
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 9, Bible Truth 1

The Case of the Lover Who Left It All Behind *Luke 1-2; John 1,6*

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

1. One night, long ago, baby Jesus was born to Mary in Bethlehem. Jesus chose to leave behind the Perfect Wonderfulness of heaven with God, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. Why? To carry out God's great plan to save His people on earth. And this was the only way to do it.
2. When Jesus grew up, He taught the people about God and did amazing things by God's power. Soon, big crowds came to Jesus. They followed Him wherever He went, even up into the lonely mountains on the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
3. Over five thousand people gathered there with Jesus. They stayed so long that they ran out of food. "Grumble! Grumble!" went thousands of hungry stomachs. "We need food," said thousands of hungry mouths, but only a boy's two fish and five loaves of bread were found to feed them.
4. That little bit of fish and bread could never feed thousands of grumbly stomachs ...or could it? Jesus took the fish and bread, gave thanks to God, His Father, then gave it to the crowds to eat. By God's amazing power, the fish and bread fed everyone full, with twelve baskets of leftovers!
5. Now, the crowd was really excited. "Jesus must be the leader God promised to send us," the people thought. "Let's make him our king." Jesus had given them bread from heaven. What other good things might He give them, by God's power? They wanted Jesus to give them the good life.
6. Jesus knew what the people were thinking, and they had it wrong. He hadn't come down from heaven to give them more good things for life here. He had come to save them from sin and death, so they could have life with God as God's people forever. THAT would be best of all.
7. Jesus left the crowd and that night joined His disciples as they sailed back to Capernaum. The next day, the crowd sailed back to find Him. Oh, how they wanted the good food and the good life here on earth that Jesus had the power to give them, if He was their king!
8. But Jesus refused. "God is giving you something from heaven that's even better than bread for your bellies," Jesus explained. "I am the bread of LIFE! God has sent Me from heaven to be Your Savior, so you can have wonderful life with God as His people FOREVER," Jesus said.
9. The people didn't like Jesus' answer. "How can Jesus say He came from heaven?" they grumbled. "We know He's the son of Joseph and Mary. Jesus is just a fake!" they decided and left Him. Only Jesus' disciples stayed. "Will you leave Me, too?" Jesus asked them.
10. No, they wouldn't! "How can we leave You?" they said to Jesus. "Where else would we go? We know and believe that You are the Holy One of God. God has sent You to save His people from their sins," they told Him.
11. And Jesus' disciples were right, weren't they? For on just the right day, Jesus died on the cross to give His perfect life as the full payment for the God's people's sins.
12. Then on Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had come down from heaven to do God's will and save God's people, and He did it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.