

The Case of the Promise Keeper*Isaiah 1,2,6,24,25,49,52-53,60,65,66; Daniel 3; Revelation 21***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 Promise Keeper. 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. **What promises were the people of Israel waiting to come true?**
2. **Who has come and will come again, so that all these promises come true?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Revelation 19:6-7, ESV**

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."

I need to know:

1. **Who were the people of Israel looking forward to coming and being their Forever King?**
2. **What was the name of that king?**

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

They are: a man named Abraham, a crown, a mouse, a fake god, soldier, and a boat

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 is the promised Forever King? Who will praise Him forever?**

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 Promise Keeper *Isaiah 1,2,6,24,25,49,52-53,60,65,66; Daniel 3: Revelation 21*

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.

“(SB1) Promises, promises! When will the LORD ever give us what He promised?” the people of Israel wanted to know.

(SB2) Long ago, the LORD promised Abraham that a son from his family, the people of Israel, would bless all peoples in the world. But where was this special blessing? He STILL had not come!

(SB3) Promises, promises! The LORD promised this son would also come from King David's family. He would be the Forever King and would rule over God's people for all eternity. How happy would life be with Him in charge!

No wonder the people longed for this special Son to come. Their lives were so unhappy, and it was their own fault. Instead of keeping God's good laws, they had chosen to break them, again and again. Instead of worshiping the LORD, they had chosen to worship fake gods, again and again. And, instead of learning God's Word, they had chosen to forget it, again and again. So, instead of pouring out His blessings upon them, the LORD had to discipline them, again and again.

“(Put SB5 over BG1) March, march, march!” came the mighty soldiers of Babylon into Judah and Jerusalem. “Crash, smash, burn!” down went their houses, and even the Temple, the LORD's beautiful worship place. (SB6) Then, “Tromp, tromp, tromp,” off went the people of Israel to Babylon, where they had to work hard for their enemies.

How sad the people of Israel were in the faraway land of their enemies! But they knew this was the LORD's punishment, and they knew they deserved it. Now, they were so very, very sorry. They wanted to turn back to the LORD, but was it too late? Were God's promises to them really gone?

What do you think? Was it too late?

(SB7) The LORD gave them His answer through His prophets, Isaiah, and Daniel. It was good news. “Though your sins are so many, I, Myself, will provide the way for you to be forgiven,” the LORD told the people. “I have not forgotten My promises. I will keep them all. I won't punish you forever. (SB8) When seventy years have passed, I will bring you back home,” He promised them.

(SB9) That was great news, but the LORD had more, even BETTER news for them: “A son of Abraham will STILL come and bless all the peoples of the world. This son of David will STILL come and rule as the Forever King,” the LORD promised. “But He won't be just a son of Abraham and a son of David,” the LORD told them. “He will be MY Son, the Son of God. He will die for the sins of all My people. Then, He will rise from the dead, in victory over sin and death,” the LORD said through Isaiah.

“(SB10) Then, at the end of time, My Son will return to earth,” the LORD promised. “He will judge all people fairly. Those who have NOT turned to the LORD will be separated from God forever. The time to receive God's forgiveness will be passed for them. It will be a very, very sad day for those people.”

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

“But how wonderful it will be for God’s people, all who turned away from their sins and trusted in Him as their Savior. I will create a new heaven and earth for them to live in with Me. It will be a wonderful, new world of perfect happiness,” the LORD said through His prophets. “NEVER will there be sadness or death. NEVER will anyone disobey Me anymore. They will delight to worship Me,” the LORD told the people of Israel. “And the Forever King, will rule on and on, and God’s people will live in the bright light of His glory forever,” the LORD promised the people.

Oh, what wonderful promises these were for those people of Israel, far away in the land of their enemies! How good the LORD is to His people! His love is more than they could ever deserve. God WOULD forgive and save all who turned back to Him in faith and repentance.

Promises, promises. Did God keep His promises to the people of Israel?

What do you think?

Yes, He did!

(SB11) At just the right time, the LORD rescued them from their enemies and led them back home to Jerusalem. There was so much to do, but oh, how good it was to be home!

(SB12) And, at just the right time, God sent the special Son—Abraham’s son, David’s son, GOD’S SON! He came to bless all the peoples of the world, and to save God’s people from their sins. He was born in Bethlehem one night, and angels sang and rejoiced at His birth. Do you know His name? I bet you do!

Can you tell me?

It’s Jesus!

That little baby, Jesus, grew up to be a man, a perfect man --the ONLY person who never, ever disobeyed God. He taught about God and He did amazing things.

(SB13) He suffered and died on the cross for the sins of God’s people and was buried in a cave-grave. But on Day Three, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory. Jesus had beaten sin and death for God’s people! For forty days, Jesus spent time with His disciples, teaching them many things. Then, up to heaven, Jesus went, and He is there now, ruling as the Forever King.

Promises, promises. One day, God will keep the last of His promises. (SB14) On that wonderful day, Jesus will come back to this world again. (SB15) Everyone will see Him as He comes through the clouds.

Then, Jesus will judge all people fairly. (SB16) This old, broken world will be gone, and He will create a new, perfect world in its place.

And in this wonderful, new, home God’s people will live with God forever. At last, they will get to know and enjoy Him fully. At last, they will get to know and enjoy each other fully, too. (SB17) Sickness, sadness, sin, and death will be gone forever. It will be Perfect Wonderfulness that will never end. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

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. What promises were the people of Israel waiting to come true?** God's promise to send a Son who would bless all nations and who would be the Forever King.
- 2. Who has come and will come again, so that all these promises come true?** Jesus!

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, we have all chosen to disobey God we all deserve His punishment. But through Jesus, God offers forgiveness for our sins. And the same promises that the people of Israel were waiting to come true will be promises that we're waiting to come true, too. What a wonderful day it will be when Jesus comes back to reign as the great, Forever King! God's people live with Him forever. It can be a happy day for us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Revelation 19:6-7**

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."

I need to know:

- 1. Who were the people of Israel looking forward to coming and being their Forever King?** A special son God would send.
- 2. What was the name of that king? And what will it be like when he comes back?** Jesus is the name of that Forever King. He will do away with sin and death. He will create a new heaven and earth to replace this broken one. Jesus will live together with God's people forever. How happy they will be!

For You and Me:

The day Jesus comes back will be a great day of celebration for God's people. They look forward to living with Him forever. They look forward to sin and death been gone forever. We can become God's people, too. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we will be able to look forward to celebrating on that day and living with Jesus forever, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a man named Abraham, a crown, a mouse, a fake god, soldier, and a boat. *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?** Abraham, the crown, the fake god and the soldier belong. The mouse and the boat do not.
- 2. Who is the promised Forever King?** Who will live with Him and praise Him forever? Jesus is the Forever King. God's people will live with Him and praise Him forever.

For You and Me:

Like the people of Israel, we have all chosen to disobey God we all deserve His punishment. But through Jesus, God offers forgiveness for our sins. And those same promises that the people of Israel were waiting to come true will be promises that we're waiting to come true, too! What a wonderful day it will be when Jesus comes back to reign as the great, Forever King. God's people will praise Him and live with Him forever! It can be a happy day for us, too, if we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. 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...

God's People Will Live Happily with God Forever!

What will happen when Jesus comes back? God will make everything new... God's people will live happily with God forever! After Jesus puts an end to sin, God's people will go to live with Him forever. When God's people lived on earth, they were so thankful for God sending Jesus to save them. But when they live with Him forever, they will be even happier. For then, they will be filled up as full as people can be with the happiness of knowing God. If we turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We will get to be there with God and His people, enjoying Him forever and ever!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, Jesus! You are the great King who now rules over everything in heaven and will return one day. You will do away with sin, sadness, and death. You will be the great King over the new heaven and earth forever.
- C** Jesus, we know that we disobey You and all of God's good laws. We can never be good enough on our own to deserve to live with You when You return. We ask You to forgive us! Be our Savior, so we can be God's people and live with You forever.
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for coming to be our Savior! Thank You that we can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in You as our Savior. Thank You for promising to get rid of sin, sadness, and death when You come back again. Thank You that You will create a perfect, new world for God's people to enjoy with You forever.
- S** Work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in You, Jesus, as our Savior. Help us to love You and live for You today. Help us to look forward to the day when You come back and make all things new. 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.