

Teacher—These special Dee-Cy-Paul application stories reinforce the Bible lesson. Choose the “Bookends,” or the Story, or the Puppet Script based on your time and preference.

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee, Cy, Paul, and Cy’s sister Becky were all riding in the Shepherd family’s van to a special church service. Their church had helped to start a new church in the city. Today was the first day of services, and there was going to be a big party! “Today is the church’s birthday!” said Becky. “There will be a party, but it’s not the church’s birthday,” Mr. Shepherd corrected. Dee, Cy, and Paul were confused.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Mr. Shepherd explained that the Church that Jesus’ disciples had begun was very old. “But we’re not part of that Church,” Cy pointed out. “Actually, we are all part of that Church,” Mr. Shepherd answered. Even though there were many church buildings, there was only one Church—the people who call Jesus Lord and obey His teaching are God’s Church. The Holy Spirit unites them all—no matter what building they worship in. Cy was thrilled to be part of God’s global Church—and to celebrate with a little cake, too!

Dee-Cy-Paul Story “Just a Building?”

Dee, Cy, and Paul were riding in the Shepherd family’s van into the city for a special church service. Cy’s little sister Becky was coming along, too.

“So, now Cy has two little sisters, and a sister church?” Dee asked. “That’s a lot of sisters.”

Mr. Shepherd laughed. “It’s not quite the same thing, Dee,” he explained. “Our church helped train the new leaders of this church, and it’s very exciting that now they’re ready to start having their own services!”

“Cy said today is the church’s birthday!” said Becky excitedly. “Are we going to have a party?”

“Yeah—and is there going to be cake?” Cy added.

Paul’s dad laughed. “Cy, I have no idea how you can even think about eating cake this early in the morning. And yes, Becky, there will be a big party after the service to celebrate the opening of our sister church. But it’s not the church’s birthday.”

“It’s not?” wondered Paul. “I don’t get it! I thought this is the first day the church was open!”

“It’s the first day that this church is having a service,” Mr. Shepherd explained. “But the Church—the Church started by Jesus’ disciples, is much older.”

“Oh, well that doesn’t matter,” said Cy. “I’m not part of that Church.”

“Actually, we are all part of the Church of the disciples,” Pastor Shepherd said. “There is only one Church.”

“The Church is one,” Becky declared. Dee and Cy looked at each other and shrugged.

“There are tons of churches, Dad!” Paul replied. “They’re all over the place!”

“There are tons of *buildings*, son,” Mr. Shepherd corrected. “But the Church is not a building. The Church is a people—the people who have decided to follow Jesus! Today, we’re celebrating the opening of a new building—a place where people can come to worship and learn about Jesus. But the Church has been around for 2,000 years.”

“Wow—I never thought of it that way,” said Cy.

“The Church is old!” Becky added.

“The Church is united by the Holy Spirit,” continued Paul’s dad. “Through the Spirit that God has given us, we are all united. All churches who call Jesus the Lord and obey His teachings are part of God’s global Church.”

“Wow—that must be a huge Church!” said Paul.

“The Church is big,” Becky announced. Dee and Cy covered their smiles with their hands.

“It is—so huge it couldn’t ever fit inside a single building,” Mr. Shepherd agreed.

Pastor Shepherd drove the van into a parking lot. *There’s the new church—no, building*, Cy thought to himself. Many people had come to celebrate its opening. Streamers and balloons decorated the entryway.

“Is it time for the party?” Becky asked.

“Almost, Becky,” Mr. Shepherd answered smiling. And bending down to Cy, he whispered, “And just wait—I think there just might be cake, too!”

“Yes!” Cy said quietly, then walked with his friends to the new building where the Church could worship King Jesus.