

Day 1: Puppet Pal

Teacher: Boys and girls, that was cool to hear from Paul! Now let's see if we can get our puppet pal, Sunny, to come out. 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: Yeah, 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. But I know what a surfer looks like. Show a picture of a surfer.

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 today besides 10.

Puppet: Oh yeah? What is it?

Teacher: One.

Puppet: Say dramatically. The number 1. Numero uno. One and only. The big O. 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.

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 one?

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.

Puppet: Oh, I get it. There's only one god.

Teacher: Yes! The Bible tells us that. It's the only perfect book in the world, written by God himself, so if the Bible says it, that settles it.

Puppet: What's God like?

Teacher: Well, first of all, he can never make a mistake. He's perfect.

Puppet: Wow, that's amazing!

Teacher: And he always tells the truth.

Puppet: My big brother doesn't always tell the truth. He said he's in fifth grade, and he's only in third!

Teacher: You can count on God to *always* tell the truth. 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 change colors.

Teacher: Well, when I say God doesn't change, I'm not talking about what he looks like, because God can't be seen now. But I do mean what God is *like* always stays the same. He is forever kind, good, loving, and perfect. That will never change. And he made everything and everything. He's the Creator!

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 to know—*by far*—and I can't wait to share more about him with you this week!

Puppet: Thanks for sharing about the one true God. Now I'm going to go try to hang *ten*!

Teacher: You do that, Sunny, and we'll see you tomorrow! Boys and girls, as Sunny goes, I'd like to see what you remember from today so far. Show the PAUL IN ATHENS POSTER. Here's a picture of Paul in Athens, telling the men about God. Why was Paul feeling upset? What did the people there believe? How many true gods are there? Take answers and review.

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 pretend 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. He's known it all 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 where each bird is and how many feathers it has. He knows when a grain 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: Show the GOD'S POWER POSTER. He has power over the weather. He has the power to make it rain or stop raining, to send a rainbow, or to make it a beautiful, sunny day. He has the power to heal our boo boos and sicknesses, and even come back to life. He has the power to forgive us of our sins and to create plants and animals from nothing.

Puppet: Incredible!

Teacher: God is also 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 is even 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 is both great and good, all the time. If we are 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 children's movie with a king in it).

Teacher: Was it good?

Puppet: Yeah! In fact, it's fun 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 out YouTube for music and lyrics, and plan to sing it when 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 to God is a great way to show how great and wonderful and loving we think God is!

Puppet: I'm going to try to sing a song 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 try 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 telling God how amazing we think 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 the tune.

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 what . . . ear wax. You know, that gooey 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 make 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 all that 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'm going to tell my mom how amazing ear wax is.

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

Puppet: Come up. Hey!

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 eggplant or the garden of Eden.

Teacher: Boys and girls, which do you think it was? The garden of eggplant or the garden of Eden? Take answers and tell them it's the garden of Eden.

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 was 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 a man is here.

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 sin. What does B stand for?

Puppet: It means either banana or believe.

Teacher: Boys and girls, do you think the B stands for banana 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 children of God. Well, we'll see you tomorrow, Sunny. Thanks for playing with us!

Puppet: You bet! I'm gonna go swimming 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. Show the DAY 5 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. You know, pirates trusted their pet birds, like Trusty the macaw, but we have someone we can trust much, much more than a bird, or any other animal, or even any other person—and that's 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 know you can believe someone will do what he says he will do. Like, maybe you trust your mom to always pick you up from daycare.

Puppet: I sure 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 turn back around facing frontwards. 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 turns it back around so it's facing the kids again.

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 flop 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.

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, crazy, or glad, you can trust God.