



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

### Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

#### Introduction (5 minutes)

*Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.*

Dee was awakened in the middle of the night by barking. When she stumbled to the window, she was surprised to see Chip barking. When her dad checked on her, she told him that Chip is acting strangely, jumping up and down and running back and forth along the fence. She wondered what was going on with him. When Dee's dad went to check on Chip, he stopped barking. Dee was able to go back to sleep. The next day, Dee came home from school crying. Would her mother be able to help her with her problem? And would they ever solve the mystery about Chip?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee told her mom that she said something at school that hurt her friend Sue's feelings. Sue didn't want to be her friend anymore. Dee's mom said the situation with Sue reminds her of what the Bible says about sin. She explained how the Bible tells that the sin barrier separates all people from friendship with God. Dee's mom said that just as Dee's hurting Sue's feelings caused separation in their friendship, our sin separates us from God. Dee decided to call Sue and tell her she was sorry, but first she went outside to see Chip. Dee soon discovered that Chip had been barking because their new neighbors have a dog and he wanted to meet his new friend. Chip, Dee and her mom went to meet Chip's new friend—and they all slept better that night.

Dee was startled awake by loud barking. She rolled out of bed and stumbled to the window. She was surprised at what she saw, "It's Chip," she mumbled sleepily. "Why is he running back and forth like that?"

Just then, Dee's dad peeked into her doorway. "Are you okay, Dee?"

"Yes, Chip's barking woke me up," said Dee.

"It woke up all of us," said Dee's dad.

"He's acting funny," said Dee, climbing back into bed. "He's barking, jumping up and down, and running back and forth along the fence."

"I'll go make sure he's okay," said Dee's dad as he tucked her in. "You can go back to sleep. Good night, Dee."

"Good night, Dad. Thank you," said Dee as she snuggled under her covers. As she was drifting off to sleep, she noticed the barking stop.

The next afternoon, Dee came home from school crying.

"Dee what's wrong?" asked her mother as she got up from the couch where she'd been reading.

Dee hugged her mom. "I said something that hurt Sue's feelings. She doesn't want to be my friend anymore."

"I'm sorry, Dee," said her mom. "It hurts when you don't get along with the people you love. Did you say you were sorry?"

"No, I didn't get a chance," said Dee. "Sue went home too quickly."

"You know, what you're going through with Sue reminds me of what it says in the Bible about sin."

"What do you mean?" asked Dee.

"The Bible tells us that the sin barrier separates all people from friendship with God. You hurt Sue's feelings, and it caused separation in your friendship, just as our sin separates us from God."

"Oh," said Dee.

"But the good news is that because of Jesus, we can repent of our sins and have a relationship with God."

"I guess I need to tell Sue that I'm sorry. I'll call her right after I say hi to Chip."

Dee went outside. "Hey, Chip," said Dee as she patted his head. "Why did you make so much noise last night?"

Chip barked and wagged his tail. Suddenly there was a scratching noise on the other side of the fence. Chip ran towards it, barking. He started jumping and running back and forth along the fence.

Dee followed him. Then she heard another dog barking. "I didn't know a dog lived there," said Dee as she peered through the slats. "Oh, I get it. You were barking at our new neighbor's dog last night."

Chip barked and ran in a circle as if to say she was right.

"So you are excited to have a new friend, but frustrated because you can't get through the fence to meet him."

Chip barked again.

"I sure know how that feels. It's like having a fight with a friend that separates you. Mom says it's also like when people sin, and that separates us from God. I need to call Sue and tell her how sorry I am. Then we can be friends again."

Chip barked his approval and ran towards the house.

After Dee finished talking with Sue, she said, "Thanks, Mom, for your help. Sue and I are friends again. Hey, I have an idea, Chip. How about if we go next door and meet your new friend? Would that be okay, Mom?"

"Sure. Let's all go. Then maybe tonight Chip will let us all get more sleep."

Dee laughed, "That would be great. Let's go, Chip!"

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Barrier"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need pajamas or a night cap, a man's pajama top, and a lady's hat.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Dee:** Did you hear about our new neighbors?

**Cy:** No, but I've been hearing a lot more barking lately.

*[Enter Chip, barking.]*

**Paul:** I see what you mean.

**Cy:** So, what's up?

**Dee:** His new friend.

**Paul:** This sounds like a story.

**Dee:** It is, but you'll have to be my mom, and Cy will have to be my dad.

**Paul and Cy:** Okay.

**Cy:** See you soon, kids!

*[All exit.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Dee is onstage in pajamas, lying as if in bed. Barking is heard in the background. Dee sits up and stumbles toward the front of the stage as if looking out the window.]*

**Dee:** *[Sleepily.]* It's Chip. Why is he running back and forth like that?

*[Enter Cy, wearing pajamas as Dee's dad.]*

**Cy:** Are you okay, Dee?

**Dee:** Yes, Dad. Chip's barking woke me up.

**Cy:** It woke up all of us.

**Dee:** He's acting funny. He's barking, jumping, and running back and forth along the fence.

**Cy:** I'll go make sure he's okay. You go back to sleep.

*[Dee lies down.]*

**Cy:** Good night, Dee.

**Dee:** Good night, Dad. Thank you.

*[Cy exits. Dee goes to sleep. Brief curtain.]*

*[Enter Paul, wearing a lady's hat as Dee's mom enters. Enter Dee, crying.]*

**Paul:** Dee what's wrong? Did something happen at school today?

**Dee:** I said something that hurt Sue's feelings. She doesn't want to be my friend anymore.

**Paul:** I'm sorry, Dee. It hurts when you don't get along with the people you love. Did you say you were sorry?

**Dee:** No, I didn't get a chance. Sue went home too quickly.

**Paul:** You know, what you're going through with Sue reminds me of what it says in the Bible about sin.

**Dee:** What do you mean?

**Paul:** The Bible tells us that the sin barrier separates all people from friendship with God. You hurt Sue's feelings, and it caused separation in your friendship, just as our sin separates us from God.

**Dee:** Oh.

**Paul:** But the good news is that because of Jesus, we can repent of our sins and have a relationship with God.

**Dee:** I guess I need to tell Sue that I'm sorry. I'll call her right after I say hi to Chip.

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

**Dee:** Hey, Chip. Why did you make so much noise last night?

*[Chip barks. A scratching sound is heard offstage. Chip runs towards the back of the stage, barking.]*

**Dee:** What is it, Chip? What's on the other side of this fence? *[She pretends to look through a fence. Barking is heard offstage.]*

**Dee:** I didn't know a dog lived there. Oh, I get it. You were barking at our new neighbor's dog last night.

*[Chip barks and runs in a circle.]*

**Dee:** So you're excited to have a new friend, but frustrated because you can't get through the fence to meet him.

*[Chip barks.]*

**Dee:** I sure know how that feels. It's like having a fight with a friend that separates you. Mom says it's also like when people sin, and sin separates us from God. I need to go call Sue and tell her how sorry I am. Then we can be friends again.

*[Chip barks. They both exit. Paul as Dee's mom enters.]*

**Dee:** *[Heard offstage.]* Okay, Sue. I'll see you tomorrow.

*[Dee and Chip enter.]*

**Dee:** Thanks for your help, Mom. Sue and I are friends again. Hey, I have an idea, Chip. How about if we go next door and meet your new friend? Would that be okay, Mom?

**Paul:** Sure. Let's all go. Then maybe tonight Chip will let us all get more sleep.

**Dee:** *[Laughs.]* That would be great. Let's go, Chip!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** We got more sleep that night, but Chip still wanted to go through the fence to play with his new friend. Now he's learned that he has to wait until daytime to play. Isn't that right, Chip?

*[Chips barks excitedly.]*

**Paul:** Good boy. That fence between Chip and his friend is a good reminder for us.

**Cy:** It sure is. It's like the sin barrier that separates all people from friendship with God.

**Dee:** Hey, Chip, let's go see your new friend, okay?

*[Chip barks.]*

**Dee and Paul:** Okay

**Cy:** 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, Cy, and Paul’s dad went on a hike. Paul was excited to show Cy his favorite spot in the woods. It has fossil rocks and is shaped like a fort. Paul and his dad liked to pretend they have to defend the fort and fight off hundreds of ferocious enemies. Cy couldn’t wait to see the fossils and play inside the fort. Along the way, they watched for wild animals and animal tracks. Paul identified a deer’s tracks, and Cy found squirrel tracks. Finally, they reached the bridge over the gully that led to Paul’s fort. But a rope blocked their way. A sign on the rope said, “Bridge closed.” Was their day ruined? How would they ever reach the fort?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul’s dad said they could look for another bridge to get across, so they continued hiking. Finally, Paul spotted another bridge, but it was dark from all the trees above it. It looked wet, too. Mr. Shepherd decided that it wasn’t safe, because some boards might have rotted. Farther up the path, Cy found another bridge. This one was in the light, and it looked safe. Paul’s dad reminded the boys that Jesus is the bridge across the sin barrier that separates us from God. And even though there were other bridges to get to Paul’s fort, there is only one way to God. That way is Jesus.

“Thanks for inviting me to go hiking, Mr. Shepherd,” said Cy jumping over a rock.

“We’re glad you could come,” replied Paul’s dad.

“I can’t wait to show you my favorite spot,” said Paul. “It looks like a fort and has rocks with fossils.”

“Neat! I’ve only seen fossils in museums,” said Cy. “What kind of fossils?”

“Mostly leaves,” said Paul stepping over a stump.

“Can we play in the fort?” asked Cy.

“Sure,” said Mr. Shepherd. “I’ll join you.”

“Yeah, Dad and I pretend we live in the fort and have to fight off hundreds of ferocious enemies,” said Paul.

“Great!” said Cy. “After we play in the fort, we can hunt for animal tracks.”

“And see how many different bugs and birds we can find,” said Paul.

Mr. Shepherd smiled. “Mom packed lunch, so we have lots of time to explore. “Look!” He pointed at the ground. “There are some tracks. What do you think made those?”

“Hm, it has hooves, so maybe a deer?” said Paul.

“And could those be squirrel tracks?” asked Cy.

“You’re both right,” said Mr. Shepherd.

Suddenly Paul stopped, “Oh no!”

“What’s wrong?” asked Cy.

“The bridge is roped off and the sign says, ‘Bridge closed.’ That’s the way to my favorite spot,” said Paul.

“I’m sorry Paul. It looks like part of the bridge is broken,” said his dad. “Hey, I’ll bet there’s another bridge further up. Let’s explore and find out.”

The boys followed Mr. Shepherd further up the path, jumping over stumps and looking for wildlife.

Before long Paul said, “Hey look, another bridge!”

“It’s so dark because of the trees, we can

hardly see it,” said Cy.

Paul’s dad agreed. “It looks wet. Some boards may have rotted. Without enough light, we can’t tell if this bridge is safe or not. Let’s keep looking.”

“There’s another bridge,” called Cy, pointing ahead.

“It’s well lit, and I can see all the way across it,” said Paul.

His dad examined it. “Yes, this bridge looks safe. Once we cross, it shouldn’t take long to find your favorite spot.”

“Great! Let’s go,” said Paul starting across the bridge. “Dad, thanks for helping us find a way across.”

“No problem, son,” replied his dad. “This situation actually reminds me of what God did for us in sending Jesus.”

“You mean in sending Jesus to save us from our sins?” asked Cy.

“Yes, just as the broken bridge and the dark bridge separated us from Paul’s favorite spot, our sin creates a barrier between us and God.”

“We learned about that in Sunday school,” said Paul.

“Yeah, our teacher always says that Jesus is the way to God,” added Cy.

“That’s right,” said Paul’s dad. “You see, by sending Jesus, God provided the way to Him. Jesus built a bridge across the sin barrier. Just as this bridge leads to Paul’s favorite spot, Jesus is the way to God.”

“That’s cool,” said Cy.

“But there’s a difference,” continued Paul’s dad. “Unlike Paul’s favorite spot that can be reached by more than one bridge, Jesus is the one and only way to God.”

Just then they made it to the other side of the bridge.

“Look, Dad, I think I see the path to the fort,” said Paul.

“We’ll race you, Mr. Shepherd,” said Cy.

“Sure, but watch out for rocks and stumps,” he replied.

“Okay,” said Paul. “Ready, set, go!”

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Way Across"

### 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 backpack out-door hat.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Paul:** That was a big rain we had yesterday.

**Dee:** Yeah, it flooded our backyard near the gate. Look, Dad put a board for us to walk over.

**Cy:** I'm glad it dried enough for us to play outside.

**Dee:** Careful. The board's wobbly.

*[Paul pretends to balance.]*

**Paul:** You know, this is just like a bridge.

**Cy:** This reminds me of the hike we went on with your dad.

**Paul:** Me too. Let's tell the kids about it.

**Dee:** Okay, I'll be your dad. We'll be right back, kids.

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Cy, Paul, and Dee wearing a backpack and hat as Mr. Shepherd.]*

**Cy:** Thanks for inviting me to go hiking, Mr. Shepherd.

**Dee:** We're glad you could come.

**Paul:** I can't wait to show you my favorite spot, Cy. It looks like a fort and has rocks with fossils.

**Cy:** Neat! I've only seen fossils in museums. What kind of fossils?

**Paul:** Mostly leaves. *[Jumps as if climbing over a rock.]*

**Cy:** Can we play in the fort?

**Dee:** Sure. I'll join you.

**Paul:** Yeah, Dad and I pretend we live in the fort and have to fight off hundreds of enemies.

**Cy:** After we play in the fort, we can

hunt for animal tracks.

**Paul:** And see how many different bugs and birds we can find.

**Dee:** *[Points at the ground.]* Look, there are some tracks. What do you think made those?

**Paul:** It has hooves, so maybe a deer?

**Cy:** Are those squirrel tracks?

**Dee:** You're both right.

**Paul:** *[Stops suddenly.]* Oh no!

**Cy:** What?

**Paul:** The bridge is roped off. The sign says, "Bridge closed." That's the way to my favorite spot.

**Dee:** I'm sorry Paul. It looks like part of the bridge is broken. Hey, I'll bet there's another bridge. Let's explore and find out.

*[The boys follow Dee.]*

**Paul:** Hey look! Another bridge!

*[They look across the audience.]*

**Cy:** But the trees make it so dark.

**Dee:** You're right. And it looks wet. Some boards may have rotted. Without enough light, we can't tell if this bridge is safe or not. Let's keep looking.

**Cy and Paul:** Okay.

*[The boys take the lead. After a little while, Cy points ahead.]*

**Cy:** There's another bridge.

**Paul:** It's well lit, and I can see all the way across.

**Dee:** Yes, this bridge looks safe. Once we cross, it shouldn't take long to find your favorite spot.

**Paul:** Great! Let's go. Dad, thanks for helping us find a way across.

*[They start across the stage as if walking on the bridge.]*

**Dee:** No problem, son. This situation actually reminds me of what God did for us in sending Jesus.

**Cy:** You mean to save us from our sins?

**Dee:** Yes, just as the broken bridge and

the dark bridge separated us from Paul's favorite spot, our sin creates a barrier between us and God.

**Paul:** We learned about that in Sunday school.

**Cy:** Yeah, our teacher always says that Jesus is the way to God.

**Dee:** That's right. You see, by sending Jesus, God provided the way to him.

**Paul:** Like a bridge.

**Dee:** Yes, Jesus built a bridge across the sin barrier and calls His children to walk in the light. Just as this bridge leads to Paul's favorite spot, Jesus is the way to God.

**Cy:** That's cool.

**Dee:** But there's a difference. Unlike Paul's favorite spot that can be reached by more than one bridge, Jesus is the one and only way to God.

*[They reach the other side of the stage.]*

**Paul:** Look, Dad, I think I see the path to the fort.

**Cy:** We'll race you, Mr. Shepherd.

**Dee:** Sure, but watch out for rocks and stumps.

**Paul:** Okay. Ready, set, go!

*[All race to exit. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Dee:** That was fun. I'd like to see that fort someday.

**Paul:** You want to fight off enemies with us?

**Dee:** No. But I'd like to see the fossils. And I like the idea of the bridge and how Jesus is the way for us to God.

**Cy:** I'm glad God gave us Jesus so that we can live with Him someday.

**Paul:** I am, too. From now on, every time I see a bridge, I'll remember that Jesus is the one and only bridge to God.

**Dee:** Me too. 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.*

Cy was excited. A fair was coming to town on Saturday, and his mother had promised to take him to it. She said he could invite Dee and Paul. Dee and Paul’s parents said yes, and the kids were looking forward to all the fun and food they would have at the fair. On Sunday after church, the boys were planning what rides they would go on at the fair. Dee joined them. When they asked what rides she liked, she said that she wouldn’t be going to the fair. Why did she change her mind? And what would the boys decide to do?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

When Dee told Cy and Paul that she would not be going to the fair with them, she mentioned a family that had a house fire. Many people from the church were going to help fix up an old house for the family to live in while their home was being repaired. Dee wanted to help, too. The only problem was that the work had to be done on Saturday, the same day as the fair. She talked about how God teaches His children to love Him rather than the world and its pleasures. Although the fair would be fine, it would be better to show love to God by helping others. The boys decided to skip the fair and help, too. On Saturday, they were surprised by how many people came to help. The work was finished so quickly that everyone went to the fair, including the family that needed help.

Chip barked happily as Cy came running into Dee’s yard, “Hey Dee. Hi Paul. Guess what?”

“Hi Cy. You look excited. What’s going on?” asked Dee.

“My mom found out today that a fair is coming to town next Saturday, and she said that she would take us!” Cy said breathlessly as he flopped on the ground.

“Oh, that would be so much fun!” said Dee.

“All right!” said Paul. “I have heard that fairs are a lot of fun. They have rides and games and stuff.”

“Yeah, and lots of food!” said Cy.

Chip ran over to Cy and started barking excitedly.

“I think that Chip wants to come too. He’s always happy when there’s food around.” said Dee grinning.

Cy scratched behind Chip’s ears, “I don’t think they let dogs come, boy.”

“But we can bring him a treat,” said Paul.

Chip ran in a circle and barked again.

“That made him happy,” said Dee. “Paul, we’d better go check with our parents.”

“Yeah, I hope they say yes!” said Paul.

The next day after Sunday school, Cy and Paul sat talking excitedly about the fair.

“I’m so glad your parents said you could go with us. We are going to have a great time,” said Cy.

“Yeah, I can’t wait,” said Paul. “I hope they have those big, hot pretzels. They’re my favorite.”

“Yeah, and a carousel to ride,” said Cy.

Just then Dee came walking up. “Hey, guys.”

“Hi, we’re talking about all that we’re going to do at the fair next Saturday,” said Paul.

“What ride do you want to go on first?” asked Cy.

“Well, actually, I don’t think I’m going. Did you hear the announcement about the family whose house had a fire?”

“Oh yeah. My dad said something about that last night,” said Paul.

“What about them?” asked Cy.

“Well, they’re moving into an older house while their house gets fixed, and a bunch of people are going over to help them move in and get the house and yard fixed up.”

“Oh, that sounds like a great thing to do. I’d like to help,” said Paul.

“Me too. When is it?” asked Cy.

“Next Saturday,” said Dee.

“Oh,” said Paul looking disappointed.

“But that’s when we’re going to the fair,” said Cy. “Now what should we do?”

“Well, I was thinking about how God teaches His children to love Him rather than the world and its pleasures,” said Dee.

“But there is nothing wrong with going to a fair,” said Cy.

“No,” said Paul, “but I guess if we’re wanting to put God first in everything, the more loving thing to do would be to help someone else instead of having fun ourselves.”

“Besides,” said Dee, “it’s fun helping others.”

“We’ve gotten really good at gardening,” said Cy. “We could plant some nice flowers to make the family feel at home.”

“Do you think your mother would mind if we don’t go to the fair?” asked Dee.

“I’ll ask her, but I think she’ll be glad that we want to help that family.”

“Maybe there will be another fair or something else that we can go to on another weekend,” said Paul.

“Good idea. Let’s go talk to my mom,” said Cy.

“Sounds great,” said Paul.

“Yeah, and then we can start planning all the fun we will have making that yard look nice!” said Dee.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Fair"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

### INTRODUCTION

**Paul:** Chip sure is enjoying the treats we brought home for him.

**Dee:** Chip always enjoys food, especially when he has to miss out on the fun.

**Cy:** Wait a minute. The kids don't know where we've been.

**Paul:** That's right. But let's not tell them.

**Dee:** Okay. We'll let it be a surprise. C'mon, Chip.

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

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Dee, Chip, and Paul are onstage. Enter Cy. Chip barks excitedly and greets him.]*

**Cy:** Hi Chip. Hey Dee. Hey Paul. Guess what?

**Dee:** Hi Cy. You look excited. What's going on?

**Cy:** My mom found out that a fair is coming to town next Saturday, and she said that she would take us!

**Dee:** That would be so much fun!

**Paul:** All right! I've heard that fairs are a lot of fun. They have rides and games and stuff.

**Cy:** Yeah, and lots of food!

*[Chip runs over to Cy and barks excitedly.]*

**Dee:** I think that Chip wants to come too. He is always happy when there's food around.

**Cy:** *[Scratches Chip's ears.]* I don't think they let dogs come, boy. Sorry.

**Paul:** But we can bring him a treat.

*[Chip runs in a circle and barks again.]*

**Dee:** That made him happy. Paul, we'd better go check with our parents.

**Paul:** Yeah, I hope they say yes!

**Cy:** See you tomorrow.

**Dee and Paul:** Okay!

*[Brief curtain. Enter Cy and Paul.]*

**Cy:** I'm so glad your parents and Dee's parents said you could go with us. We are going to have a great time at the fair.

**Paul:** Yeah, I can't wait. I hope they have those big, hot pretzels. They're my favorite.

**Cy:** Yeah, and a carousel to ride.

*[Enter Dee.]*

**Dee:** Hey, guys.

**Paul:** Hi, we're talking about all that we're going to do at the fair next Saturday.

**Cy:** What ride do you want to go on first, Dee?

**Dee:** Well, actually, I don't think I'm going. Did you hear the announcement they made in church today about the family whose house had a fire?

**Paul:** Oh yeah. My dad said something about that last night.

**Cy:** What about them?

**Dee:** Well, I just heard that they're moving into an older house while their house gets fixed. A bunch of people are going over to help them move in and get the house and yard fixed up.

**Paul:** That sounds like a great thing to do. I'd like to help.

**Cy:** Me too. When is it?

**Dee:** Next Saturday.

**Paul:** Oh.

**Cy:** But that's when we're going to the fair. Now what should we do?

**Dee:** Well, I was thinking about our lesson today about how God teaches His children to love Him rather than the world and its pleasures.

**Cy:** But there's nothing wrong with going to a fair.

**Paul:** No, but I guess if we're wanting to put God first in everything, the more

loving thing to do would be to help someone else instead of having fun ourselves.

**Dee:** Besides, it's fun helping others.

**Cy:** We've gotten really good at gardening. We could plant some nice flowers to make the family feel at home.

**Dee:** Do you think your mother will mind if we don't go to the fair?

**Cy:** I'll ask her, but I think she'll be glad that we want to help that family. Her family had a house fire when she was growing up.

**Paul:** Maybe there will be another fair or something else that we can go to another weekend.

**Cy:** Good idea. Let's go talk to my mom.

**Paul:** Sounds great.

**Dee:** Yeah, and then we can start planning all the fun we'll have making that yard nice!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

*[Chip is chomping on something again.]*

**Cy:** He's still eating.

**Dee:** You should talk. You never stopped eating all day.

**Paul:** First we helped make that house and yard nice for the people who had a fire.

**Dee:** Chip helped us dig for the flowers, didn't you boy?

*[Chip barks.]*

**Cy:** So many people helped that we had time to go to the fair, too!

**Paul:** Everyone went, including the family that needed help.

**Cy:** We showed our love for God by helping others, and everyone enjoyed it.

**Dee:** So remember to keep God first, kids.

**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.*

Dee, Cy and Paul were helping in Dee's grandmother's yard. Cy pulled the last weed, Paul filled the birdfeeder, and Dee finished sweeping the porch. Dee's grandmother enjoyed watching them from her porch. After a little rest, they decided to play a game. Grandmother suggested playing "Follow the Leader." She used to play it when she was a girl. Cy was the leader first. He marched down the steps. Then he hopped around the yard like a frog, making frog sounds. Next he jumped in a circle saying, "Boing, boing, boing." Each child had a turn. Then they joined Grandma again. She said that their game reminded her of something about God. What could it be?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

The kids enjoyed playing "Follow the Leader." Dee's grandmother told them that just as they were walking around together and following the leader for the game, God calls His children to walk with Him all their lives. From the moment we accept Jesus, God calls us to follow Him every day and to grow to be more like Him. The children realized that following God is a lot like playing "Follow the Leader." Just as they imitated the leader in the game, Christians are to follow God as the leader and become more and more like Him, because He's the best leader of all.

Dee's grandmother sat on her porch watching Dee, Cy and Paul.

"That's the last of the weeds," said Cy tossing them in a garbage bag.

"I filled the bird feeder," said Paul,

"And I finished sweeping the porch," said Dee.

The children sat down beside Dee's grandmother.

She smiled, "Thank you for your hard work. The yard looks beautiful."

"You're welcome," said Paul.

"I'm just happy to spend some time with you, Grandma," said Dee. "Do you mind if we play in your yard?"

"Not at all. I enjoy the company," she replied. "And if you don't have a game in mind, I have an idea for you."

"Really? What game?" asked Paul.

"It's a game I used to play when I was young," said Dee's grandmother. "You have probably played it before. It's called 'Follow the Leader.'"

"Oh yeah, we played that at school," said Cy. "I like that game. You can make people do all sorts of funny stuff."

"I like that game too. Do you guys want to play?" asked Dee.

"Yes!" said Paul.

"May I be the leader first?" asked Cy.

"Sure," said Paul.

"It's okay with me," said Dee.

"Okay, here we go!" said Cy marching down the porch steps.

Dee and Paul began marching and followed him down the steps.

"Good job guys," said Cy. "Now we're going to be frogs." Cy began hopping like a frog, "Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit."

"Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit," said Dee and Paul as they began hopping too.

Then Cy stood up and began jumping up and down in a circle saying, "Boing, boing, boing."

Dee and Paul quickly stood up and began imitating Cy, "Boing, boing, boing."

A little later after all the children had had a turn, they flopped on the porch, laughing.

"That was a great game," said Cy.

"I'm tired now! You two made me work hard!" said Paul.

"Thanks for the idea, Grandma," said Dee.

"I am glad you had fun," said Dee's grandmother. "I enjoyed watching. And you know, watching you play reminded me of something about God."

"How could watching us play 'Follow the Leader' remind you of God?" asked Cy.

"Well, just as you were walking around together and following the leader for the whole game, God calls His children to walk with Him all their lives." Dee's grandmother continued, "From the moment that we accept Jesus, God calls us to follow Him every day and to grow to be more like Him."

"Wow," said Dee, "So it's a lot like 'Follow the Leader.'"

"Yes, just as you are supposed to follow and imitate the leader in the game, Christians are to follow God as our leader and become more and more like Him," said Dee's grandmother.

"That's really neat," said Paul. "Now whenever we play that game, we can remember God is the leader, and we follow Him," said Dee.

"That's right," said Dee's grandmother smiling. "Now, since you had such an active game of 'Follow the Leader,' would you like a snack?"

"Yes please," said Cy getting up quickly. "I'm always ready for a snack!"

The other children agreed.

"Great," said Dee's grandmother. "If you would all like to play a little more 'Follow the Leader,' I'll be leader, and you can follow me to the kitchen for some lemonade and cookies."

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Following the Leader"

### 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 shawl.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Cy:** Whew! I'm glad to get away from my little sister for awhile.

**Paul:** Hi Cy.

**Dee:** Why do you say that? I like Diane.

**Cy:** So do I, but she keeps imitating everything I do.

**Paul:** I used to do that to my older sister. She didn't like it either.

**Dee:** But sometimes it's good when people follow the lead of someone else.

**Cy:** That's true, when you have someone worth following.

**Paul:** Doesn't that remind you of a story?

**Dee:** Yes, at Grandma's house. But we'll need you to be my grandmother.

**Paul:** Oh, okay.

**Cy:** Okay, see you in a minute, kids!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee, Cy, Chip, and Paul wearing a shawl as Dee's grandmother.]*

**Cy:** That's the last of the weeds.

**Dee:** I filled the birdfeeder and finished sweeping the porch.

*(The children join Paul.)*

**Paul:** Thank you for your hard work. The yard looks beautiful.

**Dee:** You're welcome.

**Cy:** It was fun. I liked looking at all the bugs. So did Chip!

*[Chip barks.]*

**Dee:** Yuck. I'm just happy to spend some time with you Grandma. Do you mind if we play in your yard?

**Paul:** Not at all. I enjoy the company. And if you don't have a game in mind, I have an idea for you.

**Dee:** Really? What game?

**Paul:** It's a game I used to play when I was young. You have probably played it before. It's called "Follow the Leader."

**Cy:** Oh yeah, we played that at school. I like that game. You can make people do all sorts of funny stuff.

**Dee:** I like that game too. Do you guys want to play?

**Cy:** Yes! May I be the leader first?

**Dee:** Sure.

**Cy:** Okay, here we go! *[Marches around the stage, and Dee and Chip follow.]* Good job guys. Now we're going to be frogs. *[Hops like a frog. Dee and Chip imitate him.]* Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit.

**Dee:** Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit.

*[Chip barks three times.]*

**Cy:** Okay, next do this. *[Jumps up and down in a circle.]* Boing, boing, boing.

**Dee:** Boing, boing, boing.

*[Chip barks three times. Cy leads Dee and Chip offstage for a brief time, shouting other silly directions. They all re-enter.]*

**Cy:** That was a great game.

**Dee:** I'm tired now! You made us work hard.

*[The children sit beside Paul. Chip acts exhausted.]*

**Dee:** Thanks for the idea, Grandma.

**Paul:** I'm glad you had fun. You know, watching you play reminded me of something about God.

**Cy:** How could watching us play "Follow the Leader" remind you of God?

**Paul:** Well, just as you were walking around together and following the leader for the whole game, God calls His children to walk with Him all their lives. From the moment that we accept Jesus, God calls us to follow Him every day as our leader and to grow to be more and more like Him.

**Dee:** Wow. So it's a lot like "Follow the Leader."

**Cy:** That's really neat. Now whenever we play that game, we can remember that God is the leader, and we follow Him.

**Paul:** That's right. Now, since you had such an active game, would you like a snack?

**Cy:** Yes please. I'm always ready for a snack!

**Dee:** Me, too!

*[Chip barks.]*

**Paul:** Great. If you would all like to play a little more "Follow the Leader," I'll be leader, and you can follow me to the kitchen for some lemonade and cookies.

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Dee:** I want to do a good job of following God's directions and walk with Him as my leader every day.

**Paul:** God's the best leader of all. Will you follow Him, kids?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Cy:** That's great. Say, I have an idea. Let's go play "Follow the Leader" with Chip.

**Dee:** Good idea! Come on, boy!

**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.*

Cy joined Paul and his mom on a shopping trip to buy supplies for the church carnival. Cy and Paul were excited about finding toys and candy to use as prizes for those who win the games. They found many great toys, like small animals and bouncy balls. As they headed for the register to pay for their purchases, Cy noticed a pack of gum that had been opened. He looked around. No one was looking. He thought that maybe it wouldn't matter if he took some gum, since the package was already open. What would Cy do? Would he remember to obey God's Word?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Suddenly, Cy felt horrible. He remembered that God's Word says not to steal. He didn't take the gum. Instead, he told the cashier about it. On the way home, Cy asked Mrs. Shepherd about what happened. She explained that the Holy Spirit lives inside those who believe in Jesus. He helps them know what's right and wrong, reminds them of what God's Word says, and makes them feel bad when they do wrong things. Cy was thankful for the Holy Spirit's help. He was glad that the Holy Spirit guided him and gave him the strength he needed to say “No” to sin.

Cy and Paul hurried down the toy aisle. “Thanks for letting me come shopping for the church carnival, Mrs. Shepherd,” said Cy.

“I'm glad you came, Cy,” said Mrs. Shepherd.

“It was fun finding the decorations. Now we get to find toy prizes for the people who win the games,” said Paul.

“Don't forget the candy!” said Cy.

“We'll get that next,” said Paul's mom.

“Great!” said Cy. “Look, here's a big pack of toy animals.”

“Those are neat prizes,” said Paul's mom.

“What about these?” asked Paul pointing to little bouncy balls.

“Great idea, Paul,” said his mom.

After they found more toys, they went to the candy aisle.

“This is one of my favorite things,” said Cy pointing to a large bag. “It has lots of different types of gum and other candy.”

“May we get that, Mom?” asked Paul.

“Sure,” said his mom. “A couple of bags will be plenty. We have everything we need. Thank you for your help.”

“It's been fun,” said Cy.

“We have great stuff for people who win the games. Maybe we'll win some,” said Paul grinning.

Paul's mom laughed. “Maybe. Let's go check out.”

The boys followed her to the front of the store. By the cash register, Cy noticed an open pack of gum sitting on the shelf.

Cy stared at it and thought, *I bet nobody would notice if I took a couple pieces home. Somebody already opened the package, so it wouldn't really matter.*

Cy checked around to see if anyone was looking. Then suddenly Cy remembered the commandment that said not to steal. He felt horrible and decided not to take any of the gum. Instead he said

to the cashier, “Excuse me, sir. There is an open pack of gum on the shelf.”

The cashier smiled and thanked Cy for his honesty.

As they were driving home, Cy said, “Mrs. Shepherd?”

“Yes, Cy?” she replied.

“I have a question. You remember that pack of gum on the shelf?” he asked.

“Yes,” she said.

Cy continued. “Well, when I found it I thought that it wouldn't matter if I took a couple of pieces, since it was open anyway. But as soon as I thought that, I remembered the commandment that requires that we do not steal, and I felt horrible. Why did that happen?”

“Cy, that type of thing happens to all people who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You see, when we accept Jesus, God sends His Spirit who lives in, guides and empowers His children,” said Paul's mom.

“You mean that was the Holy Spirit helping Cy to know what was right?” asked Paul.

“Yes, the Holy Spirit lives in us,” said Paul's mom. “He guides us by helping us know right from wrong. He also helps us to remember Bible verses just when we need them.”

“What about that bad feeling that I had?” asked Cy.

“That is another way that the Spirit guides us, He gives us those bad feelings when we are about to do or are doing something wrong. That's called being convicted.” Paul's mom continued, “Do you know something else the Holy Spirit does?”

“What?” asked Paul and Cy.

“He gives us the strength that we need to do what is right, even when it is hard,” said Paul's mom. “I'm proud of you for making the right decision, today, Cy.”

“Thanks, Mrs. Shepherd,” said Cy. “I'm thankful that the Holy Spirit guided me and gave me the strength I needed!”

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Perfect Guide"

### 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 scarf and a small box.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Paul:** *[Holding the box.]* Oh no, the game won't work anymore. We can't play until we replace the batteries.

**Dee:** It's too bad this game needs power for us to play it.

**Cy:** Speaking of power. Let's tell the kids about the Power I learned about when we were shopping for the church carnival.

**Paul:** Great idea! That's even better than playing the game. Dee, you'll have to be my mom.

**Dee:** Okay.

**Cy:** We'll be back in a minute, kids.

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Paul, Cy, and Dee, wearing the scarf as Mrs. Shepherd.]*

**Cy:** Thanks for letting me come shopping for the church carnival, Mrs. Shepherd.

**Dee:** I'm glad you came, Cy.

**Paul:** It was fun finding the decorations. Now we get to find toy prizes for the people who win the games.

**Cy:** Don't forget the candy!

**Dee:** We'll get that next.

**Cy:** Great! Look, here's a big pack of toy animals.

**Dee:** Those are neat prizes.

**Paul:** What about these little bouncy balls?

**Dee:** Great idea, Paul. Now I think we have enough toys. Let's find the candy aisle.

*[They walk to the other side of the stage.]*

**Dee:** Here it is.

**Cy:** Look at this big bag. It has some of my favorite things, lots of different types

of gum and other candy.

**Paul:** May we get that, Mom?

**Dee:** Sure. A couple of bags will be plenty. Now we have everything we need. Thank you for your help, boys.

**Cy:** It's been fun.

**Paul:** We have great stuff for people who win the games. Maybe we'll win some.

**Dee:** *[Laughs.]* Maybe. Let's go check out.

*[They exit, but Cy hangs back. He looks down.]*

**Cy:** That's an open pack of gum sitting on the shelf. I bet nobody would notice if I took a couple pieces home. Somebody already opened the package, so it wouldn't really matter. *[Looks around. He starts to reach out his hand and then suddenly pulls it back.]* I feel horrible. I wonder why. Wait a minute. God commanded us not to steal. I can't take that gum. I'm going to go tell the cashier that there's an open pack of gum on the shelf.

*[Cy exits. Then Dee, Cy, and Paul enter. They bounce a little as if riding in a car.]*

**Dee:** That was a successful shopping trip.

**Paul:** It was fun.

**Cy:** Mrs. Shepherd?

**Dee:** Yes, Cy?

**Cy:** Do you remember that pack of gum on the shelf that I told the cashier about?

**Dee:** Yes.

**Cy:** Well, when I found it I thought that it wouldn't matter if I took a couple of pieces, since it was open anyway. But as soon as I thought that, I remembered the commandment that requires that we do not steal, and I felt horrible. Why did that happen?

**Dee:** Cy, that type of thing happens to all people who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You see, when we accept Jesus, God sends His Spirit who lives in, guides, and empowers His chil-

dren.

**Paul:** You mean that was the Holy Spirit helping Cy to know what was right?

**Dee:** Yes, the Holy Spirit lives in us. He guides us by helping us know right from wrong. He also helps us to remember Bible verses just when we need them.

**Cy:** What about the bad feeling I had?

**Dee:** That is another way that the Spirit guides us. He gives us those bad feelings when we are about to do or are doing something wrong. That's called being convicted. Do you boys know something else the Holy Spirit does?

**Paul and Cy:** What?

**Dee:** He gives us the strength that we need to do what is right, even when it is hard. I'm proud of you for making the right decision, today, Cy.

**Cy:** Thanks, Mrs. Shepherd. I'm thankful that the Holy Spirit guided me and gave me the strength I needed!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Cy:** It was really neat having the Holy Spirit empower and guide me at the store that way.

**Dee:** God really is good to us. He tells us how to live and then He helps us do it, too.

**Paul:** I like the way the Holy Spirit helps me remember what God's Word says.

**Cy:** And He helps us obey it.

**Dee:** That's right. Now if only we could take some of Chip's energy and use it to work our game!

**Paul:** I have a better idea. Let's get some exercise letting Chip chase us around the yard.

**Cy:** Okay. Here, Chip! Come and catch me!

**Dee:** 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 and his family were on a trip to the ocean. Paul and Sam, a new friend Paul met at the beach, decided to build a sandcastle. While they were building, Sam asked about what Paul’s father does as a pastor, and they talked about Jesus. Paul told Sam that the Bible says Jesus is God’s Son, who came to earth and died and rose again from the dead to save people from their sins. Paul said that because he believed in Jesus and had accepted Him as his Lord and Savior, God forgave his sins and gave Paul eternal life. He told Sam that God sent Jesus for him, too, and that he could have eternal life. Sam thought it sounded cool, but he didn’t understand what eternal life was. Who could help Sam understand? And would Sam decide to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul asked his mom to help. Mrs. Shepherd explained that eternal life was like the waves of the ocean—they keep going and never stop. She told Sam that if he asked God to forgive his sins and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, God would forgive him. God would be with him all the time, and Sam would live with Him forever in heaven. Sam wanted to accept Jesus. Paul and his mom prayed with Sam. Paul silently thanked God for letting him tell his new friend about Jesus.

“I found another one!” shouted Paul, racing toward his mom.

“That’s the biggest shell yet!” she said.

“I love the ocean,” said Paul. “Look at those funny birds! They run after the waves going out, but when the waves come back in, the birds run away.”

Paul’s mom smiled. “When I was little, I pretended to be one of them, a sandpiper, running back and forth with the waves.”

“I’ll bet you looked funny,” said Paul.

His mom laughed. “Probably. I couldn’t keep up with the waves, though.”

“Yeah, they never stop,” said Paul.

“Hi, Paul!” said a voice.

Paul turned, “Hi, Sam.”

“Want to play?” asked Sam.

“May I, Mom?” asked Paul.

“Sure, but stay where I can see you,” said Mrs. Shepherd.

“Thanks, Mom,” called Paul, running toward the water. “Let’s build a sand castle, Sam. We can make it really big, with a moat and everything.”

“Okay,” said Sam.

“I’m so glad I met you,” said Paul gathering sand. “It’s fun having a new friend to play with.”

Sam smiled. “It’s cool we’re staying at the same place,” he said.

“A friend from our church owns the condo we’re staying in,” said Paul.

“You told me your dad’s a pastor. What exactly does a pastor do?” asked Sam as he smoothed part of the castle.

“My dad does lots of things, but mostly he tells people about Jesus.”

“I heard about Jesus at camp,” said Sam thoughtfully. “What do you know about Him?”

“I believe what the Bible says—that Jesus is God’s Son. He came to earth and died and rose again from the dead to save me from my sins. Because I believe in Him and have accepted Him as my

Lord and Savior, He forgives my sins and gives me eternal life,” said Paul.

“Sins?” asked Sam.

“Yeah, you know, doing bad things. We all sin,” said Paul. “But God sent Jesus so we can be forgiven. He sent Jesus for you, too, because He loves you. If you believe in Him, you can have eternal life.”

“That sounds cool. Umm, what exactly is eternal life?” asked Sam.

“I’ll bet Mom can explain it better,” said Paul.

They ran to Paul’s mother. “Mom, can you help me tell Sam about Jesus?” asked Paul.

“Especially the eternal life part,” said Sam.

“Sure,” she said. “Sam, the Bible tells us that our sins separate us from God. So God sent Jesus to build a bridge from us to Him. Jesus is the only way to God. God gives everyone who believes in Jesus the gift of eternal life.”

“It sounds good,” said Sam. “But I still don’t understand what ‘eternal’ means.”

Paul’s mom thought for a minute. “Do you see how the waves keep going in and out, in and out?”

“Yes,” said Sam watching the ocean.

“Eternal life is like that. It keeps going and never stops. If you ask God to forgive your sins and you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He will forgive you. Then He’ll be with you all the time, and you can live with Him forever in heaven,” said Paul’s mom.

Sam thought hard. “I want to have eternal life, Mrs. Shepherd. I want God to forgive my sins and be with me forever. What do I have to do?”

Paul’s mom smiled, “Tell God what you told me. Would you like us to pray with you?”

“Yes, please,” said Sam.

As they bowed their heads, Paul smiled and silently thanked God for allowing him to tell his new friend about Jesus.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Eternal Life"

### 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 and a sunhat.

### INTRODUCTION

*[Dee and Cy are onstage. Paul enters.]*

**Dee:** Hi, Paul. How was your vacation at the beach?

**Cy:** Did you find any good seashells?

**Paul:** I sure did. And I found something even better than that.

**Dee and Cy:** What?

**Paul:** A new friend. Let's tell the kids about it. Dee, you be my mom. Cy can be my new friend, Sam.

**Cy:** Okay! Be right back, kids!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Paul and Dee, wearing the sunhat as Mrs. Shepherd.]*

**Paul:** What do you think of that shell I found, Mom?

**Dee:** That's the biggest shell yet!

**Paul:** I love the ocean. Look at those funny birds! They run after the waves going out, but when the waves come back in, the birds run away.

**Dee:** When I was little, I pretended to be one of them, a sandpiper, running back and forth with the waves.

**Paul:** I'll bet you looked funny.

**Dee:** [Laughing] Probably. I couldn't keep up with the waves, though.

**Paul:** Yeah, they never stop.

*[Enter Cy, wearing the cap as Sam.]*

**Cy:** Hi, Paul!

**Paul:** Hi, Sam.

**Cy:** Want to play?

**Paul:** May I, Mom?

**Dee:** Sure, but stay where I can see you.

*[The boys go to the other side of the stage.]*

**Paul:** Thanks, Mom. Let's build a sand castle, Sam. We can make it really big, with a moat and everything.

**Cy:** Okay," said Sam.

**Paul:** I'm so glad I met you. It's fun having a new friend to play with.

**Cy:** It's cool we're staying at the same place.

**Paul:** A friend from our church owns the condo we're staying in.

**Cy:** You told me your dad's a pastor. What exactly does a pastor do?

**Paul:** My dad does lots of things, but mostly he tells people about Jesus.

**Cy:** I heard about Jesus at camp. What do you know about Him?

**Paul:** I believe what the Bible says—that Jesus is the Son of God. He came to earth and died and rose again from the dead to save me from my sins. Because I believe in Him and have accepted Him as my Lord and Savior, He forgives my sins and gives me eternal life.

**Cy:** Sins?

**Paul:** Yeah, you know, doing bad things. We all sin. But God sent Jesus so we can be forgiven. He sent Jesus for you, too, because He loves you. If you believe in Him, you can have eternal life.

**Cy:** That sounds cool. Umm, what exactly is eternal life.

**Paul:** I'll bet Mom can explain it better.

*[The boys walk over to Dee.]*

**Paul:** Mom, can you help me tell Sam about Jesus?

**Cy:** Especially the eternal life part.

**Dee:** Sure. Sam, the Bible tells us that our sins separate us from God. So God sent Jesus to build a bridge from us to Him. Jesus is the only way to God. God gives everyone who believes in Jesus the gift of eternal life.

**Cy:** It sounds good. But I still don't understand what "eternal" means.

**Dee:** *[Thinks for a minute, then motions toward the audience as if to the ocean.]* "Do you see how the waves keep going in and out, in and out?"

**Cy:** Yes.

**Dee:** Eternal life is like that. It keeps going and never stops. If you ask God to forgive your sins and you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He will forgive you. Then He'll be with you all the time, and you can live with Him forever in heaven.

**Cy:** I want to have eternal life, Mrs. Shepherd. I want God to forgive my sins and be with me forever. What do I have to do?

**Dee:** Tell God what you told me. Would you like us to pray with you?

**Cy:** Yes, please.

*[They bow their heads. Then Dee and Cy appear to be talking as they exit. Paul stays behind.]*

**Paul:** Thank You, God, for letting me tell my new friend about Jesus.

*[Paul exits. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Dee:** That was so cool. I'd like to meet Sam sometime.

**Paul:** You will.

**Dee:** What? Is he coming to see you?

**Cy:** You didn't tell us you were having company.

**Paul:** We're not. I meant that you'll meet Sam in heaven, since we're all going to live there forever together.

**Cy:** That's right! All of us who believe in Jesus have the gift of eternal life.

**Dee:** Oh, that's what you meant. I'd still like to meet Sam on earth, but if I have to wait for heaven, then that's okay, too.

**Paul:** Remember, kids. When you accept Jesus, God gives you eternal life—like the waves that never stop.

**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.*

Dee was spending the afternoon with her grandparents while her parents visit a sick friend in the hospital. Dee and Chip sat with her grandparents on their front porch. Dee and her grandparents talked about the man who was sick. Dee's mom told her that the man was really sick, but that he kept smiling anyway, because he trusted God to take care of him. Dee admitted that she had a hard time smiling or feeling joy when she was sick or having a hard time. She asked her grandparents how they stay joyful, even though Grandma was sick. What would Grandpa and Grandma say? Would it help Dee?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee asked how her grandparents had stayed joyful, even though Grandma was sick with cancer. Grandma and Grandpa told Dee that God has always taken care of them. What God's Word says about struggles and trials is true. True faith enables God's children to endure trials joyfully. When people go through struggles, they can trust God, knowing that He loves them and has good plans for them. Dee realized that because God can do everything, He can help people have joy even when things are hard. She decided to ask Jesus to help her remain joyful the next time she's having a hard time or feeling bad.

Dee, Cy, Paul, and Chip ran around Dee's yard. "This is a great new soccer ball, Dee," said Cy. He kicked the ball towards Paul.

"Thanks for inviting us over," said Paul passing it to Dee.

"I'm glad you came," said Dee running after the ball. "I wanted to play with you before I had to leave."

"Where are you going?" asked Cy.

Chip ran after Dee, barking.

Dee passed the ball to Cy, "To my grandparents' house. Mom and Dad are going to the hospital to visit a friend who's sick, so Chip and I are spending the afternoon with Grandma and Grandpa."

"Will you be working in your grandmother's garden?" asked Paul.

"No," replied Dee, "I think we're just going to talk and read together. My grandfather likes to read aloud to us."

"That sounds like fun," said Cy.

"I hear my parents calling," said Dee. "They're ready to go."

"Okay," said Paul. "We'll see you tomorrow!"

Chip barked.

"Bye!" said Dee. "Come on, Chip."

That afternoon, Dee and Chip sat on the porch with Dee's grandparents. "Thank you for letting me stay with you while my parents are visiting the hospital," said Dee.

"We're happy to have you," said Dee's grandfather as he smiled and settled into his chair with a book.

"Would you like any more to drink?" asked Dee's grandmother. "I have lots more lemonade."

"No thank you, Grandma," said Dee.

"I'm enjoying my flowers today," said Dee's grandmother. "You three children have done a wonderful job keeping the garden nice. We really appreciate it."

"We've had fun doing it," said Dee as she munched on a cookie.

"How is your parents' friend doing?"

asked Dee's grandfather.

"I think he's still really sick, but Mom said he keeps smiling anyway," said Dee. "Dad said that lots of people are praying for him and that he's trusting God to take care of him."

Chip nudged Dee, and she gave him a small piece of cookie.

"It's hard when we or someone we love is sick, but God does take care of us," said Dee's grandmother.

"He has taken good care of us," said Dee's grandfather smiling. "Always has."

"I was thinking," said Dee. "I know the Bible says God takes care of us, but I have a hard time smiling or feeling joy when I'm sick or having a bad day. I don't know how you and Grandpa do it, Grandma, especially when you're sick from your medicine."

Grandma smiled, "Well, Dee, there are days that have been very hard, but we've found that what God's Word tells us about struggles and trials is true."

"What does it say?" asked Dee.

Grandpa explained, "God's Word tells us that true faith enables God's children to endure trials joyfully. When we go through struggles, we can trust God, knowing that He loves us and has good plans for us."

Grandma added, "When we know Jesus and go through hard times, He comforts us and gives us the strength and peace we need. We just have to keep trusting Him."

Dee thought about it. "It still sounds hard," she said. "But it makes sense. God can do everything, so He can help us have joy even when things are hard. I'll ask Jesus to help me keep smiling the next time I'm having a hard time or feeling bad. So, Grandpa, are you ready to read?"

Grandpa smiled. "If you and Grandma are ready."

"Yes, please," said Dee.

Dee's grandfather began reading as Dee, her grandmother and Chip settled in for a relaxing afternoon.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Joy in Hard Times"

### 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 boy's sweater a lady's hat.

### INTRODUCTION

**Dee:** *[Grumpy but determined.]* I will be joyful. I will be joyful.

**Cy:** What's the matter, Dee?

**Paul:** Oh, she's having a really hard day.

**Dee:** Yes, but I'm not going to be grumpy about it. *[Puts her face close to Cy's face.]* See? Look at my smile.

**Cy:** I see it. But why are you trying to smile if you're unhappy?

**Paul:** Because God can help us have joy even in hard times.

**Dee:** Let's tell the kids about it.

**Paul:** Okay, I'm your grandfather.

**Cy:** So does that mean I'm your grandmother?

**Dee:** Uh-huh. Be right back, kids!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee, Chip, Cy (wearing the lady's hat as Dee's grandmother), and Paul, wearing the sweater as Dee's grandfather.]*

**Dee:** Thank you for letting me stay with you while my parents visit their sick friend at the hospital.

**Paul:** *[Pets Chip.]* We're happy to have you.

**Cy:** Would you like any more to drink? I have lots more lemonade.

**Dee:** No thank you, Grandma.

**Cy:** I'm enjoying my flowers today. You three children have done a wonderful job keeping the garden nice. We really appreciate it.

**Dee:** We've had fun doing it.

**Paul:** How is your parents' friend doing?

**Dee:** I think he's still really sick, but Mom said he keeps smiling anyway. Dad said that lots of people are praying for him and that he's trusting God to take care of him.

*[Chip nudges Dee's hand. She pets him.]*

**Cy:** It's hard when we or someone we love is sick, but God does take care of us.

**Paul:** He has taken good care of us. Always has.

**Dee:** I was thinking. I know the Bible says God takes care of us, but I have a hard time staying happy when I'm sick or having a bad day. I don't know how you and Grandpa do it, especially when you're sick from your medicine, Grandma.

**Cy:** Well, Dee, there are days that have been very hard, but we've found that what God's Word tells us about struggles and trials is true.

**Dee:** What does it say?

**Paul:** God's Word tells us that true faith enables God's children to endure trials joyfully. When we go through struggles, we can trust God, knowing that He loves us and has good plans for us.

**Cy:** When we know Jesus and go through hard times, He comforts us and gives us the strength and peace we need. We just have to keep trusting Him.

**Dee:** It still sounds hard. But it makes sense. God can do everything, so He can help us have joy even when things are hard. I'll ask Jesus to help me keep smiling the next time I'm having a hard time or feeling bad. So, Grandpa, are you ready to go read?

**Paul:** If you and Grandma are ready.

**Dee:** Yes, please.

**Paul:** Then follow me!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Dee:** Hey, you know what?

**Cy and Paul:** What?

**Dee:** I feel a whole lot better now. I trusted God and He helped me to feel better.

**Cy:** So your problems are gone?

**Dee:** Oh no, I still have the same problems, but I can have joy anyway.

**Paul:** God's amazing that way, isn't He?

**Cy:** Yup! Hey, kids, next time you're having a bad day, will you remember to ask God to help you keep smiling?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Paul:** 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.*

Dee, Cy, and Paul went to the park, hoping to play on the swings. But when they arrived, two of the swings were already taken by other children. Paul and Dee didn't know the children, but Cy had met them before. The boy and girl were brother and sister. Paul, Cy, and Dee asked the other children to play with them. They had fun playing with Stacy and Trent all afternoon. Dee and Cy noticed that Stacy and Trent had no jackets, and their clothes were worn out. Paul thought they look hungry. What should the children do? Was there some way they could help their new friends?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee, Cy, and Paul remembered their Sunday school lesson—true faith leads God's children to perform good deeds. They decided to show Stacy and Trent God's love by gathering some clothes, toys and books to give them. But they didn't want to embarrass Trent and Stacy, so they decided to ask Mr. Shepherd to help them give their gifts in secret. They also decided to invite their new friends to play again. Excited about sharing God's love with their friends, the children hurried to find Paul's dad.

Cy and Dee rode up Paul's driveway on their bikes.

"What are you working on?" asked Cy.

"My dad and I are building a go cart," said Paul. "When it's finished, we can all take turns riding in it."

"Neat!" said Dee.

"We came over to see if you want to ride bikes at the park," said Cy.

"Sure, let me go ask my mom if it's okay," said Paul.

Soon they were off to the park. "When we get there, let's play on the swings," said Dee.

"We can have a jumping contest and see who lands the farthest from the swings," said Cy.

"You always win that game," said Dee, smiling. "Oh look, two of the swings are already taken."

"Who are those kids?" asked Paul.

"I don't know," said Dee. "I've never seen them before."

"I have," said Cy. "The last time my family was here, the boy skinned his knee. Mom cleaned and bandaged it for him. The girl is his sister."

"Do you think they would like to play with us?" asked Paul.

"Let's go ask them," said Dee.

The children made friends with the boy and girl and played with them all afternoon. On their way back from the park, Paul said, "That was fun. I'm glad we asked Trent and Stacy to play with us."

"Yeah, I like them," said Cy.

"Me too. Did you notice how worn out their clothes looked?" asked Dee.

"I noticed that last time, but I thought they were just wearing old clothes to play in," said Cy.

"But they didn't even have jackets on," said Dee. "It's too cold not to at least wear a jacket."

They rounded the corner onto Paul's street. Paul spoke up. "They looked

hungry to me."

Cy agreed. "From what they said about their family, I think they're poor."

Dee sighed. "I feel so sorry for them. I wouldn't like to go without a jacket or good food."

Paul thought hard. "Do you remember our Sunday school lesson from last week?"

"Yes," said Cy. "We learned that true faith leads God's children to perform good deeds."

"That's right," said Dee. "The teacher talked about how when we love the Lord, we naturally want to do nice things for other people. Stacy's about my size. I have some clothes that would fit her. And we could find some books and toys to give them."

"That's a great idea," said Cy. "I have all sorts of stuff they'd like."

"So do I. That would be a way to show them God's love," said Paul.

Cy stopped. "It sounds great, but we don't want to embarrass them," he said.

"It would be awful to hurt their feelings while trying to help them," said Paul.

"I know! Let's help them secretly," suggested Dee.

"Great idea!" said Paul. "I'm sure my Dad can help us."

"We can also show Trent and Stacy God's love by inviting them to play with us again," said Cy.

"We can all take turns riding in the go cart," said Paul.

"That's a great idea," said Cy. "Then we can build another one together and have races!"

"Let's go talk to my dad. Then we can gather stuff to give them," said Paul.

"Okay," said Cy.

"I can't wait to start," said Dee as they all hurried into Paul's house.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "Faith in Action"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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

### INTRODUCTION

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

**Paul:** Guess what? The go cart is finished!

**Dee:** Great! When do we get to ride it?

**Paul:** I want to ask our new friends to come over and try it out with us.

**Cy:** Wait a minute, Paul. The kids here don't know about our new friends, Stacy and Trent.

**Dee:** Then let's tell the kids about them. Okay, kids?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Cy:** All right. We'll be back in a minute.

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Paul is onstage working over something. Dee and Cy enter fluidly, as if riding bikes.]*

**Cy:** Hi Paul. What are you working on?

**Paul:** Hi! My dad and I are building a go cart. When it's finished, we can all take turns riding in it.

**Dee:** Neat!

**Cy:** It sure is! We came over to see if you want to ride bikes at the park.

**Paul:** Sure, let me go ask my mom if it's okay.

*[Paul exits and returns.]*

**Paul:** Mom says it's okay. I have my bike. Let's go.

*[All start moving around stage slowly, as if riding bikes.]*

**Dee:** When we get there, let's play on the swings.

**Cy:** We can have a jumping contest and see who lands the farthest from the swings.

**Dee:** You always win that game.

*[They stop.]*

**Dee:** Oh look, two of the swings are already taken.

**Paul:** Who are those kids?

**Dee:** I don't know. I've never seen them before.

**Cy:** I have. The last time my family was here, the boy skinned his knee. Mom cleaned and bandaged it for him. The girl is his sister.

**Paul:** Do you think they would like to play with us?

**Dee:** Let's go ask them.

*[All exit. Laughing and chatter is heard offstage. After a few moments, Dee, Cy and Paul enter. They act like they're riding their bikes again.]*

**Paul:** That was fun. I'm glad we asked Trent and Stacy to play with us.

**Cy:** Yeah, I like them.

**Dee:** Me too. Did you notice how worn out their clothes looked?

**Cy:** I noticed that last time, but I thought they were just wearing old clothes to play in.

**Dee:** But they didn't even have jackets on. It's too cold not to at least wear a jacket.

**Paul:** They looked hungry to me.

**Cy:** I know. From what they said about their family, I think they're poor.

**Dee:** I feel so sorry for them. I wouldn't like to go without a jacket or good food.

**Paul:** Do you remember our Sunday school lesson from last week?

**Cy:** Yes. We learned that true faith leads God's children to perform good deeds.

**Dee:** That's right. The teacher talked about how when we love the Lord, we naturally want to do nice things for other people. Stacy's about my size. I have some clothes that would fit her. And we could find some books and toys to give them.

**Cy:** That's a great idea. I have all sorts of

stuff they'd like.

**Paul:** So do I. That would be a way to show them God's love.

*[Cy stops. Dee and Paul stop beside him.]*

**Cy:** It sounds great, but we don't want to embarrass them.

**Paul:** It would be awful to hurt their feelings while trying to help them.

**Dee:** I know! Let's help them secretly.

**Paul:** Great idea! I'm sure my Dad can help us.

*[They start riding again.]*

**Cy:** We can also show Trent and Stacy God's love by inviting them to play with us again.

**Paul:** We can all take turns riding in the go cart.

**Cy:** That's a great idea. Then we can build another one together and have races!

**Paul:** Here we are.

*[They all stop.]*

**Paul:** Oh good. Dad's home. Let's go talk to him about helping Stacy and Trent. Then we can gather stuff to give them.

**Dee:** I can't wait to start.

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Paul:** Stacy and Trent were really excited to get all the new stuff.

**Cy:** Yeah. Other people in the church helped, too.

**Dee:** It was fun helping them in secret.

**Cy:** It was almost like Christmas. It was so much fun surprising them.

**Dee:** And they didn't have to feel embarrassed.

**Paul:** Let's go get them so we can launch the new go cart!

**Dee:** Okay. 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 invited Dee and Cy to his house to decorate cookies. While they put worked, they tried to think of a good name for the new class pet, a guinea pig. The teacher was having a contest for the best name. Cy liked the name “Stubby,” but Dee didn’t think it was a kind name. She said it’s like decorating a delicious cookie with ugly icing. Paul suggested “Fluffy” or “Spot.” Cy reminded him that guinea pig fur was stubby, not fluffy and that “Spot” was a dog’s name. The guinea pig wiggled when it walked, so Dee suggested “Mr. Wiggles.” Paul told her the class pet was a girl guinea pig. What name would the kids choose? And why did Dee think it was so important to choose a kind name?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee changed her name suggestion to “Miss Wiggles,” but the boys still did not like it. Cy offered “Squeaky” and “Grunty,” because of the sounds the guinea pig makes. Dee still thought the names were not kind. Dee reminded them that true faith directs God’s children to speak words that bless God and others. They also remembered that another way to bless others was to tell them how wonderful God was. They could also bless God with their words when they sing praises or pray. Suddenly, Cy thought of a perfect name for the guinea pig—“Cookie,” because cookies make almost everyone happy.

Paul, Cy and Dee gathered around Paul’s kitchen table.

“Thanks for inviting us to decorate cookies, Paul,” said Dee.

“I love icing,” said Cy, squeezing yellow icing from a tube.

“Hey, I have an idea,” said Paul. “We could think of names for the competition to name our class pet.”

“Maybe we’ll win the free pizza,” said Cy.

“Yeah,” said Dee, pressing raisins into some icing.

“So what should we name the guinea pig?” asked Paul putting a squiggle of icing on a cookie.

“It’s so cute, we need to come up with something good,” said Dee.

“It’s not cute,” said Cy. “It has a stubby nose. Hey, we could call it ‘Stubby.’”

“That’s not a nice name,” said Dee.

“How about ‘Fluffy?’” asked Paul.

“It isn’t fluffy,” said Cy. “Guinea pig fur is short and stubby. See, ‘Stubby’ is a good name.”

“No it’s not. It’s not kind,” said Dee. “It would be like decorating a delicious cookie with ugly icing.”

“Okay, no ‘Stubby,’” said Cy, licking icing off his fingers.

Paul thought a moment, “It has spots. How about ‘Spot?’”

“I thought ‘Spot’ was a dog’s name,” said Cy.

“I know,” said Dee, “The guinea pig walks funny, like this.” She moved like a guinea pig. “Let’s call it ‘Mr. Wiggles!’”

“That’s a fun name,” said Paul. “But I think it’s a girl.”

“Oh,” said Dee. “Then she can be ‘Miss Wiggles.’”

“How about ‘Squeaky?’” asked Cy. “Or ‘Grunty’? Those are the sounds she makes.”

“Those still aren’t very kind names,” said Dee.

“You’re right. We need a name that makes everyone in class happy,” said Paul.

“Yeah,” said Dee. “You know, this reminds me of last week’s Sunday school lesson.”

Cy thought a minute. “You mean when we learned about how true faith directs God’s children to speak words that bless God and others?”

“Yes, that’s the one,” said Dee.

“How does that relate to the class pet?” asked Cy.

“I think I know,” said Paul. “Just as you said that we need to be kind in what we name the guinea pig, God wants us as His children to use words that are kind.”

“That’s right,” said Dee. “We need to be kind when we talk to other people and when we talk about other people.”

“I get it,” said Cy. “Like I can bless you, Dee, by saying I like the way you always encourage others.”

“Thanks, Cy,” said Dee grinning. “And I could tell you, Paul, how much I appreciate the way you help others.”

“Thanks,” said Paul, “Cy, you’re good at cheering people up when they’re having a hard day.”

“Thanks,” said Cy smiling. “You know what other words we can use that are a blessing? We can tell others how wonderful God is!”

“And we can bless God with our words when we sing praises or pray,” said Dee.

“Hey, I have a great name for the guinea pig,” said Cy. “It’s something that makes almost everyone happy.”

“What?” asked Dee and Paul together.

“‘Cookie!’” said Cy.

“Great idea,” said Paul.

“I like it,” said Dee. “That’s a nice name for a guinea pig.”

“Great,” said Cy. “We’ll enter it in the competition tomorrow.”

“Okay, now that we’ve figured that out,” Paul said, “let’s eat our cookies!”

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Class Pet"

### 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 bell or beeping timer.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Cy:** Yum, I sure enjoyed that.

**Dee:** Wait! Let's not tell the kids what we just ate. Let's keep it a secret until we tell them the whole story.

**Paul:** That's a great idea!

**Cy:** So are you ready to hear a story, kids?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Dee:** See if you can figure out what we just ate.

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

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

**Dee:** Thanks for inviting us to decorate cookies, Paul.

**Cy:** I love icing. Once the cookies cool, I think I'll start with this yellow icing.

**Paul:** Hey, I have an idea. While we're waiting for the cookies to bake, we could think of names for the competition to name our class pet.

**Cy:** Maybe we'll win the free pizza.

**Dee:** Yeah. Ooh, you have raisins. I'm going to use those to decorate.

**Paul:** So what should we name the guinea pig?

**Dee:** It's so cute, we need to come up with something good.

**Cy:** It's not cute. It has a stubby nose. Hey, we could call it "Stubby."

**Dee:** That's not a nice name.

**Paul:** How about "Fluffy"?

**Cy:** It isn't fluffy. Guinea pig fur is short and stubby. See, "Stubby" is a good name.

**Dee:** No it's not. It's not kind. It would be like decorating a delicious cookie with ugly icing.

**Cy:** Okay, no "Stubby." I can't wait to

taste that icing.

*[Paul taps the side of his head as if thinking hard.]*

**Paul:** The guinea pig has spots. How about "Spot"?

**Cy:** I thought "Spot" was a dog's name.

**Dee:** I know. The guinea pig walks funny, like this. *[Waddles across the stage.]* Let's call it "Mr. Wiggles"!

**Paul:** That's a fun name. But I think it's a girl.

**Dee:** Oh. Then she can be "Miss Wiggles."

**Cy:** How about "Squeaky"? Or "Grunty"? Those are the sounds she makes.

**Dee:** Those still aren't very kind names.

**Paul:** You're right. We need a name that makes everyone in class happy.

**Cy:** This is tough. I think red icing would look good with raisins.

**Dee:** You know, this reminds me of last week's Sunday school lesson.

**Cy:** You mean when we learned about how true faith directs God's children to speak words that bless God and others?

**Dee:** Yes, that's the one.

**Cy:** How does that relate to the class pet?

**Paul:** I think I know. Just as you said that we need to be kind in what we name the guinea pig, God wants us as His children to use words that are kind.

**Dee:** That's right. We need to be kind when we talk to other people and when we talk about other people.

**Cy:** I get it. Like I can bless you, Dee, by saying I like the way you always encourage others.

**Dee:** Thanks. And I could tell you, Paul, how much I appreciate the way you help others.

**Paul:** Thanks. Cy, you're good at cheering people up when they're having a hard day.

**Cy:** Thanks. You know what other words we can use that are a blessing? We can

tell others how wonderful God is!

**Dee:** And we can bless God with our words when we sing praises or pray.

*[Sound of an oven bell or timer offstage.]*

**Paul:** The cookies are done!

**Cy:** Hey, I have a great name for the guinea pig. It's something that makes almost everyone happy.

**Dee and Paul:** What?

**Cy:** "Cookie"!

**Paul:** Great idea.

**Dee:** I like it. That's a nice name for a guinea pig.

**Cy:** Great. We'll enter it in the competition tomorrow.

**Paul:** Okay, now that we've figured that out, let's go get those cookies!

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Cy:** I hope you liked our story, kids.

**Dee:** So now, can you all guess what we ate today?

*[Wait for audience response. They should answer, "Cookies."]*

**Cy:** Wow! You are all so smart.

**Paul:** Cy, you just blessed the kids by telling them something nice.

**Dee:** Kids, you can say kinds words to bless other people, too.

**Paul:** And you can tell God how wonderful he is and bless him when you pray or sing praises.

**Cy:** Let's bless God now, all together. Let's say to him, "God you are so wonderful!"

**Dee, Cy and Paul:** God, you are so wonderful!

**Dee:** We think you're a great bunch of kids!

**Cy:** Until next time, remember to bless others with your words.

**Paul:** Bye!

*[Curtain.]*



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

### Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

#### Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee went to Cy’s house to play with Cy and Paul—her dad had skipped his golf tournament to stay home with her mom, who was sick. Paul had the best time running through their obstacle course. Dee told Paul that he was the best. That reminded her to tell the boys that she’s singing half of a solo in the school show. When she got home that evening, she told her dad how fast Paul was on the obstacle course. Then she told him about the solo she’s singing at school. Her dad was excited for her. He knew she would do a great job. Dee wasn’t as excited. What was making Dee unhappy? Would her Dad be able to help?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

While Dee and her dad ate dinner, Dee told her dad that wished she had the whole solo. She said she was the best singer in the class. Dee’s dad was surprised at her words. He told Dee that her prideful attitude did not honor God. God calls us to be humble and unselfish, which means that we’re happy for other people, and we don’t talk or think about being better than other people. That was why Dee’s dad gave up his golf competition. True faith helps God’s children live selflessly and overcome pride. Everything we do should honor Him. Dee decided to be happy for the other soloist. She would sing her best for God and be grateful she got to sing at all. Her dad was proud of her for having an attitude that honored God.

Dee and her dad cleaned up the breakfast dishes. “Dad, it was nice of you to skip your golf competition to help Mom today.”

Dee’s dad smiled, “Mom needed me here today more than I needed to show off my golfing skills.”

“Yeah, colds are awful,” said Dee.

The doorbell rang and Chip ran up to Dee, barking. “It’s Cy and Paul,” said Dee.

“Have fun playing,” said her dad.

“We will. Thanks, Dad,” said Dee as she ran out the door.

Later, Dee, Cy and Paul ran around Cy’s back yard.

“This is an interesting obstacle course,” said Paul, jumping over a stump.

Dee ducked underneath a branch. “You did a great job setting it up, Cy.”

“Thanks,” said Cy. “Let’s race to see who can go the fastest!”

“Whoever isn’t doing the course can count,” said Paul.

“Great,” said Dee. “You first, Cy.”

“Ready, set, go!” said Paul.

Dee and Paul counted as Cy raced around the course. He finished in fifteen seconds.

Next it was Dee’s turn. She tied Cy’s fifteen seconds. Then Paul beat them both by getting around the course in eleven seconds.

“You went really fast!” said Cy, flopping to the ground.

“You’re the best, Paul,” said Dee. “Oh, that reminds me. Did you hear about the show we’re doing at school?”

“No,” said Paul and Cy.

“The teacher is letting me do a solo,” said Dee.

“That’s cool,” said Paul.

“You’ll do a great job,” said Cy.

“Thanks. I only get to do half, though. Renee’s singing part of it. Gotta go. See you tomorrow.”

“Bye, Dee,” said Cy and Paul.

That evening at dinner, Dee told her dad about the obstacle course. “It took Paul only eleven seconds! He was the best of all. Oh, that reminds me. Did I tell you that I get to sing half of a solo in our school show?” Dee asked excitedly.

“Congratulations! I’m sure you’ll do a great job,” said her dad.

“I wish I had the whole solo. Renee gets to sing the other half, even though I’m the best singer in the class,” said Dee.

Dee’s dad looked a little surprised. “Dee, that type of attitude is not honoring to God. It’s called pride. God calls us to be humble and unselfish.”

“What does that mean?” asked Dee.

“That means that when someone gets something we want, we’re happy for that person. And we don’t talk or think about being better than other people.”

“So I shouldn’t think about singing better than Renee?” said Dee.

“That’s right. Just do your best,” said her dad. “True faith helps God’s children live selflessly and overcome pride. We need to remember that there’s only One who’s the best.”

“You mean God,” said Dee quietly.

“Yes,” said her dad. “Everything we do should honor Him.”

“I understand,” said Dee. “I’m going to be happy for Renee. I’ll sing my best for God and be grateful that I get to sing a solo at all.”

“Yes, that’s an attitude that honors God,” said Dee’s dad.

“Dad, thanks for honoring God by being unselfish and helping Mom and me today.”

Dee’s dad smiled and hugged her. “Let’s go see if Mom needs anything.”

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Best"

### 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 necktie.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Dee:** Chip, you're the best dog anywhere.

*[Chip licks her.]*

**Cy:** He sure is.

*[Chip licks Cy.]*

**Paul:** What about me, Chip? You know I like you best.

*[Chip licks Paul.]*

**Dee:** That reminds me of a story. Would you like to hear it, kids?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Cy:** Okay, we'll be right back. I'll be playing Dee's father, Mr. Morgan.

**Paul:** I'm taking a break from this story!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee and Cy, wearing a necktie as Mr. Morgan.]*

**Dee:** Thanks for skipping your golf competition to help Mom today, Dad. I hope Mr. Clark doesn't get ahead of you in golf.

**Cy:** Mom needed me more than I needed to show off my golfing skills.

**Dee:** Yeah, having a cold can be awful. Hey, Dad. You wouldn't believe how fast Paul was on the obstacle course today. Cy and I tied for fifteen seconds, but I took Paul only eleven seconds!

**Cy:** That's fast.

**Dee:** Paul was the best. That reminds me. I'm singing a solo in our school show.

**Cy:** Congratulations! I'm sure you'll do a great job.

**Dee:** I wish I had the whole solo. Renee gets to sing half, even though I'm the best singer in the class.

**Cy:** Dee, that attitude is not honoring to God. It's called pride. God calls us to be humble and unselfish.

**Dee:** What does that mean?

**Cy:** That means that when someone gets something we want, we're happy for that person. And we don't talk or think about being better than other people.

**Dee:** So that's why you don't mind if Mr. Clark gets ahead of you in golf.

**Cy:** That's right. I know I'm good at golf, but I try not to think about being better than others.

**Dee:** So I shouldn't think about singing better than Renee?

**Cy:** That's right. Just do your best. True faith helps God's children live selflessly and overcome pride. We need to remember that there's only One who's the best.

**Dee:** You mean God.

**Cy:** Yes. Everything we do should honor Him.

**Dee:** I understand. I'll be happy for Renee. I'll sing my best for God and be grateful that I have a solo.

**Cy:** Yes, that's an attitude that honors God.

**Dee:** Dad, thanks for honoring God by being unselfish and helping mom and me today.

**Cy:** You're welcome. Let's go see if Mom needs anything.

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

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

**Cy:** That was nice of your dad to give up his golfing to help your mom, Dee.

**Dee:** Yes, and it taught me to be unselfish and help others.

**Paul:** It helped me to remember that all I do should honor God.

**Cy:** It reminded me not to think of myself as being better than other people.

**Dee:** Me, too. Renee has a beautiful voice. I didn't notice it before.

**Paul:** So no matter how good we may be at something...

**Cy:** And no matter how great anybody is...

**Dee:** God is the best one of all.

*[Chip barks in agreement.]*

**Paul:** Remember that, 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, Paul, and Cy were at the church carnival. The kids decided to play as many games as possible so that they could get lots of prizes. After they had gone around to every booth, they went turn in their coupons. Dee thought that waiting for their prizes was worth it, since they got so much stuff. Cy agreed. Paul said that the prizes remind him of heaven. How did candy and toys remind Paul of heaven? And what were they going to do with all that candy?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy, Paul and Dee won lots of prizes at the church carnival. Even though they had to wait to turn in their coupons and get their prizes, it was worth the wait. The kids had learned that true faith entitles God's children to receive eternal rewards. Cy remembered that God's children have to wait patiently for God's rewards, just as Cy, Dee, and Paul waited for their carnival prizes. They remembered that heavenly rewards last forever, and because they're God's children and believe in Him, they would get the best reward of all. They would live with God forever in heaven! The children were glad that eternal rewards didn't disappear like candy. They planned to enjoy their carnival rewards while they waited patiently for God's eternal rewards.

"I won!" shouted Cy as he ran over to Paul and Dee.

"Oh, cool," said Paul. "That's a hard game. I wasn't able to get even one ping-pong ball into the fish bowl."

"You won a fish," said Dee. "That will be fun."

"Yeah," said Cy. "They gave me a coupon so that I can pick up my fish at the end of the carnival. I hope my mom let's me keep it."

"Me too. Let's play some more games," said Paul.

"How about that one?" asked Dee. "You have to pick up marbles with your toes and try to drop them in the bowl. The prizes are according to how many you get in the bowl in ten seconds."

"That looks hard," said Cy. "Let's try it."

"You can go first, Dee," said Paul.

"Okay," said Dee, taking off her shoes.

Cy and Paul took off their shoes while Dee played the game.

When the timer beeped Dee said, "I was able to get five, so I got a lollipop coupon."

"That's pretty good," said Cy. "I'll try next." The timer started and Cy rushed to pick up the marbles.

After the ten seconds Dee said, "Great job, Cy. You got four."

"Thanks, Dee. That means that I get a lollipop coupon too," said Cy. "Your turn, Paul."

Paul hurried to pick up marbles as the timer ticked. When it beeped he said, "Wow, that was hard. I don't know how you got five, Dee. I got only four like Cy."

"Now we all won lollipop coupons," said Dee

"This prize thing is great!" said Cy. "I wish we didn't have to wait till the end to get them. Let's play as many games as we can so we can get lots of prizes."

The children hurried from booth to booth playing the games and collecting prize coupons.

"That was fun doing all those games," said Dee when they were finished. "I liked tossing bean bags through a hula hoop best."

"Let's turn in our coupons and get our prizes now," said Paul.

After they had collected their prizes Dee said, "Even though we had to wait for our candy and toys, it was worth it. We won so much stuff!"

"It's all great!" said Cy grinning.

"Do you know what?" said Paul. "All these prizes remind me of heaven."

"They do? How?" asked Dee.

"Do you remember when our Sunday school teacher taught us that true faith entitles God's children to receive eternal rewards?" asked Paul.

Dee and Cy nodded.

"I get it," said Cy. "We have to wait patiently for God's rewards, just as we did for our prizes."

"But when we get our rewards in heaven, they'll last forever," said Dee.

"Yeah, since we are God's children and believe in Him, we'll get the best reward—living with him forever in heaven!" said Cy. "I'm glad eternal rewards don't disappear like this candy will."

"Me too," said Dee.

"And speaking of candy," said Paul grinning, "let's find our parents so we can ask permission to make ours disappear!"

"Great idea," said Cy. "We can enjoy our carnival rewards while we wait patiently for God's rewards."

"But we can thank God right now for our prizes and for the eternal rewards he has stored up for us in heaven," said Dee.

"Yeah. Look, Dee. There are your parents," said Cy.

"And, there's my dad. Let's go," said Paul.

They all grabbed their stuff and hurried to catch their parents.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "The Church Carnival"

### 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 beeping timer and carnival-type prizes and candy.*

### INTRODUCTION

**Paul:** I'm glad everyone liked the name we picked for the class pet.

**Cy:** I'm glad we get to go eat pizza tomorrow. I just wish we could do it today.

**Dee:** Yeah, it's hard to wait for rewards.

**Paul:** But it's worth it. Remember how much fun we had at the church carnival?

**Dee:** Oh, yeah! Let's tell the kids about it.

**Cy:** Okay. Be right back, kids!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee and Paul.]*

**Dee:** This is a really fun carnival.

**Paul:** Yeah, there are so many games to play.

*[Enter Cy.]*

**Cy:** I won! I won a fish.

**Paul:** Oh, cool. That's a hard game. I wasn't able to get even one ping-pong ball in the fish bowl.

**Dee:** A fish will be fun.

**Cy:** Yeah. They gave me a coupon so that I can pick up my fish at the end of the carnival. I hope my mom let's me keep it.

**Paul:** Me too. Let's play some more games.

**Dee:** How about that one? You have to pick up marbles with your toes and try to drop them in the bowl. The prizes are according to how many you get in the bowl in ten seconds.

**Cy:** That looks hard. Let's try it.

**Paul:** You can go first, Dee.

**Dee:** Okay. First, I'll slip off my shoes.

**Cy:** We'll take our shoes off while you play.

*[Dee looks down as if working with her toes. The boys act like they're taking off shoes. A beep is heard.]*

**Dee:** I was able to get five, so I got a lollipop coupon.

**Cy:** That's pretty good. I'll try next.

*[Cy pretends to work with his feet. A beep is heard.]*

**Dee:** Great job, Cy. You got four.

**Cy:** Thanks, Dee. That means that I get a lollipop coupon too. Your turn, Paul.

*[Paul pretends to work with his feet. A beep is heard.]*

**Paul:** Wow, that was hard. I don't know how you got five, Dee. I got only four like Cy.

**Dee:** Now we all won lollipop coupons.

**Cy:** This prize thing is great! I wish we didn't have to wait till the end to get them. Let's play as many games as we can so we can get lots of prizes.

**Dee:** Okay!

**Paul:** Let's go!

*[Brief curtain. Carnival prizes are placed on the stage. Enter Paul, Dee and Cy.]*

**Dee:** That was fun playing all those games. I liked tossing bean bags through a hula hoop best.

**Paul:** Wow! Look at all the prizes we won.

**Dee:** Even though we had to wait for our candy and toys, it was worth it. We won so much stuff!

**Cy:** It's all great!

**Paul:** Do you know what? All these prizes remind me of heaven.

**Dee:** They do? How?

**Paul:** Do you remember when our Sunday school teacher taught us that true faith entitles God's children to receive eternal rewards?

**Dee and Cy:** Yes.

**Cy:** Oh, I get it. We have to wait patiently for God's rewards, just as we did for our prizes.

**Dee:** But when we get our rewards in heaven, they'll last forever.

**Cy:** Yeah, since we are God's children and believe in Him, we'll get the best reward—living with him forever in heaven! I'm glad eternal rewards don't disappear like this candy will.

**Dee:** Me too.

**Paul:** And speaking of candy, let's find our parents so we can ask permission to make ours disappear!

**Cy:** Great idea. We can enjoy our carnival rewards while we wait patiently for God's rewards.

**Dee:** But we can thank God right now for our prizes and for the eternal rewards he has stored up for us in heaven.

*[Cy points offstage.]*

**Cy:** Look, Dee. There are your parents.

**Paul:** And, there's my dad. Let's go get them to help us carry all these prizes.

*[Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Cy:** So you see, kids, rewards are worth waiting for. Isn't that right, Chip?

*[Chip barks and runs around the stage.]*

**Dee:** Chip wasn't allowed at the carnival, so we brought him a new toy and some treats.

*[Chip barks.]*

**Paul:** God has rewards waiting for us in heaven, too.

**Cy:** I'm willing to wait for those, because I know they will be the best rewards of all.

**Dee:** And they'll last forever.

**Cy:** They're a lot better than pizza. But I'm going to enjoy that pizza anyway.

**Dee:** That reminds me. I'm hungry. Let's go eat some of our carnival prizes.

**Paul:** See you later, 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, Cy, and Dee put on their rain boots and began walking to Dee's house. They were excited about splashing in puddles along the way. They found puddles and started splashing, jumping and spinning around in them. Suddenly, Chip began barking and ran down the street, pulling the leash out of Dee's hand. When they finally caught up with Chip, he had gotten into the neighbors' garden and was making a mess rolling in the mud. And when Dee got him out of the garden, he shook water and mud on them. What were they going to do about being all muddy? And would they tell the neighbors the truth about the messed up garden?

#### Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

After Chip got Dee, Cy and Paul muddy, Dee didn't know what to do. Cy suggested giving Chip a bath in a big puddle. While they were cleaning Chip off and wiping the mud off their boots and jackets, Cy said that Chip needed to hear their Sunday school lesson—that God guides His children to walk in love and truth. Just as Dee was guiding Chip to walk where it was safe and clean, God guides His children to live according to the Bible. Cy added that it was also a loving thing to do, because Dee was honoring her mom by staying out of the mud. Dee decided that in order to walk in love and truth, she was going to tell their neighbors the truth about what happened. They would all offer to fix up the garden after it dried.

"Thanks for lunch Mrs. Shepherd," said Dee, walking out the door with Paul, Cy and Chip.

"Paul, your mom makes the best peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in town," said Cy, putting on his rain boots.

"Yeah," said Paul. "She always uses plenty of jelly."

As Dee put on her boots she said, "It's fun being outside after it rains. We can splash in puddles. Right, Chip?"

Chip barked and wagged his tail.

"I'm glad we have our boots," said Cy as they began walking.

"Yeah," said Paul. "I don't think your mom would like us coming into your house all wet."

"My mom doesn't mind the water," said Dee. "She just doesn't like Chip and me to come in muddy. Chip likes mud."

Chip barked again as he ran around a puddle.

"My little sister likes to play in mud," said Cy. "Mom's always giving her extra baths."

Paul laughed, "Hey, there's a good puddle."

Dee jumped in it, "Wheee!"

"Good splash, Dee," said Cy as he jumped in circles in a puddle.

Dee jumped into another puddle. As she spun around in it, Chip suddenly began barking. He ran down the sidewalk, pulling the leash out of her hand.

"Oh no!" said Dee as she fell into the puddle.

Paul gasped, "Are you okay, Dee?"

"I'll catch Chip," said Cy. He chased the dog.

"I'm okay," said Dee. "I just hope we can catch Chip before he finds mud to roll in!"

They hurried down the sidewalk after Chip. Just as they caught up with him, Chip dove into a neighbors' garden and began barking with delight as he rolled back and forth in the mud.

"Uh-oh," said Cy. "I'm sorry, Dee, I couldn't catch him."

"That's okay, Cy," said Dee. "Come on boy."

Chip came out of the garden and began shaking all of the water and mud off.

All three children jumped back.

"Yuck!" said Paul. "Now, we're muddy."

"What do we do?" asked Dee.

"I know," said Cy. "We'll give Chip a bath in that big puddle."

"Great idea," said Paul. "And we can clean up a little too."

"Chip made a mess of that garden. I'll need to tell our neighbors the truth about what happened," said Dee. "I wish Chip had stayed on the sidewalk."

"Maybe Chip needs to be told about our Bible lesson," said Cy. "You know, the one about how God guides His children to walk in love and truth."

"I don't see how that would keep him out of the mud," said Dee.

Paul said, "I think Cy was saying that in the same way God guides us to live according to the Bible, which is truth, you were guiding Chip to walk where it was safe and clean."

"Yeah, in a place where he wouldn't get muddy," said Dee beginning to wash Chip's fur.

"Also, it was the most loving thing for you to do, because you were honoring your mom by staying out of the mud," said Cy, wiping mud off his boots.

"That makes sense," said Dee. "And now in order to walk in truth and love, I am going to tell our neighbors the truth about what happened."

"How about if we offer to clean up their garden after it dries?" asked Cy.

"Great idea," said Paul, wiping the last of the mud from his jacket. "We're good at gardening."

"Sounds great," said Dee. "But we'll leave Chip at home when we do."

They all laughed and Chip barked as they went to the neighbors' door.

## Dee-Cy-Paul Puppet Script "A Muddy Problem"

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud. You will need rain hats

### INTRODUCTION

**Cy:** I hope it rains tomorrow.

**Paul:** I don't. Remember? We're supposed to work on our tree fort tomorrow.

**Cy:** Oh, that's right. Then I hope it rains the next day.

**Dee:** Why?

**Cy:** So that we can have fun in the rain like we did last week.

**Dee:** Well, part of it was fun.

**Paul:** I think Chip enjoyed all of it!

**Dee:** I think you're right. Why don't we tell the kids about it?

**Cy:** Great idea! Let's go get Chip.

**Paul:** Be right back, kids!

*[Curtain.]*

### SCRIPT

*[Enter Dee, Cy, and Paul in rain hats.]*

**Dee:** It's fun being outside after it rains. We can splash in puddles. Right, Chip?

*[Chip barks.]*

**Cy:** I'm glad we have our ponchos and boots.

**Paul:** Yeah, I don't think your mom would like us coming into your house all wet.

**Dee:** My mom doesn't mind the water. She just doesn't like Chip and me to come in muddy. Chip likes mud.

*[Chip barks and runs around.]*

**Cy:** My little sister likes to play in the mud. Mom's always giving her extra baths.

**Paul:** *[Laughs.]* Hey, there's a good puddle.

*[Dee jumps as if jumping into a puddle.]*

*Dee: Wheee!*

**Cy:** Good splash, Dee.

*[Cy jumps in circles nearby. Then Dee goes to another area of the stage and jumps. She spins around, and suddenly Chip runs offstage, barking.]*

**Dee:** Oh no! *[Falls.]*

**Paul:** Are you okay, Dee?

**Dee:** I'm fine, but Chip pulled the leash out of my hand.

**Cy:** I'll catch him. *[Runs offstage.]*

**Dee:** I just hope we can catch up with Chip before he finds mud to roll in!

*[Dee and Paul run offstage. Chip enters, with Cy behind him. Chip acts like he's rolling in mud. Dee and Paul enter.]*

**Dee:** Oh no, he's in the neighbors' garden!

**Cy:** Uh-oh. I'm sorry, Dee, I couldn't catch him.

**Dee:** That's okay, Cy. Come on, boy.

*[Chip runs over to the kids. Then he shakes. The kids jump back, away from him.]*

**Paul:** Yuck! Now, we're muddy, too.

**Dee:** What do we do?

**Cy:** I know. We'll give Chip a bath in that big puddle.

**Paul:** Great idea. We can clean up a little, too.

**Dee:** Chip made a mess of that garden. I'll need to tell our neighbors the truth about what happened. I wish Chip had stayed on the sidewalk.

*[Chip acts excited and barks.]*

**Dee:** No, Chip. No more mud for you today.

**Cy:** Maybe Chip needs to be told about our Bible lesson. You know, the one about how God guides His children to walk in love and truth.

**Dee:** I don't see how that would keep him out of the mud.

**Paul:** I think Cy was saying that in the same way God guides us to live according to the Bible, which is truth, you were guiding Chip to walk where it was safe and clean.

**Dee:** Yeah, in a place where he wouldn't get muddy.

**Cy:** Also, it was the most loving thing for you to do, because you were honoring your mom by staying out of the mud.

**Dee:** That makes sense. And now in order to walk in truth and love, I am going to tell our neighbors the truth about what happened.

**Cy:** How about if offer to clean up their garden after it dries?

**Paul:** Great idea. We're good at gardening.

**Dee:** Sounds great. But we'll leave Chip at home when we do.

*[The kids laugh. Chip barks. Curtain.]*

### APPLICATION

**Cy:** I want it to rain so that we can have more fun splashing in puddles with Chip.

**Dee:** You can hold on to his leash.

**Cy:** Okay. I'll guide him toward the good puddles and away from the mud.

*[Chip barks and runs around.]*

**Paul:** Holding on to Chip's leash is a loving thing for you to do, Cy.

**Dee:** And leading him through the clean puddles is like the way God leads us to live according to the truth of the Bible.

**Paul:** Yes, he helps us walk in love and truth.

**Dee:** Will you remember how much God loves you, kids?

*[Wait for audience response.]*

**Cy:** And always remember to let Him guide you.

*[Chip barks to the audience.]*

**Paul:** Hey, maybe we don't have to wait for rain. Let's ask Mom if we can use the hose to make some puddles to splash in.

**Dee and Cy:** Okay!

*[Chip barks and jumps.]*

**Dee, Cy and Paul:** 'Bye, kids!

*[Curtain.]*