



**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 was listening to a new CD of worship songs when Paul came over to visit. “I’ve been worshiping all morning,” she told Paul after turning down the loud music. Dee explained that she had learned almost all of the words and that her voice sounded better than ever. But was that really what worshiping God was all about?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul pointed out that there was a difference between singing and worshiping. Because Dee had been focused on herself and her voice, rather than God, she hadn’t experienced a real time of worship. To worship God, Dee needed to think about God and the things He has done, instead of herself. Paul explained that his brother Mark sometimes didn’t sing at all during worship, but just played his guitar and prayed to God. Dee realized there was a difference between singing and worshiping. Together, she and Paul decided to worship together, thanking God for the good things He had given them.

“Hi, Mr. Morgan,” said Paul when Dee’s dad answered the door. “Is Dee at home?”

“Sure, Paul,” replied Mr. Morgan. “She’s in the basement.”

“Thanks!” Paul said as he walked in the door and towards the basement. As he got closer, he heard music coming from behind the door.

“Hi, Dee,” said Paul as he bounded down the stairs. But Dee didn’t hear him—the music was turned up, and Dee was singing loud.

“Hi, Dee!” Paul yelled. Dee jumped, turned around, and smiled. “Hi, Paul,” she yelled back.

“What are you doing?” shouted Paul.

“What?” Dee responded. “I can’t hear you!”

Paul walked over to the CD player and pushed stop. “What are you doing?” he asked in a normal voice.

“Oh!” Dee said. “My dad gave me this new CD of songs that we sing at church,” she explained. “They’re worship songs. So I’ve been worshiping all morning.”

“Cool!” Paul answered.

“I’m doing really good, too. I’ve memorized almost all of the words, and my dad says that my voice sounds beautiful!”

“Oh,” said Paul. “So you’re not really worshiping, then. You’re just singing.”

“What’s the difference?” said Dee. “I’m singing worship songs, so it must be worshiping, right?”

“Well, I’m not sure that’s how it works,” Paul replied. “You’re singing worship songs, but you’re thinking about learning the words, and about how your voice sounds. You’re not really thinking about God, though, are you?”

Dee shrugged. “No, but I’m singing about Him.”

“That’s true, but when we worship God, we think about Him and about the things He has done, instead of thinking about ourselves,” explained Paul.

“Oh,” Dee said. “So we don’t necessarily even have to be singing to worship God?”

“No,” Paul answered. “My brother Mark doesn’t always sing during worship time, but he plays his guitar and thinks about God and prays to Him. It doesn’t matter if Mark is singing or not; what matters is that he is focusing on God and on pleasing Him.”

“That is different than just thinking about how good my voice sounds,” Dee agreed. “Maybe I can try again—this time you and I can worship God together.”

“Great idea! We can sing and thank Him for all the good things He has given us!” Paul answered.

“Like good friends,” Dee said, turning the CD back on.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Worship or Sing?"

### 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 tape or CD player and a tape or CD featuring a popular children's worship song (preferably one your kids will recognize); you will also need a man's hat for Cy.

### INTRODUCTION

*[Cy is onstage, attempting to sing the worship song that will be featured later in the script. He is off-key and doesn't know all of the words. Enter Dee and Paul.]*

**Paul:** Hi, Cy. What are you up to?

**Cy:** Well, I heard our story today would be about singing this song, so I thought I'd practice a little. I'm not very good, though.

**Dee:** Actually our story today isn't about singing. It's about worshiping God!

**Cy:** Isn't singing how you worship God?

**Paul:** That's a great question, and a great way to start our story.

**Dee:** Will you help us by playing my dad?

*{Exit Dee, Cy, Paul.}*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Paul and make a doorbell sound. Enter Cy wearing the man's hat as Mr. Morgan.]*

**Paul:** Hi, Mr. Morgan. Is Dee at home?

**Cy:** Sure, Paul. She's inside. Come on in!

**Paul:** Thanks!

*[Exit Cy. Turn on the CD and slowly turn up the volume until it's rather loud. Enter Dee, who is singing along with the music.]*

**Paul:** Hi, Dee. *[Dee doesn't hear him; she continues singing. Paul shouts.]* Hi, Dee!

**Dee:** *[Jumps in surprise; shouts over the music.]* Hi, Paul!

**Paul:** *[Still shouting.]* What are you doing?

**Dee:** *[Shouting.]* What? I can't hear you!

**Paul:** *[Shouting.]* Just a minute! *[Walks offstage; the music abruptly stops. Paul re-enters. He speaks in a normal voice]* What are you doing?

**Dee:** Oh! My dad gave me this new CD of songs that we sing at church. They're worship songs. So I've been worshiping all morning.

**Paul:** Cool!

**Dee:** I'm doing really good, too. I've memorized almost all of the words, and my dad says that my voice sounds beautiful!

**Paul:** Oh. So you're not really worshiping, then. You're just singing.

**Dee:** What's the difference? I'm singing worship songs, so it must be worshiping, right?

**Paul:** Well, I'm not sure that's how it works. You're singing worship songs, but you're thinking about learning the words, and about how your voice sounds. You're not really thinking about God, though, are you?

**Dee:** *[Shrugs.]* No, but I'm singing about Him.

**Paul:** That's true, but when we worship God, we think about Him and about the things He has done, instead of thinking about ourselves.

**Dee:** Oh. So we don't necessarily even have to be singing to worship God?

**Paul:** No. My brother Mark doesn't always sing during worship time, but he plays his guitar and thinks about God and prays to Him. It doesn't matter if Mark is singing or not; what matters is that he is focusing on God and on pleasing Him.

**Dee:** That is different than just thinking about how good my voice sounds. Maybe I can try again—this time you and I can worship God together.

**Paul:** Great idea! We can sing and thank Him for all the good things He has given us!

**Dee:** Like good friends.

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Cy:** So just because I'm singing a song about God, that doesn't always mean I'm worshiping.

**Paul:** Worshiping God means focusing on God and giving Him praise for who He is. Lots of people worship God by singing.

**Dee:** Other people worship Him by praying.

**Paul:** Or reading the Bible.

**Cy:** There are lots of ways to worship God! What matters is that our heart and mind is on Him instead of ourselves.

**Dee:** That's right!

**Paul:** That's all the time we have for today, kids. See you later!

**Dee & Cy:** 'Bye!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

It was spring break. Dee had gone to visit her grandmother, while Cy and Paul were at Paul’s house looking at Mrs. Shepherd’s old vacation pictures. Cy found a picture of an enormous gray building that looked very old. Mrs. Shepherd explained that the building was now a church, but that before the people who built it knew about Jesus, they worshiped false gods there. Both Cy and Paul were glad that there were no more false gods—but were there?

**Conclusion** (5 minutes)

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

Mrs. Shepherd explained to the boys that a false god is anything that is more important to a person than God Himself. Even good things could become false gods if they become more important to a person than God. Cy pointed out that money, even though it wasn’t bad, sometimes became a false god for people who believed that it was more important than anything else. Cy, Paul, and Mrs. Shepherd thanked God together for being the most important thing in their lives, and prayed that He would always stay that way.

“Thanks for showing us your old vacation pictures, Mrs. Shepherd,” said Cy to Paul’s mom.

“Oh, anytime, Cy!” Mrs. Shepherd replied, looking out at the rain. “It just doesn’t seem fair that it would rain like this all through spring break!”

“I’m sure Dee’s having fun at her grandma’s,” Paul sighed. “I wonder if it’s raining there?”

Cy turned the page in the album. He saw a picture of an enormous gray building, surrounded by hundreds of people. It looked very old, but was still beautiful. “Wow—where was this taken?” Cy asked Paul’s mom.

Mrs. Shepherd peered over Cy’s shoulder. “Oh—that’s in Italy, which is a country in Europe. That building is called the Pantheon. You can see how huge it is—look how tiny the people look next to the columns!”

“I’ve never seen a building that big,” Paul agreed. “What is it?”

“It’s a church, believe it or not,” said Mrs. Shepherd. “It doesn’t look much like our church, does it?”

“Wow—was it always a church?” Cy wondered.

Mrs. Shepherd thought. “Well, yes and no,” she answered. “When it was first built, by people called Romans, it was a temple to their gods.”

“They had their own gods?” Paul asked, astonished.

“False gods, Paul,” Mrs. Shepherd clarified. “They had lots of gods that they worshiped in this building. But when the Romans learned about Jesus, they turned this building into a church where they could worship Him.”

“Wow—I’m glad there are no more false gods!” Cy said.

“Oh, there are still false gods,” Mrs. Shepherd corrected Cy. “They may not be quite the same as the Roman gods. But a false god is anything that is more important to a person than the real God.”

“What kinds of things?” Paul wondered.

“It could be anything—good or bad. Anything that is more important to a person than God Himself is a false god.”

“I think money can be a false god,” Cy said slowly. “Lots of people think that money is more important than anything else.”

“That’s a good example, Cy,” said Mrs. Shepherd, nodding. “Money isn’t bad—unless it becomes more important to a person than God is.”

“We should pray that nothing comes between us and God!” said Paul.

“You’re right—I don’t want any false gods in my life!” Cy agreed. So together, they thanked God for being the most important thing in their lives, and prayed that He would always be most important.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script “The Pantheon”

### 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 poster (hand-drawn is fine) of the Pantheon in Rome, and a photo album.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Paul:** Hi, everyone! How many of you kids have ever visited another state?

*[Allow audience to respond.]*

**Cy:** How many of you have ever been to another country?

*[Allow audience to respond.]*

**Dee:** Paul's mom has been to many other countries. She has lots of pictures of the places she's been.

**Paul:** Last spring break, Dee was at her grandma's and it was rainy, so Cy and I were looking at some of the pictures my mom has taken when she's gone to other countries.

**Cy:** We learned something very important that day. Dee's going to help us by playing Mrs. Shepherd.

**Dee:** Let's begin!

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

### SCRIPT

*[Dee, Cy and Paul are onstage. Dee is wearing the woman's hat as Mrs. Shepherd. They are looking at the photo album. The poster of the Pantheon is behind them.]*

**Cy:** Thanks for showing us your old vacation pictures, Mrs. Shepherd.

**Dee:** Oh, anytime, Cy! It just doesn't seem fair that it would rain like this all through spring break!

**Paul:** I'm sure Dee's having fun at her grandma's. I wonder if it's raining there?

**Cy:** What about that big picture behind you—where was that taken?

**Dee:** *[Turns around and looks at the poster, then turns back.]* Oh—that's in Italy, which is a country in Europe. That building is called the Pantheon. You can see how huge it is—look how tiny the people look next to the columns!

**Paul:** I've never seen a building that big. What is it?

**Dee:** It's a church, believe it or not. It doesn't look much like our church, does it?

**Cy:** Wow—was it always a church?

**Dee:** Hmm... Well, yes and no. When it was first built, by people called Romans, it was a temple to their gods.

**Paul:** *[Astonished.]* They had their own gods?

**Dee:** False gods, Paul. They had lots of gods that they worshiped in this building. But when the Romans learned about Jesus, they turned this building into a church where they could worship Him.

**Cy:** Wow—I'm glad there are no more false gods!

**Dee:** Oh, there are still false gods. They may not be quite the same as the Roman gods. But a false god is anything that is more important to a person than the real God.

**Paul:** What kinds of things?

**Dee:** It could be anything—good or bad. Anything that is more important to a person than God Himself is a false god.

**Cy:** *[Thoughtfully.]* I think money can be a false god. Lots of people think that money is more important than anything else.

**Dee:** That's a good example, Cy. Money isn't bad—unless it becomes more important to a person than God is.

**Paul:** We should pray that nothing comes between us and God!

**Cy:** You're right—I don't want any false gods in my life!

**Dee:** Let's thank God for being the most important thing in our lives, and pray that He would always be most important.

*[Dee, Cy, and Paul bow their heads. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Paul:** God wants to be the most important Person in our lives. Anything that's more important than God can be a false God.

**Cy:** That's right. Sometimes it can be difficult to remember that God should be most important.

**Dee:** We can be thankful that God loves us, and always forgives us when we ask Him to. So even if we realize that something or someone has become a false god to us, we can ask God to forgive us and help us to remember that He is most important.

**Paul:** Try to think of some things that might feel more important to you than God. Then pray and ask God for help to keep those things in the right perspective.

**Cy:** See you next time, kids!

**Dee & Paul:** 'Bye!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

When it was time to pray with his dad before he went to sleep, Paul wasn't sure what to pray for. Paul explained that he was always afraid he would forget something important. Mr. Shepherd replied that praying to God was just like having a conversation—talking with someone else, except that instead of another person, you were talking to God. Paul thought it sounded a little weird to talk to God that way, but decided to try it for a week—talking to God without his dad. Would it feel like he was talking to himself?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul began by just talking to God about the things that happened to him during the days. He tried to remember Bible lessons that would help him learn about how to act in a way that pleased God. He even prayed out loud sometimes. After a week, Paul was glad for his new conversations with God, and knew for the first time that God was really listening!

“Okay—all tucked in tight,” Mr. Shepherd said to Paul after Paul had finished reading a book to his dad.

Paul yawned and stretched. “What should we pray for tonight, Dad?” he asked.

“What do you want to pray for, son?” Mr. Shepherd asked.

“Oh, I don't know,” Paul said. “I never know what to pray for. I'm always afraid I'll forget something important.”

Mr. Shepherd smiled. “Praying to God isn't like taking a spelling test, Paul,” he said. “It's just having a conversation—talking with someone else, just like we're talking right now. The only difference is that you're talking to God instead of talking to me.”

Paul had never thought of prayer that way before. It seemed a little...weird.

“Why don't we try an experiment?” Mr. Shepherd asked. “For the next week, I want you to pray to God on your own—without me here.”

“Um, isn't that kind of like talking to myself?” Paul wondered.

“Not at all! God is always listening to our prayers—anytime and anyplace we pray, he hears us.” Mr. Shepherd gave Paul a hug. “Good night, sleep tight!”

“Good night, Dad,” Paul said as his bedroom door closed. He looked around his room. It sure seemed like he was alone. Paul shrugged and prayed his usual prayers—he thanked God for his family and friends, and his house and his toys, and prayed for people who needed help, and for the people he knew who were sick. “Amen,” he said and turned out the light.

The next night Paul tried again. This time he thought a lot about that day. He had gotten into an argument with Cy. Paul asked God to forgive him, and prayed that he would be a better friend to Cy. He thought a lot about how Jesus treated people, and prayed he would be a little more like Jesus. After he had said “amen,” Paul was amazed. He hadn't been talking out loud, but he had really felt like he had just told God about his day.

For the next several nights, Paul continued telling God about the things that happened during the day. He tried to remember Bible lessons that would help him learn about how to act in a way that would please God. Sometimes he even prayed out loud, even though there was nobody in the room with him.

After a week had passed, Mr. Shepherd stayed in Paul's room after they finished their nightly story. “How has it been to pray on your own?” Mr. Shepherd asked.

Paul smiled. “I haven't been praying on my own—God is listening!” And he described to his dad how he had been talking with God over the last week. “Maybe tonight you and I can pray together, then I can talk to God about today,” Paul suggested.

“That's a great idea, Paul,” Mr. Shepherd said, giving him a hug. Together they thanked God for their family and friends, their home, and the people they knew who were sick. When Mr. Shepherd closed the door, Paul closed his eyes. It was time for his conversation with God.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script “A Conversation”

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need small pajamas for Paul, a pillow and blanket, and a man's hat for Cy.*

### INTRODUCTION

*[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul. Paul is wearing the pajamas.]*

**Cy:** You know, Paul, there is something different about you today. I'm not quite sure what it is.

**Paul:** I know what it is. I got to have a long talk with someone very special last night!

**Cy:** Nope, that's not it. You forgot to get dressed this morning!

**Dee:** You're still wearing your pajamas!

**Cy:** I hope you didn't talk to this very special person while you were wearing your pajamas—did you?

**Paul:** Actually, I did! And that's what our story is about today!

**Dee:** I can't wait to hear this one.

**Paul:** Cy, I'll need you to pretend to be my dad. Okay?

**Cy:** Sure!

**Dee:** Let's get started!

*{Exit Dee, Cy, and Paul.}*

### SCRIPT

*[Cy and Paul are onstage. Paul is wearing the pajamas; Cy is wearing the man's hat as Mr. Shepherd. Paul has the blanket over him and the pillow behind him.]*

**Cy:** Okay—all tucked in tight!

**Paul:** *[Yawns and stretches.]* What should we pray for tonight, Dad?

**Cy:** What do you want to pray for, son?

**Paul:** Oh, I don't know. I never know what to pray for. I'm always afraid I'll forget something important.

**Cy:** Praying to God isn't like taking a spelling test, Paul. It's just having a conversation—talking with someone else, just like we're talking right now. The only difference is that you're talking to God instead of talking to me.

**Paul:** I've never thought of prayer that way before. It seems a little... weird.

**Cy:** Why don't we try an experiment? Tonight, I want you to pray to God on your own—without me here.

**Paul:** Um, isn't that kind of like talking to myself?

**Cy:** Not at all! God is always listening to our prayers—anytime and anyplace we pray, he hears us. *[Gives Paul a hug.]* Good night, sleep tight!

*[Exit Cy.]*

**Paul:** Goodnight, Dad. *[Looking around him.]* It sure seems like I'm alone. I guess I'll just pray my usual prayers—thanking God for my family and friends, and our house and my toys, pray for people who might need help or the people I know who are sick. *[Pauses.]* But you know, a lot happened today. I did get into that argument with Cy. Maybe I should ask God to forgive me for that. And I can ask God to help me be a better friend to Cy. I mean, Jesus was always kind to the people around Him. Maybe I can pray that I would be a little bit more like Jesus. In fact, there are lots of Bible lessons that can help me learn about how to act in a way that will please God. *[Yawns again.]* Well, I'd better start praying—God and I have a lot to talk about!

*[Paul bows his head for a short time. He then lays down and puts his head on the pillow. Blackout. Enter Cy. Paul “wakes up.”]*

**Cy:** So, how did it go last night? What was it like to pray on your own?

**Paul:** I didn't pray on my own—God was listening! I just talked to him about my day, and the things I was feeling, and all kinds of things—things I would talk to you about! Maybe tonight you and I can pray together, then I can talk to God about today.

**Cy:** That's a great idea, Paul. I'm very proud of you.

**Paul:** Thanks, Dad. I sure did enjoy my conversation with God!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** So you really did have a conversation with someone special—the most special someone ever!

**Paul:** That's right. And you know what? My dad was right. Talking with God is just like talking with your best friend.

**Cy:** Actually, it is talking with your best friend. God made us and knows everything about us. He even knows exactly how many hairs are on my head!

**Dee:** And He always wants to hear from us. We can pray anytime—on the bus, on the playground, even when we're brushing our teeth!

**Paul:** I hope you kids learn to enjoy conversations with God as much as I have.

**Cy:** See you next time, everyone!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

After Paul described how he had prayed to God by himself for the first time, Cy felt a little sad. After all, he had never prayed with any of his family members, since none of them knew Jesus. Cy wished he had someone at his house who could teach him more about God. But Dee had an idea—here was someone at his house who Cy could teach about God—his little sister, Becky! Then there would at least be someone in his house who understood about Jesus; maybe she would even become a Christian! Cy decided to give it a try.

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy told Becky that God had made everything and everybody, even the two of them. And he described God’s special Son, who wanted to be Becky’s very best Friend. And he told her that by praying, they could talk to God’s special Son. So they prayed together, but Cy did most of the praying. But Becky did say “Thank You” to God for one thing—Cy! And he was grateful that now there was somebody in his home who understood at least a little bit about Jesus.

“You prayed to God all by yourself?” Dee asked. “Without your dad?”

Paul nodded. “And it was really cool! It’s just like talking to my best friend about everything that is important to me.”

“Maybe I’ll try that,” Dee said.

“I do that every night,” said Cy sadly. “There’s nobody at my house to pray with.”

“I know how sad it makes you that nobody at your house knows about Jesus,” Paul said quietly to Cy.

“I just wish I could have someone in my family who could teach me more about God,” Cy explained.

“Wait a minute—I have an idea!” said Dee. “There may not be anyone in your family who can help you learn about God, but there’s someone who could learn from you about Him!”

“You mean Becky?” Cy asked, thinking of his little sister.

“Great idea, Dee!” Paul agreed. “Dee’s right—she’s old enough to understand stories about Jesus. And then there would be someone in your family you can talk to about Him.”

“Maybe she’ll even become a Christian!” Dee suggested.

Cy smiled. “I think that’s a good idea. Maybe I’ll try telling her a little bit today. See you guys later!”

The next day, Cy met Dee and Paul at Dee’s house. “Hey, Cy—did you tell your little sister about God?” asked Paul.

“Yeah! A little bit, anyway,” Cy answered, grinning. “I told her that God made everything and everybody, even her and me. And I told her he also had a special Son, who wanted to be her very best Friend. And I told her that by praying, we can talk to God’s special Son.”

“Wow—that’s awesome!” Dee said. “Did you pray together?”

“I did most of the praying,” answered Cy. “But Becky did thank God for one thing.”

“What’s that?” wondered Paul.

Cy blushed. “She thanked God for me!”

Dee and Paul both laughed and congratulated their friend. And Cy was grateful that now there was somebody in his home who understood at least a little bit about Jesus.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "All in the Family"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Paul:** My family sure is big!

**Cy:** Yeah it is—you have one sister and two brothers! That's a lot!

**Dee:** My family is huge, too!

**Paul:** Huh?

**Cy:** What do you mean, Dee? You don't have any brothers or sisters! Are you counting Chip?

**Chip:** Woof! Woof!

**Dee:** I always count Chip. But that's not what I was thinking of. Today's story is all about families, and worshiping God together with our families.

**Paul:** Is everyone ready?

**Cy:** Here we go!

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

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul. They are in the middle of a conversation]*

**Dee:** You prayed to God all by yourself? Without your dad?

**Paul:** *[Nods.]* And it was really cool! It's just like talking to my best friend about everything that is important to me.

**Dee:** Maybe I'll try that.

**Cy:** *[Sadly.]* I do that every night. There's nobody at my house to pray with.

**Paul:** *[Sympathetically.]* I know how sad it makes you that nobody at your house knows about Jesus.

**Cy:** I just wish I could have someone in my family who could teach me more about God.

**Dee:** Wait a minute—I have an idea! There may not be anyone in your family who can help you learn about God, but there's someone who could learn from you about Him!

**Cy:** You mean Becky, my little sister?

**Paul:** Great idea, Dee! Dee's right—Becky's old enough to understand stories about Jesus. And then there would be someone in your family you can talk to about Him.

**Dee:** Maybe she'll even become a Christian!

**Cy:** I think that's a good idea. Maybe I'll try telling her a little bit today. See you guys tomorrow!

*[Cy exits in one direction, Dee and Paul in the other. Blackout. When the lights come up, Dee, Cy, and Paul are onstage together.]*

**Paul:** Hey, Cy—did you tell your little sister about God?

**Cy:** Yeah! A little bit, anyway. I told her that God made everything and everybody, even her and me. And I told her he also had a special Son, who wanted to be her very best Friend. And I told her that by praying, we can talk to God's special Son.

**Dee:** Wow—that's awesome! Did you pray together?

**Cy:** I did most of the praying. But Becky did thank God for one thing.

**Paul:** What's that?

**Cy:** *[Slightly embarrassed.]* She thanked God for me!

*[Dee, Cy, and Paul laugh. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Paul:** I'm so glad you told your sister about Jesus.

**Cy:** Me, too. But you know what else I realized? Even though nobody in my family knows Jesus—yet—I'm part of another family.

**Dee:** That's right—a huge family, the same family that Paul and I are part of. God's church is like one big family. In God's family, we are all brothers and sisters!

**Paul:** And that's why we can thank God and worship Him together, as a family!

**Chip:** Woof!

**Cy:** We'll see you later, brothers and sisters!

**Dee & Paul:** 'Bye, everyone!

*[Curtain.]*





**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.

When Paul’s mom woke him up for church, he felt like he hadn’t slept at all. He was exhausted. His family had spent a very busy weekend going to a concert, visiting family, and going swimming. Paul groaned at the thought of having to get up and go—again.

When his mom told him a second time to get out of bed, Paul explained that he was worn out and just wanted to stay home. If going to church was to worship God, couldn’t he just stay where he was and pray or read his Bible?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mrs. Shepherd explained that, while there were many ways to worship God (including praying or reading the Bible), time at church was a time for God’s children to worship Him together. It was very important to spend time worshipping with others. Mrs. Shepherd promised Paul that after church, he could have all the time to rest and be by himself that he wanted. So Paul got up and got ready to worship God with his fellow believers.

Paul felt like he had just closed his eyes when he heard his mom’s voice. “Paul!” Mrs. Shepherd said quietly. “Time to wake up. It’s almost time for church!”

Paul opened one eye and groaned.

“Hurry up and get dressed!” said Mrs. Shepherd as she walked out of the room. “We slept a little bit late this morning, since we’ve had such a busy weekend.”

Paul waited until his mom went out of the room, then groaned again. Mrs. Shepherd was right—it had been a very busy weekend. On Friday night, the Shepherds had spent the evening at Paul’s brother Mark’s guitar performance. It had lasted until late. Then on Saturday, Paul’s family woke up early and drove out to the country to visit Paul’s Uncle Jim, Aunt Trisha, and his cousin Jason. Paul had spent the whole day playing with his brothers and sister and Jason in Uncle Jim’s swimming pool. They had stayed and had dinner, then watched a movie. By the time they got home, it was way past Paul’s bedtime.

He’d had a great time, but Paul was tired. Now he had to get up and go again.

Paul sighed and lay back down in his bed.

Mrs. Shepherd came back into Paul’s room. “Paul!” she said. “Come on! We don’t want to be late!”

“Ugh!” said Paul. “I don’t want to go to church today!”

“Are you sick?” asked Mrs. Shepherd.

“No—I’m just tired!” Paul explained. “And I just want to be by myself for a while!”

Mrs. Shepherd sat down on Paul’s bed. “Feeling a little worn out from the weekend, huh?” she asked.

“Yeah, I guess so,” Paul said. “I just wish I could stay home and read a book this morning.”

“It’s okay to feel like being alone, Paul,” Mrs. Shepherd said. “We’ve had a busy weekend. And everyone needs to be alone sometimes—some people need more alone time than others.”

“Does that mean I can stay home?” Paul asked hopefully.

Mrs. Shepherd shook her head sympathetically. “I’m sorry, Paul. But going to church is important. That’s our time in our week to worship God.”

“I’ll pray or read my Bible if you let me stay home,” Paul promised.

Mrs. Shepherd smiled. “You’re right—those are other ways that we can worship God. But it’s important that we worship God with other people, too. That’s what going to church is all about!” Paul’s mom gave him a quick hug. “How about this: after church we’ll come straight home, and I promise, you can spend as much time reading as you like.”

Paul nodded. “Okay, Mom.” Mrs. Shepherd smiled as she left the room. And Paul got ready to go and worship God with others.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Longing for Alone Time"

### 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 pillow and blanket, and a woman's hat for Dee.

### INTRODUCTION

*[Paul is onstage alone. Wait several seconds, then enter Dee and Cy]*

**Cy:** Hi, Paul! What are you doing?

**Paul:** Hey, guys! I'm not doing anything. I'm just sitting here.

**Dee:** Are you waiting for someone?

**Paul:** Nope. Just sitting.

**Cy:** Did you get in trouble or something?

**Paul:** Um, not recently. I'm really just sitting!

*[Dee and Cy look at one another.]*

**Dee:** Well, that sounds pretty boring.

**Cy:** Yeah—is it fun for you to just sit by yourself?

**Paul:** Just sitting is pretty boring. But I like to be by myself sometimes. In fact, that's what our story today is about.

**Dee:** Wow. How exciting.

**Paul:** No—it's a great story, really! Dee, will you help me tell it? You can play my mom.

**Dee:** Sure, Paul.

**Cy:** Let's get started.

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

### SCRIPT

*[Paul is onstage, laying down with his head on the pillow and with the blanket draped over him. Enter Dee, wearing the woman's hat as Mrs. Shepherd.]*

**Dee:** Paul!

**Paul:** *[Confused]* Huh? What?

**Dee:** Time to wake up. It's almost time for church!

**Paul:** *[Groans.]* But I feel like I just went to sleep!

**Dee:** Hurry up and get dressed! We slept a little bit late this morning, since we've had such a busy weekend.

*[Exit Dee.]*

**Paul:** *[Groans again.]* Mom is right! It has been a very busy weekend. Let's see... On Friday night, we went and watched my brother Mark at his guitar performance. That lasted until very late. Then yesterday, we got up early and drove all the way to my Uncle Jim's house in the country. We visited Uncle Jim, Aunt Trisha, and my cousin Jason. That was fun. My brothers and sister and I spent all day playing in Uncle Jim's swimming pool. We even stayed to dinner, and then watched a movie. *[Yawns.]* I wonder what time we got home last night. I know one thing—it was way past my bedtime. *[Yawns again.]* And I'm tired. I don't want to get up and go again!

*[Paul lays back down. Enter Dee.]*

**Dee:** Paul! Come on! We don't want to be late!

**Paul:** Ugh! I don't want to go to church today!

**Dee:** Are you sick?

**Paul:** No—I'm just tired! And I just want to be by myself for a while!

**Dee:** *[Sits beside Paul.]* Feeling a little worn out from the weekend, huh?

**Paul:** *[Nods.]* Yeah, I guess so. I just wish I could stay home and read a book this morning.

**Dee:** It's okay to feel like being alone, Paul. We've had a busy weekend. And everyone needs to be alone sometimes—some people need more alone time than others.

**Paul:** Does that mean I can stay home?

**Dee:** *[Shakes her head.]* I'm sorry, Paul. But going to church is important. That's our time in our week to worship God.

**Paul:** I'll pray or read my Bible if you let me stay home.

**Dee:** You're right—those are other ways that we can worship God. But it's important that we worship God with other people, too. That's what going to church is all about! How about this: after church we'll come straight home, and I promise, you can spend as much time reading as you like.

**Paul:** Okay, Mom. I guess I'd better hurry and get dressed! It's time to go and worship God with others!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** You were right, Paul. That story wasn't boring at all.

**Paul:** I told you. I learned that even though I sometimes really like being alone, God still calls us to worship with other believers.

**Cy:** And that's what churches are great for! At church, we can gather together with other people who know Jesus...

**Dee:** And we can all worship Him together!

**Paul:** I hope you all have a great time worshiping God with each other today!

**Cy:** That's right. See you next time!

**Dee:** 'Bye!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

It just couldn't be true! Paul had told Dee something awful! Dee ran in the door of her house. “Tell me it isn't true, Mom!” she cried. Paul had told Dee that during Bible times, people had to kill animals when they asked for God's forgiveness. Dee thought of her beloved dog, Chip. She gave Chip a hug. “It just can't be true!” She cried again. But could it?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mrs. Morgan explained to Dee that what Paul had said was, indeed true. All people sin, and the price for sin is always the same: sacrifice. In Old Testament times, people sacrificed animals to pay the price for their sin. But Dee knew that to receive God's forgiveness, all she had to do was ask. Mrs. Morgan explained that Jesus had taken the place of animal sacrifice forever when He died on the cross. He became the price for the sins of all people. But the best part of the story was that He came back to life! Dee and her mom thanked Jesus for dying for their forgiveness, and thanked God for bringing Jesus back to life.

“Mom!” Dee shouted as she ran in the door. “Tell me it isn't true!”

Mrs. Morgan walked out of the kitchen. “Sure, Dee, if you'll tell me what you're talking about.”

Dee's dog Chip came running around the corner barking. “Oh, Chip!” Dee said, dropping to her knees and giving him a hug. Chip licked Dee on the nose. “Paul just told me the most horrible thing!” said Dee. “He told me that in Bible times, people had to kill animals when they asked for God's forgiveness!” Dee hugged Chip again. “It just can't be true!”

Mrs. Morgan sighed. “Dee, it's okay. First of all, the people in Bible times didn't kill dogs to ask for forgiveness.”

“Phew!” said Dee. “Chip, you're safe!”

“Woof!” Chip barked.

“But what Paul said is true—during Old Testament times, people did sacrifice animals to God to be forgiven of their sins,” explained Mrs. Morgan.

“Sacrifice—is that what it was called when they killed the animals?” Dee asked. “I don't understand why!”

“Hold on, and I'll try to explain,” Mrs. Morgan said. “You see, Dee, every person ever born has needed God to forgive them. Nobody's perfect; everyone sins.”

“I know that—and I know that God does forgive me when I do something wrong,” Dee said. “But I've never had to kill anything for forgiveness.”

“And you never will,” Mrs. Morgan continued. “Sinning against God means that a price has to be paid. In Old Testament times, that price was animal sacrifice.”

“Why don't we do that anymore, Mom?” Dee asked, petting Chip.

“Because a long time ago, Someone made a sacrifice to pay for every sin ever done.”

“Who was it, Mom?” Dee asked.

“Jesus,” Mrs. Morgan asked. “God knew that His people would always need forgiveness. So God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to die—Jesus became the sacrifice for everyone's sin. Now there's no need for animal sacrifice.”

Dee looked down. “Jesus died so that I could be forgiven?”

Mrs. Morgan nodded. “That's right—but remember the end of the story? Jesus also came back to life! He's alive, so we can thank Him for being the sacrifice for our forgiveness.”

“Oh, Chip!” Dee said. “Did you hear that? I can be forgiven! Jesus paid the price!”

“That's right, Dee,” said Mrs. Morgan, giving her a hug. “Let's thank Him!”

Dee and her mom thanked Jesus for dying to forgive their sins. And they thanked God for bringing Jesus back to life!

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Great Sacrifice"

### 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 man's hat for Paul.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Dee:** Hi, everyone! Today's story is very important—and very serious. Isn't that right, Chip?

*[Chip howls.]*

**Paul:** Oh, come on, now. Actually, today's story is about one of the best stories ever!

**Dee:** And it's about something that really happened.

**Paul:** And this story has the best possible ending. Now, who's ready to hear it?

*[Allow audience to respond. Chip barks.]*

**Dee:** It's settled, then. Paul's going to pretend to be my dad for this story.

**Paul:** Let's go!

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

### SCRIPT

*[Paul and Chip are onstage. Paul is wearing the man's hat as Mr. Morgan. Dee enters quickly. She is upset.]*

**Dee:** Dad! Tell me it isn't true!

**Paul:** Sure, Dee, if you'll tell me what you're talking about.

**Chip:** *[Jumping to get Dee's attention.]*

**Dee:** Oh, Chip! *[Hugs Chip.]*

**Chip:** Woof, woof! Woof!

**Dee:** Dad, Cy just told me the most horrible thing! He told me that in Bible times, people had to kill animals when they asked for God's forgiveness! *[Hugs Chip again.]* It just can't be true!

**Paul:** Dee, it's okay. First of all, the people in Bible times didn't kill dogs to ask for forgiveness.

**Dee:** Phew! Chip, you're safe!

**Chip:** Woof! *[Sits between the two of them and watches the rest of the conversation like a tennis match, looking back and forth.]*

**Paul:** But what Paul said is true—during Old Testament times, people did sacrifice animals to God to be forgiven of their sins.

**Dee:** Sacrifice—is that what it was called when they killed the animals? I don't understand why!

**Paul:** Hold on, and I'll try to explain. You see, Dee, every person ever born has needed God to forgive them. Nobody's perfect; everyone sins.

**Dee:** I know that—and I know that God does forgive me when I do something wrong. But I've never had to kill anything for forgiveness.

**Paul:** And you never will. Sinning against God means that a price has to be paid. In Old Testament times, that price was animal sacrifice.

**Dee:** *[Pets Chip.]* Why don't we do that anymore, Dad?

**Paul:** Because a long time ago, Someone made a sacrifice to pay for every sin ever done.

**Dee:** Who was it, Dad?

**Paul:** Jesus. God knew that His people would always need forgiveness. So God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to die—Jesus became the sacrifice for everyone's sin. Now there's no need for animal sacrifice.

**Dee:** *[Looks down.]* Jesus died so that I could be forgiven?

**Paul:** *[Nods.]* That's right—but remember the end of the story? Jesus also came back to life! He's alive, so we can thank Him for being the sacrifice for our forgiveness.

**Dee:** Oh, Chip! Did you hear that? I can be forgiven! Jesus paid the price!

**Chip:** Woof, woof!

**Paul:** That's right, Dee. Let's thank Him for dying to forgive our sins!

**Dee:** And let's thank God for bringing Jesus back to life!

*[Dee, Paul, and Chip bow their heads. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** See kids? We'll never have to sacrifice animals again to ask for forgiveness for our sins.

**Chip:** *[Happily.]* Woo-woo!

**Paul:** But Somebody was sacrificed for the sins of all people—Jesus.

**Dee:** That's right. Because of what Jesus did, we all have the opportunity to be forgiven from our sins. All we have to do is ask him to be our forever Friend.

**Paul:** Kids, if you haven't yet asked Jesus to be your forever Friend and want to, or if you just want to learn more about it, ask your teacher.

**Dee:** And don't forget the best part of the story—Jesus came back to life! He's alive forever!

**Chip:** *[Happily.]* Woo-woo!

**Paul:** See you later, kids!

**Dee:** Goodbye!

**Chip:** Woof!

*[Curtain.]*



**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 and Cy had been working hard in Dee’s basement building a huge tent out of blankets and pillows. It was so big! Cy was excited until Dee started making their tent...girly. With pictures and a tea party, Dee was ready to play house. “House?” thought Cy. “I thought this was supposed to be a fort!” While Dee was searching for her play broom, Cy had an awful idea. Very quietly, he sneaked over to where one corner of the tent was being held down by a stack of books, and pushed the books off the blanket. The tent fell with a whoosh just as Dee was coming down the stairs.

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“What happened?” Dee wondered, her eyes filling with tears. “I’m not sure. It just fell!” answered Cy. Dee was disappointed—it would take forever to build the tent again. Suddenly Cy felt terrible for lying to his friend. His stomach hurt and he felt like crying. Cy confessed to Dee that he had knocked the tent down on purpose because he didn’t want to play house all day. After a moment to think, Dee forgave Cy. They began building the tent again to take turns playing house and playing fort.

“Wow,” said Dee, standing back and putting her hands on her hips. “Isn’t it great? It’s so beautiful!”

“Uh, sure,” Cy answered. Then he thought to himself, “If you’re a girl.”

Dee and Cy had been working hard building a huge, beautiful tent in Dee’s basement. They had used every spare blanket and pillow in Dee’s house. The tent was really cool—it was bigger than Cy thought they could have made it.

But that’s when Dee started to make it...girly. She had pinned drawings onto the blanket walls. She had brought in a little table and a tea set, and set up a tea party with her dolls in the middle of the tent.

“Ooh!” Dee said suddenly. “I’m going to get my play broom from the kitchen,” she said. “Then we’ll be all ready to play house!”

Dee ran upstairs to get her broom.

“House?” Cy thought to himself. “I thought this was supposed to be a fort!” He looked at the huge tent they had built. Then he thought about playing house with Dee in the tent all afternoon. “Ugh,” he thought to himself.

Then Cy had an idea. Very quietly, he moved over to one corner of the tent that was being held down by a stack of books. Slowly, he slid the stack of books off the corner of the blanket.

Whoosh! The tent slipped quietly down to the floor just as Dee was coming down the stairs.

“Oh, no!” said Dee. “What happened?”

“Uh, I’m not sure,” said Cy. “It just, you know, fell!”

“Aw,” said Dee, very disappointed. “It will take forever to build it again,” she said, her eyes filling with tears.

Suddenly Cy felt terrible. His stomach hurt and he almost felt like crying, too. He didn’t know Dee would be so sad to see the tent fall. And he felt awful for lying to her.

“Dee,” Cy began. “I, uh, I mean, I knocked the tent over.”

“Accidentally?” Dee said. “Well, that’s okay...”

“No, not accidentally,” Cy said, looking at his feet. “I just, well, I didn’t want to play house all day. I wanted the tent to be a fort.” Cy looked up at Dee. “I’m really sorry, Dee. That wasn’t a nice thing to do.”

Dee looked at the fallen tent, and sighed. She thought for a moment, then said, “I forgive you, Cy. Thanks for telling me the truth.”

“Let’s build it again, Dee,” Cy said. “I know how to fix it quickly. Then we can play house for as long as you want.”

Dee smiled. “Let’s build it again—and we’ll take turns having it be a house and a fort.”

Cy laughed. “It’s a deal,” he said. Together, they started picking up all the blankets.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Giant House-Fort"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need extra pillows and blankets to scatter around the stage.*

### SCRIPT

*[Dee and Cy are onstage. The pillows and blankets are scattered. They are sitting in the middle of the mess, laughing. Enter Paul.]*

**Paul:** Hi, guys! What's so funny?

*[Dee and Cy are laughing so hard they can't answer right away.]*

**Paul:** What? Is it me? Do I have something on my face?

**Cy:** *[Shakes his head, is finally able to talk.]* No, Paul. We're just laughing because our tent fell down—again!

**Paul:** *[Looks at the blankets.]* This is a tent? It looks more like a big mess!

**Dee:** Actually, it was a tabernacle.

**Cy:** A house!

**Dee:** A fort!

**Paul:** It must have been some tent, if it could be all of those things.

**Cy:** It was—it was gigantic!

**Dee:** Enormous!

**Cy:** Colossal!

**Paul:** So what happened?

**Cy:** Well, this time it just fell down while we were playing.

**Dee:** Earlier, though, we had a different kind of falling down.

**Paul:** What happened earlier?

**Cy:** Well, we built the tent, and it was huge, and really cool...

**Dee:** It was beautiful! I decorated it. I pinned drawings onto the blanket walls. And then I brought in a little table and a tea set, and set up a tea party with my dolls in the middle of the tent.

**Cy:** Yep. Dee was all ready to play house.

**Paul:** House?

**Cy:** That's what I thought, too. It didn't sound like fun to me to play house all day. So when Dee went to get her play broom....

**Dee:** I came back and the tent had fallen down.

**Paul:** Oh, no! What happened?

**Cy:** *[Looks down.]* I knocked it over.

**Dee:** I was really sad. I thought it would take forever to build again.

**Paul:** Well, it was an accident....

**Cy:** *[Shakes his head.]* No, it wasn't. I knocked it over on purpose because I didn't want to play house all day. I told Dee that it just fell, but when I saw how sad she was, I felt terrible. My stomach hurt and I felt like crying. I felt awful for lying to her.

**Dee:** So Cy told me the truth. He told me he had really wanted the tent to be a fort, and asked for me to forgive him. My feelings were hurt, but I was glad he'd told me the truth.

**Paul:** That's what Jesus called confession—when you tell someone the truth about how you've hurt them.

**Cy:** So I suggested we build the house again. And I told Dee we could play house for as long as she wanted.

**Dee:** But I wanted to play fort, too. It didn't take very long to build our tent again.

**Cy:** In fact, we were just playing fort—that's how we knocked the tent over.

**Dee:** Yeah! It was really fun!

**Paul:** So it doesn't take very long to build the tent again?

**Cy:** Nope—we can build it again in just a couple of minutes!

**Paul:** Well, it sure does sound like fun to me! Can we build it again now?

**Dee:** *[Laughing!]* Sure, Paul!

**Cy:** Great idea!

*[Dee, Cy, and Paul start moving around the blankets. Curtain.]*



**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.

Paul and Cy were cold. Paul’s dad had brought the boys to the mountains to camp out. The sun had been warm during the day while they played in the river, and that night when Mr. Shepherd made dinner. But when the sun went down it got cold quickly, and the fog moved into their campsite.

Mr. Shepherd made a fire, and the boys realized it was like God in the Temple—a cloud and fire. Together they decided to sing a worship song. But quickly the boys began to argue about which song to sing.

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul argued that they should sing *Peace Like a River*, since they had played in the river. But Cy wanted to sing *Go Tell It On the Mountain* because they were camping in the mountains. After breaking up the argument, Mr. Shepherd explained that, while everyone had their favorite worship songs, what was more important than which song they were singing was who they were singing to—God. Mr. Shepherd decided that they would sing both worship songs, in alphabetical order. Cy and Paul laughed—that was certainly fair! Together, they raised their voices to praise God.

“Brrr,” said Paul to his dad. “I’ve never seen it so foggy before!”

“Are you cold?” said Mr. Shepherd, as he checked to make sure the tent stakes were tight in the ground.

“Y-y-y-eah,” Cy answered, shivering.

Mr. Shepherd laughed. “I’ll make a fire—that will warm us right up.”

“All right!” said Cy and Paul.

Mr. Shepherd had brought Paul and Cy to the mountains for a camping trip. It had been warm in the afternoon as they played in the river, and when Mr. Shepherd had made hot dogs and corn on the cob for dinner. But when the sun went down, a thick fog settled around the campsite.

Mr. Shepherd put some wood in the fire ring, and soon had made a big, roaring fire. “Be very careful near the fire, boys,” he told Cy and Paul. The boys nodded and sat down in their chairs.

After a few minutes, Cy and Paul were toasty warm as they looked into the flames.

“This is really cool,” said Cy. “It makes me think of what we learned at church—about God in the Temple.”

“Oh, yeah!” said Paul. “God lived in the temple—in a cloud and in fire!”

“Very good, Cy!” said Mr. Shepherd. “We have a cloud—the fog—and we have fire!” He smiled. “How about we sing a worship song?”

“Ooh!” said Paul. “Let’s sing *Peace Like a River*, since we were playing in the river today.”

“No—I don’t like that one,” said Cy. “Let’s sing *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*, since we’re camping in the mountains.”

“I want to sing *Peace Like a River*!” argued Paul.

“No! Let’s sing *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*!” Cy fought back.

“Boys!” said Mr. Shepherd. “That’s enough. It’s good that we all have worship songs that we like, and it’s okay if there are some you like more than others. But singing worship songs is about praising God—not about which song you’re singing.”

“What do you think we should sing, Dad?” Paul asked.

“Yeah, Mr. Shepherd. You decide,” Cy agreed.

“Hmm,” Mr. Shepherd said. “Let’s sing both—in alphabetical order.”

Cy and Paul both laughed. “Great idea!” Paul said. “That means *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* is first.”

Mr. Shepherd laughed, too, then he, Cy, and Paul lifted their voices to sing praises to God.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Cloud and the Fire"

### 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 man's hat for Dee.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Cy:** Hey, kids! Today our story is about a time when Paul's dad took Paul and me camping.

**Paul:** We're going to need a lot of help to tell this story, though. First, we need Dee to pretend to be my dad.

**Dee:** *[In a deep voice.]* No problem, Paul.

**Cy:** We also need your help, kids! First, we need all the girls to repeat after me: Whoosh! Whoosh!

**Paul:** You're going to be the fog in our story. So whenever Cy or I yell, FOG! you make your whooshing noise.

**Cy:** Now, all the boys say this: Crackle! Crackle! You boys are the fire. When we say FIRE! you crackle.

**Paul:** Everyone ready?

**Dee:** I think so....

**Cy:** Let's get started!

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

### SCRIPT

*[Dee, Cy, and Paul are onstage. Dee is wearing the man's hat as Mr. Shepherd.]*

**Paul:** Thanks for taking us camping in the mountains, Dad.

**Cy:** Yeah! It was fun to play in the river.

**Paul:** And dinner was delicious—hot dogs and corn on the cob. Yum!

**Dee:** *[In a deep voice, which she retains throughout the story.]* You're welcome, boys.

**Paul:** Brrr. I've never seen it so foggy before! FOG!

**Dee:** Wow—you're right. That's a thick fog! Are you cold?

**Cy:** *[Shivering.]* Y-y-y-eah.

**Dee:** I'll make a fire—that will warm us right up.

**Cy & Paul:** FIRE!

**Dee:** Now that's a huge fire! Be careful not to get too close, boys.

**Paul:** I'm warming right up!

**Cy:** Me, too!

**Dee, Cy, & Paul:** *[All sit down on the stage and relax.]* Ahhh.

**Cy:** This is really cool. It makes me think of what we learned at church—about God in the temple.

**Paul:** Oh, yeah! God lived in the temple—in a cloud...and in FIRE!"

**Cy:** Right! And our cloud is the FOG!

**Dee:** Very good, boys! How about we sing a worship song?

**Paul:** Ooh! Let's sing *Peace Like a River*, since we were playing in the river today.

**Cy:** No—I don't like that one. Let's sing *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*, since we're camping in the mountains.

**Paul:** *[Arguing.]* I want to sing *Peace Like a River*!

**Cy:** No! Let's sing *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*!

**Dee:** Boys! That's enough. It's good that we all have worship songs that we like, and it's okay if there are some you like more than others. But singing worship songs is about praising God—not about which song you're singing.

**Paul:** What do you think we should sing, Dad?

**Cy:** Yeah, Mr. Shepherd. You decide.

**Dee:** Hmm.... Let's sing both—in alphabetical order.

**Paul:** *[Laughs, along with Cy.]* Great idea! That means *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* is first.

**Cy:** Then after we sing *Peace Like a River*, we could think of a song about the FOG!

**Paul:** Yeah—or the FIRE!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

*[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul. Dee's voice has returned to normal.]*

**Cy:** Wow! Great job, everyone!

**Paul:** That was a great camping trip. I think the best thing was learning that everyone has favorite worship or praise songs that they like....

**Dee:** But more important than what you sing is to whom you sing. Praising God is most important!

**Cy:** Thanks again for your help, kids. You sure do make great FOG!

**Paul:** And FIRE!

**Dee:** 'Bye, everyone!

*[Curtain.]*





**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 and Paul were curious—where had Cy been the night before? They had enjoyed movie night, and Chip had enjoyed the popcorn. Cy explained that he had gone to a special meal called a Seder at his aunt and uncle’s church. It was a meal that Jewish people celebrated every year at Passover. But what could be so special about this one meal?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy explained that people celebrated the Seder to remember when the angel passed over the houses of God’s people in Egypt. The Egyptian leader ordered them to leave so quickly that their bread didn’t have time to rise, so to celebrate the Seder Cy ate flat bread. He ate other foods to remind him of the time that God’s people had been slaves in Egypt. Everything they ate meant something special. Dee and Paul asked if they could participate in a Seder if Cy went again.

“Hey, Cy! Where were you last night?” Dee asked her friend.

“Yeah—we had movie night at Dee’s house,” Paul said. “It was really fun.”

“Even if Chip did eat all the popcorn,” Dee said. Chip rolled over onto his back so Dee could rub his still-full belly.

“I went to something really cool at my aunt and uncle’s church,” Cy explained. “It was called a Seder.”

“A what?” Paul asked. “I’ve never heard of that.”

“A Seder,” Cy repeated. “It’s a special meal that Jewish people celebrate every year at Passover.”

“I’ve heard that word—Passover—before,” said Dee. “That’s when the angel passed over all the houses of the people of Israel, right?”

“That’s right—and that’s what the Seder was all about, sort of,” Cy explained. “See, right after the angel passed over the people of Israel who were living in Egypt, the Egyptian leader told them all to leave. And they did—so fast that they couldn’t even wait for their bread to be done! They had to take it while it was still flat!”

“So you ate flat bread?” Paul asked. Chip picked up his head. Flat bread sounded almost as good as popcorn....

“That was one of the things we ate,” Cy answered nodding. “Some things were kind of different—I’ve never tasted anything like them. And there were a couple of things I didn’t really like.”

“Whoa—there was food you didn’t like?” Dee asked. “I thought you would eat anything!”

“Oh—I tried everything!” Cy answered. “But some things were yummier than others.”

“Do they always eat the same food?” Paul asked.

Cy nodded. “Everything you eat means something special. We ate vegetables that were dipped in salt water. The vegetables are a sign of hope, and the salt water reminds us of the tears of God’s people while they were slaves in Egypt.”

“Wow—that’s cool!” said Paul.

“And we ate a special mix of apples, nuts, and cinnamon to remind us of the bricks God’s people made while they were slaves,” Cy explained.

“Wow—that’s really cool!” Dee said.

“Yeah! Every single thing we ate meant something special,” said Cy.

“I’ve never had a meal like that before,” said Paul. “Cy, if you go to a Seder next Passover, can we come with you?”

“Woof!” barked Chip. He never wanted to be left out when there was food involved.

“Sure—but I don’t know if dogs are allowed,” Cy answered. Chip grunted, and Dee, Cy, and Paul laughed at the hungry dog.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script “Seder with Cy”

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Dee:** Hey, guys! Let's tell the story of the time that Cy ate that special meal!

**Paul:** Which special meal?

**Cy:** Yeah, because last night's dinner was good, but this morning's breakfast was really special—pancakes with strawberries on top.

**Dee:** No, no, no. Remember—that one really, really special meal that you went to at your aunt and uncle's church.

**Cy:** Oh, right. The Seder!

**Paul:** Wow—it must have been special if it even had its own name.

**Cy:** It was a great meal—and a great experience. Let's tell the story!

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

### SCRIPT

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

**Paul:** Oh, there he is! We were just talking about you.

**Dee:** Hey, Cy! Where were you last night?

**Paul:** Yeah—we had movie night at Dee's house. It was really fun.

**Dee:** Even if Chip did eat all the popcorn.

*[Chip looks at the audience, nods, and contentedly yawns. Then he lays down.]*

**Cy:** I went to something really cool at my aunt and uncle's church. It was called a Seder.

**Paul:** A what? I've never heard of that.

**Cy:** A Seder. It's a special meal that Jewish people celebrate every year at Passover.

**Dee:** I've heard that word—Passover—before. That's when the angel passed over all the houses of the people of Israel, right?

**Cy:** *[Nods.]* That's right—and that's what the Seder was all about, sort of. See, right after the angel passed over the people of Israel who were living in Egypt, the Egyptian leader told them all to leave. And they did—so fast that they couldn't even wait for their bread to be done! They had to take it while it was still flat!

**Paul:** So you ate flat bread?

*[Chip suddenly sits up and looks at Cy.]*

**Dee:** It looks like flat bread sounds pretty good to Chip!

**Cy:** *[Nods.]* Woof!

**Cy:** That was one of the things we ate. Some things were kind of different—I've never tasted anything like them. And there were a couple of things I didn't really like.

**Dee:** Whoa—there was food you didn't like? I thought you would eat anything!

**Cy:** Oh—I tried everything! But some things were yummier than others.

**Paul:** Do they always eat the same food?

**Cy:** *[Nods again.]* Everything you eat means something special. We ate vegetables that were dipped in salt water. The vegetables are a sign of hope, and the salt water reminds us of the tears of God's people while they were slaves in Egypt.

**Paul:** Wow—that's cool!

**Cy:** And we ate a special mix of apples, nuts, and cinnamon to remind us of the bricks God's people made while they were slaves.

**Dee:** That's really neat!

**Cy:** Yeah! Every single thing we ate meant something special.

**Paul:** I've never had a meal like that before. Cy, if you go to a Seder next Passover, can we come with you?"

**Chip:** Woof! Woof!

**Cy:** Sure—but I don't know if dogs are allowed.

*[Chip grunts, disappointed.. Dee, Cy, and Paul laugh together. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** That sure was a special meal!

**Cy:** Yeah! A lot of holidays involve having a special meal.

**Paul:** Yeah—like Thanksgiving. We usually eat turkey to remember the meal that the Pilgrims shared with the Native Americans, thanking God for the harvest.

**Dee:** Right! Even though Passover is generally considered a Jewish holiday, it's celebrated with a special meal—just like many Christian holidays!

**Chip:** Woof, woof!

**Paul:** But if you're Chip—or Cy—an opportunity to eat is pretty special!

**Chip:** *[Nodding.]* Woof!

**Cy:** I agree, Chip. Woof!

**Dee:** See you later, kids.

**Cy & Paul:** 'Bye!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

“I’ve had it!” Paul shouted as he returned home from Cy’s house. Stomping into the house, he explained to his mom that Cy never wanted to do anything that was Paul’s idea. In fact—all he wanted to do was play catch! After having played catch with Cy the previous afternoon, Paul wanted to play basketball. Upset with his friend, Paul came home.

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mrs. Shepherd reminded Paul that Cy was trying out for a new baseball team the following week. He had been very nervous, so he had probably wanted to practice for his tryout. More importantly, explained Mrs. Shepherd, Paul and Cy were brothers in the same family—God’s family—and that little differences, like whether to play basketball or baseball, should never come between members of God’s family. Paul sighed. He knew that he and Cy should stick together. So, with his baseball glove in hand, and ready to say he was sorry, Paul headed back over to Cy’s house.

“I’ve had it!” Paul yelled as he slammed the front door behind him. “I’ve had it, had it, had it!”

“Well, Paul, from the sound of that, I’d say you’d had enough of something,” Mrs. Shepherd said as Paul stomped into the computer room.

“Yes, I have!” said Paul, crossing his arms. “I’ve had enough of Cy!”

“Well, that’s a little surprising. This morning you couldn’t wait to go over to his house. In fact,” Mrs. Shepherd continued, looking at Paul over her glasses, “You were in such a hurry you forgot to take your breakfast dishes to the sink.”

“Oh, sorry,” Paul said.

“Now, what’s happened that’s made you so upset at Cy?” Mrs. Shepherd wondered.

“He’s so selfish!” Paul fumed. “He only wants to play games that he thinks of. If I think of something for us to do, he says no. He never plays any games when they’re my idea!”

“Was there a specific game you wanted to play today that he didn’t want to play?” asked Paul’s mom.

“We had just finished watching cartoons, and I asked if he wanted to play basketball. ‘No,’ he said. ‘Go home and get your baseball glove and let’s play catch,’” Paul explained.

“You like playing catch, Paul,” Mrs. Shepherd pointed out.

“I used to like to play catch, but that’s all Cy ever wants to do anymore! We just played catch yesterday!”

“I think I know why Cy wants to play catch all the time,” Mrs. Shepherd answered. “I talked to his mom yesterday. He’s trying out for a new baseball team this week, and he’s very nervous.”

“Oh, yeah,” Paul said thoughtfully. “He told me about that.”

“He probably just wants to practice before the tryout,” she continued. “But, Paul, I want you to remember something that’s more important than baseball or basketball.”

“What, Mom?” Paul answered.

“I know that your feelings were hurt,” she said. “But Jesus wants his followers to stick together, even during the hard times. Do you know that Jesus says that the people who follow Him are a family?”

“Really?” Paul wondered.

Mrs. Shepherd nodded. “So you and Cy are brothers in God’s family—the same way that you and Mike and Mark are brothers in our family. That doesn’t mean you never disagree, but no matter what your differences are, you’ll always be brothers.”

“And Cy and me—we’ll always be brothers in God’s family?” asked Paul. Mrs. Shepherd nodded. Paul sighed. “I guess I have a brother I need to apologize to.”

Mrs. Shepherd gave Paul a hug, and Paul went to his room to get his baseball glove.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script “Brothers”

### 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 woman's hat for Dee.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Paul:** Uh, Cy? I'd like to apologize in advance for this story, okay?

**Cy:** What are you talking about? You said “Sorry” the day it happened.

**Paul:** I know. I just thought I'd say it again.

**Dee:** Hi, everyone! How many of you have brothers and sisters at home?

*[Encourage audience to respond.]*

**Cy:** How many of you know it's sometimes hard to get along with brothers and sisters?

*[Encourage audience to respond.]*

**Dee:** I don't have brothers or sisters, but I know that it can be hard to get along with others.

**Paul:** That's what our story today is all about—why it's important to get along, and just who your brothers and sisters really are.

**Cy:** Dee, will you help us out by pretending to be Paul's mom?

**Dee:** Of course!

**Cy:** Let's get started.

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

### SCRIPT

*[Dee is onstage, wearing the woman's hat as Mrs. Shepherd. Enter Paul, stomping.]*

**Paul:** I've had it! I've had it, had it, had it!

**Dee:** Well, Paul, from the sound of that, I'd say you'd had enough of something.

**Paul:** Yes, I have! *[Puts his hands on his hips.]* I've had enough of Cy!

**Dee:** Well, that's a little surprising. This morning you couldn't wait to go over to his house. In fact, you were in such a hurry you forgot to take your breakfast dishes to the sink.”

**Paul:** Oh, sorry.

**Dee:** Now, what's happened that's made you so upset at Cy?

**Paul:** He's so selfish! He only wants to play games that he thinks of. If I think of something for us to do, he says no. He never plays any games when they're my idea!

**Dee:** Was there a specific game you wanted to play today that he didn't want to play?

**Paul:** We had just finished watching cartoons, and I asked if he wanted to play basketball. “No,” he said. “Go home and get your baseball glove and let's play catch.”

**Dee:** You like playing catch, Paul.

**Paul:** I used to like to play catch, but that's all Cy ever wants to do anymore! We just played catch yesterday!

**Dee:** I think I know why Cy wants to play catch all the time. I talked to his mom yesterday. He's trying out for a new baseball team this week, and he's very nervous.

**Paul:** Oh, yeah. He told me about that.

**Dee:** He probably just wants to practice before the tryout. But, Paul, I want you to remember something that's more important than baseball or basketball.

**Paul:** What, Mom?

**Dee:** I know that your feelings were hurt. But Jesus wants his followers to stick together, even during the hard times. Do you know that Jesus says that the people who follow Him are a family?

**Paul:** Really?

**Dee:** *[Nods.]* So you and Cy are brothers in God's family—the same way that you and Mike and Mark are brothers in our family. That doesn't mean you never disagree, but no matter what your differences are, you'll always be brothers.

**Paul:** And Cy and me—we'll always be brothers in God's family?

**Dee:** *[Nods.]* Yes.

**Paul:** *[Sighs.]* I guess I have a brother I need to apologize to. I'd better go and get my baseball glove.

*[Dee gives Paul a hug. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

*[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul]*

**Cy:** Well, that was very interesting.

**Dee:** Why's that?

**Cy:** Because that play was all about me, and I wasn't even in it!

**Paul:** You know what else is interesting, Dee?

**Dee:** What?

**Paul:** That you actually have lots and lots and lots of brothers and sisters.

**Cy:** That's right—God's family is full of brothers and sisters in Jesus.

**Dee:** Cool! So you guys are my brothers, too!

**Paul:** Exactly!

**Cy:** And God wants His kids to stick together. That doesn't mean that we'll always get along all the time, but it does mean that forgiving each other and sticking together means more than anything else.

**Paul:** Including whether to play basketball or baseball.

**Dee:** We'll see you next time, kids!

**Cy & Paul:** Goodbye!

*[Curtain.]*



**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.

Paul was trying to get Cy’s attention as Sunday school class was about to begin, and threw a small stuffed animal at him. Cy reacted by throwing another stuffed animal back. Suddenly, the whole class erupted into a stuffed animal fight! “What’s going on?” said Mr. Jeff, the teacher. “Who started the throwing?” Cy and Paul crawled out from under the table where they had taken cover. They were in big trouble now!

**Conclusion** (5 minutes)

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

After taking the rest of Cy and Paul’s class to worship time, Mr. Jeff returned to the classroom. Cy and Paul immediately apologized, afraid they were in big trouble. Mr. Jeff laughed, and explained that they weren’t in big trouble—things just got a little out of hand. But Mr. Jeff also reminded them that while it’s okay to have fun, it’s not okay if having fun becomes more important than learning about God. And the other kids in the class looked up to Cy and Paul.

“Hey, Cy,” Paul said as he flipped the pages of a new book in their Sunday school class. “Check this out!”

Paul looked across the room to where Cy was working on a puzzle. He hadn’t heard Paul call to him.

Cy and Paul were waiting for Sunday school to start. Most of the class had arrived and were enjoying free time before the lesson began. Paul looked around and saw a small stuffed elephant on a table nearby. When he was sure Mr. Jeff wasn’t looking, he threw it at the back at Cy’s head.

“Hey!” Cy said, looking behind him. Paul grinned.

“Oh, yeah?” Cy said, and grabbed a stuffed sheep. He threw it back across the room at Paul.

“Stuffed animal fight!” shouted another student. Cy and Paul looked at each other with wide eyes, then ducked under a table. They watched as the other kids raced to find stuffed animals and threw them around the room.

“Hey—what’s going on here?” said Mr. Jeff suddenly. “When did everyone start acting so silly?”

The kids just laughed. “It’s time to settle down,” said Mr. Jeff, ducking a green elephant that sailed past him. “No, really,” Mr. Jeff explained. “Settle down. It’s time to go to worship with the other classes. But first, who started the throwing?”

Cy and Paul crawled out from under the table they were hiding under, and raised their hands.

“Okay,” said Mr. Jeff. You two hang out here for a minute while I take the other kids to worship.”

Mr. Jeff led his class to worship time. Cy and Paul looked at each other nervously. They were going to be in huge trouble! Soon, Mr. Jeff came back.

“Mr. Jeff—we’re really sorry!” Paul said.

“Yeah,” Cy agreed. “It will never happen again!”

“Whoa, whoa!” Mr. Jeff said, laughing. “Hang on! It’s okay—things just got a little out of hand, that’s all.”

“So we’re not in big trouble?” Paul wondered.

“Paul, this isn’t school,” said Mr. Jeff. “I can’t send you to see the principal. But,” he continued, “This is also not the playground.”

“What do you mean?” asked Cy.

“It’s good to have fun while you’re at church,” Mr. Jeff explained. “God loves it when people are happy. But it’s also important to remember that having fun should never get in the way of learning about God. Besides,” he continued, “The other kids look up to you guys. So if you’re goofing off, they think it’s okay for everyone to goof off.”

“Oh,” said Paul. “But it’s still okay to have fun, right?”

“It’s a requirement in my class,” answered Mr. Jeff, smiling. “Now, let’s join the rest of the class.”

Paul and Cy smiled and joined their teacher as they walked to worship.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Setting an Example"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

### SCRIPT

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

**Dee:** Hi, guys!

**Paul:** Hi, Dee! Welcome home!

**Cy:** How was your trip to visit your cousins?

**Dee:** It was a great time. Since I don't have brothers or sisters, it's a very special treat for me to be able to spend time with other kids.

**Cy:** Well, you can borrow my little sister anytime.

**Paul:** Yeah—if you ever feel like you'd like an older brother or sister, just let me know.

**Dee:** *[Laughs.]* How was church and Sunday school yesterday?

*[Paul and Cy look at each other.]*

**Cy:** Uh, my weekend was great, thanks!

**Paul:** Yeah, um, me, too! So, what should we do today?

**Cy:** Well, it's supposed to be nice outside, so maybe we could go to the park...

**Dee:** Wait, wait, wait! What about church? How was Sunday school yesterday?

*[Paul and Cy look at each other again, then down at their feet.]*

**Cy:** Uh, the story was really good.

**Paul:** Yeah! And I found a really cool new book in our classroom!

**Cy:** Paul! Shh!

**Dee:** What? What's the big deal about the book?

**Cy:** Well, the book is sort of what started the fight.

**Dee:** Fight? There was a fight in Sunday school?

**Paul:** Not a real fight....

**Cy:** Yeah. It was just a stuffed animal fight.

**Dee:** Wow. Who started it?

*[Cy and Paul point at each other.]*

**Cy & Paul:** *[In unison.]* He did! *[They laugh.]*

**Dee:** I'm not quite sure I understand....

**Cy:** Well, Paul was looking at the new book he found. He called my name to show it to me, but I didn't hear him.

**Paul:** So I took a little stuffed elephant and threw it at Cy. That got his attention!

**Cy:** I picked up a little stuffed sheep and threw it back across the room at Paul....

**Paul:** The next thing I knew, stuffed animals were flying everywhere! All the kids were throwing them at each other!

**Dee:** What did you guys do?

**Cy:** We hid under a table.

**Dee:** What did Mr. Jeff do?

**Paul:** He couldn't figure out why everyone suddenly started acting so silly! He told everyone to settle down. It was time to go to worship with the other classes.

**Cy:** But first, he wanted to know who started the throwing.

**Paul:** So we crawled out from under the table and raised our hands.

**Dee:** Uh-oh. You guys were in a lot of trouble, weren't you?

**Cy:** That's what we thought, too. We waited while Mr. Jeff took the rest of the class down the hall to the worship room.

**Paul:** I was so afraid! When Mr. Jeff came back, we both said we were sorry right away.

**Cy:** And that it would never happen again.

**Dee:** What did Mr. Jeff say?

**Paul:** Well, he...laughed.

**Dee:** He what?

**Cy:** He laughed. He said it was okay, that things just got a little out of hand.

**Dee:** So you weren't in big trouble?

**Paul:** We were surprised, too. Mr. Jeff said that we weren't in school—he couldn't send us to the principal.

**Cy:** But he reminded us that it wasn't the playground, either.

**Dee:** What did he mean?

**Paul:** He explained that it's good to have fun at church. God loves it when people are happy.

**Cy:** But it's also important to remember that having fun should never get in the way of learning about God.

**Dee:** I think Mr. Jeff is right. And besides—the other kids in our Sunday school class kind of look up to you guys. So if you're goofing off, they think it's okay for everyone to goof off.

**Cy:** That's just what Mr. Jeff said.

**Paul:** He also said it was still okay to have fun in class.

**Cy:** It's a requirement in his class.

**Dee:** Well, that's good news. I love church and I love our Sunday school class, but I love learning about God most of all.

**Cy:** Me, too!

**Paul:** Me, three!

**Dee:** Now didn't someone say something about going to the park?

**Cy & Paul:** Let's go!

*[Dee, Cy, and Paul exit. Curtain.]*



**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 and Paul had never seen so many people gathered in their local park. “Stay close, kids,” Mr. Shepherd said as he led them through the crowd towards the large stage. Paul’s dad had arranged for a large church service to take place in the park, with many local churches represented. Staying where they were instructed so they wouldn’t get lost, Dee, Cy, and Paul discussed the immense gathering. Suddenly, Dee was reminded of something...

**Conclusion** (5 minutes)

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

Dee remembered that the Bible tells us that when we get to heave, all creation will be there worshiping Jesus. Paul and Cy were amazed—the whole park was filled with people, and that was just some of the people from one town. What would it be like to see and hear all of creation worshiping Jesus in heaven? Dee, Cy, and Paul could hardly imagine. This service in the park could be their first small taste of heaven.

“Look at all these people!” Dee said, holding on tightly to Chip’s leash. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen so many people at the park at the same time!”

“Yeah—and look at the size of that stage!” Cy agreed, looking at the stage that had been set up on the soccer field. “It’s the biggest stage I’ve ever seen!”

“Stay close, kids,” instructed Mr. Shepherd. “It would be easy to get lost in this crowd.”

Dee, Cy, and Paul, along with Chip, all walked a little closer to Mr. Shepherd. Paul’s dad, who was also the pastor of their church, had arranged for almost all the churches in town to have a church service together. So on this warm morning, thousands of people had gathered together in the park for the service.

“Okay, kids, I want you to stay here,” Mr. Shepherd instructed them when they had reached the base of the huge, black stage. “Mrs. Shepherd will meet us here in a few minutes. I have to talk to some of the other pastors for a few moments.”

“Sure, Dad,” said Paul as Dee and Cy nodded. Chip sat down in the grass and looked around at the sea of legs around him. None of them wanted to get lost in this crowd!

“I never imagined there were so many people in our whole town!” said Dee.

“Me, either,” agreed Paul. “And these are just the people from the churches who wanted to join!”

“I wonder what it will be like to hear everyone singing together,” Cy said.

“Yeah—actually, Cy, that reminds me of something!” Dee said suddenly.

“Really? What?” wondered Cy.

“Heaven!” said Dee. “The Bible says that in heaven, all creation will be there worshipping Jesus.”

“Wow,” said Paul, looking around again at the crowd. The whole park—every direction he looked—was filled with people. “This is only some of the people from one town.”

“Heaven must be huge!” said Cy.

“I can’t wait to see it,” Dee said breathlessly. “And I can’t wait to hear it!”

“Well, today might be our first taste of what heaven will actually be like,” said Paul. “And look—here comes my mom! It must be almost time to start!”

As Mrs. Shepherd arrived, Dee, Cy, and Paul anxiously awaited the beginning of the service, and their first small taste of heaven.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Praise in the Park"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need several pairs of adult-sized jeans and pants, a small pet leash, and a rubber band.*

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Cy:** Hi, kids! Today's story is about one of my favorite places—heaven!

**Dee:** I love thinking about heaven. Sometimes I try to think about what it will be like.

**Paul:** I kind of wonder where it is. I mean—is it in the sky?

**Cy:** I'm not really sure, but the Bible does tell us a lot of things about heaven.

**Dee:** And that's what our story is about today. Is everyone ready?

*[Encourage audience to respond.]*

**Paul:** Let's get started!

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

### SCRIPT

*[Hang the pants from the top of the stage to suggest that Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip are in a large crowd. Enter Dee, Cy, Paul and Chip, who is attached to the leash. Use the rubber band to attach the leash to Dee's hand.]*

**Dee:** Look at all these people! Chip—stay close. I don't think I've ever seen so many people at the park at the same time.

**Cy:** Yeah—and look at the size of that stage they've set up on the soccer field! It's the biggest stage I've ever seen!

**Paul:** We should stick together. It would be easy to get lost in this crowd.

*[The kids and Chip move closer together.]*

**Dee:** Paul—what's this event all about again?

**Paul:** My dad and some of the other pastors of other churches in town decided to have a church service all together. But I didn't know there would be this many people here! *[Looks around.]* Okay, we should stay here. This is where my mom is supposed to meet us. The church service will start really soon.

**Cy:** Good idea.

**Dee:** I never imagined there were so many people in our whole town!

**Paul:** Me, either. And these are just the people from the churches who wanted to join!

**Cy:** I wonder what it will be like to hear everyone singing together.

**Dee:** Yeah—actually, Cy, that reminds me of something!

**Cy:** Really? What?

**Dee:** Heaven! The Bible says that in heaven, all creation will be there worshipping Jesus.

**Paul:** *[Looking around.]* Wow! That's amazing. The whole park—in every direction—is filled with people. And this is only some of the people from one town.

**Cy:** Heaven must be huge!

**Dee:** *[Breathless.]* I can't wait to see it. And I can't wait to hear it!

**Paul:** Well, today might be our first taste of what heaven will actually be like. And look—here comes my mom! It must be almost time to start!

**Cy:** Get ready for our first small taste of heaven!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Cy:** Wow—that was such a cool experience!

**Paul:** My dad and the other pastors thought so, too. We're going to try and have a church service in the park next summer, too!

**Dee:** Cool—another chance to experience a little of what heaven will be like.

**Cy:** That's right. We may not know everything about what heaven will be like...

**Paul:** But we do know that we will be there, and so will Jesus.

**Dee:** And all of creation will be praising Him!

**Cy:** We'll see you next time, kids!

**Dee & Paul:** 'Bye!

*[Curtain.]*