

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 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 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. They want me to quit talking about Him 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: Hmmm. Did you do it?

Puppet: Nope.

Teacher: Why not?

Puppet: Because God says not to steal and I want to live in such a way that pleases God and brings Him honor. I want to do what's right.

Teacher: That sounds like a man in the Bible 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 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 is against God, you still stand for Him. Even if everybody in the whole world is against God, you stay true to Him, by His grace. 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 help you to be 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. We'll look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

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 worked up?

Puppet: I want 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 do only 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 Him, or have a bad attitude, or delay. 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, and he was a sinner, too. But he loved God and wanted to please Him. I'm sure he talked to God all the time and asked God to help him obey.

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 before dismissing. (Teacher Two can leave the puppet area while Teacher One continues.)

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: It's to think that God made a way for Noah and his family to be saved from destruction because they trusted in God.

Show Poster 1: Ark Door with Cross

Puppet: Well, the Bible says people need to be saved, right? Even people today. Is there going to be another Flood and another Ark that people can get on?

Teacher: No, nothing like that. But do you remember how we talked about how everyone sins, or disobeys God's commands? Everyone—including everyone here?

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

Teacher: Right. From the beginning, God said that the punishment for sin is death. The Flood was God's judgment on the sinfulness of the people during Noah's day. Those people during Noah's day sinned, and they died. When they died, they were not in God's family, so they were separated from God's goodness forever and went to live in a terrible place they could never get out of.

Puppet: That sounds absolutely awful! I don't think any person would want to be separated from God and His goodness!

Teacher: Well, the good news is, God doesn't want people to be separated from Him either. He loves us and wants us to be part of His family. So just like He offered a way for Noah and his family to be saved from His judgment on sin, God offers a way for us to be saved from His judgment on sin so we can be in His family and live with Him forever.

Puppet: What is the way?

Teacher: Well, God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus, who is God Himself, came down to Earth and was born as a baby. He lived a perfect life and ended up being put on a cross and killed, even though He never did anything wrong.

Show Poster 2: Cross

Puppet: But why did He die on a cross, then?

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

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

Teacher: It was amazing love! It would be as 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 you know what else is incredible? Jesus came back to life! He rose from the dead!

Show Poster 3: Empty Tomb

And He did all this because He loves us and wants us to be part of God's family and live with God forever someday. But we don't automatically get to be part of God's family.

Puppet: Then how do you become part of God's family?

Show Poster 4: Admit, Believe, Forever Receive

Teacher: First, you need to admit that you've sinned, or disobeyed God's commands. You've sinned, even if you haven't realized you have. For example, God says to do everything without complaining (Philippians 2:14). Kids, have you ever whined when your parents told you to do something you didn't want to do? 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 disobeyed your mom or dad? These are all sins. When we admit we have sinned and want to turn from those sins, this is called repentance.

Puppet: Then what?

Teacher: Then you need to believe that Jesus lived a perfect life and then died on a cross and—this is so amazing—He came back to life, all to take the punishment for your sins so you won't have to.

Puppet: And after that?

Teacher: You need to ask God if you can forever receive Him and become part of God's family. If you are part of God's family, you won't ever be separated from Him and His goodness.

Puppet: Admit your sin (repent), believe in Jesus, and receive Him to become part of His family.

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

Puppet Pal—Count My Blessings

Puppet: Come up talking softly to yourself and counting.

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

Puppet: Well, I was just trying to count 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, that's fantastic! 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 if the boys and girls can think of some foods they want to thank God for. Let's see. *Take answers.*

Puppet: They did a good job!

Teacher: What else would you like to thank God for?

Puppet: Well, I was thinking of 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 anybody to thank God for? *Take answers and see who they come up with.*

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 didn't thank God for yet.

Puppet: What's that?

Teacher: Being part of God's family. Being in God's family, a child of God, means you have come to realize you're a sinner and you will be separated from God and His love and kindness. You realize you can't be good enough or work hard enough to save yourself. You do things wrong and are a sinner, and only God can forgive you and save you. If you've realized you're a sinner and that Jesus died to take the punishment for you, then you need to ask God to forgive you and to be part of His family. If you have done that, then you should always be thankful you belong to God!

Puppet: I guess I never thought about it like that.

Teacher: We should never get over the fact that God loves us and reached out to save us so we could 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! Why don't we talk to God about that right now?

Pray with the kids and then move on to the Apply It! section if time.

Puppet Pal—Promise Keepers

Teacher: Sandy, are you there?

Puppet: Here I am!

Teacher: What's going on? You seem kind of sad.

Puppet: I am.

Teacher: Why?

Puppet: Daddy promised to take me to the zoo, but we haven't left yet and 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 Flood was over 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 it was?

Puppet: The rainbow!

Teacher: That's right! Every time we see a rainbow in the sky, we are reminded that God keeps His promises, and He'll never send another Flood to cover the whole earth.

Puppet: God is a promise keeper!

Teacher: You're catching on! And since God is a promise keeper, 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!