

# PUPPET PAL—IT'S A SUPERSTAR!

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, let me introduce you to our puppet pal, and he (she) can introduce himself (herself) and tell you more about this Book of books, the Bible.

**Puppet:** Hey there, everybody! My name is Kai and I live in Alaska, above the Arctic Circle. I love to go exploring on my dogsled, and I also love to explore something else—my Bible! It's the coolest book on the planet!

**Teacher:** It sure is, Kai. The Bible is a treasure!

**Puppet:** Oh, yeah, it's a one-of-a-kind book all right, written by God! In fact, I think it deserves an award!

**Teacher:** I've got some stars here. Show them.

**Puppet:** That would be great! Well, to start, the Bible gets a star for being the only book that is God-breathed, or inspired. That means every word of it is from God Himself!

**Teacher:** Slap a star sticker on Kai's shirt. WOW! God wrote us a book! It's the Book of all books!

**Puppet:** But that's not all. The Bible deserves more stars! For instance, it's the best book ever.

**Teacher:** What makes it the best book ever?

**Puppet:** For one, it's perfect. The original writings didn't have even ONE mistake.

**Teacher:** That's incredible! What else makes it the best book ever?

**Puppet:** Well, it's impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2), and He wrote it! So that means every word in the Bible is completely true!

**Teacher:** I'm convinced. Here's another star for being the best book ever. Stick another star on Kai's shirt.

**Puppet:** And how about the fact that the Bible has been read by more people than any other book in the whole world?

**Teacher:** That deserves star three, for being the most read book. Put a star on Kai's arm.

**Puppet:** It's also written in the most languages. Most books are written in just one language, and some are written, or translated, into just two or three other languages. But the Bible has been written in over 2,000 languages! No other book comes even close.

**Teacher:** Si, si, star four, for being written in the most languages. Put another star on Kai's other arm.

**Puppet:** And there are more copies of the Bible than any other book. Year after year, it's always the best selling book.

**Teacher:** Star five. This is amazing. Put a star on Kai's head.

**Puppet:** And the Bible is also the best survivor of all times.

**Teacher:** You mean even better than the TV show *Survivor*?

**Puppet:** Oh, way better. Throughout time, kings and emperors and other people have tried to ban it, burn it, and outlaw it. They want to live by their rules, not God's rules. But it never works. No one will ever succeed in destroying God's Word. The Bible says:

Read Matthew 24:35, which talks about heaven and earth passing away but God's words never passing away.

**Teacher:** That certainly deserves a star. Put a star on Kai's ear.

**Puppet:** What about the fact that the Bible is the best copied book of all time?

**Teacher:** What's that mean?

**Puppet:** Well, the original writings were written before there were copy machines. The originals were perfect and without any errors. To get more copies from the first books of the Bible, they were copied by hand. Now there are other old books around that were hand copied too, but they all have tons of mistakes in them. But not so with the Bible! The Old Testament of the Bible was copied very accurately by a group of people called scribes. They took their job seriously.

**Teacher:** I've heard about scribes. They had strict rules for copying. Some would even take a bath and put on clean undergarments before they started.

**Puppet:** Yep.

**Teacher:** And they counted and recounted the letters they copied to make sure they hadn't missed even one. If they made a mistake, they threw the whole page away and started over.

**Puppet:** Yep! Yep! And when someone wrote the word "God," he dipped his pen in fresh ink. And how about if a king showed up? They wouldn't look up even if the king talked to them while they were writing!

**Teacher:** That deserves a star, too. Put a star on Kai's other ear.

**Puppet:** And how about the fact that God changes the lives of people who read the Bible? Ask around, and you'll hear over and over how the message of the Bible changes people's lives in wonderful ways.

**Teacher:** God has certainly used His Word, the Bible, to change my life! I love God's Word. Well, I think we could go on and on, Kai, but at this point. I'm sure the boys and girls see that the Bible is a book like no other book. It's a superstar! Place the last star on Kai's mouth.

**Puppet:** Talk in a muffled voice. It's the Book of books! Well I've gotta go do some exploring in my Bible! See you later!

**Teacher:** See you later, Kai!

# PUPPET PAL-CHANGED

**Teacher:** Explorers, let's call for Kai. Ready? Here we go. Kai! Kai! Where are you?

**Puppet:** Come up shaking your head back and forth. **Wow!** That was weird! I just talked to someone I hadn't seen for, like, a year. He used to live next door, and then he moved away.

**Teacher:** That's cool that you got to see him again! Why was it weird?

**Puppet:** Well, he just seemed different.

**Teacher:** How was he different? Did he look different?

**Puppet:** No, he looked pretty much the same.

**Teacher:** Then what was so weird about it?

**Puppet:** Well, he just seemed different. Not on the outside, but on the inside.

**Teacher:** What do you mean?

**Puppet:** He used to bully me a lot. In fact, he used to bully everybody a lot. I guess I'd have to say he was mean.

**Teacher:** So what changed?

**Puppet:** He was nice to me today! He was actually nice to me! In fact, I'd call him downright kind!

**Teacher:** Do you think it's just because you haven't seen him for awhile?

**Puppet:** Noooo, that's not it.

**Teacher:** Do you think he was just putting on an act?

**Puppet:** Nope. I truly think something's changed, and I bet I can guess what it is.

**Teacher:** What?

**Puppet:** Well, he told me he's been reading his Bible since he left, and he found out about God as he read—God who is loving and kind. God who sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins.

**Teacher:** That sounds like a big deal.

**Puppet:** Yeah, he said he repented of his sin and believed in Jesus to save him from his sin. He asked God if he could be his child, and now he's part of God's family. And he said that as he reads the pages of the Bible, God is teaching him and the Holy Spirit is changing him.

**Teacher:** Oh, so that's why he's more kind and loving.

**Puppet:** Yep! Of course, he's not perfect, but I can tell God is working on him.

**Teacher:** You know, God is in the business of transforming people's lives. Little by little, year after year, God changes us to be more like His Son. Just read about some of the people in the Bible who were changed, like Saul, and you'll see what I mean!

**Puppet:** Yeah, Saul was mean and sinful, too. But God transformed Saul into a great man of God.

**Teacher:** Yep! Isn't it cool to know we can read the Bible and pray to God and ask the Holy Spirit to change us to be more like Jesus? God is all-powerful. He can and does do it!

**Puppet:** He sure does! In fact, I think I'm going to go read my Bible right now and talk to God!

**Teacher:** Sounds good, Kai. While you're doing that, we're going to learn our Bible verse, so we'll see you later!

# PUPPET PAL—ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY

**Teacher:** Okay, so we've been talking about how the Bible is our bedrock base. It's trustworthy. Well, guess what? It's also the absolute authority on all matters. Let's have Kai come and chat with us a little more. Hey, Kai, you around?

**Puppet:** Come up. Hey there! What's happenin'?

**Teacher:** We're just talking a bit about authorities. Do you know what the word *authority* means?

**Puppet:** Not exactly. Explorers, do any of you know what *authority* means? Take responses.

**Teacher:** *Authority* means you have the right to take command and be in charge. For instance, your parents are authorities over you. Read Ephesians 6:1. God put them in charge of you.

**Puppet:** Yeah, well, I don't always feel like doing what they say to do.

**Teacher:** I get that, but God wants you to respect and obey them since He put them in charge of you. And we need to obey others who are in authority over us. Read Romans 13:1. Can you think of anyone else who is an authority in your life?

**Puppet:** Umm, explorers, help me out again. Can you think of anyone else who is an authority? Possibilities include police officers, coaches, teachers, principals, and pastors.

**Teacher:** Here, I've got an idea. Let's pick an explorer who can come up front and help us act out a little scene about authority. Choose someone who will go along agreeably with this.

**Teacher:** Okay, now Kai, pretend you're the parent and (name of the explorer) is a ten-year-old. The ten-year-old is snuggled on the couch watching a movie. The explorer pretends to do so, using a chair possibly for his "couch." Now, parent, ask for a drink of water.

**Puppet:** Use an adult voice. Hello! Please get me a drink of water!

**Teacher:** Okay, explorer, what would you do for real if your parent asks for a drink of water? Act it out now. The explorer should pretend to get it.

Now, let's try that again, but a little differently. This time our explorer is still a ten-year-old snuggled on the couch, but you are now his little six-year-old brother (or sister) who asks for a drink of water.

**Puppet:** Use a young child voice. Will you please get me a drink of water? The explorer may or may not comply.

**Teacher:** What was different between the two scenarios? The parent has authority—he has the right to command. The younger child doesn't have authority, so it may be hard to get an older child to listen to him. The older child may do what he asks to be kind, but not because he must.

**Puppet:** I see what you mean. But remind me what this has to do with the Bible.

**Teacher:** Well, of all the authorities in the world, who is the absolute authority?

**Puppet:** God!

**Teacher:** And what book did God write?

**Puppet:** The Bible!

**Teacher:** Yes! And so what book is the absolute authority?

**Puppet:** The Bible!

**Teacher:** You got it! The Bible is the Lord's words, so it is our absolute authority. Nobody is a higher authority than the Lord (Matthew 7:28–29), and since His words are recorded in the Bible, that makes the Bible our absolute authority. Some people don't want to listen to the Bible and obey it, but it's still the absolute authority, whether they recognize it or not. Since God is the Creator of everything, He has the authority to set the rules for how His creation operates and how His creatures are to live. Our job, by God's grace, is to read, study, and obey His rules.

**Puppet:** The Bible really is the Book of books, isn't it? It's not like any other book!

**Teacher:** Yep! Coolest book on the planet! Hope you grow to love it as much as I do!

**Puppet:** Well, my mom asked me to clean my room, so I'm going to obey her authority and do it. See you later!

**Teacher:** See you, Kai!

# PUPPET PAL—TOUR THE BIBLE

**Teacher:** Let's have Kai join us.

**Puppet:** Hey!

**Teacher:** Hi, Kai. Can you help us as we learn how the Bible is laid out?

**Puppet:** Totally.

**Teacher:** Then here we go. The Bible is divided into two parts, called testaments. What part is this? Point to the Old Testament in your Bible.

**Puppet:** The first testament?

**Teacher:** Nope. It's actually called the Old Testament. Can you remember that?

**Puppet:** Old Testament. Got it.

**Teacher:** And what part is this? Point to the New Testament in your Bible.

**Puppet:** The . . . end of the book testament?

**Teacher:** Ah, no. It's called the New Testament. The Bible is divided into two big parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Which part do you think was written first? Show Books of the Bible poster.

**Puppet:** The . . . Old?

**Teacher:** Right! The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born. It tells us that Jesus will come. Which part do you think is newer?

**Puppet:** Is this a trick question?

**Teacher:** Not really. The part that's newer is the . . .

**Puppet:** The Old.

**Teacher:** No! The newer part is the New. The New Testament was written after Jesus was born. It tells us Jesus has come. The whole Bible, in fact, is about Jesus. From the first book, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation, the Bible points us to Jesus.

**Puppet:** Cool beans!

**Teacher:** Now, do you think the Old Testament or the New Testament is bigger?

**Puppet:** Hey, dudes and dudettes out there! What do you think? Have them look at the Books of the Bible poster and raise hands to indicate Old or New. I polled the audience and they said the Old is bigger.

**Teacher:** Well, they're right! The Old Testament has 39 books in it. The New Testament has 27 books in it. All together there are . . .

**Puppet:** 66 books!

**Teacher:** Hey, you're pretty good at math! Yep, there are 66 books in the Bible that make up the one big book. It's sort of like puzzle pieces that all come together to make a beautiful puzzle. And if you look in the front of your Bible, you'll see the table of contents. This tells the names of the 66 books. If you need to look up a book, this is the place to go.

**Puppet:** Sweet! I know a cool song that teaches the books of the Bible in order. Want to sing it with me?

**Teacher:** Well, sure. Let's try it! Sing the "Books of the Bible" song if time using the memory verse CD, or skip these couple lines if short on time.

**Puppet:** It's fun to sing that song!

**Teacher:** It sure is! And it's also fun to play games. Let's try this game to review the books of the New Testament. In a minute, everyone will get in a circle, with one person appointed the starter. That person will say the first book of the New Testament, Matthew. Next, that person will say Matthew and the second person will say Mark. Next, the first person says Matthew, the second Mark, and the third Luke. This will go on, in order, as we add more and more books.

**Puppet:** Wait a minute. There are 27 books in the New Testament, and we don't have that many kids.

**Teacher:** That's okay. We'll just get as far as we can. At the end, everyone can try to say all of them together.

**Puppet:** Sounds fun! I know these explorers can do it!

**Teacher:** Let's go for it! Get in a circle and try it. Use the Books of the Bible poster for help.

# PUPPET PAL—EXPLORE AND LEARN IT! LOVE IT! LIVE IT!

**Puppet:** Hey, everybody! What's going on out here?

**Teacher:** Hi, Kai! We're just talking about some tips to learning, loving, and living the Bible!

**Puppet:** Oooo! Oooo! I've got a good one! It has to do with the word EXPLORE! You know I love to explore the Arctic on my dogsled, but I also love to explore my Bible!

**Teacher:** Me too! We're Bible explorers!

**Puppet:** So hey, Bible explorers! Let's see if you can spell EXPLORE with me. I want to hear you! Give me an E. (E!) Give me an X. (X!) Give me a P. (P!) Give me an L. (L!) Give me an O. (O!) Give me an R. (R!) Give me an E. (E!) What's that spell? (EXPLORE!) Louder! (EXPLORE!) Louder! (EXPLORE!)

**Teacher:** You know, if you keep the word EXPLORE in your mind when you're reading the Bible, it can be really helpful! Remember that each letter stands for something.

**Puppet:** Yep! Like, the EX stands for "Example." Explorers, let's shout out the word "example." Do so.

**Teacher:** Awesome! When you're reading something in the Bible think: Is there an example to follow? Point to the EX on the EXPLORE poster.

**Puppet:** Next comes the P. The P stands for "Promise." Explorers, let's shout out the word "promise." Do so.

**Teacher:** The Bible is full of promises. When you read it, think: Is there a promise to claim? Point to the P on the EXPLORE poster.

**Puppet:** Next comes the L. The L stands for "Lesson." Explorers, let's shout out the word "lesson." Do so.

**Teacher:** God has been so kind to leave us so many lessons in the Bible. When you read it, think: Is there a lesson to learn? Point to the L on the EXPLORE poster.

**Puppet:** After that comes the letter O. The O stands for "Offense." Explorers, let's shout out the word "offense." Do so.

**Teacher:** An offense is when we disobey God's command, a sin. So when you hear the Bible, ask yourself, "Is there an offense—a sin—to confess?" Point to the O.

**Puppet:** On to the next letter, which is R. The R stands for "Rule." Explorers, let's shout out the word "rule." Do so.

**Teacher:** God also kindly left us many helpful rules for our lives. So when you read, think: Is there a rule to obey? Point to the R.

**Puppet:** And finally—the letter E. E stands for "Error." Explorers, let's shout out the word "error." Do so.

**Teacher:** When you read the Bible, think: Is there an error to avoid? Point to the E.

**Puppet:** Okay, so if you put E-X-P-L-O-R-E together it spells a word. Do you know what word, explorers? Take responses.

**Teacher:** Go back through all the letters and see if the kids can remember what they mean if you have time. Then say: **Well, that's awesome, Kai. But now I want to leave the explorers with the ultimate explorer challenge.**