

The Case of the Big Voice

Exodus 19-20, 24



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 Big Voice. 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 had the big voice?
2. What did the big voice say?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Psalm 19:7: Our Bible verse is Psalm 19:7: “The law of the LORD is perfect.”

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

1. How did the LORD give His laws to His people long ago?
2. What did the LORD want the people to do with His laws?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a trumpet; a camel; a idol; and, lightning.

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 were the other three things important in our story?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What did the people want to do with God’s laws?
2. What did the people need to ask the LORD to do, if they were to obey His laws?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

1. What did the people promise the LORD they would do with His perfect laws?
2. Did they keep their promise? Who did the LORD need to send them?

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 Big Voice" Exodus 19-20, 24

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) "Get ready! God is coming to meet with you at the big mountain," Moses told (SB2) the people. "He is giving you His laws. He wants you to be His people," he said.

Can you stretch your arms up high and touch your fingers together to make the shape of a big mountain?

"Yay! Yay!" the people said. "We will get ready!"

Say, "Yay" with the people!

The people (SB3) got ready. They put (SB4) stones all around the bottom of the big mountain. No one was to go up on it. They washed themselves; and then, they went to the bottom of the big mountain and waited.

When we wait, we sit quietly and very still. Can you do that?

When would the LORD come? How would they know when He was there? They were about to find out. They looked up and what did they see?

What do you think they saw?

A (SB5A,B) great, blazing fire began to cover the big mountain! (SB6A,B) Thick clouds of grey smoke filled the air!

Can you wiggle your fingers like the flames of a fire?

There was (SB7) bright, crashing lightning and loud, earth-shaking thunder.

Let's make crashing lightning with our arms! Stick out your pointer fingers and push arms out quickly, and make a pretend thunder sound.

And (SB8) a trumpet blasted out louder and louder and louder! The LORD was coming!

Then the people heard it! A big, big, BIG voice! It was the voice of God, Himself!

What do you think God would say to them?

"(SB9) I am the LORD your God. I want you to be My special people," He told them. "Here are (SB10) My Ten, Big Rules for you to live by:

(SB11) 1. Love Me most of all. (SB12) 2. Worship only Me. Don't worship fake gods.

(SB13) 3. Love Me by how you talk about Me and how you live.

Put your hand over your heart.

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

(SB14) 4. Have a special day each week to rest and to worship Me. (SB15) 5. Love and obey your mommy and daddy. (SB16) 6. Don't murder people. (SB17) 7. Keep your promise to love only your own husband/wife.

(SB18) 8. Don't take other people's things. (SB19) 9. Don't lie. (SB20) 10. Be happy with what I give you: your husband, your wife, your things and your life! Don't be greedy for what others have." the LORD said.

These were the ten, big rules the LORD gave the people that day.

Can you show me 10 fingers?

The people saw the thick, grey smoke and the great, blazing fire and the bright, crashing lightning. They heard the loud, earth-shaking thunder and the loud, blasting trumpet.

They listened to God's big, big, BIG voice as He gave them His Ten, Big Rules... and they were (SB21) TERRIFIED! They moved back from the mountain and trembled with fear!

Can you show me a very scared face? Can you shake your body like you were trembling from being so scared?

How amazing was the LORD! He was so great! He was so good! He was the one, true, living God! The people could see that!

And oh, how very different they were from Him! They weren't great like He was! They were just people... little, weak people! And they weren't good like Him, either. They had sin in their hearts. They disobeyed God and His good ways.

No, they weren't like the LORD at all! No wonder they were so scared that day as they stood before Him and heard His voice!

Moses (SB22) went to the people and talked to them. "Don't be afraid. God wants you to be His people," he told them.

"God showed you how good and mighty He is so you will want to obey His big rules. He doesn't want to hurt you," Moses comforted them. "He wants to love you and do good to you."

Why did God show the people how good and might He was? Just to scare them? No! To help them love and obey Him, for their own good!

So (SB23) the LORD and the people made big promises to each other. "I will be Your God," the LORD promised the people. "Live as My people and I will love you and take care of you always," He told them.

"(SB24) Yes, LORD, we will be Your people," the people promised Him. "We will love You and trust You. We will obey these wonderful, big rules You have given us."

What did the people say? Can you say it, too? "We will obey God's big rules! We will be His people!"

Then (SB25) everyone celebrated! How happy it was to be loved by God! How good it was to have His laws to live by!

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 had the big voice?** The LORD did.
- 2. What did the big voice say?** He gave the people His Ten, Big Rules to live by.

For You and Me:

The LORD gave them His good rules to live by. God promised to care for the people and the people promised to obey His good rules. But the sad truth is they didn't! Did this mean God stopped taking care of them? No, it did not! God sent His Son, Jesus, to save them from their sins. He would rescue them, even though they had broken their promise to obey Him. How kind is the LORD! God will forgive our sins, too, and save us through Jesus, when we confess our sins to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible verse is Psalm 19:7: "The law of the LORD is perfect."

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

- 1. How did the LORD give His laws to His people long ago?** He spoke them out loud in a big voice.
- 2. What did the LORD want the people to do with His laws?** He wanted them to obey them.

For You and Me:

The people wanted to obey the LORD's good rules; but sadly, they disobeyed them all. We are the same way. We might want to obey God's laws--and sometimes we do. But too many times we don't. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save His people from their sins. He would rescue them, even though they had broken their promise to obey Him. How kind is the LORD! God will forgive our sins, too, and save us through Jesus, when we confess our sins to Him 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: a trumpet; a camel; an idol; and, lightning.

- 1. Which of the three pictures belong in the story and which one does not?** The camel does not.
- 2. How were the other three things important in our story?** The people saw big flashes of lightning and heard the sound of a trumpet as the LORD came to give them His Ten, Big Rules. He told them not to worship any idols. They were to worship Him only. The people promised to Him they would.

For You and Me:

The people promised the LORD that they would worship only Him and would keep all of His good laws. Sadly, they broke their promise and disobeyed all His laws. But the LORD was still so kind to them. He would rescue them, even though they had broken their promise to obey Him. He promised to send His Son, Jesus, to save them from their sins, if they would turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This promise is for us, too. God will forgive our sins and save us through Jesus, when we confess our sins to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #4 Listening Assignment:

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

- 1. What did the people want to do with God's laws?** They wanted to always obey them.
- 2. What did the people need to ask the LORD to do, if they were to obey His laws?** They needed to ask the LORD to help them keep His laws. And, they needed to ask Him to forgive them when they disobeyed them. They needed Him to give them a Savior to save them from their sins.

For You and Me:

We are like God's people, long ago. We may want to keep God's good rules, but we do not. We need to ask God to help us to obey His good rules. We need to ask Him to forgive us when we disobey them. And most of all, we need to ask Jesus to be our Savior and save us from our sins. He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson #5 Listening Assignment:

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

- 1. What did the people promise the LORD they would do with His perfect laws?** Obey them.
- 2. Did they keep their promise? Who did the LORD need to send them?** No, they didn't. A Savior.

For You and Me:

The people promised to obey the LORD's good laws, but they broke them all. But the LORD was still so kind to them. He would rescue them, even though they had broken their promise to obey Him. He promised to send His Son, Jesus, to save them from their sins, if they would turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. This promise is for us, too. God will forgive our sins and save us through Jesus, when we confess our sins to Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

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

Our Bible Truth is:

What Are God's Laws Like?

God's Laws Are Perfect!

God's Laws Are Perfect! But the people in our Bible story weren't perfect, were they? No, they weren't! They said they would obey God's big rules... and they wanted to obey them. But, do you know what? Many times, they didn't obey them! No! They DIS-obeyed them!

We are just like those people who lived long ago! We disobey God's big rules, too! And the truth is, we deserve God's punishment for disobeying His rules, too! What sad news!

But that's not the end of the story! God knows we are sinners and He wants to forgive us! That's why He sent Jesus to be our Savior.

When we say sorry to God for disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive us ... and save us! What a wonderful beginning that will be! We will get to know God in our hearts. And then one day, we will go to live happily with Him forever.

Close in prayer.

Closing Unit 7 ACTS Prayer

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

- A** We praise You, God. You are so wise and good! So are the rules You give us to live by!
- C** God, we break all Your good laws. Sometimes we do not obey our parents. Sometimes we lie. Sometimes we want things that belong to others. We do not love you most of all. Please forgive us. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for giving us Your good laws. They show us how to love and obey You. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us. We need Him to save us because we all disobey You and break Your laws. How good You are to give Him as our Savior!
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to learn Your good laws. Help us to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. You can help us do what we could never do on our own.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.