

Bible Story: The Case of the Woman Who Didn't See*The Book of Ruth***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 Woman Who Didn't Sees. 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 know:

1. **Why was Naomi so sad?**
2. **What about God did she not see?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 23:1-3,6, ESV:**

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake... Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

I need to know:

1. **Who did the LORD take care of and make sure she was not in want?**
2. **How did the LORD show His goodness and love to her?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story.

They are: a banana, a woman named Ruth, a phone, barley, a baby, and a dead man.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

1. **Which four belong in the story and which two don't?**
2. **What were some of the many things Naomi had to thank the LORD for?**

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 Woman Who Didn't See *The Book of Ruth*

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) Boo hoo! Boo hoo!” Naomi cried. (SB2) Her husband had died. Her two sons had died. Naomi (SB3) was so sad. She missed them so much!

But Naomi wasn't just sad. (SB4) She was scared. Only (SB5) Orpah and Ruth, the wives of her sons, were left. Surely they would go back home to live with their mother and father. That's what wives did back then when their husbands died. They knew that their mother and father would take care of them.

But poor Naomi, she didn't have a mother or father to go home to. And she was far, far away from her home in Bethlehem. Who would take care of her? Who would see that she had food to eat and clothes to wear? How would she get back home all by herself? What was Naomi to do? And this is why Naomi was so scared.

Who do you think could take care of her?

Naomi was right to be sad. It is a sad thing when your husband and sons die. But, (SB6) Naomi did NOT have to be scared. She did NOT need to worry about who would take care of her. Why? Because (SB7) Naomi was one of God's people. She knew God's Word, the Bible. She knew God's promises to always take care of His people. She could trust Him to take care of her, even though she didn't know how.

But right then, all Naomi could think about were the sad things that had happened to her. She thought about all these sad things and decided that God had stopped taking care of her.

Do you think God had really stopped taking care of her?

How wrong Naomi was! God had NOT stopped taking care of her! He is so kind to His people. He treats them better than they deserve! He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too! So, even though Naomi was scared and did not think God would take care of her, He most certainly would. Let's find out how!

At last it was time for (SB8) Naomi to say goodbye to Orpah and Ruth, the wives of her sons. It was time for them to go live with their mother and father. It was time for her to make the long walk all the way back home to Bethlehem by herself.

“Goodbye, Orpah! Goodbye, Ruth!” Naomi told them. She kissed them goodbye and they all wept aloud. They were sad to leave each other.

“Wait,” said Orpah and Ruth. “We won't go back home to our parents. We will go with you instead. We will walk with you all the way back to Bethlehem. (SB9) We will take care of you,” they offered.

“(SB10) No,” Naomi said. “You must go home to your father and mother,” she insisted. “Where I am going there is no one to take care of me and there will be no one to take care of you either. Not even God will take care of me,” she said.

Oh, Naomi! You shouldn't say that! You know God's Word, the Bible. You know that (SB11) God promises to always take care of His people. He will take care of you! Keep trusting in God!

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

And so God did...even though Naomi did not trust Him to take care of her. God loves His people so much that He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. For, though (SB12) Orpah said goodbye to Naomi and went home to her father and mother, God had given Ruth a special love for Naomi and for Him. (SB13) Ruth clung to Naomi and said, "Please don't make me go back home! (SB14) I want to worship your God. He's the one, true God. I want to take care of you the rest of my life! (SB15) Please let me go with you back home to Bethlehem!" she begged. What would Naomi do now?

What do you think she did? Would she let Ruth come with her?

Naomi looked at Ruth. She could see that nothing would change Ruth's mind. Ruth refused to go home to her father and mother, so Naomi agreed. Ruth could walk the long walk to Bethlehem with Naomi. She would take care of Naomi her whole life. God was showing Naomi that He WOULD take care of her...and He would take care of her through Ruth... if Naomi would only see!

Together, Naomi and Ruth walked to Bethlehem. (SB16) Up mountains and down mountains. (SB17) Through valleys, along dusty roads, and beside grassy fields they walked. On and on and on. At last (SB18) they came to Naomi's home in Bethlehem.

(SB19) Many people came out to greet Naomi. It had been so long since they had seen her! But when they looked at her, they were surprised at what they saw. "Is this really Naomi?" the women asked. "She seems so different! Where is her husband? Where are her sons? Where is her smile?" they wondered.

Naomi told them her sad news. "(SB20) My husband and sons have died. I am all alone. I am so sad that (SB21) I want you to stop calling me 'Naomi'. That name means 'happy things.' I want you to call me 'Marah' now," she told them. "'Marah' means 'sad things.' This is a better name for me since God has filled my life with so many sad things. I don't even think He cares about me anymore," she said.

Oh, Naomi! You shouldn't say that! You know God's Word, the Bible. (SB22) You know that God promises to always take care of His people. He will take care of you! Keep trusting in God! Yes, there are sad things in your life, but there are good things in your life, too. God helped you get safely all the way back home to Bethlehem. He has given you Ruth to take care of you for your whole life. Would Naomi not see how good God had been to her?

What do you think?

No, Naomi would not. Naomi certainly didn't deserve for God to keep on taking care of her, but He kept on taking care of her anyway. God loves His people so much that He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. And so God did... and in bigger ways that Naomi could have ever dreamed!

God (SB23) provided Naomi and Ruth with food to eat from the barley fields of (SB24) a rich man named Boaz. (SB25) Boaz loved God; and before long, (SB26) he loved Ruth, too. (SB27) He married her and brought her and Naomi to his home to live with him. Boaz (SB28) shared all he had with them. How richly the LORD took care of Ruth and Naomi through Boaz!

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

And if this was not enough, Boaz and Ruth (SB29) soon had a son for Naomi to love as her grandchild. Baby Obed! And one day, through Obed would come (SB30) the great, king David and much later, (SB31) even the Savior, Jesus, Himself! Wow!

Hadn't God been kind to Naomi? Hadn't He taken care of her? Yes, He had! More than she could have ever imagined...and better than she ever deserved! Could Naomi see it now...at last?

What do you think?

Yes, she could!

(SB32) Naomi took little baby Obed and put him on her lap and cared for him, just like she used to care for her own sons, long ago. And (SB33) the women of Bethlehem gathered around Naomi and said, "Praise the LORD, He has taken care of your needs. He has given you Ruth and Boaz to take care of you. He has even given you a little boy to care for like a son. Surely God has plans to take good care of you all the rest of your life!"

And Naomi had to agree. (SB34) The LORD had taken her bitter sadnesses and used them to do good things!

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:

I need to know:

- 1. Why was Naomi so sad?** Her husband and sons had died.
- 2. What about God did she not see?** She could not see how God was taking care of her.

For You and Me:

God's people can know that God will always take care of them, even if they can't see how. He is always at work. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can be God's people, too. We can know that God will always take care of us, too.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 23:1-3,6, ESV:**

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

I need to know:

- 1. Who did the LORD take care of and make sure she was not in want?** Naomi.
- 2. How did the LORD show His goodness and love to her?** He gave her Ruth to help her. He gave Ruth a husband and even a baby. He took care of Naomi through them all the days of her life.

For You and Me:

How good God is to always take care of His people! How wonderful it is to know that He makes sure that goodness and love will follow them all the days of their life and that they will go to live with Him forever one day! God offers us this kind of care, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: Jews; a jar; Gentiles; fake gods; a bear; and a house.

Hold each of them up for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to know:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't?** Ruth, the barley, the baby and the dead man belong. The banana and the phone do not.
- 2. What were some of the many things Naomi had to thank the LORD for?** He gave her Ruth to help her. He helped her get home to Bethlehem safely. He gave Ruth a husband and even a baby. He took care of Naomi through them all the days of her life.

For You and Me:

God gives His people so much to thank Him for! They know that He will care for them every day of their lives. They know He has forgiven their sins through Jesus and giving them eternal life with Him. These good gifts are ours, too, if we become God's people. How do we do this? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

**What Is God's Love for His People Like?
It's More than They Could Ever Deserve...
God Always Takes Care of Them!**

God takes care of His people in every way! And how kind He is to keep on caring for their needs, even when they think He won't—like He took care of Naomi. He is so good to His people! But the greatest way that God has cared for His people is by saving them.

You see, we all choose to disobey God. We all deserve God's punishment for our sins and He would have been perfectly fair to give us all His punishment for breaking His laws and leave it at that. But God is so rich in mercy that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and take the punishment for all who turn away from their sins and trust Jesus as their Savior. For all who do, God will forgive their sins and they will enjoy special closeness with God now as His special people. And one day, they will get to live with Him forever. How amazing is God's love for His people! We can be God's people, too! When we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, He will save us, too! It is His promise to us!
Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God for being so full of love for Your people. You are their heavenly Father. You care for all of their needs in the way that You know is best.
- C** God, You promise to take care of those who put their trust in Jesus, but many times we doubt Your promise. Please forgive us! We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for loving the world so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for being so faithful and good to those who trust in You. Thank You for taking care of all their needs in the way You know is best for them. What a wonderful thing it is to get to be Your adopted child!
- S** God, work deep inside our hearts. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Fill our hearts with love for You. Take care of us and help us to trust in You. Be our heavenly Father. Make us Your adopted children.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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