

Puppet Pal—Always and Forever

Teacher: Boys and girls, let's see if we can get our Puppet Pal, Skye, to come out. On the count of 3, let's all call to him (her). Ready? 1, 2, 3—Skye!

Puppet: Come up out of breath and rushed but full of excitement and energy. **Hey, everybody! I'm all packed for my trip.**

Teacher: Where are you going?

Puppet: Well, I want to go on an adventure back in time to when Jesus, the Son of God, began.

Teacher: Ummm . . . there's a little problem with that.

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Boys and girls, Skye said he wants to go back in time to when the Son of God (Jesus) started. Does the Son of God have a beginning? Take responses. The Son of God never started. He's always been.

Puppet: But wait! You're saying the Son of God didn't begin? That's impossible! Every one of us has a beginning.

Teacher: It's true that *people* have beginnings. But God didn't begin. He always has been and always will be. When you don't have a beginning or an ending, it's called being eternal.

Puppet: Eternal. So because he doesn't begin or end, God is eternal?

Teacher: Yep! And the Bible says he will never leave you. If you hide under your bed, in your closet, or in the basement, God is still with you. If you climb to the highest heights, go to the deepest depths, or travel to the farthest corner of the

universe, he's still with you. So anywhere you go, Jesus is with you. He always is!

Puppet: Look all around, up and down, etc. **But I don't see him here. Where is he? Jesus! Jesus!**

Teacher: We can't see him, but he's here. It's kind of like air. Take a deep breath, everyone. Do so.

Puppet: Act like you're holding it for a really long time, then squeak out: **Can I let it out yet?**

Teacher: Okay, let it out.

Puppet: Dramatically let it out and gasp for breath. **Whew!**

Teacher: Just like we know the air is here, even though we can't see it, we also know God is here, even though we can't see him! So even though Jesus isn't standing here as a person right now, he's still here—he's just invisible. But this week, we'll be traveling to time periods when people actually *did* see Jesus as a real live man! And we'll talk about how someday, we'll get to actually see Jesus, too! Won't that be incredible?!

Puppet: It sure will! I can't wait to hear more as we travel through time this week!

Teacher: It's gonna be fun! But just remember, Jesus always has been and always will be. He's never going away.

Puppet: That makes me feel good. When I feel lonely or sad or in trouble, I'll remember to talk to Jesus in prayer.

Teacher: Yep! He's with you, and he hears you. Well, you better get going, Skye! Let's say bye to Skye, everyone! Do so.

Puppet Pal–Promise Keepers

Teacher: Hi, Skye! Hey, I'm wondering something.

Puppet: What's that?

Teacher: Is Skye your full name?

Puppet: No, my full name is Skylar Thompson, but Skye is my nickname. But it's not my only nickname. My dad calls me Pie in the Skye.

Teacher: Oh, my ____ used to call me a nickname, too. Mine was ____.

Puppet: That's fun!

Teacher: Yeah, sometimes we have more than one name we go by, huh? Like, in the Bible, there are lots of different names for Jesus, but they're all describing the same person.

Puppet: Like what?

Teacher: He's called Jesus, the Son of God, Christ, the Lord, and the Savior.

Puppet: Cool!

Teacher: And sometimes, back in Old Testament times, he was called the Angel of the Lord. He showed up even before he was born as a baby! Isn't that something?

Puppet: It really is!

Teacher: He appeared and promised people that various things would happen in the future. Like, he promised Moses that the bad ruler, Pharaoh, would let the Hebrew people go, and that's just what happened. And he promised other people things in the Old Testament, and they all happened, just as he promised. God always, always, always keeps his promises!

Puppet: That makes me feel good to know I can count on God and his Word. If the Bible says it, that settles it. It will happen just as promised!

Teacher: It sure will! In fact, long before Jesus came to earth, promises were recorded that he would come, and he came just as promised. For instance, one promise was that he would be born as a baby, and he was. Another promise was that he would be born in a town called Bethlehem, and he was. Another promise was that there would be a special star, and there was.

Puppet: Jesus is a promise keeper!

Teacher: He sure is!

Puppet: Well, I'm going to go read some more about Jesus in the Bible.

Teacher: Great idea, Skye. You do that, and we'll see you tomorrow. Bye for now!

Puppet Pal–Gospel Presentation Continued

Puppet: Come up. Hey there! What's happenin'?

Teacher: We're just talking about when Jesus came to earth.

Puppet: I would love to travel back in time to see Jesus as a baby and a child and a man!

Teacher: Wouldn't that be something? His birth, life, death, and coming back to life were one-of-a-kind experiences.

Puppet: That's because Jesus is God!

Teacher: You're right! He's completely God, and he's also completely man. He was a perfect man, not like any other person ever. He never did anything wrong.

Puppet: Wow, I wish I could stop doing wrong stuff!

Teacher: Well, the Bible tells us we all sin. That means we all disobey God. The Bible also says the punishment for sin is death. That's why it's such good news that Jesus came! He took the punishment for sin! If Jesus hadn't come, we would be forever separated from God in a bad, bad place. We wouldn't have any hope of eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Puppet: I sure am thankful Jesus came!

Teacher: I know! It's kind of like what Sergeant the St. Bernard does. Show the Day 3 Animal Pal poster. Sergeant goes out on rescue missions to seek out and save the lives of those who are lost in the wilderness. Well, Jesus came to seek us out and save our lives because even though we may not realize it, we're all born spiritually lost. We aren't able to find our way to heaven on our own.

Puppet: So it's really good news that Jesus came, lived, died, and came back to life!

Teacher: Yes! It's the best news ever. Jesus came, lived, died, and came back to life because he loves you soooo much. That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's stand up and say (or sing) it together. Recite (or sing) John 3:16 together using the Day 3 Memory Verse poster.

Puppet: In our verse, Jesus says that whoever believes in him will have eternal (forever) life.

Teacher: Show the Admit, Believe, Forever Receive sheets. That's right. To become a child of God and receive the gift of eternal life, you first have to admit you're a sinner.

Puppet: What's that mean?

Teacher: It means you tell God you realize you sin (disobey God), like saying unkind words, hitting someone, or not doing what you're told to do.

Puppet: I think we've all done all those things.

Teacher: That's right! All those things and more are sins. When you admit to God that you've sinned and you want to turn from those sins, that's called repenting. That doesn't mean you stop sinning. That's impossible. But it means you want to please God, obey him, and not keep sinning.

Puppet: Then what do you do after you admit you're a sinner?

Teacher: You must believe and trust that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and came back to life to take the punishment for your sins in place of you receiving the punishment.

Puppet: And after that?

Teacher: You ask God to be his child and be part of his forever family. So you admit, then believe, then forever receive him. In fact, if any boys and girls are interested in learning more about this, make sure you talk to your parents, your leaders, or me today. We'd love to tell you more about it.

Puppet: It sure is a good thing Jesus came to rescue us!

Teacher: It sure is! We need it!

Puppet: Well, I need to get going, but I'll plan to see you tomorrow.

Teacher: Okay, Skye, we'll look forward to seeing you later. Let's say goodbye to Skye, everyone.

Puppet Pal—Love and Care

Puppet: Hey!

Teacher: Hi, Skye! Have you thought any more about your next travel destination?

Puppet: Well, I was thinking about . . . (let out a big sneeze) . . . aaahhh! aaahhh! choo!

Teacher: God bless you! Are you getting sick?

Puppet: I don't think so. I was just planning my trip and then . . . (let out another big sneeze) . . . aaahhh! aaahhh! choo!

Teacher: I think you are getting sick. Let me check your forehead. Do so. You're warm all right. You have a fever.

Puppet: But what about my trip?

Teacher: You're not going anywhere!

Puppet: I do feel pretty lousy.

Teacher: I'll tell you what. How does some chicken noodle soup sound?

Puppet: Good.

Teacher: And your nice comfy bed?

Puppet: Really good.

Teacher: Okay, you head home and hop in bed. I'll be over soon with some soup. And I'll be praying for you to feel better.

Puppet: Thank you. Hey, that's like what you were talking about a minute ago.

Teacher: What's that?

Puppet: While you're caring for me, Jesus is always caring for me, too!

Teacher: That's right! Jesus is always caring for his children and praying for them, too! And he's even preparing the best place ever for them to live someday!

Puppet: Cool!

Teacher: And you know what's the best thing?

Puppet: What?

Teacher: When we get to the new heaven and new earth someday, Jesus will always be there, and there won't be any more sickness! In fact, there won't be anything bad or sad at all—only good things!

Puppet: That will be amazing!

Teacher: It will! But until then, let's get you feeling better.

Puppet: Okay! Thanks for caring for me, just like Jesus does. See you soon!

Teacher: So boys and girls, let's meet our animal pal for today, and he can remind us of all these wonderful things we just talked about that Jesus is doing in heaven now.

Show Day 4 Animal Pal poster. Today's animal pal is named Bucky and he's a beaver. Do any of you know what beavers do? Take responses. They like to make homes for themselves in streams. They are busy preparing their place. Who else did we talk about who is busy preparing a place? Take responses. Yes, Jesus! So when you see Bucky, let him remind you of Jesus, who is also busy getting a place ready for all his children.

Puppet Pal—Perfect Place

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

Teacher: Hi, Skye! Are you feeling better?

Puppet: I sure am. Jesus made me better!

Teacher: That's great!

Puppet: And I decided where to travel to.

Teacher: Where?

Puppet: To the best place in all of time—my grandma's house!

Teacher: I'm sure your grandma's house is fun, but I don't agree it's the best place ever.

Puppet: Why not? Where could be better than Grandma's?

Teacher: Well, there's a better place coming. Think of every fun and wonderful place in the world, every person you love, and everything you love to do, and guess what? The place I'm thinking about is still better.

Puppet: Impossible!

Teacher: No, it isn't.

Puppet: What's this place called?

Teacher: It's the new heaven and new earth. It's where we'll live someday if we're children of God.

Puppet: What makes it the best place ever?

Teacher: Well, the Bible tells us there will be no more crying, sadness, or bad things there. It's a beautiful place with all good things.

Puppet: That's exciting! That means I'll never be scared or sad again!

Teacher: Exactly. And you'll get to hang out with all the other Christians who have ever lived—people from Bible times like Moses, Mary, King David, and anyone else who looked to Jesus for salvation, including people you've known on earth.

Puppet: Wow! I'll get to see my grandpa again!

Teacher: Yep, he was an amazing believer! But you know what the best part of all will be?

Puppet: Oohhh, I know! Jesus will be there! He'll be my Lord and my friend!

Teacher: That's right! You'll love hanging out with him! He'll reign on the new earth as the King of kings. Show Day 5 Animal Pal poster. Our animal pal, King, is here to remind us of that! When you see King, remember that Jesus is the King of all kings. There's never been a perfect, loving, kind, wonderful King like him. Isn't that exciting that we'll get to live with a king forever?

Puppet: Whoa! This is gonna be a—mazing!

Teacher: It really is. I'm really, really, really, really, really, really looking forward to it someday.

Puppet: But I do have one question. Do you think it will get boring? I mean, it's going to last forever.

Teacher: No, we won't get bored. It will be like all the wonderful things on earth, only better!

Puppet: I think I'm going to go draw a picture of what I imagine the new heaven and new earth to look like.

Teacher: That sounds fun! Well, I'm glad you stopped by. Let's say bye to Skye. Do so.