

The Case of the Stranger's Very Good News

Acts 8:1-8

**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 Stranger's Very Good News. 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. Who ran away from Jerusalem and went to Samaria?
2. What was the good news he brought with him and shared?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

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

1. Who did God use to tell the world the good news about His Son, Jesus?
2. What happened when they shared the good news?

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: Some enemies; some bags; some sick people; and a horse.

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 three pictures belong in the story and which one does not?
2. How did God use the other three things to spread the good news of Jesus?

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

1. Philip told the good news of Jesus to the people of what city?
2. What did they confess to God when they heard the gospel?

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. Why was it bad news that the Christians had to leave Jerusalem?
2. What good news did they share with people as they ran away to live in new places?

Read the questions, THEN SAY,

"Ok, Hide 'n' Seekers! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can find the answers to Detective Dan's questions. When I finish telling the story, we'll see what we come up with."

“The Case of the Stranger’s Very Good News” Acts 8:1-8

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.

“Run! Pack your bags! Get out of town!” The leaders of the Christians (SB1) told the other Christians (SB2). “Jerusalem isn’t safe anymore! The enemies of Jesus (SB3) are after you! They will hurt you and put you in jail if they catch you!” the leaders warned. “So get out of town...NOW!”

How fast would you run if you had enemies trying to get you? Run in place and show me!

That’s exactly what most of the Christians did. They (SB4) packed their bags and ran, ran, ran out of town!

Oh, what bad news this was! Or was it? Yes, it was BAD news that these Christians had to leave their homes and their friends and everything they knew in Jerusalem. And it was BAD news that they had enemies who wanted to hurt them. But.... it was GOOD news for the people of the world.

Why? Because when those Christians ran away, they took the gospel (SB5) with them--that wonderful, marvelous, amazing good news about Jesus--and they shared it with everyone they met.

Some of the Christians ran down towards the sea (SB6) and made their home there. And what good news did they tell the people there? The gospel--the good news of Jesus (SB7)!

Some ran towards dry, deserty lands (SB8) and made their home there. And what did they tell the people they met there? The gospel--the good news of Jesus (SB9)!

Some ran towards the tall mountains (SB10) and made their home there.

Can you pretend to climb up a mountain...carrying your bags with you???

And what did they tell the people they met there? The gospel--the good news of Jesus (SB11)!

Some even ran so far away that they went to other countries. One of them was a godly man named Philip (SB12). Philip ran all the way to a place called Samaria and to live. And what did he tell the people he met there?

Can you tell me...the good news of who? Jesus!

You guessed it! The gospel--the good news of Jesus (SB13)!

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

As (SB14) Philip told the good news of Jesus, crowds of people gathered around and listened. There were poor people and rich people; sick people (SB15) and well people; old people and young people. And to all, Philip told the gospel (SB16), good news of Jesus. This is what he told them:

“God is the good King (SB17) and Creator of the whole world. He created us and we should obey Him. But instead, we’ve all chosen to disobey Him. Disobeying God is what God calls sin (SB18); and, we deserve His punishment for our sins against Him. We need a Savior!” Philip told them.

“God has sent Jesus (SB19) to be that Savior. Jesus is God’s perfect Son who came to earth to suffer and die on the cross to pay for our sins. (SB20) Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had beaten sin and death,” Philip shared.

“Now everyone who turns away from sinning and trusts in Jesus as their Savior can be saved. God makes them His people. And they will get to know and live with God forever! This is the gospel—God’s good news to you. Come, turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior today!” Philip told them.

Have you heard this good news before? It is very good news, isn’t it?

“What amazing things this stranger is saying,” the Samaritans thought! “We haven’t heard anything like this before. Could it really be true?” they wondered.

Then God did something marvelous to help them know this good news really was true. Right then and there, Philip prayed for God to heal the sick people listening to him preach. (SB21) And right then and there, without any medicine, or doctor, or hospital, God made them well. By His great power alone!

The people of Samaria were even more amazed! God Holy Spirit (SB22) worked in the hearts of many people as they heard the good news of Jesus and saw God’s mighty power to heal the sick. “Surely this good news is true!” they exclaimed. They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. They were saved from their sins! God had made them His people!

Let’s clap our hands and say, “Yay” for the good things God did in those people!

So, yes, maybe it had been bad news that made Philip run away from Jerusalem. But God had turned that bad news into good news for the people of Samaria. And that made Philip --and them --very, very happy!

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:

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

- 1. Who ran away from Jerusalem and went to Samaria?** Philip.
- 2. What was the good news he brought with him and shared?** God forgives our sins and makes us His people when we trust in Jesus as our Savior and live for Him.

For You and Me:

The good news Philip shared wasn't just for the people of Samaria. It's for us, too! God will forgive our sins and make us His people when we trust in Jesus as our Savior and live for Him. God will help us do this, if we ask Him to. What good news that is!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

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

- 1. Who did God use to tell the world the good news about His Son, Jesus?** His people--Philip and the other Christians.
- 2. What happened when they shared the good news?** God worked in the hearts of many. They turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:

God still uses His people today to tell others the good news about His Son, Jesus. God has even used them to tell us the good news of Jesus today! We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to believe the good news of Jesus. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found four clues, but one of them is NOT in the story. They are: Some enemies; some bags; another country; and a horse.

1. Which of the three pictures belong in the story and which one does not? The horse does not belong.

2. How did God use the other three things to spread the good news of Jesus? The Christians packed their bags and left Jerusalem to get away from their enemies who wanted to hurt them. They went to live in many places, even other countries, and told the people there the good news of Jesus.

For You and Me:

God has a wonderful plan to tell the whole world the good news of Jesus. He wants everyone to know how their sins can be forgiven and they can become one of His people. And God will use everything as part of this great plan--even very sad things like those believers having to leave their homes. How great is our God! How good and great are His plans!

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

- 1. Philip told the good news of Jesus to the people of what city?** The city of Samaria.
- 2. What did many people confess to God when they heard the gospel?** They confessed their sins and asked God to forgive their sins....and He did!

For You and Me:

Like the people of Samaria, we are sinners who need to confess our sins to God. Like them, we can ask Him to forgive our sins... and He can!

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. Why was it bad news that the Christians had to leave Jerusalem? They had to leave their homes and their friends.

2. What good news did they share with people as they ran away to live in new places? They told them the gospel--how they could become God's people by turning away from their sins and trusting in Jesus as their Savior.

For You and Me:

This good news is for us, too. Jesus can save us from our sins and make us God's people, too, when we repent of our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)

Our Bible Truth is:

What Is the Gospel?

It's Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ!

Philip was so happy when the people of Samaria heard the good news of Jesus and believed. That good news is for us, too! We can ask God to work in our heart and help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God will forgive our sins and save us! He will live in our heart, helping us to know Him right now. And one day, we will go to live with Him in heaven forever. That will be best of all!

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 3 ACTS Prayer

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

- A** We praise you, God. You love us so much! You, Yourself, have chosen to send a Savior to save us!
- C** God, in our hearts we know that You are God and that we should obey You, but many times we don't. We are all sinners who deserve Your punishment for disobeying You. Oh, how we need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for sending Your dear Son, Jesus to be that Savior. Thank You for making the way for our sins to be forgiven.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You and live for You. Help us to go and tell others the good news of the gospel, too. In Jesus' name we pray.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.