

The Case of the Two, Big Books*Matthew 16; Mark 8:27-38, Revelation 20:11-15***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 The Case of the Two, Big Books. 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 will come back at the end of time? To do what?**
2. **What are the two, big books? What will He do with the two big books?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Revelation 22:12-13, ESV:***“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

I need to find out:

1. **Who is coming back?**
2. **What will He do He comes back?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

Our six clues are: two books, John, a bus, Jesus, the forever king, the cross, and a hot dog.

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 will praise God on the day that Jesus comes back? What will Jesus have done for them already that will make them so happy?**

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 Two, Big Books *Matthew 16; Mark 8:27-38, Revelation 20:11-15*

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) Who is this Jesus?” people wondered. “He talks about God like no teacher we’ve ever heard! He heals sick people with just His word! He raises the dead people back to life! He prays, and little pieces of fish and bread become enough to feed huge crowds of people! We’ve never seen anyone do such amazing things by God’s power. Who is this Jesus?” they asked.

“(SB2) “He’s John the Baptist come back to life,” thought some people. John the Baptist was a godly man who preached about God but had been captured and killed by King Herod. These people believed God had brought John back to life as Jesus. Was THAT who Jesus was?

What do you think?

Jesus WAS a godly man. He DID preach about God. But, no. He wasn’t John come back to life. Jesus was His own person, and He was Someone far greater than John.

“(SB3) “Jesus is a great prophet, like Elijah, from the old days,” other people said. Prophets were people God sent to tell the people of Israel how to obey Him. Was THAT who Jesus was?

What do you think?

Jesus HAD been sent by God. And like the prophets, Jesus DID tell the people how to obey God. But, no! That’s not who Jesus was either. He was Someone far greater than just a prophet.

Well, if He wasn’t John come back to life, or a prophet, just like in the old days, then who WAS Jesus?

For three years, Jesus had been showing and telling them who He really was with everything He did and said. Now, it was almost time for Him to die. So, Jesus took His disciples up to Caesarea Philippi, the greatest worship place of fake gods in Israel, to a temple-cave called the “The Gates of Hell.” He had something very important to talk to them about.

As they neared that temple-cave, where God’s enemy, Satan, seemed so strong, Jesus used a question to make it clear to His disciples the REAL answer about Himself. And, He would help them understand what that answer meant for His life and theirs. So, Jesus turned to His disciples, and asked, “Who do YOU say that I am?”

(SB4) Peter spoke up right away: “You are the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the living God, sent to save us.” Peter believed Jesus was the great Forever King God promised to send. This king was to rule the world God’s way and get rid of God’s enemies --those who do not want Him to be king and will not turn from disobeying Him. Was THAT who Jesus was? Did Peter have it right?

What do you think?

“(SB5) You are right, Peter. I am the Messiah, the Christ, God’s Forever King,” Jesus replied. “God, My Father, has given you this faith to know who I am and believe in Me. And Your faith is just the beginning. God will give this faith to many, and they will become God’s people, the Church. And not even God’s enemy, Satan, or the “Gates of Hell” will defeat it,” Jesus said. Jesus was stronger than even the strongest enemy. He was why His Church would endure. He would beat sin and death AND Satan for them!

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

“But shhh, don’t tell anyone who I am just yet,” Jesus told them. “Before I rule as king, I must be taken by My enemies to suffer and die on the cross. And on the third day, I will be raised from the dead,” Jesus explained.

Peter didn’t like what Jesus said. **“(SB6) “No, Lord. This will not happen to You!” Peter scolded. Peter was sure Jesus had it wrong. Enemies weren’t supposed to hurt God’s Forever King! No! HE was supposed get rid of God’s enemies! HE was supposed to bring an end to sin! HE was supposed to be worshiped by all! The great, Forever King shouldn’t suffer and die! He should live Forever! Jesus had it WRONG!**

“(SB7) But it was Peter who was wrong. “Stop saying this, Peter!” Jesus replied. “You might think you are trying to protect Me, but you’re talking like Satan, God’s great enemy. You are tempting Me to disobey God’s good plan,” Jesus told Peter. “I MUST suffer and die on the cross to save God’s people,” Jesus insisted.

“If you’re going to follow Me, you must choose to obey God’s plan, too,” Jesus told the listening crowd. “You must take up your cross and follow Me. Following Me will be hard. You will have to say “no” to sin, including some of the things the rest of the world enjoys. You may even lose your life to follow Me. But, you will gain something even better: life with God forever,” Jesus told them.

“I’ve come to the world this time to suffer and die. But I’ll come back again as the great, glorious Forever King over all. (SB8, SB9) Everyone will see Me as I come down from heaven, shiny with the bright glory of God,” Jesus said. “The angels of heaven will be with Me when I burst through the sky. Then, I will judge all people,” Jesus told them. “I will give out last and fair punishments to all, according to what they have done,” He explained.

What will the Great Day of Judgment be like? What are the last and fair punishments that Jesus will give out?

(SB10) Years later, Jesus gave John —another of His disciples-- a look at what it would be like. John wrote down what he saw in the Bible book we call Revelation. “(SB11) I saw a great, white throne with Jesus seated on it. Everyone who has ever lived stood before the throne,” John wrote.

“(SB12) Then I saw great books opened up. In one book was written what each person had done in his life. This was the Book of Deeds. Jesus judged each person fairly, according to what each had done,” John wrote. “(SB13) Those who had chosen to keep on disobeying God and did not trust in Jesus as their Savior were sent out of God’s presence forever. (SB14) How sad it will be for these people!” John said.

“(SB15) But there was another book. It was called the Book of Life,” John wrote. “(SB16) In this book were written the names of all of God’s people --all who had turned away from disobeying God and trusted in Jesus as their Savior,” he explained. “These people were sinners, too, but there will be no punishment for their sins. Instead, they will be rewarded as if they had lived the perfect life that Jesus had lived. Why? Because Jesus paid for their sins already when He suffered and died on the cross.”

“(SB17) These people will never leave God’s presence. They will live with Him, enjoying His Perfect Wonderfulness as His dearly-loved people forever,” John wrote. “There will no more sickness, sadness, sin, or death for them. Only happiness forever.”

Oh, what a day that will be, when Jesus comes back as the Forever King and judges all people fairly! Only God knows exactly when that day will come, but we can be ready for it, whenever it is. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Thank You, Jesus, for being merciful Savior now, so we can enjoy You as our good, Forever King on that day!

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 will come back at the end of time? Jesus will.
2. What are the two, big books? What will He do with the two, big books? One book, the Book of Deeds, is the book that tells about every person's life—everything they've done, both good and bad. The other book is called "The Book of Life." It has the names of everyone who turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. Jesus will judge all people fairly with these books. He will give them their final reward or punishment, according to how they have lived and whether they have asked God to forgive their sins through Jesus.

For You and Me:

It can be scary thinking about the day that Jesus comes back and judges each of us for what we have done. But the good news is that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can rejoice on that day! Yes, they have done many bad things, just like everyone else. But they asked God to forgive their sins through Jesus. They are forgiven. They will not be punished for their sins since Jesus paid for them already. Because of Jesus, they are God's people, and they will be forever and ever. God can help us be ready for that day. He can forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is Revelation 22:12-13, ESV

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

1. Who is coming back? Jesus is.
2. What will He do He comes back? Jesus will judge all people fairly.

For You and Me:

It can be scary thinking about the day that Jesus comes back and judges each of us for what we have done. But the good news is that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can rejoice on that day! Yes, they have done many bad things, just like everyone else. But they asked God to forgive their sins through

Jesus. They are forgiven. They will not be punished for their sins, since Jesus paid for them already. Because of Jesus, they are God's people and they will be forever and ever. God can help us be ready for that day. He can forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: two books, John, a bus, Jesus, the forever king, the cross, and a hot dog.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The two books, John, Jesus, the forever king and the cross belong. The bus and the hot dog do not.

2. Who will praise God on the day that Jesus comes back? What will Jesus have done for them already that will make them so happy? God's people will praise God on that day. Because Jesus has already paid for their sins, they will not have to receive God's punishment. They will get to go to live with God forever.

For You and Me:

It can be scary thinking about the day that Jesus comes back and judges each of us for what we have done. But the good news is that all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can rejoice on that day! Yes, they have done many bad things, just like everyone else. But they asked God to forgive their sins through Jesus. They are forgiven. They will not be punished for their sins since Jesus paid for them already. Because of Jesus, they are God's people, and they will be forever and ever. God can help us be ready for that day. He can forgive our sins and make us His dearly-loved people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.

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

**What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back?
 God Will Make Everything New...
 Jesus Will Judge All People Fairly!**

It is scary to think about God's punishment for sin, isn't it? But we don't have to be scared. We can be ready for that Day. We can turn away from our sins, trust in Jesus as our Savior and live our lives to please God. All who do, have their names written in that wonderful Book of Life. They are forgiven of their sins and become God's dearly-loved people. They will get to love, know, and enjoy God forever, and that will be truly the most wonderful thing that we will ever know!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, Jesus, for being the good Judge who will give out fair rewards and punishments to all people at the end of time. We praise You for being the Savior who offers to forgive us and make us God's people, so we can live with You and celebrate on that day You judge us all.
- C** Jesus, we know that we are all sinners. We have all disobeyed God's laws. We can never deserve to be God's people on our own. We need You to be our Savior!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, that we do not have to depend on our own goodness on the day You judge us. Thank You for dying on the cross to save all who turn away from their sins and trust in You as their Savior. Thank You that You will judge all who do according to Your perfect life, not their own. You have taken God's punishment in their place. They are forgiven. If we trust in You, we don't have to fear Your punishment on that day. We can look forward in excitement to life with You forever.
- S** Work in our hearts! Help us all to turn away from our sins and trust in You as our Savior. Help us to do good things with the gifts You have given us. Help us to love You and love others. Come back soon, Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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