

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, Sydney. Yes, I did. I just finished telling the mates 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 that I came from them. And some of my books show drawings of ape-looking men. In fact, here's a picture right here. Hand the Monkey-to-Man Poster to the teacher.

Teacher: Hold up poster. 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. When you see those drawings or hear people saying that, just remember it's not true. God's Word is true, and it tells us exactly how people came to be. Use the dry erase marker to draw an X over the poster. Erase after each class.

Puppet: God himself made them from the dust of the ground and breathed life into them, 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, you didn't come from animals. You're special people made *by* God and *for* God, and you're precious to him.

Puppet: That's right, mates. 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. 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 your toes), but pee-u! Stinky!

Puppet: Point to various 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* eyes and *her* ears and *his* tongue and *her* arms 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 we can praise God for making us.

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: We *are* thankful, right, mates? And we *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 being wonderfully made. 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, g'day, 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 so nice of you! 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 visit, we sing to him and help feed him his dinner and hold his hand.

Teacher: Do you like doing that?

Puppet: I sure do. Mommy says that even though Grandpa can't talk to us anymore, he is loved by God and by us. 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. 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. We should also love Grandpa and others who can't take care of themselves.

Teacher: I know a young boy who isn't able to take care of himself. He's in a wheelchair, and he can't talk or feed 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.

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 and cared for him. And that's what we should do.

Puppet: Isn't God good to put us here to look out for each other?

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 to those who are very old. Every person—whether sick or 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!

Day 4: Puppet Pal

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

Puppet: Come up holding the gift-wrapped box. G'day, mates!

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? What if it's a triple-decker, double fudge ice cream sundae?

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

Teacher: Well, what if it's a 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 our mates 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 kids a few minutes ago that if you want to receive the gift of being in God's family, then you have to tell God that you know you've sinned by disobeying his commands 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!

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 talk with me more about how to receive the gift of being in God's family.

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

Teacher: Wow! God's gift is wonderful, isn't it, mates? 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. Did you know the Bible tells us that if you're part of God's family, God *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 God made each of us special. We're a masterpiece! And 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 you're part of God's family, he has special jobs for you!

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

Teacher: The nice thing is, you don't have to. Those were God's special plans for Moses and Solomon. He has a different 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.

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! God has special plans for believers who like to clean.

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

Teacher: Or maybe they could help clean at an orphanage or a hospital. That would be a great way to care for people—and tell them about Jesus.

Puppet: Well, a while ago I felt sad, but now I feel glad. I understand that our mates don't need to compare themselves to other people. They just need to do the special jobs God has for each one of them.

Teacher: That's right, Sydney. Just like Ringo the dingo (show the **DAY 5 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**) has a special place in the animal world, those who trust in Jesus have a special job—to live for God and love others!

Puppet: Live for God and love others. That's a good thing to remember.

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