

DAY 1: PUPPET PAL

Puppet: *Come out acting dejected with a mini tool taped to the hand.*

Teacher: Well, hello there. You must be Sam.

Puppet: *Acting sad.* Yup, that's me. I'm Sam. It's short for Samuel (*Samantha*).

Teacher: Is something wrong? You seem sad.

Puppet: My friend was supposed to go digging for gold treasure with me at the gold mine. But now he's too busy.

Teacher: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Puppet: He *promised* he'd come.

Teacher: That's bad news. People should keep their promises. But sometimes they don't. But I can tell you some wonderful news!

Puppet: *Acting more excited.* Really? Did you find gold treasure?

Teacher: Nope, I found a treasure much better than gold. It's someone who always, always, always keeps his promises. His name is Jesus, and he's a treasure for sure.

Puppet: I've read about Jesus in the Bible. Will you tell us the wonders of Jesus?

Teacher: First of all, the Bible tells us that Jesus is God. He's the Creator who made the whole world.

Puppet: You mean Jesus made the whole world and the sun and moon and stars?
Be ready to make noises for each creature mentioned next.

Teacher: *Allow time for the puppet to make noises as you name each creature.* Yes. He made everything, like birds, fish, frogs, sheep, monkeys, dinosaurs, and people. Then, many years later, Jesus came down from heaven to *live* with us.

Puppet: Wow! That *is* a wonder! I know a name for Jesus that means "God with us." It's Immanuel. Say that with me, kids. *Do so.*

Teacher: Jesus came from heaven, and some wonderful things happened when he was born.

Puppet: I love to hear about Jesus being born. My family even has a big party at Christmas to celebrate his birthday.

Teacher: Lot's of people celebrate Christmas. But I'm going to tell you some special wonders about Jesus' birth.

Puppet: Ooh, great!

Wonder 1. Angel

Teacher: First, an angel came to a young woman named Mary. Can you imagine all of a sudden if an angel from heaven was in a room with you?

Puppet: Yikes! I think I'd be scared. What about you kids? Show us your scared face. *Do so.*

Teacher: The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God had chosen her to be Jesus' mother. *Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: ANGEL.*

Puppet: Wow! What a wonder!

Teacher: Mary and her husband, Joseph, went to a city called Bethlehem. While they were there, it was time for baby Jesus to be born.

Puppet: Because their family's home was filled with people, they were given an area in the lower level of the home that sometimes had animals in it. Let's make sounds like donkeys and goats. *Do so.*

Teacher: Baby Jesus was born, and Mary laid him in the animals' feeding stand—called a manger.

Wonder 2. Shepherd

Puppet: Tell us what happened to the shepherds that were taking care of the sheep.

Teacher: It's the most exciting thing that's ever happened to any shepherd!

Puppet: Let's make an excited face, kids. *Do so.*

Teacher: The night Jesus was born, the shepherds were out in the fields watching over their sheep, when suddenly there was an angel. He said that Jesus, the Savior, was born!

Puppet: Let's clap and shout, "Hooray!" *Do so.*

Teacher: Then guess what happened next? *Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: SHEPHERDS.* A whole bunch of angels filled the sky, celebrating Jesus' birth! What a wonder!

Wonder 3. Wise Men and a Special Star

Puppet: I know another wonder about Jesus when he was young. Some wise men came from far, far away to visit Jesus.

Teacher: God put a special star in the sky. When they saw it, they followed it, and that star moved right over the house where Jesus was so they could find him.

Puppet: Wow! The wise men worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts. *Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: WISE MEN WITH GIFTS/SPECIAL STAR.*

Teacher: Jesus was a very special baby. He even had his own special star!

Puppet: Hey kids, let's sing a song about that. *Lead the kids in singing and dancing.*

Song 1: Twinkle, Twinkle, Jesus' Star

Twinkle, twinkle, Jesus' star

(Wiggle fingers above head.)

Wise men followed from afar

(Walk in place.)

Up above the world so high

(Raise arms in a circle.)

Like a diamond in the sky

(Raise loose fist, then point up.)

Twinkle, twinkle, Jesus' star

(Wiggle fingers above head.)

Wise men followed from afar

(Walk in place.)

Repeat

Wonder 4. Jesus Came!

Puppet: Great singing! When Jesus was born, it was different than anyone else's birth. He had angels, shepherds, wise men bringing gifts, and even a star.

Teacher: It was so special because God himself, Jesus, wanted to come. Remember, he was in heaven in a beautiful, perfect place, and he left that for our world. *Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: MANSION.*

Puppet: He came because he loves us, right?

Teacher: Right. Jesus cares about us, and he never fails. People may let you down, like your friend who didn't keep his promise. But Jesus always keeps his promises.

Puppet: Wow! Jesus is a much better treasure than finding gold.

Teacher: He's the greatest treasure of all—because he loves each one of us. Jesus is a wonder.

Puppet: I'd like to go tell my friends about Jesus' wonderful birth. Let's sing about that.

Song 2: Go Tell It on the Mountain

CHORUS

Go tell it on the mountain

(Make a mountain shape with arms.)

Over the hills and everywhere

(Move hand up and down over hills.)

Go tell it on the mountain

(Make a mountain shape with arms.)

That Jesus Christ is born *(Rock a baby.)*

VERSE 1

While shepherds kept their watching

(Put flat hand above eyes as if searching.)

Over silent flocks by night *(Put finger to lips and turn head back and forth.)*

Behold throughout the heavens

(Raise arms up and open wide.)

There shone a holy light *(Raise one arm with hand open, then pull down.)*

Repeat Chorus

VERSE 2

Down in a lowly manger (*Bend down and
move hand back and forth.*)
The humble Christ was born (*Rock a baby.*)

And God sent us salvation (*Point up for "God,"
point to yourself for "us," then cross hands over
heart for "salvation."*)

That blessed Christmas morn
(*Clap four times with the beat.*)

Repeat Chorus

Puppet: That was wonderful singing! Well, I think I'm going to try to dig up some gold treasure on my own just for fun. But I'll remember—Jesus is the best treasure ever. He's a wonder!

Teacher: Bye for now, Sam! See you tomorrow.

Puppet: Bye y'all. *Exit.*

DAY 2: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Great job singing! The Bible says Jesus is God and was born as a baby and grew as a child. But guess what? The Bible only tells us one thing that Jesus said when he was a child. This happened when he was 12 years old. Hey! Let's do something silly and call for Sam 12 times. *Do so while counting on your fingers.*

Puppet: *Come up a little grumpy.* I hear you! I'm here, I'm here. You can stop calling now.

Teacher: Uh-oh! What's the problem, Sam? You don't seem happy today.

Puppet: I'm not. I'm just sooo hungry. And being hungry makes me grumpy.

Teacher: Well, how about a cracker? Would that help?

Puppet: Oh, yes, thank you! *Put it in the puppet's hand so the tape will stick to it. The puppet nibbles on it while the conversation continues.* What are y'all talking about today?

Teacher: We're learning about Jesus as a child.

Puppet: Oh! That sounds interesting. But why were you calling me, like 100 times?

Teacher: Ha-ha! We only called 12 times because I'm going to tell everyone what the Bible says Jesus did when he was 12 years old.

Puppet: Hmm. What did he do when he was 12?

Teacher: Well, it happened when Jesus' family went to a festival in a city called Jerusalem. Lots of people had to travel a long way to get there. *Take the JESUS AT THE TEMPLE POSTER 1 out of your apron pocket and show it.*

Puppet: I like festivals. They're like a big party with lots of games and yummy food. Ooh, would I love a pizza right about now! I wonder if Jesus ever ate pizza.

Teacher: I don't think they had much pizza in those days, but he would've needed something to eat. Even though Jesus was completely God, he was also completely human, so he got hungry too.

Puppet: Did Jesus ever get tired? He had to walk a long way to the festival.

Teacher: The Bible tells us there were lots of times Jesus was tired.

Puppet: Wow! Jesus got tired and hungry, just like me? That's a wonder.

Teacher: While Jesus' family was at the festival, they went to the temple, which is kind of like our church. There were teachers there.

Puppet: They must have been really smart people.

Teacher: Yes. They read and taught God's Word, the Bible. *Show a Bible and the scroll from your apron.* Back in Jesus' time, it was called a scroll. But now the Bible is a book. The shape is different, but the words that we read are still the same.

Puppet: So did Jesus listen to the teachers?

Teacher: Yes. But he also taught them some things, even though he was only 12!

Puppet: Wow! Jesus taught the teachers about God? That's a wonder!

Teacher: The Bible says they were completely amazed. Finally it was time to go home. Jesus' family headed down the road with a group of friends. But guess what? After a while, Jesus' parents couldn't find him in their traveling group.

Puppet: Jesus wasn't with his parents? Yikes! They must have been worried about him.

Teacher: They were. They looked all around and searched high and low for him. But they couldn't find Jesus!

Puppet: Was Jesus scared? I know I would be.

Teacher: No, Jesus wasn't afraid. He was safe and sound back in the temple. *Take the JESUS AT THE TEMPLE POSTER 2 out of your apron pocket and show it.*

Puppet: *Peering at the poster.* You mean Jesus was still listening to the teachers and teaching them?

Teacher: Yes! It took his parents three days to find Jesus.

Puppet: Wow! Three days, that's a long time to be looking for someone.

Teacher: When Jesus' parents finally found him back in the temple, they said, "We've been searching everywhere for you. We were so worried about you."

Puppet: What did Jesus say? Did he get in trouble?

Teacher: No. Jesus told his parents he was doing what his Father, God in heaven, wanted him to do. You see, even when Jesus was a child, he knew he was on a special mission from God.

Puppet: I would never want to be lost like that. It would be scary for me and for my parents.

Teacher: Yes, it would. But because he is God, Jesus is perfect. He never got scared or acted grumpy.

Puppet: Wow! I know I'm not perfect. I get scared and grumpy, and sometimes I fuss and whine when my parents tell me no. Jesus never did that, huh?

Teacher: Nope. Jesus is God, and he always obeyed his parents and did the right thing.

Puppet: Kids, that's amazing, so let's say "Wow!" *Do so.*

Teacher: But the most amazing thing is that although Jesus was a child, he was also King of the whole world.

Puppet: Wow! Jesus made the whole world *and* he's the King? Jesus sure is a wonder!

Teacher: Yes, King Jesus is someone we should love and obey!

Puppet: Hey, I know a song about Jesus. Let's all stand up and sing it together.

Song 2: Jesus Is a Wonder

Sing to the tune of "Froggy Went a Courtin'."

VERSE 1

Jesus is a wonder, yes he is

(Point up, then nod head.)

Uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right.)

Jesus is a wonder, yes he is *(Repeat motion.)*

Uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right.)

Jesus is a wonder, yes he is *(Repeat motion.)*

That's J, E, S, U, S, it is

(Put up one finger with each letter.)

Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right, then center.)

VERSE 2

Jesus taught the teachers, yes he did *(Open*

hands like a book, then nod head.)

Uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right.)

Jesus taught the teachers, yes he did *(Repeat*

motion.)

Uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right.)

Jesus taught the teachers, yes he did *(Repeat*

motion.)

That's J, E, S, U, S, it is

(Put up one finger with each letter.)

Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh

(Look left, then look right, then center.)

Repeat Verse 1

Puppet: Hooray, nice job! But . . . uh-oh.

Teacher: What's wrong?

Puppet: My stomach is rumbling. I better go and get some lunch. See y'all! *Exit.*

Teacher: See ya, Sam!

DAY 3: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Welcome back, partners! Come on in and sit for a spell.

Puppet: *Come up holding a little book.* Oh, hey, everyone!

Teacher: Hi, Sam. Whatcha doin' today?

Puppet: I've got a question for the kids.

Teacher: Okay, what is it?

Puppet: Come here. *Whispers loudly in the teacher's ear.* I want to ask them what job they want to do when they grow up.

Teacher: That's a great question. Go ahead and ask them.

Puppet: Ask them what?

Teacher: The Question . . . you know, about when they grow up.

Puppet: Oh, yeah! Okay, kids, I've got a question for you. What do you want to be when you grow up? *Take a few responses.*

Teacher: Those things sound exciting! How about you, Sam? What would you like to do when you grow up?

Puppet: I'd like to be . . . umm. Hmm. I think I'd like to . . . I don't know what I'd like to do. I'm having too much fun just being a kid.

Teacher: Well, maybe you'll think of something another day. It's good that you enjoy being a kid for now. By the way, where did you get your book?

Puppet: Oh, it's from the library. It's about the Old West.

Teacher: That sounds neat. What kinds of things have you read about the Old West?

Puppet: Well, there were a lot of cowboys. Most of them were young guys who worked on big farms called ranches, and they rode horses around to make all the cows go the right way.

Teacher: That would have been cool to have your own horse!

Puppet: *Pretends to ride a horse.* Yes, it would be super cool to ride around the hills and the towns.

Teacher: If you lived in the Old West, what do you think you would want to be?

Puppet: Maybe a cowboy (or cowgirl), or a sheriff or maybe a gold miner. I could dig for gold in the rocks and dirt. But . . . hmm, not so sure I like that idea.

Teacher: Mining for gold is really hard and dirty work.

Puppet: Hey, I know! I could own the general store.

Teacher: That's a big job too.

Puppet: But at least it wouldn't be like mining in the dirt.

Teacher: That's true. The owner of the general store has to make sure the store has everything people need. *Show the general store on the WONDER JUNCTION POSTER.* Here's the general store in Wonder Junction. Mr. Percy Jones is the owner. Good ol' Percy; he's always ready to help ya out.

Puppet: Yep. He supplies lots of things. If you're sick, he has medicine. If you need food, he has flour and sugar to make pancakes and beans to make chili and other stuff to cook with. If you need to make some clothes, he has everything you need to sew with.

Teacher: All those things are very helpful. But I know of somebody who was even more helpful. Whatever you needed, he could supply it 'cause nothin' is too difficult for him!

Puppet: Let me guess. You mean Jesus, don't ya?

Teacher: That's right. It's a wonder how Jesus was able to care for people in lots of ways while he was on earth. Jesus is our mighty God. Mighty means powerful.

Puppet: Jesus can do anything. Hey kids, let's sing a fun song about that. *Make the puppet dance and sing along.*

Song 1: What a Mighty God We Serve

Sing this three times: slow, then regular, then fast.

What a mighty God we serve

(Make big muscles, then raise arms up.)

What a mighty God we serve *(Repeat motion.)*

Angels bow before him *(Bow.)*

Heaven and earth adore him

(Point up, then raise arms in a circle.)

What a mighty God we serve

(Repeat first motion.)

Repeat

Puppet: That's a great song about our great God, Jesus. He can do anything.

Teacher: Jesus did so many great things! The Bible says if we tried to write books about all the amazing things Jesus did, the books might fill up the whole world.

Puppet: Wow! That's a lot of books. Uh-oh, speaking of books, I need to take this one back to the library—fast! Bye y'all. *Exit.*

DAY 4: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Great singing! Now let's hear more about Jesus' rescue mission to save sinners. To help us do that, we're going to look for some gold in these here parts. *Hold up an extra egg. When I say go, you will look for these eggs. We'll pretend they're gold nuggets. If you find one, don't open it. Bring it to me, then sit back down. Ready? Go! Direct the children as they search the room. Teacher 2 moves behind the puppet stage and prepares the puppet. When all eggs are found and children are seated, bring the puppet up holding the empty egg.*

Puppet: Hi, y'all! Look what I found.

Teacher: Howdy, Sam. It looks like you found one of our gold nuggets.

Puppet: Oh boy! Can I open it? Pretty please?

Teacher: Wait a minute. It has the number six on it. That's the last one to open. Let's wait for the right time. *Add it to the other eggs to open later.*

Puppet: Okay. Do you have one with number one on it? Can we open that? I'm so excited! *Jump up and down.*

Nugget 1: Leaf (God Created)

Teacher: Yes, indeed! Let's open up nugget 1. *Hold up the leaf. Jesus is God the Son, and he made the world and everything in it.*

Puppet: Jesus made everything, including the animals, people, and plants. Kids, what did God make that has leaves? *Take responses.*

Teacher: The leaf reminds us of God's wonderful creation—all the things he made. Do you know the names of the first two people God made?

Puppet: Yes, Adam and Eve. God gave them a good and beautiful place to live in. It was called the garden of Eden. *Show the GARDEN POSTER.*

Teacher: But God gave them a rule. He told them not to eat fruit from one special tree in the garden. If they ate from that tree, they would die.

Nugget 2: Snake (Eve Was Tempted)

Puppet: Let's clap two times, then we'll open nugget 2. *Have the puppet clap with the kids.*

Teacher: *Open the egg and show the snake.*

Puppet: Yikes! *Jump back and shiver.*

Teacher: Satan used a snake in the garden to trick Eve into eating the fruit she was told not to eat. Then Adam disobeyed God and ate some too. *Show the SNAKE POSTER.*

Puppet: That's called sin when we disobey God.

Teacher: That's right. When they did that, they ruined the perfect world God had made.

Puppet: Is that why we get sick and things get broken and we have bad storms and stuff—because there's sin in the world?

Teacher: Yep, because of sin, the good and beautiful world is also bad and sad. And everyone does things that are sinful. It's like we're lost and stuck in sin.

Puppet: Kinda like Carson was lost and stuck in the dark gold mine. He needed someone to save him.

Nugget 3: Star (Jesus Came)

Teacher: We all need someone to save us from sin. And God promised he would send a *Savior* to *save* people from sin. Let's open another nugget.

Puppet: What comes after two? *Pause for responses.* Let's clap and count to three. *Do so.*

Teacher: *Open the egg and show the star.* The Savior is Jesus. He came as a baby. Jesus was God and a person at the same time. What a wonder that was! This star reminds us of Jesus' special birth with a special star. *Toddlers don't use poster 3 (the hourglass), so show the* **BABY IN A MANGER POSTER.**

Nugget 4: Tiny Boat (Jesus Did Miracles)

Puppet: What comes after three? *Pause for responses.* Let's clap four times, then we'll open the next one.

Teacher: *Open the egg and show the tiny boat.* Jesus had power to do wonderful things called miracles to show people that he was God. One miracle showed his power over nature, like rain and wind and thunder.

Puppet: When Jesus and his friends were in a boat during a terrible storm, Jesus told the storm to stop—and it did! *Toddlers don't use poster 5, so show the* **CALMING THE SEA POSTER.**

Teacher: Wow! What a wonder.

Nugget 5: Cross (Jesus Died)

Puppet: What comes after four? *Pause for responses.* Yes, five! Let's clap five times. *Do so.*

Teacher: *Open the egg and show the small cross.* Even though Jesus never did anything wrong, some men hung him on a cross to die. Jesus went through great pain and sadness. He died to save us from the punishment for all the bad things we do.

Puppet: That reminds me of something. Wait right there! *Puppet leaves, then comes back wearing a sheriff star badge and pretending to ride a horse.*

Teacher: Sam, what are you doing?

Puppet: You were talking about being punished for bad things we do. I'm pretending to ride my horse and catch a bad guy.

Teacher: What bad guy?

Puppet: There was a bad guy named Billy the Kid who really lived in the Old West times. He stole things from people and robbed banks. I'm the sheriff, so I've got to catch him and punish him.

Teacher: God says not to steal. *Hold up WILD WEST BAD GUYS POSTER.* Billy the Kid stole things, and so did these other guys—Jesse James and Butch Cassidy. But you know what?

Puppet: What? *Stop riding pretend horse.*

Teacher: All of us have the same problem Billy the Kid had. Billy the Kid was a sinner, and so are we.

Puppet: *Act shocked.* But I don't rob banks!

Teacher: Thankfully, you don't! But the Bible tells us nobody is born good. We all sin.

Puppet: Uh-oh. Is it a sin when I get grumpy or take two cookies when Mom said I could only have one?

Teacher: Yes. God says children are to obey their parents. You didn't obey your mom. That's sin.

Puppet: Sometimes, when my mom says I can't play outside, I throw a fit and cry. I guess that's wrong, too, isn't it?

Teacher: Yep. You aren't obeying your mom. You may not rob a bank like Billy the Kid and Jesse James, but you have sinned because you have disobeyed God. And the Bible says we should all be punished with death.

Puppet: That sounds bad. Who can save us and help us stop doing wrong things?

Teacher: Jesus! *Show the CROSS POSTER.* He died on a cross to take our sin away so God won't have to punish us. Only Jesus can rescue you from sin so you can be with him in heaven someday.

Puppet: That's why he came to the world, right? But what happened after Jesus died?

Nugget 6: Empty (Jesus Rose)

Teacher: The answer to that is in your nugget.

Puppet: It is?! Can I open it now?

Teacher: Yes, you may.

Puppet: *Open the egg to find it empty.* Hey! It's . . . empty. Ahh. I thought it would have something wonderful in it.

Teacher: Well, actually, even though it's empty, it reminds us of something really wonderful. When Jesus died, his friends put his body in a tomb and went away feeling very sad. They knew Jesus wasn't just asleep. He was completely dead, and that was that. But something amazing happened! Jesus came back to life and walked out of the tomb. *Show the EMPTY TOMB POSTER.* So the tomb is empty! Now Jesus lives forever and can be our Savior forever.

Puppet: Wow! Jesus is alive? That's wonderful.

Teacher: Now our sins can be forgiven, and we can be with Jesus in heaven someday. When we're truly sorry for our sins, we can tell God we're sorry and believe that Jesus took the punishment for our sin. Then we can tell God we want to be his child and trust in him.

Puppet: You'll still be your parents' child. But this means you'll also have God as your Father in heaven, and you'll be part of his family.

Teacher: That's the most important nugget of truth ever.

Puppet: Before I go, let's celebrate this wonderful news with a song. Everybody stand up and sing with me!

Song 2: Did You Know?

Sing this to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

VERSE 1

Did you know that Jesus died

(Point to head.)

He died, he died

(Hang head, look sad.)

Did you know that Jesus died

(Point to head.)

Well, that's not the end *(Smile and clap four times on last four words.)*

VERSE 2

Did you know that he was buried

(Point to head.)

Was buried, was buried

(Close one cupped hand over the other.)

Did you know that he was buried

(Point to head.)

Well, that's not the end *(Smile and clap four times.)*

VERSE 3

Did you know he rose again

(Point to head.)

Again, again

(Open hands and move upward.)

Did you know he rose again *(Point to head.)*

Well, that's the best news

(Smile and clap four times.)

VERSE 4

And now he is alive

(Cup hands, then open.)

Alive, alive

(Raise up open hands.)

And now he is alive

(Repeat motion.)

Yes, that's the best news

(Smile and clap four times.)

Teacher: I love to sing about Jesus, don't you?

Puppet: I sure do. But I better get going now. See y'all tomorrow. Bye! *Exit.*

DAY 5: PUPPET PAL

Teacher: Let's call Sam and talk to him about our mission to tell others about Jesus. *Do so.*

Puppet: Hi, everybody! *Puppet enters carrying his pickax and shovel.*

Teacher: I see you have your mining tools, Sam. What are you up to?

Puppet: I'm on a mission.

Teacher: What kind of mission?

Puppet: A mission to find some gold.

Teacher: Have you found any gold nuggets in the mine?

Puppet: Yes! I have three nuggets from the last time I looked for gold. I've got pretty good digging skills. So I think if I work hard, I can find three more.

Teacher: That reminds me of a story Jesus told to his friends. He wanted them to understand their mission. They needed to know what they should do every day for Jesus.

Puppet: I've always got time for a story, especially if Jesus told it.

Teacher: Great! It's right here in the Bible. *Open your Bible to Matthew 25 and show the kids.* It's about a man who went on a long trip and left some money for his servants.

Puppet: That sounds interesting. Tell me more.

Teacher: Jesus said there was a master who was going on a journey, and he wanted his servants to take care of his stuff. So he called his servants together.

Puppet: Ooh! Can I be the master? Let me go get my special hat. *Exit. Remove the tools and place the hat on the puppet's head. Enter.*

Teacher: Hey! Your hat is perfect to be the master. And these are your servants. *Set the play people out on the table—Servant 1, Servant 2, and Servant 3.* Now, Master Sam, tell me how many coins to give to each servant.

Puppet: I'll give one servant five coins. Kids, can you count to five with me? *Do so.*

Teacher: *Place the coins in front of Servant 1 on the table while kids count.*

Puppet: The next servant can have two coins. Let's count to two, kids! *Do so.*

Teacher: *Place the coins in front of Servant 2 on the table while kids count.*

Puppet: And I'll give one coin to the last servant. Let's count to one, everybody. *Do so.*

Teacher: *Place one coin in front of Servant 3. Then the man went away on his journey.*

Puppet: Oh, does that mean I have to leave? I want to hear the rest of the story.

Teacher: You can stay. But Jesus said that the master went away for a long time. While he was gone, Servant 1 got busy. *Make Servant 1 look busy.* He worked hard and earned five more coins. *Count out five more coins in his pile.*

Puppet: Did Servant 2 do the same thing?

Teacher: Yes. He worked hard and earned two more coins. *Count out two more coins for him.*

Puppet: What about the last guy? Did he earn another coin like the others?

Teacher: Actually, he dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. *Dig a hole in the play sand and cover the coin.*

Puppet: What? He didn't do anything? The coin just sat there in the dirt?

Teacher: That's right. After a long time, the master came back.

Puppet: Hey, that's me. *Exit, then come back up, waving hello.*

Teacher: Here he comes! Let's say hi to the master! *Do so.* Servant 1 came and said, "Master, you gave me five coins, and I've made five more."

Puppet: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Let's say that together. *Do so.*

Teacher: Next, Servant 2 came and said, "I was given two coins, and here's two more!"

Puppet: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Say it with me, kids. *Do so.*

Teacher: Finally, Servant 3 came. Kids, do you remember what he did with his coin? *Pause for responses.* The third servant told his master, "I buried the coin you gave me." Do you think the master was happy about that? *Pause for responses.*

Puppet: I'm not happy about that. He should have at least put it in the bank where it could have made a little more money. I'm giving his coin to Servant 1.

Teacher: *Take the coin from the play sand and put it in Servant 1's pile.* Before the master left on his trip, he gave each servant some money so they could work hard and make more money. That was their mission.

Puppet: Two of them worked hard and did what they were supposed to do. But does Jesus want us to make money for him?

Teacher: No. But if we love and trust Jesus, then he's our Master. While we wait for him to come back, we should use our talents and skills in a good way to do what Jesus wants us to do.

Puppet: That's our mission for Jesus!

Teacher: That's right. The first part of our mission is to get to *know* God. We need to become part of his family by turning away from our sins and trusting Jesus to save us. Then we get to know Jesus by reading and listening to the Bible.

Puppet: What's the second part of our mission?

Teacher: The second part is to *grow* to love Jesus more and more each day and to love other people like he does.

Puppet: So we need to get to know him, grow to love him and love others, and then what?

Teacher: Then *go*.

Puppet: Go?! Go where?

Teacher: Go tell others about him. And use your talents and skills to show others you care.

Puppet: I want to do that. I want to tell people about Jesus and show others I care, just like Jesus does.

Teacher: Good. You can show others how wonderful Jesus is! Like shining a light for everyone to see.

Puppet: Wow! When I think of all that we've learned about Jesus, I want to tell everyone that he's truly a wonder!

Teacher: That's our mission. Let's get out there and share the good news about how wonderful Jesus is.

Puppet: Let's sing about our mission: to know, grow, and go. *Lead the kids as the puppet sings and dances to the music.*

Song 2: On a Mission

Sing this to the tune of "Oh My Darling, Clementine."

On a mission *(March to the left.)*

On a mission *(March to the right.)*

On a mission for the Lord

(March to the center and point up.)

Get to know him *(Open hands for Bible.)*

Grow to love him *(Cross arms over heart.)*

Go and tell about the Lord *(Put hands to mouth and move outward.)*

Repeat

Puppet: This has been super fun to be with you this week at Wonder Junction! Don't forget to know Jesus better so you can grow to love him, then go tell people how wonderful Jesus is. Bye y'all!