

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.

Teacher: *Whisper with the back of your hand by your mouth.* Do you ever feel sick when you're on that tire swing? It's the one you can twist up and then let go for a spin.

Puppet: No! I love spinning! *Spin around, laughing.*

Teacher: Well, your stomach is stronger than mine! 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! 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: When you see beautiful things in nature, does it ever make you think of our 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: I don't know if I remember to think about God when I'm outside.

Teacher: Let's try a little experiment. Boys and girls, you can do this too. When you're outside playing 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: That sounds fun! I usually see lots of animals and plants on my way to the park. There's one dog on my street who always runs to the fence and barks like crazy at me when I walk by! *Make barking sounds.*

Teacher: Some of God's creatures can be loud! 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: Sounds great, JJ! God should receive heaps of 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: *Stay hidden. Speak in a muffled voice.* Help! Help!

Teacher: Boys and girls, 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, waterproof today. Come on up here where we can see you better, JJ.

Puppet: *Come up with the poncho on backward.* 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: I'm just wondering why you're 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: I'm glad you're ready because we're going to hear a true account from my favorite book, the Bible.

Puppet: I love the Bible! It's the best book in the whole wide world because it's written by God.

Teacher: Yes, it is. Boys and girls, have you ever heard of a man in the Bible named Noah?
Pause for responses.

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

Teacher: *Chuckle.* I get it. 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. They wouldn't even listen to God when he gave them warnings, so he sent a really, really, really big flood.

Puppet: A flood is *lots* and *lots* and *lots* of water, right?

Teacher: Yes, *lots* of water. So much water, it covered the whole earth! There's never been a flood like it before, and there never will be one again. The earth was completely covered—even the highest hills and mountains.

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

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

Puppet: What's the ark?

Teacher: The ark was an enormous ship God told Noah to build. *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! God saved 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. The land animals and birds came on their own and got on board.

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. Once all the animals and Noah's family were on board, God shut them in and the flood began. Water gushed up from inside the earth, and water poured down from the sky. Volcanoes were erupting, earthquakes were shaking, and everything was going crazy. *Hold up/put up the WATER EVERYWHERE POSTER.*

Puppet: Flash! Boom! Bang!

Teacher: You've got it! Waters came up from the earth, and it stormed for a long time. The waters got higher and higher and higher. Then Noah and everyone on the ark waited for all the water to go away. Finally, after over a year on the ark, it was time to get off.

Puppet: What was it like when they got off the ark?

Teacher: Well, there weren't any other people or animals around anymore. And the world didn't look like it used to. The beautiful paradise was ruined! Lots of trees and animals got buried in the mud and water from the flood. We can see them in the fossils even today.

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.* All this talk about a global flood has me worried. I'm trying to find my life preserver in case God ever sends another one!

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

Puppet: *Come back up.* There is?

Teacher: Yes. You don't need to worry about another global 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 the 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: Yes, it's a good reminder for us to obey God. God is in control of everything—and we're not. 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, everyone?

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.

Puppet: I am all ears!

Teacher: Did you know there was a time on earth when everybody spoke the same language?

Puppet: Everybody?

Teacher: Yes! Every single person. And not only that, but they also lived in the same place. 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's nothing to do with food. The idea they came up with was 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 listen to God and do what he says. We find his words in this special book, the Bible!

Teacher: India too!

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 just like Adam and Eve and the people during Noah's time, the people at Babel didn't obey God. They sinned, and so do we. But our good and kind God wants us to follow him and do what he says because he knows what's best. 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. It can be taped to the puppet's hand.*

Teacher: Hey, JJ, that sure looks good!

Puppet: Yummo! Do you guys like cookies? *Pause.*

Teacher: Well, the boys and girls and I were just talking about how Jesus died on a cross. Have you ever heard about that before?

Puppet: I sure have! Jesus died AND he rose again. 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 also Easter!

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 like 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 are unkind to your brother or sister, or throw a fit, that's called sin.

Puppet: Is it a big deal that we sin?

Teacher: Yes. Because we're sinners, we aren't allowed to live in Jesus' perfect heaven someday. But God had a plan.

Puppet: *Say while you pretend to 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 dad tells you not to eat any of the newly baked cookies. But as soon as he leaves the room, guess what you do?

Puppet: Sneak over and eat a cookie?

Teacher: Yep! Even though he said not to.

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

Teacher: It would be. Now let's pretend that your dad walks in and catches you eating the cookie. What do you think he might do? What happens when you get in trouble?

Puppet: I don't know. Boys and girls, what do you think might happen if your dad caught you disobeying? *Take responses.*

Teacher: Yeah, you would probably get in trouble—get punished. Maybe he 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 instead of your dad punishing you, your older brother comes in the room. Wouldn't it be unusual if he asked your dad to punish *him* instead of

you? Your older brother hadn't eaten any cookies and disobeyed, but he wanted to take *your* punishment.

Puppet: Wow! That would be an incredible act of love toward me!

Teacher: It would! And that's kind of like what Jesus did for you when he died on the cross and came back to life. 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 that he was willing to die for you. The Bible explains it like this. *Recite John 3:16.*

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

Teacher: You can't pay for it in dollars. 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, 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. *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 read it together. If anyone has questions or wants to talk more about it, have them leave with a safe person to go to a safe, not isolated, place to talk more about how to become a Christian.*

Teacher: 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! But for now, let's just add the letter C for CONSUMMATION in the last square, then color it yellow around the edges. *Do so. Let's fold our crosses up now so all the squares fit under one square. Show them how to do so and give them a minute to complete the task. There's no particular order it has to be folded—just so it all ends up the size of one square.*

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 cut! It bled down my face and stained my shirt.

Teacher: That sounds a little scary.

Puppet: It was! I had to go to the hospital for stitches. My head hurt, and I was crying. It wasn't fun.

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

Puppet: Wow! Where?

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

Puppet: How do you get there?

Teacher: You have to admit and turn from your sins and believe and trust in Jesus. The new heaven and new earth are what we typically call heaven.

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

Teacher: Because God is going to make all things new someday. We 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. Bye!

Teacher: That's a good idea! But before you go, let me tell you something else you need to practice—something very important.

Puppet: What? The piano?

Teacher: No. It's the next piece of the armor of God. Just like the knights used swords, the last piece of our spiritual armor is a sword.

Puppet: Oh, I've seen sword fighting in movies. *Pretend to sword fight in the air.*

Teacher: Our invisible sword is called the sword of the Spirit. *Read Ephesians 6:14–17. Show the KNIGHT POSTERS and attach the SWORDS or have a boy and girl do so.* The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, which is the Bible. A knight's sword wouldn't do him any good if he never used it during a battle, would it? Well, the Bible won't be the help it should be if we aren't learning it and practicing how to use it.

Puppet: What do you mean? How can we learn and use God's Word?

Teacher: You know, sometimes God's children leave the Bible just laying around. Kids, if you have a Bible somewhere in your house, shout, "Sword of the Spirit!" *Take responses.* Does that Bible ever sit there and not get opened for days and days? *Pause.* Every day, you've got to be hearing, memorizing, and using the Bible. You've got to train your brain with the Bible. *Hold up the DAY 5 RHYME TIME POSTER.* Let's say, "Train your brain!" together. *Do so.*

Puppet: Wow! That's a lot to remember—to wear all the armor of God and train my brain.

Teacher: That's why God tells us to put on the armor, then *pray*. He'll help his kingdom keepers use the armor to fight against sin and obey him.

Puppet: Whew! I'm glad God will help. Well, I'm going to try to train my brain by memorizing my Bible verses! Then I can practice juggling. Bye for now!

Teacher: Goodbye, Christian! Now, let's listen to a great example of how Jesus used the sword of the Spirit against the attacks of Satan.