem. Wait there for the gift of the Holy Spirit!" Jesus told them; so, that's just where they went and just what they did!

(SB9) In Jerusalem, they waited and prayed until God's Holy Spirit came to live inside them, just as Jesus promised. The disciples burst out into the streets of Jerusalem, and helped by the Holy Spirit, they spread the good news of Jesus: "(SB10) Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior!" they told all who would listen. "God will forgive your sins and make you, His people. You can know and love God in your hearts, right now. And when you die, you can live with Him and enjoy Him forever," they promised. "Believe this wonderful, good news today!" they urged everyone.

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

(SB11) The Holy Spirit began to work in the hearts of many that day. And guess what happened next?

Can you guess?

(SB12) They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Yay!

Thousands of new believers joined Jesus' first disciples. (SB13) They gathered together as a church to pray and learn from God's Word. They encouraged each other to love God and love one another like sisters and brothers. And, they encouraged each other to do the job Jesus gave them. Can you remember what that job was?

Can you remember?

"(SB14) Be My witnesses! Tell the whole world about Me!" Jesus had told them. Now, it was time to do it!

(SB15) Some stayed in Jerusalem. They kept on telling others the good news of Jesus there. But many others left Jerusalem. Jesus told them to go to the whole world, so that's what they did.

(SB16) Some went to the little towns of their homeland, Judea. And what did they remember as they moved? Jesus' last words: "Be My witnesses! Tell the whole world the wonderful, good news of salvation through faith in Me."

(SB17) And so, they did. "Turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as your Savior," they told people in Judea. "God will forgive your sins and make you, His people. You can know and love God in your hearts, right now. And when you die, you will live with Him and enjoy Him forever. Believe this wonderful, good news today!" they urged the people in Judea.

(SB18) Many heard this wonderful, good news and believed! Now, they were God's people, brothers and sisters through Jesus!

Some of Jesus' followers left Judea and went even farther away. (SB19) Some, like Philip, went to Samaria, the nearby land of their enemies. And what did Philip and the others remember as they went? Jesus' last words. Can you remember them?

Can you?

"Be My witnesses! Tell the whole world the wonderful, good news of salvation through faith in Me!" Jesus had told them.

So, that's what Philip and others did: "(SB20) Turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as your Savior," they told their enemies in Samaria. "God will forgive your sins and make you, His people. You can know and love God in your hearts, right now. And when you die, you will live with Him and enjoy Him forever. Believe this wonderful, good news today!" they urged.

(SB21) Many of these enemies heard and believed! They weren't enemies, anymore! Now, they were God's people, brothers and sisters through Jesus!

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

Others, like Paul and Barnabas, went even farther away. (SB22) They sailed on ships over the wavy seas to islands. (SB23) They walked miles and miles to other faraway places. Over tall mountains, down deep valleys, along the seashore, they travelled. Wherever people were, they went. And what did they remember as they went to all these places? Jesus' last words. Can you remember them?

Can you?

"Be My witnesses! Tell the whole world the wonderful, good news of salvation through faith in Me!" Jesus had told them.

So, that's what Paul and Barnabas did: "(SB24) Turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as your Savior," they told the peoples in those faraway places. "God will forgive your sins and make you, His people. You can know and love God in your hearts, right now. And when you die, you will live with Him and enjoy Him forever. Believe this wonderful, good news today!" they urged.

(SB25) Many in these faraway places heard this wonderful, good news and believed! Now, they were God's people, brothers and sisters through Jesus!

Many years have passed since Jesus told His disciples to tell the world how He can be their Savior. And all this time, as His disciples have kept on spreading the good news, the Holy Spirit has been at work in the hearts of people. Now, (SB26) millions, even billions, of people have become God's people, brothers and sisters through Jesus. But did you know the job is STILL not finished?

But did you know the job is STILL not finished? (SB27) There are still so many people who need to hear the good news of Jesus. Million, even billions, of people. Who will tell THEM about Him? Can you guess?

Can you guess?

(SB28) God's people, living today, that's who! Jesus wants His disciples to keep on telling everyone, all over this world, how He can become their Savior. People who live near them need to hear. People who live far away from them need to hear. And everyone who lives in between needs to hear, too! (SB29) They ALL need to hear the wonderful, good news of Jesus, that they might turn away from disobeying God, trust Jesus as their Savior, and be saved!

And who will help God's people finish this big job? The same Person who helped those believers, long ago. Can you remember who?

Can you remember His name?

(SB30) God's Holy Spirit, that's who! He is living in their hearts, helping God's people do the job Jesus gave them. He's at work in those who hear the good news of Jesus, too, helping them turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

On and on, God's people will remember Jesus' last words to them. What are they again?

Can you remember them?

"Be My witnesses! Tell the whole world the wonderful, good news of salvation through faith in Me!" Jesus had told them.

(SB31) Yes, they will keep on doing the job God gave them, until all of God's people are saved, millions and billions, even trillions of people. More people than we can count. Wow! And THEN, at last, it will be time for Jesus to come back. He will take His people to live with Him in the new heaven and earth forever. What a great day that will be! It will be Perfect Wonderfulness!

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 had beautiful, busy feet? God's people.
2. What made the feet beautiful? What were they busy doing? They were using their feet to travel to faraway places to tell others about Jesus. People turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. They became God's people, too. They were so grateful that someone would walk so far just so they could hear about Jesus. That's why they called the feet of these messengers beautiful!

For You and Me:

Jesus' first followers were busy going into the world, telling everyone about Jesus. They wanted everyone to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They wanted them all to be God's people forever. Jesus still sends out His followers so that many more people might trust in Him as their Savior. Why, your teachers, even today, are telling you this good news, so that YOU might turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. They want you to be God's people too. I guess that means they have beautiful feet!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is Romans 10:13-15, ESV

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

I need to find out:

1. What message about Jesus did Jesus' followers tell everyone? That they could become God's people when they turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.
2. Why were their feet so busy traveling to faraway places to tell everyone this message? Only by going to these faraway places would the people who lived there hear about Jesus, turn away from their sins, and be saved. This was the only way they could get to become God's people.

For You and Me:

Jesus' first followers were busy going into the world, telling everyone about Jesus. They wanted everyone to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They wanted them to be God's people forever. Jesus still sends out his followers today. He still wants people to trust in Him as their Savior. Why, your teachers, even today, are telling you this good news so that YOU might turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. They want you to be God's people too. I guess that means they have beautiful feet, too!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a sunflower, Jesus' followers, a bird, God's Holy Spirit in a heart, a boat, and a cross.

1. Which four belong in our story?

Jesus' followers, God's Holy Spirit in a heart, the boat and the cross belong. The sunflower and the bird do not.

2. What did Jesus's followers ask the Holy Spirit to do in the hearts of those who listened to their good news? How did God answer those prayers? They asked the Holy Spirit to help people turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit DID work in the hearts of many and they were saved!

For You and Me:

The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many who heard the good news of Jesus, long ago. He can work in our hearts, too. He can help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you today! He loves to answer this prayer!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

**Can You Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?
 They Should Live Like Jesus...
 By Telling the Good News of Jesus!**

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus... by telling others the good news of Jesus. God's people know how important it is to tell others the good news of Jesus. After all, someone told them! That's how they knew that they should turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They want to tell others this same good news so that they might be saved, too. Why, that's the reason I'm telling the good news of Jesus to you right now! So YOU, too, might turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as your own Savior. I want you to know special closeness with God, too! There is nothing better in life than knowing Him! *Close in prayer.*

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the God who saves. You made the way for sinful people like us to become Your people. How loving and merciful You are!
- C** God, please forgive us for not telling others about You as You want us to. Forgive us for being scared that others might not want to hear about Jesus or make fun of us. Forgive for not trusting You to be at work as we share the good news about salvation through Him. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for offering to make us Your people through Jesus. Thank You for giving us the wonderful, good news of salvation through Him.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to tell others how they can receive the free gift of salvation through Him, too. Work inside others as they hear about Jesus and help them believe in Him, too.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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