

Bible Story for Big Question 6, Bible Truth 2 use with all THREE lessonsPlace
story in

take out

P.1

The Case of the Sadness that Didn't Stop*Genesis 4,6-9*

of BQB

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 Sadness that Didn't Stop. 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. **Where did the sadness come from?**
2. **Who did it spread to? Who would come to stop it one day?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Psalm 14:2-3:**

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men, to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. But all have turned aside, they have together become corrupt, there is no one who does good, not even one."

I need to find out:

1. **What did the LORD see in the hearts of people?**
2. **What did they deserve? How did He show His mercy to them?**

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

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

They are: a kangaroo; wood; a submarine; black, sticky tar; a surfboard; and, a branch.

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

I need to figure out:

1. **Which four belong in our story?**
2. **Who thanked the LORD for rescuing him and his family?**

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 Sadness that Didn't Stop *Genesis 4,6-9*

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.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, it was a very, very sad day for everything in the world. There was nothing in all the good things God created that didn't get hurt.

(SB1) The animals that used to live happily together now fought each other. (SB2) The plants that used to always be beautiful and grow the most delicious fruit, were crowded out by weeds and thorns. But worst of all, was what happened to people. (SB3) They no longer had the wonderful special closeness with God they had before. And their bodies got sick and died. They didn't live always happy together either. They became greedy and selfish. They didn't care for others the way God made them to.

It would have been bad enough if Adam and Eve's sin had hurt just them and the world they lived in... and stopped right there. But it did NOT! It wasn't just those first animals and those first plants and those first people—Adam and Eve—who were hurt. (SB4) It was ALL the animals and ALL the plants and ALL the people who lived after them, too. The whole world, for ALL of time, would never be like it was in the beginning when God made it so perfectly good.

And in fact, the whole world didn't just stay as bad as it was, right at first. In fact, the sin spread and made things worse and worse--especially the people, until finally the whole world was filled with people disobeying God and hurting each other.

No one knew how terribly sin had hurt the world more than one person. Can you guess who that one person was?

Can you guess?

It was God. God could see how sin hurt every part of His good world, inside and out. And what saddened Him the most, was what He could see deep inside each person's heart.

There used to be beautiful love for God and people in their hearts. Now that was broken. Now there was sin and sadness in their hearts, instead.

(SB4) God is the holy God. He is purely good. He loves good and hates sin. He hurt to see all the terrible things that had happened to the beautiful world He had made.

God had been so merciful and patient with these people who kept on disobeying Him! He had waited and waited for them to turn away from their sin, but they would not. So at last, His judgment upon their sins was coming. (SB5) God would send a flood to do away with all who would chose to keep on disobeying Him. And with them, would go all of the animals and birds and creeping things that were on the earth. Was this to be the end of the earth? Would there never be any more people or creatures to live on it?

What do you think?

Bible Story for Big Question 6, Bible Truth 2 use with all THREE lessons**P.3***Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

God would have been fair to do that. All people had chosen to disobey God. All had sinful hearts and lives. It is right for God to punish sin. He would not be good if He did not hate it.

But God is not only fair and good... He is oh, so MERCIFUL, too. Mercy is treating someone better than they deserve and that is exactly how God chose He would treat sinful people. He had even woven His mercy into the good plan He made even before He made the world. Amazing!

Yes! (SB6) His good plan for His creation would go on. He was keeping to it. He would spare some of all the creatures and the little family of the one man who turned away from his sin and turned to God to love Him and obey Him. Do you know what the name of this man was?

Do you know what his name was?

That one man was a man named Noah.

(SB7) God told Noah His plan: "I am sending a flood to wipe out everything that lives on earth, because of how sinful everyone has become. But you and your family, I will save. I will also save some of every kind of creature, too," God promised him. "After the flood, I will give the earth a new beginning for these creatures and your family. You and your sons need to build a huge, wooden boat to fit everyone in. Fill it with food for everyone to eat. Then I will send the flood," God told Noah.

A huge flood? A big boat? Hundreds of creatures to feed and care for? Could it really be? Who could IMAGINE such a thing! Who could BUILD such a thing! It would have been tempting to laugh and go on with life. It didn't look like rain. The sun came up in the morning and the moon and stars at night. A flood? Really? What would Noah do? Would he believe God and obey Him?

What do you think Noah did?

(SB8) Noah lived by faith. He loved God and believed Him. He would build the huge boat. He did not have to be able to imagine something for it to be true. He did not have to know how to do something for God to help him be able to do it. Yes, Noah believed God and he would obey. God was pleased with Noah's faith and accepted him.

(SB9) Off to the forests to get lumber Noah and his sons went. (SB10) Chop, chop, chop, down went lots of trees. Then hammer, hammer, hammer, they worked and worked and worked until the whole, big boat was built. At last, they made big pots of black, sticky pitch. (SB11) They slathered the hot goo all over the sides of the boat. This would keep it leak-free. (SB12, 13 (door shut)) What a huge boat it was!

People wondered what Noah was doing as he and his sons worked away. (SB14) They came to find out. And as they came, Noah warned them about God's punishment. "Stop disobeying God and living your own, sinful way! Turn back to God and His good ways! His punishment will soon come upon those who do not," Noah told them.

What a long time it took to build that huge boat! What a lot of time people had to hear about God's punishment coming! What a lot of time they had to turn away from disobeying Him! But did they?

What do you think?

No, they did not! Not even one! How very, very sad!

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At last the boat was all done. (SB13--open door and put down as gang plank), SB15) Noah and his family filled it up with supplies of every kind. Food for them and food for the creatures that were coming.

And come, those creatures did! (SB16) Creatures of every kind. From the woods and from the deserts. From the mountains and the valleys. Out of their dens and nests, the animals came. A mommy and daddy creature of every kind. And even more than two of some kinds. The LORD sent them all away from their homes and to the boat.

Last of all, (SB17) Noah and his family got in the boat. The LORD (SB13--shut) shut the huge door behind them. Everyone was safe inside. (SB18 placed on top of BG 2) Dark storm clouds gathered overhead, then down, down, down, the rain began to fall.

Everything happened just as the LORD said it would for. The rain kept falling and falling days and days and days. (Add SB19 A,B,C remove all pictures from background as you add water, and raise ark SB13 up as you add water) The water rose higher and higher. All the creatures and people outside the boat died, but inside the boat; all were safe.

Then one day, the rain stopped (remove SB18 to reveal BG 2 again). Noah and his family looked outside at the world, amazed. They had never seen anything like it! There were no trees, no animals, no people, no mountains or land to be seen. Everywhere they looked there was only water. They were so thankful to be in the boat. They were so thankful that God had saved them!

God (SB20) sent a big wind that swept down over the water to dry it up. "Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!" went the wind, day and night slowly, but surely drying up the flood waters. (Remove SB19 A,B,C as you tell story to reveal earth again)

At last Noah and his family could see land stick out of the water like little bumps. More and more water dried up and went away, uncovering the hills and valleys. (open BG3) At last it was time to get off the boat.

God said to Noah, "Take your family and all the creatures off the boat and begin life again on the earth. Have families and fill the earth, just like I told Adam and Eve and the creatures long ago."

Noah and his family obeyed God. How wonderful it was to get off that boat and stand on dry ground again!

What would they do first? Run around and stretch their legs? Start building a new home? Go find some fresh food? Simply sit down and enjoy the sunshine and the freedom of the open air? There was so many things they wanted to do! But Noah didn't do any of those things at all. He knew there was something else he needed to do first. Can you guess what it was?

Can you guess?

(SB21) The first thing Noah did was to give God a worship gift of thanks. Oh, how much he and his family had to thank Him for! He had saved their lives and given them a new start!

God made a promise to Noah and his family that day. "Never again will I destroy the whole earth with a giant flood. (SB22) I'm putting a rainbow up in the sky as a reminder to you and all people of My promise."

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

Then Noah and his family began the work God gave them. They had families, and began to fill the earth again. Surely, this time everything would be right! Surely this time, people would obey God as they should. Right?

What do you think?

WRONG! You see, though Noah was a good man who loved God, (SB23) he and his family still had that same, terrible sin in their hearts that everyone else had. It wouldn't be long before the world once more would become filled with people who would chose to disobey God and not turn from it.

But there wouldn't JUST be people who disobeyed God. (SB24) There would always be some people like Noah who would fight against that sin in their hearts. They would say "sorry" to God for their sins and live for Him. They would keep on trusting that the day would come when God would send the promised Savior to save them. These were God's people and He would save them.

(SB25) And at just the right time, that Savior did come. It was Jesus, God's Son. He suffered and died on the cross for the sins of all who would ever turn away from their sins and trust in Him as their Savior. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving He had really beaten sin and death for God's people. He can be our Savior, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior.

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P.6**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. Where did the sadness come from? From sin that came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

2. Who did it spread to? Who would come to stop it one day? It spread to all people—all of Adam and Eve's children. God would send the Savior, Jesus, to stop it one day.

For You and Me:

We are Adam and Eve's children and that means that their sin has spread all the way down to us...and the way into our hearts. We need a Savior, just like they did. Jesus can be our Savior, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is Psalm 14:2-3:

"The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men, to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. But all have turned aside, they have together become corrupt, there is no one who does good, not even one."

1. What did the LORD see in the hearts of people?

He saw that they were all sinners who had chosen to disobey Him.

2. What did they deserve? How did the LORD show His mercy to them? They all deserved His punishment. They all deserved to be separated from Him forever. God showed them mercy by warning them through Noah to turn away from disobeying God. And in Noah's case, God forgave him and saved him when he turned away from his sins and trusted in the LORD.

For You and Me:

We are Adam and Eve's children and that means that their sin has spread all the way down to us...and the way into our hearts. We need a Savior, just like they did. God has warned us of the punishment we deserve for our sins, but He also offers us to save us, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Ask Him to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a kangaroo; wood; a submarine; black, sticky tar; a surfboard; and, a branch.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The kangaroo, wood, black, stick tar and the branch all belong.

2. Who praised the LORD for taking care of him, everywhere he went? Noah did.

For You and Me:

We have so much to thank the LORD for, too. He offers to save us from so much more than a flood. He offers to save us from the punishment we rightly deserve for disobeying Him. Yes, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive our sins. He will make us His dearly-loved people. We will get to have closeness with Him in our hearts now, through His Holy Spirit. And one day when we die, we will get to go to live with Him forever. That will be best of all!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?****Bad Things Came Through Sin...****When Sin Spread to the Whole World!**

Isn't it terrible how Adam and Eve's sin spread to the whole world? Isn't it terrible how people didn't love God or each other? No one deserved anything but God's punishment.

But how kind of God was to have Noah warn all those people of God's coming punishment! And how kind it was of God to save Noah and his family! Noah was right to put his trust in God. He was right to urge others to trust in Him, also. The same is true with us. We have sin in our hearts, too, but if we turn away from our sins and trust in the Savior Jesus, God will forgive us our sins. He will give us wonderful, special closeness with Him in our hearts, even today. And, when we die, we will go to live with Him forever happy.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, for being holy and just. You hate sin. You punish us fairly for how we disobey You and Your good rules.
- C** God, we know that every one of us have sinful hearts. We are no different from those people long ago who sinned against You. We have all chosen to disobey Your good rules. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us when we should only get punishment for disobeying You. Thank You that You promise to forgive all who turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.
- S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to want to turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us to love You and live for You. Help us to tell others the good news of Jesus that they might be saved, too. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

