



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

After enjoying a movie night with Paul’s family, it was time for Dee to walk home. Mrs. Shepherd offered to have Susan, Paul’s older sister, walk home with her, but Dee decided to walk alone since she lived so close by. Walking down the street, Dee shivered as the wind blew. She watched the shadows from the trees, when suddenly the wind snapped a branch behind her. Dee was scared and ran the rest of the way home.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee was glad to be home and see her dad. She was surprised how much she’d been frightened by the wind and shadows—after all, she walked to Paul’s house almost every day, and was never afraid during the daylight. Mr. Shepherd explained how darkness could make things that normally seemed harmless look quite frightening, and thoughtfully described how Jesus came to bring light where there was darkness. Dee felt like she understood better than she ever had before—just by knowing Jesus, things that had once seemed bad or scary could be seen in His light, and maybe wouldn’t be quite so frightening anymore.

“Dee—it’s pretty late. Would you like Susan to walk home with you?” Mrs. Shepherd asked when the movie ended. Dee had enjoyed movie night with Paul’s family, but it was time to go home.

“No, thanks,” Dee answered. “My house is just around the corner.”

“Just hurry home and be careful, okay?” Mrs. Shepherd reminded her.

“Okay,” Dee said, nodding. After saying goodbye, Dee headed down the driveway and towards her house.

“Brrr...” Dee shivered to herself as she walked towards the corner. The wind was blowing through the trees, making their shadows dance on the lawns and against the houses.

“Maybe I should have walked home with Susan,” Dee thought. But now she was halfway home. She continued on, but walked a little bit faster.

Crack! The wind broke a branch just behind Dee. She jumped, startled. Then, after looking around to make sure nobody was watching her, Dee began to run. She ran all the way home. She was relieved to see the light above her front door.

Dee was breathing heavy when she went inside and closed the door. “Hi, Dee!” said Mr. Morgan. “How was the movie?”

“Scary!” Dee answered, giving her dad a tight hug.

“It was? I thought you were watching a comedy tonight,” Mr. Morgan said.

Dee shook her head. “No, not the movie. Walking home was scary!”

“Ah,” replied Mr. Morgan, nodding. “It’s different walking home from Paul’s when it’s dark out, isn’t it?” Dee nodded. “Isn’t it amazing how a little light can completely change the way things look?”

Dee nodded again. “I walk to Paul’s house almost every day!” she said. “I’m never afraid of trees or noises during the daylight.”

“Yes—all it takes is darkness, and things that would normally seem harmless can look quite frightening!” Mr. Morgan thought, then said, “You know, Jesus said that He was the Light of the World—that He came to bring light where there was darkness.”

Suddenly Jesus’ words made a lot of sense to Dee. “So if we know Jesus, things that might seem really bad or scary, we can see them with His light, and maybe they won’t be so bad or scary anymore.”

“Right!” Mr. Morgan nodded, smiling. “Just like tomorrow, when you see the trees and hear the wind, they won’t be nearly as scary. Now, how about we warm up with some hot chocolate before bed?”

“Okay, Dad,” Dee said, silently thanking Jesus for bringing His light to where there was darkness.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Cy was pleasantly surprised when his little sister, Becky, actually knocked on his bedroom door—usually she just barged in. But when she showed him the broken pieces of his favorite trophy, from his first season of baseball, Cy was angry. Becky said over and over that she was sorry and hadn’t meant to break the trophy, but Cy still couldn’t believe it. Just as Cy was ready to shout at his little sister and tell on her, he saw something that made him think again...

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy saw a picture he had drawn of the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. In the story, the Samaritan had taken care of a man who had been badly beaten, even though the Samaritan had no reason to. Cy knew that Jesus was teaching that loving other people, even if they didn’t deserve it, was more important than anything else—even a trophy. Cy hugged Becky and told her that she was forgiven. As he sat down to finish his homework, Cy realized that doing God’s work was *hard* work—but that it was worth it.

Cy was doing his homework when he heard a knock at his bedroom door.

“Come in!” he said, not looking up. He knew it must be his mom; his little sister never knocked.

“Cy?” said a quiet voice. It was Becky.

“Hey, what’s up?” Cy asked, pleasantly surprised that she had knocked.

“I’m sorry!” Becky said suddenly, bursting into tears.

Cy was confused. “Why?” he wondered. “You knocked!”

“I didn’t mean to—it was an accident!” Becky stammered. She pulled her hands from behind her back. There, in two pieces, was the first trophy Cy had ever won, from his first baseball season. It was one of his favorite things in the whole world.

“Oh, no!” Cy shouted, jumping up. He ran over to Becky and took the pieces out of her hand. The trophy had snapped right in the middle. “What did you do?” Cy demanded.

Becky tried to explain how the trophy had been broken, but she was sobbing so hard that it was difficult to understand her. Angrily, Cy stomped to his desk and put the pieces down.

Becky stopped trying to explain what had happened, and was now just saying how sorry she was. Cy was about to turn around and yell at her when he looked up and saw a drawing he had recently made in Sunday school, which he had taped to the wall just above his desk.

It was a picture of the story Jesus had told about the good Samaritan. Cy remembered Mrs. Anita telling his class how the Samaritan had loved the man who had been beaten, because he took care of him, even though the Samaritan had no reason to. Cy looked at his picture of the Samaritan putting bandages on the wounded man. Then he turned around and looked at Becky.

“I’m sorry!” she cried. “I didn’t mean to!”

Cy walked over to his little sister. Then, just as he imagined the Samaritan must have done for the wounded man, he put his arm around her. “It’s okay, Becky,” he told her gently. “I forgive you. I know you didn’t do it on purpose.”

Becky hugged Cy, then walked out of his room, still saying sorry. Cy walked back over to his desk.

“That was harder than any homework I’ve ever done!” Cy thought to himself. He had wanted to be angry with Becky, and tell on her. But the picture had reminded Cy how Jesus taught to love other people, no matter what happens, or even if they deserved it.

Cy slowly smiled to himself. “Doing God’s work is *hard* work,” thought Cy. “But it’s worth it.” He put the pieces of his trophy on the floor, and got back to his homework.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

When Paul’s dad told him it was time for him to have more responsibility around the house, Paul knew exactly what that meant—a new chore. Paul was to wipe the kitchen counters, sweep the kitchen floor, and take out the trash every night before bed. Paul made himself a note and put it next to his alarm clock so he wouldn’t forget. Every night for the next week he did his new tasks. So the next weekend, when his dad told him there was a consequence for his behavior, Paul was confused. He had done what he was told—weren’t consequences a bad thing?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mr. Shepherd explained that consequences could be good or bad—they were simply the result of having done something. So Paul’s consequence for doing such a good job on his new chores was good—a special dinner out with his dad at his favorite restaurant! Mr. Shepherd rewarded Paul for his hard work with a pepperoni pizza and root beer floats. And Paul decided that this was the best consequence he had ever had!

“Paul,” said Mr. Shepherd.

Paul put his bookmark into his book and looked up at his dad from the couch. “What’s up, Dad?” he asked.

“It’s time for you to have some more responsibility around the house,” began Mr. Shepherd.

Paul tried hard not to groan. He knew exactly what this meant—a new chore.

“From now on, keeping the kitchen picked up will be your daily responsibility,” Mr. Shepherd continued. “Most importantly, that means every night before bed, you will wipe down the counters, sweep the floor, and check the garbage. If it’s full, you take it out.”

Not one new chore—three new chores! But Paul knew better than to argue. “Okay, Dad,” he said.

“Come into the kitchen and I’ll show you how everything needs to be done. But after tonight, this is your responsibility. You’ll need to find a way to remind yourself to do this.”

After his dad showed him what to do, it was time for bed. Paul made himself a note that he put next to his alarm clock. “Since I set my alarm clock every night, I’ll see this note and remember,” he thought.

For the next week, Paul did a good job remembering his new chores. A couple of times, he was almost ready to get into bed when he saw his note, which reminded him of his new responsibility.

The next weekend, Paul was lying on the couch again reading his book when his dad came into the living room. “Paul,” he said, “I would like you to come with me.”

“Where are we going, Dad?” Paul said, getting up from the couch.

“You’ll see,” Mr. Shepherd said.

Paul got into the car with his dad. After a few minutes, Paul was sure he knew where they were going. “Dad—are we going to Pizza-Go-Go?” Paul asked.

“Yep!” said Mr. Shepherd. “This is a consequence of you doing such a good job taking care of the kitchen this week!”

“A consequence?” asked Paul. “Aren’t consequences bad things?”

“Not necessarily,” Mr. Shepherd answered. “Consequences are really just results. And the result of you being so responsible with your new chores is a treat! Working hard and taking care of your responsibilities should be rewarded. So, great job, Paul!”

Paul and his dad celebrated with a large pepperoni pizza and root beer floats. And Paul thought to himself that this was the best consequence he had ever had!



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee and Cy had decided to ask for permission to go the park after school, and invited Paul to join them. But Paul’s family had plans to attend a play that evening. It was called The Miracle Worker. Dee explained that it was about a girl named Helen Keller. Dee’s reading group in her class had just finished a book about her life. But what was so special about this girl, wondered Cy. Why had a play been written about her?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee explained that as a child, Helen Keller had been blind, deaf, and unable to speak, but that with the help of a patient teacher she had learned to read, write, and talk. Eventually she became a writer and speaker, and inspired many other people who were disabled. Paul realized that Helen Keller’s story was similar to the story of the blind man Jesus had healed in the Bible. Helen Keller’s ability to overcome her disabilities had inspired others the same way that the blind man had helped others see the glory of God! Now Paul was looking forward to seeing the play, and Dee and Cy were looking forward to hearing all about it.

“Hey, Paul!” Cy shouted on the playground. “Dee and I are going to ask if we can go to the park after school today. Do you want to come with us?”

“I’d love to,” said Paul. “But I can’t. My mom’s making an early dinner, and then my dad is making all of us go to a play.”

“A play?” Cy said aloud.

“Yes, Cy,” Dee clarified. “It’s like a movie, except with real people.” She smiled. “On a stage, you know.”

“Yes, I know what a play is,” Cy replied. “I’ve just never been to one. What’s it called?”

“The Miracle Worker,” answered Paul.

“Oh! That’s a play about Helen Keller!” Dee said.

“You’ve seen it?” Paul asked.

“No, but my reading group in my class just finished a book about her,” Dee said. “That play is the story of when Helen Keller was a child.”

“I’m a child,” said Cy. “How come someone doesn’t write a play about me?”

“Well, maybe they will someday. But Helen Keller was different than most children,” Dee explained. “When Helen Keller was a child, she was blind, deaf, and couldn’t speak.”

“That’s terrible!” said Paul. “Now I really don’t want to go to this play!”

“No—it’s really a wonderful story,” Dee continued. “Eventually Helen Keller learned to speak, read, and write, because she had a teacher who was patient enough to teach her. And she ended up becoming a huge hero! She became a writer and a speaker.”

“Wow—that’s a really cool story,” said Cy. “Maybe I could ask my dad if our family can go to the play, too.”

“That reminds me of another story,” said Paul thoughtfully. “The blind man in the Bible, who Jesus healed.”

“Oh, yeah!” said Cy. “Jesus said that the man was blind so that God could show His glory.”

“That’s exactly what happened to Helen Keller!” agreed Dee. “Even though she was always blind and deaf and was never healed, her learning to read, write, and speak has inspired many other blind or deaf people. She gives them hope.”

“Wow—now I’m really looking forward to seeing this play!” said Paul.

“Will you tell us all about it tomorrow?” asked Cy.

“Sure thing!” answered Paul.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

As Mrs. Shepherd pulled her car into the ice-cream store’s parking lot, Dee, Cy, and Paul immediately knew something had happened. The ice-cream store was fine, but there were police cars surrounding one of the other stores in the shopping center. The kids saw their friend Officer Nelson, who explained that the grocery store had been broken into the night before. Thankfully nobody had been hurt and the person who was responsible had been caught, but some money had been taken and all the store’s windows were broken. Thanking Officer Nelson for the information, Mrs. Shepherd and the kids went to have their ice cream.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

While they ate, Dee, Cy, and Paul discussed the break-in at the grocery store. “Everything was all broken up!” said Dee. “Thieves just steal and destroy,” Paul pointed out. Cy realized that was just what Jesus taught in the Bible. The thieves in our lives—bad things or people that keep us away from God—don’t do anything but destroy. Dee, Cy, and Paul thought about the broken glass. They knew they didn’t want destruction like that in their lives!

“Hey, I wonder what happened,” Dee said as Mrs. Shepherd pulled into the parking lot with Dee, Cy, and Paul. Mrs. Shepherd was taking the kids to the ice cream shop for a treat. But something was happening at one of the other stores in the shopping center.

“Look at all these police cars!” said Cy as he got out of the car.

“Oh, there’s Officer Nelson,” said Paul.

Officer Nelson waved at the kids and Mrs. Shepherd. “Hi, kids,” he said, walking over to them. “How are you, Susan?” he asked Paul’s mom.

“We’re fine, Officer Nelson. Is everything okay here?” she wondered.

“The ice cream shop is just fine,” Officer Nelson said with a smile. “But the grocery store was broken into last night.”

“Oh, no!” said Dee. “Was anyone hurt?”

“No—they were closed, so there wasn’t anyone there,” answered Officer Nelson. “But some money was stolen and all the front windows were broken.”

Dee, Cy, and Paul looked and saw all the broken glass lying on the ground in front of the store. Seeing the worried look on the kids’ faces, Officer Nelson quickly said, “Don’t worry—we already caught the person who did this.”

“That’s great news, officer,” said Mrs. Morgan. “I’m sure you have lots to do here. Thanks for the information.”

“Take care!” Officer Nelson said as he walked back towards the grocery store.

As they were eating their ice cream, all the kids could talk about was the robbery at the grocery store. “It’s just so sad,” said Dee. “Everything was all broken up!”

“Yeah,” said Cy. “It was a real mess over there.”

“That’s what thieves do,” said Paul. “They just steal and destroy.”

“Hey—that’s what Jesus says in the Bible!” Cy pointed out. “He says that the thieves—bad things or people in our lives that keep us away from God—don’t do anything but destroy.”

“Wow—and now we know what that looks like,” said Dee. “I sure don’t want any destruction like that in my life!”

“Me, neither!” agreed Paul and Cy. The kids continued eating their ice cream. And Mrs. Shepherd just smiled.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Paul loved school, but he didn’t like the talent show. Every year he tried out and didn’t make it. But this year he had a plan. He knew a funny song from a new movie. If Dee, who could sing and play the piano, would help him, he was sure to make it! Remembering that Dee had a big chore to do at home, Paul thought to himself, “If I help Dee clean her swimming pool, she’ll help me in the talent show!”

Dee was relieved when Paul arrived and offered to help clean the pool. Once they had finished the big job, Paul knew it was time. He asked Dee if she would help him in the talent show.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Sorry, Paul,” Dee replied, and explained that she’d promised Laura to be in the talent show with her. “That was the only reason why I offered to help you with the pool!” said Paul. Dee was hurt. She thought Paul had offered to help since they were friends. Paul felt terrible, and apologized to Dee. He had promised to help her only because he wanted something back. Dee forgave Paul, and had a great idea. Now that the pool was clean, it was time for a swim!

It was Paul’s least favorite part of the school year—talent show time. Paul was good at everything in school, but every year he tried out for the talent show, and he never made it.

But this year, Paul’s plan was fool-proof. His brother had taught him a funny song from a recent movie. All he had to do was convince Dee—who was a wonderful singer and who could play the piano, too—to do the song with him.

“Dee told me she had to clean out her swimming pool today,” thought Paul, thinking of the big plastic pool in Dee’s backyard. “She said it would be a really hard job. If I help her, she’ll help me in the talent show!”

Paul walked to Dee’s house.

“Hi, Paul,” said Dee when Paul came into the backyard. “I wish I could play, but I have to clean out the pool.”

“I know,” Paul replied. “I’m here to help!”

“Oh, thanks!” said Dee, relieved. “This is a really big job.”

Dee was right—cleaning the pool was really difficult. Dee’s parents had bought her a much bigger pool this year, but it was also much more difficult to clean. After all the water was drained from the pool, Dee and Paul had to scrub all the dirt from the plastic bottom.

They scrubbed and scrubbed. Finally, the pool was clean and ready to be filled again. Dee stuck the hose in. “Wow—I’m ready for a swim. How about you?”

“Actually, Dee, since I helped you clean the pool, I was hoping you’d help me with something,” said Paul.

“Oh, okay,” said Dee. “What is it?”

Paul took a deep breath. “It’s the talent show,” Paul answered. “I want you to be my partner in the talent show so I can make it this year!”

“Oh, Paul,” Dee said. “I wish you’d told me before. I already promised Laura I’d be in the talent show with her!”

“Oh, no!” Paul said. “That was the only reason why I offered to help you with the pool!”

Dee looked hurt. “I thought you were just offering since you’re my friend.”

Paul felt terrible. “Dee, I’m sorry,” he said. “That was the wrong reason to want to help you. I should have offered to help you just because we’re friends—not because I wanted something back.”

Dee smiled. “I forgive you, Paul,” she said. “I wish I’d known before that you wanted to do the talent show together. That sounds like fun!”

“So does going for a swim,” said Paul. “I’ll go home and change into my swim suit!”

“Meet you back here!” said Dee, as Paul rushed out of the yard.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee knew that something was wrong as soon as her mom picked up the phone. She turned away from Dee and whispered into the phone. “Who was that?” Dee asked when her mom hung up. Mrs. Morgan answered that it was her dad, and that he had given her bad news. Oma, Dee’s great-grandmother, had died that day of a heart attack.

“No!” shouted Dee, beginning to cry. Dee couldn’t believe it. Did this mean she would never see her Oma again?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Dee’s mom explained to her that she *would* see Oma again. When Dee said that she thought dying meant someone was gone forever, Mrs. Morgan told her that while the people who die are gone from this earth, if they believe in Jesus, they go to heaven to live with Jesus. Then, one day, when Jesus comes back to life, He will raise every person who ever believed in Him from the dead, too—Jesus like he raised His friend, Lazarus! While Dee was still deeply sad that she wouldn’t see her Oma for a very long time, it made her glad to know that Oma was happy with Jesus in heaven.

Dee knew something was wrong as soon as her mom picked up the phone. Her eyes instantly got big, and she turned away from Dee, speaking in a whisper to the person on the other end of the line. When she finally hung up, Dee asked, “Mom, who was that?”

“It was your dad, Dee,” answered Mrs. Morgan, looking distracted.

“Oh,” Dee answered. “Why were you whispering?”

“Dee, sit down,” Mrs. Morgan said. “We need to talk.”

Dee sat down at her seat at the kitchen table and waited for her mom to continue. “Dee,” Mrs. Morgan said with tears in her eyes. “Oma had a heart attack.”

“What?” Dee said, shocked. Oma was Dee’s name for her great-grandmother. “But she’s okay, right?”

Mrs. Morgan closed her eyes and shook her head. “No, Dee,” she answered. “Oma is gone. She...died.”

“No!” shouted Dee, her own eyes filling up with tears. “You mean I’ll never see Oma again?” she wondered.

“Oh, no, Dee. You’ll see her again,” answered Mrs. Morgan, shaking her head. “But not for a very long time.”

“What do you mean, Mom?” Dee wondered. “I thought that when a person died, they were gone forever.”

“They’re gone from this earth, Dee,” Mrs. Morgan explained. “But Oma is in heaven now, with Jesus. When people who believe in Jesus die, they go to heaven to be with Him.”

“So I’ll see Oma when I get to heaven?” Dee wondered.

“That’s right, Dee,” answered Mrs. Morgan. “And someday, when Jesus comes back, everyone who believes in Him will come back to life, too. That’s because Jesus is stronger than anything—even death itself.”

“He’ll raise all of us—the same way He raised His friend Lazarus?” asked Dee.

Mrs. Morgan nodded.

“I’m still going to miss Oma, Mom!” Dee said, bursting into tears again.

“That’s the hardest thing about when people die, Dee,” Mrs. Morgan replied, stroking Dee’s hair. “Oma is happier than she’s ever been, living in heaven with Jesus. But we miss her—it’s okay to be sad.”

Dee hugged her mom and cried. In her mind, she imagined Oma with Jesus in heaven. Oma and Jesus were both smiling. “Goodbye, Oma,” thought Dee to herself. “I’ll see you in heaven!”



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee was worried about his little sister as they walked home from school together. Usually she chattered the whole way home, but today Becky was quiet. She explained to Cy that she missed their mom while she was at school. Cy understood—he remembered that when he was in kindergarten, it had been hard to be away from their mom all day.

Cy suggested that Becky pray for Jesus to be with their mom when Becky was missing her. Suddenly, Becky asked Cy a very important question.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Is Jesus your forever Friend?” Becky wondered. “Yes,” answered Cy. Becky told Cy that the previous day in Sunday school, she had decided to ask Jesus to be her forever Friend, too. Cy was so happy he almost jumped with excitement. Hugging his sister, he explained that because of her decision, Jesus and the angels were having a huge party—just for Becky! Cy was thrilled. For as long as he could remember, he had been praying for someone in his family to follow Jesus. Now, his little sister, who had been lost, had now been found!

“Is something wrong, Beck?” Cy asked his little sister as they walked home from school. Cy was concerned about Becky. Usually she talked and talked and talked the whole walk home from school. But today she was unusually quiet.

Becky shrugged. “I just didn’t have a very good day today,” she answered.

“Why not?” wondered Cy.

“I just...was missing Mommy,” Becky answered.

“Oh, yeah,” thought Cy. He remembered when he was in Kindergarten. That first year in school was difficult for him, since he’d never spent so much time away from his mom. “Well, you know what you can do whenever you miss Mommy, right?”

“Pray for her?” asked Becky.

“That’s right!” Cy answered. “You can ask Jesus to take care of her while you’re away at school. That’s what I used to do.”

“Cy, is Jesus your forever Friend?” Becky asked suddenly.

Cy stopped and looked at his sister. “Yes, He is. Why do you ask?”

Becky stopped, too. “In Sunday school yesterday my teacher asked me if I wanted Jesus to be my forever Friend.”

“What did you say?” Cy wondered. Becky had started coming to church with him for the past several months. She was the only other person in his family who went to church.

“I said that I *do* want Jesus to be my forever Friend,” Becky answered. “I can talk to Him about everything. And He’s the strongest person *ever*.”

Cy was so happy, he could hardly keep himself from jumping up and down. “Becky!” he shouted, giving her a hug and lifting her off the ground. “This is so exciting!”

Becky laughed. “It is?” she asked.

“Yes!” he said. “Do you know in heaven right now, Jesus and all the angels are having a party! They’re celebrating you, Becky!”

“Like a birthday party?” Becky wondered.

Cy nodded. “The biggest birthday party ever. Becky—this means that you and I will be brother and sister forever!”

“And we have the same best Friend—Jesus!” Becky said.

Cy felt like he was walking on air the rest of the way home. He had prayed for as long as he could remember for someone in his family to follow Jesus. Now, his little sister Becky, who had once been lost, had now been found.



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Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee was thrilled! She had been saving her money, and she finally had ten dollars to buy the new CD by her favorite music group, *Girls Now*. “It feels like it took forever to save for this!” Dee explained to Chip. There was just one problem: Dee had promised her Dad that every time she saved ten dollars, she would give one dollar to the church. But if she gave a dollar away, she wouldn’t have enough money to buy the CD right away!

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

As she thought about what she should do, Dee remembered all the great things that her church did to help others. By giving part of her money to the church, Dee knew that she was helping others, too. While she was thinking, Chip sniffed her hand that was holding the money. Dee opened her hand, and Chip wagged his tail and licked Dee on the nose. Dee laughed, realizing she was holding on to her money too tight! “I can wait a few days to buy the *Girls Now* CD,” Dee said. “We should really talk more often!” she said to her happy dog.

“Finally—ten dollars!” cried Dee to Chip as she dumped her money out of her wallet. “I can finally get the new *Girls Now* CD!”

“Woof!” Chip barked. He had no idea who *Girls Now* was, but Dee sure seemed happy.

“It feels like it took *forever* to save for this!” Dee explained to Chip. Unlike Cy and Paul, Dee didn’t get a regular allowance. But when she did extra chores, her mom or dad would often reward her with a dollar or two. Dee wasn’t always very good at saving her money. She liked to buy candy or earrings when she went to the store with her mom. But *Girls Now* was Dee’s very favorite music group. And when she heard that their new CD was coming out, Dee started saving.

“There’s just one catch,” Dee said to Chip quietly. “The CD costs ten dollars, and I have ten dollars, but there’s that deal I made with Dad.”

Chip turned his head to the side and looked at Dee. “See,” she explained. “Dad told me that he and mom give one-tenth of their money to the church to help others. So he said that whenever I have ten dollars, I’m supposed to give one dollar to the church. But if I give a dollar away, I won’t have enough to buy the CD today!”

Chip looked at Dee. She sighed. “I don’t know what to do. I guess I could just skip it. I mean, Mom and Dad don’t count my money anymore.”

Chip whined, and Dee continued thinking out loud. “But our church does so much to help other people. I like knowing that I’m helping others by giving my money to our church.”

Dee didn’t know what to do. She sat on her bed with the ten dollars in her hand. Suddenly, Chip began to paw Dee’s hand, wrapped tight around her money. “What?” Dee asked. She opened her hand. Chip sniffed the money, then wagged his tail. He licked Dee on the nose.

Dee laughed. “You’re right, Chip—I’m hanging onto this money too tight!” she said. “I can wait a few more days to buy the *Girls Now* CD. Besides, it’s just a CD. Maybe someone else needs this dollar to get something they *really* need.”

“Woof!” Chip barked. Dee laughed.

“Thanks, buddy,” she said, scratching him behind the ears. “We should really talk more often!” Happily, Chip barked again.



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 Shepherd, basketball player extraordinaire!” shouted Paul as he was beating Cy at a recess game of one-on-one basketball. The other boys who were watching the game laughed. Cy was embarrassed. Of course Paul was the better basketball player—he had a hoop in his driveway, brothers to play against, and was four inches taller than Cy! Cy’s feelings were hurt—after school, he didn’t want to walk home with his friend. Why did Paul have to be such a show-off?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Paul raced to catch up with Cy after school. Cy explained that it hurt his feelings when Paul showed off. “My brothers talk to each other like that all the time when they’re playing basketball,” said Paul, but then he remembered that Mike and Mark didn’t talk to *him* like that. Why? Because it hurt Paul’s feelings. Now Paul understood—he apologized to Cy for showing off and for hurting his friend’s feelings.

“Ooh!” Paul shouted after sinking another shot. “Paul Shepherd, basketball player extraordinaire!”

Cy and Paul were playing one-on-one basketball at recess. A group of boys who were watching the game laughed.

Cy blushed. He knew he wasn’t nearly as good a basketball player as Paul. Paul’s family had a basketball hoop in their driveway, so Paul could always practice. He played against his older brothers, too. And besides—Paul was already four inches taller than Cy was.

“Okay, your turn!” Paul said to Cy, passing him the ball.

Cy dribbled twice. But as soon he tried to go around Paul, Paul stole the ball back! Cy watched helplessly as Paul’s shot sank effortlessly through the basket.

“Boom!” Paul shouted. “There it is. So sorry, Cy, but I am the master.”

The boys watching laughed again. Cy was glad his face was red so nobody could see how embarrassed he was. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, the recess bell rang. Cy had never been so glad to go back to class.

That day after school, Cy began walking home alone. Usually he walked home with Paul, but today, he wanted to be by himself.

“Hey, Cy!” Shouted Paul from behind him. “Wait up!”

Cy groaned. Paul was out of breath when he had finally caught Cy up. “Wow—you’re fast!” Paul said.

“Yeah, that’s me—Cy Yung, walker extraordinaire!” answered Cy sarcastically. “Sorry, Paul, but I am the master of walking home.”

“You’re mad at me?” Paul asked. “Because of recess?”

Cy looked at his feet. “You just really hurt my feelings when you show off like that, Paul.”

“My brothers talk to each other like that all the time when they’re playing basketball,” Paul said. “It’s not that big of a deal.”

“Do they talk to you like that when you play against them?” Cy asked.

“Well, no. They used to, but they stopped when I told them it hurt my...” Paul paused, then looked at Cy. “Feelings. It felt like they were making fun of me because I’m not as good at basketball as they are.”

“That’s how it makes me feel, too. I know I’m not as good as you are, but you don’t have to remind me—and everyone else—that you beat me every time we play.”

“Cy, I’m really sorry for showing off,” Paul said sincerely. “And I’m really sorry I hurt your feelings.”

Cy shrugged. “That’s all right. I forgive you.”

“Can I still walk home with you?” Paul asked. “I mean—even though I’m not a *walker extraordinaire*.”

Cy laughed and nodded. “Sure,” he answered. “I’ll teach you everything I know about walking home!”



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’s sister, Susan, noticed that Paul was unusually quiet after school. Fixing a cup of hot cocoa for the two of them, she asked if anything was wrong. Paul explained that he was becoming friends with a new boy in his class, Tristan. Paul’s new friend didn’t go to church, which was fine, but Paul was confused because Tristan believed that all good people go to heaven. That seemed to make sense to Paul, but was it true?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Susan explained that Tristan’s belief was actually very common. “But, Paul,” she added, “How good would a person have to be to get to heaven?” Susan reminded Paul that the Bible tells us that all people are sinners, so nobody’s good enough to get to heaven just by being good. The only reason we can go to heaven is because God is good. It’s impossible for us, but it’s possible to God. We can go to heaven by trusting in Him. Paul was glad that whether or not he was “good enough,” he trusted God and would someday see Him in heaven.

Paul had seemed unusually quiet since arriving home from school, thought Susan, his older sister. So after fixing a cup of hot cocoa for the two of them, she asked, “Paul, did you have a good day at school today?”

“Yeah—it was a good day,” answered Paul, sipping his cocoa. “I had kind of a strange conversation, though,” he explained.

“Really? What about?” Susan wondered.

“Well, there’s a boy in my class—Tristan—who I didn’t know very well until this week. We’ve been playing together at recess time. Today I mentioned something to him about church.”

“Okay,” said Susan. “What’s so strange about that?”

“He asked if I was a Christian, and when I told him I am, he told me he doesn’t go to church,” Paul said.

“There’s lots of people who don’t go to church,” Susan answered.

“That wasn’t the weird part, though,” Paul continued. “Tristan said that *he* believes that all people who are good go to heaven. Is that true?”

“Oh, I see,” said Susan. “That’s a pretty common belief, actually.”

“Well, is it true?” asked Paul. “Do all good people go to heaven?”

“Paul, how good would a person have to be to earn a place in heaven?” Susan asked.

“I don’t know,” Paul answered. “Pretty much perfect, I guess.”

“I think you’re right. A person would have to be pretty good to earn a place in heaven. But the Bible tells us that all people are sinners—none of us are ‘good,’ in a sense.”

“So what does that mean?” Paul wondered. “That nobody can go to heaven?”

“Not by being good,” Susan answered. “The only way—or reason—*anybody* can go to heaven is because *God* is good. And He is so good, He doesn’t want anyone to be left out. That’s why he sent Jesus—so that everyone could go to heaven by trusting in Him.”

“That makes sense,” Paul said. “And I make mistakes all the time—I’m glad that doesn’t make a difference in whether or not I go to heaven.”

“Me, too,” Susan agreed. “Maybe when you get a chance, you could tell Tristan that the real way to get to heaven is a lot better than just trying to be good. By trusting in Jesus, we can trust we will live forever in heaven with Him!”

“Thanks, Susan!” Paul said as he finished his hot cocoa.



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 a little nervous as they got ready for their Sunday school service project. Their class had decided to help serve dinner at a local nursing home, where older people lived who were no longer able to take care of themselves. “It smells like my Grandpa’s house,” said Paul as Cy reluctantly tied on an apron. Prepared for an evening of hard work and no fun, Dee, Cy, and Paul grabbed their trays and began serving dinner.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Two hours later, the frowns on Dee, Cy, and Paul’s faces had become smiles. Dee had played silly songs on the piano, Cy talked soccer with a man who had been a great player, and Paul learned secrets to his favorite computer game from a lady who was even better at it than he was! The kids were disappointed when it was time to leave. In the van, Mrs. Anita explained that whenever she followed Jesus’ command to love and serve others, she ended up having a great time and making new friends. Tired, but happy, Dee, Cy, and Paul left the nursing home.

“It smells like my Grandpa’s house in here,” Paul whispered to Dee and Cy as they tied on their serving aprons.

“I don’t think I look good in an apron, either,” grumbled Cy.

“Come on, guys,” Dee said, encouraging her friends. “We came here to serve, not to complain. Besides, it might be fun—you never know!”

Cy and Paul weren’t convinced. Dee, Cy, and Paul’s Sunday school class had decided to do a serving project together. They were going to help serve dinner at a local nursing home, where older people lived who were no longer able to take care of themselves.

“There are a lot of people who live here,” said Paul, peeking out the kitchen door to where the residents had been seated for dinner.

“Come on, Paul,” said Mrs. Anita, shoving a tray into Paul’s hand. “I’ll go with you. And after dinner, you can hang out and talk with some of these nice folks!”

“Great,” said Cy, grabbing a tray himself. “Here we go.”

Two hours later, however, the grimaces on Cy and Paul’s faces had been replaced by broad smiles. After dinner, Dee had started playing the piano and singing funny songs to the residents. Cy got to talk to a man who had been a wonderful soccer player when he was younger. And Paul met a lady who knew all the secret tricks to winning his favorite video game, *Frog Hopper Z-3000*.

“Okay, kids; it’s time to go,” said Mrs. Anita, and her students groaned. Once they had said their goodbyes to their new friends and packed back into the church van, Mrs. Anita asked how they had enjoyed their time.

“I was a little nervous at first,” said Cy.

Paul nodded. “Me, too. And serving dinner—and cleaning up all the dishes—was pretty hard work. But it was really fun getting to know some of the people who lived there!”

“Yeah,” agreed Dee. “In fact, I’m surprised how much fun I had!”

“You know,” Mrs. Anita said, “I think every time I’ve followed Jesus’ command to love and serve others, I’ve had an experience much like tonight. The work may be hard, but I always end up having a great time and making new friends.”

Cy yawned. “I guess God knows what’s best for us, doesn’t He?”

Mrs. Anita smiled as she pulled the van out of the parking lot.