

# Day 1: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, let's see if we can get our puppet pal, Speedy, to come out. On the count of 3, let's all call to him (her). Ready? 1, 2, 3—Speedy!

**Puppet:** Come up wearing or holding something you shouldn't have, like a piece of candy or a cookie. Hey, everybody! Watcha doing?

**Teacher:** Well, the question should really be, what are *you* doing? How did you get that?

**Puppet:** Well, I . . . uh . . . mmm . . .

**Teacher:** Hmmm, Speedy, have you been doing something your mom told you not to do?

**Puppet:** Ummm . . . why do you say that?

**Teacher:** Because I heard your mom say not to do that, but here you are with it.

**Puppet:** No! I didn't do anything wrong.

**Teacher:** Speedy, don't make it worse by lying. Tell the truth. God is truth and he wants us to tell the truth.

**Puppet:** Hang your head and look sheepish. Okay, I admit it. I did take it.

**Teacher:** Do you know what that's called when you disobey your parents?

**Puppet:** What?

**Teacher:** Sin. Sin is when we don't obey God. I was just talking to the kids about sin. In fact, our verse today is about sin. Let's say it together, everyone! Recite Romans 3:23.

**Puppet:** Well, I obey *God*! I just wasn't obeying my *mom*.

**Teacher:** You know, God says in the Bible that children are to obey their parents. So if you obey your parents, you're obeying God.

**Puppet:** Wow, I guess I blew it.

**Teacher:** Yeah, you sinned. We all do. That's the bad news. But the good news is God sent Jesus, his Son, to take the punishment for your sin. The punishment for our sin is death. Anyone who admits he sinned and believes Jesus came and died and came back to life to take the punishment for his sin can ask God to forgive him, and to make him a child of God.

**Puppet:** Wow, that's better than good news—that's great news!

**Teacher:** It sure is! Boys and girls, if you want to hear more about this, make sure you talk to \_\_\_\_ this week at VBS! In the meantime, Speedy, you need to let your mom know what you did and tell her you're sorry.

**Puppet:** Okay. I want to obey God, so I'm going to tell my mom the truth.

**Teacher:** Good move, Speedy. You do that, and we'll see you tomorrow!

## Day 2: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Let's all say, "Hey, Speedy! Are you there?" Do so.

**Puppet:** Come up. Hola! Bonjour! Shalom!

**Teacher:** Speedy, what in the world are you babbling about?

**Puppet:** Oh hi there. I'm just saying "hello" in other languages.

**Teacher:** Oh, cool, because that's what we're talking about today.

**Puppet:** That's fun!

**Teacher:** Yep. You see, from the Bible, we learn that about 4,000 years ago, something amazing—and confusing—happened.

**Puppet:** I know . . . meatballs started falling from the sky.

**Teacher:** Meatballs? From the sky?

**Puppet:** Okay, never mind. Um, how about . . . everybody started walking upside-down?

**Teacher:** That would be amazing and confusing, but no. Let me share from the Bible what happened.

**Puppet:** I am all ears!

**Teacher:** Did you know there was a time on earth when all the people spoke the same language?

**Puppet:** No way!

**Teacher:** Yes way! And not only that, but they also lived in the same place, too. The trouble was that since they all spoke the same language and lived in the same place, they started thinking up bad ideas.

**Puppet:** Like peanut butter and ketchup sandwiches? Now that's what I call a bad idea!

**Teacher:** No, not peanut butter and ketchup sandwiches.

**Puppet:** Oh, you mean bad ideas like that sin stuff you were talking about yesterday?

**Teacher:** Yep, like that, when we don't obey God.

**Puppet:** Well, what did they think up?

**Teacher:** To build a city and a really tall tower that would reach way up into the sky.

**Puppet:** What's so bad about that? I love to go up high.

**Teacher:** It isn't necessarily wrong to build a tall tower. There are lots of them in the world. But the reason it was wrong for them is because God told them they were not supposed to all live in the same place like that, but were supposed to spread out all over the world.

**Puppet:** And they didn't obey God and went ahead and stayed together, building the tower and the city?

**Teacher:** Yes, they sinned. The Bible tells us a reason they built the tower was they wanted to make a name for themselves.

**Puppet:** You mean they didn't already have names?

**Teacher:** No, Speedy, they had names. What I mean is, they wanted to become famous and make all their own decisions, rather than listen to God and do what he said. And they sinned in another way, too.

**Puppet:** Oh, no! What else?

**Teacher:** Well, as we talked about, God told them to have families and spread out all over the earth. The *whole* earth. But they didn't want to. They wanted to stay all together, so they started building that city and tower. Show the **ZIGGURAT POSTER**. The tower probably was in a shape like this, which is called a step pyramid, or a ziggurat. Let's say the word *ziggurat* together. Do so. The word *ziggurat* means "height, to be high," so we know this would have been a tall tower. The height wasn't the problem, though. It was the fact that they weren't supposed to be there building it.

**Puppet:** Wow, that's bad! When God tells you to do something, you should do it, right?

**Teacher:** Right! God loves you and tells you how to obey him right here, in the Bible. Point to the Bible. He knows what's best for you to do because he loves you so much! So it's never a good idea to ignore what the Bible says and do your own thing.

**Puppet:** When I don't obey my parents, I get in trouble.

**Teacher:** Guess what? So did they! They got in trouble, and God changed the way they talked so they couldn't understand each other anymore.

**Puppet:** Keesha-boo-dum-dee-dum-fee-fo-fum!

**Teacher:** What?

**Puppet:** Keesha-boo-dum-dee-dum-fee-fo-fum!

**Teacher:** I don't understand a word you're saying.

**Puppet:** I was just wondering what it would be like if all of a sudden I spoke a different language.

**Teacher:** Oh, Speedy, you're so silly! But that's probably what it seemed like to them. Can you imagine talking to someone one minute and then the next minute you can't understand them?

**Puppet:** Crazy! So that's why we have French and German and Spanish and Russian and Chinese and Greek and . . .

**Teacher:** (interrupting) Yes, Speedy, all the different languages today have come from the language families that

**Teacher:** Yep! All 1.4 billion of them. This stat may change by the time you do this VBS.

**Puppet:** How about the people in India?

**Teacher:** Yes, India, too!

**Puppet:** Ha, ha, ha. You're trying to be funny.

**Teacher:** Well, if there's anyone living there, then yes, you're related to them. So you see, from the Bible we learn where all the different languages came from and why people live in all the different places around the world. It's because of what God did way, way back at the tower of Babel. In fact, we even find evidence around the world that the people from the tower of Babel spread out all over the globe, taking that knowledge with them about that tower. We see similar towers on every continent except Antarctica. Look at some of these! Show the **TOWERS AROUND THE WORLD POSTER** and comment on where they are all located, and how the Bible always helps us make sense of the world around us. Always start with the Bible!

**Puppet:** Wow, I sure learned a lot today! I can't wait to go home and tell my family and friends! Adios!

**Teacher:** Adios, Speedy. Let's say, "Adios!" (which means goodbye in Spanish) to Speedy. Do so.

**Teacher:** . . . great big family!

**Puppet:** So let me get this straight. I'm related to all the people in China?

## Day 3: Puppet Pal

**Puppet:** Before coming up, a dog barking should be heard behind the puppet stage. The person working the puppet can do the barking without being seen.

**Teacher:** Hey, do you guys hear a dog barking? Wonder what's going on.

**Puppet:** Pop up. Oh, hi! I was just feeding my dogs.

**Teacher:** How many dogs do you have?

**Puppet:** Well, there's Goofy Foofy. She's our silly little poodle.

**Teacher:** You named your dog Goofy Foofy? O . . . kay . . .

**Puppet:** And then our Golden Retriever is named Funny Sunny.

**Teacher:** Funny Sunny? Goofy Foofy? I guess you're into rhyming.

**Puppet:** And our Irish Setter is called . . .

**Teacher:** Let me guess. Red Fred?

**Puppet:** No, silly! His name is Rusty.

**Teacher:** Okay, Rusty.

**Puppet:** And our Yorkie is named Hershey.

**Teacher:** Wow, you have a lot of dogs! How many was that, kids? Take responses—four.

**Puppet:** They're all so different. Two of them are big and two of them are little. One is golden colored, one is red-dish, one is white, and one is mixed.

**Teacher:** I bet they're different in lots of ways.

**Puppet:** Yeah, Goofy Foofy is always rolling around on the floor. Funny Sunny and Rusty have fur that gets all over the place. And Hershey always wants to sit on my lap.

**Teacher:** I'm so glad God invented the dog kind. There are so many different varieties of dogs, and they're all so fantastic. Show the **LOTS OF DOGS POSTER**. In the beginning, God put the recipe inside of the original boy and girl dogs to be able to make lots and lots of different kinds of dogs.

**Puppet:** Yeppers.

**Teacher:** Take our Pup Patrol, here. Show the **DAY 3 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. These dogs all live in Africa, but they sure don't look alike!

**Puppet:** I'll say!

**Teacher:** This one's called a Boerboel (pronounced "bore bull"). Point to the one on the far left as you are looking at the poster. He is gonna be a big, strong dog when he grows up. He has short, brown fur. And here's a Basenji (pronounced "ba sen gee"). Point to the middle one. Look at how his ears stick up! And then there's this white Coton de Tulear (pronounced "co tawn day two lee er"). Point to

the white one. Look how fluffy his fur is! All of these are African pups, but they sure look a lot different!

**Puppet:** I've heard that even the pups of wolves are part of the dog kind family!

**Teacher:** True! A wolf seems different from a dog, but they are related. Even though these pups look different, they are alike in lots of ways.

**Puppet:** Yeah, they all like to be scratched between their ears, and they tilt their heads when we ask if they're hungry. And you know what else they all do?

**Teacher:** What?

**Puppet:** Spin around before they lie down! It's so funny! Spin around a little.

**Teacher:** Well, dogs do those same kinds of things because God made the dog kind. Show the **DOG KIND POSTER**. From a great big dog like a St. Bernard to a tiny little dog like a Chihuahua, they're still dogs. And in the beginning, God made every other animal kind, too. Dogs produce more dogs, cats produce more cats, elephants produce elephants, and so forth.

**Puppet:** How about people?

**Teacher:** People aren't like animals. We are made in God's image. Every person is unique in his or her own way because God made each person special, putting in just the right amount of every ingredient he wanted to.

**Puppet:** Like melanin?

**Teacher:** Like melanin. That's why it's so interesting to get to know people—we're all different in some ways. At the same time, people are people, and we're all alike in many ways, too. We all eat and sleep and sometimes feel happy and sometimes feel sad and create things and talk and learn.

**Puppet:** I have friends who look different than I do, but we all like to play together.

**Teacher:** That's great! We may look a little different, but remember, we're all people, and we're all related! Every person is part of Adam and Eve's family. The Bible says in Acts 17:26 that God made from one man, Adam, every nation—every person in the world. That makes us all one race—the human race—and all related.

**Puppet:** And God loves all the people groups all over the earth, no matter what they look like or where they live.

**Teacher:** That's right. God loves people, and we should love people, too.

**Puppet:** Well, this makes me want to go see my doggie woggies.

**Teacher:** Oh no! Here he goes with the rhyming again! Okay, Speedy, go visit your *doggie woggies*, and we'll see you later! Let's move to our game from Africa!

## Day 4: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** So, boys and girls, we're all related and all part of one human race, but there are actually two spiritual races—those who are part of God's family and those who aren't. Because this difference affects us for all of eternity, this is actually the biggest and most important difference among all people, not where we live or what we look like. So let's imagine that every person is in a spiritual race through life. Let's see if Speedy is around to talk to us more about this. Look down into the puppet hole and have the puppet come up at the same time. Bonk heads.

**Puppet:** Ouch! You just ran into me! I think you're better at running that race than finding puppets.

**Teacher:** Yeah, thankfully, we've had fun racing and following directions.

**Puppet:** If you don't follow directions and road signs carefully, you may get in an accident.

**Teacher:** That's true. And, you know, it's important to follow God's directions, too. They'll help you with everything in life, not just driving.

**Puppet:** Where do you find God's directions? Are they on road signs?

**Teacher:** No, God's directions are in the Bible. He shares all important info in here. Point to the Bible.

**Puppet:** Like what? How to get lint out of your belly button? I hate how it gets stuck in there.

**Teacher:** Nope, not like that. I said important stuff, like . . . how he loves us.

**Puppet:** God loves you?

**Teacher:** Yep, he does. In fact, the Bible tells us that God loves the world so much he sent his Son, Jesus, from heaven so he could rescue us.

**Puppet:** Why? Are we in trouble?

**Teacher:** You may not realize it, but every person is in trouble. That's because of sin, which we talked about a few days ago. Boys and girls, do you remember what sin is? Take responses: when we don't obey God's commands. Recite Romans 3:23 together. Give a couple examples: lying, not being kind to your brother or sister, throwing a tantrum, whining, or not going to bed when you are supposed to.

**Puppet:** What's sin got to do with anything?

**Teacher:** Well, because we sin, we aren't part of God's family. When we die, we won't live with God in heaven. God is perfect, and he doesn't allow sin into his perfect place.

**Puppet:** Whoa! That sounds serious—even worse than getting in an accident!

**Teacher:** It is. But God's Son, Jesus, came to earth to give us a way for us to get safely to heaven. The directions for how to get to heaven are right here in the Bible.

**Puppet:** Like what? A stop sign?

**Teacher:** Well, God does want us to stop—to stop going our own way so we can follow Jesus instead. That is repentance and includes feeling sorry for our sin and turning away from it.

**Puppet:** Anything else?

**Teacher:** Yep. Then you tell God you believe he sent his Son, Jesus, to save you. Recite the memory verse, 1 John 4:14, together. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life, never doing anything wrong and never sinning. He always obeyed God. But some people were mean to him, and they put a crown of thorns on his head and nailed his hands and feet to a cross.

**Puppet:** That would hurt.

**Teacher:** It hurt terribly. But he let them do that because he knew we needed someone who had never sinned to take the punishment for sin, which is death. It would be like if one of these kids stole a cookie, but I took the punishment for it, even though I didn't steal the cookie.

**Puppet:** That would be so kind of you!

**Teacher:** Yes, it was incredibly kind of Jesus. He loves boys and girls from every people group. Show the DAY 4 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. Look at our swans here. What shape do you see in between them? Yes, a heart! That's to remind us that God loves us more than we can imagine—enough to send his only Son to die on a cross and take the punishment for sin, which is death! But here's something really amazing. Jesus didn't stay dead! That's because he's God! They killed him and put him in a tomb, which is kind of like putting a dead person in a cemetery. But he came back to life! That shows God accepted his sacrifice for us. Jesus provides the only way to live forever in heaven.

**Puppet:** One way—Jesus. Wow, I never realized how much he loves people! More than I love peanut butter and jelly.

**Teacher:** Way more.

**Puppet:** Or more than I love my Binky Bear.

**Teacher:** Way, way more.

**Puppet:** Or more than I love going to my cousin's house for sleepovers.

**Teacher:** Way, way, way more. He loves people from every nation more than they can imagine.

**Puppet:** Wow . . . so if the boys and girls stop and ask God to forgive them, then believe Jesus died to take their

punishment and rose from the dead, they can be part of God's family and go to heaven when they die?

**Teacher:** Yes! And when we believe that, it's like that yield sign. The yield sign tells us to let someone else go, right? Well, when we yield our lives to God, it's like we're saying, "God, you're in charge. You lead the way and I'll follow and do what you tell me to do in the Bible. I'll obey you, God, because I love you."

**Puppet:** So if the boys and girls admit they have disobeyed God's commands, believe in Jesus, and want to yield their lives to him, what's next?

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, you can talk to God and tell him you want to be part of his family. If anybody has

questions about this or wants to become part of God's family, make sure you talk to your leader or me today about that! Or you may want to have them go with a salvation counselor to talk about this.

**Puppet:** Thanks for sharing that greatest news!

**Teacher:** Sure, Speedy. I love talking about our wonderful Jesus!

**Puppet:** Well, I think I'm going to go tell my friend Oskar (Oh-scar), who is from Romania, about this!

**Teacher:** Okay, Speedy. And come back and see us tomorrow!



## Day 5: Puppet Pal

**Puppet:** Pop up. Hey, everybody! What's going on?

**Teacher:** Hi, Speedy! We were just saying that because God loves us so much, we also need to love one another.

**Puppet:** Hey, I just learned a Bible verse about that from 1 John 4:11!

**Teacher:** Let's say that verse together, boys and girls. Do so.

**Puppet:** But I don't know. It's kind of hard to love that kid who looks so different than me.

**Teacher:** Some people may look different than you, or wear a different type of clothes, or live in a different country and have different ways of doing things, but they're precious people made by God in his image. God wants us to treat them with love and kindness.

**Puppet:** Do you know any other Bible verses that would help me remember that?

**Teacher:** Well, we talked about the one that says, "love one another." There are many, many verses that remind us to love one another\*\*\*. And the Bible also tells us to not base our thoughts about people on how they look on the outside, but to remember God looks at their hearts—who they are on the inside. That verse goes like this: Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

**Puppet:** So I shouldn't judge someone when they look different than me?

**Teacher:** Nope.

**Puppet:** What about if they wear different kinds of clothes or eat different kinds of foods or just live in a different way than I do?

**Teacher:** You should treat every person with love and kindness, regardless of what they look like or eat. And you can try to find ways to help them when help is needed.

**Puppet:** What if somebody drops groceries out of their grocery bag?

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, what can you do if somebody drops groceries out of her bag? Take responses.

**Puppet:** What if someone's hands are full and can't get the door open?

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, how can you help if somebody can't get the door open? Take responses.

**Puppet:** What if I'm playing and my little sister is crying?

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, how can you help? Take responses.

**Puppet:** What if I want to pick on (bully) someone who is smaller than me?

**Teacher:** That's just wrong. It's sin. No bullying!

**Puppet:** What if . . .

**Teacher:** I think we get the idea. We can ask God to help us to always be ready to treat everyone we meet each day with love and kindness. And to see everyone as an image-bearer of God.

**Puppet:** I'm going to go help my mom put away the groceries right now.

**Teacher:** Sounds great, Speedy! Let's say goodbye to Speedy. Do so.