

Puppet Pal—Always and Forever

Teacher: Boys and girls, let's see if we can get our Puppet Pal, Skye, to come out. On the count of 3, let's all call to him (her). Ready? 1, 2, 3—Skye!

Puppet: Don't come out yet, but just call out. Just a sec! I'm packing for my trip.

Teacher: Ask the kids: Where do you think he's going? Take responses.

Puppet: Come out somewhat out of breath and rushed but full of excitement and energy. Hey, everybody! I'm all packed for my trip.

Teacher: Where are you going?

Puppet: Well, I want to go on an adventure back in time to when Jesus, the Son of God, began.

Teacher: Ummm . . . there's a little problem with what you just said.

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Boys and girls, Skye said he wants to go back in time to when the Son of God (Jesus) started. Does the Son of God have a beginning? Take responses. The Son of God never started. He's always been.

Puppet: But wait! You're saying the Son of God didn't begin? That's impossible! We all have a beginning.

Teacher: It's true that people have beginnings. But God didn't begin. He always has been and always will be. When you don't have a beginning or an ending, it's called being eternal.

Puppet: Eternal. So because he doesn't begin or end, God is eternal?

Teacher: Yep! And the Bible says he will never leave you. If you hide under your bed, in your closet, or in the basement, he will not leave you. If you travel to the highest heights, go to the deepest depths, or travel to the farthest corner of the

universe, God is still with you. Anywhere you go, Jesus is with you. He always is!

Puppet: Look all around, up and down, etc. But I don't see him here. Where is he? Jesus! Jesus!

Teacher: We can't see him, but he's here. It's kind of like air. Take a deep breath, everyone. Do so.

Puppet: Act like you're holding it for a really long time, then squeak out: Can I let it out yet?

Teacher: Okay, let it out.

Puppet: Dramatically let it out and gasp for breath. Whew!

Teacher: Just like we know the air is there even though we can't see it, we can't see God. But we know he's there! We can't see Jesus standing here as a person right now, but he's still here—he's just invisible. But this week, we'll be traveling to time periods when people actually did see Jesus as a man! And we'll talk about how someday, we'll get to actually see Jesus, too! Won't that be incredible?!

Puppet: It sure will! I can't wait to hear more as we travel through time this week!

Teacher: It's gonna be fun! But just remember, Jesus always has been and always will be. He's never going away.

Puppet: That makes me feel good. When I feel lonely or sad or in trouble, I'll remember to talk to Jesus in prayer.

Teacher: Yep! He's with you, he hears you, and he cares about you.

Puppet: Well, I can't travel back in time to when the Son of God started since he never started but always has been, so I'm gonna think about where I want to go instead! *Arrivederci!*

Teacher: Wow! He just said goodbye in Italian! *Arrivederci* to you too, Skye!

Puppet Pal–Promise Keepers

Teacher: Well, let's see if Skye is thinking about where he wants to travel to next. Hey, Skye!

Puppet: Come up dragging a little angel statue or a picture of an angel with you. **Hey!**

Teacher: Why do you have that angel statue (picture) with you?

Puppet: Well, I'm trying to decide where to travel, so I got out my angel and prayed to her to see if she would show me where to go.

Teacher: Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Boys and girls, did you hear Skye say he prayed to that angel statue? Does anybody know what's wrong with that? Take responses. **Right!** We aren't supposed to pray to angels!

Puppet: Why not?

Teacher: Well, angels were created, just like everything else God created. They are interesting to read about in the Bible, but they're not equal to God, and they're not eternal, so they're not to be worshipped or prayed to. That honor belongs only to God!

Puppet: But I thought I heard you saying that the Son of God was sometimes called the Angel of the Lord in the Bible.

Teacher: That's true, he was. But maybe the boys and girls can help us out and tell us what the difference is between *the Angel of the Lord* and *an angel of the Lord*. Take answers and comment based on what they say. See if they can remember our C word for today—*Christophany*. Then continue.

Puppet: Oh, I get it. Angels are cool and powerful and all that, but they're made by God to do his work. They aren't in control like God is.

Teacher: Right! *The Angel of the Lord* is Jesus himself before he came to earth as a baby. He came and promised people that various things would come to pass in the future.

Puppet: And did they?

Teacher: Yep! Everything happened just as he said it would because God always, always, always keeps his promises!

Puppet: That comforts me to know I can count on God and his Word. When the Bible says it, that settles it. It will happen just as promised!

Teacher: It sure will! In fact, long before Jesus was born as a baby, the Bible promised he would come. Of course, Jesus came just as promised.

Puppet: Jesus is a promise keeper!

Teacher: He sure is! You can bank your whole life on every word of the Bible and what Jesus promises! Isn't that a huge deal?

Puppet: I'll say it is! Well, I better put this angel away and pray to Jesus for wisdom to know where to travel to next!

Teacher: Sounds like a good idea, Skye. You do that, and we'll see you tomorrow. Bye for now!

Puppet Pal

Teacher: We've been talking about Jesus' amazing life on earth. Let's see if Skye knows much about this.

Puppet: Come up. Hey there! You know, I would love to travel back in time to see Jesus as a baby, a child, and a man!

Teacher: Wouldn't that be something? His birth, life, death, and resurrection sure were one-of-a-kind experiences.

Puppet: That's because Jesus is God!

Teacher: You're right! He's completely God, and he's also completely man. He was a perfect man, never sinning or doing anything wrong.

Puppet: Wow, I wish I could stop sinning!

Teacher: Well, Jesus came because he knew you'd have a problem with sinning! Sin started way back in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. And sin continues with every person since! The Bible says all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The punishment for our sin is death and forever being separated from God's goodness. That's why it's such good news that he came! If he hadn't, we'd end up spending forever in a bad, bad place. We wouldn't have any hope of eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Puppet: That makes me thankful Jesus came!

Teacher: I know! It's kind of like what Sergeant the St. Bernard does. Show the Day 3 Animal Pal poster. Sergeant goes out on rescue missions to seek out and save the lives of those who are lost in the wilderness. Well, Jesus came to seek us out and save our lives because even though we may not realize it, we're all born spiritually lost and are not on our way to heaven someday. Jesus came, lived, died, and came back to life because he loves you. That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's say it together. Recite John 3:16 together using the Memory Verse poster.

Puppet: It says that whoever believes in him will have eternal (forever) life.

Teacher: Show the Admit sheet. That's right. To become a child of God and receive the gift of eternal life, you first have to admit you're a sinner.

Puppet: What's that mean?

Teacher: It means you tell God you realize you have disobeyed him or sinned, like saying unkind words, hitting someone, or not doing what you're told to do.

Puppet: I think we've all done all those things.

Teacher: That's right! All those things and more are sins. When you admit to God that you've sinned and you want to turn from those sins, that's called repenting. Now, that doesn't mean you stop sinning. That's impossible. But it means you want to please God and obey him and not keep sinning.

Puppet: Then what do you do after you admit you're a sinner?

Teacher: Show the Believe sheet. You must believe and trust that Jesus came to earth as the God-Man who lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and came back to life to take the punishment for your sins.

Puppet: And after that?

Teacher: Show the Forever Receive sheet. You ask God if you can be his child and be part of his forever family. So you admit, then believe, then forever receive him. In fact, if any boys and girls are interested in learning more about this, make sure you talk to your parents, leaders, or me today. We'd love to tell you more about it.

Puppet: It sure is a good thing Jesus came to rescue us!

Teacher: It sure is! We need it!

Puppet: Well, I need to get going, but I'll plan to see you tomorrow.

Teacher: Okay, Skye, we'll look forward to seeing you later. Let's say goodbye to Skye, everyone.

Puppet Pal—Love and Care

Puppet: Hey!

Teacher: Hi, Skye! Have you thought any more about your next travel destination?

Puppet: Well, I was thinking about . . . (let out a big sneeze) . . . aaahhh! aaahhh! choo!

Teacher: God bless you! Are you getting sick?

Puppet: I don't think so. I was just planning my trip and then . . . (let out another big sneeze) . . . aaahhh! aaahhh! choo!

Teacher: I think you are getting sick. Let me check your forehead. Do so. You're warm all right. You have a fever.

Puppet: But what about my trip?

Teacher: You're not going anywhere!

Puppet: I do feel pretty lousy.

Teacher: I'll tell you what. How does some chicken noodle soup sound?

Puppet: Good.

Teacher: And your nice comfy bed?

Puppet: Really good.

Teacher: Okay, you head home and hop in bed. I'll be over soon with some soup and I'll be praying for you to feel better.

Puppet: Thank you. Hey, that's like what you were talking about a minute ago.

Teacher: What's that?

Puppet: While you're caring for me, Jesus is always caring for me, too!

Teacher: That's right! Jesus is always caring for his children and praying for them, too! And he's even preparing the best place ever to live someday!

Puppet: Cool!

Teacher: And you know what's the best thing?

Puppet: What?

Teacher: When we get to the new heaven and new earth someday, Jesus will always be there, and there won't be any more sickness! In fact, there won't be anything bad or sad at all—only good things!

Puppet: That will be amazing!

Teacher: It will! But until then, let's get you feeling better.

Puppet: Okay! Thanks for caring for me, just like Jesus does. See you soon!

Puppet Pal—Perfect Place

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

Teacher: Hi, Skye! Are you feeling better?

Puppet: I sure am. Jesus made me better!

Teacher: That's great!

Puppet: And I decided where to travel.

Teacher: Where?

Puppet: To the best place in all of time—my grandma's house!

Teacher: I'm sure your grandma's house is fun, but I don't agree it's the best place ever.

Puppet: Why not? Where could be better than Grandma's?

Teacher: Well, there's a better place coming. Think of every fun and wonderful place in the world, every person you love, everything you love to do, and guess what? The place I'm thinking about is still better.

Puppet: Impossible!

Teacher: No, it isn't.

Puppet: What's this place called?

Teacher: It's the new heaven and new earth. It's where we'll live someday if we're children of God.

Puppet: What makes it the best place ever?

Teacher: Well, the Bible tells us there will be no more crying, sadness, or bad things there. It's a beautiful place with all good things.

Puppet: That's exciting! I'll never be scared or sad again!

Teacher: Exactly. And do you know the best part?

Puppet: Oohhh! I know! Jesus will be there! He'll be my Lord and my friend!

Teacher: That's right! You'll love hanging out with him and all the other Christians who have ever lived.

Puppet: Will it get boring? I mean, it's going to last forever.

Teacher: No, we won't get bored. It will be like all the wonderful things on earth, only better!

Puppet: This is gonna be soooo cool!

Teacher: It really is. I'm really, really, really, really, really, really looking forward to it someday.

Puppet: I think I'm going to go draw a picture of what I imagine the new heaven and new earth to look like.

Teacher: That sounds fun! Well, I'm glad you stopped by. Let's say bye to Skye. Do so.