

DAY 1: PUPPET PAL

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

Teacher: *Surprised by the puppet.* Hey, what's going on? Who are you?

Puppet: *Whisper.* I'm your friend Charlie. But . . . *(look around again)* my code name is Agent Lookout.

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

Puppet: Uh-huh! I'm wearing my new disguise so people won't know who I really am. How do you like it?

Teacher: Your disguise is great. I didn't know it was you at first. It's good to be on the lookout for bad guys. But there's something even more important to be on the lookout for.

Puppet: What's that?

Teacher: Fake gods, also called false gods.

Puppet: Fake gods? But there's only one true God, right?

Teacher: Right! But some people make up fake gods that are in disguise. They seem a lot like the real 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.

Puppet: Are there other real gods?

Teacher: Nope! There's only one true God. But many people believe in fake gods and worship them instead of the God of the Bible.

Puppet: What do these fake gods look like?

Teacher: Well, they can look like people or things. But they're all just made up. *Show the FALSE GODS POSTER and point to each section as you mention it.* Here are some examples. The Greeks made up gods with names like Zeus and Poseidon. But they were not perfect or good.

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

Teacher: Some people worship animals. *Point to the poster.* But animals aren't gods. The true God made them. He also made all the other things in nature, like the sun and the stars. They are not gods.

Puppet: How about statues? Are they gods?

Teacher: *Point to the poster.* Nope! Statues can't be gods. They aren't even alive. They're just made of stone or wood. A statue may look like a person, but no person is a god. Only God is God!

Puppet: What are those buildings?

Teacher: *Point to the poster.* Those are called temples and pyramids. There are lots of them around the world. People built them as houses for fake gods. But none of them have to do with the true God. The only true God is the one we learn about in the Bible.

Puppet: Yeah! And he's the only one who is big and great and good.

Teacher: That reminds me of a song called "Our God Is Big." Do you want to sing it with us, Charlie?

Puppet: Sure! *Make the puppet sing and move with the music.*

Song 1: Our God Is Big

Sing to the tune of "Right In, Right Out."

CHORUS

Our God is big, he's great, he's good
(Open arms wide on "big," pump them over head two times on "great" and "good.")

He's caring all the time
(Cross arms over chest and pulse them three times, on "car-," "all," and "time.")

Our God is big, he's great, he's good
(Open arms wide, pump them over head twice.)

He's caring all the time *(Cross arms over chest and pulse them three times.)*

He is the only God, the only one that's true
(Put up one index finger and sway it back and forth.)

Our God is big, he's great, he's good
(Open arms wide, pump them over head twice.)

He's caring all the time *(Cross arms over chest and pulse them three times)*

Repeat

Puppet: Whew! That was great. You know what? I need to learn more from my Bible so I can tell which is the one true God and which ones are false gods in disguise. See ya tomorrow! *Waves and exits.*

Teacher: Bye, Agent Lookout! Just like Charlie said, cadets, we should all be on the lookout for the one true God.

DAY 2: PUPPET PAL

Teacher 1 should read Matthew 3:13–17 from a Bible or children's Bible. Then show the BAPTISM OF JESUS POSTER as the puppet enters.

Puppet: What's that picture?

Teacher: Oh, hello Charlie—I mean, Agent Lookout. We're talking about the Trinity.

Puppet: I've heard of that before. That means God is one God but three persons, right?

Teacher: Yes! Very good. It's kind of a mystery because it's hard to understand.

Puppet: Ooh! I like mysteries. I *am* a secret agent, you know.

Teacher: Why don't you help us figure out the three persons in the Trinity.

Puppet: Sure!

Teacher: *Refer to the poster.* Which one spoke from heaven when Jesus came up from the water?

Puppet: Hey, cadets, did God the Father speak from heaven? *Yes.*

Teacher: Which one was in the water being baptized?

Puppet: We know that one. It was Jesus the Son.

Teacher: Which one came down like a dove (bird)?

Puppet: It was the Holy Spirit. Right, cadets? *Yes.*

Teacher: *Point to the poster.* That's the Trinity: one true God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Puppet: God is three persons in one. That sure seems like a mystery to me! But spies always like to solve mysteries!

Teacher: Sorry, Agent Lookout, but this is one mystery that's too big for even the best spies to solve. God is so big and so amazing, we can never know *everything* about him. But he gave us the Bible, and we can trust that 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 God our Father, Jesus our rescuer, and the Holy Spirit our helper and comforter. Together, they make up the one true God.

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

Teacher: See you, Charlie! Let's all stand up and sing a song to help us remember what happened when Jesus was baptized.

DAY 3: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Okay. I'll look around here. Oh! Here's one. *Pick up Clue A.* Cadets, are you ready?

Puppet: *Puppet enters.* Hello, everyone! Whatcha doin'?

Teacher: Hello, Agent Lookout. We're finding clues to help us figure out why people do bad things and what we can each do about our own sin.

Puppet: May I help you look out for clues?

Teacher: Sure! But I already found the first one. Listen to this. *Read Clue A.*

CLUE A: Clue A starts the fun. Find the file with the number one.

Have someone retrieve File A (the first envelope). Pull out and show the SCENE OF THE CRIME POSTER.

Puppet: Ooh! That's a pretty picture. Is that the garden of Eden?

Teacher: Yes, from the Bible, we learn that God created the world about 6,000 years ago. God planted a beautiful garden called Eden. Everything was good. There were no bad things, like crime (*Genesis 1-2*).

Puppet: No one did anything wrong?

Teacher: Nope! There was no sin. Sin is when we don't obey God and don't do what he says.

Puppet: What's the next clue?

Teacher: *Read Clue B.*

CLUE B: The next clue is nearby. It's under the feet of one of these guys.

Have someone retrieve File B. Pull out and show the SUSPECTS POSTER.

Teacher: The first crime happened in the garden of Eden.

Puppet: But the garden started as a very good place. What happened?

Teacher: The Bible tells us. *Point to your Bible.* God created the first two people, Adam and Eve, and they lived in the garden. God made them perfect (*Genesis 2*). But he gave them a rule. God told them not to eat fruit from one special tree in the garden. If they ate it, they would be punished (*Genesis 2:15-16*).

Puppet: Uh-oh, I see a snake.

Teacher: God's enemy, the devil, used a snake in the garden to get Adam and Eve to disobey God.

Puppet: Let's read the next clue to find out what happened.

Teacher: *Read Clue C.*

CLUE C: Next is Clue C. But where could it be?

Look around, up or down, or maybe in a tree (or by a knee).

Have someone retrieve File C. Pull out and show the CRIME POSTER.

Puppet: That enemy was against God, right?

Teacher: Yes, the enemy is wicked, and he doesn't want anyone to love God. So he tempted Eve and tricked her into eating fruit from the special tree. Then Adam ate some too (*Genesis 3:6*).

Puppet: Oh no! They disobeyed God.

Teacher: This was the first sin, the first crime ever. Disobeying God's commands is called sin. God said if they disobeyed him, they would die.

Puppet: The Bible says God is perfect and never sins.

Teacher: God is holy, so he can't stand sin. And he won't allow people who sin into heaven.

Puppet: That's awful! But God knew how to help them, right?

Teacher: I think the next clue will tell us. *Read Clue D.*

CLUE D: The next object will be something wooden made from a tree.

Christians hold this dear, and it's pretty near.

Have someone retrieve File D. Explain the cross on it ("wooden made from a tree"). Pull out and show the CASE SOLVED POSTER.

Teacher: God knew that every person since Adam and Eve would sin and disobey God, including you and me (*Romans 5:12*). Our sins keep us from being close to God. But you know what? God loves us and wants us to be with him forever.

Puppet: Did God have a way to solve this case?

Teacher: Of course he did. God promised Adam and Eve that he would one day send someone to rescue them from sin (*Genesis 3:15*).

Puppet: I know who that was. God sent his Son, Jesus, from heaven to be born as a baby. We celebrate it at Christmastime!

Teacher: Jesus grew up just like a regular person.

Puppet: Except he never sinned.

Teacher: Right! He never did anything wrong. When he was a man, Jesus died a painful death on a cross so he could take our punishment because he loves us so much (*John 3:16-17*).

Puppet: What do you mean?

Teacher: Think of it this way. When someone does a crime, like stealing something, usually they are taken to jail.

Puppet: That's their punishment for doing something bad.

Teacher: But did you know we all should be punished for doing bad things
(Romans 3:23)?

Puppet: Even if we don't hurt someone or steal something?

Teacher: That's right. The Bible says we all sin, including all our cadets here.

Puppet: Hmm. I guess I have grabbed toys from other kids and fussed when it was time to go to sleep. Have any of you cadets done that?

Teacher: God says to be kind and to obey our parents. So being mean and fussing or complaining are sins.

Puppet: But Jesus took the punishment for our sins when he died.

Teacher: Yes, he did. But the best news is coming. I've got one more clue. *Read Clue E.*

**CLUE E: Our clues are close to done. But it's not the end of fun.
Look near a lock for a stone or rock.**

Have someone retrieve File E. Pull out and show the BEST EVIDENCE POSTER.

Teacher: The best news ever is that Jesus didn't stay dead. His friends went to the tomb where Jesus was buried, but he was gone! Jesus came back to life because he is God, and God can do that!

Puppet: Wow! That's so awesome.

Teacher: That means Jesus, God's Son, is alive. Jesus died because he loves us. But now, he's alive again and wants us to be part of his family.

Puppet: That's amazing! It reminds me of a song. Let's sing a song about Jesus and his love. *Make the puppet sing and move with the music.*

Song 1: Jesus Loves Me

VERSE

Jesus loves me, this I know
(Touch right finger to left palm and vice versa to make the Jesus sign.)
For the Bible tells me so
(Make an open Bible with hands.)
Little ones to him belong (Scrunch down.)
They are weak, but he is strong
(Act weak, then flex arm muscles.)

CHORUS

Yes, Jesus loves me (Nod, then make the Jesus sign as described.)
Yes, Jesus loves me (Repeat.)
Yes, Jesus loves me (Repeat.)
The Bible tells me so
(Make an open Bible with hands.)
Repeat all

Puppet: Great singing, everyone! I'll see you all later. Bye.

DAY 4: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: In the Bible, right here in Luke 15, *(show the passage)* Jesus wanted to teach people about God the Father, so he told a story (called a parable) about a father and his two sons.

Puppet: *Pop up excitedly.* A story? I love stories! May I listen too?

Teacher: Well, hello, Agent Lookout. Of course, you may listen to Jesus' story. While I read it, though, I want you and the cadets to look out for clues that tell us what God is like. But you'll have to use your ears to *listen* for these clues.

Puppet: That sounds tricky. But we can do it. Right, cadets?

Teacher: The father in the parable does things that show us what God is like. So it's a very special story.

Puppet: Got it!

Teacher: It starts with a father who had two sons. The father decided to give half his money to each son. *Open the suitcase toward you so kids can't see inside. Drop the bundles of money on the floor where kids can see.*

Puppet: That's a lot of money. What did they do with it?

Teacher: The younger son decided to leave home with his money.

Puppet: Did he come back home for dinner?

Teacher: No, he went to a different place far away from home and wasted all the money. Soon, his money was all gone. *Pick up the bundles and put them back inside the suitcase.* While he was there, a famine came into the land. That means people ran out of food!

Puppet: Oh no! Did the son get hungry? Did his tummy growl?

Teacher: Yes, he got very hungry. One day, when he was feeding some pigs, he felt so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food!

Puppet: That sounds yucky! What do you think, cadets? Would you eat pig food? Ew!

Teacher: The son thought about all the bad sins he had done. It was wrong for him to leave home and use up his dad's money. "I've done so many wrong things," he said to himself. "My dad is probably really mad. Maybe if I tell him how sorry I am he will at least let me work for him."

Puppet: If he worked for his dad, at least he could get something to eat that way.

Teacher: That's right. So off he went, back home to his father. But when he was still a long way off, the son saw someone running toward him.

Puppet: Uh-oh! Who was it? A bad guy coming to chase him away?

Teacher: No! It wasn't a bad guy. *Show the PRODIGAL SON POSTER.* It was his father! He had been watching for his son to come home. And when he finally saw his son coming, that father ran as fast as he could to give his son an enormous hug!

Puppet: I like hugs! Kids, clap your hands if you like big hugs too. *Do so.* Did the son get to tell his dad how sorry he was for all the wrong things he did?

Teacher: Yes, but his father had already forgiven him. He was just happy to have his son home.

Puppet: Then what happened?

Teacher: *Show each item from the suitcase as you go.* The father told his servants to get the best robe and a ring and shoes for his son to put on.

Puppet: Did they have a party?

Teacher: Yes, they did. The father ordered his servants to make a feast of food for a big party. "I must celebrate!" he said. "I thought my son was dead, but he is alive. I thought he was lost, but now, he is found."

Puppet: Hey, cadets! Let's get up and dance like they did to celebrate. *Make the puppet move while the children stand and dance in place.*

Teacher: *Have children sit down.* Now, let's think about the clues you heard that tell us what the father was like. *Refer to the PRODIGAL SON POSTER.* Did you notice how loving the father was?

Puppet: Yeah, he didn't care how dirty or stinky his son was. He just ran and hugged him.

Teacher: Did the father act mad for all the bad things his son did?

Puppet: No, he forgave his son for running away and spending all his money.

Teacher: The father was gracious to his son. That means he gave him good things even when he had done bad things. Cadets, do you remember what good things he gave to his son when he came home? *Pause for responses. Refer to the items again as you repack the suitcase.*

Puppet: The father didn't punish his son either, even though he should have been punished. He deserved it.

Teacher: His father was being merciful.

Puppet: The father forgave his son too. He didn't get mad. He showed love instead. Cadets, raise your hand if you think this father was a good, good father. *Do so.*

Teacher: When Jesus told this story, he was helping us understand what his Father, God, is like. The one true God is a good, loving, gracious, kind, merciful, and forgiving Father to all of his children.

Puppet: Wow! There's no one like our one true God. Let's sing a song about that. *Make the puppet move and sing with the music.*

Song 2: No One like Our God

Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

There is no one like our God

(Shake head and hands "no.")

No, there's not *(After "not," clap twice.)*

There is no one like our God

(Shake head and hands "no.")

No, there's not *(After "not," clap twice.)*

He is truthful, he is kind *(Make a thumbs up sign with both thumbs.)*

A good Father we will find *(Hug yourself.)*

There is no one like our God

(Shake head and hands "no.")

No, there's not *(After "not," clap twice.)*

Repeat

Puppet: That was great singing! But I better go now. Bye! *Exits.*

DAY 5: PUPPET PAL

Puppet: *Enters, panting from exercise.* Hi there!

Teacher: Hello! 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 that we should love the Lord with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. So I decided to do some exercises to make me strong.

Teacher: Nice! If you're able to, it's great 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: Oh! Well, I have a mystery bag here that can help us out.

Puppet: I like mystery bags. They're fun. What's the first thing in there?

Teacher: *Pull out the Bible and open it.* We can find the answer to your question in the Bible. The book of Mark tells us about a time when a man came to Jesus and asked him about loving God.

Puppet: People asked Jesus questions all the time. He always knew the right answers.

Teacher: Yes, he did. Then a man, called a scribe, asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important?" *Take out the number 1 from the mystery bag.* There are rules, called commandments, that God wants his people to follow. Before Jesus told him the most important rule, he said, "The Lord our God, the Lord is . . . *(have them fill in the blank as you hold up the number 1)* . . . one."

Puppet: He wanted to remind the man that there is only one true God. Let's put up one finger and shout, "One God!" *Do so.*

Teacher: *Point to the MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT POSTER.* Then Jesus told him the most important rule: to love the Lord. Do you love the Lord, cadets? *Take out the heart from the bag.*

Puppet: Jesus said to love the Lord with all your . . . *(have them fill in the blank as teacher holds up the heart)* . . . heart. How should we do that?

Teacher: Well, you can treasure God by remembering that he is very special and important. You can take time to pray and listen to the Bible.

Puppet: You can praise him by singing and believing every word in the Bible.

Teacher: Right. Those are some great ways to love him with all your heart. Jesus said to love the Lord with all your heart *and* with all your soul. *Take out the black silhouette picture from the bag.*

Puppet: But I don't even know what a soul is.

Teacher: Your soul is the part of you that decides to do right or wrong. Your soul is not something you can see, like an elbow or a toe, but it's very important.

Puppet: So if I decide to obey my mom and do what she says, that's coming from my soul?

Teacher: Yes! Choosing to obey God and following the rules, or commands, in the Bible is a way to love God with all your soul.

Puppet: That sounds hard. I don't think I can follow every rule exactly right all the time.

Teacher: God knows that we make bad choices sometimes and don't follow his rules exactly right. But it pleases God when we *want* to do what's right.

Puppet: What else is in your mystery bag?

Teacher: *Take out the plastic person.* Jesus said to love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. *(Tap the plastic person's head.)*

Puppet: Let's tap our heads and say, "Heart, soul, and mind." *Do so.* What does that mean to love God with all your mind?

Teacher: Your mind has to do with the things you're thinking about in your head. Do you like to learn about God? Do you like to listen to the Bible? 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 we enjoy learning about God, that's a good thing! What's next in the mystery bag?

Teacher: *Take out the small barbell from the bag.* Jesus said to love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, *and* with all your . . . *(have them fill in the blank as you do an arm curl with the small barbell)* . . . strength.

Puppet: Show me your strong muscles, cadets. *Do so.* Does loving God with all my strength mean I should keep exercising?

Teacher: Well, it's more than just exercising. Loving God with all your strength includes the actions you do. You may know lots about God, but you can obey him and use your body to serve him.

Puppet: Serve him? But I'm just a kid. What can kids do to serve God?

Teacher: There are so many ways kids can serve God. For instance, being kind to people or making a get well card for a sick person or helping your teacher or obeying your parents.

Puppet: I guess as we grow up, there will be lots more ways we can love God with our strength.

Teacher: Yep! And to stay hot on God's trail, we have to love him with everything we've got—heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Puppet: Let's sing a song about serving and loving God every day.

Song 2: Love Him in the Morning

Sing to the tune of "Jesus in the Morning."

VERSE 1

Love him, love him (*Hug yourself.*)
Love him in the morning
(*Put arms out wide to each side.*)
Love him at the noontime (*Raise arms
above head and touch hands.*)
Love him, love him (*Hug yourself.*)
Love him when the sun goes down
(*Make the sun go down with arms.*)

VERSE 2

Serve him, serve him (*Make small circles
with left hand, palm out, then right hand.*)
Serve him in the morning
(*Put arms out wide to each side.*)
Serve him at the noontime (*Raise arms
above head and touch hands.*)
Serve him, serve him (*Repeat small
circles.*)
Serve him when the sun goes down
(*Make the sun go down with arms.*)

Repeat Verse 1

Puppet: Great singing! I hope the cadets want to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Teacher: I hope so too! God is the greatest. And it's worth following him forever! Well, Charlie, keep being on the lookout for ways to love and serve the one true God!

Puppet: I will! Over and out, cadets! *Exits.*

Teacher: Let's see if we can crack the last code today. *Decode the DAY 5 CIPHER POSTER, then check the answer.*