

The Case of the Sadness that Didn't Stop

Genesis 4,6-9



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard figures, if using. (Included 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 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 Sadness that Didn't Stop. 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. Where did the sadness come from?**
- 2. Who did it spread to? Who would come to stop it one day?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is Psalm 14:2-3:

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."

I need to find out:

- 1. What did the LORD see in the hearts of people?**
- 2. What did they deserve? How did He show His mercy to them?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a kangaroo; wood; a submarine; black, sticky tar; a surfboard; and, the wind.

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 thanked the LORD for rescuing him and his family?**

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 Sadness that Didn't Stop *Genesis 4,6-9*

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.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, it was a very, very sad day for the whole world. EVERYTHING that God created was hurt by their sin, in some way.

(SB1) Animals that used to live happily together, now fought each other. (SB2) Plants that used to grow delicious fruit, now were spoiled with sickness and weeds. But worst of all, was what happened to people. (SB3) They no longer had the wonderful, special closeness with God they had before. They didn't always live happily together anymore. They became greedy and selfish. They didn't love others the way God made them to. And now, their bodies grew old, got sick, and died.

It would have been bad enough if Adam and Eve's sin had only hurt themselves and the world they lived in. But their sin didn't stop there. When sin came into the world, it would hurt everything for the rest of time. Now, (SB4) ALL the animals, ALL the plants, and ALL the people who would ever live in God's good world, would know the badness and brokenness of sin. (Even you and me, and our world!) The whole world, for ALL of time, would never be like it was in the beginning, when God made it so perfectly good.

Not only did sin stay in the world, but it spread and grew worse with time. There was more and more badness, and sadness, and brokenness, especially in people. And after a while, the whole world was filled with people disobeying God and hurting each other. It was terrible!

There was SOMEONE who knew how terribly sin had hurt the world, more than anyone else. Can you guess who?

Can you guess?

It was the LORD. God could see how sin hurt every part of His good world, inside and out. And what saddened Him the most, was what He could see deep inside each person's heart.

There used to be beautiful love for God and people in their hearts. Now, that was broken. Now, there was sin and sadness in their hearts, instead.

(SB4) The LORD is holy. He is purely good and oh, so great. He loves good and hates sin. He hurt to see all the terrible things that had happened to the beautiful world He had made.

God was so merciful and patient with people, giving them time to turn back to Him. Years and years, He waited, as sin grew and grew in His good world. But at last, it was time: God would judge the whole world. (SB5) He would send a flood to do away with all who refused to turn away from disobeying Him. And with them, would go all the animals, birds, and creeping things on earth. Was this the end? Would there never be people or creatures to live in God's world again?

What do you think?

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

God would have been fair to do that. All people had chosen to disobey God. All had sinful hearts and lives. It is right for God to punish sin. He would not be good, if He did not hate it.

But God isn't ONLY fair and good. He is oh, so MERCIFUL, too. Mercy is a part of love. It is treating someone better than they deserve. That is exactly how God chose to treat sinful people. And He even had woven this mercy into His good plans, BEFORE He created the world. Amazing!

Yes! (SB6) God's good plan for His creation would go on as He planned. He would be just, but merciful, too. He would save some of all the creatures. He would save one man and his family, too. This was the only man who turned away from his sin and turned to God to love Him and obey Him. Who was this man?

Do you know his name?

That one man was a man named Noah.

(SB7) God told Noah His plan: "I am sending a flood to wipe out everything that lives on earth, because of how sinful everyone has become. But you and your family, I will save. I will also save some of every kind of creature, too," God promised him. "After the flood, I will give the earth a new beginning for these creatures and your family. You and your sons need to build a huge, wooden boat, "an ark," to fit everyone. Fill it with food for everyone to eat. Then, I will send the flood," God told Noah.

A huge flood? A big boat? Thousands of creatures to feed and care for? Could it really be? Who could IMAGINE such a thing! Who could BUILD such a thing! It would have been tempting to laugh and go on with life. It didn't look like rain. The sun came up in the morning and the moon and stars at night. A flood? Really? What would Noah do? Would he believe God and obey Him?

What do you think Noah did?

(SB8) Noah would take God at His word! He lived by faith. Noah loved God and believed Him. He didn't have to be able to understand God's plans for them to be true. It was enough that GOD understood. God would help Noah do everything that needed to be done. Yes, Noah believed God and he would obey. Yes, he would build the huge boat. God was pleased with Noah's faith and accepted him.

(SB9) Off to the forests, went Noah and his sons to get wood. (SB10) Chop, chop, chop. Crash! So many trees were needed! Then, hammer, hammer, hammer, they worked, and worked, and worked until the whole boat was built. It was gigantic! (SB11) Then, they mixed up big pots of black, sticky pitch. They slathered the hot goo all over the sides of the boat. This would keep the ark free of leaks. (SB12, 13 (door shut))

People were curious about the big boat Noah was building. (SB14) Noah warned them about the flood God was sending. "Stop disobeying God and living your own, sinful way! Turn back to God and His good ways! His punishment will soon come upon those who do not," Noah told them.

It took long time to build that big boat. Noah kept warning people to turn to God as he worked on it. God was giving these people more time to turn to Him. But did they?

What do you think?

In all that time, no one ever turned to God. No, not even one! How very sad!

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

At last, the boat was finished. (SB13--open door and put down as gang plank), (SB15) Noah and his family loaded it with lots of supplies. There was food for them and for all the animals coming.

And come, those animals did! (SB16) From the woods, and from the deserts. From the mountains, and the valleys. Out of their dens and nests, the animals came. A mother and father animal of every kind. And even more than two of some animals. The LORD, in His wonderful, mysterious way, had these special creatures leave their homes and travel to the boat. They all settled in the boat.

Then, last of all, (SB17) Noah and his family went in the boat, too. When everyone was safe inside, the LORD, Himself, shut them in. (SB13--shut) (SB18 placed on top of BG2) Dark storm clouds gathered overhead, then the rain came pouring down.

Everything happened just as the LORD said it would. It rained for forty days and nights without stopping. (Add SB19 A,B,C remove all pictures from background as you add water, and raise ark SB13 up as you add water) And as it rained, the water rose higher and higher over the land. The birds, and land creatures, and all the people outside the ark were all swept away; but, inside, all were safe.

Then one day, the rain stopped (remove SB18 to reveal BG 2 again). Noah and his family looked outside at the world, amazed. They had never seen anything like it! There were no trees, no animals, no people, no mountains, or land to be seen. Everywhere they looked there was only water. They were so thankful to be in the boat. They were so thankful that God had saved them!

God (SB20) sent a big wind that swept down over the water to dry it up. "Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!" went the wind, day and night. Slowly but surely, the wind dried up the flood waters. (Remove SB19 A,B,C as you tell story to reveal earth again)

At last, Noah and his family could see land sticking out of the water like little bumps. More and more water dried up and went away, uncovering the hills and valleys. (open BG3) At last, it was time to get off the boat.

God said to Noah, "Take your family and all the animals off the boat. It's time to begin life again on the earth. Have families and fill the earth, just like Adam and Eve, and the animals did, long ago."

Noah and his family obeyed God. How wonderful it was to get off that boat and stand on dry ground again!

What would they do first? Run around and stretch their legs? Start building a new home? Go find some fresh food? Simply sit down and enjoy the sunshine and the freedom of the open air? There were so many things they wanted to do! But Noah didn't do any of those things just yet. He knew there was something else he needed to do first. Can you guess what it was?

Can you guess?

(SB21) The first thing Noah did was to give a worship gift of thanks to God. Oh, how much he and his family had to thank Him for! God had saved their lives and given them a new start!

God made a promise to Noah and his family that day: "Never again will I destroy the whole earth with a giant flood. (SB22) I'm putting a rainbow up in the sky as a reminder to you and all people of My promise."

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

Then, Noah and his family began the work God gave them. They had families and began to fill the earth again. Surely, this time everything would be right! Surely this time, people would obey God as they should. Right?

What do you think?

WRONG! You see, though Noah was a good man who loved God, (SB23) he and his family still had that same, terrible sin in their hearts, just like everyone else. It wouldn't be long before the world once more would become filled with people who would choose to disobey God and not turn from their sinfulness.

But, there wouldn't JUST be people who disobeyed God in the world. (SB24) There would also be people, like Noah, who would fight against the sin in their hearts and put their trust in God. God would help them to turn away from sin and live for Him. God would help them to keep on trusting in the promised Savior to come. These were God's people, and He would save them.

(SB25) And at just the right time, that Savior did come. It was Jesus, God's Son. He lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Then, He offered up that perfect life to God, as He suffered and died on the cross. He gave His life to pay for the sins of God's people. He made the way to bring us back to God. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for God's people.

What an amazing plan! What amazing love! That God, in His mercy, would take the punishment for sin upon Himself to save all His people, from the beginning of time to the very end of time! Jesus can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. This is how we can become God's people, too.

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. Where did the sadness come from? It came from sin that came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

2. Who did it spread to? Who would come to stop it one day? It spread to all people—all of Adam and Eve's children. God would send the Savior, Jesus, to stop it one day.

For You and Me:

We are all Adam and Eve's children, and that means that their sin has spread all the way down to us...and all the way into our hearts. We need a Savior, just like they did. Jesus can be our Savior, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him 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 Psalm 14:2-3:

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one."

1. What did the LORD see in the hearts of people? He saw that they were all sinners who had chosen to disobey Him.

2. What did they deserve? How did the LORD show His mercy to them? They all deserved His punishment. They all deserved to be separated from Him forever. God showed them mercy by warning them through Noah to turn away from disobeying Him. And in Noah's case, God forgave him and saved him when he turned away from his sins and trusted in the LORD.

For You and Me:

We are all Adam and Eve's children, and that means that their sin has spread all the way down to us...and all the way into our hearts. We need a Savior, just like they did. God has warned us of the punishment we deserve for our sins. But He also offers us to save us, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a kangaroo; wood; a submarine; black, sticky tar; a surfboard; and, the wind.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The kangaroo, wood, black, stick tar and the wind all belong.

2. Who praised the LORD for taking care of him, everywhere he went? Noah did.

For You and Me:

We have so much to thank the LORD for, too. He offers to save us from so much more than a flood. He offers to save us from the punishment we rightly deserve for disobeying Him. Yes, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive our sins. He will make us His dearly-loved people. We will get to have closeness with Him in our hearts now, through His Holy Spirit. And one day when we die, we will get to go to live with Him forever. That will be best of all!

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

How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?

Bad Things Came Through Sin...

When Sin Spread to the Whole World!

Adam and Eve's sin spread to the whole world. None of us love God or each other as He tells us to. None of us deserve anything but God's punishment for our sins. God was kind to send Noah to warn about His coming punishment and to save Noah and his family. Noah was right to trust in God and to tell others to turn from their sins and trust in God, also.

Noah looked forward in faith to the Savior God promised to send --Jesus! Jesus lived a perfect life and took the punishment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On Day Three, He rose from the dead in victory. Now, all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior can be forgiven and become God's people. Ask God to help you become one of His people, too. He love to do this!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being holy and just. You hate sin. You are fair in Your punishments for our sins against You and Your good laws.
- C** God, we know that every one of us have sinful hearts. We are no different from those people who sinned against You, long ago. We have all chosen to disobey You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us, when we should only get punishment for disobeying You. Thank You for promising to forgive all who turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and live for You. Help us to tell others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved, too. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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