

Day 1: Puppet Pal

Teacher: On the count of 3, let's all call to Speedy. Ready? 1, 2, 3—Speedy!

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

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

Puppet: Well, I . . . uhhh . . . mmmm . . .

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 have that, but here you are with it.

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

Teacher: Speedy, tell the truth. It's very, very important to always 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 do something you're not supposed to?

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Show the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. Sin. Sin is when we don't obey God. Our animal pal, Bo, reminds us that all of us sin. Why do you think we have a snake to remind us of sin? Take responses, and remind them about the serpent tempting Adam and Eve to sin.

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 are 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 our sin. 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! Well, Speedy, I think you should tell your mom 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: On the count of three, let's stand up and call our puppet pal. Ready? 1, 2, 3, Speedy!

Puppet: Hola! Bonjour! Shalom!

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

Puppet: Oh hi! 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, the Bible tells us that about 4,000 years ago, something amazing—and confusing—happened.

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

Teacher: That would be amazing and confusing, but no. Let me share from the Bible what happened. I just told the boys and girls about this!

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 to spread out and fill the earth.

Puppet: And they didn't obey God and stayed together anyway?

Teacher: Yes, they sinned. God told them to have families and spread out all over the earth, but they didn't want to. They wanted to stay all together, so they started building that city and tower.

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

Teacher: Right! God loves you and shows 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. And you know, even though people all over the world speak different languages and live in different places, we're still all related to each other. We're one big family!

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

Teacher: No, it's true. We may look a little different or speak a different language, but according to the Bible, we all came from Adam and Eve. They're our great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great . . .

Puppet: Okay, okay, I get the idea.

Teacher: . . . grandparents! Whew! So you see, Speedy, we're just one great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great . . .

Puppet: Not this again!

Teacher: . . . great big family! 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.

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.

Day 3: Puppet Pal

Puppet: Before coming up, make a dog barking sound behind the puppet stage 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: Wow, you have a lot of dogs! How many was that, kids? Take responses—three.

Puppet: They're all so different. Two of them are big and one is little. One is golden colored, one is reddish, and one is white.

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

Puppet: Yeah, Goofy Foofy is always rolling around on the floor. Funny Sunny has fur that gets all over the place. And Rusty loves to run.

Teacher: Show the DOG KIND POSTER. I'm so glad God created dogs. All the different varieties of dogs are fantastic. Look at some of these! Discuss for a minute.

Puppet: These dogs do look different!

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

Puppet: I'll say!

Teacher: This one's a Boerboel (pronounced "bore bull"). Point to the dog on the left of the poster if you're looking at it. He's gonna be a big, strong dog when he grows up. He has short, brown fur. And here's a Basenji (pronounced "baa sen gee"). Point to the middle dog. 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 dog. Look how fluffy his fur is!

Puppet: They really do look different.

Teacher: At the same time, they're also 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. And God made every other animal kind, too. Dogs are dogs, cats are cats, elephants are elephants, and so forth.

Puppet: How about people?

Teacher: People aren't like animals. We're 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 different in some ways. At the same time, people are people, and we're 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 a little 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.

Puppet: And God loves all people groups all over the earth, no matter where they live.

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

Puppet: Well, this puts me in the mood to go and play with my friend Abun (ah boon). His family is from Africa. We like playing together.

Teacher: Wonderful! We'll see you later, Speedy. Have fun!

Day 4: Puppet Pal

Teacher: 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'm glad you're better at driving than finding puppets.

Teacher: Yeah, thankfully, we all drove carefully and followed the directions and the road signs.

Puppet: It's important to follow those carefully or you could get into an accident.

Teacher: That's right! And, you know, it's important to follow God's directions, too. They will help us 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 things in the Bible, like . . . how he loves the human race.

Puppet: God loves boys and girls?

Teacher: God loves boys and girls from every people group, and grown-ups, too! In fact, the Bible tells us that God loved us so much he sent his Son, Jesus, from heaven so he could rescue us.

Puppet: Why? Are people in trouble?

Teacher: You may not realize it, but every person is in trouble. That's because of sin. We talked about sin a few days ago. Boys and girls, do you remember what sin is? Take responses, and remind them that sin is when we don't obey God. Give a couple examples, like 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: That sounds serious—even worse than getting in an accident!

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

Puppet: Like what? A stop sign?

Teacher: Well, God does tell each of us to stop—to stop and ask him to forgive you of your sin. Boys and girls, that means we are sorry for disobeying God.

Puppet: Anything else?

Teacher: Yep. Boys and girls, then you tell God you believe he sent his Son, Jesus, to save you. You see, Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life, never doing anything wrong and never sinning. 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. Jesus let those people nail him to a cross because he knew we needed someone who had never sinned to take the punishment for sin, which is death. It would be like if you stole a cookie, but I took the punishment for it, even though I hadn't stolen the cookie.

Puppet: That would be so kind of you!

Teacher: Yes, it was incredibly kind of Jesus. Show the DAY 4 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. Look at our swans here. What shape do you see in between them? Yes, a heart! Boys and girls, that's to remind you that God loves you more than you can imagine—enough to die on a cross and take your punishment! 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!

Puppet: Wow, I never realized how much he loves all people! More than I love peanut butter and jelly.

Teacher: Way more.

Puppet: Or my Binky Bear.

Teacher: Way, way more. He loves these boys and girls more than you can imagine.

Puppet: Wow . . . so you said to stop and ask God to forgive you, then believe Jesus died and rose from the dead to take your punishment if you want to be part of God's family.

Teacher: Yes! Boys and girls, you can talk to God and tell him you want to be part of his family. If any of you want to become part of God's family, make sure you talk to your leader or me today about that!

Puppet: Thanks for sharing that greatest news! I think I'm going to go tell my friend Oskar (Oh-scar), who is from Romania, about this!

Teacher: Okay! We'll see you later, Speedy!

Day 5: Puppet Pal

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

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

Puppet: Hey, I just learned a Bible verse about that! It goes: Love one another.

Teacher: Let's say that 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 I do.

Teacher: A person's skin shade may be different than yours or he may wear clothes that are different than the type you wear or she may live in a different country. But each person is made by God in his image. God wants us to treat them with love and kindness.

Puppet: Do you have any Bible verses that would help me remember that?

Teacher: Well, we talked about our Bible verse for today. 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—the people they are. That verse goes like this: Read or paraphrase 1 Samuel 16:7.

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

Teacher: No, you should treat all people with love and kindness and try to find ways to help them.

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

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

Puppet: What if somebody is sitting by himself on the playground?

Teacher: Boys and girls, what could you do if you see someone who seems lonely and is sitting by himself on the playground? Take responses.

Puppet: What if there's someone who isn't good at the sports we play?

Teacher: We should love people whether they're good at something or not.

Puppet: What if . . .

Teacher: I think we get the idea. We need to ask God to help us to always be ready to treat everyone we meet each day with love and kindness. Show the **DAY 5 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. Look at Racer our Roadrunner here. He can remind us that God always wants us to be on the lookout for ways to race around and show his love through Jesus and kindness!

Puppet: I think I'm going to go see if my neighbor can use a hand. She walks with a walker, and maybe I can offer to hold the door open for her and see what other ways I can help her.

Teacher: Great idea, Speedy. Why don't you do that? And thanks for stopping by this week. Let's say bye to Speedy. Do so.