
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 1

The Case of the Big, Bad, Scary News *Genesis 37:12-36; 39-50; Exodus 1-15*

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

1. Bad news! There was impossible, big, bad scary news in Canaan for Jacob's family. No rain fell from the sky. The rivers dried up. Their animals and crops were dying. If they didn't find food and water soon, they would die, too. They needed big help!
2. This was impossible, big, bad, SCARY news, but Jacob's family didn't need to fear. The LORD was their God. They were His people. He will always save and sustain them. He could make amazing, good news from impossible, big, bad, SCARY news, and that's just what He was about to do.
3. Good news! There was food in Egypt. And God had sent Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, to be in charge of giving it out. Jacob went to Egypt to live. Joseph and Pharaoh welcomed them. Jacob praised the LORD for turning their impossible, bad news into amazing, good news.
4. Life was happy in Egypt, so Jacob's family decided to stay. Many years passed, and Jacob's family grew from just a little family to a whole people of thousands and thousands. Now, they were called the people of Israel. (Israel was a special name God gave Jacob).
5. A new Pharaoh became king in Egypt. He had big plans to make big buildings, and he would make the people of Israel build them. He made them his slaves and worked them cruelly. Oh, no! More impossible, big, bad, SCARY news! Would the LORD save and sustain His people through this?
6. Yes, He would! The LORD sent frogs and gnats, hail, sicknesses and other sadnesses upon the king and his people. "Go away! Leave us alone," Pharaoh ordered. "Praise the LORD!" Moses and the people shouted. They packed their things and marched out of Egypt.
7. Across the desert, Moses led the people. They camped by the Red Sea. How good it was to be free and going home! The LORD had taken their impossible, big, bad, SCARY news and made it into amazing, good news. He always sustains His people. He, alone!
8. Then suddenly in the night, there was the sound of thundering wheels, neighing horses, and shouting soldiers. It was Pharaoh's army! The king had changed his mind. He wanted his slaves back, and had sent his soldiers bring the people of Israel back to Egypt.
9. With the Red Sea on one side, and the soldiers on the other, the people of Israel were stuck. This was more impossible, big, bad, scary news. But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still and watch."
10. "Whoosh," the LORD sent a strong, east wind. It blew on the waters and split them apart into two huge, watery walls, leaving a sandy path in between. The LORD had made a way of escape for His people, and they took it.
11. Pharaoh's soldiers tried to follow, but the LORD stopped them. As the sun rose in the east, and the last of God's people had crossed safely to the far side of the sea, the LORD ordered the waves back in place. Pharaoh's soldiers and their chariots were all swept away.
12. Then, the people of Israel rejoiced, singing: "The LORD is my strength and my Savior. He swept away our enemies. His love for His people will never fail." And they were right. The LORD would always save and sustain His people, even through impossible, big, bad, scary news!