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## Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 4, Bible Truth 5

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### The Case of the Missing Donkeys 1 Samuel 9

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*(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)*

1. Kish's donkeys were missing. Kish looked in the stable. He looked in the fields. He looked far away to the hills, but still no donkeys!
2. "Take one of the servants and go look for the donkeys," Kish told his son, Saul. So, Saul and the servant searched all the places donkeys liked to go. But still, no donkeys. Where WERE those donkeys? Kish didn't know. Saul and the servant didn't know. Did ANYONE know?
3. The LORD did! He knows everything there is to know. And He even planned to use this donkey search to put Saul in just the right place, with just the right person, to make Saul the first king of Israel... without Saul even knowing any of this marvelous plan!
4. Saul didn't know God's plans yet, but Samuel did. Samuel was a prophet --one of the LORD's special messengers. "Tomorrow, the man I've chosen to be king over Israel is coming to Zuph," the LORD told him. "Anoint him. He will lead the people in fighting their enemies."
5. This was big news! Samuel started preparing a worship feast. They would offer worship gifts to the LORD and would honor Saul with a fine dinner. There was so much to do and so little time!
6. At last, everything was ready. The guests gathered and the worship gifts were offered. But where was Saul? After all, no one had told HIM about the worship feast. No one had told HIM he was going to be anointed king of Israel. He was just out looking for lost donkeys.
7. But Samuel had no doubts that Saul would come, and come right on time. He knew the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. Sure enough, here came Saul to Zuph. "This is the man I told you about," the LORD told Samuel. "The man I've chosen to be king."
8. "You are a great man of God and God tells you things. Can you tell me where my father's donkeys are?" Saul asked Samuel. "Don't worry. Your father's donkeys are back home," Samuel replied. "But come to a worship feast with me. I've been waiting for you."
9. Saul went with Samuel to the worship place and took the place of honor next to Samuel. And what a feast it was! Yum!
10. The next day, Samuel took out his jar of anointing oil and poured it over Saul's head. He kissed Saul, and said, "The LORD has chosen you to be king of Israel. You will rule over the people and rescue them from their enemies. Keep this a secret for now."
11. What a lot Saul had to think about! The LORD had planned to use those lost donkeys to make him king over Israel. The LORD had told Samuel what he would do and where he would go, even before he did it. The LORD really was the God who knows everything there is to know!