



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 waiting in line to get some snacks at the pool. They were watching the other children swim and play. Paul noticed the board titled “Pool Rules” and began to read them. They noticed that there are ten pool safety rules. While they waited, Paul and Cy saw some of those rules being broken. First, two kids were playing on the diving board together, and the lifeguard blew a whistle to get them to stop. Then they saw a little girl running on the pool deck. She was heading right for a water bottle someone left next to the pool. The whistle blew again. Would the child see the bottle and stop in time?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

The bottle tripped the little girl and she fell with a thump onto the cement. She wailed. Cy and Paul knew that the reason she got hurt was that two people had broken the rules—the person who left the bottle on the deck and the little girl who ran instead of walking. They knew that pools have rules to keep swimming safe and fun for everyone. Then Paul and Cy remembered that it is the same with God’s commandments. God gave his commandments to keep people safe and happy, and following his rules is best for everyone. Paul and Cy decided that obeying rules, especially God’s rules, is the best for them, too.

Paul watched as his older sister jumped off the diving board. “That’s her favorite thing to do at the pool,” he explained to Cy. “Every time we’re here, she jumps off and then waits in line to do it over and over again.”

They watched as other children jumped off the board.

Paul continued, “Sometimes the line gets really long. You have to wait until the person ahead of you swims to the ladder before getting on the board to jump off.”

“The diving board is fun, but there are too many rules. I’d rather do hand-stands,” said Cy. “I can walk on my hands underwater.”

“That’s so cool,” said Paul. “I’m going to try it when we get back in the pool.” He looked up at the snack menu. “What are you getting to eat?”

“My mom told me not to buy any candy, so I think I’ll get some popcorn. How about you?”

“Popcorn and lemonade.”

Paul noticed the large sign by the snack bar with the heading Pool Rules. Just then, the lifeguard blew her whistle. Paul turned and saw two children standing on the diving board at the same time.

Paul turned back and began reading the rules on the board:

Children under 10 must be supervised at all times.

No dunking, splashing, or rough play in the water.

No running on the deck.

No glass containers of any kind allowed in pool area.

All food and drink must be kept six feet from the water . . .

“There sure are a lot of rules to remember at the pool,” said Paul. “I guess they’re important to keep everyone safe.”

Cy looked at the board. “Look, there are ten rules, just like the Ten Commandments from God.”

“You’re right. I didn’t notice that. Just as the pool has ten safety rules that we need to obey, God gave us Ten Commandments that he wants us to obey,” said Paul.

They reached the front of the line and ordered their snacks. They had to wait for more popcorn to cook.

“While the popcorn cooks, do you want to race across the pool?” Cy asked.

“Sure,” said Paul, “But we can’t race until we’re in the water. Running on the deck is against the rules.”

Paul and Cy began walking towards the pool. Suddenly, they heard a squeal and turned to see a young child running on the pool deck. The lifeguard blew her whistle, but the child didn’t stop. As the whistle blew again, Paul gasped as the child tripped on a water bottle and fell on the hard deck. She began to cry.

“Ouch!” said Paul. “I feel badly for her, I know how much it hurts to fall on cement. I guess she didn’t know the rule about not running.”

“Yeah, and someone left a water bottle by the pool. That’s against the rules too,” said Cy.

“It’s really important for us to follow the rules at the pool, isn’t it? It keeps everyone safer and makes swimming more fun.”

“I guess the people who made the safety rules know what’s best,” said Cy.

“Yeah, and God knows what’s best for us,” said Paul.

“That’s why he gave us the rules in the Bible,” said Cy. “It’s really important for us to follow God’s rules.”

“You’re right,” said Paul as he got into the water. “Obeying the Ten Commandments will keep us safe and make life more fun, too. Ready to race?”

“Yes, but only if we stick to the rules!” said Cy.

“Okay. On your mark, get set, go!”

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Rules, Rules"

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 lifeguard whistle.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Paul: Hi, Dee! Are you coming to the pool?

Dee: I wouldn't miss it. Do you like swimming, kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: The pool is one of my favorite places.

Paul: We learn a lot there.

Cy: Yeah, about rules, especially God's rules.

Dee: How can you learn about God's rules at the pool?

Cy: We'll show you.

Paul: If you'll be the snack bar cashier.

Dee: Okay. We'll be right back, kids.

[All exit.]

SCRIPT

[Enter Paul and Cy.]

Paul: Look, my sister's jumping off the diving board again. Every time we're here, she does it over and over again.

Cy: A lot of people are waiting in line.

Paul: That line gets really long. You have to wait until the person ahead of you swims to the ladder before getting on the board to jump off.

Cy: The diving board is fun, but there are too many rules. I'd rather do handstands. I can walk on my hands underwater.

Paul: That's so cool. I'll try it when we get back in. *[Looks up.]* There are lots of choices on the snack bar menu. What are you getting?

Cy: *[Looks up.]* My mom said not to buy candy, so I'll get popcorn. How about you?

Paul: Popcorn and lemonade. *[Looks right.]* Look, there are the pool rules.

[A lifeguard whistle sounds offstage.]

Paul: *[Looks left.]* Oops!

Cy: *[Looks left.]* I guess those kids didn't know that only one person can be on the diving board at a time.

Paul: I wonder if it's on the list of pool rules. Let's see . . . "Children under 10 must be supervised at all times. No dunking, splashing, or rough play in the water. No running on deck. No glass containers of any kind allowed in pool area. All food and drink must be kept six feet from the water. Only one person allowed on diving board at a time . . ." There sure are a lot of rules to remember at the pool. I guess they're important to keep everyone safe.

Cy: Look, there are ten rules, just like the Ten Commandments from God.

Paul: You're right. I didn't notice that. Ten safety rules for the pool and Ten Commandments from God.

Cy: Hey, before we eat, do you want to race across the pool?

Paul: Sure, but we can't race until we're in the water. Running on the deck is against the rules.

Cy: We'll walk then.

[Paul and Cy cross the stage.]

[A lifeguard whistle sounds offstage.]

Paul: Oh no! That little girl is running.

[A lifeguard whistle sounds offstage.]

Cy: Why isn't she stopping? Look out for that water bottle!

[A lifeguard whistle sounds offstage.]

Paul: *[Gasps.]* Ouch! She just tripped and fell down.

Cy: She's crying. I don't blame her.

Paul: I don't either. I know how much it hurts to fall on cement. I guess she didn't know the rule about not running.

Cy: Yeah, and someone left a water bottle by the pool. That's against the rules too.

Paul: It's really important for us to follow the rules at the pool. It keeps everyone safer and makes swimming more fun.

Cy: I guess the people who made the safety rules know what's best.

Paul: Yeah, and God knows what's best for us.

Cy: That's why he gave us the rules in the Bible. It's really important for us to follow them.

Paul: You're right. Obeying the Ten Commandments will keep us safe and make life more fun, too. *[Ducks down, as if climbing into the water.]* Hop in. The water feels great!

[Cy ducks down.]

Paul: Ready to race?

Cy: Yes, but only if we stick to the rules!

Paul: Okay. On your mark, get set, go!

[Paul and Cy rush off stage as if they are racing. Curtain.]

APPLICATION

[Dee, Cy, and Paul enter.]

Dee: Your story convinced me. I'm going to follow the rules from now on—especially God's rules.

Cy: Me too.

Paul: Hey, kids, how about you? Do you believe that rules are important?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: That's great! Don't forget that the most important rules are God's commandments.

Cy: See you next time!

[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 her mother were shopping at the local superstore for Dee’s grandmother, who was sick with cancer. She would sit outside every day to get fresh air, but she had nothing to look at. Dee and Mrs. Morgan were trying to find nice things for decorating Grandma’s yard. Dee rounded a corner and almost knocked Paul down. He was there shopping with his dad. Paul offered to help Dee and her mother find something for Dee’s grandmother. Dee and Paul saw some strange decorations. What were they? And would they ever find something nice for Dee’s grandmother?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

At the superstore, Dee found a statue of a funny-looking man and Paul found a poem written to Mother Earth. Paul’s dad explained that some people worship the earth as a god. The statue was supposed to be a god, too. Dee was sad to learn that people would worship a statue that can’t do anything, instead of the real God who can do everything. Paul was upset that people worship the earth God created, instead of worshipping God who created the earth. Suddenly, Dee knew what Grandma would like—a birdbath, bird feeder, and some flowers. That way, Grandma could enjoy something real and alive—like the one true God.

Dee followed her mom into the local superstore. “I like shopping, Mom, don’t you?”

“Yes,” her mom said, giving her a hug, “especially with you.”

“Look at that cool hat,” said Dee. “And they have new shirts. May I try one?”

“You may,” said her mother. “But first, we must find some nice decorations for Grandma’s yard. She needs pretty things to look at now that she has to rest because of her cancer.”

“I’ll help you look,” said Dee. She wanted so much to help her grandma feel better.

Dee and her mom went up and down the aisles. They found all sorts of decorations. “How about this picture?” asked Dee.

Her mother stopped to look. “That would be nice inside the house, but we need something for Grandma to enjoy when she sits outside in the fresh air. The outdoor decorations must be around here somewhere. Let’s try this next aisle.”

Dee ran around the corner and bumped into Paul. He almost fell down. “Oops, I’m sorry.” She stopped. “Hey Paul, it’s you! What are you doing here?”

“Just looking around a little. I’m here with Dad buying stuff for the lawn. How about you?”

“Mom and I came to find things for my Grandma to look at when she rests outside.”

“Wow, that’s a good idea,” said Paul. “Do you mind if I help?”

“That would be great,” said Dee.

Just then, Mrs. Morgan rounded the corner. “Well hello, Paul,” she said. “It’s nice to see you.”

“Hi, Mrs. Morgan. I’m going to help you and Dee look for decorations for your mother’s yard.”

“Thank you, Paul. Why don’t you two check this aisle, and I’ll try the next one.”

Dee and Paul walked down the aisle, looking at items on both sides.

“Do you like this?” asked Paul, pointing

to a statue of a dog.

“Hey, that looks like Chip,” said Dee. “What’s this statue of the funny-looking man? Why would people put that in a garden?”

“Who knows? Here’s a poem to ‘Mother Earth,’ as if the earth is a person or something.”

Mr. Shepherd came up behind them. “Some people actually worship the earth as a god. That statue is supposed to be a god, too.”

Dee turned to him. “Why? Don’t those people know God?”

“The only real God?” Paul added.

“No, they don’t,” said Mr. Shepherd.

“That makes me want to cry,” said Dee. “They worship a statue that can’t do anything, instead of God who’s alive and can do everything.”

Paul asked, “Why would people worship the earth, instead of worshipping God who created the earth?”

“I don’t know. It’s very sad,” said Mr. Shepherd. “The first commandment requires that we acknowledge one and only one God. That’s why it’s so important to tell people about Him.”

“Yeah,” said Paul and Dee together.

“I’ll let you two keep looking,” said Mr. Shepherd. “Paul, I’ll meet you on aisle six.”

“Okay, Dad.”

Dee thought hard. “People need the real, living God, and my grandma needs real, living things.” She pointed to a birdbath.

“Birds!” said Paul.

“Yes,” said Dee. “We’ll get a birdbath, so Grandma can watch the birds.”

“And a bird feeder,” suggested Paul.

“Great idea,” said Dee. “That way she’ll have something real and alive.”

“Like the one true God,” said Paul.

Dee smiled. “Perfect! Thanks for helping me, Paul. Let’s go find Mom.”

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Only One"

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 wig and a man's tie.

INTRODUCTION

Dee: Hey, kids, do you like buying presents for people?

[Wait for audience response.]

Paul: It's fun trying to find the perfect gift.

Cy: Like the time you helped Dee shop for her grandmother.

Dee: That's right. Remember, Paul?

Paul: I sure do. Let's tell the kids about it.

Cy: I'll be Paul's father. *[Pause.]* But who will be Dee's mother?

Dee: Chip can do it, if you'll say the words.

Cy: Okay. I'll use a high voice for Dee's mother and a low voice for Paul's dad.

Paul: Let's go get Chip.

Dee: Okay, see you in a minute, kids!

SCRIPT

[Enter Dee and Chip, wearing a wig as Mrs. Morgan. Cy can be seen, just offstage, speaking in a high voice as Mrs. Morgan.]

Dee: I like shopping, Mom, don't you?

Chip (and Cy): Yes, especially with you.

Dee: Look at that cool hat. And the new shirts. May I try one?

Chip (and Cy): You may. But first, we must find decorations for Grandma's yard. She needs pretty things to look at while she rests because of her cancer.

Dee: I'll help you look. How about this picture?

Chip (and Cy): That would work inside the house, but we need something for when she sits outside. Outdoor decorations must be here somewhere. Let's try the next aisle.

Dee: Okay.

[Dee runs across the stage just as Paul enters. She bumps into him.]

Dee: Oops, I'm sorry. *[Pauses.]* Hey, Paul, it's you! What are you doing here?"

Paul: Just looking around. I'm here with Dad. How about you?"

Dee: Mom and I came to find things for my grandma to look at when she rests outside.

Paul: That's a good idea. Can I help?

Dee: Sure.

Chip (and Cy): *[Joins them.]* Hello, Paul. It's nice to see you.

Paul: Hi, Mrs. Morgan. I'm going to help you find decorations for your mother's yard.

Chip (and Cy): Thank you, Paul. Why don't you two check this aisle, and I'll check the next one.

[Chip exits as Dee and Paul walk across the stage as if looking at objects on store shelves.]

Paul: Do you like this statue of a dog?

Dee: Hey, that looks like Chip. What's this statue of the funny-looking man? Why would people put that in a garden?

Paul: Who knows? Here's a poem to Mother Earth, as if the earth is a person or something."

[Enter Cy, wearing a tie as Mr. Shepherd. He comes up behind Dee and Paul.]

Cy: Some people actually worship the earth as a god. That statue is supposed to be a god, too.

Dee: Why? Don't those people know God?

Paul: The only real God?

Cy: No, they don't.

Dee: That makes me want to cry. They worship a statue that can't do anything instead of God who's alive and can do everything.

Paul: Why do people worship the earth, instead of worshiping God who created the earth?

Cy: I don't know. It's very sad. The first commandment requires that we acknowledge one and only one God. That's why it's so important to tell people about Him.

Dee and Paul: Yeah.

Cy: I'll let you two keep looking. Paul, I'll meet you on aisle six.

Paul: Okay, Dad.

Dee: Hmm. People need the real, living God, and my grandma needs real, living things, too. I know, how about that? *[Points.]*

Paul: Birds!

Dee: Yes, we'll get a birdbath, so Oma can watch the birds.

Paul: And a bird feeder.

Dee: Great idea. That way she'll get to watch something real and alive.

Paul: Real and alive like the one true God.

Dee: Perfect! Thanks for helping me, Paul. Let's go find Mom.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Dee: We found just the right presents for my grandma.

Paul: We helped bring colorful birds into her yard.

Cy: She sure likes watching them eat and take baths.

Dee: And hearing them chirp and sing every day.

Paul: It's because they're alive, and not just stiff statues.

Cy: God is alive, too. And He's the one true God.

Dee: He's not a statue.

Paul: And He's not the earth, sun, moon, or stars, either.

Cy: God created all those things. And knowing Him is the best present anyone could ever get.

Paul: So let's tell everyone we know about him, okay kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: See you next time!

[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.

Cy was on his way to baseball practice when Dee called to him. He didn't notice. His mind was on becoming a baseball hero, because baseball was his favorite activity. Dee reminded him of his promise to help in her grandmother's garden that afternoon. Cy said he'd come, but Dee wondered if he would remember. Next she went to Paul's house to remind him to come help. He was playing a video game and his man was about to be destroyed. He asked Dee to wait. After half an hour, Dee gave up and left. Would Cy and Paul meet her at Grandma's as they promised? Or would she have to do all the work alone?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee waited at her grandmothers for the boys, but they didn't come. While her grandmother watched the birds, Dee weeded and watered the garden alone. She couldn't understand why Paul and Cy had put playing games ahead of helping someone in need and keeping a promise. Her grandmother explained that sometimes people enjoy things too much and forget about what's most important. She said that the most important thing is putting God first. The second commandment requires that we do not worship anyone but God. Dee realized that sometimes she cared too much about things, too. The boys finally came. They apologized for ignoring her and forgetting their promise. All the children realized that they needed to make sure to keep God first.

Cy rushed toward the baseball field for practice.

"Hi Cy," Dee called, but Cy was dreaming of becoming a baseball hero. "Cy!" Dee called again.

Cy ran after an imaginary fly ball. He jumped to catch it. "Got it!" he said, rolling on the ground. Dee stood over him.

"Are you okay?" she asked.

"Uh, sure, I'm fine," said Cy. "I'm just practicing baseball. You know baseball is my life."

"Will you still help me with my grandmother's garden this afternoon?"

Cy was thinking about baseball again..

"What? Oh, yeah, garden. Sure," he said.

Dee frowned. "Okay, I'll see you at Grandma's at 4:00."

"Right. See ya!" Cy pretended to hit a home run and then ran towards the field.

Dee watched him. "I hope he remembers," she said to herself. Next she went to Paul's house. He was playing a video game. "Hi, Paul," she said.

But Paul's man was about to be destroyed. "Hi, Dee," he said. "Just a minute."

The minute turned into fifteen. Finally Dee said, "I came to remind you . . ."

"Shh, wait till I get this guy," said Paul.

Dee waited another fifteen minutes. Finally, she left. Paul didn't seem to notice.

That afternoon at 4:00, she waited for the boys in her grandmother's yard. By 4:15, they had not come, so she weeded the garden alone.

Dee's grandmothers sat outside watching the birds. "Thank you, Dee, for making my garden so beautiful. Where are Paul and Cy today?"

"Cy is playing baseball, and Paul was too busy playing a video game to even notice me," said Dee.

"Oh," said Grandma.

"I don't understand why they're so

caught up in video games and baseball. It's like they don't care about what really matters." Dee smelled a flower.

"Sometimes that happens when people really enjoy something," said Grandma. "And it's okay to enjoy things like sports and games as long as we don't put them above God. The second commandment requires that we do not worship anything but God. That means giving him first place in everything—our hearts, thoughts, time, and actions."

"I never really thought about that. So when I spend too much time on something or it becomes too important to me, then it takes the place that God should have in my life—first place," said Dee.

After Grandma went inside for a nap, Paul and Cy came running into the yard.

"Dee, I am so sorry I forgot my promise to help," said Cy. "I was so excited about baseball that I let it become more important than serving someone else."

"And I should have stopped that video game. I am sorry for ignoring you when you came over, said Paul."

"That's okay," said Dee. "Maybe it's good that it happened, because Grandma just helped me learn something very important."

"Really?" said Paul.

"I learned the second commandment tells us not to put anything above God."

"I was in danger of doing that today," said Paul. "Video games should never be more important than loving your friends and following God."

Cy nodded, "You know, baseball has been too important to me. It's my favorite game, but it's nothing compared to loving and serving God and the people we care about."

"So, do you mind if we help?" asked Paul.

"Yeah, I am ready!" said Cy.

"Great! I'll finish the flowers and you can refill the bird feeder and clean the birdbath," said Dee. "Then we'll all have some lemonade with Grandma."

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "God Above All"

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 baseball cap for Cy and a gray wig for Paul.

INTRODUCTION

Dee: Hey, kids! What do you like to do in your free time?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: Those are all great. Baseball is my favorite.

Paul: I have a lot of favorites. Cy, do you remember when some favorite activities got in the way more important things?

Cy: Yeah, I learned an important lesson.

Dee: We all did.

Paul: Hey, lets show the kids.

Dee: Great idea, but someone will have to play my grandmother.

Paul: I'll do it. I can wear a wig.

Dee: Okay!

SCRIPT

[Dee enters. Then Cy, wearing a baseball cap, rushes onstage.]

Cy: And it could be a home run. Will Cy catch it?

Dee: Hi Cy.

Cy: *[Ignores Dee and goes past her.]* He's running! It's going to be close!

Dee: Cy!

Cy: *[Keeps going, jumps in the air, and rolls as if catching a ball.]* Got it! *[Looks up.]* Oh, hi Dee.

Dee: Are you okay?

Cy: Uh, sure. I'm just practicing baseball. You know baseball is my life.

Dee: Will you still help me with my grandmother's garden this afternoon?

Cy: *[Runs in a circle.]* And it's a home run by Yung!

Dee: Cy?

Cy: What? Oh, yeah, garden. Sure.

Dee: Okay, I'll see you at Grandma's at 4:00.

Cy: Right. See ya! *[Exits.]*

Dee: I hope he remembers. I'd better go remind Paul, too. *[Exits.]*

[Paul enters and sits staring straight ahead as if at a video game. Dee enters.]

Dee: Hi, Paul. What video game are you playing?

Paul: Hi, Dee. Just a minute, I've got to finish this. *[Moves side to side as if moving with the game. Dee waits. Pause.]*

Dee: Um, Paul, I just came to remind you—

Paul: Shh, wait till I get this guy. *[Pause.]*

Dee: Well, I guess I'll see you at 4:00.

[Dee exits. Paul plays a moment, then curtain. Dee enters. Looks around.]

Dee: Well, it's already 4:15. I guess they are not coming. *[Paul wearing a wig as Dee's Grandma enters.]*

Dee: Hi, Grandma. I finished weeding your garden. Are you enjoying the birds?

Paul: Yes, I am. Thank you, Dee, for making my garden so beautiful. Where are Paul and Cy today?

Dee: Cy is playing baseball. Paul was too busy playing a video game to even notice me.

Paul: Oh.

Dee: I don't understand why they're so caught up in video games and baseball. It's as if they don't care about what really matters.

Paul: Sometimes that happens when people really enjoy something. It's okay to enjoy things like sports and games as long as we don't put them above God. The second commandment requires that we do not worship anything but God. That means giving him first place in everything—our hearts, thoughts, time, and actions.

Dee: I never thought about that. So when I spend too much time on something or it becomes too important to me, then it takes the place that God should have in my life—first place.

Paul: That's right. I'm going inside to

take a rest. Thank you again, Dee.

[Paul exits. Paul as himself and Cy come rushing in.]

Cy: Dee, I am so sorry I forgot my promise to help. I was so excited about baseball that I let it become more important than serving someone else.

Paul: And I should have stopped that video game. I am sorry for ignoring you when you came over, said Paul.

Dee: That's okay. Maybe it's good that it happened, because Grandma just helped me learn something very important.

Paul: Really?

Dee: I learned how the second commandment tells us not to put anything above God.

Paul: I was in danger of doing that today. Video games should never be more important than loving your friends and following God.

Cy: You know, baseball is too important to me. It's my favorite game, but it's nothing compared to loving and serving God and the people we care about.

Paul: So, do you mind if we help?

Cy: Yeah, I am ready!

Dee: Great! I'll finish the flowers and you can refill the bird feeder and clean the birdbath. Then we'll all have some lemonade with Grandma.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Paul: I enjoyed helping your grandmother.

Cy: I'm so glad I learned about the second commandment—we shouldn't worship anything above God.

Paul: That's right. God requires that we put him first.

Dee: Above anything or anyone else.

Cy: Hey, kids, are you going to put God first this week?

[Wait for audience response.]

Paul: Great! See you next time.

[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, Cy, and Dee watched the rain from the window in Paul’s family room. They were supposed to go to the zoo, but now they would have to spend the day inside. Cy asked Paul if Mrs. Shepherd might let them rent a movie and make popcorn. But Paul wasn’t sure. He knew that his parents wanted him to honor God all the time, even in his entertainment. They only allow him to watch movies that do not dishonor God or show people disobeying God’s commandments. The children decided to make a list of movies they would like to see. Paul planned to take the list to his mother. But would she approve of any of their choices and let them rent a video, or would they have to find something else to do inside?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul asked his mother if they could rent a movie and make popcorn. He showed her the children’s list of movies. His mom was proud of him for remembering that she would have to approve any movie he watched. She used her computer to look up online reviews of the movies. She told Paul that she wanted to be sure that the people in the movies do not talk badly about God or dishonor His name, since the third commandment requires that we do not take God’s name in vain. At last, his mother found a good movie. Paul hurried to tell the others.

Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip sat watching the rain make blurry stripes on the window.

“I’m sorry we couldn’t go to the zoo today,” said Paul.

“Maybe we could look for animal shapes in the rain on the window,” said Dee.

“Hey Paul, do you think your mom would let us make popcorn and rent a movie?” Cy asked.

“That sounds like fun,” said Dee.

“She’d have to approve the movie,” said Paul. “Then she’d have to drive us to the video store.”

Chip ran over to the door and started barking.

“No, Chip,” said Cy. “We’re not going anywhere yet.”

“Why does your mother have to approve the movie?” asked Dee. “Can’t we just look at the rating?”

Chip moped back to his place.

“Do you remember that we learned about how important it is to honor God in everything?” asked Paul.

Cy and Dee nodded.

“Well, Mom and Dad say that includes our entertainment,” said Paul. “They want to be sure that the characters in the movies do not do or say things that dishonor God or go against his commandments.”

“Okay, then let’s write down some movies we’d like to see,” suggested Cy.

“That’s a good idea,” said Paul. “Then I’ll go ask my mom if any of them are okay.”

“That sounds good to me,” said Dee.

After the children made a list, Paul found his mom sitting at her desk, writing.

“Excuse me, Mom, since it is raining and we couldn’t go to the zoo, would it be okay for us to make some popcorn and rent a movie?”

“That would be fine with me.”

“Thanks Mom. I knew you would want to approve the movie, so we made a list.”

“That was a wise thing to do. I’m proud of you for remembering. I’ll check some reviews online to see if any of these are okay to watch.” Paul’s mom entered a web address into the computer.

Paul stood by her chair. “Mom, what are you looking for in the reviews?”

“One of the main things I’m checking for is how they talk about God and how they treat His name. The third commandment requires that we do not use God’s name in vain. That means that using His name casually in the same way that you would say ‘Oh my goodness’ is not honoring to Him.”

“I never thought about it that way,” said Paul.

“God is holy and His name is holy. We are being obedient to Him when we speak about Him and say His name with respect.” Paul’s mom turned from her computer. “I think I’ve found a good choice. Let’s all go pick up the movie. I’ll go tell Dad we’re leaving.”

“Okay, thanks Mom!” Paul hurried back to the family room. Dee, Cy, and Chip were still watching the rain.

“What did she say?” asked Cy.

“Mom chose one of the movies we wrote down. Some of the others did not honor the Lord’s name, because the people in the movie used His name like a bad word.”

“That’s awful!” said Dee. “I don’t want to hear people doing that.”

“Neither do I,” said Cy. “We definitely want to honor the Lord’s name.”

Paul grabbed his coat. “Now we’re ready, Chip. Let’s go get the movie!”

Chip barked and ran to the door as the other children put on their coats.

“When we get home, we’ll make popcorn,” said Paul.

“And while we’re out, let’s buy some treats for Chip,” said Dee.

Chip barked as they all went out the door.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "God's Holy Name"

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 small laptop computer or a box made to look like one and a scarf for Dee.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Paul: Hey, kids, what do you do on rainy days?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: Those are great ideas!

Dee: Sometimes we play games, read, or play with Chip.

Cy: Remember the time we asked Paul's mom if we could rent a movie?

Paul: I wasn't sure she'd let us.

Dee: Why not? Oh, I remember. It was an important reason.

Cy: Let's tell the kids about it.

Dee: I'll have to be your mom and myself. I'll wear a scarf to be your mom.

Paul: And we need Chip. He was there, too.

Dee: We'll be right back, kids!

[Exit Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

SCRIPT

[Enter Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip. They gaze out as if looking out a window. Chip lounges on the edge of the stage.]

Paul: I'm sorry we couldn't go to the zoo today.

Dee: Maybe we could look for animal shapes in the rain on the window.

Cy: Hey Paul, do you think your mom would let us make popcorn and rent a movie?

Dee: That sounds like fun.

Paul: She'd have to approve the movie and drive us to the video store.

[Chip runs over to the side of the stage as if standing at a door, and barks.]

Cy: No, Chip. We're not going anywhere

yet.

[Chip mopes back to his place.]

Dee: Why does your mother have to approve the movie? Can't we just look at the rating?

Paul: Do you remember that we learned about how important it is to honor God in everything?

Cy and Dee: Yes.

Paul: Mom and Dad say that includes our entertainment. They want to be sure that the characters in the movies do not do or say things that dishonor God or go against his commandments.

Cy: Okay, then let's write down some movies we'd like to see.

Paul: Good idea. Then I'll go ask my mom if any of them are okay. Let's go find some paper and a pencil.

[All exit. A laptop computer is placed on-stage. Enter Dee, wearing a scarf as Mrs. Shepherd. Enter Paul.]

Paul: Excuse me, Mom, since it is raining and we couldn't go to the zoo, would it be okay for us to make some popcorn and rent a movie?

Dee: That's fine with me.

Paul: Thanks, Mom. I knew you needed to approve the movie, so we made a list.

Dee: That was a wise thing to do. I'm proud of you for remembering. I'll check some reviews online to see if any of these are okay to watch. *[Looks at the laptop.]*

Paul: Mom, what are you looking for in the reviews?

Dee: One of the main things I'm checking is how they talk about God and treat His name. The third commandment requires that we do not use God's name in vain. That means that using His name casually in the same way that you would say "Oh my goodness" is not honoring to Him.

Paul: I never thought about it that way.

Dee: God is holy and His name is holy. We are being obedient to Him when we

speak about him and say His name with respect. *[Turns to Paul.]* I think I've found a good choice. Let's go pick up the movie. I'll tell Dad we're leaving.

Paul: Okay, thanks, Mom!

[They exit. Computer is removed. Then Dee as herself, Cy, and Chip enter and take their former positions. Then Paul enters.]

Cy: What did she say?

Paul: Mom chose one of the movies we wrote down. Some of the others did not honor the Lord's name, because the people in the movie used His name like a bad word.

Dee: That's awful! I don't want to hear people doing that.

Cy: Neither do I. We definitely want to honor the Lord's name.

Paul: Now we're ready, Chip. Let's go!

[Chip barks and runs to the door.]

Paul: When we get home, we'll make popcorn.

Dee: And while we're out, let's buy some treats for Chip.

[Chip barks as they all exit. Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Cy: That was a good movie.

Paul: I was glad that people in the movie honored God's name.

Dee: Me, too. I would hate to have people using my name like a bad word.

Cy: Yeah.

Paul: Me too, and God has the most important name of all.

Dee: God's name is holy, so we should always treat it with respect.

Paul: That goes for the name Jesus, too.

Cy: Hey kids, you want to honor God's name, don't you?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: That's great! See you next time!

[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.

On Saturday Paul, Cy, and Dee weeded Dee’s grandmother’s garden and cleaned and filled her birdbath. They enjoyed being able to help someone else. Chip had fun watching the birds that came to splash in the birdbath. Paul’s dad came to pick up Cy and Paul. On the way home, they told him that they had so much fun helping that they wanted to go again. Paul’s dad was glad that they had servants’ hearts and wanted to help others. So Cy suggested going back to help the next day. But Paul’s dad said no. Why would Mr. Shepherd tell them not to go help someone? Wasn’t that a good thing to do?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mr. Shepherd reminded Cy and Paul that the next day was Sunday, the Sabbath. He explained that in the fourth commandment, God told us to honor the Sabbath as a holy day of rest. It is because God worked six days to create the heavens and the earth, and then on the seventh day He rested. God knew people needed rest, so He provided it for us one day each week. On Sundays, we go to church because there’s no better way to rest and be refreshed than to spend time with the One who created us. Paul and Cy decide that Sunday would be a good time to *visit* Dee’s grandmother and enjoy some rest and refreshment together.

“I think I got all the weeds,” said Cy as he tossed a dandelion into the garbage bag.

“Great,” said Dee sitting down on the grass. “Grandma will be excited to have the garden cleared out.”

“And her birdbath is clean too,” said Paul as he sat down beside her.

Chip ran over to them barking.

“Look! Chip sees all those birds coming to the bird feeder.” Cy said flopping on the lawn and scratching Chip’s ear.

“Thanks again for helping in Grandma’s yard,” Dee said.

“No problem. It’s been fun helping someone else,” said Paul.

Suddenly, Chip barked and ran towards the driveway.

“Hey, Paul, it looks like your dad is here to pick us up,” said Cy, getting up and grabbing the garbage bag.

“We’ll see you at church tomorrow, Dee,” said Paul.

“Okay, I am going to go see if Grandma’s awake yet. She and I are going to sit on the porch and read this afternoon,” said Dee walking toward the house. “See you tomorrow.”

“See ya!” said the boys as Cy tossed the garbage bag in the trash can and they got into the car. Chip barked as the car drove away.

“How did everything go today?” asked Paul’s dad.

“It went great,” said Paul.

“Yeah,” said Cy. “We weeded the garden, cleaned the birdbath, filled the bird feeder, and even picked some flowers for Dee’s grandmother’s table.”

“That was thoughtful,” said Paul’s dad, smiling.

“It’s been fun working in Dee’s grandmother’s yard,” said Paul.

“Yeah, why don’t we go back over tomorrow and do some more stuff for her?” said Cy.

“That’s a great idea,” said Paul.

“It is a great idea, boys. And it’s good to have servants’ hearts, but tomorrow is Sunday,” said Mr. Shepherd.

“I forgot,” said Paul. “Tomorrow, we get to go to church!”

“Could we go help Dee’s grandmother after church?” asked Cy.

“No,” said Paul’s dad, “We honor tomorrow as the Sabbath, the day that God commanded us to rest and focus on Him.”

“What do you mean?” asked Cy.

“The Bible tells us that when God created everything, He took six days to create, but on the seventh day He rested,” said Paul’s dad. “So God made the Sabbath day holy.”

“Isn’t that one of the Ten Commandments?” asked Paul.

“Yes it is,” said Paul’s dad. “The fourth commandment requires that we keep the Sabbath day holy.”

“So are we supposed to rest?” asked Cy.

“Yes we are,” replied Mr. Shepherd. “Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for us. God knew that it would be good for us to have a day of rest. God always does what is best for us.”

“That makes sense,” said Paul.

“And the reason we go to church on the Sabbath is that there’s no better way to rest and be refreshed than to spend time with the One who created us,” said Paul’s dad.

“I guess we’d better rest tomorrow, since God commanded it,” said Cy. “We can go work at Dee’s grandmother’s on Monday.”

“Or maybe we could go over tomorrow and spend some time resting and visiting *with* her,” said Paul.

“Sounds good,” said Paul’s dad. “And speaking of rest and refreshment, how about some ice cream?”

“Yes! Thank you!” said Paul and Cy excitedly.

“And thanks for helping us learn about God’s special day,” Cy said grinning.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Time to Rest"

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 tie.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip. Chip is bouncing around with a lot of energy.]

Paul: Whew, I'm tired. I need a rest after playing basketball.

Dee: But Chip's still raring to go. Dogs have so much energy.

Paul: Let's go inside and get some ice cold water for refreshment.

Cy: Rest and refreshment. That reminds me of a story.

Paul: I remember. It's about honoring the Sabbath.

Dee: Which we do every Sunday.

Cy: Let's tell the kids about it.

Paul: Okay, but you'll have to be my dad, Dee.

Dee: That will be fun. When I'm your dad, I'll talk with a low voice and wear a tie.

Paul: See you in a minute, kids!

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

SCRIPT

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Cy: I think I got all the weeds.

Dee: Great! Grandma will be excited to have the garden cleared out.

Paul: And her birdbath is clean too.

[Chip enters, barking.]

Cy: Look! Chip sees all those birds coming to the bird feeder.

Dee: Thanks again for helping in Grandma's yard.

Paul: No problem. It's been fun helping someone else.

[Chip begins barking again and runs to one side of the stage.]

Cy: Hey, Paul, it looks like your dad is here to pick us up.

Paul: We'll see you at church tomorrow, Dee.

Dee: Okay, I'm going to go see if Grandma's awake yet. She and I are going to sit on the porch and read this afternoon. See you tomorrow.

Cy and Paul: See ya!

[Dee and Chip exit stage left. Paul and Cy exit stage right. After a pause, enter Dee, wearing a necktie as Mr. Shepherd. Enter Paul and Cy. They bounce gently.]

Dee: How did everything go today?

Paul: It went great.

Cy: Yeah. We weeded the garden, cleaned the birdbath, filled the bird feeder, and even picked some flowers for Dee's grandmother's table.

Dee: That was thoughtful.

Paul: It has been fun working in Dee's grandmother's yard.

Cy: Yeah, why don't we go back tomorrow and do some more stuff for her?

Paul: That's a great idea.

Dee: It is a great idea, boys. And it's good to have servants' hearts, but tomorrow is Sunday.

Paul: I forgot. Tomorrow, we get to go to church!

Cy: Could we go help Dee's grandmother after church?

Dee: No, tomorrow is the Sabbath, the day that God commanded us to rest and focus on Him.

Cy: What do you mean?

Paul: Dad, why do we have church and then rest on Sundays?

Dee: The Bible tells us that when God created everything, He took six days to create, but on the seventh day He rested. So God made the Sabbath day holy.

Paul: Isn't that in one of the Ten Commandments?

Dee: Yes it is. The fourth commandment requires that we keep the Sabbath day holy.

Cy: So are we supposed to rest like God?

Dee: Yes. Jesus said that the Sabbath

was made for us. God knew that it would be good for us to have days of rest. He always does what's best for us.

Paul: That makes sense.

Dee: And the reason we go to church on the Sabbath is that there's no better way to rest and be refreshed than to spend time with the One who created us.

Cy: I guess we'd better rest tomorrow, since God commanded it. We can work at Dee's grandmother's on Monday.

Paul: Or maybe we could go over tomorrow and spend some time resting on the Sabbath with her.

Dee: Sounds good. And speaking of rest and refreshment, how about some ice cream?

Paul and Cy: Yes! Thank you!

Cy: And thanks for helping us learn about God's special day.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Paul: So God knows we need rest. And He gave us a day each week to do it.

Cy: I don't think Chip's ever heard of rest, have you, Chip?

[Chip bounds over to Cy and licks him.]

Paul: Chip, you have so much energy! Doesn't all that running around wear you out?

[Chip runs to Paul and barks happily.]

Dee: He rests, don't you, Chip?

[Chip romps over to her and flops down on the stage, as if exhausted.]

Dee: See? I told you.

[Chip jumps up and runs around again.]

Dee: At least he rests sometimes.

Paul: Well anyway, I'm glad God gave us one day a week to rest.

Dee: I like that the Sabbath gives us time to enjoy one another and to spend time with God.

Cy: So enjoy your rest and refreshment today, kids! See you next time!

[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 got over her cold just in time for the picnic. But when her dad dropped Chip and her off at the park, he told her not to play any games. He didn’t want her running around and getting sick again. Dee said okay. Then Cy and Paul told her that everyone is about to play Capture the Flag. Dee loved that game, and now she really wanted to play. Dee had an idea for how she could play without running. She’d just stay still and hide. Then when players got near her, she’d tag them. Would Dee play the game even though her dad told her not to?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee joined the others. At first, she kept very still and only moved to tag people who came near. But then she forgot about not running. She was chasing someone when suddenly her dad was walking toward her! Dee knew she was in trouble. She explained that she forgot about running, but her father reminded her that she still would have disobeyed, even if she hadn’t run. Dee didn’t respect her father’s wishes. She was sorry for disobeying. Her father forgave her, but she would have to stay home for a couple more days.

Dee and Chip jumped out of the car, “Thanks, Dad, for letting me come to the picnic.”

“I’m glad you got over your cold in time,” said Mr. Morgan. “But remember, no games. We don’t want you running around and getting sick again.”

“Okay, Dad,” said Dee.

“I’ll pick you up after my meeting,” Mr. Morgan called, driving away.

“Hi you two,” said Cy, bending down to pet Chip.

“You’re all better!” said Paul.

“Yes, I feel much better,” said Dee.

“Hey, do you want to get some food? It looks great,” said Cy, eyeing the watermelon.

“Let’s play some games, first” said Paul. “Look, they’re about to start Capture the Flag.”

“I like that game,” said Dee.

“Great,” said Paul. “We can be on the same team.”

Dee hesitated. “My parents won’t let me play, since I just got over being sick.”

Cy wasn’t listening, “Hurry! They’re breaking into teams for the game. Let’s go! We can eat later.” He ran to join the other children.

Paul looked at Dee. “Do you mind if I go play?”

“No, it’s okay. Chip and I will watch,” said Dee.

Paul ran off to join Cy. Dee looked after them. “I really want to play this game, Chip.”

Chip growled as if to warn her.

“I know. If I just help protect the flag, then I won’t have to run around. I could just hide and then pop up and tag people when they’re near.”

Chip growled again.

“It’s okay. Dad just doesn’t want me running, that’s all.”

Chip pulled on her sleeve.

“You sit here and watch.” Dee patted Chip’s head and went off to join a team.

As Dee played, she stayed in her hiding spot, tagging everyone that came near. But soon she got excited and forgot about not running. She chased after kids who ran away.

Suddenly, Dee heard Chip barking excitedly. Her dad was walking towards her. He looked upset.

Dee left the game. “Hi, Dad,” she said, trying to smile. She knew she had disobeyed.

“Dee, it’s time for you and Chip to come home,” he said.

They began walking towards the car. Dee stopped. “Dad, I’m sorry. I thought it would be okay to help guard the flag as long as I didn’t run, but I got so excited that I forgot to keep still.”

“I can understand that, Dee,” said her dad, “but even standing still, you disobeyed, because I told you not to play. The fifth commandment requires that we show respect to our parents, and that includes obeying what your mother and I tell you.”

“I know. It’s just hard sometimes,” said Dee.

“Mom and I want you to have fun, but today your health was more important. We make certain rules because we love you and want what’s best for you.”

“I know,” said Dee. “I’m really sorry. Please forgive me, Dad.”

“I forgive you, Dee,” said her dad as he gave her a hug. “You will have to stay home for the next couple of days. The first day is for rest, to make sure you’re better. The second day is for punishment, for disobeying me.”

“Okay, Dad,” said Dee. “I know I deserve it.”

“What would you say to us each getting a huge piece of that watermelon before we go home?” asked her dad.

“Sure!” said Dee. “But we’d better hurry. Chip’s over there about to nab a hamburger.”

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "No Games"

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 tie.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Cy: Do you do everything you're told to do?

Paul: It depends on who's talking. I wouldn't always do what some other kid told me.

Dee: But you would obey your parents, right?

Cy: Definitely. At least, I'd try to.

Paul: And of course we must obey God. Isn't that right, kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: Well, we have a story to tell you.

Dee: Oh no, I'm embarrassed.

Paul: Dee, it's an important story.

Cy: Because we all need to understand what you found out that day.

Dee: I know. Okay. Paul, you can be my dad.

Cy: We'll be right back.

[Dee, Cy, and Paul exit.]

SCRIPT

[Enter Dee, Chip, and Paul wearing a tie as Mr. Morgan.]

Dee: Thanks, Dad, for letting me come to the picnic.

Paul: I'm glad you got over your cold in time. But remember, no games. We don't want you running around and getting sick again.

Dee: Okay, Dad.

Paul: I'll pick you up after my meeting.

[Paul exits and re-enters as himself with Cy.]

Cy: Hi you two.

Paul: Dee, you're all better!

Dee: Yes, I feel much better.

Paul: Let's play some games. Look, they're about to start Capture the Flag.

Dee: I like that game.

Paul: Great. We can be on the same team.

[Cy is looking away, obviously not paying attention.]

Dee: My parents won't let me play, since I just got over being sick.

Cy: Hurry! They're breaking into teams for the game. Let's go! We can eat later.
[Runs offstage.]

Paul: Do you mind if I go play?

Dee: No, it's okay. Chip and I will watch.
[Paul exits as Dee looks offstage.]

Dee: I really want to play this game, Chip.

[Chip growls.]

Dee: I know what I can do. If I just help protect the flag, then I won't have to run around. I could just hide and then pop up and tag people when they're near.

[Chip growls again.]

Dee: Don't worry, Chip. It's okay. Dad just doesn't want me running, that's all.

[Chip pulls on her arm with his mouth. Dee pulls away.]

Dee: You can watch.

[Exit Dee. Chip moans and then exits. Brief curtain. Cy, Paul, and Dee run onto the stage. Dee chases Paul as he runs off again. Chip barks offstage.]

Dee: Uh-oh. It's my dad. I'm in trouble now.

[Enter Paul, again as Dee's dad.]

Dee: Hi, Dad.

Paul: Dee, it's time for you and Chip to come home.

Dee: Dad, I'm sorry. I thought it would be okay to help guard the flag as long as I didn't run, but I got so excited that I forgot to keep still.

Paul: I can understand that, Dee but

even standing still, you disobeyed, because I told you not to play. The fifth commandment requires that we show respect to our parents, and that includes obeying what your mother and I tell you.

Dee: I know. It's just hard sometimes.

Paul: Mom and I want you to have fun, but today your health was more important. We make certain rules because we love you and want what's best for you.

Dee: I know. I'm really sorry. Please forgive me, Dad.

Paul: I forgive you, Dee. You will have to stay home for the next couple of days. The first day is for rest, to make sure you're better. The second day is for punishment, for disobeying me.

Dee: Okay, Dad. I know I deserve it.

Paul: What would you say to us each getting a huge piece of that watermelon before we go home?

Dee: Sure, but we'd better hurry. Chip's over there trying to nab a hamburger.

[Paul and Dee run offstage. Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Dee: I should have obeyed my dad. When I got home, I started coughing again, and I was sick for three more days.

Cy: We've all been more careful about obeying since then. And did you know that the fifth commandment has a promise with it?

Paul: It sure does. If we honor our parents, God will make things go well for us and give us long life. Pretty cool, huh?

Dee: Honoring them includes treating them with respect. So, kids are you going to be more careful to honor your parents?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: Great! I'm going to ask Mom to buy a watermelon.

Paul: See you next time, kids!

[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 on a bench outside of school waiting for Cy. Cy came out angry, because a boy named Charlie pushed him down and called him names. Paul understood why Cy was angry. Charlie had thrown his backpack in the mud the day before. Just then Dee came out. She had been crying. Paul and Cy find out that Charlie had teased her and pulled her hair. They all want to figure out what to do about Charlie, but they had a Sunday school project to finish on the sixth commandment, do not murder. What would they do for their project? And what could they do about Charlie?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee, Cy, and Paul were all angry with Charlie, but they had to work on their project. They remembered that Jesus talked about the sixth commandment and that God doesn't even want people to say mean things about other people, or hold onto anger, or call others names. Charlie did all of that. But suddenly the kids realized that they were breaking the sixth commandment, too, by talking mean about Charlie and remaining angry with him. Jesus said to love our enemies, so the kids decided to do nice things for Charlie from then on—even if he never changed.

Cy came out of school with a scowl on his face. "I'm so angry," he said to Paul, who had been waiting for him.

"What's wrong?" Paul asked.

"It's that new kid, Charlie. He pushed me down and called me a bad name."

"I know what you mean," said Paul. "He threw my backpack in the mud yesterday."

"Don't you just want to shove him or something?"

"It's tempting."

Just then, Dee came out. The boys noticed that her face was red from crying.

"What happened to you?" asked Cy.

"Was it Charlie?" asked Paul.

"Who else? He teased me because I brought my stuffed dog for art today. He said I was too old to play with stuffed animals. Then he pulled my hair."

"Ooh, I just want to shove him," said Cy.

"I'd like to see him get in big trouble with the principal," said Paul.

"And I'd like to sic Chip on him," said Dee.

"Chip wouldn't hurt anyone," said Paul.

"I know," said Dee. "But something has to be done about Charlie."

"We don't have time for that now. Remember?" said Paul.

"Oh yeah, we have to finish our Sunday school project," said Cy.

The kids left the school grounds and started walking towards home.

"Which commandment are we studying this week?" Dee asked.

"The sixth commandment," said Cy, "the one that says 'do not murder.' We are supposed to make a poster about it."

"We wouldn't kill anyone," said Dee, "no matter how mean the person was."

"Dad told me that the sixth commandment isn't just about killing. Jesus explained that we aren't even supposed to hold onto anger against someone."

Dee nodded. "When a girl was calling me mean names last week, Mom told me that even saying unkind words or having mean feelings towards others breaks the sixth commandment."

Cy shuffled his feet. "Charlie breaks that commandment when he calls us names and treats us mean. I'm so mad at him."

"Me, too," said Dee and Paul together.

"Okay, now what are we going to do for our project?" asked Cy.

"What if we include things that break the sixth commandment?" asked Dee.

"We'll include name-calling and throwing backpacks in the mud," said Paul.

"And pulling hair and being mean," said Dee.

"And pushing ... and staying angry." Cy dropped his backpack and sat down on the grass. "And talking about people behind their backs." He looked up at Dee and Paul. "Do you realize what we were just doing?"

Paul and Dee sat beside him.

"Uh-oh. We were all breaking the sixth commandment," said Dee.

"We've stayed angry at Charlie and wished bad things for him," said Paul.

"Let's ask God to forgive us," said Cy.

They held hands as Cy prayed, "Dear God, please forgive us for being unkind to Charlie and for talking behind his back. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

After the children prayed together, they headed home to make their poster, talking about what to do about Charlie.

Cy remembered what Jesus taught about loving "enemies." "Let's do nice things for Charlie until he stops being mean."

"Okay," said Dee, "but what if he never stops being mean?"

Paul thought a minute. "I guess we'll just have to keep being nice."

Cy and Dee agreed.

"Okay, now that we really understand the sixth commandment, let's make that poster," said Cy.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Attitude Watch"

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.]

Cy: Can you believe it? My little sister ruined my favorite yellow shirt. She decided to try it on and spilled grape juice all over it.

Paul: That's too bad, Cy.

Dee: And purple really shows on yellow. Are you angry about it?

Cy: I was really mad at first, but don't worry. I'm not angry anymore. I remembered what we learned about the sixth commandment.

Paul: Oh yeah. How could I forget? It was right after Charlie moved to town.

Dee: Oh, that was such a hard time!

Cy: But we got through it because we obeyed God's sixth commandment.

Dee: Yes, that made all the difference. Let's tell the kids about it.

Paul: Okay!

[Dee and Cy exit.]

SCRIPT

[Paul is on stage. Enter Cy.]

Cy: I am so angry!

Paul: What's wrong?

Cy: It's that new kid, Charlie. He pushed me down and called me a name that wasn't nice.

Paul: I know what you mean. He threw my backpack in the mud yesterday.

Cy: Don't you just want to shove him or something?"

Paul: It's tempting.

[Enter Dee, looking sad.]

Cy: What happened to you? You look like you've been crying.

Paul: Was it Charlie?

Dee: Who else? He teased me because I brought my stuffed dog for art today.

He said I was too old to play with stuffed animals. Then he pulled my hair.

Cy: Ooh, I just want to shove him.

Paul: I'd like to see him get in big trouble with the principal.

Dee: And I'd like to sic Chip on him.

Paul: Chip wouldn't hurt anyone.

Dee: I know. But something has to be done about Charlie.

Paul: We don't have time for that now. Remember?

Cy: Oh yeah, we have to finish our Sunday school project.

Dee: Which commandment are we studying this week?

Cy: The sixth commandment, the one that says "do not murder." We have to make a poster about it.

Dee: We wouldn't kill anyone, no matter how mean the person was.

Paul: Dad told me that the sixth commandment isn't just about killing. Jesus explained that we aren't even supposed to hold onto anger against someone.

Dee: I remember now. One time when a girl was calling me mean names, Mom told me that even saying unkind words or having mean feelings towards others breaks the sixth commandment.

Cy: Charlie's breaking that commandment when he calls us names and treats us mean. I'm so mad at him.

Dee and Paul: Me, too.

Cy: Okay, now what are we going to do for our project?

Dee: How about if we include some of the things that break the sixth commandment?

Paul: We'll include name-calling and throwing backpacks in the mud.

Dee: And pulling hair and being mean.

Cy: And pushing ... and staying angry. *[Stops and drops his head.]* And talking about people behind their backs.

[Dee, Cy, and Paul look at one another.]

Cy: Do you realize what we were just doing?

Dee: Uh-oh. We were all breaking the sixth commandment.

Paul: We've stayed angry with Charlie and wished bad things for him.

Cy: We need to ask God to forgive us.

[Children bow their heads.]

Cy: Dear God, please forgive us for being unkind to Charlie and for talking behind his back. Thank you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Paul and Dee: Amen.

Paul: Now what do we do about Charlie?

Cy: Remember that Jesus taught us to love our enemies? Let's keep doing nice things for Charlie until he stops being mean.

Dee: Okay, but what if he never stops being mean?

Paul: I guess we'll just have to keep being nice.

Dee: That sounds good to me.

Cy: Me, too. Okay, now that we really understand the sixth commandment, let's make that poster.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Cy: So you see, I can't stay angry with my sister.

Dee: That's for sure. The sixth commandment requires that we do not kill.

Paul: But it also means that we must treat one another with kindness, respect and love—not meanness or anger. And that goes for family, friends and even people who are mean to us.

Dee: How about you, kids? Will you to try to treat one another kindly?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: That's great!

Paul: See you next time!

[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 had to go to a wedding that afternoon. Cy mentioned that he had some great cake at a wedding once. Paul thought that sounded great. Later that day, Paul watched his dad perform the wedding ceremony for some friends. The man and woman made many promises to each other. Paul wondered why. He wanted to understand about weddings, so after the bride and groom rushed happily down the aisle as husband and wife, Paul asked his parents about weddings. Did they make promises at their wedding too? Why do people make promises at weddings? And would there be cake?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul’s parents told him that brides and grooms make marriage vows at their wedding. They promise to love and stay faithful to each other for their whole lives. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd made the same promises. Paul’s dad said that God’s seventh commandment requires that we keep the marriage holy. God created marriage to be an example of His love for His people. God has promised to love us and be committed to us forever. And He wants us to love and be committed to Him, too. Paul was glad to understand about weddings, and he was also excited when he found out that there was cake to eat at the reception!

Paul flopped on the grass, “That was a fun game of Frisbee.”

“C’m on, Chip,” Cy called, sitting down beside Paul. Chip ran over, panting.

“Sit here,” said Dee. “Good dog.”

“Chip is so loyal to us,” said Paul.

“He sure is. Even though he lives with me, we’re all his family,” said Dee as she stroked Chip’s back.

“Whew, it’s hot. Would you like to come inside for some lemonade?” asked Cy. “Mom made some for us.”

“That’s sounds great,” said Dee.

“Coming, Paul?” asked Cy.

“No, thanks, I need to go home and get ready for a wedding.”

“I love weddings. Who’s getting married?” asked Dee.

“Some friends of my parents.” replied Paul. “Dad’s performing the ceremony.”

“That’s cool. I ate some great cake at a wedding once,” said Cy.

“Cake sounds good!” said Paul.

“Have fun,” called Dee as she and Cy went inside.

That afternoon, Paul stood in the church pew with his mom and watched the wedding. Then the happy bride and groom walked together down the aisle as husband and wife. Paul and Mrs. Shepherd went to the front and waited for Mr. Shepherd.

“That was a fun wedding, Dad.”

“I’m glad you enjoyed it,” said Mr. Shepherd.

Paul looked at his father’s and mother’s wedding rings. “Did you and Mom say all that stuff when you got married?”

“You mean, did we promise to love each other and stay committed to each other no matter what?” asked his mom.

“Yes,” said Paul.

“We sure did. Those promises are called marriage vows,” said his dad.

“Why do people getting married make

so many promises to each other?”

Paul’s dad smiled. “That’s a good question. It’s because of God’s seventh commandment. It requires that we keep marriage holy. That means that when people get married, they promise to love and stay faithful, or committed, to each other as long as they both live.”

“For their whole lives?”

“For their whole lives,” said Mrs. Shepherd, smiling at her husband.

“That’s pretty cool,” said Paul.

“It is ‘cool.’ You know what’s also great?” said Mr. Shepherd. “God created marriage to be an example of His love for His people. He actually calls the Church His bride.”

“Really?” asked Paul with a surprised look. “I can’t imagine a church wearing a wedding dress.”

His parents laughed. “It’s not the church building. It’s the people,” said his mom.

“Just as a bride and groom make vows to each other at their wedding, God has promised to love us and be committed to us forever,” said his dad as they all walked up the aisle together.

“And God always keeps His promises,” said Paul. “I know that.”

“That’s right,” said Mrs. Shepherd. “And since we as the Church are God’s bride, He also wants us to love and be committed to him.”

“Wow. I hope I can love and be faithful to God the way He wants,” said Paul.

His dad smiled. “God will help you if you ask Him.”

“I will. Thanks for answering my questions,” said Paul. “Oh, I have one more question about weddings.”

“Sure, what is it?” said Paul’s dad.

“Shouldn’t there be a cake?” asked Paul with a big grin. His parents laughed.

“There is a cake,” said Mrs. Shepherd.

“Then let’s go to the reception and help them eat it!” said Mr. Shepherd as they all walked out together.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Wedding Vows"

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 tie and a lady's hat.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Paul: Hey, Cy and Dee, have you ever made a promise?

Cy: Sure, I promise to clean my room every week.

Dee: I promise to take Chip out for a walk every day.

Paul: What about you, kids. Have you ever made a promise?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: It's really important to keep our promises, isn't it?

Paul: It sure is. And I found out about one type of promise that's really important to God.

Dee: Oh, I remember. Let's tell the kids about it.

Cy: Okay, but you'll have to be Paul's mom.

Dee: Ooh, I'll wear a fancy hat. And you can be Paul's dad, Cy.

Cy: I'll wear a tie.

[Curtain.]

SCRIPT

[Enter Paul, Dee wearing a hat as Mrs. Shepherd, and Cy wearing a tie as Mr. Shepherd.]

Paul: That was a fun wedding, Dad. I liked seeing how happy the bride and groom looked coming down the aisle after they were married.

Cy: I'm glad you enjoyed it.

Paul: Did you and Mom say all that stuff when you got married?

Dee: You mean did we promise to love each other and stay committed to each other no matter what?

Paul: Yes.

Cy: We sure did. Those promises are called marriage vows.

Paul: Why do people getting married make so many promises to each other?

Cy: That's a good question. It's because of God's seventh commandment. It requires that we keep marriage holy. That means that when people get married, they promise to love and stay faithful, or committed, to each other as long as they both live.

Paul: For their whole lives?

Dee: For their whole lives.

Paul: That's a long time. It's pretty cool, though.

Cy: It is cool. You know what's also great? God created marriage to be an example of His love for His people. He actually calls the Church His bride.

Paul: Really? I can't imagine a church wearing a wedding dress.

[Cy and Dee laugh.]

Dee: It's not the church building. It's the people.

Cy: Just as a bride and groom make vows to each other at their wedding, God has promised to love us and be committed to us forever.

Paul: And God always keeps His promises. I know that.

Dee: That's right. And since we as the Church are His bride, He also wants us to love and be committed to Him.

Paul: Wow. I hope I can love and be faithful to God the way He wants me to.

Cy: God will help you, if you ask Him.

Paul: I will. Thanks for answering my questions. Oh, I have one more question about weddings.

Cy: Sure, what is it?

Paul: Shouldn't there be a cake?

Dee: There is a cake.

Cy: Then let's go to the reception and help them eat it!

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

Paul: It was really good cake.

Dee: We know. You talked about it for days.

Cy: But he also told us what he found out about weddings.

Dee: About how important it is to God that people keep their marriage promises.

Cy: And how God loves us like his bride.

Dee: He will always be faithful and keep his promises to us.

Paul: And we need to be faithful and always love him, too.

Cy: Will you ask God to help you do that, kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: Great! Well, all the talk weddings made me hungry.

Cy: I'm right behind you.

Paul: See you next time, kids!

[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 were going to play hopscotch on Dee’s patio. As they began to play, Chip started sniffing Cy’s backpack. Then he barked excitedly. Dee asked Cy if he had food in the pack. He did, but he wouldn’t say what it was. He seemed embarrassed to talk about it. Just then, Dee’s mom walked outside. She offered to make Dee and Cy a snack. Suddenly, Chip growled and bit at the backpack. Mrs. Morgan told him to stop. Dee was confused. She said that Chip only acted that way when people had beef bones or cookies. What was in Cy’s backpack? And why was he acting so funny about it?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy admitted that he had cookies in his pack. Dee’s mom remembered that Mrs. Yung was making fancy cookies for a party she was going to attend. She mentioned how much work the cookies take to make and said how nice it was that Cy’s mother gave him some. Cy admitted that he took the cookies without permission. Mrs. Morgan reminded him that the eighth commandment requires that people do not steal. When we take something that doesn’t belong to us, that is stealing. But Dee’s mom also said that even if we use someone’s things without asking, it is like stealing. Cy decided he needed to tell his mother what he did.

Dee, Cy, and Chip ran into Dee’s backyard. “Thanks for inviting me over today, Dee.”

“Sure. Want to play hopscotch on the patio?” asked Dee. “I already drew a really cool pattern.”

“That sounds like fun. Chip can watch.” Cy put his backpack down. “You can go first.”

“Okay,” said Dee as she began hopping.

Chip sat on the patio watching Cy and Dee play. Suddenly, he started sniffing around Cy’s backpack. Then he began barking.

Dee stopped. “What’s Chip barking at?”

“Um, it must be something in my backpack,” said Cy.

“He usually doesn’t do that unless someone has food,” said Dee, walking over to Chip. “What did you find, boy?”

“Oh,” said Cy. “I do have some food in there.”

Chip barked excitedly. Just then, Dee’s mom came outside. “Hi Cy. I’m glad you were able to come over today.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Morgan,” said Cy.

“Oh, you’re playing hopscotch,” said Mrs. Morgan. “Do you know that boys and girls play that game all over the world?”

“That’s cool,” said Dee.

“I didn’t know that,” said Cy.

“You two have fun,” Dee’s mom said. “I’ll go make some snacks for you.”

Before she reached the door, Chip started growling at Cy’s backpack. He tried to pull it open.

“Chip,” said Mrs. Morgan. “Stop that. You’re going to tear Cy’s backpack.” She turned to Cy. “Do you have food in there, Cy?”

“Um, yeah, I do,” said Cy without looking at Mrs. Morgan.

“That’s strange. Chip only gets that excited about beef bones or cookies,” said Dee as she scratched behind Chip’s

ear. “What kind of food is it?”

“Well, I guess they’re cookies,” said Cy, his face turning a little red. Chip barked again.

“Oh, I see,” said Mrs. Morgan thoughtfully. “Wasn’t your mother baking cookies for that special party she’s attending?”

“Yes,” answered Cy.

“You know those fancy cookies take a lot of work. It was nice of your mother to give you some, wasn’t it?”

Cy played with his shirt’s hem. “Uh, well, she didn’t exactly give them to me.”

“You mean you took them without permission?”

“Yeah,” said Cy.

“Cy, I think you already know that what you did was wrong,” said Dee’s mom gently. “You took something that your mother had made for someone else.”

“Yeah, I kind of had a feeling it was wrong,” said Cy. “I just wasn’t sure why.”

“It was probably your conscience reminding you of God’s commandments,” said Dee’s mom. “The eighth commandment requires that people do not steal. The cookies were not yours to take, even though they were in your home.”

“So I guess I kind of stole them, huh?” asked Cy.

“Yes,” said Dee’s mom. “We have to remember that if we don’t ask to use someone else’s things or if we don’t ask permission to take something that belongs to another, it is just like stealing.”

“I feel terrible,” said Cy. “I guess I’d better call my mom and tell her what I did.”

“That would be a good idea, Cy,” said Dee’s mom.

“Chip and I will wait here for you,” said Dee.

Chip barked in agreement.

“And while you’re on the phone, I’ll see about getting some snacks for you and some cookies for Chip” said Dee’s mom, following Cy through the door.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Cookie Trouble"

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 backpack and a lady's scarf.

INTRODUCTION

[Dee and Paul hop across the stage as if playing hopscotch. Cy is about to take his turn when he looks at the audience.]

Paul: Oh, hi kids! We're playing hopscotch. Have you ever played hopscotch?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: It's a fun game. Even Chip likes to play, but he's not very good at it.

Cy: Remember the last time he played with us?

Dee: Oh yeah. He got distracted by something in your backpack.

Paul: Let's tell the kids about it. I'll be your mother, Dee.

Dee: Okay. Let's go get Chip. We'll be right back, kids!

SCRIPT

[A back pack is placed onstage. Enter Cy, Dee, and Chip.]

Cy: Thanks for inviting me over today, Dee.

Dee: Sure, Paul should be here later. He had a family thing to go to.

Cy: What do you want to play?

Dee: Well, how about if we play hopscotch? I already drew a really cool pattern in chalk on the patio.

Cy: That sounds like fun. *[Looking down]* It is cool. Chip can watch. You can go first.

Dee: Okay.

[Dee hops across the stage. Chip starts sniffing the air and the ground. He follows his nose to Cy's backpack. Chip starts barking. Dee stops.]

Dee: What is Chip barking at?

Cy: Um, it must be something in my backpack.

Dee: Chip usually doesn't do that unless

someone has food. *[Walks over to Chip.]* Hey, Chip. What did you find?

Cy: Oh, I do have some food in there.

[Chip barks excitedly. Enter Paul, wearing a scarf as Dee's mom.]

Paul: Hi Cy. I'm glad you were able to come over today.

Cy: Thank you, Mrs. Morgan.

Paul: Oh, you're playing hopscotch. Do you know that boys and girls play that game all over the world?

Dee: That's cool.

Cy: I didn't know that.

Paul: You two have fun. I'll go inside to make some snacks for you.

[Chip growls and tries to rip open Cy's backpack.]

Paul: Chip, stop that. You're going to tear Cy's backpack. Do you have food in there, Cy?

Cy: *[Looks down.]* Um, yeah, I do.

Dee: That's strange. Chip only gets that excited about beef bones or cookies. What kind of food is it?

Cy: Well, I guess they're cookies.

[Chip barks.]

Paul: Oh, I see. *[Pause.]* Wasn't your mother baking cookies for that special party she's attending?

Cy: Yes.

Paul: You know, Cy, those fancy cookies take a lot of work. It was nice of your mother to give you some, wasn't it?

Cy: Uh, well, she didn't exactly give them to me.

Paul: You mean you took them without permission?

Cy: Yeah.

Paul: Cy, I think you already know that what you did was wrong. You took something that your mother had made for someone else.

Cy: Yeah, I kind of had a feeling it was wrong. I just wasn't sure why.

Paul: It was probably your conscience reminding you of God's commandments. The eighth commandment requires that people do not steal. The cookies were not yours to take, even though they were in your home.

Cy: So I guess I kind of stole them, huh?

Paul: Yes. We have to remember that if we don't ask to use someone else's things or if we don't ask permission to take something that belongs to another, it is just like stealing.

Cy: I feel terrible. I guess I'd better call my mom and tell her what I did.

Paul: That would be a good idea, Cy.

Dee: Chip and I will wait here for you.

[Chip barks.]

Paul: And while you're on the phone, I'll see about getting some snacks for you and some cookies for Chip.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Cy: I'll never take something that doesn't belong to me again. I was so embarrassed.

Dee: Yeah, the other day I found an open pack of gum on the shelf at the store. I almost took a piece out, since it was already opened. But then I remembered Cy's cookies, and I didn't do it.

Cy: Yeah, we all have to be careful.

Paul: We must not even borrow or take something that belongs to someone else.

Dee: Unless that person gives us permission.

[Chip enters. He sniffs and then runs over to the backpack.]

Dee: Cy, do you have cookies in there again?

Cy: Yes, I brought some for all of us, including Chip. This time, I asked Mom first.

Paul: Great! I'm hungry. See you next time kids!

[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 were playing hide and seek in Dee’s yard. When it was Dee’s turn to find the boys, she spotted Cy first. She chased him around the yard while he tried to escape to base. Suddenly she heard a big crash as Cy tripped and tumbled to the ground. Dee saw that her mom’s favorite flowerpot was broken and the flowers were all over the ground. She didn’t want to tell her mom, because she knew they would be in trouble and her mom would be upset. Dee, Cy, and Paul talked about what to do. Would they try to hide what happened? Or would they tell Dee’s mom the truth?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

When Dee, Cy, and Paul saw that the flowerpot was broken, they didn’t want to get into trouble. They thought about just letting Dee’s mom find the broken pot. She might think Chip did it. Or maybe they could clean it up so she’d think the pot was stolen. Then the kids remembered the ninth commandment, “do not lie.” They realized that letting someone believe a lie was the same as telling a lie. Dee, Cy, and Paul decided it was better to obey God’s command. They would go tell Dee’s mom the truth. After they cleaned up the mess, they would raise money to buy Mrs. Morgan a new pot and plant.

Paul and Dee scrambled to their hiding spots before Cy finished counting.

“23, 24, 25 . . . Ready or not, here I come,” shouted Cy as he began hunting around Dee’s yard. “I hope you guys can run fast, because base is a long way away . . .”

Suddenly, Cy saw movement behind a bush. He ran over to it, “Found ya!” he said. Paul rushed out from behind the bush and ran toward the mailbox that was base.

“Beatya!” said Paul breathlessly, touching base just before he got tagged.

Cy continued his search. He spotted a corner of Dee’s shirt behind the swing set and sneaked up quietly.

Dee squealed as he came around the corner. She took off toward the mailbox. “Wow, Cy you’re fast!” she said.

Cy and Dee reached the mailbox at the same time. “Got ya!” said Cy.

“I already touched base,” said Dee pointing to her hand that was firmly placed on the mailbox. “But since it was close, I’ll be it anyway.”

“Okay,” said Cy.

“You’d better hurry. I’m counting,” said Dee, covering her eyes. “One, two, three . . . okay?”

Paul and Cy rushed to find hiding spots.

“Ready or not, here I come,” shouted Dee. She began looking. “Ah ha,” she said, spotting Cy.

He took off with Dee close behind. Cy ran across the front porch towards the sidewalk. He took a quick look back. Suddenly, he tripped and tumbled off onto the grass. They heard a big crash.

Dee stopped in her tracks, “Uh-oh.”

Paul came out from hiding to see what happened, “You okay?”

“Yeah,” said Cy, brushing himself off. “But Mrs. Morgan’s flower pot isn’t.”

“We’re going to be in trouble,” said Dee. “Mom really liked that pot, and now it’s all in pieces.”

“The flowers don’t look so hot either, all

over the ground.” said Paul.

“I’m sorry, Dee. I didn’t see the flowerpot,” said Cy. “What are we going to do?”

“I don’t want to tell Mom. She’ll be upset,” said Dee.

“Well,” said Cy, “We could just leave it and let her find it.”

“We could let her think Chip did it,” said Dee.

“If we clean it up, maybe she’ll think someone stole it,” said Paul.

They looked at one another. “Um, wait,” said Cy, “Wouldn’t that be like lying?”

“Well, not exactly,” said Dee, “because we wouldn’t actually tell her that’s what happened. We’d just let her think something that isn’t true.” She dropped her head. “Uh-oh.”

“What?” asked Paul and Cy.

“That reminds me of the ninth commandment,” said Dee.

“The ninth commandment say ‘do not lie,’” said Cy. “I guess letting your mom believe a lie or hiding something from her would also be lying.”

“Yeah because we’d lead her to believe something that’s not true,” said Paul.

“Our teacher talked about that,” said Dee. “Lying, whether we tell a lie or let someone believe a lie by not telling, breaks God’s ninth commandment.”

“I don’t want to break God’s commandments,” said Paul.

“Me either,” said Cy.

“I don’t either,” said Dee. “I guess we’d better obey God and go tell my mom the truth, even though it will be hard.”

“Good idea,” said Paul.

“After we clean up the mess, we can set up a lemonade stand and earn money to buy Dee’s mom a new pot and plant,” said Cy.

“Sounds great. Let’s go,” said Dee as she led the boys inside to find her mom.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Flower Pot"

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need something to make a sound like a pot breaking. A mailbox should be set up on one side of the stage.

INTRODUCTION

[Enter Dee and Paul.]

Paul: Having a lemonade stand was fun.

Dee: It sure was. I think I drank more than I sold. Oh, hi, kids!

[Cy enters. On the way in, he stumbles and regains his footing.]

Cy: Whoa, I'd better watch my step. I almost tripped over my own feet.

Paul: Speaking of tripping, I counted the money, and we have enough to buy what we need.

Dee: That's great! Mom will be so happy.

Cy: Wait, we haven't told the kids what we're buying.

Dee: That's right.

Paul: Why don't we show them instead?

Cy: Okay. We'll be right back, kids.

[Exit Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

SCRIPT

[Cy is onstage. He is covering his eyes. Dee and Paul enter as if tiptoeing. They stoop down to hide.]

Cy: 21, 22 . . . almost done . . . 23, 24, 25 . . . Ready or not, here I come. I hope you guys can run fast, because base is a long way away. *[Paul moves a little, and Cy sees it.]* Found ya, Paul.

[Paul rushes toward the mailbox. Cy follows, but Paul touches the mailbox just before Cy reaches him.]

Paul: Beat ya!

[Cy looks for Dee. A part of her is showing. Cy sneaks toward her.]

Dee: *[Squeals and runs for the mailbox.]* Wow, Cy, you're fast!

[Cy and Dee reach the mailbox at the

same time.]

Cy: Got ya!

Dee: I already touched base. *[Points to the hand touching the mailbox.]* But since it was close, I'll be it anyway.

Cy: Okay.

Dee: You'd better hurry. I'm counting. *[Covers her eyes.]* One, two, three . . . *[Continues counting. Paul and Cy rush to find hiding spots.]*

Dee: Ready or not, here I come. *[Looks around and spots Cy.]* Ah ha! I see you, Cy.

[Cy takes off with Dee close behind. They run all around the stage. Cy looks back at Dee. Suddenly a crashing sound is heard offstage as Cy trips and falls.]

Dee: *[Stops.]* Uh-oh.

[Paul comes out from hiding.]

Paul: You okay?

Cy: Yeah, but Mrs. Morgan's flower pot isn't.

Dee: We're going to be in trouble. Mom really liked that pot, and now it's all in pieces.

Paul: The flowers don't look so hot either, all over the ground.

Cy: I'm sorry, Dee. I didn't see the flowerpot. What are we going to do?

Dee: I don't want to tell Mom. She'll be upset.

Cy: Well, we could just leave it and let her find it.

Dee: We could let her think Chip did it.

Paul: If we clean it up, maybe she'll think someone stole it.

[They look at one another.]

Cy: Um, wait. Wouldn't that be like lying?

Dee: Well, not exactly, because we wouldn't actually tell her that's what happened. We'd just let her think something that isn't true. *[Drops her head.]* Uh-oh.

Paul and Cy: What?

Dee: That reminds me of what we studied in Sunday School last week.

Paul: Me too. The ninth commandment.

Cy: The ninth commandment requires that people do not lie. I guess letting your mom believe a lie or hiding something from her would also be lying.

Paul: Yeah because we'd lead her to believe something that's not true.

Dee: Our teacher talked about that. Lying, whether we tell a lie or let someone believe a lie by not telling, breaks God's ninth commandment.

Paul: I don't want to break God's commandments.

Cy: Me either.

Dee: I don't either. I guess we'd better obey God and go tell my mom the truth, even though it will be hard.

Paul: Good idea.

Cy: After we clean up the mess, we can set up a lemonade stand and earn money to buy Dee's mom a new pot and plant.

Dee: Sounds great. Let's go.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Cy: So you see, kids, we had the lemonade stand to earn money to buy Dee's mom a new potted plant.

Dee: Mom was sad to lose her favorite pot, but she was happy that we told the truth.

Paul: Yeah, even though we might get in trouble at first, telling the truth is always the best thing to do.

Cy: So kids, I hope you will remember to obey God's ninth commandment and always tell the truth.

Dee: Will you try to do that, kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Paul: Great! See you next time!

[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 glad it was recess because English was really hard. But not for some people—like Charlie. Charlie always got the answers right. Cy asked Paul if he saw Charlie’s new basketball. It was just like the ones professional players use. Paul’s ball was nowhere near as nice as Charlie’s. Paul wished he had a ball like Charlie’s. At home that afternoon, Paul told his mom about how hard English was. He said that he wished he could be like Charlie, because Charlie didn’t have to work hard to understand English. Charlie also owned that great basketball. Paul asked why he can’t have everything Charlie has. What would Paul’s mom say? Did she go out and buy Paul a new ball?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul’s mom did not buy Paul a new ball. Instead, she told him that she understood how he felt, because all of us sometimes wish we could have what someone else has. Even when we feel that way, we need to honor God in the way we think and act, because the tenth commandment says to be content with what we have. Paul’s mom reminded him that God had given Paul special gifts, too, like being good with computers and being creative. Paul realized it was okay that English was harder for him than Charlie, because that’s the way God made him. He also realized that he was blessed to have a basketball. Paul decided to be content with what he had, just as God commanded.

“Hey, Cy,” said Paul, “Let’s play on the teeter totter.”

“Okay, race you there,” said Cy as he took off running. Paul chased him, but he couldn’t catch up.

“I win,” said Cy.

Paul grinned, “Yeah, but you got a head start.” Cy and Paul got on the teeter totter. “I’m so glad it’s recess time. English was hard today,” said Paul.

“Yeah, I’m going to have to work hard on the homework,” said Cy. “Why isn’t school stuff easier to learn?”

“Some people don’t have trouble with English,” said Paul. “You know, Charlie always gets the answers to the teacher’s questions.”

“He sure does. Hey, did you see the new basketball he got?” asked Cy.

“Yeah, it’s so cool. It’s the kind the professional players use,” said Paul excitedly. “I’ve always wanted one of those. My ball is nowhere near as nice. I wish I had one like Charlie’s.”

Just then, the bell rang. “We’d better get back inside,” said Cy.

“It’s time for P.E. I’ll bet Charlie will have his new ball,” said Paul.

Later that day, Paul found his mother in the kitchen.

“Hi,” she said, “Would you like some lemonade?”

Paul flopped down on a nearby chair, “Yes, please.”

“How was school?” asked Paul’s mom.

“It was okay. I liked recess best,” said Paul. “English class was really hard today.”

Paul’s mom handed him his drink. “English can be hard sometimes. Dad and I can help you.”

“Thanks, Mom,” said Paul as he took a drink of lemonade. “You know, I wish I could be like Charlie. He has it so easy in class. He always knows all the answers.”

“Well, maybe Charlie’s worked hard to learn English,” said Paul’s mom, sitting

down beside him.

“I doubt it. I’ll bet he doesn’t have to work hard for anything. He even has a brand new basketball just like the professional players use. I wish my ball were that nice,” said Paul. “Why can’t I have what he has?”

“Paul, I know it’s hard when someone has something you want or can do something better than you can,” said Paul’s mom. “We’ve all had that experience of asking, ‘Why them and not me?’ But we need to be sure that we honor God in the way we act and think when we don’t have all we would like to have.”

“What do you mean?” asked Paul, turning to look at his mom.

“The tenth commandment requires that people be content with what they have,” replied Paul’s mom. “It sounds to me as if you’re forgetting all the blessings you do have. For example, God has really gifted you with computers, and he has made you creative.”

“That’s true,” said Paul thoughtfully.

His mom continued, “Not everyone can do the things you can, just as you can’t do some things that other people can. And that’s okay because God has created everyone to be different, according to his perfect plan.”

“Yeah, I guess it’s okay that I have a harder time in English, because that’s how God made me,” said Paul. “And at least I have a basketball. Some kids don’t even have that.”

“That’s right,” said Paul’s mom.

“I’m glad you told me about the tenth commandment, Mom. I’m going to be content with what I have and be thankful for God’s blessings from now on,” said Paul.

“I am proud of you, Paul,” said his mom with a smile. “That attitude honors God. Now, how about if we look at that English together?”

“Sounds good,” said Paul. “Thanks, Mom.”

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Why Them and Not Me?"

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 necklace and a bell.

INTRODUCTION

Paul: Hi kids! We're counting our blessings today.

Dee: It's amazing how many wonderful things God has given us.

Cy: We just need to notice them.

Paul: I'm trying to be content, or happy, with what I have.

Cy: Me too. I used to want to be the best basketball player in town, but I'm not tall enough.

Dee: I used to want long blonde hair like my friend Morgan, but now I'm happy with how God made me.

Paul: You're probably wondering why we changed our minds. Well it all started the other day.

Dee: Let's show the kids what happened. I'll be Paul's mom.

Cy: See you in a minute!

SCRIPT

[Enter Cy and Paul.]

Paul: Hey, Cy, let's play on the teeter totter.

Cy: Okay, race you there. *[Races to one end of the stage.]* I win!

Paul: *[Laughs.]* Yeah, but you got a head start.

[They take turns rocking up and down as if on a seesaw.]

Paul: I'm so glad it's recess time. English was hard today.

Cy: Yeah, I'm going to have to work hard on the homework. Why isn't school stuff easier to learn?

Paul: Some people don't have trouble with English. You know, Charlie always gets the answers to the teacher's questions.

Cy: He sure does. Hey, did you see the new basketball he got?

Paul: Yeah, it's so cool. It's the kind the professional players use. I've always wanted one of those. My ball is nowhere near as nice. I wish I had one like Charlie's.

[A bell is heard offstage.]

Cy: Recess is over. We'd better get back inside.

Paul: It's time for P.E. I'll bet Charlie will have his new ball.

[Exit Cy and Paul. Enter Dee, wearing a necklace as Mrs. Shepherd. She hums a tune. Enter Paul.]

Dee: Hi, Paul. Did you have a good day?

Paul: It was okay. *[Flops down.]* I liked recess best. English class was really hard.

Dee: English can be hard sometimes. Dad and I can help you.

Paul: Thanks, Mom. You know, I wish I could be like Charlie. He has it so easy in class. He always knows all the answers.

Dee: Well, maybe Charlie works hard to learn his English lessons. *[Sits beside Paul.]*

Paul: I doubt it. I'll bet he doesn't have to work hard for anything. He even has a brand new basketball just like the professional players use. I wish my ball were that nice. Why can't I have what he has?

Dee: Paul, I know it's hard when someone has something you want or can do something better than you can. We've all had that experience of asking, "Why them and not me?" But we need to be sure that we honor God in the way we act and think when we don't have all we would like to have.

Paul: What do you mean?

Dee: The tenth commandment requires that people be content with what they have. It sounds to me as if you're forgetting all the blessings you do have. For example, God has really gifted you with computers, and he has made you creative.

Paul: That's true.

Dee: Not everyone can do the things you can, just as you can't do some things that other people can. And that's okay because God has created everyone to be different, according to his perfect plan.

Paul: Yeah, I guess it's okay that I have a harder time in English, because that's how God made me. And at least I have a basketball. Some kids don't even have that.

Dee: That's right.

Paul: I'm glad you told me about the tenth commandment, Mom. I'm going to be content with what I have and be thankful for God's blessings from now on.

Dee: I'm proud of you, Paul. That attitude honors God. Now, how about if we look at that English together?

Paul: Sounds good. Thanks, Mom.

[Curtain.]

APPLICATION

Cy: We're all learning that it's better to be happy with what we have . . .

Paul: . . . than to whine about what we don't.

Dee: Hey kids, let's count some of your blessings. What nice things has God done for you?

[Wait for audience response.]

Paul: God loves us a lot.

Dee: Will you remember that, kids?

[Wait for audience response.]

Dee: Uh-oh, Chip's trying to take a bone away from the dog next door.

Paul: Do you think we can teach Chip to be content with what he has?

Cy: We can try. Go out and count your blessings, kids, and we'll see you next time.

All: '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.

Dee, Cy, and Paul were playing a game in the yard. Dee chased Cy and touched him. She thought it was Cy’s turn to be “It.” But Cy said she should have touched him on the elbow. Otherwise, it didn’t count. When Dee caught Paul, he said that she should have gone around the swing set first. So Dee ran around the swing set, chased Cy, and touched his elbow. Again, Cy said it didn’t count because he touched the ground before Dee caught him. Dee stopped. What kind of game was this? How could Dee figure out how to play it?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee found out that Paul and Cy had been making up the rules to the game as they went along. She told them that she couldn’t play the game unless she knew the rules. So together, they made up rules for the game. That reminded Dee of God’s rules for living, the Ten Commandments. People need God’s rules to live a good life. The kids named all the commandments. They wanted to remember them, because life was a whole lot better when they obeyed God’s rules. Then they played their game again. This time it was more fun, because everyone knew the rules.

Dee chased Cy across the yard. When she caught up with him, she touched his arm. “I got you,” she said.

“It doesn’t count,” said Cy. “You didn’t touch my elbow.”

Just then, Paul ran past them. “Try to catch me,” he called.

Dee ran after him. She caught up with him just behind the sandbox. She touched him on his elbow. “Got you,” she said.

“But it doesn’t count,” said Paul. “You didn’t run around the swing set first.”

Dee ran around the swing set and then started running after Cy again. She touched his elbow. “Okay, you’re it, Cy,” she said.

“No I’m not. I touched the ground before you caught me,” said Cy.

Dee stopped and looked at Cy and then Paul. “Wait a minute. What are the rules of this game anyway?”

Cy and Paul looked at each other and shrugged. “We don’t know,” said Paul.

“We’re making them up as we go along,” said Cy.

Dee frowned. “Well I can’t play the game if I don’t know the rules.”

Paul and Cy looked at each other again. “That makes sense,” said Paul, sitting down on a swing. “That wasn’t really fair.”

“No it wasn’t,” said Dee.

“Sorry,” said Cy. “Okay, let’s figure out what the rules for our game should be.”

“First off,” said Dee, “the person who’s it has to run around the swing set before chasing someone.”

“Right. And then people are caught only if we touch them on the elbow and nowhere else,” added Cy.

“But if we touch the ground before we get caught, it doesn’t count,” said Paul.

“Sounds good, except I think we should have to touch the ground twice to keep from being caught,” said Dee.

“Okay,” said Paul and Cy together.

“I think we’ve made up a fun game,” said Paul.

“You know, this reminds me of some other rules we need,” Dee said.

“For the game?” asked Cy.

“No, rules for all the time,” said Dee.

“I know,” said Paul. “The Ten Commandments.”

“Right,” said Dee. “Just think how hard life would be if God didn’t give us rules.”

“It would be awful!” said Cy.

Paul agreed. “People need God’s rules to live a good life,” he said.

Cy started listing the commandments. “Number one, no other gods. Number two, no idols.”

Dee chimed in. “Number three, respect God’s name. Number four, rest one day.”

It was Paul’s turn. “Number five, honor our parents. Number six, don’t murder.”

“Number seven, be faithful in marriage,” said Cy. “Number eight, don’t steal.”

“Number nine, don’t lie,” said Paul. “Number ten, be content with what you have.”

“In His commandments, God told us how to love Him with our whole hearts,” said Dee.

“And our whole minds,” said Cy.

“And our soul and strength,” added Paul.

“And He told us how to love our neighbors as ourselves,” said Cy.

“The rules for our game seem silly compared to God’s Ten Commandments,” said Paul.

“Our game is just for fun,” said Dee. “But having rules makes the game work.”

“And our lives work out a whole lot better when we obey God’s rules,” said Cy.

“Life’s also more fun when we obey God,” said Paul. “Speaking of fun, let’s play our game. I’m it,” he said, starting to go around the swing set. Dee and Cy took off running.

Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Rules of the Game"

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

INTRODUCTION

Dee: Hi kids! Have you ever tried to play a game without knowing the rules?

[Wait for audience response.]

Cy: It's really hard to play when you don't know the rules.

Paul: Remember the time we played that new type of tag?

Dee: How could I forget? I didn't know how to play.

Cy: I don't think any of us knew how to play that game.

Paul: Let's show the kids what happened.

Dee: Okay. I'll be it!

Paul: Be right back!

[Dee, Cy, and Paul exit.]

SCRIPT

[Enter Cy, with Dee chasing him. Dee touches him.]

Dee: I got you.

Cy: It doesn't count. You didn't touch my elbow.

[Enter Paul, running.]

Paul: Try to catch me!

[Dee chases him and touches his elbow.]

Dee: Got you. And I touched your elbow.

Paul: But it doesn't count. You didn't run around the swing set first.

[Dee runs out stage left and returns stage right. She chases Cy and touches his elbow.]

Dee: Okay, you're it, Cy.

Cy: No I'm not. I touched the ground before you caught me.

[Dee stops and looks at Cy. She looks at Paul and back at Cy again.]

Dee: Wait a minute. What are the rules

to this game anyway?

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

Paul: We don't know.

Cy: We're making them up as we go along.

Dee: I can't play the game if I don't know the rules.

Paul: That makes sense. That wasn't really fair.

Dee: No it wasn't.

Cy: Sorry. Okay, let's figure out what the rules for our game should be.

Dee: First off the person who's it has to run around the swing set before chasing someone.

Cy: Right. And then people are caught only if we touch them on the elbow and nowhere else.

Paul: But if we touch the ground before we get caught, then it doesn't count.

Dee: Sounds good, except I think we should touch the ground twice to keep from being caught.

Paul and Cy: Okay.

Paul: I think we've made up a fun game.

Dee: You know, this reminds me of some other rules we need.

Cy: For the game?

Dee: No, rules for all the time.

Paul: I know. The Ten Commandments.

Dee: Right. Just think how hard life would be if God didn't tell us the rules.

Cy: It would be awful!

Paul: It sure would. People need God's rules to live a good life.

Cy: Let's see, commandment number one is have no other gods. Number two, no idols.

Dee: Number three, respect God's name. Number four, rest one day.

Paul: Number five, honor our parents. Number six, don't murder.

Cy: Number seven, be faithful in marriage. Number eight, don't steal.

Paul: Number nine, don't lie. And number ten, be content with what you have.

Dee: In His commandments, God told us how to love Him with our whole hearts.

Cy: And our whole minds.

Paul: And our soul and strength.

Cy: And He told us how to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Paul: The rules for our game seem silly compared to God's Ten Commandments.

Dee: Our game is just for fun. But having rules makes the game work.

Cy: And our lives work out a whole lot better when we obey God's rules.

Paul: Life's more fun when we obey God. Speaking of fun, let's play our game. I'm it. *[Runs offstage. Dee and Cy run after him. Curtain.]*

APPLICATION

Cy: That was a fun game.

Dee: Once we all understood the rules.

Paul: I'm glad God didn't just put us on earth and not tell us how to live.

Cy: Me too. We'd have a hard time obeying God's rules if we didn't know the rules.

Dee: That's true. I'm glad God gave us His commandments, because I want to live the way He wants me to.

Cy: How about you, kids? Will you try to remember God's Ten Commandments and try to obey them?

[Wait for audience response.]

Paul: That's great!

[Chip enters. He runs around the kids, then exits.]

Dee: Look, Chip's wants to play our new game.

Cy: We've got to run, kids.

Dee: See you next time!

[Curtain.]