

Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 2

use with all THREE lessons

Place
story in

take out

P.1

The Case of the Man Who Left His Money*Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5*

of BQB

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 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/hold up storybook 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 Fight with Fire. 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 left his money? Why did he leave it behind?
2. Who did he leave it behind to love even more?

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV:**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

I need to know:

1. Who loved money and the nice things in this world more than God?
2. Why did he leave his money and nice things behind?

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

They are: a bag of money, a camel, a pineapple, a town person, a little tax house, and a truck.

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 turned away from their sins and trust in Jesus in the story? What did he do that showed he was a changed man and wanted to instead, love God most of all?

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 Left His Money *Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5*

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 order 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 had good news to tell everyone. "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Jesus told them.

(SB2) "The kingdom of God is near? What did THAT mean? What exactly was this kingdom of God? And how could they become a part of it?" many people wanted to know. They gathered around Jesus to see what He would say.

"The kingdom of God is so wonderful that it is worth giving up everything to be a part of! It is knowing and enjoying God as His people. It is loving God most of all and living for Him," Jesus told them.

"But WHERE is this kingdom of God?" the people wanted to know.

(SB3) "Heaven is God's kingdom, since everyone in heaven loves God most and lives for Him. God's people go to live there, too, when they die. (SB4) And one day, all of earth will be God's kingdom, too, when I come back to get rid of sin and death forever," Jesus taught them.

"But you don't have to wait for heaven or even until I come back to earth to be a part of God's kingdom. (SB5) God's kingdom can be in your heart right now—today!--if you turn away from disobeying God (repent)—and trust in Me as your Savior," Jesus told them.

Where did Jesus say God's kingdom can be inside of us? Can you tell me?

"Yes, today, God's kingdom can be in your heart! God can work in your heart and make you one of His people who know Him and enjoy Him. One of His people who love Him most of all and live for Him," Jesus told them. "This is the good news I've come to tell you! Come! The kingdom of God is near!" He exclaimed.

This certainly was big news and it certainly was good news for the crowds of people listening to Jesus. They did not have to wait for heaven or even until Jesus came back to be part of the kingdom of God. To think: they could be part of God's kingdom that very day!

But as big and as good as this news was, it was not exactly EASY news to live out. Why? (SB6) Because our hearts are sinful. We so easily find other things to love more than God... and so many other ways to live other than God's good way. So many things that we have to stop doing or stop wanting, if we are to love God most of all, and that can be very, very hard! Oh, how the sin in our hearts gives us trouble!

Do you ever want something that God has said "no" to in His good laws? I do!

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

(SB7) A man named Matthew who lived long ago in Jesus' day knew this. Matthew did NOT love God most of all. Matthew loved money and having lots of nice things most of all.

(SB8) And, while Matthew had grown up learning about God and His good laws, he had chosen NOT to obey them. Matter of fact, Matthew had chosen to do the very opposite: He had chosen to break God's good laws to get more money and more nice things for himself.

(SB9) For like Zacchaeus (who we learned about a few stories earlier), Matthew was a tax collector who gathered money for Caesar, the big, Roman king who had taken over their land. And like Zacchaeus, Matthew chose to do many bad things to many people to make them give him lots and lots of extra money to enjoy himself.

(SB10) All day, Matthew would sit in the little, tax house next to the road that went by Capernaum (his hometown) and the big Sea of Galilee. (SB11, SB12) And all day, he would stop the men with camels and carts loaded down with things to sell at market.

(SB13) Matthew looked carefully at all their stuff and made them pay tax money to big, King Caesar...and then, just like Zacchaeus, he took a lot more money just for himself!

But those men on the road to market weren't the only people Matthew treated like this. (SB14) Matthew also took lots of extra money from the people in his town. (SB15) And as you can guess, the people hated him for treating them so badly. They wanted nothing to do with him. They wouldn't even let him in the worship place to worship God. Perhaps Matthew had a big house and lots of nice things and money, but he had lost many friends. He had broken his friendship with them by the mean, greedy things he had done.

And, there was SOMEONE ELSE whose friendship with Matthew was broken by Matthew's bad life. Someone far more important than the people in Matthew's town. Can you guess who?

Can you guess?

(SB16) It was God! Matthew had chosen to love money and nice things most of all. He had chosen to break God's good laws, and refused to repent. That's why he wasn't allowed to worship at the worship place in his town. Oh, how broken was Matthew's friendship with God! Oh, how very sinful was his heart! It was so bad that there seemed to be no hope for him to ever be right with God again.

Was that right? Was there really no hope for Matthew?

No, that wasn't right! There WAS hope for Matthew... and that hope came through Jesus!

(SB17) Jesus came to Matthew's town and told His big, good news: "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Jesus told Matthew and many others.

(SB18) As Matthew listened to Jesus, the Holy Spirit began to work in Matthew's heart and change it. No longer did Matthew want to love money and nice things most of all. Matthew wanted to love God most of all. (SB19) He wanted to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as his Savior. He wanted to be one of God's people and have the kingdom of God be in his heart.

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P.4*Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)*

How do we know? (SB20) Because one day Jesus came up to Matthew as he sat at his tax-paying house and said to him, "Matthew, follow Me! Come be one of my disciples, one of my close friends who lives with Me and learns from Me each day."

What would Matthew do? He had loved money and nice things for so long! He lived his life to have them! Would he really choose to turn away from loving them and living to have them? Would he really choose to love God most of all and live for Him? That what he would have to do if he was to be one of Jesus' disciples.

What do you think Matthew would tell Jesus?

"Yes, Jesus, I will," Matthew told Jesus. And right then and there, (SB21) Matthew left his tax house and followed Jesus. No longer was he going to love money and lots of nice things most of all. (SB22) Now he was going to love God most of all and love to obey Him. Matthew believed in Jesus as his Savior. He had become one of God's people and the kingdom of God had begun in his heart, that very day!

Do you wonder what happened to Matthew? Did he ever go back to loving money most of all?

What do you think?

No, he did not. The rest of his life, Matthew followed Jesus. (SB23) And did you know that Matthew even wrote down one of the books in the Bible, God's Word? Can you guess what that book is called?

Can you guess?

It's called the Gospel of Matthew!

What a perfect name for Matthew's story about Jesus! "Gospel" is a Bible word that means "good news." And that's exactly what Matthew's story was! For even though it was not always easy for Matthew to follow Jesus and live God's way, it was always good! For just like Jesus had said, being one of God's people in God's kingdom is worth giving up everything. For there is no one more wonderful to know and love, and no one better to obey, than 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 who left his money? Why did he leave it behind? Matthew did. The Holy Spirit worked in his heart as he listened to Jesus teach. He helped him want to turn away from his old life of loving money and nice things most of all, and love God and live for Him, instead.

2. Who did he leave it behind to love even more? God!

For You and Me:

Matthew had a lot of money and he loved nice things, but he learned that God was better than even the best things you could have in this world. There are many nice things we may enjoy this world, too. But we will never find anything that is better than loving God and being one of God's people. We can become one of God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you. He loves to answer this prayer.

Detective Dan's Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:**Our Bible Verse is Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV:**

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

I need to know:

1. Who loved money and the nice things in this world more than God? Matthew did.

2. Why did he leave his money and nice things behind? Who did he find was even better to love? The Holy Spirit worked in his heart as he listened to Jesus teach. He helped him want to turn away from his old life of loving money and nice things most of all, and love God and live for Him, instead.

For You and Me:

Matthew had a lot of money and he loved nice things, but he learned that God was better than even the best things you could have in this world. There are many nice things we may enjoy this world, too. But we will never find anything that is better than loving God and being one of God's people. We can become one of God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God 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: a bag of money, a camel, a pineapple, a town person, a little tax house, and a truck.

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 bag of money, the camel, the town's person and the little tax house belong. The pineapple and the truck do not.

2. Who turned away from their sins and trust in Jesus in the story? What did he do that showed he was a changed man and wanted to instead, love God most of all? Matthew. He left his tax house and all the money and nice things he had loved most of all. He started to live for God, instead.

For You and Me:

God delights to help you and me to love Him, too. If we ask Him, He will work in our hearts and help us to love Him most of all. He will help us to turn away from disobeying Him and trust Jesus as our Savior, And as His people, God will gladly go on helping us to love Him most of all, ALL the rest of our lives!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****How Should God's People Live?****They Should Live Like Jesus...****By Loving God Most of All!**

How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus... by loving God most of all! God's people ask God for His help, knowing that He will help them. After all, He has already helped them in the biggest way: by sending Jesus to save them! Even while they still were choosing to disobey Him, God chose to help His people by sending Jesus to save them. How much more, now that they have said "no" to disobeying God and trusted Jesus as their Savior, do God's people know that He will help them to love Him most of all.

God delights to help you and me to love Him, too. If we ask Him, He will help us love Him most of all by turning away from disobeying Him and trust Jesus as our Savior, He will gladly save us! And as His people, He will gladly keep helping us to love Him most of all, ALL the rest of our lives!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** God, we praise You for giving us Jesus so we can know how we should love You.
- C** God, please forgive us for not loving You most of all. We choose to love many other things and even ourselves more than we love You. We need a Savior!
- T** Thank You, God, for promising to help us live like Jesus. You can help us to love You the way You want us to.
- S** God, please work in our hearts. Help us turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You. Help us to live like You want us to live. Help us to love You most of all.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

Use with all
response activities
for deeper learning**P.1***Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games*

Be familiar with these questions and answers. Look for opportunities to ask questions and discuss their answers, such as while the children work on their coloring pages, as part of their response games, or during play time. Remember: your goal isn't to ask all these questions or only talk to the children about these things. It is to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

BIG QUESTION	How Should God's People Live? They Should Live Like Jesus!
Meaning	We become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. When we do, God forgives our sins and we begin a whole new way of life. God's people no longer live life just to please themselves. They want to honor God with their whole lives, like Jesus did. They seek to love God most of all and love all people, too.
Discussion Questions	<p><i>choose a few</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should God's people live each day? <i>They should live like Jesus!</i> 2. Who did Jesus always love? <i>God.</i> 3. Who did Jesus always please in everything He felt, thought, said and did? <i>God.</i> 4. Are God's people perfect like Jesus? <i>No, they are not.</i> 5. Who do God's people try to live like? <i>Jesus.</i> 6. How do God's people try to live like Jesus? <i>They try to love God and please Him in everything they feel, think, say and do.</i> 7. How can we become God's people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
BIBLE TRUTH	They Should Live Like Jesus..By Loving God Most of All!
Meaning	<p>Jesus loved God most of all. Jesus' love was more than a nice feeling inside His heart. Jesus lived out His love for God. He lived it out by loving God with the thoughts in His mind. He lived out His love with every word He spoke. He lived it out by always obeying God's laws in all that He did.</p> <p>God wants His people to love Him like Jesus did, too. He wants them to love Him more than anyone or anything else. He wants them to love Him in their thoughts and their words. He wants them to love Him by obeying His good laws in all that they do, too.</p> <p>God's people know that they can never love God perfectly like Jesus did. They are sinners. He is the perfect Son of God. But, they know that God promises to help them love Him most of all, by His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people. Then, the Holy Spirit will live inside of us and help us to love others with God's love, too.</p>
Discussion Questions	<p><i>choose a few</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who did Jesus love with all His heart? <i>God.</i> 2. Who did Jesus love more than God? <i>No one!</i> 3. How did Jesus show His love for God? <i>He felt it in His heart; He obeyed God's laws; He pleased God with everything He did, thought and said.</i> 4. Who will help God's people love Him like Jesus does? <i>God will.</i> 5. How does God want His people love Him? <i>To love Him most of all and to obey Him.</i> 6. Who does God promise to send to help God's people to love God? <i>The Holy Spirit, to work in their hearts.</i> 7. How can we become God's people? <i>By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.</i>

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

P.2*Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games*

THE GOSPEL	What is God's good news for you and me? <i>The gospel! How should God's people live each day? They should live like Jesus... by loving God most of all! God's people ask God for His help, knowing that He will help them. After all, He has already helped them in the biggest way: by sending Jesus to save them! Even while they still were choosing to disobey Him, God chose to help His people by sending Jesus to save them. How much more, now that they have said "no" to disobeying God and trusted Jesus as their Savior, do God's people know that He will help them to love Him most of all. We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.</i>
BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE	"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."-- Deuteronomy 6:4-5, ESV Learn a Little: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might."
Meaning	These verses tell us that the LORD is one--He's the one, true God. Moses first spoke these words to the people of Israel, but they are true for all people. God wants us all to love Him- most of all- with all of our heart, soul and strength! All of ourselves! The best first step in loving God most of all is to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This is how we become God's people.
Discussion Questions	1. Who is the one, true God? <i>The LORD.</i> 2. How does the LORD want us to love Him? <i>With all of our heart, soul, and strength. All of ourselves!</i> 3. What is the best first step we can take in loving the LORD like this? <i>We can turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. His Holy Spirit can work in our hearts and help us do this. And He can help us love the LORD more and more! Ask Him to help you!</i>
BIBLE STORY	The Case of the Man Who Left His Money <i>choose a few</i>
Discussion Questions	1. What is the kingdom of God? <i>It is where God is obeyed and loved.</i> 2. Where is the kingdom of God? <i>It is in heaven, where God is perfectly obeyed and loved now. It will be on earth, when Jesus comes back and puts an end to sin and death forever. And, it is in the hearts of God's people right now, as they turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as their Savior.</i> 3. Did Matthew grow up knowing about God and His Word? <i>Yes, he did.</i> 4. Did Matthew love God and obey His Word when he grew up? <i>No, he did not.</i> 5. What did Matthew do that was so bad? <i>He did bad things to other people in order to get more money for himself.</i> 6. What did Matthew love most of all? <i>He loved money and nice things.</i> 7. What did Matthew love most of all after he became a follower of Jesus? <i>He loved God most of all.</i> 8. What made the change in Matthew? <i>The Holy Spirit worked inside his heart when he heard Jesus telling about God. He turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as His Savior. God forgave him and cleaned his heart of his old sins.</i> 9. How can we become people who love God most of all? <i>We can ask God to work in our hearts. We can ask Him to help us to turn away from disobeying God and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.</i>