

# Day 1: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Let's talk more about the two kingdoms with our puppet friend. Our puppet's name is Christian (*or Christy if a girl*). Let's all call for him (*her*) together. *Do so.*

**Puppet:** *Come up waving a mini sword as if pretending to sword fight someone.*

**Teacher:** Hi there, Christian. What're you doing?

**Puppet:** Oh, I'm pretending to be King Arthur!

**Teacher:** Was he the boy who pulled a sword out of a stone?

**Puppet:** Yes! I read how he grew up and became a great king who fought enemies in England.

**Teacher:** I know that story. King Arthur and his knights of the round table lived in a kingdom called Camelot.

**Puppet:** Yep! The good kingdom fought against the bad kingdoms. King Arthur and his knights were really brave! One knight even killed a dragon! *Pretend to stab at a dragon.*

**Teacher:** That's exciting! But you know King Arthur's just a story, right?

**Puppet:** I know.

**Teacher:** But did you know the Bible says there really *are* two kingdoms—God's good kingdom and the enemy's bad kingdom?

**Puppet:** What do you mean? *Stops sword fighting.*

**Teacher:** Well, the Bible tells us how everything in the beginning was all good. There was only one kingdom.

**Puppet:** What happened?

**Teacher:** An enemy named Satan got the first people to disobey God. This ruined the good kingdom on earth. So now there are two kingdoms. *Point to the GOOD KINGDOM/BAD KINGDOM POSTERS you used earlier.* The good one's ruled by God, and the bad one's led by the enemy.

**Puppet:** Are they in a battle?

**Teacher:** Yep. You were pretending just now, but there's a real battle going on. We can't see it, but it's really happening.

**Puppet:** Should I be scared of this battle? *Duck down and hide.*

**Teacher:** Not at all if you're on God's side—'cuz the Bible says God's side wins!

**Puppet:** *Keep hiding.* You mean no one can beat God? Not even Satan?

**Teacher:** That's right. God's all-powerful. No one can beat God.

**Puppet:** *Come back up.* Wheew! That's good to know.

**Teacher:** And only one kingdom's good and kind and true.

**Puppet:** *Ask the children:* Do you know whose kingdom is the good kingdom?

**Children:** God's kingdom!

**Teacher:** Yes! God is great, and his kingdom is good!

**Puppet:** Hmm. So there are two kingdoms, but only one is true—God's!

**Teacher:** *Hold up the DAY 1 RHYME TIME POSTER.* Yep! "Of two, only one is true!"

**Puppet:** *Ask the children:* Can you say that with me? "Of two, only one is true." *Repeat together.* That's a great thing to remember.

**Teacher:** All who love and obey God become part of his good kingdom. *Point to the KNIGHT POSTERS.* And God gives each one a special set of clothes called the armor of God to help them every day. We'll talk more about that this week.

**Puppet:** Hmm. They're kind of like knights in shining armor—kingdom keepers! Hey, kids, let's sing a song about God's kingdom keepers. *Have the puppet sing with the kids, moving with the music.*

## **Song 2: The Kingdom Keepers** (To the tune of "The Ants Go Marching")

The kingdom keepers march for God, hurrah, hurrah

*(March in place, lift up your hands on "hurrah.")*

The kingdom keepers march for God, hurrah, hurrah

*(March in place, lift up your hands on "hurrah.")*

God gave us armor we will wear

*(Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.)*

Satan's kingdom better beware

*(Put fists up in a fighting stance.)*

And we all go marching on

*(March in place.)*

For the Lord—who is strong—and has won

*(Point up, flex your biceps, and lift hands in a victory "V.")*

Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

*(Shout and point up on each word.)*

*Repeat, adding a fourth Huzzah! at the end.*

**Puppet:** Huzzah! Thanks for singing with me, kids. I'll see you tomorrow! Bye!

## Day 2: Puppet Pal

**Teacher 1:** Why don't we tell Christian about the truth we've learned? Let's call him. *Have children call for the puppet.*

**Puppet:** *Come up looking around at the children and saying:* Huzzah! Huzzah! (Ha-SAW!) That means hooray! I'm so glad to see you all again!

**Teacher:** Christian, we just learned the truth about the first two people. Kids, who were they? *Have kids shout answers; Adam and Eve.*

**Puppet:** Adam and Eve. Cool!

**Teacher:** All was well . . . until the enemy tricked Eve. Kids, tell Christian what Adam and Eve ate that they shouldn't have. *Have kids shout answers; fruit from the special tree.*

**Puppet:** Oh, that's sad that they disobeyed God.

**Teacher:** And that's why there's a good kingdom and a bad kingdom. Did you know that every person is born into the bad kingdom? We all disobey God's commands—that's called sin.

**Puppet:** Is everyone stuck in the bad kingdom forever?

**Teacher:** Nope! God made a way for us to live in his good kingdom. God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, King Jesus, to rescue us from sin.

**Puppet:** Let's stand up and clap for King Jesus and say, "Thank you!" *Do so.*

**Teacher:** *Put up* NATIVITY POSTER. Jesus came from heaven to be born as a baby.

**Puppet:** *Sing a few words from "Away in a Manger."* And that's what we celebrate at Christmas!

**Teacher:** That's right. Jesus grew up, but he never sinned.

**Puppet:** He's the only one who never did anything wrong.

**Teacher:** But when Jesus was a grown man, he let some men from the bad kingdom nail him to a cross. It hurt him terribly, and he died. *Put up* JESUS CARRYING A CROSS POSTER.

**Puppet:** Why did he let them do that?

**Teacher:** *Put up* HEART POSTER. Because he loves each one of us. Jesus knew we could never get into God's good kingdom on our own. So he died to take the punishment for our sins.

**Puppet:** Jesus must really love these boys and girls.

**Teacher:** He does! But the best part is that Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life. *Put up* EMPTY TOMB POSTER.

**Puppet:** Say what? That's impossible!

**Teacher:** Not for Jesus. He's God. Jesus can do anything!

**Puppet:** Wow! Since Jesus is alive, does that mean people can be part of his good kingdom and live with him in heaven someday?

**Teacher:** Yes, indeed. Anyone can become a child of God and be part of his kingdom if they choose to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus.

**Puppet:** So everyone must decide their side—the bad kingdom or the good kingdom?

**Teacher:** Right. Everyone is born into the bad kingdom. But you can decide your side. *Hold up the DAY 2 RHYME TIME POSTER.*

**Puppet:** Let's say that together. *Do so.* I sure hope each one of you wants to be on God's side!

**Teacher:** If you don't want to be part of the bad kingdom, you can choose to join God's good kingdom. Turn away from sin and turn to Jesus. Believe in him as your Savior. Talk to your mommy or daddy or me today to learn more about that.

**Puppet:** This is all in the Bible, so we know it's true, right?

**Teacher:** Right. What part of God's armor helps us remember that the Bible is true—the belt of what? *Truth!*

**Puppet:** And don't forget, we must each decide our side.

**Teacher:** Right. Let's sing about being on God's side in the Lord's army.

*Have the puppet sing with the kids.*

### **Song 2: I'm in the Lord's Army** (medieval)

*Explain the terms in the song and how a knight would have done these things.*

#### **VERSE**

I may never march to the castle keep

*(March in place.)*

Ride in the tournament

*(Ride a horse, holding a spear in one hand.)*

Shoot at the battlement

*(Draw a bow and shoot an arrow.)*

I may never sword fight the enemy

*(Swing sword.)*

But I'm in the Lord's army

*(Point to yourself and then to God.)*

Yes, Sir *(Cross your arm over your chest in a knight's salute.)*

#### **CHORUS**

I'm in the Lord's army

*(Point to yourself and then to God.)*

Yes, Sir *(Do a knight's salute.)*

I'm in the Lord's army

*(Point to yourself and then to God.)*

Yes, Sir *(Do a knight's salute.)*

*Repeat verse.*

### **Song 2: I'm in the Lord's Army** (traditional)

#### **VERSE**

I may never march in the infantry

*(March in place.)*

Ride in the cavalry *(Ride a horse.)*

Shoot the artillery

*(Clap and shoot right hand forward.)*

I may never zoom o'er the enemy

*(Put arms out to fly.)*

But I'm in the Lord's army—Yes, Sir *(Salute.)*

#### **CHORUS**

I'm in the Lord's army

*(Point to yourself and then to God.)*

Yes, Sir *(Salute.)*

I'm in the Lord's army

*(Point to yourself and then to God.)*

Yes, Sir *(Salute.)*

*Repeat verse.*

**Puppet:** That was great singing! I've got to go now, but I'll see you next time. Bye.

## Day 3: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Good morrow, all! I wonder what Christian's up to today. Should we call him? *Do so.*

**Puppet:** *Come up with a belt on, showing it off.* How do you like my new belt?

**Teacher:** I like it. Does it have anything to do with the special belt we learned about yesterday?

**Puppet:** It sure does! It's called the belt of . . . umm. Do you kids remember? *Have kids shout the answer.* Oh, right, the belt of truth.

**Teacher:** The belt of truth helps us believe God's Word is true and reminds us to tell the truth.

**Puppet:** What's the next piece of the armor of God?

**Teacher:** The next one's called the breastplate of righteousness.

**Puppet:** Breastplate of right . . . right . . . *(shakes head).* Say that again?

**Teacher:** Righteousness. But you can call it the "breastplate of right" because it reminds us to do what's right. That means obeying God by following his directions in the Bible. It helps us make the right choices, like telling the truth, and being kind.

**Puppet:** Can we see the breastplate of right?

**Teacher:** No. Remember, the armor of God is spiritual armor. We put it on by believing in Jesus and by reading the Bible.

**Puppet:** What does a real breastplate look like?

**Teacher:** Knights wore them over their heart to keep themselves safe. *Put the mini breastplate over the puppet's shoulders and chest area.*

**Puppet:** I feel safe with this on.

**Teacher:** Yep. When we wear the breastplate of righteousness, it protects our heart from making bad choices and helps us do what's right in God's sight. *Hold up the DAY 3 RHYME TIME POSTER.*

**Puppet:** Hey, that's catchy! *Start dancing and chanting "Do right in God's sight!"* Come on kids, say it with me. *Have kids stand up and dance while repeating the rhyme.* Whew! That was great. I want to do right in God's sight and make good choices for God!

**Teacher:** Wonderful! God also gives his kingdom keepers special shoes as part of the armor.

**Puppet:** Hmm. Are shoes important? I like to go barefoot when it's hot outside.

**Teacher:** That's fun to do, but if a knight didn't have any shoes on, he'd be in trouble. He wouldn't be able to stand firm, and he could slip and get hurt.

**Puppet:** Oh, yeah. If he's fighting in a battle, he wouldn't want to fall down.

**Teacher:** When we believe in Jesus, we don't have to worry because God is on our side. The shoes in God's armor help us go and tell others about Jesus because we have peace with God.

**Puppet:** Hey! Can we sing the song about putting on the whole armor of God?

**Teacher:** We sure can.

*Have the puppet sing with the kids, moving to the music.*

**Song 1: Armor of God** (To the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

**VERSE 1**

We must put on the armor of God  
*(Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.)*  
the armor of God, the armor of God  
*(Tap waist, tap feet—2x.)*  
We must put on the armor of God  
*(Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.)*  
We'll wear it ev'ry day *(March in place.)*

**VERSE 2**

First, we tie on the belt of truth  
*(Make tying motion at your waist, then pull hands apart.)*  
belt of truth, belt of truth  
*(Repeat motion—2x.)*  
And we put on the breastplate, too  
*(Tap front of your shoulders with open hands.)*  
They'll help us to obey *(March in place.)*

**VERSE 3**

Next, we slip on the shoes of peace  
*(Step/slide each foot into pretend shoes.)*  
shoes of peace, shoes of peace  
*(Repeat motion—2x.)*  
Then we put on the helmet, too  
*(Slide your open hands down the sides of your head.)*  
They protect us ev'ry day *(March in place.)*

**VERSE 4**

Now we hold up the shield of faith  
*(Cross your hand over and down, then lift your fist in front of you.)*  
shield of faith, shield of faith  
*(Repeat motion—2x.)*  
Then take the sword—the Word of God  
*(Cross other hand over, then hold up your fist as if unsheathing a sword.)*  
They'll help us to obey *(March in place.)*  
*Repeat verse one.*

**Puppet:** Wow! Great singing. I'll see you tomorrow. Bye!

## Day 4: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Huzzah! Hooray! Welcome back to the strongest part of the castle, the keep. Do you think we can get Christian to visit again? *Have the kids call for him.*

**Puppet:** *Come up with the belt and breastplate on from yesterday. Also have a mini shield.* Hey, everyone! Look what I've got!

**Teacher:** Well, I see you have your belt on. What's that belt called, boys and girls? *Take responses.*

**Puppet:** It's my belt of truth. God's Word is true!

**Teacher:** And you have your breastplate on. What's the breastplate called, kids? *Take responses.*

**Puppet:** The breastplate of right(eousness). When I learn about the Bible, it helps me to do right.

**Teacher:** I see you're holding the next piece of armor.

**Puppet:** Yes. This is my shield of faith.

**Teacher:** That's really important to have because it will protect you. The knights always carried great big shields into battle to keep them safe from the enemy's arrows.

**Puppet:** I'm not going to have real arrows come my way, am I? *Shake or duck as if afraid.*

**Teacher:** No, but lies and bad ideas may come at us like arrows.

**Puppet:** I sure don't want those to hit me. They might make me mess up and sin.

**Teacher:** That's why you need your shield of faith to block them. And you need another piece of armor too—a helmet. *Put the helmet on the puppet's head.*

**Puppet:** What does that do?

**Teacher:** The helmet of salvation reminds us that Jesus saves us from sin, and doesn't want us to keep doing the same sins over and over.

**Puppet:** What's sin again?

**Teacher:** Sin is when we don't obey God.

**Puppet:** But that's why God gives us armor, right? To help us say no to sin so we don't do it?

**Teacher:** That's right. God wants us to win against sin. Let's say that together. *Do so.*  
Would you like to sing about the armor of God with us?

**Puppet:** I sure would!

**Song 1: Armor of God** (To the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush")

VERSE 1

We must put on the armor of God  
(*Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.*)

the armor of God, the armor of God

*(Tap waist, tap feet—2x.)*

We must put on the armor of God

*(Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.)*

We'll wear it ev'ry day

*(March in place.)*

#### **VERSE 2**

First, we tie on the belt of truth

*(Make tying motion at your waist, then pull hands apart.)*

belt of truth, belt of truth

*(Repeat motion—2x.)*

And we put on the breastplate, too

*(Tap front of your shoulders with open hands.)*

They'll help us to obey *(March in place.)*

#### **VERSE 3**

Next, we slip on the shoes of peace

*(Step/slide each foot into pretend shoes.)*

shoes of peace, shoes of peace

*(Repeat motion—2x.)*

Then we put on the helmet, too

*(Slide your open hands down the sides of your head.)*

They protect us ev'ry day *(March in place.)*

#### **VERSE 4**

Now we hold up the shield of faith

*(Cross your hand over and down, then lift your fist in front of you.)*

shield of faith, shield of faith

*(Repeat motion—2x.)*

Then take the sword—the Word of God

*(Cross other hand over, then hold up your fist as if unsheathing a sword.)*

They'll help us to obey *(March in place.)*

*Repeat verse one.*

## Day 5: Puppet Pal

**Teacher:** Hi, kids. Should we check in on Christian one last time? Let's call him. *Have kids call.*

**Puppet:** *Come up with a juggling ball and jester hat (optional).*

**Teacher:** What's wrong, Christian? You seem sad today.

**Puppet:** I am. I want to be a juggler sooo much, but I just can't get the hang of it.

**Teacher:** Let me see you try.

**Puppet:** *Throw the ball up and drop it. Sigh a big sigh, then say dejectedly:* Boy, I sure was hoping I could be the best juggler ever!

**Teacher:** Well, how much have you practiced?

**Puppet:** Umm, not at all.

**Teacher:** Kids, what do you think Christian should do? *Take responses.* You know, the more you practice, the better you'll be.

**Puppet:** Oh, yeah! Maybe I'll go outside later and try some more then.

**Teacher:** That's a good idea. That reminds me, did you know there's something else we all need to practice to be good at?

**Puppet:** What's that?

**Teacher:** We have to practice using the sword of the Spirit. It's the last piece of the armor of God.

**Puppet:** Oooh! I've seen knights sword fighting in the movies.

**Teacher:** In the days of kings and castles, the knights were like the kingdom keepers. Just like those knights used swords to fight their enemies, God's kingdom keepers must use the sword of the Spirit to fight against sin.

**Puppet:** What's the sword of the Spirit?

**Teacher:** It's God's Word, the Bible. It helps us know the truth so we won't be tricked by the enemy's lies and bad ideas.

**Puppet:** Oh! We have a Bible at my house.

**Teacher:** You should ask your parents to read it to you. Every day, you've got to be hearing, memorizing, and using the Bible.

**Puppet:** What do you mean?

**Teacher:** A knight's sword wouldn't do him any good in a battle if he didn't know how to use it, right? It's the same with the Bible. It can't help you if you don't practice using it. 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.

**Teacher:** We should all pray and use the Bible every day so we can learn to love and obey God. Let's sing about being kingdom keepers for God's good kingdom.

*Have the puppet sing with the kids, moving to the music.*

**Song 1: The Kingdom Keepers** (To the tune of "The Ants Go Marching")

The kingdom keepers march for God, hurrah, hurrah

*(March in place, lift up your hands on "hurrah.")*

The kingdom keepers march for God, hurrah, hurrah

*(March in place, lift up your hands on "hurrah.")*

God gave us armor we will wear

*(Tap head, tap shoulders, tap waist, tap feet.)*

Satan's kingdom better beware

*(Put your fists up in a fighting stance.)*

And we all go marching on

*(March in place.)*

For the Lord—who is strong—and has won

*(Point up, flex your biceps, then lift your hands in victory.)*

Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

*(Shout and point up on each word.)*

*Repeat, adding a fourth Huzzah! at the end.*

**Puppet:** That was super! I sure have enjoyed singing and learning with you this week, but now I've got to go. I'm going to train my brain by memorizing my Bible verses so I'll be ready with the sword of the Spirit.

**Teacher:** Great idea, Christian. I hope all the kids will do that too. Goodbye!

