

The Case of the Boastful Man*Acts 7-9,22; Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Ephesians; Philippians***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 Boastful Man. 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. **Who was the man who was boastful? Who did he first boast about?**
2. **Why did he change his boast? Who did boast in, instead?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 66:1-3,5,16, NIV 1984:**

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Come and see what God has done... Let me tell you what he has done for me."

I need to find out:

1. **Who changed from being a man who boasted about himself to a man who boasted about God?**
2. **What awesome deed of God did he especially love to boast about?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a star, God's law, a shoe, a Pharisee, the cross, wild animal.

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 did Paul boast in most of all? Why did he boast in Him so much?**

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 Boastful Man *Acts 7-9,22; Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Ephesians; Philippians*

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) Paul was a man who was always boasting. What is boasting? It's telling how great someone is to others. Now, some people boast in themselves, and some people boast in others. Many times, boasting is bad, especially when we boast about ourselves. But some boasting is good when we boast about the right person. Paul started out as a bad boaster, but he became a good boaster. Can you guess who Paul learned to boast in?

Can you guess who?

(SB2) It was the LORD! Yes, Paul loved to make much of the one, true God!

“(SB3) Some might think I have a lot to boast about in MYSELF,” Paul told people. “I certainly used to think I did,” he admitted. “(SB4) After all, I was born in an important city as a Roman. I enjoyed lots of nice things and was treated as someone special. That sounds like a lot to boast about, doesn't it?” Paul explained.

“(SB5) My parents were good Jews. I grew up learning God's Word and obeying it. That sounds like a lot to boast about, too, doesn't it?” Paul told people.

“(SB6) I was really, really smart. I went to the school for smart boys in the big city of Jerusalem. I had great teachers like Gamaliel to teach me. That sounds like something else I could boast about,” Paul said.

“(SB7) I stayed in school a long time. I was one of the best students. I became a Pharisee. I became very good at knowing God's laws and keeping all of the teachers' extra, little rules. I was better than others at keeping them. I thought I pleased God by being a good law-keeper,” Paul told them. “Oh, I thought I had so much to boast in!” he exclaimed.

“But I was wrong,” Paul sadly said. “I had nothing to boast about. (SB8) I was just like everyone else. My heart was full of sin. I was a lawbreaker, not a law-keeper. I could never really please God by obeying laws and rules,” Paul confessed. “I did some terrible things. (SB9) I hated Jesus and told everyone that He was a fake Savior. (SB10) I hunted down His followers. I had them hurt and put in jail. I was even happy if they died! I thought these things pleased God. But I was so wrong. So terribly wrong!” Paul exclaimed.

“No, I had nothing to boast about at all. I deserved God's punishment for my sins! I could never please Him on my own,” Paul admitted.

“But do you know what? (SB11) God saved me from my sins, and He made me one of His people!” Paul said.

Can you guess how God saved Paul?

Through Jesus!

“Yes, God saved me through His Son, Jesus!” Paul exclaimed. “He forgave me—yes, even me, the worst of sinners! What a wonderful Savior He is!” Paul said. “And that's why I love to boast about God. That's why I want to do anything for Him. I want to make much of God because of what He's done for sinners like me!”

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

So, for the rest of his life, in everything he did, and everything he said, to EVERYONE he met, Paul boasted about the LORD. There was never a time when Paul could not think of a way to make much of God!

(SB12) Sometimes, Paul traveled to big cities and talked to smart people who thought believing in Jesus was silly. Paul boasted in God to them: "You may think believing in Jesus is silly, but God's silliness is smarter than all your smartness! Jesus really IS God's Son! Turn away from your sins. Trust in Him as your Savior, and be saved!" he urged them. WHO was Paul making much of when he talked to these smart people?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

(SB13) Sometimes, Paul talked to people who hurt him and threw him in jail when he told them about Jesus. But Paul boasted in God to them: "I don't like to be hurt or be put in jail, but Jesus suffered far more than this for me. He suffered and died for my sins on the cross. He can forgive your sins, too, if you turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as your Savior," Paul told them. "I am happy to suffer for Him who suffered so much for me, especially if it helps you to believe in Him, too!" he said. WHO was Paul was making most of when he thought about his suffering?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

(SB14) Sometimes, Paul preached to God's people who gathered at a worship house to hear God's Word. Paul read the Bible to them and showed them all God's promises about Jesus. "How great God is! He planned all along to send Jesus to save His people. God put it here in the Bible for us to read and to help us believe," Paul told them. WHO was Paul making much of when he preached God's Word?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

(SB15) Sometimes, Paul was weak and sick. His eyes hurt and he could hardly write. "God always makes me strong to do whatever He wants me to do. When I am weak, He can show everyone how strong He is!" Paul boasted. WHO was Paul making much of when he talked about his weakness?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

Paul faced death many times. Once, (SB16) at the teeth of wild animals; and another time, (SB17) out on a sinking boat on stormy seas. Paul boasted in God then, too. "God can even rescue me from the teeth of wild animals. He can even save me out in the stormy seas. There is nothing He can't do," Paul said. And sure enough, God DID save him!

WHO was Paul making much of, even in these very scary times?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

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

“And when I DO die,” Paul told people, “(SB18) God will take me to live with Him forever in heaven. Through Jesus, God has already beat sin and death for me! Going to live with Him will be best of all!” Paul exclaimed. WHO was Paul making much of, even when he talked about dying?

Can you tell me?

He was making much of the LORD! He loved to tell everyone how great is the one, true God!

Yes, no matter what Paul went through, no matter who he talked to, Paul boasted in the LORD. He loved to make much of God!

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 was the man who was boastful? Who did he first boast about? Paul. He boasted in himself and all the good things he did.

2. Why did he change his boast? Who did boast in, instead? He changed his boast when God showed him that he was a sinner who did not deserve to be one of God's people. He changed his boast to God and how He had forgiven his sins through Jesus.

For You and Me:

God has been kind to give each of us many good gifts. He has made us able to do many good things. Sometimes, we might want to boast about the good things we can do. But like Paul, God wants us to boast only in Him. He is the giver of all those good gifts; and, He is the only one who can forgive our sins through Jesus. We need Him to do that most of all! That's why Paul made much of God. And, that's what God wants us to do, too. He wants us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. He wants us to praise Him for being our God and for being so good to us. Ask Him to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Psalm 66:1-3,5,16, NIV 1984:

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Come and see what God has done... Let me tell you what he has done for me."

1. Who changed from being a man who boasted about himself to a man who boasted about God? Paul did.

2. What awesome deed of God did he especially love to boast about? For forgiving his sins through Jesus.

What about you and me?

God gives the whole earth reason to shout for joy. He gives the whole earth reason to glory in his name. Everywhere are God's awesome deeds in the earth. More than anyone else, God's people love to make much of God and all of the good things He has done. After all, He has saved from their sins and made them His dearly-loved people forever. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then like the rest of God's people, we will have so very much to boast in God about!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a star, God's law, a shoe, a Pharisee, the cross, wild animal.

1. Which four belong in our story?

God's law, the Pharisee, the cross and the wild animal belong. The star and the shoe do not.

2. Who did Paul boast in most of all? Why did he boast in Him so much? He boasted in God. Because God had forgiven his sins and saved him through Jesus, when he never, ever deserved it.

For You and Me:

What a great work God did in Paul's heart! He had been a man who boasted in how well he could keep God's laws. God changed him into a man who knew that only through Jesus that he could ever please God and become one of His people. Paul was so grateful to God for saving him! God can save us, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, what a lot we will have to be grateful to God for, too!

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 Making Much of God!

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus... by making much of Him. God's people want to make much of God because of all He has done for them. He has treated them so much better than they could ever deserve. God's people, like everyone, have all chosen to disobey God. They deserved His punishment. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and offer it up as He died on the cross as the full payment for their sins. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had beaten sin and death for them. God's people turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They get to know God in their hearts, now. And one day, go to live with God forever. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. And if we do, we will want to make a big deal about God's wonderful love for us!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You. You are perfect, good, loving, and wise. You deserve all our praise.
- C** God, please forgive us for choosing to not praise You or delight in You, as You deserve. Many times, we choose to make much of ourselves or others, instead of You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. He alone is Savior. He deserves for us to make much of 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 make much of You. Help us to delight in You and how wonderful You are.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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