

The Case of the Man Who Never Said "No"*The Gospels; Hebrews 4***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 Man Who Never Said "No". 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. **Who was the Man? To whom did He never say "no"?**
2. **Why was it so important that He never said no?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Hebrews 4:15:**

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin."

I need to know:

1. **Who was tempted in every way as we are but never sinned?**
2. **What could He do for us because He never sinned?**

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

They are: a broom; an enemy; a letter; a heart without sin; a duck; and a cross.

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. **Who never had to confess any sins to God and ask for His forgiveness?**

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 Man Who Never Said "No" *The Gospels; Hebrews 4*

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.

Long ago in Bethlehem, (SB1) baby Jesus was born.

Now every baby is special, but there were something that made Jesus most special of all. Matter of fact, Jesus was SO special (SB2) that even the angels in heaven appeared up in the sky the night He was born!

They lit up the sky with God's bright, shiny glory and they sang loud praises to God for Jesus' birth.

Let's praise God for Jesus right now! "Praise God! Thank you for Jesus!"

What was it that made Jesus so special that the angels would sing about it?

Can you guess?

It was that Jesus was not just a human baby. Jesus was also (SB3) God's Son, come to earth to save God's people from their sins.

Jesus had a very, very hard job ahead of Him! It would not be easy to save God's people from their sins. Jesus would have to do something that no one else had ever done.

Do you have any idea what it was that Jesus would have to do?

Jesus would have to never, ever disobey God! (SB4) He would have to keep all of God's laws...always! For you see, only if Jesus was perfectly good would God accept His life to pay for the sins of God's people. Nothing less than perfect would do!

Can you imagine what it would be like for Jesus to never disobey God? It would mean to always love God most of all. It would mean always loving others as the Bible tells us to.

In everything Jesus thought in his heart, and in everything He said and did, Jesus would have to never, every do anything wrong. Never!

What would Jesus have been like as a little boy who never, ever disobeyed God? First of all, (SB5) Jesus would have loved spending time praying to God, His Father and learning the Bible.

And if His mother, (SB6) Mary asked Him to help her sweep the floor, Jesus would have obeyed her... right away! And if (SB7) Joseph asked Jesus to share His favorite toy with another child, Jesus have always shared cheerfully.

And what would (SB8) Jesus do if someone did something mean to Him?

What do you think He would do?

He would NOT do something mean to get back at them. He would have forgiven them instead!

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

Jesus would have done these things and a lot more when He was a little boy. Day after day after day, Jesus would have always obeyed God. He would have always done what was right.

Was it easy for Jesus to always obey God and do what was right when He was a little boy?

What do you think?

No, it was not! The Bible tells us that Jesus was tempted to disobey God in every way, just as we are. But while we give in to disobeying God, (SB9) Jesus never did...not even once! This is what He needed to do if He was to complete God's plans and be our Savior.

Jesus didn't stay a little boy. (SB10) He grew up, up, up to be a man. Now it was time to tell others about God's plans. Now it was time to show them that He was God's Son, the Savior. Soon it would be time to die. And Jesus would have to do all this and (SB11) still never, ever disobey God. He would have to keep all of God's laws. He would have to always love God most of all. And always love others, too. How very hard that would be! Could Jesus do it?

God's great enemy, Satan, hoped that Jesus would not. He wanted to ruin all of God's plans. He wanted Jesus to fail. He didn't want us to have a Savior. (SB12, SB13) He came to Jesus with tempting offers."(SB14) Worship me instead of God and I will give You the world and all of its riches. You will be king. Everyone will worship You!" Satan promised.

All the best things in the world sounded so good! Would Jesus worship Satan to get them? It sounded so easy!

What do you think?

No, Jesus would NOT! "(SB15) Go away from Me, Satan! I'm only going to worship God, My Father!" Jesus told him. Jesus would be the perfect Savior! He would keep to God's good plan!

Satan wasn't the only one who tempted Jesus to disobey God and sin. Sometimes people said hateful lies about Him. (SB16) "You aren't God's Son! You are just like Satan, God's enemy! You do bad things and You should die," they told Him. How easy it would have been for Jesus to break God's plan and prove them wrong! How easy it would have been to hate them back! But did He?

What do you think?

(SB17) No, Jesus didn't! He just kept on loving them. He taught them truths from God's Word that they might turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. Why did Jesus do this? Because Jesus wanted to please God. He wanted to be the perfect Savior for God's people.

(SB18) Sometimes Jesus was so tired from caring for the crowds of people who came day after day to hear God's Word and to ask for help. "Teach us, Jesus! Help us, Jesus!" they pleaded with Him.

Jesus loved teaching them and helping them, but it was a lot of work. (SB19) It would have been easy to get grumpy with them and tell them to go away. But did He?

What do you think?

No, (SB20) Jesus never made a grumpy face or had a grumpy heart! (SB21) He kept on loving and caring for the people. Jesus wanted to please God. He wanted to be the perfect Savior for God's people.

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

(SB22) Sometimes people wanted to make Jesus their king. How nice that must have sounded! Jesus could have had a big palace and lots of people to serve Him. That would have been much easier than suffering and dying on the cross like God planned.

But Jesus said “no.” (SB23) He kept to God’s plan. Jesus wanted to please God most of all. He wanted to be the perfect Savior for God’s people. Life in a fancy palace wouldn’t save God’s people. Only by suffering and dying on the cross could Jesus do that.

Even on the last day of His life, Jesus was tempted to disobey God, His Father.

On the way to the cross, (SB24) His enemies hit Him, spit on Him, and called Him bad names.

(SB25) As He hung on the cross, suffering for the sins of God’s people, they made fun of Him. (SB26) “You say you are God’s Son. Let Him save you! Come down from the cross, if you really are the God’s Son!” they shouted at Him.

Could Jesus have come down from the cross?

What do you think?

Yes, He could have. The Bible tells us that (SB27) thousands of angels would have come to help Him if He had asked them to.

But Jesus did (SB28) NOT ask the angels to help Him. He did NOT come down from the cross. Jesus stayed there and suffered and died. This was the only way that God’s people could be saved from their sins. So even there on the cross, Jesus never, ever disobeyed God.

Every day of His life, from tiny baby to little boy to big, grown man to the day He died, Jesus never, ever disobeyed God. He always loved God most of all and He always loved others as the Bible tells us to. In everything He thought in His heart, and in everything He said and He did, Jesus always did what was right.

And so, when Jesus suffered and died on the cross for the sins of God’s people, (SB29) His PERFECT life could pay for the sins of God’s people. He was the PERFECT sacrifice, the PERFECT payment they needed to be forgiven. “It is finished,” Jesus said, as He died on the cross.

What was finished? God’s plan to save His people through Jesus! And that’s why on the third day, (SB30) Jesus rose from the dead! (SB31) He had beaten sin and death for God’s people once and for all.

Praise God for Jesus! Our perfect Savior who never, ever disobeyed God.

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. Who was the Man? To whom did He never say "no"? Jesus was. He never said "no" to God. He always obeyed Him and His good laws.

2. Why was it so important that He never said no? Only by perfectly obeying God and His good laws could Jesus be the perfect Savior to save God's people from their sins.

For You and Me:

Just like those people who lived in Jesus' day, we need a Savior to save us from our sins. Jesus came to be that Savior. He will be our Savior when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Ask God to help you. He loves to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Hebrews 4:15:**

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin."

I need to know:

1. Who was tempted in every way as we are but never sinned? Jesus was.

2. What could He do for us because He never sinned? He could be our perfect Savior and save us from our sins.

For You and Me:

Just like those people who lived in Jesus' day, we need a Savior to save us from our sins. Jesus came to be that Savior. He will be our Savior when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him. Ask God to help you. He loves to do this!

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They were: a broom; an enemy; a letter; a heart without sin; a duck; and a cross.

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? The broom, the enemy, the heart without sin, and the cross belong. The letter and the duck do not.

2. Who never had to confess any sins to God and ask for His forgiveness? Jesus.

For You and Me:

Jesus never, ever disobeyed God! As a little boy; as a grown man. No matter how terribly others treated Him. No matter how tempting it would have been to do something else. Jesus never, ever disobeyed. He did this all out of love for God and love for us...that we might turn from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask God to help you do this. He loves to answer this prayer!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What Did Jesus Come to Do?****Jesus Came to Bring Us to God...****He Never, Ever Disobeyed God!**

We are not like Jesus, are we? We all have chosen to disobey God and His good ways. That is why we all deserve His punishment for our sins!

God would have been perfectly fair to give us all His punishment. But, He is so full of mercy and love that He chose to save His people!

He sent Jesus to live the perfectly obedient life that none of us have lived. Then, Jesus offered up His perfect life to fully pay for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior.

We, too, can be God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Isn't that good news!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** Jesus, we praise You for being our Savior. You came to bring us to God. We praise You for always saying 'no' to sin. You are the perfect One who never, ever sinned!
- C** Jesus, You never disobeyed God, Your Father, but we are not like You. We have all chosen to disobey God and His good ways. Oh, how we need You to be our Savior!
- T** Thank You, Jesus, for living a perfect life. Thank You for offering it up as the full payment for the sins of all who turn from their sins and trust in You as their Savior.
- S** Jesus, help us each to turn away from our sins and trust in You as our very own Savior. Help us to say 'no' to disobeying God. Help us to love You more and live for You more. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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