

Bible Story for Big Question 11, Bible Truth 2

use with all THREE lessons

Place
story in

take out

P.1**The Case of the Amazed, Mad Man***Acts 8-9***Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and prepare storyboard figures/Story Scenes, if using. (In Visual Aids book)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard figures/Story Scenes, 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/hold up Story Scenes 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 Amazed, Mad Man. 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 who was so mad? What was he mad about?
2. What amazing thing happened to him? How did he change when it happened?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Romans 10:9-10, ESV**

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

I need to know:

1. Who told people to stop saying confessing that Jesus is the Savior?
2. Why did he change his mind?

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

They are: a barrel, a soldier, a jail, an apple, a high priest, and a bright light.

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 surprising person praised Jesus for being God's Son, the Savior?

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 Amazed, Mad Man Acts 8-9

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. OR, if using the Story Scenes to tell the story, disregard the storyboard picture references listed below.

(SB1) Jesus' followers had good news to tell: "Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people. Then Jesus rose from the dead. He beat sin and death!" they said. "So, turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior... and God will forgive your sins. You will be saved!" they exclaimed. "Yes! You will be one of God's dearly loved people, too!" they told everyone in the big city of Jerusalem.

(SB2) Many people in Jerusalem listened to Jesus' friends and they believed. They turned away from their sins. They trusted in Jesus as their own Savior. God forgave their sins and saved them. How happy they were to become God's dearly loved people, too!

But some people listened to Jesus' friends and they were NOT happy. They were mad. (SB3) Saul was one of those mad people. He HATED people who believed in Jesus.

"(SB4) Be quiet! Stop saying that Jesus is God's Son! Stop saying that Jesus died on the cross for God's people's sin and rose from the dead! Stop saying that Jesus is the Savior," Saul told Jesus' followers. "Jesus is just a fake!" he exclaimed. "You are all wrong. And if you don't stop telling people about Jesus, then I'm going to have you hurt and put in jail!" he warned them. Oh, no! What would Jesus' followers do?

What do you think they did? Did they stop telling others about Jesus?

But no matter how much Saul warned them, they would not stop! Jesus' followers kept on telling others that Jesus was the Savior. And, they kept on telling other people to turn away from disobeying God and to trust in Jesus as their Savior, too. Uh, oh! What would Saul do now?

What do you think he did?

So, Saul did exactly what he warned Jesus' followers he would do: (SB5) he went from house to house with soldiers to arrest them. "Bang, bang, bang!" they knocked on the door. "Open up!" They dragged Jesus' followers out of their houses. (SB6) They hurt them and put them in jail.

Saul made it very hard for Jesus' followers to keep on telling others about Jesus in Jerusalem, so they made a new plan: "Jesus told us to tell the whole world about Him. Now it's time to go. A few of us will stay here in Jerusalem, but everyone else should go away to live in other cities where Saul cannot bother you," Jesus' followers decided. "People in those cities need to hear about Jesus, too."

So that's what they did. (SB7) They packed up their things and moved away to other cities. (SB8) Some went to nearby new cities; and, some went to (SB9) faraway new cities. But wherever they went, they told everyone the same, good news about Jesus. Do you know what it was?

Can you tell me the good news about Jesus?

"Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people," they told everyone. "Then on the third day, He rose from the dead. He beat sin and death for God's people!" they explained. "So, turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior... and God will forgive your sins. You will be saved! You will be one of God's dearly loved people, too!" they exclaimed.

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

What good news this was, indeed! (SB10, SB11) Many people in these cities listened and received it with joy! They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. How happy Jesus' followers were to see the people in all of these new cities believing in Jesus, too!

But there was still someone who was very angry about all of this! Can you guess who it was?

Can you guess?

It was Saul! He heard what was going on in these other cities and he planned to stop it! (SB12) He went to the high priest, the leader of Jesus' enemies and said, "Give me soldiers to go with me and arrest these people, starting with the city of Damascus. I will make them be quiet! Let me bring them back to Jerusalem and put them in jail," Saul pleaded.

The high priest agreed. He gave Saul soldiers to help him arrest the believers in Jesus. Saul was pleased.

March, march, march! (SB13) Saul and the soldiers headed straight for Damascus. Saul could not wait to get to those people who believed in Jesus and put them in jail! He would stop them from talking about Jesus, yet! Or would he?

What do you think happened to Saul next?

Well, as it turned out, God Himself had very, very different plans for Saul. Saul was the one who was about to be stopped. God was about to turn him around and change him. God was planning to use Saul, himself, to tell many, many others to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. Aren't God's plans amazing?

Saul believed Jesus was a fake; but of course, Jesus was not. He was the REAL Son of God. He really had died on the cross to pay for God's people's sins. He really had risen from the dead. He really had beaten sin and death! And God was planning for Saul to become one of His people and tell others this good news, too!

But how would Saul, a man who HATED the believers in Jesus, change into someone who trusted Jesus as his own Savior? God chose to change Saul in a most amazing way.

Just as Saul and the soldiers were almost to the big city of Damascus, (SB14, SB15) a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. It was Jesus! (SB16) Saul fell to the ground then he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting me?"

Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are hurting," Jesus told Saul. "But get up now and go into the big city of Damascus and you will be told what you are to do."

Saul got up to go; but as he got up, he realized that he could not see! God had put something like scales over Saul's eyes, so he couldn't see—not to punish him, but to give him a special time to think about what Jesus had said to him.

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

(SB17) The soldiers led Saul to a house in Damascus. Saul sat in the house, in the dark, and thought about all that Jesus had said to him. (SB18) Now Saul knew the truth! He had thought Jesus' believers were wrong. Now he knew that it was HE who was wrong! He knew he had hurt God's people when he put them in jail! He knew he deserved God's punishment, but he asked God forgiveness through Jesus. What do you think God did?

Do you think God forgave Saul?

And sure enough, God gave Saul just what he prayed for. (SB19) God helped Saul to turn away from ~~disobeying God and to trust in Jesus as his own Savior. How kind God is to sinners like Saul...and like us!~~

After three days, (SB20) God sent a man named Ananias to Saul to talk to him and help him. Ananias laid his hands on Saul and by God's power, Saul's eyes were healed. And even better than that, the Holy Spirit came to live inside Saul's heart.

Saul was so happy! He was forgiven by God for his sins! He was saved through Jesus! He was so excited! (SB21) He got up and was baptized as a sign that he was beginning a new life living for God, with Jesus as his Savior. Then Saul went out and did something. Something he never, ever dreamed he would do. Can you guess what he did?

Can you guess?

(SB22) Saul went out to tell the people of Damascus the good news of Jesus--the very one he used to hate. "Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of God's people," Saul told them. "On the third day, He rose from the dead. He beat sin and death!" he exclaimed. "Turn away from disobeying God! Trust in Jesus as your Savior, and God will forgive your sins. You will be saved! You will be one of God's dearly loved people, too!"

How surprised people were! "Wasn't this the man who hated Jesus and His followers? Wasn't this the man who hurt them and put them in jail? And now HE is one of THEM!" they exclaimed. And as Saul preached about Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many. (SB23) They turned away from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Yes, all of God's plans were coming true. Good plans for Saul and good plans for the many others who would trust in Jesus as their Savior through Saul's message. How amazing God is!

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. Who was the man who was so mad? What was he mad about? Saul. He was mad that Jesus' followers were telling people to trust in Jesus as their Savior.
2. What amazing thing happened to him? How did he change when it happened? Jesus appeared to Saul and Saul knew that He really was the Savior. Saul turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. He started telling everyone the good news of Jesus, too.

For You and Me:

God turned Saul from a man who hated Jesus and wanted to hurt God's people, to someone who loved Jesus and served him his whole life. God can work powerfully in our life too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Romans 10:9-10, ESV**

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

I need to know:

1. Who told people to stop saying confessing that Jesus is the Savior? Saul did.
2. Why did he change his mind? Jesus appeared to Saul and Saul knew that He really was the Savior. Saul turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior.

For You and Me:

How amazing it is that God could change someone like Saul from a man who hated God Jesus, to a man who loved him and trusted in him as his Savior. God can change as to when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but two of them are **NOT** in the story. They are: a drum, a Pharisee, a golden box, a sick man, the Temple, and a bag of money.

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 soldier, the jail, the high priest and the bright light belong. The barrel and the apple do not.

2. What surprising person praised Jesus for being God's Son, the Savior? What did God do for this man? Saul did. God showed him that Jesus really was the Son of God. He helped him to turn away from his sins and trust in Jesus as his Savior. God forgave his sins!

For You and Me:

Everyone was so surprised to see Saul change from a man who hated Jesus, to a man who loved him and trusted in him as his Savior! God is able to change the heart of anyone! He's able to change our hearts to, ask him to change your heart! Ask him to help you turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He loves to answer this prayer!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Can We Be Saved?****It Is God's Free Gift..****When We Trust in Jesus As Our Own Savior!**

How kind God was to save Saul! Saul had hated God's people and he had hated the good news of Jesus. He had done terribly mean things. But, oh, how God had loved Saul anyway! He came to Saul in a special way. He worked in Saul's heart, helping him to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as His own Savior. God chose to have Jesus appear to Saul to help Saul believe in Him. He changed Saul's life and made him one of His people!

But God doesn't need to do such amazing things to change our hearts. If we ask Him, He will send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. He can help us to turn away from disobeying God and help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Then we will be God's dearly-loved people, too.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for being the Savior of sinners who trust in Jesus. We honor You as the wise and good Lord we all should obey.
- C** God, we confess that we are all sinners who need a Savior. We can never be acceptable to You on our own. We need Jesus to save us!
- T** Thank You, God for working in the hearts of sinners that they would trust in Jesus as their Savior and be saved.
- S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins to You and repent of them. Help us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to no longer live however we want. Help us now to live to please You.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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