

Day 1: Puppet Pal

Puppet: Pop up immediately following the end of the last section. Did you say the first person's name was Adam?

Teacher: Oh, g'day there, Sydney. Yes, I did. I was telling the mates out here all about Adam.

Puppet: Was Adam smart?

Teacher: He was *very* smart.

Puppet: Could he talk?

Teacher: Of course he could talk. He even had the important job of naming all the animals.

Puppet: Jump around doing a monkey imitation. Did he come from an apelike creature?

Teacher: Absolutely not! The Bible tells us the truth, and it says God made him from the dust of the ground. Adam didn't come from an ape. Where'd you get that idea?

Puppet: When I go to the zoo, the monkey cage says that the apes are my relatives and I came from them. And some of my books show drawings of ape-looking men. In fact, here's a picture I found right here. Hand the Monkey-to-Man Poster to the teacher, who holds it up.

Teacher: Sydney, I want you to remember something. Ready to hear it?

Puppet: I'm ready!

Teacher: There's no such thing as an ape-man, an ape turning into a man. Put an X over the Monkey-to-Man Poster with a dry erase marker, then put it down. When you see those drawings or hear people saying that, just remember that it's not true. God's Word is true, and it tells us exactly how people came to be.

Puppet: God himself made the first person from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him, right?

Teacher: That's right. God's Word tells us the truth about the past, so we know it's right.

Puppet: Well, I feel better. They can't make a monkey out of me!

Teacher: Hey, that's a pretty good saying. They can't make a monkey out of me. Let's all say that together. Do so. Remember that you didn't come from animals. You are a special person made *by* God and *for* God, and you're precious to him.

Puppet: I'll remember! See you tomorrow!

Teacher: Bye! Boys and girls, let's wave good-bye to Sydney.

Day 2: Puppet Pal

Teacher: Oh, that's a fun song. Let's have the boys and girls sing along, too, Sydney, except we're going to do it super fast. Do so. After everyone is settled again, continue.

Puppet: God made *her* head. Point to a girl.

Teacher: Yes, he did, and it's a great head.

Puppet: God made *his* shoulders. Point to a boy.

Teacher: That's right, and they're awesome shoulders.

Puppet: God made knees and toes.

Teacher: And they're beautiful (smell them), but pee-u! Stinky!

Puppet: Point to kids in the class as you say this list. And God made *her* brain, and *his* heart, and *her* lungs, and *his* fingers, and *her* nose, and *his* tongue, and *her* teeth, and *his* elbows, and *her* wrists, and *his* legs, and *her* arms, and *his* spine, and *your* neck, and . . .

Teacher: Interrupt during this long list. Sydney. Sydney! SYDNEY!

Puppet: Calmly. Yes?

Teacher: God made every part of us, and the Bible tells us we're fearfully and wonderfully made.

Puppet: Say with a shaking voice. You're fearfully made? That sounds scary.

Teacher: It's not. It just means God should be praised for making you a one-of-a-kind creation.

Puppet: Wilt with relief. Oooohhh, that's nice.

Teacher: And the Bible also says we're a marvelous work.

Puppet: Fling yourself around like a movie star. Marvelous? Everyone's marvelous? Pause. What's marvelous?

Teacher: It means absolutely terrific! And yes, all the kids in this classroom are marvelous. Name the kids in the class, such as, "Abby's marvelous and Lucas is marvelous."

Puppet: All of God's works are marvelous.

Teacher: That's right. Being a marvelous work isn't something for us to be proud of as if we're big shots. After all, we didn't make ourselves—God did! But we *can* be thankful that God made us special. And, he wants us to use that special body to please him.

Puppet: I *am* thankful, and I *do* want to please God.

Teacher: I'm glad to hear it, Sydney. Boys and girls, before Sydney goes, let's practice today's verse because it talks about God's marvelous works. Let's try it now. Do so, then say good-bye to Sydney.

Day 3: Puppet Pal

Teacher: On the count of three, let's yell, "Sydney!" One, two, three—Sydney!

Puppet: Come up with a door hanger attached to your arm. Oh, hey, mates!

Teacher: What's that you have there, Sydney?

Puppet: It's a door hanger to take to my grandpa. He's in a nursing home, and I want to put it on his doorknob to brighten his day.

Teacher: That's a nice thought. Do you visit your grandpa very often?

Puppet: Yes, I do.

Teacher: What's he like?

Puppet: Well, he's really old, and he can't really talk anymore or feed himself. When we go, we sing to him and help feed him his dinner and hold his hand.

Teacher: Do you like doing that?

Puppet: Yeah. Mommy says that even though Grandpa can't talk to us anymore, he's loved by God, and God wants us to take good care of him, just like God takes good care of us.

Teacher: That sounds like an important job, to care for those who can't care for themselves.

Puppet: It really is. Some people think that old people aren't worth the time, but that's not true. The Bible tells us to love one another as God loved us.

Teacher: That's a lot of love. God loved us so much he sent his Son, Jesus, to earth. He was just a little baby when he came—a baby who couldn't even take care of himself.

Puppet: I know. And wicked King Herod wanted to get rid of Jesus! That's very bad! We should love babies and take care of them, and guess what? We should also love Grandpa and others who can't take care of themselves.

Teacher: I know a young boy who needs help taking care of himself. He uses a wheelchair to get around and he is nonverbal, which means he doesn't use words to communicate, and he needs help with feeding himself.

Puppet: I sure hope he has some good people who are loving him and caring for him.

Teacher: He does. You know, people who are part of God's family should always value and care for others.

Puppet: It shouldn't matter if the person is rich or poor, healthy or sick, young or old, or still in his mommy's tummy.

Teacher: That's right, Sydney. Every life is precious to God, and we should look after each other—especially those who can't look after themselves. That's what Jesus'

parents did. They protected him from King Herod, and they cared for him. And that's what we should do. Remember, life is precious—handle with care.

Puppet: Isn't God good to put us here to look out for each other? It sure would be scary if nobody cared.

Teacher: God *is* good. Let's thank him right now for being the awesome Creator of life. Dear God, thank you for all the different people you've made—from the tiny baby still in his mommy's tummy to those who are very old. Every person—those who are sick and those who are healthy—is precious to you and loved by you. Help us to care for others the rest of our lives. It's what you want us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Puppet: Well, I think I hear my mom calling. It's time to go and visit Grandpa. Bye!

Teacher: Bye, Sydney! Tell your grandpa we said hi, and we'll see you tomorrow! Hey, mates, let's play a game now to talk a little bit more about the preciousness of life.

Day 4: Puppet Pal

Teacher: Let's call Sydney and see what he's up to. Sydney? Sydney?

Puppet: Come up holding a small, gift-wrapped package. Hi there!

Teacher: Hey! What's that you've got?

Puppet: My father just gave me this gift. I'm so excited!

Teacher: That's good news. What is it?

Puppet: I haven't opened it yet.

Teacher: Why not? What are you waiting for?

Puppet: I don't know. It looks kind of pretty, so I'm thinking about just letting it sit on my desk instead of opening it.

Teacher: Why would you do that? Don't you want to see what's inside?

Puppet: Yes, but I'm really too busy to open it right now.

Teacher: Too busy to open a present? What if it's the best gift in the whole world, and you never open it and accept it from your father? What if it's a triple-decker, double fudgy ice cream sundae?

Puppet: That would be pretty messy to have in a box!

Teacher: Well, what if it's a wet and wiggly, wriggly, giggly puppy?

Puppet: Puppies can't giggle, and I'd be able to hear it in there, anyway.

Teacher: Oohhh! What if it's gold or jewels?

Puppet: Finally act interested in opening it. I guess it won't do me any good if it just sits in the box.

Teacher: Right. A gift isn't any good unless you accept it. In fact, this reminds me about the gift I was just telling the boys and girls about.

Puppet: Did the boys and girls get a gift, too?

Teacher: God offers every one of us a gift—the gift of being part of his family and living with him forever.

Puppet: That sounds like a super special gift.

Teacher: It is. It's *the* best gift anyone will ever offer us—way, way better than gold or jewels! But just because someone knows about it doesn't mean they've received it.

Puppet: Sort of like me needing to open the gift and receive it instead of just letting it sit there unopened?

Teacher: Right! I was just telling the boys and girls a few minutes ago that if you want to receive the gift of being in God's family, you have to tell God you've disobeyed his

commands (sinned), and that you believe Jesus came and died on the cross to take the punishment for you.

Puppet: Jesus must love the boys and girls a lot to do that for them.

Teacher: He does! He gave his life for us. That is *great* love! In fact, that makes me want to smile, because God loves me! Have the kids repeat this phrase: SMYLE! God loves you!

Puppet: Well, I just decided something.

Teacher: What's that, Sydney?

Puppet: I want to open this gift from my father and receive it!

Teacher: Why don't you do that right now?

Puppet: I think I will. Teacher helps to open it and take out the gift. Act excited.

Teacher: You know what? I hope the boys and girls want to receive the gift the heavenly Father (God) is offering them, too—to be in his forever family.

Puppet: I hope they do! Well, I've got to run, so see you later!

Teacher: Wow! God's gift is wonderful, isn't it, boys and girls? He sure does love us!

Day 5: Puppet Pal

Puppet: Enter looking dejected.

Teacher: What's wrong, Sydney?

Puppet: I heard you telling the kids about having special abilities, and now I feel sad.

Teacher: Perplexed. Why does that make you feel sad?

Puppet: Because I don't have any special talents that God can use. I'm just ordinary, old me.

Teacher: Wait just a minute there, Sydney. Did you know the Bible tells us that if you're part of God's family, he *does* have special jobs planned for you to do?

Puppet: What do you mean by special jobs?

Teacher: Well, our Bible verse says we are his workmanship. That means we're a special masterpiece made by God. And it goes on to say that God made us for good works that he prepared for us to do.

Puppet: Are you sure some of those works, or jobs, are for ordinary kids?

Teacher: Oh, yes! If we've received the gift of eternal life by repenting and believing in Jesus, then we're part of God's family! And he has special jobs for us!

Puppet: But a kid could never do some of the jobs people in the Bible did, like leading people through the Red Sea like Moses did or building a special temple for God like Solomon.

Teacher: The nice thing is, you don't have to. That was God's special plan for Moses and Solomon. He has a different special plan for each of us.

Puppet: Like what?

Teacher: Time will tell, but I know that God specially created each boy and girl here to carry out his plan. Maybe someone here will be a great cook, and God will use them to help make food for people. Or maybe someone will be kind and caring and take care of sick people. Or maybe somebody will want to travel across the world and tell others about Jesus. Or maybe someone will want to work at a Christian orphanage. The possibilities are endless!

Puppet: You know what my favorite thing to do is?

Teacher: What?

Puppet: Act embarrassed. Oh, I probably shouldn't tell you. You'll tease me.

Teacher: I won't tease you.

Puppet: Promise?

Teacher: I promise.

Puppet: In a loud whisper. I like to clean.

Teacher: That's fantastic! Maybe God has planned special works for you to do that involve cleaning.

Puppet: Ooohh! That would be exciting! Maybe I could help clean the church. Mmmm! I can just smell the dusting wax now.

Teacher: Or maybe you could help clean at an orphanage or a hospital. That would be a great way to care for people. And maybe you could even tell them about Jesus while you're there.

Puppet: That sounds exciting! But, still, sometimes it seems like the kids who are good at sports or who are super smart or who are always up front have more important jobs.

Teacher: That's the cool thing about being part of God's family. Nobody's less important than anyone else. God designed every person to be good at different things, so all the jobs get done. What if everybody was good at sports, but nobody was good at cleaning or cooking? We wouldn't have clean clothes or food to eat.

Puppet: Yeah. I guess that's true.

Teacher: You see, we don't become part of God's family by *doing* good works, but once we *are* part of God's family, it's exciting to be part of his plan and do the special things he has planned for us to do.

Puppet: Well, awhile ago I felt sad, but now I feel glad. You don't have to do a job like famous people, or like any other person's. You just need to do the special jobs God has for you.

Teacher: That's right, Sydney. We need to read the Bible, pray, and obey God. We can say to God, "What I really want to do is live each day for you." As we just live out our lives day to day, he'll show us what those special jobs are.

Puppet: What I really want to do is live each day for you. I want to remember that.

Teacher: I agree. Before you go, let's say it together. Do so. Well, it's time for Sydney to go now, so let's say, "G'day, mate!" Do so.