

The Case of the Big Ten*Exodus 16,19,20***Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

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

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 Ten. 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:

I need to find out:

1. What were the “Big Ten”? What made them so big?
2. Who did God give them to obey?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Deuteronomy 5:1,7-21**

“Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them... You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image. You shall not bow down to them or serve them... You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. And you shall not commit adultery. And you shall not steal. And you shall not bear false witness... And you shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor’s.”

I need to find out:

1. How did God tell the people of Israel these Ten, Big Rules?
2. Why did the people need to know these rules?

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

Our six clues were: a mountain called Sinai, laws written in stone, a tree, clean clothes, a tent, and an airplane. Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?
2. What did the “Big Ten” laws show the people of Israel they needed to ask God to give them?

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! 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.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Answers to questions; the gospel; and, ACTS prayer are included with the story text.

The Case of the Big Ten Exodus 16,19,20

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 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) "Hooray! Hooray! Praise the LORD!" the Israelites shouted. "God has freed us from our enemies, the Egyptians! He is taking us to a new home, a very special place called the Promised Land! Moses, the leader God has given us, will lead us there." How happy the Israelites and Moses were! Life would be great in God's Promised Land.

But before they could go to their new home, there was somewhere else they had to go: to great Mt. Sinai. It was there the LORD would meet with them to do something very special.

Can you guess what He wanted to do?

The LORD wanted to make them His people in a very special way. They would make promises to each other. The LORD would promise to always take care of them and give them everything they needed. And the people would promise to love and obey Him. This is how they would live happily with the LORD and each other in the Promised Land the LORD would give them.

(SB2) So tramp, tramp, tramp, they went, across the dry, dusty wilderness. How the hot, hot sun beat down on them! There was hardly a cloud in the sky... or a tree on the ground to give them any shade. Day after day they traveled until at last they reached Mt. Sinai—the very mountain where Moses had first met with the LORD.

And in the shadow of that mountain, (SB3) they set up their camp. And from the camp, they watched (SB4) Moses climb up the mountain. Where was he going? What was he going to do?

What do you think he was going to do?

Moses was going to meet with the LORD.

(SB5) "Tell the people to get ready to meet with Me," the LORD told Moses. "I am holy and the people are not. I can only meet with them if they are very, very careful. Tell them to set up fences around the bottom of this mountain, so that no animal or person will step foot on it. Have everyone take a bath and wash their clothes. Tell them to prepare their hearts for My coming," the LORD told Moses. "And tell them to do this quickly. I will come to them in two days."

(Move SB4 back down to camp) Moses went back down the mountain and told the people what the LORD had said. What a lot there was to do in those two days! (SB6, SB7) All that fence had to be put in place! All those people (SB8) needed to take baths and wash their clothes! All those hearts, made ready for the LORD!

Day One passed, then Day Two. Everything was completed. How exciting it must have been that night knowing that the LORD would come to meet with them the very next day! What would it be like?

What do you think it would be like?

Soon they would know!

Yes, sure enough, the next morning they found out. Perhaps the skies had been bright and cloudless the day before, but this morning the people awoke to (SB9) the sound of loud rumbles of thunder and a blaring trumpet blast. They peered out of their tents to find Mt. Sinai completely covered in (SB10) thick cloud with great flashes of lighting. (SB11) Everyone trembled with fear.

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

(SB12) **Moses led the people out of the camp to the very foot of Mt. Sinai. As they watched, (SB13A,B) great, billowing clouds of smoke rose from the mountain as (SB14A,B) the LORD descended on the top of the mountain in fire. They could feel the ground under their feet move as the whole mountain shook. The (SB15) LORD, the one, true God, had come to meet with them! (Move SB4 back up mountain) Moses went up the mountain to talk with the LORD.**

The LORD and Moses spoke together on the mountain as the trumpet blasted louder and louder. After making sure the people stayed off the mountain one last time, the LORD spoke in a loud voice for all the people to hear. This what He said to them:

(SB16) **"I am the LORD your God who rescued you from your enemies, the Egyptians. I want to make special promises with you. I will love you and take care of you. You will be My people. But you must make special promises to Me, too. You must keep My laws if you are to be My people. (SB17) Here are My laws:**

(SB18) **Worship Me alone. (SB19) Don't make gods out of anything you see in the sky or on the earth around you. Worship Me alone. (SB20) Use my name, the LORD, only to honor Me. (SB21) Keep one day a week, the Sabbath day, a day of worship and rest. (SB22) Honor your father and mother. Listen to them and obey them. (SB23) Do not murder anyone. (SB24) Do not treat someone else's husband or wife as if they are yours. (SB25) Don't steal and (SB26) don't lie. (SB27) Don't covet. Don't keep longing after something someone else has that you want. Be happy with what I give you."**

Do you know what we call these Ten, Big Laws of the LORD?

Can you tell me?

They are called the Ten Commandments.

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke and heard the LORD's voice and how do you think they felt?

What do you think?

(SB28) **They trembled with fear! They stayed away from the mountain and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. We will do whatever the LORD wants us to do. We want to be His people. But do not have Him speak to us. We are afraid we will die, we are so scared by His mightiness and holiness," they exclaimed.**

"Don't be afraid," Moses told them. "(SB29) The LORD hasn't come to hurt you. He has come in this mighty way so you will know what He is like and so you will not want to break the good laws He is giving you," he explained. "But I will go and meet with God for you, then I will come back down and tell you what He says."

Away went Moses. The people watched as (Move SB14 back up mountain) he climbed up Mt. Sinai and disappeared in the thick, dark cloud to meet with the LORD. Up on the mountain, (SB30) the LORD, Himself, wrote His 10 Big, Laws onto stone and (SB31) gave them to Moses. Then the LORD told Moses many other laws to teach the people so they could know how to love Him and love each other. "Write down all these laws so the people will always know how to love and obey Me," the LORD said.

And that was what Moses did. (SB32) He wrote all those good laws down in the Bible, so that not just those Israelites long ago could know them; but, so all peoples, in all times, could know God's laws and how God's people should live. And by those laws, we could get ready for the Savior we would all need... because none of us could ever keep all of those laws as God requires. And who would that Savior be? (SB33) Jesus, God's very own Son!

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 were the "Big Ten"? What made them so big?**

The "Big Ten" were the Ten Commandments that the LORD gave the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai that day. We call them BIG because they are so important. They are the laws behind all of the other laws the LORD would give. They tell us how to love the LORD and love each other.

2. Who did God give them to obey? The LORD first gave them to the people of Israel, but they are laws for all of us to obey.

For You and Me:

The LORD wants all of us to obey His good laws. They are for us all to live by. But sadly, we all break them. That's why God sent Jesus to save us. He, alone, kept God's laws perfectly. And He gave His life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose in victory. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He delights to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Deuteronomy 5:1,7-21, ESV**

"Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them... You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image. You shall not bow down to them or serve them... You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... Honor your father and your mother... You shall not murder. And you shall not commit adultery. And you shall not steal. And you shall not bear false witness... And you shall not covet... anything that is your neighbor's."

1. How did God tell the people of Israel these Ten, Big Rules? He met with them at Mt. Sinai. He spoke to them, Himself, out a dark, thick cloud from the mountain. He, Himself, wrote them down on stone tablets for them to have.

2. Why did the people need to know these rules? They needed to know them so they could obey them. This was part of making special promises with God to become His people.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a mountain called Sinai, laws written in stone, a tree, clean clothes, a tent, and an airplane.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The mountain, the laws, the clean clothes and the tent belong.

2. What did the "Big Ten" laws show the people of Israel they needed to ask God to give them? They needed to ask God to give them a Savior because they could never obey God's laws as they should.

For You and Me:

The people of Israel needed a Savior and the LORD sent them one: Jesus, His very own Son! Jesus lived a perfect life. He always kept all of God's laws. And He gave His life as the full payment for the sins of God's people when He suffered and died on the cross. On the third day, He rose in victory. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He delights to do this!

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 Word."They Are Written in the Bible, God's Word!**

God gave us His laws in His Word, the Bible, so we could know how to live lives that please Him. But even though we know God's laws, we do not keep them, do we? No, we all break them. We choose to disobey God and we all deserve God's punishment for our sins! How sad! God would have been perfectly fair to give us all the punishment we deserve for breaking His laws. He is holy and good. But God is so rich in mercy. He chose to give us something better than we deserve. He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life. Yes! Jesus kept every, single one of God's laws! And on the cross, He suffered and died, giving His perfect life as the full payment for the sins of all who turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had really beaten sin and death! Because of Jesus, all who trust in Him as their Savior get to enjoy wonderful, special closeness with God as His special people, even now. And one day, they will go to live with Him forever. We can be God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus. Ask Him to help you! He loves to do this!

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being the Giver of Your perfectly good laws.
- C** God, we confess that we break Your good laws. Sometimes we do not obey our parents. Sometimes we lie. Sometimes we want things that belong to others. You made us to be law keepers, but we are all lawbreakers. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You for giving us Your good laws so we know how to love and obey You. Thanks You for making sure they were written down just right in Your Word, the Bible.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to learn Your good laws and obey them. Help us to love You by living for You and keeping Your good laws. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.

