

Puppet Pal—Standing for God

Teacher: Boys and girls, let's call for Sandy, our puppet pal. Sandy! Sandy! Sandy!

Puppet: Oh, hey. I was just down at the beach picking up some seashells.

Teacher: That sounds like fun!

Puppet: Well, it usually is, but today it wasn't so great.

Teacher: Why? Did something happen?

Puppet: Yeah. Some kids I know from school came along and started making fun of me.

Teacher: Just because you were picking up seashells?

Puppet: No, because they know I believe in God and love Him. They want me to quit talking about God so much.

Teacher: Oh. I see. So what happened?

Puppet: First they called me names. Then they tried to get me to go over to the Snack Shack and steal some money while the owner was gone.

Teacher: Hmm . . . did you do it?

Puppet: Nope.

Teacher: Why not?

Puppet: Because God says, "Do not steal." I love God, and I want to do what's right. I want to please and honor God.

Teacher: That reminds me of a man named Noah. He also wanted to do what was right and live in a way that pleased God. And even when nobody else believed in God, or did right in God's eyes, or talked about God, or obeyed God, or stood up for God, Noah still did by God's grace.

Puppet: Wait. You said Noah stood up for God. What does that mean? Does it mean you stand up on your legs?

Teacher: No. Standing for God doesn't mean you actually stand up. It means that you love God and obey Him and speak about Him no matter what. For example, let's say that every kid in your class is doing wrong and making fun of you for following God. If you stand for God, you will still obey Him and stay true to God. Even if every kid in your school or every kid in the whole world is against God, you still obey Him and tell others about Him. That's what standing for God means.

Puppet: Wow. That sounds like a really big deal.

Teacher: It is. You never know when you may get in a situation when you're the only one who loves God. But God doesn't want you to turn against Him or even to stay quiet about Him. He wants you to tell others about Him and always be true to Him. And, if you're His child, He'll give you the strength and grace to do that through His Holy Spirit. You may want to briefly review the gospel here. A more in-depth gospel presentation will be given on Day 3.

Puppet: If I'm the only one standing for God, I sure will need to be brave.

Teacher: Yes, you will, but God is the one who can keep you brave. You need to talk to God (that's called prayer) and ask Him to help you. The Bible gives us a good verse to pray and ask God to help us with that: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." Let's stand up and say that together. Do so.

Puppet: I'm going to ask God to help me stand for Him—even if I'm the only one!

Teacher: That's awesome, Sandy! And it's been awesome to see you, but now we're going to go over our Lifeline Verse a little more, so we'll see you later!

Puppet Pal—Obey Without Delay

Puppet: Come up pacing back and forth in an agitated manner.

Teacher: Hey, Sandy! What's going on?

Puppet: I can't believe it! This is so frustrating! Aaahhhh!!!

Teacher: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Slow down. What's got you so upset?

Puppet: I wanted to play with my best friend, but my parents said we can't get together until I clean my room.

Teacher: Well, that seems okay to me. Work before play. Sure, I understand why your parents said that.

Puppet: But they don't understand! Here's a chance to have a whole afternoon together. But where will I be? Stuck in my room, cleaning.

Teacher: You know, if you'd get right to it, I bet you could be done by the time your friend gets here.

Puppet: Have you looked at my room lately? I mean, it's a disaster! My mom has been asking me to clean it for a week, but I haven't touched it.

Teacher: Oh, so you haven't been obeying your mom?

Puppet: Well, I wouldn't put it that way.

Teacher: If your mom or dad or teacher or babysitter asks you to do something, you know what God wants you to do?

Puppet: Obey?

Teacher: Yes! And not just obey, but to obey right away and with a good attitude. And God wants you to obey completely.

Puppet: What's that mean?

Teacher: It's really not obeying if you only do part of what you're supposed to do. For instance, if your mom asks you to clean your room and you only make your bed, but you leave all your clothes and toys on the floor, then that isn't really obeying.

Puppet: I see what you mean.

Teacher: Or if you delay and delay and don't obey right away, that's also a problem.

Puppet: Sort of like how I didn't clean my room earlier this week when Mommy asked me to?

Teacher: Right! Or if you have a bad attitude and you grumble and complain about it.

Puppet: Uh-oh. I was grumbling and complaining a little bit ago.

Teacher: I know. I heard you.

Puppet: Why is it such a big deal to obey?

Teacher: Because the Bible tells us that if we love God, we will obey Him. And when you obey your parents, it's like obeying God, because God tells you to obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1). That shows you love God!

Puppet: Wow, I never thought of it like that.

Teacher: You know, we've been talking about Noah today and how he obeyed God. He didn't talk back to God, or have a bad attitude, or take too long. The Bible tells us Noah did what was right and he obeyed everything God told him to do.

Puppet: Wow, that's pretty incredible! Noah's like a superhero!

Teacher: No. He was just a guy. He made mistakes, but he did love God and want to please Him. I'm sure he talked to God all the time and asked God to help him obey. And God did!

Puppet: Maybe that's what I need to do.

Teacher: That's a great idea. Let's go over our Lifeline Verse right now, then we'll pray and ask God to help us love Him and obey Him.

Go on into learning the verse, then pray. (Teacher Two can leave the puppet area while Teacher One does so.)

Puppet Pal—Gospel Presentation

Teacher: Sandy, did you hear us talking about the Ark and the big Flood?

Puppet: Wow, I did, and that sure is incredible!

Teacher: It is, but you know what the most incredible part is?

Puppet: What?

Teacher: That God made a way for Noah and his family to be saved. Because they trusted and got on the Ark, God saved them from the Flood.

Show Poster 1: Ark Door with Cross

Puppet: We need to be saved too, don't we? Is there going to be another Flood and another Ark we can get on?

Teacher: No, the Bible says there will never be another world-wide Flood. But remember how we learned that now we all have a problem with sin and disobeying God? Even you and me?

Puppet: Yeah. We talked about that the other day.

Teacher: Well, all those people who didn't get on the Ark died because they didn't listen to God and believe how He could save them. They ended up separated from God forever!

Puppet: That sounds absolutely awful to be separated from God and His goodness!

Teacher: Well, there is good news! God doesn't want us to be separated from Him either. He loves us and wants us to be part of His family. So just as He offered a way for Noah's family to be saved, today He offers a way for us to be saved, too.

Puppet: What is the way?

Teacher: Well, God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth and was born as a baby. He lived a perfect life because Jesus was actually God! But then, He died on a cross, even though He never did anything wrong.

Show Poster 2: Cross

Puppet: But why did He die on a cross?

Teacher: Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins we do.

Puppet: Wow, that sure was nice of Jesus to do that!

Teacher: It was amazing love! It would be like if I did something really bad and I was supposed to get in big trouble, but then my brother came and said he had taken the punishment for me instead. Wouldn't that be incredible?

Puppet: It sure would!

Teacher: And the awesome thing is, Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life!

Show Poster 3: Empty Tomb

Puppet: Wow! That's incredible!

Teacher: It is! And Jesus did all this because He loves us and wants us to be part of God's family and live with God forever someday. But to be part of God's family, you have to do something important first.

Puppet: What?

Show Poster 4: Admit, Believe, Forever Receive

Teacher: Well, first, we need to admit we sin. Every person here has sinned, whether you've thought about it or not. For instance, God says we're to always tell the truth (Psalm 51:6). Have you ever told a lie? God says we're to obey our parents (Ephesians 6:1). Have you ever not obeyed your mom or dad? When we admit we have sinned and want to turn from those sins, this is called repentance. It means you're sorry for doing those things and you don't want to keep doing them.

Puppet: Then what?

Teacher: We need to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and came back to life again, all to take the punishment for our sins so we won't have to.

Puppet: And after that?

Teacher: We need to ask God if we can forever receive Him and become part of God's family. Boys and girls, if you are part of God's family, you'll never be separated from Him and His love.

Puppet: Admit, believe, and forever receive.

Teacher: Yep! Boys and girls, if you want to learn more about becoming part of God's family, please make sure you talk to your parents, your leader, or me sometime today. We'd love to talk to you more about it. Let's pray.

Puppet Pal—Counting My Blessings

Puppet: Come up talking softly to yourself and counting.

Teacher: It sounds like you're counting. Why are you doing that? Are you counting seashells?

Puppet: No, I'm counting my blessings.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Puppet: You know. Blessings. Good things God has done for me or given me. Things I want to thank God for.

Teacher: Oh, I love that idea! How many have you counted so far?

Puppet: Well, I just started, but I thought of five different foods that I want to thank God for.

Teacher: Hmm . . . I wonder what foods our friends here are thankful for. Can you guys think of any foods you want to thank God for? Take answers.

Puppet: They did great!

Teacher: What else will you thank God for?

Puppet: Well, there are some people I want to thank God for. So far, I've thought of four.

Teacher: That's great! Boys and girls, can you think of any special people to thank God for? Take answers.

Puppet: And of course, I thank God for my home, my bed, clothes, books, church, Jesus, and the Bible!

Teacher: Sandy, there's one very important thing you forgot to thank God for.

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Being part of God's family. Have you thanked God lately for saving you and making you part of His family?

Puppet: I guess I didn't think to do that.

Teacher: We should never get over that God loves us and made a way through Jesus to save us so we can be in His family.

Puppet: Wow, that's true. God is soooooo wonderful and amazing. He cares for each one of us and loves us. It's the greatest blessing of all to be part of His family.

Teacher: It sure is! Thanks be to God!

You may want to briefly review the gospel with the kids and then move on to the Apply It! section if time.

Puppet Pal—Promise Keepers

Teacher: Sandy, can you come out? Are you home?

Puppet: Here I am!

Teacher: Oh no, you seem kind of sad today. What's wrong?

Puppet: Daddy promised to take me to the zoo to see the animals. But I'm wondering if we're ever going to go!

Teacher: Well, does Daddy normally keep his promises? Does he do what he says he'll do?

Puppet: Yes.

Teacher: Then I'm sure he'll keep this promise, too. Sounds like he's a promise keeper, like God!

Puppet: How is God a promise keeper? He's not going to take me to the zoo.

Teacher: No, but God made a promise to Noah.

Puppet: He did?

Teacher: Yep! After the whole earth flooded and Noah got off the Ark, God promised He would never, ever, ever flood the whole earth again. And He even put something in the sky as a reminder of that promise. Do you know what He put in the sky?

Puppet: The rainbow!

Teacher: That's right! Every time we see a rainbow in the sky, we are reminded that God always keeps His promises, and He'll

never send another Flood to cover the whole earth. And do you know what? God has kept that promise! We've never had another flood that covered the whole earth, and we never will.

Puppet: Because God is a promise keeper!

Teacher: You're catching on! And since God keeps His promises, don't you think we should keep our promises, too?

Puppet: Yeah, we should!

Teacher: Keeping our promises shows we fear God, we honor Him, and we try to please Him.

Puppet: Wait! You said we should fear God. What does that mean? Does it mean to be afraid of Him?

Teacher: It means you realize how amazing and great and big and powerful God is and that He's Someone to be listened to and obeyed. Who else can make animals from nothing? Who else can make people? Who else can control the weather? Who else can save us? Only God! We need to realize He's in charge, and we need to take Him seriously!

Puppet: Okay, that sounds important, so I won't forget that. Oh, I hear my dad calling. It's time for the zoo! Hey, Daddy is a promise keeper!

Teacher: Bye, Sandy! Have fun at the zoo, and remember to fear God and be a promise keeper!