

Day 1: Puppet Pal

Teacher: Now let's see if we can meet our puppet pal, Sunny.
On the count of three, let's all call to him (her). Ready? 1,
2, 3—Sunny!

Puppet: Come up. Aloha! Welcome to *Mystery Island*!

Teacher: Thanks! This is an awesome place. What do you
like to do here?

Puppet: Well, one of my favorite things to do is to hang ten.

Teacher: Hang ten? What's that mean?

Puppet: Ever surfed before?

Teacher: Nope.

Puppet: Well, surfers like to have their 10 toes hang over the
front of their surfboard while they're riding the waves.
It's cool.

Teacher: Pretend to surf. That would be amazing! But there's
a different number I'm thinking about besides 10.

Puppet: Oh yeah? What is it?

Teacher: One.

Puppet: Say dramatically. The number 1. Numero uno. One and
only. The big O-un. O-n-e.

Teacher: I think we get the idea. Number 1.

Puppet: It sure wouldn't work to hang one. Can you imagine
having just my big toe hanging over a surfboard? Flip over
backwards and laugh uproariously. Or maybe my pinkie toe.
Now that would be a trick.

Teacher: Sunny, I wasn't talking about toes.

Puppet: Well, then, what are you talking about?

Teacher: God.

Puppet: God? What does God have to do with the number 1?

Teacher: Maybe the boys and girls out here can help us with
that. Boys and girls, do you remember what the number 1
has to do with God? Take answers—there's only one God.

Puppet: But wait a minute. I have a friend who believes in
lots of gods.

Teacher: There's only one *true* God, but people throughout
time have often believed in lots of *false* gods.

Puppet: What do you mean?

Teacher: Well, sometimes people make up gods in their
minds, like the people during the Apostle Paul's time. They
made up all kinds of gods, like Zeus, Cronos, and Nike.

Puppet: Were they real gods?

Teacher: No. Remember we said there's only one true God.
You can't just make up a god of your own choosing.

Nowadays, people may not make a statue of gold and
call it a god, but they get ideas in their minds about God
that are wrong. Wrong ideas about God are kind of like
making up your own god. Maybe someone says his god
wants everybody to be rich. Or his god is up in heaven
and doesn't care about us down here on earth. Or people
may think they have to be "good" so God will allow them
into heaven.

Puppet: Well, I don't want to have wrong thoughts about
God, so where do I go to get the truth about who he is and
what he's like?

Teacher: You go to the Bible. It's the only perfect book in the
world, written by God himself. So if the Bible says it, that
settles it. It shows us who God is and what he's *really* like.

Puppet: What is God really like? Can he curl his tongue into
a tube shape? My friend Herbert can do that. Start to talk
with your tongue curled, saying you have tried, but it's hard to
do.

Teacher: Well, it's fun to try that, but there's a big differ-
ence between God and us. There are qualities of God that
people don't have.

Puppet: Like what?

Teacher: First of all, he can never make a mistake. Ever. *We*
sure make mistakes, but God never does.

Puppet: You mean he's perfect?

Teacher: Forever perfect!

Puppet: Wow, that would come in handy when I'm doing my
math homework. It's so hard to remember the addition
facts.

Teacher: God invented math, so he knows everything about
math and everything else! Another thing about God is he
can never lie.

Puppet: You mean he always tells the truth?

Teacher: Always.

Puppet: When my friend Johnny came over, he told me he
was going to give me his surfboard to keep, but he didn't.
Man, I really liked his surfboard.

Teacher: People sometimes let you down, Sunny, but you
can count on God to always tell the truth and keep his
word. And God never changes. Camo the chameleon
changes colors a lot, doesn't he? Point to the DAY 1 ANIMAL
PAL POSTER.

Puppet: Yeah, I like to watch the chameleons that live on the
island. They're green one minute, then change to blue or
orange or a mixture.

Teacher: Well, God is invisible, so when I say he doesn't change, I'm not talking about his looks changing. But I do mean what he's *like* always stays the same. He is forever kind, good, loving, truthful, and perfect. That will never change. And he made everything and everyone. He's the Creator, and he cares about you!

Puppet: He sounds great!

Teacher: God *is* great! He's amazing! He's wonderful! He's better than you can even imagine. He's more important

than anybody else you'll ever know—by far—and I can't wait to share more about him with you this week!

Puppet: Thanks for sharing about the great *One*. Now I'm going to go and hang *ten*!

Teacher: You do that, Sunny, and we'll see you tomorrow! Boys and girls, as Sunny goes, let's see if you can remember what Sunny had to say. Review for a minute as Sunny leaves.

Day 2: Puppet Pal

Teacher: On the count of three, let's stand up and call our puppet pal. Ready? 1, 2, 3—Sunny!

Puppet: Come up with a superhero shirt, shield, or other superhero prop.

Teacher: What in the world are you wearing (holding)?

Puppet: This is my superhero costume. I'm pretending to be ____ (name of the superhero you are using).

Teacher: What are you pretending you can do?

Puppet: I have the power to stop a speeding train with my bare hands, or ____ (make up a superhero power).

Teacher: It's fun to pretend, but you don't think you really have super powers, do you?

Puppet: No, I don't. But ____ (name of a superhero) sure does! Have you seen how he ____ (ability of that superhero)?

Teacher: Well, guess what? That's just pretend, too! The superheroes you see on TV and in the movies and in your computer games are just make believe. They aren't real.

Puppet: Awww . . . so there's nobody who has super powers for real?

Teacher: Yes, there is. There is one. Only one.

Puppet: Who? I bet it's ____ (name of a superhero).

Teacher: Nope.

Puppet: Maybe ____ (name of a superhero).

Teacher: No. Remember, those are just pretend, but the one with true super powers is God. God isn't like anyone else. God can do anything.

Puppet: Like what?

Teacher: Well, for one, he knows everything. He's never had to go to school to learn anything. He has known everything forever.

Puppet: You mean God has never learned anything new?

Teacher: That's right! We're learning new stuff all our lives, and even then, we only know a bit of all there is to know. But God always has known everything. He knows how many drops of water come to earth in each rainstorm. He knows where each bird is and how many feathers it has. He knows when an ear of corn is picked on the other side of the world. The Bible says he even knows when you sit down and when you get up in the morning—every day.

He knows when you go to bed. He knows what you're going to say before you say it. He even knew you before you were born, because he made you!

Puppet: What a mighty God!

Teacher: Yes! And God not only knows everything, but he also has the power to do anything he wants to. He's loving and kind, so of course everything he does is for a good reason.

Puppet: What kind of power does he have?

Teacher: He has power over the weather. He has the power to make it rain or stop raining, to send a rainbow, or to make a beautiful, sunny day. He has the power to make plants grow, to hold the planets in place, to heal our scrapes and sicknesses and diseases, and to create an animal.

Puppet: Incredible!

Teacher: Another amazing ability is that God is everywhere at the same time.

Puppet: You mean God is here and God is across the world with the boys and girls there, too?

Teacher: Yep! The Bible tells us if we go to the highest spot, the lowest spot, the farthest spot across the world, or anywhere, God is there. Show the DAY 2 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. He can even go deep, deep down in the sea where Flip the flapjack octopus lives. It is pitch black down there, but God knows where every creature is, including Flip.

Puppet: It's really great news that God is always with us. That's something to remember when I get scared and feel alone.

Teacher: Remember that you're never alone. You can't see God, but he's there, loving you and watching over you.

Puppet: God is great. God is good.

Teacher: Yes. He's both great and good, all the time. If we're his children, we can know he's our kind and loving Father who is always with us and knows all about us. That's awesome!

Puppet: That's so awesome! I'm gonna go sit in the dark for a minute and remember God is with me.

Teacher: Okay, Sunny, you do that, and we'll see you tomorrow. Let's say goodbye to Sunny, everyone! Do so.

Day 3: Puppet Pal

Puppet: Pop up. Oh, hi! I was just watching ____ (name of a children's movie with a king in it, such as Cinderella).

Teacher: Was it good?

Puppet: Yeah! I like seeing movies with kings and queens and princes and princesses. In fact, I like to play kings and queens with my friends.

Teacher: You know, we've been talking about a king who isn't like any other king. This king is perfect and good and rules the whole universe. He's alive forever!

Puppet: Do you mean God?

Teacher: Yep! He's the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Puppet: That reminds me of a song. It's called _____. (Choose a favorite kids' song or chorus of a song and insert the name. Two possibilities are "He Is the King of Kings," or "All Creatures of Our God and King." Check YouTube for help, and plan to sing it as noted below.)

Teacher: Hey, I like that song! Let's sing it with the boys and girls! Do so.

Puppet: That's fun to sing to God!

Teacher: It sure is! Singing praises is a great way to show how great and wonderful and loving we think God is!

Puppet: I'm going to try to sing to God every day. How about this one? Sing a silly, made up song that has nothing to do with God.

Teacher: Well, that's a fun song, but it doesn't have anything to do with God. You may want to sing songs *about* God to God. And besides singing, another way to show how much we honor and worship him is to praise him as we pray to him.

Puppet: What does *praise* mean?

Teacher: It's kind of like bragging about God. It's telling him how amazing he is. We can do this as we pray to him.

Puppet: How do we pray to God?

Teacher: We just talk to him. We can't see him, but he's listening!

Puppet: Cool beans! Shout heavenward. God, I think you're an amazing ruler and king! Look back at the teacher. Did he hear that?

Teacher: He sure did! But you don't have to shout up to heaven. Just talk in your normal voice, and he'll hear you. You can even think praises to God. He knows what you're thinking! And you know what else we should want to do when we find out how great God is?

Puppet: Do the chicken dance? I love the chicken dance. Hum the first stanza and have everyone clap. Check YouTube for lyrics and melody.

Teacher: No, silly, I'm not talking about doing the chicken dance. Instead, we should want to tell others about God and his wonders!

Puppet: Oh, right! God is the incredible ruler of the universe!

Teacher: He sure is! Show the DAY 3 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. You know, Clark the shark here is nicknamed the ruler of the sea. That's pretty cool, but that's nothing compared to being the ruler of everything! God made everything and is in charge of it all. Can you think of something God has made that you think is fabulous?

Puppet: Yeah, yeah. I know something . . . ear wax. You know, that goeey yellow stuff that's in your ears. Now I think that's fabulous.

Teacher: Sunny, be serious.

Puppet: I am being serious! Did you know ear wax protects your ears from getting bad germs and water in them? God was really smart to create that. I think it's wonderful!

Teacher: I guess you have a point there.

Puppet: And how about our eyelashes? They help to protect our eyes from getting things like sand or dust in them.

Teacher: Okay, I think we hear what you're saying. God made those and so much more! We can talk to other people about our amazing God and never run out of great things to say about him!

Puppet: That's for sure! I think I'm going to tell my mom how amazing God is to have created ear wax.

Teacher: Okay, Sunny, go for it, and we'll plan to see you tomorrow! Let's say goodbye to Sunny, everyone. Do so.

Day 4: Puppet Pal

Teacher: Hey! What have you been up to?

Puppet: I was just playing a game. I love games!

Teacher: I do, too! They're so much fun. Would you like to play a game with the kids?

Puppet: I sure would! How do we play?

Teacher: I'll ask a question and you decide on two possible answers. Then the kids will have to figure out which one is right.

Puppet: Oh, that sounds fun! Let's try it.

Teacher: Okay, the first question is this: God made the world a beautiful and perfect place and put the first two people in a garden called what?

Puppet: Let's see, it was either the garden of eating or the garden of Eden.

Teacher: Boys and girls, which do you think it was? The garden of eating or the garden of Eden? Take answers and tell them it's the garden of Eden. You can keep score and give them a point for each right answer or just skip keeping score.

Teacher: Question 2: The first people, Adam and Eve, ate something God told them not to. What was it?

Puppet: I think it was either a piece of fruit or a pepperoni pizza. Boy, do I love pepperoni pizza.

Teacher: Boys and girls, do you think it was fruit or pizza? Take answers and tell them it was fruit.

Teacher: Question 3: When you don't obey God, it's called what?

Puppet: It's called either sin or smiles. Pretend to pose for a picture. CHEESE!

Teacher: Calm down over there, Sunny. Anyway, do you think it's called sin or smiles when you don't obey God? Take answers and tell them it is sin.

Teacher: Okay, here's the next question: God's Son, Jesus, came to earth to save sinners. Jesus is called Emmanuel, which means what?

Puppet: It means either God with us or man with us.

Teacher: Boys and girls, which do you think? Take answers and tell them it's God with us.

Teacher: Okay, here's our last question: We talked about A standing for Admit. We admit we sinned. What does B stand for?

Puppet: It means either be good or believe.

Teacher: Boys and girls, do you think the B in ABFR stands for be good or believe? Take answers and tell them it's believe.

Puppet: Well, this sure was fun to play our game.

Teacher: Yep! And I hope all our boys and girls know God loves them and wants them to be a child of God. Well, we'll see you tomorrow, Sunny. Thanks for playing with us!

Puppet: You bet! I'm gonna go surfing now. See you later.

Day 5: Puppet Pal

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

Teacher: Hi, Sunny! We were just talking about trusting God.

Puppet: Hey, I just learned a Bible verse about that! It goes: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart."

Teacher: Let's say that together, boys and girls. Do so.

Puppet: But I'm not sure what the word "trust" means.

Teacher: It means you believe someone will do what he says he will do. Like, maybe you trust your mom to always be there to pick you up after school.

Puppet: I do.

Teacher: Well, how about this: If I asked you to turn around and fall backwards, would you trust me to catch you? Do you believe I will do what I say I'll do?

Puppet: I trust you.

Teacher: Then let's try it.

Puppet: Turn around to try to fall backwards, but then get scared and don't do it. Turn back around, facing forwards. Well, wait a minute here. This is kind of scary.

Teacher: Do you trust me to catch you?

Puppet: Hesitantly. I guess so.

Teacher: Boys and girls, do you trust me to catch Sunny? Take responses.

Puppet: All right, let's try this. Turn around and, after a few seconds, "fall" backwards. Teacher catches the puppet and places it back so it's facing the kids.

Note: This can be a little tricky to comfortably do, but one way is to leave your hand in the same position within the puppet, but use your other hand (which should be hidden behind the puppet stage) to flip the puppet around so its back is now facing the kids. Then "fall" toward the kids.

Teacher: There! I caught you!

Puppet: You sure did! Wow, I can trust you.

Teacher: You sure can. But there's someone you can trust even more than me, and that's God. He's perfect, so he can never make a mistake with your life. He has all the power and knowledge in the world, and yet he uses it with love and goodness, not ever in a bad way. He always has your best interest at heart.

Puppet: I can trust him even though I can't see him and don't always understand what's happening?

Teacher: Yes, you can trust him, because the Bible tells us we can. And since the Bible was written by God, it's perfect, too, and perfectly trustworthy. So just remember—God can never, ever do anything wrong. Whatever you're going through in life, whether it's something scary, sad, bad, happy, or glad, you can trust him. Before we say goodbye, let's all say, "I can trust God!" together. Do so, and then tell the puppet goodbye.