

PUPPET PAL—IT'S A SUPERSTAR!

Puppet: Hey there, everybody!

Teacher: Hi, Kai! Boys and girls, let's say, "Hi, Kai!" to our puppet pal. Do so. Can you tell us something you like to do, Kai?

Puppet: Well, I like to go exploring with Dad on my dogsled with my dogs. But I also love to explore something else—my Bible!

Teacher: The Bible sure is a treasure!

Puppet: Yep. It's one-of-a-kind. That makes it extra special.

Teacher: It's a one-of-a-kind book all right, written by God! In fact, it deserves a star! Slap a star sticker on Kai's shirt. God wrote us a book! Let's sing about that Book.

The B-I-B-L-E (Remain sitting, putting hands together to form a closed book.)

Yes, that's the book for me (Form an open book.)

I stand alone on the Word of God (Stand up.)

The B-I-B-L-E (Bounce on each letter.)

The BIBLE! (Shout it enthusiastically.)

Puppet: But that's not all. Did you know the Bible is true? God can't tell a lie (Titus 1:2), so since He wrote the Bible, that means every word is true!

Teacher: Wow! Here's another star for being true. Stick a star on Kai's arm.

Puppet: And did you know more people have read the Bible than any other book in the whole world?

Teacher: Another star for being the most read book. Put a star on Kai's other arm.

Puppet: And guess what? God changes people's lives as they read the Bible!

Teacher: God sure has used the Bible to change my life! I love God's Word. Hug your Bible. That deserves a star. Put a star on Kai's forehead.

Puppet: And the Bible will never go away. Read Matthew 24:35, which talks about heaven and earth passing away, but God's words never passing away.

Teacher: 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 different than every 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 show my mom these stars! See you later!

Teacher: See you later, Kai! Let's see if we can remember some of the special things about the Bible. Pull out the Coolest Book poster and read the statements one at a time, having them say, shout, or whisper them back to you.

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 be mean to me, but he was nice today! I 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 asked God to forgive him of the wrong things, the sins, he had done. And because he believes in Jesus, he asked God if he could be God's child, and now he's part of God's family. He said as he reads the Bible, God is teaching him and 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 in him.

Teacher: You know, little by little, year after year, God changes us to be more like Him.

Puppet: Yeah, Saul was mean and sinful. But God changed 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 Him to change us to be more like Jesus? God 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—RESPECT AND OBEY

Teacher: Okay, so we've been talking about how the Bible is our bedrock base. We can trust it. Well, guess what? We also need to obey it. 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 obeying. Did you know the Bible tells you to obey your parents? Read Ephesians 6:1.

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

Teacher: I know, but God wants you to respect and obey them since He put them in charge of you. And guess who else God wants you to respect and obey?

Puppet: Ummm . . . maybe my teacher and pastor?

Teacher: Yep! The Bible tells us to respect and obey the people God puts in charge of us. Read Romans 13:1. And of course, the most important person to obey is God!

Puppet: How do we know what He wants us to do?

Teacher: He wrote us a book—the Bible! The Bible is God's very words, so He wants us to obey them.

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

Teacher: Yep! Coolest book ever! 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 and do it. See you later!

Teacher: See you, Kai! Let's say, "Bye, Kai!" Do so.

PUPPET PAL-LOVE IN ACTION

Teacher: Now let's have Kai join us.

Puppet: Hey!

Teacher: Hi, Kai! How's your day going?

Puppet: Well, something unusual happened.

Teacher: What?

Puppet: My dad asked me to pick up my toys, and I didn't obey.

Teacher: So did you get in trouble?

Puppet: I was about to. Dad was going to punish me and take away my toys for a day. But he didn't.

Teacher: Why?

Puppet: Well, that's what was unusual. Just when Dad was about to take my toys from me, my brother came in and offered to take the punishment for me.

Teacher: Did your brother deserve to be punished?

Puppet: No! When my dad asked him to pick up his toys, he did. He didn't deserve to get in trouble. But then he ended up getting his favorite toys taken away because of me!

Teacher: Wow, that's really something! He took your punishment even though he didn't deserve it. He must love you a lot.

Puppet: I guess he does.

Teacher: You know, that reminds me of what Jesus did for us. Jesus never did anything wrong, and yet, He died on a cross and took our punishment because He knew we had sinned (not obeyed God).

Puppet: Wow, it's not just my brother who loves me. I guess Jesus loves me, too.

Teacher: He sure does. He loves all the little children. Let's sing about it!

Puppet: Okay!

Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children," then say bye to Kai and move on.

PUPPET PAL-PICNIC TIME

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

Teacher: I was thinking about going on a picnic. Wanna come?

Puppet: That sounds awesome! I love picnics!

Teacher: All right, then, it's settled. Spread out a blanket and have the kids sit on it. Make sure each child is facing the puppet stage. Put the picnic basket in the middle and unpack it. Give each child a small baggie of pretzels if doing that, but tell them to wait to eat. **Okay, there you go. A nice healthy snack. Let's pray, then we can dig in. Dear God, thank you for this wonderful day and for this wonderful food. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Puppet: Time to eat!

As everyone munches, continue on.

Teacher: Picnics are fun. Did you get enough food, Kai?

Puppet: Sure did!

Teacher: That's good to hear because that snack has to last you for one week.

Puppet: Throw a fit and act melodramatic. **One week! That's seven whole days! You've got to be kidding! I'll starve! I'll collapse! I'll never make it!**

Teacher: Sorry, you only get to eat once a week around here.

Puppet: Who made that rule? *I want my mommy!*

Teacher: Actually, I was just kidding, Kai. You don't have to wait a week. You can have more food when you're ready.

Puppet: Ha, ha! Very funny. Wow, am I glad you were just kidding! I wouldn't want to eat just once a week.

Teacher: That would be miserable, wouldn't it? You would be so unhappy, and you wouldn't stay healthy, either.

Puppet: That's for sure. I'd be in bad shape before I knew it.

Teacher: Well, you know what, Kai? Some people treat their Bibles sort of like that.

Puppet: What do you mean?

Teacher: Some people just read or listen to their Bibles once in a while. A lot of time goes by before they get it out again to read or listen to.

Puppet: So? What does that have to do with eating?

Teacher: Well, reading the Bible is sort of like taking in food. It's our spiritual food. Learning and loving and living the Bible keeps us strong in the Lord, just like good food can keep us strong in our bodies.

Puppet: Oh, I get it. Just like we need to eat food each day to stay physically healthy, we need to "eat" our spiritual food each day, too, to stay spiritually healthy.

Teacher: You got it! The Bible shouldn't be sitting on a shelf. It's a treasure to explore and use! Learn the Bible—try to find out all you can and listen when your parents or others teach from it. Love the Bible—it's God's special love letter to you! And live the Bible—obey what it says! Let's say Learn it! Love it! Live it! together one more time. *Do so.*

Puppet: That's a great reminder. I'll learn it, love it, and live it! Thanks for sharing that tip!

Teacher: You're welcome, Kai! Let's say bye to Kai. *Do so.*