

DAY 1: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Our puppet's name is Charlie. Let's all call for him (*her*) now. *Do so.*

Puppet: *Come up with a disguise on, looking furtively around.*

Teacher: Hey, what's going on? Who are you?

Puppet: *Say in a whisper: I'm your friend Charlie, but . . . (look around to make sure nobody is eavesdropping) my code name is Agent Lookout.*

Teacher: Oh, hi there, Agent Lookout. Are you on the lookout for bad guys?

Puppet: I am! I even need to wear a disguise sometimes. It's good to be a master of disguise if you're learning to be a spy, you know. How do you like it?

Teacher: Your disguise is great. And I agree it's good to be on the lookout for bad guys. But there's something even more important to be on the lookout for and that's fake gods.

Puppet: What's that mean, fake gods? There's only one true God, right?

Teacher: Right! But some people make up fake gods. They seem a lot like the real, one true God, but they aren't. They're just make believe.

Puppet: How do we know what the real true God is like?

Teacher: We learn about him in the Bible. But you would be surprised how many people believe in other gods.

Puppet: *Are there other gods?*

Teacher: Nope! As we said, there's only one true God. But people sometimes start worshipping other gods rather than the God of the Bible. These fake gods may be people or things.

Puppet: What do these fake gods look like?

Teacher: Well, they can look like many different things, depending on who made them up. *Hold up the FALSE GODS POSTER and point to each one as you mention it.* Here are some examples. The Greeks made up gods with names like Zeus and Poseidon. They supposedly weren't perfect and good.

Puppet: The one true God is perfect and good. I know that from the Bible! But what about that picture of animals?

Teacher: Well, some people worship animals. *Point to each one on the FALSE GODS POSTER as you mention it.* Animals aren't gods, are they? They're created by the one true God, but they themselves aren't gods. And neither are other things in nature, like the sun or the stars.

Puppet: What about that little statue?

Teacher: *Point to Buddha on the FALSE GODS POSTER as you mention him.* That's a person—a normal person who was not perfect—named Buddha. Buddha is not a god even though some people treat him like one. In fact, no person is a god! Only God is God!

Puppet: And how about that building?

Teacher: *Point to the Mayan Temple on the FALSE GODS POSTER as you mention it, and then the pyramid.* That's a temple called a Mayan Temple. There are lots of buildings around the world that were supposedly the houses of gods. Even the Pyramids of Egypt. But again, none of those has to do with a true god. The only true God is the one we learn about in the Bible.

Puppet: I need to learn my Bible well so I recognize the one true God *and* false gods.

Teacher: That's for sure, Agent Lookout. Always be on the lookout for the one true God of the Bible. You might want to start reading the Bible now, in fact! See what you can find out, and we'll see you tomorrow.

DAY 2: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Let's call for Charlie and see if he's (*she's*) pretending to be a secret agent again today. *Call for him together.*

Puppet: *Come up with a little case (Altoids mint box) taped to your hand. Be in disguise.*

Teacher: Hi Charlie! Looks like Agent Lookout is on the lookout again!

Puppet: I sure am. Today, I'm on the lookout for some fingerprints to see if I can catch a bad guy.

Teacher: Where do you think the fingerprints may be?

Puppet: Maybe in this room. I have my "Dusting for Fingerprints Kit" right here, and I'm going to see if I can find any fingerprints on a book or a lamp or maybe a table.

Teacher: Well, I hope you find some. You know, we've been on the lookout today for the one God in three persons.

Puppet: How can someone be one and three at the same time?

Teacher: It's hard for us to understand, so it's a bit of a mystery, but we know it's true.

Puppet: How?

Teacher: Because the Bible tells us so. And if the Bible says it, that settles it! God wrote the Bible, and he can't lie. He always tells the truth. He is one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Puppet: That sure sounds like a mystery to me! And spies always like to solve mysteries!

Teacher: Well, sorry, Agent Lookout, but this is one mystery that's too big for even the best spies to solve. You see, God is so big and so amazing, we can never completely understand how *everything* about him works. But he gave us his Word—the Bible—and we can trust his Word and know whatever it says is true.

Puppet: So if God says he is one God in three persons, then he is! And that's a mystery.

Teacher: Yes—a really cool mystery! I'm so thankful for each of them—God our Father, Jesus our rescuer, and the Holy Spirit our helper and comforter. Together, they make up the one true God.

Puppet: Yessiree! Well, thanks for letting me help you today. I'll see ya tomorrow. *Exit.*

Teacher: See you, Charlie—I mean, Agent Lookout!

DAY 3: PUPPET PAL

Puppet: *Come up humming the ABC song. Oh, hey, everyone!*

Teacher: Hi, Agent Lookout! What's that you're humming?

Puppet: The ABC song. I've been thinking about spy things that have to do with each letter, like *A* for "agent" and *B* for "binoculars."

Teacher: Well, I've been thinking about some letters too. My letters are in a code. Do you think you can help me decode them?

Puppet: Sure! I'm not very good at figuring out codes, but let's give it a try!

Teacher: *Point to the small letters at the top of the PART OF GOD'S FAMILY POSTER. They are A, B, F, R.*

Puppet: *A, B, F, R.* Hmm . . . I wonder what they stand for?

Teacher: *Think for a second and say excitedly:* I think I've got it! The *A* is for "admit."

Puppet: Admit what?

Teacher: *Remove the first sticky note.* Admit to God that you've sinned and haven't obeyed his commands. Tell him you know you've done wrong things and that you are sorry
(1 John 1:8–9).

Puppet: Then there's the letter *B*. That could stand for "bananas"! "Balloons?" "Bubble gum?"

Teacher: No, I don't think so. If *A* is for "admit," then *B* is for . . . "believe"!

Puppet: Believe what?

Teacher: *Remove the second sticky note.* Believe Jesus came on a rescue mission. He came to live a perfect life and die on a cross to take the punishment for your sin and my sin
(Romans 10:9–10). We all deserve that punishment, but Jesus took it for us!

Puppet: Wow, that's really good news. It's the best!

Teacher: Yes, it is! Jesus is the one true God. He not only died for us, he also came back to life. Only God can bring himself back to life!

Puppet: I wonder why he did that?

Teacher: Because he cares so much for each one of us. He loves you and you and you.
Point to different kids, using their names.

Puppet: So we should admit and believe. You're good at decoding. What do you think the *F* and *R* stand for?

Teacher: I think it rhymes with "believe." How about . . . "forever receive"?

Puppet: Hmm. “Believe,” “receive.” Yes, those rhyme! That’s got to be it! But what’s it mean?

Teacher: *Remove the third sticky note.* If you admit you sin and believe in Jesus, you can talk to God and tell him you want to forever receive him and follow him (*Ephesians 2:8–9*). You can become part of his family! You’ll still be part of your normal family, but you’ll also be part of God’s family! If you want to talk more about this with someone, make sure you talk to ___ when this class is over.

Puppet: We figured it out! Admit, believe, and forever receive! That was fun figuring out that code. Do we have a cipher poster to decode too?

Teacher: We sure do! Let’s try it! *Do so with the DAY 3 CIPHER POSTER.*

Puppet: I’m so glad God cares for each person. He cares so much he sent his Son, Jesus! He’s a wonderful God. Well, I’ve got to go now. I have another case to solve. Something about a slippery banana peel.

Teacher: Let’s say bye to Agent Lookout! *Do so.* Now let’s remind ourselves about God with the rhyme we started yesterday. We’ll add some more to it. *Do so, saying it a couple times together.*

One God (Point up.)

Three persons (Hold up three fingers and jump three times as you count to three.)

Big and strong (Flex muscles.)

Never does wrong (Shake head and hands “no.”)

Loves you (Cross hands over heart.)

And cares too (Hug yourself.)

DAY 4: PUPPET PAL

Puppet: *Come up with the “suitcase” filled with the props.*

Teacher: Hey, Agent Lookout, what do you have there?

Puppet: I’ve got some secret coded messages about God. Want to check them out?

Teacher: I sure do. I love cracking codes! Here, let me get one out. *Pull out the rubber band.*

Puppet: Okay, kids, on the count of three, you need to say, “God is . . .” Ready? One, two, three.

Teacher: “God is . . .” *Take a second to try to figure out how to decode the message and then act like you’ve realized you have to stretch it. Stretch the rubber band over the book (or just stretch it with your hands) and show the word written there. God is gracious. That means God gives us good things even though he knows we do bad things and should be punished.*

Puppet: So God is gracious. Let’s try another one. Kids, say, “God is . . .” on the count of three. One, two, three!

Teacher: How about this code? *Pull out the mirror and the GOD IS GOOD PATTERN with backward writing on it. Figure out you need to look in the mirror to find out what it says. Here we go, it says, “God is good.”*

Puppet: Right! God is good. Let’s do one more. Kids, say, “God is . . .” on the count of three again. One, two, three!

Teacher: *Pull out the paper and highlighter. Color the paper with the highlighter to reveal the words. Look at that! It says, “God is patient and loving.”*

Puppet: That’s right. The Bible says God is slow to anger. That means he’s patient. And God is loving and kind. God is all good.

Teacher: He sure is. *Show the DAY 4 CIPHER POSTER and figure out the answer. Then show the GOD IS . . . POSTER and point out any other terms you choose. Thanks, Agent Lookout. It was fun cracking codes to learn more about God. He really is like the father in Jesus’ story—loving, kind, forgiving, and good.*

Puppet: I like to imagine God with his arms wide open ready to give me a big hug. I hope the kids think of God that way too.

Teacher: Yes! You know, God loves each one of you. He wants you to be part of his family. He loves you soooo much! I hope each person here is part of God’s family. Well, bye for now, Agent Lookout. We’ll see you tomorrow!

DAY 5: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Let's call for Charlie. *Do so and have Charlie come up.* Hey, what's that you're wearing, Charlie—I mean, Agent Lookout?

Puppet: It's my exercise sweatband. I've been working out.

Teacher: How come?

Puppet: Well, I heard you talking about loving the Lord with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, so I decided to do some strength training exercises.

Teacher: Great! If you're able to, it's awesome to take good care of your body so you can serve God with it.

Puppet: Yeah, and I want to love him with my heart and soul and mind too. But I don't really know what that means.

Teacher: Well, when the Bible tells us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, it's really telling us to love God with everything we've got.

Puppet: The kids and I are wondering how to do that.

Teacher: Okay, let's talk about loving God with all our heart. We should treasure and value God—treat him like he's important. We can give him our time and pay attention to him. We can praise him by singing. We can listen to the Bible and believe every word. Those are just some of the ways we can love God with all our heart.

Puppet: What about loving him with my soul? I don't even know what my soul is.

Teacher: Your soul is the part of you that decides things. The choices you make and your decisions come from your soul. It's not something you can see, like an elbow or a toe, but it's very important.

Puppet: So whenever I decide to obey my mom, that's coming from my soul?

Teacher: Right! Choosing to obey the rules God tells us to follow in the Bible is a way to love him with all our soul. Of course, we can't always follow every rule perfectly. But we should *want* to because we love God.

Puppet: How about loving God with all my mind? What's that mean?

Teacher: Your mind has to do with the things you're thinking about in your head. What do you think about most? Do you like to learn about God? Do you like to listen to his Word? Do you want to keep getting to know more and more about God? That's all part of loving God with your mind.

Puppet: So when I enjoy learning about God, that's a good thing.

Teacher: Yes, it is!

Puppet: And loving God with all my strength. Does that mean I should keep exercising?

Teacher: Well, it's great to exercise if you can. But even a person who isn't able to exercise can love God with all his strength. It has to do with our actions—the things we do to obey God and serve him. There are so many ways we can serve God, like helping a sick person or writing an older person a card or helping our teacher with a task or opening a door for someone or doing our chores to obey our parents. These are just a few of kazillions of ways we can love God with our strength.

Puppet: I hope the cadets out there want to love God with all their heart and soul and mind and strength.

Teacher: I hope so too! God is the greatest and is worth following forever! Well, Charlie, I'm so glad we've gotten to talk with you this week. Keep being on the lookout for ways to love and serve the one true God!

Puppet: I will! Over and out, cadets!

Teacher: Let's say, "Over and out!" to Charlie, everyone. *Do so.*