

Day 1: Praise the Creator

Teacher: Hi, kids! Welcome to the jungle. I'll be your guide as we explore the jungle this week at VBS. My friend ____ (*Teacher 2*), will be here soon to go with us on our journey. But for now, I want you to meet our puppet pal. His name is Jungle Jimmy (*or Jungle Jenna if a girl*). Let's all call for him (*her*). Do so.

Puppet: *Come up.*

Teacher: Hi there, Jungle Jimmy.

Puppet: Hi! You can call me JJ for short.

Teacher: Okay! Kids, let's say, "Hi, JJ!" Do so.

Puppet: *Wave.* Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hey, JJ, do you like to play outside?

Puppet: I sure do! I like to go to the park and explore like I'm in a jungle. And when I swing on the swings, I pretend I'm a monkey swinging on a vine! *Jump around like a monkey.* Ooh-ooh-ah-ah-ah!

Teacher: That must be why your name is Jungle Jimmy.

Puppet: Yup! I love jungles. I think they're super cool!

Teacher: I think so too! So, JJ, when you're outside playing, what kinds of critters or plants do you see out there?

Puppet: *Thinking.* Umm . . . I watched a bunch of ants the other day. They were busy working and running back and forth! Oh, and I saw a bluebird sitting in a tree!

Teacher: Nice! What kinds of plants and trees have you seen?

Puppet: Ooh! We've got some really cool flowers in our yard called snapdragons. When you squeeze them, they open up!

Teacher: Well, when you see beautiful things in nature, you can think about our good, kind, wonderful Creator God.

Puppet: Did God make ants and birds and snapdragons?

Teacher: He sure did! God created all these beautiful things we get to see and smell and hear. When we're outside playing or walking in the woods or going to the zoo, we can tell God thank you for the plants and animals that we see or hear.

Puppet: That sounds great! I want to tell God thank you.

Teacher: Yes, it's good to remember that God made beautiful things all around us.

Puppet: (*Excitedly*) Thank you, God, for animals, plants, the sunshine, the moon, stars—all kinds of things!

Teacher: When we say thank you to God, that's called praise. God is our Creator, which means he made, or created, everything. We should praise him every day. The Bible even tells us to praise God all the time.

Puppet: Hey! I know a song called “Let’s Praise God!” Kids, will you sing it with me? *Have the puppet sing and move with the kids.*

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.”

VERSE 1

Clap your hands if God made bees (*Clap.*)
God made trees (*Clap.*)
God made seas (*Clap.*)
Clap your hands if God made **ME** (*Clap.*)
Let’s praise God! (*Sway hands over head.*)

VERSE 2

Stomp your feet if God made cats (*Stomp.*)
God made gnats (*Stomp.*)
God made rats (*Stomp.*)
Stomp your feet if God made bats (*Stomp.*)
Let’s praise God! (*Sway hands over head.*)

VERSE 3

Turn around if God made sky (*Turn around.*)
God made flies (*Turn right.*)
God made eyes (*Turn left.*)
Turn around if God made sky (*Turn around.*)
Let’s praise God! (*Sway hands over head.*)

VERSE 4

Wig-wig-wiggle if God made your nose
(*Wiggle and touch nose.*)
God made your toes (*Wiggle and touch toes.*)
God made elbows (*Wiggle and touch elbow.*)
Wig-wig-wiggle if God made kiddos (*Wiggle
and point to kids.*)
Let’s praise God! (*Sway hands over head.*)

VERSE 5

Bend and stretch if God made bears
(*Bend and stretch.*)
God made hares (*Bend and stretch.*)
God made pears (*Bend and stretch.*)
Bend and stretch if God made air
(*Bend and stretch.*)
Let’s praise God!
(*Sway hands over head.*)

Teacher: Great job singing! Let’s say goodbye to JJ now. *Do so.*

Puppet: Bye! See you tomorrow. *Exit.*

Day 2: Water, Water Everywhere

Teacher: Here we are at our next stop—the C called Catastrophe. *Show the 7 C'S CATASTROPHE POSTER.* A catastrophe is something terrible that happens. The Bible says that sin got so *bad* that God sent a big flood of water to punish sin on the earth. That's why our second color for today is blue—to remind us of water.

Puppet: *Stay hidden. Speak in a muffled voice.* Help! Help!

Teacher: Kids, did you hear something? Where's that coming from? *Walk to where JJ will be appearing, and look down inside.* Oh, my! It's Jungle Jimmy! And he's looking very, uh, water-proof today. Come up here where we can see you better, JJ!

Puppet: *Appear with the poncho on backwards.* Help! Somebody turned the lights out!

Teacher: *Turn the poncho around so he can see.* Is that better?

Puppet: Yes, thank you!

Teacher: Why are you wearing a rain poncho?

Puppet: I heard you were going to talk about a great big flood of water, so I thought I better get ready!

Teacher: You're right. My favorite book, the Bible, tells us all about it.

Puppet: I love the Bible! It's the best book in the whole wide world because it's written by God! Everything it says is true.

Teacher: We just learned from the Bible about a really bad time called Corruption when sin came into the world.

Puppet: You mean when Adam and Eve listened to the snake and disobeyed God?

Teacher: Yep. *Refer to your Bible.* Well, many years went by, and the Bible says all the people on earth were doing bad things (sinning) all the time. All except a man named Noah. He was the only one who wanted to obey God.

Puppet: That must have made God sad that nobody else wanted to obey him.

Teacher: It did make God sad. He had to punish their sin, so he sent a really, really big flood of water that covered the whole earth.

Puppet: Yikes! How did anyone stay alive? Did they hold onto a tree or something?

Teacher: No. The only people who lived were Noah and his family. Everyone else died.

Puppet: Did Noah have a boat or something?

Teacher: God told Noah to build a huge ship. It was called an ark. *Hold up and explain the ARK DIMENSIONS POSTER.* It was large enough to hold Noah and his family and the animals. Let's pretend we're building that ship. *Do so.*

Puppet: I wish everyone else had obeyed God.

Teacher: I do, too. God loves us and wants us to obey him, just like he wanted those people to obey. When we obey God by doing what he says, it shows that we love him.

Puppet: But wait a minute! What about the animals? Did they get on the ark?

Teacher: *Hold up/put up the ANIMALS COMING POSTER.* Yes. God sent some of the animals to get on the ark.

Puppet: What about dinosaurs? Weren't they too big to get on the ark?

Teacher: *Hold up/put up the DINOSAURS POSTER.* You think this happened? Nope. God probably sent young dinosaurs, so they weren't too big yet. And only two of each kind of animal needed to come. So they all fit just fine.

Puppet: Then the flood started, right?

Teacher 1: Once all the animals and Noah's family were on board, God shut the door, and the flood began. Let's pretend to shut the door, everyone. *Do so.* Water gushed up from cracks in the earth and water rained down from the sky. *Hold up/put up WATER EVERYWHERE POSTER.*

Puppet: Bloosh! Goosh!

Teacher: Volcanoes were erupting, earthquakes were shaking, and everything was going crazy. Let's pretend there's a big storm! *Do so, using the rainstorm directions on p. 6.*

Puppet: Flash! Boom! Bang!

Teacher: The water got higher and higher. When the rain stopped, Noah waited for all the water to go away. Finally, it was time to get off the ark.

Puppet: *Disappear.*

Teacher: Umm, JJ, where did you go? *Peer around his area to try to see him. Pretend to see him hiding. Kids still can't see him.* Oh, there you are! What's going on in there?

Puppet: *Throw small items out from the puppet area and onto the ground.* Well, all this talk about a flood has me worried. I'm trying to find my floaties in case God sends another flood!

Teacher: You don't need your floaties. God promised he would never flood the whole world again.

Puppet: *Come back out.* Wow! I'm glad to hear that!

Teacher: And God never breaks a promise. *Show ARK AND RAINBOW POSTER.* He even put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise.

Puppet: That's cool! So next time I see a rainbow, I can remember that God is a promise keeper. Hey kids, before I go, will you sing a song about Noah with me? *Have the puppet dance and sing with the kids as the teacher leads the motions. Sing as many verses as time permits.*

VERSE 1

The Lord said to Noah *(Point up, then out.)*

There's gonna be a floody, floody

(Move hands like waves.)

Lord said to Noah *(Point up, then out.)*

There's gonna be a **floody, floppy**

(Move hands like waves.)

There will be **enormous** *(clap once)*

muddy, muddy

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

CHORUS

So, rise and shine and give God the glory,

glory *(Lift hands from waist to over head, wiggle fingers.)*

Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory

(Lift hands, wiggle fingers.)

Rise and shine and *(clap once)*

give God the glory, glory

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

VERSE 2

The Lord said to Noah *(Point up, then out.)*

To build an **arky, arky** *(Pound a hammer.)*

Lord said to Noah *(Point up, then out.)*

To build an **arky, arky** *(Pound a hammer.)*

Build it out of *(clap once)*

gopher barky barky

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

Repeat Chorus

VERSE 3

The animals, they came on board *(Hop.)*

Two by twosies, twosies

(Hold up two fingers.)

Animals, they came on board *(Hop.)*

Two by twosies, twosies

(Hold up two fingers.)

Elephants and *(clap once)*

dinosauries, sauries

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

Repeat Chorus

Teacher: Great job! Now it's time to say, "See ya, JJ!" *Have kids repeat.*

Puppet: See ya! *Exit.*

VERSE 4

It rained and poured

(Move arms up and down, wiggle fingers.)

For forty daysies, daysies

(Extend and flex ten fingers four times.)

Rained and poured

(Move arms up and down, wiggle fingers.)

For forty daysies, daysies

(Extend and flex ten fingers four times.)

No sun shone, it *(clap once)*

sure was crazy, crazy

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

Repeat Chorus

VERSE 5

They stayed on the arky

(Rock back and forth.)

For lots more long daysies, daysies

(Stretch arms out long.)

Stayed on the arky *(Rock back and forth.)*

For lots more long daysies, daysies

(Stretch arms out long.)

Finally left and *(clap once)*

gave God praisies, praisies

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

Repeat Chorus

VERSE 6

So Noah obeyed and *(Stand up straight.)*

Did all God commanded, manded

(Put hands to mouth.)

So Noah obeyed and *(Stand up straight.)*

Did all God commanded, manded

(Put hands to mouth.)

God took care of *(clap once)* Noah and family,
family

Children of the Lord

(Wave hands over head, then point up.)

Day 3: Babel Rabble

Teacher: Kids, help me call for Jungle Jimmy. *Do so.* Hello? JJ? Are you in there? Hello?

Puppet: *Come up saying hello in other languages.* Hola! Guten tag! Shalom!

Teacher: JJ, what are you babbling about?

Puppet: Oh, I'm just saying hello in other languages. Let me teach you all how to say hello in French. Can you say, "Bonjour"?

Teacher and Kids: Bonjour.

Puppet: Good job!

Teacher: Guess what, JJ? We were just talking about languages too. That's what our Bible lesson is about today.

Puppet: Reeallyy?

Teacher: Yep! The time of confusion happened many years ago when God did something amazing.

Puppet: Oooh! . . . Did God make meatballs fall from the sky?

Teacher: Nope, but that would be amazing! It all happened when everybody spoke the same language.

Puppet: Everybody?

Teacher: Yes! That's what the Bible says. *Show your Bible.* Every person used the same words, and they all lived in the same place, too. The trouble was that they didn't want to listen to God.

Puppet: Uh-oh! That's not good.

Teacher: They decided to build a city and a really tall tower that would reach way up high.

Puppet: Why's that a bad idea? I love to go up high.

Teacher: It's bad because God told them to move away from there and find new places to live all over the world. God wanted them to have families and fill the world with people.

Puppet: Let me guess, they stayed where they were and started building the tower instead.

Teacher: That's right. So one day, God surprised them and changed the way they talked. Suddenly, they couldn't understand each other anymore.

Puppet: Wow! That must have been crazy-confusing!

Teacher: Imagine what it would be like if you were talking to your friends, and they started saying strange words that you never heard before.

Puppet: That would be super confusing! Like if I suddenly start talking like this:
KEESHA-BOO-DUM-DEE-DUM-FEE-FO-FUM!

Teacher: What? I didn't understand anything you just said.

Puppet: Neither did I. Now I'm confused too.

Teacher: Anyway, God confused the language by making new languages. That's why that place was called Babel, which means "confusion."

Puppet: So what did the people do since they didn't know what each other was saying anymore?

Teacher: They packed up and moved away. The families left and scattered all over the world—just like God told them to do before.

Puppet: Hmm. Is that why we have so many different people groups and languages all over the world?

Teacher: Yes. The people at Babel didn't love God and obey him, so God scattered them. It's important to remember that our kind and good God wants us to do what he says because he knows what's best!

Puppet: We should love God and obey him. God sure loves us and all the people of the world! I know a song about that. Come on and sing it with me. *Have the puppet move and sing with the kids.*

Jesus loves the little children

(Point up, then cross hands over heart.)

All the children of the world

(Make a circle with arms.)

Shades of brown from dark to light

(Randomly point around.)

All are precious in his sight *(Hug yourself.)*

Jesus loves the little children of the world

(Point up, then cross hands over heart.)

Repeat all

Puppet: I love to hear you all sing! But I better get going now. See you tomorrow! *Exit.*

Day 4: Gospel Presentation

Teacher: Jesus did a great thing when he died and came back to life. Let's talk to JJ more about it. Help me call him. *Do so.*

Puppet: *Enter holding a cookie.*

Teacher: Hey, JJ, that cookie sure looks good!

Puppet: Yummo! Kids, give me a big smile if you like cookies. *Allow responses.* My mom said I could have one for my snack.

Teacher: That's nice. We were talking about how Jesus was born, but when he grew up, he died and then came back to life.

Puppet: *Jump around excitedly.* Ooh! I've heard about this before! It's the best news ever!

Teacher: Do you know why it's such good news?

Puppet: Umm. I think I forgot. I know it's why we celebrate Christmas and Easter. Kids, don't you love Christmas and Easter?

Teacher: Yes. But that's not why it's important that Jesus died and rose again.

Puppet: Oh. Well, why *is* it important?

Teacher: The Bible tells us *why*. *Open Bible and refer to it as you continue.* Remember the Bible is God's Word, and it says all people are sinners. We disobey and do bad things.

Puppet: Like when we say mean things or don't obey? Is that sin?

Teacher: Yes. And we need help.

Puppet: *Take a bite from your cookie.* But who can help us?

Teacher: Jesus is the *only* one who can help us with our sin problem.

Puppet: But how does Jesus do that?

Teacher: Hmm. Let's pretend your mom tells you not to eat any more cookies. But when she leaves the kitchen, you sneak another cookie.

Puppet: Oh! That would be disobeying, so it's a sin.

Teacher: That's right. Now let's pretend that your mom walks in and catches you eating more cookies.

Puppet: Like this? *Chomp on cookie making "nom-nom" sounds.*

Teacher: Yes. You were gobbling down the cookies when she caught you.

Puppet: Uh-oh! Kids, what do you think might happen? *Take responses.*

Teacher: You would probably get in trouble—be punished.

Puppet: *Look down, ashamed.* Yep. I would have to sit in time-out. *In a panic.* Or maybe I wouldn't get any more cookies! *Shake head no.* That would be terrible because I reeeeeeally like cookies.

Teacher: Now let's imagine that your brother comes in the room and says, "Don't punish him, Mom. Punish me instead."

Puppet: My brother didn't eat any cookies. But he wants to take *my* punishment?

Teacher: That's right.

Puppet: Wow! He must love me a lot to take my punishment.

Teacher: And that's kind of like what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross and rose from the dead. Jesus took the punishment for our sin because he loves us.

Puppet: That's amazing!

Teacher: Jesus gives us forgiveness of our sins. It's like a gift. He wants to give it to each of us so we can live forever with him.

Puppet: Wow! How do you get the gift of forgiveness? Do you have to pay for it?

Teacher: We can't pay for it with money. It's free. God gives it when we ask him. But first he wants us to understand that we have all sinned.

Puppet: Boys and girls, can you think of a time you've sinned and done something wrong? Like lying or being mean to your brother or sister?

Teacher: If you're sorry for all your sins and believe Jesus died to take your punishment, you can tell God you want to be his child. You'll still be your mom and dad's child. But this means you'll also have God as your heavenly Father.

Puppet: I hope the kids love Jesus and want to be God's child! Today's memory verse talks about being God's child.

Teacher: Yes, it does. *Show John 1:12 in your Bible, then read the simplified version from the* **DAY 4 MEMORY VERSE POSTER**. Kids, if you want to be a child of God, tell your parents when you get home today.

Puppet: This is such happy news about Jesus, I feel like singing. Will you sing with me, kids? *Have the puppet move and sing with the kids.*

Jesus loves the little children
(Point up, then cross hands over heart.)

All the children of the world
(Make a circle with arms.)

Shades of brown from dark to light
(Randomly point around.)

All are precious in his sight *(Hug yourself.)*

Jesus loves the little children of the world
(Point up, then cross hands over heart.)

Repeat all

Puppet: That was so much fun! But I've gotta go now. See you tomorrow! *Exit.*

Day 5: Sad, Bad, Then Back to Glad

Teacher: Well, here we are, travelers, on the last day of our jungle journey. Before we get in the boat, let's see if you can remember the first six stops and all the C's in order. *Review with THE 7 C'S POSTERS. Look around for Teacher 2.* Hmm. I wonder where (Teacher 2) is. It's time to go. *(Sighing)* Well, while we're waiting, I can make sure everyone feels well enough to travel to the last stop. Is everyone good? Nobody has been bitten by a jungle snake or tripped over a jungle vine, have they? I'm going to do a quick check! *Pretend to do so with a play doctor kit.*

Puppet: *Enter moaning and groaning.*

Teacher: Hey, what happened to you, JJ?

Puppet: I fell off my bike and got a bad owie! I even cried.

Teacher: Oh! I'm sorry to hear that. Are you okay?

Puppet: Yeah! But it still hurts a lot! My mom took me to the doctor, and he put this bandage on. I sure wish bad things like this didn't happen.

Teacher: You know, JJ, today we'll be learning about a place where bad and sad things, like getting hurt, will never happen.

Puppet: Wow! Where's that?

Teacher: It's called the new heaven and new earth, but we can just say "heaven."

Puppet: How do you get to heaven?

Teacher: *Show Bible.* The Bible says that anyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus will live there with him someday.

Puppet: Why is it called a *new* heaven and a *new* earth?

Teacher: Because God is going to make everything new, and all of God's children won't live on this earth anymore, but on the new one.

Puppet: That sounds amazing! What's heaven going to be like?

Teacher: It will be better than this world! No more bad or sad stuff. Only good things again.

Puppet: You mean like when God first created everything, *before* Adam and Eve sinned?

Teacher: That's right. It's going to be perfectly beautiful and full of love and joy. And best of all—Jesus will be there!

Puppet: That sounds wonderful!

Teacher: But each person must make sure they're part of God's family by turning away from sin and trusting in Jesus. Then they will live there someday! And they can tell others about it too!

Puppet: Hey, isn't there a song about everything bad and sad, that ends up back to glad?

Teacher: Yes, that's "The 7 C's" song. You want to sing it with us before you go home?

Puppet: Sure! *Have puppet move and sing with the kids.*

Sing to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

VERSE 1

Crea-a-tion *(Make a circle with arms.)*

Corrup-up-tion *(Rub eyes as if crying.)*

Catastrophe, Confu-u-sion *(Wave motion, then point to head, look confused.)*

Oh-h, Christ and the Cross

(Rock a baby, then make a cross with arms.)

Consumma-a-a-tion

(Pulse arms up, building excitement, then jump on the last syllable.)

VERSE 2

These are the C's *(Make a C with arms.)*

The 7 C's *(Hold up 7 fingers, then make a C with arms.)*

The 7 C's of History

(Repeat 7 fingers, then C.)

They go from good to sad and bad

(Smile, then frown.)

But it ends up back to glad

(Smile, then clap-clap.)

Repeat Verse 1

Teacher: Thanks for singing with us, JJ. I hope your owie gets better soon.

Puppet: It's starting to feel better already. Thanks everyone! Bye! *Exit.*