

Day 1: Praise the Creator

Teacher: Let's talk to our puppet pal to hear a little more about our wonderful Creator God. His name is Jungle Jimmy (*or Jungle Jenna if a girl*). Let's all call for him (*her*) now. *Do so.*

Puppet: *Come up.*

Teacher: Hi there, Jungle Jimmy.

Puppet: Hi! You can call me JJ for short.

Teacher: Okay! Let's say, "Hi, JJ!" *Do so.*

Puppet: *Wave.* Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hey, JJ, do you like to play outside?

Puppet: I sure do! It's fun to play chase with my friends and go to the park and swing. When I swing, I pretend I'm a monkey swinging on a vine. Ooh-ooh-ah-ah!

Teacher: That sounds fun, but . . . *whisper with the back of your hand by your mouth* . . . do you ever feel sick on that tire swing at the park? I sure do.

Puppet: No! I love it!

Teacher: Well, that's good! So, JJ, when you're outside, do you ever notice any of the critters or plants that are out there?

Puppet: Umm . . . I watched a bunch of ants the other day. They were so busy working! Oh, and I saw a bird that was blue!

Teacher: Sounds beautiful! How about all the plants and trees? Do you ever notice them?

Puppet: Sure! We've got some really cool flowers in our yard called snapdragons. When you squeeze them, they open up!

Teacher: Well, when you see beautiful things in nature, does it make you think of our good, kind, wonderful, creative God who made them? He's the one who created all these beautiful things we get to see and smell and hear.

Puppet: *Shake head.* I don't remember to do that.

Teacher: Well, let's try a little experiment. Boys and girls, you can do this, too. When you're outside playing this week, or walking in the woods, or going to the zoo, take time to thank God for at least one animal or plant that you see or hear.

Puppet: *Excited.* That sounds fun!

Teacher: Yes, we want to be in the habit of noticing God's beautiful creation and praising him for it! You can thank God for animals, plants, sunsets, the moon, stars—all kinds of things he's made!

Puppet: I'm going to do that, and I hope the boys and girls do, too!

Teacher: Amen to that, JJ! God should receive heaps and heaps of glory and praise for being a wonderful Creator! One Bible verse even tells us this: *Read Psalm 34:1.* Well, boys and girls, it's time for JJ to take off, so let's say bye to him. *Do so.*

Day 2: Water, Water Everywhere

Puppet: *Keep the puppet hidden and speak in a muffled voice. Help! Help!*

Teacher: Kids, did you hear something? Where's that coming from? *Walk over to the area where JJ will be appearing, and look down inside.* Oh, my! It's Jungle Jimmy! And he's looking very, uh, water-proof today.

Puppet: *Appear with the poncho on backwards.* Help! Somebody turned the lights out!

Teacher: Oh, here, let me help you! *Turn the poncho around so he can see.* Is that better?

Puppet: Yes, thank you!

Teacher: Why are you wearing a rain poncho?

Puppet: I heard you were going to talk about a great big flood of water, so I thought I better get ready!

Teacher: You're right. We're gonna talk about a man in the Bible named Noah. Have you heard of Noah?

Puppet: Yess-ah! I've heard of Noo-ah. Get it? Yes, no?

Teacher: I get it. Now do you remember when we talked about sin at our Corruption stop?

Puppet: You mean when we disobey God and do wrong things?

Teacher: Yep. Well, by the time Noah came along, all the people on earth were doing bad things (sinning) all the time. All except Noah, that is. He was the only one left who wanted to obey God.

Puppet: That must have made God sad that nobody else listened.

Teacher: It did. The people kept disobeying and they wouldn't listen to God when he gave them warnings, so he sent a really, really, really big flood. It was so much water, it covered the whole earth! Kids, let's make a big rainstorm. *Follow the directions on p. 6 in the Attention-Getters section for how to make a rainstorm.*

Puppet: Yikes! How did everyone stay alive? Did they hold onto a tree or something?

Teacher: No. When the flood came, only the people in the ark were saved. Everyone else died.

Puppet: What's the ark?

Teacher: The ark was an enormous ship God told Noah to build. *Have the kids pretend to hammer as if building. Hold up/put up the ARK DIMENSIONS POSTER.* It was large enough to hold Noah and his family and the animals.

Puppet: So everyone outside the ark died? That's really sad! I wish everyone had turned from their sin and believed God.

Teacher: I do, too. God loves us and wants us to obey, just like he wanted those people to obey. Obeying God is a way to love and honor him.

Puppet: But wait a minute! Did God save some of the animals?

Teacher: *Hold up/put up the ANIMALS COMING POSTER.* He sure did! Noah didn't have to go and get them. They came on their own.

Puppet: That's awesome.

Teacher: *Hold up/put up the DINOSAURS POSTER.* There were even dinosaurs!

Puppet: How did they fit?

Teacher: They could have been babies or young dinos, and only some of them needed to come.

Now, once all the animals and Noah's family were on board, God shut them in. Let's shut the big door of the ark. *Have them pretend to shut the door.* Then the flood began and water gushed up from inside the earth and it poured down from the sky. Volcanoes were erupting, earthquakes were shaking, and everything was going crazy. *Have the kids act like an earthquake and storms are happening.* Hold up/put up WATER EVERYWHERE POSTER.

Puppet: Flash! Boom! Bang!

Teacher: You've got it! The waters got higher and higher. Then Noah and everyone on the ark waited for all the water to go away. Finally, after over a year, it was time to get off. Let's open the door. *Pretend to do so.*

Puppet: *Disappear.*

Teacher: Um, JJ, where are you? *Peer around his area to try to see him. Pretend to see him hiding. Kids still can't see him.* Oh, there you are! What's going on down there?

Puppet: *Throw small items out and onto the ground.* Well, all this talk about a worldwide flood has me worried. I'm trying to find my life preserver in case God ever sends another one!

Teacher: JJ, come on back up here. There's something you need to know.

Puppet: There is?

Teacher: Yes. You don't need to worry about another worldwide flood. The Bible tells us God promised to never send another flood that will cover the whole world.

Puppet: Wow! I'm really glad to hear that!

Teacher: *Hold up/put up ARK AND RAINBOW POSTER.* And God never breaks a promise. In fact, he even put a rainbow in the sky to remind us he'll never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. When you see a rainbow in the sky, it should remind you that God is a promise keeper.

Puppet: I'm glad we have the Bible to tell us these things.

Teacher: Me too. The Bible is true, and God always keeps his promises.

Puppet: I just wish more people had obeyed God.

Teacher: Well, it's a good reminder for us to obey God. We need to trust and obey him! Well, boys and girls, let's say goodbye to JJ now. *Do so.*

Day 3: Babel Rabble

Teacher: Kids, help me call for Jungle Jimmy. JJ? Hello? Are you in there? Hello?

Puppet: *Come up saying hello in other languages.* Hola! Guten tag! Shalom!

Teacher: JJ, what are you babbling about?

Puppet: Oh, hi! I'm just saying hello in other languages.

Teacher: I didn't know you could speak in other languages.

Puppet: Sure! Let me teach you all how to say hello in French. Can you say bonjour?

Teacher and Kids: Bonjour.

Puppet: Good job!

Teacher: Well, it's interesting that you're talking about other languages, because that's what our Bible lesson is about today.

Puppet: Reeaaallly?

Teacher: Yep! At our fourth stop—Confusion—which happened way back over 4,000 years ago, something confusing—and amazing—happened.

Puppet: I know . . . meatballs started falling from the sky, right?

Teacher: Nope, but that would be amazing!

Puppet: How about this . . . everybody started walking upside-down?

Teacher: Fun . . . but no. Let me share what the Bible says. There was a time on earth when everybody spoke the same language.

Puppet: Everybody?

Teacher: Yes! And not only that, but they also lived in the same place, too. The trouble was that since they all spoke the same language and lived in the same place, they started thinking up bad ideas.

Puppet: You mean like peanut butter and ketchup sandwiches? Now that's what I call a bad idea. Yuck!

Teacher: No, it has nothing to do with food. They came up with the idea to build a city and a really tall tower that would reach way up into the sky.

Puppet: Why's that a bad idea? I love to go up high.

Teacher: It's bad because God told them to spread out, but they stayed together and they didn't obey God.

Puppet: Uh-oh!

Teacher: Yeah, I know. We should always, always, always listen to God and do what he says.

Puppet: Well, why did they go against God and build the tower?

Teacher: They wanted to make a name for themselves—that means they wanted everyone to think they were great for building a cool tower. AND they didn't want to obey God and be scattered all over the earth. They wanted to stay right where they were.

Puppet: Wow, that's bad. When God tells you to do something, you should do it, right?

Teacher: Right! God wants us to obey him because we love him and trust him to always know what's best for us. He's a good, good Father who's always right.

Puppet: When I don't obey my teacher, I have to face the consequences, like getting punished.

Teacher: So did they. God changed the way they talked so they couldn't understand each other anymore. Many families packed up and moved away. They scattered all over the world—just like God told them to do before.

Puppet: And that's why we have French and German and Italian and Russian and Spanish?

Teacher: Yes! All the different language families today are because of what happened at the tower of Babel. But you know what else is interesting?

Puppet: Yep . . . sharks! I think sharks are really interesting—and scary!

Teacher: True, but here's what I was going to say. What's really interesting is that even though people all over the world speak different languages, we're all related to each other.

Puppet: Haha! You're being funny!

Teacher: No, it's for real! We may look a little different or speak different languages, but according to the Bible, we all came from Adam and Eve. They're our great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great . . .

Puppet: Okay, I get the idea!

Teacher: . . . grandparents! Whew! So you see, JJ, we're just one great-great-great-great-great-great . . .

Puppet: Oh no, not this again!

Teacher: . . . great big family!

Puppet: So let me get this straight. I'm related to all the people in Africa?

Teacher: Yep! All 1+ billion of them!

Puppet: How about India?

Teacher: India, too! So you see, from the Bible we learn where all the different languages came from and why people live in all the different places around the world. It's because of what God did way, way back at the tower of Babel.

Puppet: Wow, I learned a lot today! I can't wait to go home and tell my family and friends!

Teacher: That's a good idea, JJ, but the important thing to remember is that our kind and good God wants us to do what he says because he knows what's best. He's a good, good Father. He loves us! Okay, boys and girls, it's time to say goodbye to Jungle Jimmy. Goodbye, Jungle Jimmy. See you tomorrow!

Day 4: Gospel Presentation

Teacher: Boys and girls, help me call for JJ.

Puppet: *Come up holding a cookie.*

Teacher: Hey, JJ, that sure looks good!

Puppet: Yummo! Kids, give me a big smile if you like cookies. *Pause.* Mom said I can have one for a snack.

Teacher: That's nice! Well, we were just talking about how Jesus died and came back to life. Have you ever heard about that before?

Puppet: *Jump around excitedly.* I sure have! It's the best news ever!

Teacher: Why do you say that? Why is it important that Jesus died and rose again?

Puppet: Because now we get to celebrate not only Christmas, but Easter, too!

Teacher: That IS fantastic, isn't it? But that's not why it's important that Jesus died and rose again.

Puppet: Why, then?

Teacher: You see, you and I are sinners just like Adam and Eve, and like the people who wouldn't get on the ark and the people at the tower of Babel.

Puppet: Everybody disobeys God's commands sometimes.

Teacher: Yeah, sadly, that's true. For example, when you lie or you're unkind to your brother or sister or you whine about something, that's called sin.

Puppet: Is it a big deal that we sin?

Teacher: Yes. Because we're sinners, we aren't allowed to be with God forever. But God had a plan.

Puppet: *Take a bite from your cookie.* What was it?

Teacher: Let me give you an example. I know you're allowed to eat that cookie, but let's pretend your mom tells you not to eat any of the freshly baked cookies. But as soon as she leaves the room, guess what you do?

Puppet: Sneak over and eat a cookie?

Teacher: Yep! Even though she said not to.

Puppet: That would be a sin because I didn't obey.

Teacher: Right. Now let's pretend your mom walks in and catches you eating the cookie. What do you think she might do? What happens when you get in trouble?

Puppet: Boys and girls, what do you think might happen if your mom caught you disobeying?
Take responses.

Teacher: You'd probably get in trouble—and be punished. Maybe she wouldn't let you have any snacks for the next day, or you'd have to sit in time out.

Puppet: I've had both of those happen to me before.

Teacher: Now let's imagine that your older brother comes in the room and says, "Don't punish him. Punish me instead."

Puppet: Wait a minute. My brother didn't eat any cookies. But he wants to take my punishment instead of me?

Teacher: That's right.

Puppet: Wow! He must love me a lot to take my punishment.

Teacher: And that's kind of like what Jesus did for you when he died on the cross and rose again. You deserve the punishment for disobeying God (sinning), but Jesus came and took your punishment so you wouldn't have to be punished.

Puppet: That sounds like the most amazing gift ever!

Teacher: It is! Jesus loves you so much, he was willing to die for you. The Bible explains it like this. *Recite or read John 3:16.*

Puppet: Wow, how can I pay for this gift?

Teacher: You can't pay for it with money. It's a free gift that God offers you. But you don't get it automatically. You have to ask God for it. To receive the free gift, which is to live forever and ever, first of all, you have to believe you've sinned.

Puppet: Boys and girls, can you think of a time you sinned? *Take responses.*

Teacher: If you're sorry for your sin and believe Jesus died to take your punishment, you can tell God you want to be his child. You'll still be your parents' child. But this means you'll also have God as your heavenly Father.

Puppet: I hope the kids believe in Jesus and want to be his child!

Teacher: I do, too. If you want to be a child of God, make sure you talk to me or to your leader or parents after class. *Show the ADMIT, BELIEVE, FOREVER RECEIVE POSTERS.*

Puppet: Admit you sin, believe in Jesus, and forever receive him. That reminds me of our Bible verse.

Teacher: Let's say that together, everyone, and then we'll say bye to JJ. *Show the DAY 4 MEMORY VERSE POSTER and recite it together.* Tomorrow, we'll talk more about our last stop in our 7 C's. It's called Consummation, and it's about how everything will turn out in the end!

Day 5: No More Sad or Bad

Puppet: *Come up with the bandage on.*

Teacher: Hey, what happened to you?

Puppet: I fell off my bike and got a bad owie! I was even bleeding.

Teacher: I'm sorry to hear that. Are you okay?

Puppet: Yeah! But it hurt a lot. Mom took me to the doctor, and he put bandages on. I sure wish bad things like this didn't happen.

Teacher: You know, JJ, we were just talking about a place where bad things will never happen.

Puppet: Really? Where's that?

Teacher: It's called the new heaven and new earth.

Puppet: How do you get there?

Teacher: Well, the Bible tells us that someday, anyone who has admitted he sins and believed and trusted in Jesus will live there. The new heaven and new earth are what we usually call heaven.

Puppet: Why is it a new heaven and a new earth?

Teacher: Because God is going to make all things new someday. And God's people won't live on this earth anymore but on the new one.

Puppet: What's it going to be like?

Teacher: It's going to be amazing! Better than this one! There won't be any more bad or sad stuff. Only good stuff again, like back in the beginning at the garden of Eden *before* Adam and Eve sinned.

Puppet: So it's going to be a perfect place?

Teacher: It is! It's going to be forever wonderful and full of love and fun and joy.

Puppet: Wow!

Teacher: Make sure you're part of God's family so you can live there someday! And tell others about it, too!

Puppet: I will! Well, I've got to go, but thanks for sharing so many special memories with me this week at *The Great Jungle Journey*! It's been a great week!