

The Case of the Wonderful Ending

2 Peter 3

**Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard pictures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.

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 Wonderful Ending. 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:**

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What sad thing was about to happen to Peter?
2. What wonderful ending did he think about?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Revelation 21:5: "And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!"

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who is the king on the throne who rules over everything?
2. What will this king do to make everything new?

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story.

They are: a jail; a letter; a backpack; and a crown.

Hold up each of the four pictures for the children to see as you identify them. Better yet, put them up on your flannelgraph board, off to one side.

I need to know:

1. Which picture does not belong in the story?
2. How are the other three pictures important in the story?

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What did Peter praise God for?
2. What did Peter want the others to remember?

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What is the good news that made the Peter so happy, even when things were so hard?
2. What wonderful day did Peter and the other believers look forward to?

Read the questions, THEN SAY,

"Ok, Hide 'n' Seekers! 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."

"The Case of the Wonderful End" 2 Peter 3

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 order 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.

(SB1) Roman soldiers put Peter in jail. His feet were tied up. He couldn't get out. He was in trouble for telling people about Jesus. Soon the soldiers would come back and take him to die.

Can you pretend your feet are tied up?

Was Peter (SB2) sad? It seemed like he should be; but no, he was not! Why? Because Peter wasn't just thinking about (SB3) that dark room or the chains on his feet. He wasn't just thinking about the soldiers who would soon come to put him to death,, or what it would be like to die! No, Peter was thinking about something else, too...and this something else made him VERY HAPPY!

What was Peter thinking about? Peter was remembering the (SB4) good promises that God had made to His people in the Bible. These were what were making him so very happy.

Did Peter have a sad face or a happy face? A happy face! Because he was thinking about Jesus coming back! Can you make a happy face?

Here are some of (SB5) God's good promises that Peter thought about: "God promised that (SB6) Jesus will come back one day," Peter remembered. "He will descend from heaven with God's angels. (SB7) Everyone on earth will see Him and know that He is God's Son. Everyone will worship Him."

"Then God will make everything new! He will make a new heaven and a new earth for (SB8) His people to live in with Him," Peter remembered.

Can you point up to heaven? Can you point down to the earth? God will make a new heaven and earth for His people to live in with Him. It will be very beautiful... more beautiful than we can imagine. And it will be perfect!

"Jesus will be (SB9) the Forever King. (SB10) Sin, (SB11) sickness, (SB12) sadness, and (SB13) dying--EVERYTHING BAD--will be gone, and will never come back again! God's people will live (SB14) happily with God always!" Peter knew.

A king is in charge over everyone in a whole country. That's a lot of people! Kings wear a special hat called a crown. Can you put your hands on your head in a pretend crown? Jesus won't just be in charge over just people in a country. He will be king over EVERYONE!

Thinking about life with God in the new heaven and earth made Peter (SB15) happy!

It helped him as he sat in that little room, tied up, and ready to die. Peter knew his life on earth was almost over, but the best was yet to come! He would enjoy life with God forever! A brand new, PERFECT life in a brand new, PERFECT heaven and earth! How wonderful!

Peter thought about something else as he sat in jail. He thought about (SB16) some other people who loved Jesus, too. They lived in a faraway place, and they were (SB17) getting in trouble and being hurt for telling people about Jesus, just like he was.

How do you feel when you get hurt? What kind of face do you make? God's people felt like that when they got hurt, too.

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

"Are these people sad or are they still happy?" Peter wondered. "Do they remember the good promises God has made to them?"

"Maybe I should write them a letter before I die," Peter thought. "I can remind them of God's good promises. Maybe that will help them be happy, even though their enemies are hurting them."

"Yes," decided Peter. "I WILL write them a letter. (SB18) I will write it RIGHT NOW!"

Hurry, Peter, hurry! Write your letter!

Can you pretend like you are writing a letter?

Peter wrote his letter. He gave (SB19) it to a friend to take to God's people in the faraway place.

(SB20) Walk, walk, walk! Run, run, run, went Peter's friend, all the way to the faraway place.

Can you stomp your feet in place like you are walking? Now go faster, like you are running! That's how fast Peter's friend went.

At last Peter's friend came to the faraway place. He (33) gave the letter to God's people.

"Look! Look! It's a letter from Peter!" they exclaimed. "Let's read it!" (SB22) Everyone gathered around to hear. What did it say?

They read it out loud so everyone could hear:

Hold hands like pretending to hold a letter and read a letter.

"Dear God's People,

I know (SB23) some people are hurting you. They don't want you to tell others about Jesus. There are some people hurting me, too. But don't be scared! Keep on telling people about Jesus!

(SB24) Remember God's good promises! (SB25) Jesus will come back to earth one day. God will make everything new. He will make a new heaven and earth for His people to live in with Him. Jesus will be our Forever King. Everything bad will be gone, never to come back again! We will live happily with God always! So don't be sad. (SB26) Be happy! God will do everything He has promised. Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Signed, Peter."

Make your happiest face and cheer really loud! Yay! Let's say with God's people: "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

What did God's people in that faraway place do when they heard Peter's words? Did they trust in God? Did they remember His promises? I don't know, but I hope so.

But what I DO know is that you and I, we can know God's promises and remember them. God can use His promises to help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. He can use them to help us to get ready for the day when Jesus will come back and God will make everything new! Yay!

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. What sad thing was about to happen to Peter?**

Peter was about to be killed.

2. What wonderful ending did he think about?

He thought about going to be with Jesus. He thought about the day when Jesus would come back to this world and make everything new. Then, Jesus would be the Forever King and he and all of God's people would one day live happily with Him forever.

For You and Me:

We all have to face death one day. Isn't it wonderful that God can give us the same hope that He gave Peter? We, too, can turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We, too, can rejoice that the day is coming when we can live with Jesus forever happy in the new world He will make one day.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is **Revelation 21:5**: "And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!"

1. Who is the king on the throne who rules over everything?

Jesus.

2. What will this king do to make everything new?

He will return to this world and get rid of all sin and death.

This world will go away and He will make a wonderful,

new world for His people to live with Him forever.

For You and Me:

Jesus will return one day. He will get rid of sin and death and make a wonderful, new world for His people to live in with Him, happy forever. How can we become God's people who get to live with Him in the new world that is coming? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. God loves to help us do this. Ask Him!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story. They are: a jail; a letter; a backpack; and a crown.

1. Which picture does not belong in the story?

The backpack.

2. How are the other three pictures important in the story? Peter was put in jail for telling others about Jesus. Even though he was about to die, Peter rejoiced that Jesus was the great king who ruled over everything. Peter was about to go be with Him in heaven when he died. Best of all, one day King Jesus would come back and do away with sin and death. He would make a wonderful, new world where God's people will live happily with Him forever. Peter sent a letter to some of God's people who lived faraway to comfort them and help them to keep on trusting in God.

For You and Me:

We all have to face death one day. Isn't it wonderful that God can give us the same hope that He gave Peter? We, too, can turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We, too, can rejoice that the day is coming when we can live with Jesus forever in the new world He will make one day.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

1. What did Peter praise God for? For being king over all. His good plans will happen. Jesus will come back and be the great, Forever King in the new world that God will make.

2. What did Peter want the others to remember?

Peter wanted the other believers to remember the wonderful day that was coming. They might have to go through hard things now, but when Jesus comes back, there will be nothing but happiness forever.

For You and Me:

God is still the king over the whole world. His Son, Jesus, is still going to come to make a wonderful, new world. We, too, can praise God for being the one, true God and our Savior. We can be His people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then, we, too, will look forward to the day when He comes back and creates the wonderful, new world that God's people will live in with Him.

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

1. What is the good news that made the Peter and so happy, even when things were so hard? The good news of Jesus. Jesus gave up His life on the cross as the perfect payment for sins. He rose from the dead on the third day showing He had beaten sin and death forever. We can know God's forgiveness and be His people, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

2. What wonderful day did Peter and the other believers look forward to? The day when King Jesus will return and do away with sin and death forever. The day He will make everything new and they will live with Him forever happy in the wonderful, new world He will create.

For You and Me:

The good news that made Peter happy can make us happy, too, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. It can even make us happy when we go through hard things, like Peter and the others went through. We can look forward to the day when Jesus will come back and make everything new. If we are God's people, we will get to live there with Him!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What Will Happen When Jesus Comes Back?****God Will Make Everything New!**

Peter thought about Jesus coming back and that made him happy and excited! He wanted Jesus to come back soon! He was ready.

How did Peter get ready? He turned away from disobeying God. He asked Jesus to be his Savior. Jesus forgave his sins. He took the punishment Peter deserved for disobeying God! He sent God's Holy Spirit to live in Peter's heart and gave him special closeness with God. That's how Peter became one of God's people.

We can be ready, too, if we turn away from disobeying God and ask Jesus to be our Savior! God will forgive us our sins. He will send God's Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and give us special closeness with God. And one day, we, too, will get to go to live with Him forever! And that will be best of all!

Isn't that wonderful?! Let's thank God and praise God right now for sending Jesus to save us! Let's ask Him to help us to say sorry to Him and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 16 ACTS Prayer

A=Adoration C=Confession T=Thanksgiving S=Supplication

A We praise You, Jesus, that one day You will put an end to disobeying forever.

C God, we confess that we often disobey You and Your good laws. Please forgive us.

T Thank You, Jesus, for promising to get rid of all the sad and bad things (death, crying, pain, etc) and making everything new and forever happy.

S God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We want to be with You and Your people in the beautiful, new world You will make. Come back soon, Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***Return to page 7 of the Lesson Plan
for the script of the rest of this lesson.***