

## About Detective Dan's Big Question Box

Detective Dan's Big Question Box introduces children to the key concepts of the Hide 'n' Seek Kids and the Deep Down Detective curriculums in more of an interactive storybook format. It was created to be used with very little prep and is especially good for your youngest kids with the least attention span, and, for teaching situations where there is no time to prepare or your teachers have very little experience teaching. It is similar to Simple Story Scenes, but the concepts have been simplified and the stories shortened. Also, the music is woven into the format, instead of having to access it separately.

### Format Overview

Every Detective Dan story follows the same, three-part format.

#### Part 1: The Kids and Detective Dan's Big Question

The kids receive a Big Question to solve from Detective Dan. They look in their Bibles and find the answer. They ask Detective Dan to tell them a Bible story related to what they are learning. (The QR codes to some of the Hide 'n' Seek Kids songs are also included on these pages, if you want to use them here.)

#### Part 2: The Bible Story

This is the same Bible story as is used in the regular Hide 'n' Seek Curriculum. However, I have tried to shorten the text as much as possible to make it more suitable for your youngest children. (Hide 'n' Seek Simple Story Scenes text is the same as the regular Hide 'n' Seek Kids story text.) There are listening questions that give the children something to listen for as they hear the story. (Note: there are two options of these questions: one for younger kids and one for older kids, such as 5 years old and up. After the story, the questions are answered, then there is a choice of two closing prayers: one for younger kids and another for older kids, such as 5 years old and up. There is also an optional gospel page that ties the gospel directly into the Bible truth/story, best for older kids. You can alternatively use the gospel songs to incorporate the gospel into every session via Wiggle and Worsip Time music instead of this gospel text page. This is usually better for younger kids' attention spans.)

#### Part 3: Wiggle and Worship Time

The session ends with Wiggle and Worship Time, in which the kids sing songs related to what they are learning. (The Big Question and Answer song, the Bible verse song, and other songs.) QR codes allow teachers to directly access the songs with a smart device. Or, you can always download the songs onto a device in advance.

### Why I Created This New Version

Post-Covid, our volunteer numbers of experienced teachers are still low. We needed a new version of the curriculum, so that even these very inexperienced teachers could easily teach the kids. Detective Dan fits this bill.

### How We Use This Detective Dan's at CHBC

Currently, we are using all three parts, plus the briefcase and props, with our 4 and 5 year olds. But, we are only using Parts 2 and 3 with our three year olds; and only Part 3 with our two year olds. This has each group of kids learning what seems best suited for their age in our large, classroom settings. We don't use any of the questions/prayers for older kids, just the more simpler ones for younger kids.

### Available Formats

#### Print Version

You can also choose to download or to purchase from Amazon, the regular, 8.5" x 11" size of Detective Dan. This will work just fine for smaller teaching situations.

#### Screen Version

You can also download Detective Dan and show on a screen. This is a very inexpensive way to make a large version of the curriculum with the printing expense. And, without having to decide where to store curriculum when not in use.

### Need More?

Feel free to use any of the games, coloring sheets, and other elements of the Hide 'n' Seek Kids curriculum, as found on the [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org) website. Hide 'n' Seek Kids Bits and Pieces section is best for this.

## Using Detective Dan's Big Question Box

### Prepare Your Materials

#### 1. Choose a Big Question "Case" story to teach the kids.

#### 2. Choose how you want to present the curriculum.

Print out/purchase from Amazon hard copies. Or, if displaying the curriculum on a screen, download the materials to a computer (or teach directly from the Praise Factory website -- Bits and Pieces section.) Connect your computer to the screen.

#### 3. Choose which parts you want to use with your kids.

See previous page for a description of each part and what might be most suitable for your kids. Here's what we do:

**2's** Introduce the Big Question, then use Part 3: Wiggle and Worship Time

**3's:** Part 2: Introduce the Big Question and Answer, then use the Bible Story and Part 3: Wiggle and Worship Time

**4's and older:** Parts 1,2,3 as written, and we incorporate the props and briefcase, as mentioned below in #5 optional props.

#### **OTHER, OPTIONAL PREPARATIONS**

#### 4. Prep for the music.

If using the music, you will need to connect to the internet or download the songs. You will likely want to get a portable bluetooth speaker to connect to your device to better amplify the songs. This is especially important if you are teaching a larger classroom of kids.

#### 5. Prep the optional props.

You can simply read the story from the pages, without any additional props. However, we find our kids (older 3's, 4's, 5's and up) LOVE to be part of the story by use of a "real" briefcase and "real" props, mirroring those used in the stories. We purchase a child's size briefcase, then, cut out and laminate the detective props, found in the back of this book. Put the Big Questions inside the corresponding props. The kids will get to pick out the prop and pull out the Big Question during that part of the story.

#### 6. Other resources we find useful.

A bell: We find a bell is a helpful way to call the kids gather for Bible Time.

Egg shakers: kids to enjoy shaking as they sing the songs during Wiggle and Worship Time.

### Get Ready to Teach

#### 1. Choose which "Case" you are teaching.

**2. If using the music, connect your device to the internet.** If amplifying the music through a speaker, connect your phone to the speaker via bluetooth or cord.

#### 3. Put your resources in place.

- Story
- Bell
- Mp3 player and speaker
- Big Question Box
- Music Shakers

#### 4. Pray.

### Calling the Kids to Bible Time

#### 1. Ring the bell.

#### 2. Play the Gathering Song.

#### 3. Ask kids to "park their toys" and join you in the Bible Time area.

#### 4. Use the Criss-Cross Applesauce song to help kids to sit down and settle.

#### 5. Pray the Opening Prayer.

#### 6. Use the curriculum, whichever parts you are using with your kids. (See above)

## Optional Briefcase and Props

Kids, ages 4 and up, love being a part of the story with the use of an actual briefcase and props. Here's how to make these props. Each pair of props form the front and back of a finished prop. There are 16 props, one for each Big Question. The Big Question is slipped inside the opening in each prop.

### Assembling the Optional Props for the Big Question Briefcase

**1. Go to [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org) and download the Prop Pictures and Big Questions file from the Hide 'n' Seek Kids Bits and Pieces section on [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org).**

This file will be located next to the Detective Dan Big Question Box files for each Bible Truth.

**2. Pair Up.**

Some are already attached and you cut them out as one and fold. Others, are two pieces that you will put together.

**3. Cut out each pair of props.**

Fold or piece back to back with picture sides outward.

**4. Laminate each pair together, leaving one edge of the assembled piece un laminated, forming a pouch opening.**

Do this by placing that edge along the side of the laminating sheet so that it doesn't seal when it goes through the laminator. You can also create the pouch opening by simply snipping one area of lamination. You can also enlarge your pouch opening this way, if you accidentally formed too small of an opening.

**5. Cut out the Big Questions and laminate them.**

**6. Fold and place each Big Question in the props as follows:**

Big Question 1	Clue Jar
Big Question 2	Magnifying Glass
Big Question 3	Shoe
Big Question 4	Sunglasses
Big Question 5	Invisible Ink Jar
Big Question 6	Bow Tie
Big Question 7	Badge
Big Question 8	Sock
Big Question 9	Camera
Big Question 10	Detective Hat
Big Question 11	Flashlight
Big Question 12	Watch
Big Question 13	Notepad
Big Question 14	ID Card
Big Question 15	Walkie-Talkie
Big Question 16	Wallet

**7. Tip:** We used a sharpie to write the number on the prop, too, so we didn't have to remember which Big Question goes into each prop, if one fell out.

**8. Purchase a kids' briefcase and put your props in it. You are ready to go!**