

**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.

One day, Dee Morgan’s father took her along with him, where a house was being built for a family in need. He explained the different jobs that people had and the different ways people were using their talents to help build the house. He told her that God wants us to use our talents and abilities to help other people. Dee really wanted to help build the house, too. She was very disappointed when her parents told her that she is too little. Will she ever be able to help?

### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee wasn’t disappointed for very long! Soon she realized that she could help by entertaining a little girl whose mom was needed to make lunch for the workers. Dee was happy to be helping—even if she wasn’t building a house! We all have talents and abilities that we can use to help God’s family. Look for ways to use your gifts this week!

## Dee-Cy-Paul Story “The House Skeleton”

“Everybody ready?” Dee Morgan’s father called from the driveway. He had just finished loading his building tools into the back of their truck. Dee’s father was a carpenter and his job was to build houses. He was very good at it.

But today, Dee’s father wasn’t building a house to earn money. He was going to help build a house for a family that didn’t have a home. Dee and her mom were going with him. Her dad even said that Chip could go too! Dee liked it when her dog got to go with the family. She climbed into the front of the truck and buckled her seatbelt. Her mom slid in beside her and put a picnic basket at their feet. Soon they were on their way.

Dee wasn’t sure what to expect. She was surprised when they pulled up to what looked like a house skeleton! There were lots of people hurrying here and there, with hard yellow hats on their heads and tool belts around their waists. One man had a pad of paper and a pencil and was yelling instructions to other people.

“Wow, Dad! Is that skeleton thing really going to be a house?” Dee asked. “Where’s the walls and windows and roof and carpet and...and...”

“Whoa! Slow down there, Dee. Houses are usually built by lots of different people with lots of different talents and abilities. I’m a framer and I helped build what you call a skeleton. That’s the frame of the house. Other people poured the cement to make the foundation. Some people will add walls. Everyone will be doing what they are good at, and together we will build a beautiful house for the Smiths.” Mr. Morgan smiled at Dee.

“That’s cool, Dad. Why do the Smiths need a new house anyway?”

“Well, Mr. Smith hurt his back and can’t work. His family has been struggling to make enough money to pay the bills. They are Christians, and many churches in the area came together to find a way to help.”

“Oh. Sort of like Tabitha in the Bible, huh? She used her talents to help the poor.”

“That’s right, Dee. God wants us to be like Tabitha and show His love to others by using our abilities. Now I better get to work. You and Chip can go play!”

Dee was sad that her dad had not asked for her help. She secretly wished that she had a talent like hammering or measuring so she could help the Smiths, but she was too little to help *anyone*.

“C’mon Chip!” Dee walked towards her mom, who was talking to a tall lady with a little girl hanging onto her leg. Chip wagged his tail and followed Dee. She heard the lady tell the girl. “Jen, sweetie, you have to let go of mommy’s leg. I need to help make lunch for the workers.” The little girl began to cry and clutched her mom’s leg even harder. The mom sighed. “It’s hard to get anything done with Jen here,” she told Mrs. Morgan. “But we couldn’t afford a babysitter.”

“Hi, Mom. What are you doing?” Dee asked. Chip began sniffing the little girl. The little girl giggled.

“Oh, Dee! This is Mrs. Smith, and her little girl Jen,” Mrs. Morgan said.

“Nice to meet you,” Dee smiled. She thought for a moment, and remembered Tabitha in the Bible. She was always helping families. “Mom, I have an idea. I don’t have a lot of talents yet, but I love playing with little kids. Do you think Jen could come play with me and Chip? Then her mom can help make lunch for everyone.”

“What a wonderful idea, Dee!” her mom said. Dee knelt down beside Jen.

“Want to come play with me and my dog?” she asked. Chip barked and began licking Jen’s hand. Jen giggled again. Slowly she let go of her mom’s hand and nodded. Dee stood up and took the girl’s hand. “C’mon Jen, I’ve got a big ball in the truck and Chip loves to chase balls!” She smiled at the girl. Chip barked again and ran towards the truck. Dee was happy that she could use her talents to honor God and help the Smith family.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The House Skeleton"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

You will need a toy hammer, a hard hat, and a lady's hat.

### INTRODUCTION

*[Cy and Paul are onstage, talking. Enter Dee, who runs up to them, holding the toy hammer. Chip follows, barking.]*

**Dee:** Cy! Paul! Look what my dad bought me! *[Holds up the hammer.]* My very own hammer! He gave me some old pieces of wood, too. Do you want to come over to my house and help me build something?

**Cy:** That sounds like fun, Dee.

**Paul:** It sure does. But maybe we should tell the kids about the time when you wanted to help build something and couldn't.

**Dee:** Oh! You mean the time I wanted to help build a house for the Smiths.

**Paul:** *[Nods.]* You learned a lot about helping that day, didn't you?

**Dee:** I sure did. Okay. Let's see. I'll be me. Paul, you can be my dad *[Chip barks and wags his tail. Dee laughs.]* Okay Chip, you can be my dog! And Cy, you can be my mom.

**Cy:** *[Groans.]* Does this mean I have to wear a girl's hat?

**Dee:** Yup! Let's go.

*[Exit Dee, Cy, Paul and Chip.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip are all standing together. Paul is wearing the hard hat as Mr. Morgan. Cy is wearing the lady's hat as Mrs. Morgan.]*

**Dee:** Dad, thanks for letting me come with you to see the house that you are building for the Smiths. But I'm confused. *[Chip barks. Dee laughs.]* Chip is too! *[She points backstage.]* That doesn't look like a house to me. It looks like a skeleton of a house or something! Where's the roof? And walls? And windows? And carpet? And....

**Paul:** *[Interrupts.]* Whoa! Slow down, Dee! Houses are built by lots of different people with different talents. I'm a framer, so I helped build the frame or skeleton as you call it. Other people poured the cement for the foundation. Lots of people will be doing what they are good at to help build this house for the Smiths.

**Dee:** Why are you building this house for the Smiths, anyway? I heard mom say you were doing it for free.

**Paul:** Mr. Smith hurt his back and can't work right now. His family has been struggling to pay the bills. They are Christians, and churches in the area wanted to help them out. So lots of people got together and planned this. Some people donated money. Some gave building materials. And others of us are helping to build. God wants us to use our talents and abilities to help others.

**Dee:** Can I help build, Dad? I know how to use a hammer.

**Cy:** *[In a high-pitched voice.]* Dee, you are too small to help with building the house. Even though you know how to use a hammer, you might get hurt.

**Dee:** Awww, Mom. I really want to help. And Dad just said that we are supposed to use our talents to help others.

**Paul:** That's true, Dee. But your mother is right—you are too young to help build a house. *[Chip barks in disagreement. Dee pets him.]*

**Paul:** Well, I need to get to work. I'll see you two in a little while.

**Dee and Cy:** 'Bye!

**Cy:** I have an idea, Dee. A way that you could help.

**Dee:** What is it, Mom?

**Cy:** See that lady over there? *[Points back stage. Sound of little girl crying from offstage.]*

**Dee:** I see her. I also see a little girl holding on to the lady's leg and crying. Do you know what's the matter?

**Cy:** As a matter of fact, I do. That lady is Mrs. Smith, and that is her daughter. Mrs. Smith wants to go help make sandwiches for the workers, but her little girl doesn't want to let her go. That's my idea.

**Dee:** Huh? *[Chip barks.]* We are confused again, Mom.

**Cy:** Well, you said you wanted to help. You are too little to build a house, but you are just the right age to go play with that little girl so her mom can help make sandwiches!

**Dee:** That's a great idea, Mom. Chip, what do you think? *[Chip licks Dee.]* Let's go help!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

*[Enter Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip.]*

**Paul:** So, Dee, you did get to help after all!

**Dee:** That's right. Mrs. Smith's daughter was really happy to play with me and Chip. Chip kept licking her hand and making her laugh. It was fun to be a helper! *[Chip barks and wags his tail.]*

**Cy:** *[To audience.]* Hey kids, can you think of ways that you can help other people?

*[Encourage responses. Give everyone a chance to answer.]*

**Paul:** Those were good ideas! We please God when we use our talents and abilities to help others. Say Dee, are you ready to go use that new hammer now?

**Dee:** You bet! Let's go!

*[Curtain.]*