



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee, Cy, and Paul were playing basketball at the park when suddenly they heard two crashes and the tinkle of broken glass. A car accident! Paul had just shot the basketball, and Dee was trying to catch it, so neither of them saw the wreck, but Cy watched the whole thing. A police officer, Officer John, assured the kids that nobody had been hurt, but he needed an eyewitness to tell him what had happened.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy explained that the accident had involved three cars, rather than two, as Officer John had originally thought. After Cy described exactly what he had seen to the policeman, Officer John thanked Cy for being an excellent eyewitness. Dee explained that Cy had been an eyewitness long before he saw the accident—he was an eyewitness to the things Jesus was doing in his life, and could tell others about those things. Dee, Cy, and Paul were glad to be eyewitnesses of Jesus’ work in their lives.

“What was that?” Dee asked as she caught the basketball that Paul had just shot through the hoop. There had been crashing sounds, followed by the tinkle of broken glass.

“It was a car accident!” Cy said. “I just saw the whole thing!”

“I hope no one is hurt,” exclaimed Paul.

The kids watched from the park basketball court as two police cars pulled up to the scene with lights flashing. Two cars, a red truck and a green convertible, remained at the traffic light where Dee, Cy, and Paul usually crossed the street to come to the park. Both drivers got out of their cars to talk to a police officer, who appeared to be interviewing them.

“Looks like everyone is fine,” said Cy. “That’s good!”

“Yeah,” agreed Dee, relieved. “It’s my turn to shoot, right?”

Dee, Cy, and Paul continued their game. Soon the police officer walked up to the court from the scene of the accident. It was Officer John, whom the kids knew from Traffic Safety Day at school.

“Hi, kids!” said Officer John. “How are you doing today?”

“We’re fine, thank you,” Paul answered. “Is everyone okay down there?”

“Oh, yes—nobody was hurt,” Officer John said. “But I was wondering if any of you saw what happened.”

“Not me,” said Paul. “I had just shot the basketball.”

“And I was catching it,” Dee answered.

“I saw it,” said Cy. “There were actually two crashes. First, a blue car crashed into the green convertible. That bumped the green car far enough that it crashed into the red truck.”

“Really? What happened to the blue car?” Officer John asked.

“It drove away,” Cy answered.

“Well, that changes everything!” Officer John exclaimed. “The driver of the green car knew another car had hit her, but neither of the drivers saw the third car. May I ask you some more questions about the blue car, Cy?”

Cy puffed out his chest. “Sure.”

Officer Nelson took Cy aside and spoke to him quietly for a few minutes. Dee and Paul smiled at each other. They knew Cy was enjoying the attention. Finally Cy and Officer John turned back.

“Thanks for your help, Cy. We needed an eyewitness just like you to help us out!” Officer John turned and walked back to the accident scene.

Cy turned to Dee and Paul and smiled. “I’m an eyewitness!”

Dee laughed. “That’s true, Cy. You did see that accident. But you were an eyewitness before that!”

“I was?” Cy wondered. “What did I witness?”

“Ha!” Paul laughed. “Eyewitness? I witness? Get it?”

Dee rolled her eyes, while Cy giggled. “We’re all witnesses, actually—witnesses of Jesus and the things He’s done!”

“But I’ve never seen Jesus,” Cy pointed out. “How could I have witnessed the things He’s done?”

“You may not have seen Jesus right in front of you,” Dee answered. “But you’ve seen lots of things He’s done!”

“Yeah—that’s right!” Paul agreed. “You witnessed Becky—your little sister—deciding to follow Jesus. That’s amazing! By witnessing about that—telling other people how she decided to follow Jesus—that might make them think about following Him, too!”

“That’s true,” Cy agreed, nodding. “I’m glad I witnessed Jesus—and I hope I get to witness Him some more!”

Dee and Paul laughed. “Me, too!” Paul agreed, shooting the ball towards the basket.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Paul had been left behind. His parents had gone to drop his oldest sister off at college, and since his brothers would be going to college in two more years, they went, too. Paul stayed at his Uncle Jim and Aunt Trisha’s house. It had sounded great at first—his aunt and uncle had a pool in their backyard, and his brothers wouldn’t be there to argue with him. But after watching his family drive away, Paul was very sad. He missed them so much. How could they have left him behind?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Suddenly, Aunt Trisha’s cell phone rang. His family hadn’t even made it an hour away before they missed him so much they had to stop and call him. After talking to each of his siblings and his parents, Paul hung up. “They miss me!” he said to Aunt Trisha. “Of course they do!” she answered. Paul realized that the disciples must have felt abandoned when Jesus left them to live in heaven. But Jesus still loved them as much as He always did—he was just going to be somewhere else for a while. And He would be coming back, just like Paul’s family!

Paul looked out the window of his Uncle Jim and Aunt Trisha’s house. His family was gone—they had all left to take Paul’s oldest sister, Susan, to college. Paul’s brothers had gone along so they could see the college, too, as they would be graduating high school in two more years.

“But I’m left behind,” Paul thought, wiping a tear off his cheek after making sure nobody was looking at him. He had begged his parents to let him play in the summer basketball league, and he couldn’t miss so many practices.

“There’s a pool at Uncle Jim’s house!” Mike had said. “You can swim every day!”

Mark had pointed out, “You won’t have us to argue with.”

Before his family left, that had sounded great! It would be tons of fun to stay at a house with a pool. He’d always loved visiting his aunt and uncle before, but usually at least one of his siblings was there with him. Right now, even arguing with his brothers seemed better than being left behind.

Aunt Trisha walked into Paul’s room. She wore a white robe around a colorful swimsuit. Her flip-flops made clapping sounds. “Hey, buddy,” she said. “It’s beautiful outside! Let’s go swimming!”

Paul turned around and tried to smile. “Maybe in a little while,” he said. “I don’t really feel like it right now.”

“Oh,” Aunt Trisha replied, surprised. “Sure. Are you doing okay?”

“Uh, yeah!” Paul said. “I’m fine.” He looked down at his feet.

Aunt Trisha smiled gently. “It was hard watching them drive away, wasn’t it?”

Paul tried not to snuffle. “I guess so,” he said. “It was harder than I thought it would be.”

“That’s all right,” Aunt Trisha answered. “It’s normal to miss your family when they’re gone.”

Suddenly, Aunt Trisha’s cell phone rang. She took it out of her pocket and answered it, then handed it to Paul.

“They certainly didn’t get very far before they missed you, too!” she said, laughing.

Paul took the phone. His family had stopped less than an hour away to make sure he was alright, and to tell him they loved him. Paul felt great knowing that they missed him as much as he missed them! After talking to his mom, dad, brothers, and sister, Paul hung up the phone and smiled at his aunt. “They miss me!”

“Of course they do!” Aunt Trisha answered. “I’m surprised your mom made it this long before calling you!” She laughed again. “Whenever you’re ready, we can go out and swim, okay?”

“Okay,” Paul answered. He sat down on his bed, smiling. He couldn’t believe how sad and lonely he had felt just a few minutes earlier. “They didn’t really leave me,” he thought to himself. “They’re just somewhere else for a while.”

Suddenly Paul remembered his lesson from Sunday school the previous week. His class had discussed what Jesus’ disciples must have felt like when Jesus left the earth for heaven. “But he didn’t really leave them at all,” Paul thought to himself. “Jesus still loved the disciples as much as He ever had. He was just somewhere else for a while—and He is coming back!”

“Just like my family is coming back for me,” Paul said out loud, as he began digging into his suitcase for his swimsuit and goggles.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee had received a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers from her grandma as a gift for her tenth birthday. She had never received her own flowers before. But as she went to smell them the day after she’d received them, she noticed something. The water in the vase was almost gone! “Chip—you drank the water in my flowers, didn’t you?” She accused. “Or did you pour it out, Mom?” Both Chip and Mrs. Morgan looked at Dee as if to ask, “Why would we do such a silly thing?”

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Some of the water has evaporated, and some has been used by the flower for energy,” Mrs. Morgan explained. “Right!” said Dee. She knew plants couldn’t live without water—she just didn’t think they’d use so much so quickly! Then she thought about the Holy Spirit, and how the Spirit fills Christians. Mrs. Morgan explained that unlike the vase, which would eventually run completely out of water, everyone who decides to follow Jesus always has the Spirit inside them. By continuing to pray and learn about God, Dee would continually be filled by God’s Spirit! Dee was glad she didn’t have to remember to fill herself up with God’s Spirit, but decided to write herself a note, so she wouldn’t forget to fill her flowers with water.

Dee looked across her bedroom at the beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers on her desk. Her great-grandma, who Dee had always called Oma, couldn’t make it to Dee’s tenth birthday party the previous weekend. But yesterday the doorbell rang, and a man stood there with a gorgeous vase of flowers. Dee had never received her own flowers before, and she was so proud of them! She walked over to the vase to smell them, but then she noticed—the water in the vase was almost gone!

“Mom!” Dee shouted. “Oh, Chip!” she said, pointing at her dog, who was laying on her bed. “You drank the water in my flowers, didn’t you?”

Chip cocked his head to one side and looked at Dee, as if to say, “Why would I do such a silly thing?”

Mrs. Morgan walked into Dee’s bedroom. “Hi, sugarpie. Are you ready to go shopping and spend your gift card from Marcie?” For her birthday, her friend had given Dee a gift card to a store called Learning Express. The store sold great toys and games.

“Almost. Mom, I think Chip drank the water in my flower vase!”

“Well,” Mrs. Morgan said, “I don’t think Chip could have drank the water out of your flowers without spilling them.”

“Did you pour the water out, then?” Dee asked.

“Of course not!” Mrs. Morgan answered, sitting next to Chip on the bed. “Why would I do such a silly thing?”

Chip licked Mrs. Morgan’s hand and then put his head down on her lap.

“So what happened to the water?” asked Dee.

“Well, some of it has evaporated,” answered Mrs. Morgan. “And some of it has been used by the flowers for energy. Without the water, they would die.”

“Oh—right!” Dee said. “Of course—plants can’t live without water. I just didn’t think they’d use so much water so quickly!”

“Yes—they need a lot of water to stay alive,” Mrs. Morgan said, nodding. “And it’s your job to make sure that they always have water—you have to fill it up!”

“Mom,” Dee said thoughtfully, “We talked last Sunday about God’s Holy Spirit, and how the Spirit fills us up. Is that kind of like the water in the vase?”

“Yes, and no,” Mrs. Morgan answered. “If you stopped filling the vase, eventually all the water would dry up. The same isn’t true for you. Because you have decided to follow Jesus, the Spirit will always be in you!”

“Oh, good!” Dee said, relieved. “I’m not sure I can always remember to fill myself up.”

Mrs. Morgan laughed. “The great news is that it’s not your job to fill yourself up!” she explained. “It’s your job to continue to pray and learn about God and try to do the things He wants you to do. The Spirit will fill you up if you continue to do those things. But you will never be empty, because the Spirit is always alive in any person who decides to follow Jesus.”

“And the Spirit will help me know what to do!” Dee remembered. “But maybe I should make myself a note, so I don’t forget to keep water in my vase.”

“That’s probably a great idea,” Mrs. Morgan said, as Chip started panting. “It looks like Chip’s ready for some water now!”

“I’ll fill his dish!” Dee offered. Chip barked.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee, Cy, Paul, and Cy’s sister Becky were all riding in the Shepherd family’s van to a special church service. Their church had helped to start a new church in the city. Today was the first day of services, and there was going to be a big party! “Today is the church’s birthday!” said Becky. “There will be a party, but it’s not the church’s birthday,” Mr. Shepherd corrected. Dee, Cy, and Paul were confused.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Mr. Shepherd explained that the Church that Jesus’ disciples had begun was very old. “But we’re not part of that Church,” Cy pointed out. “Actually, we are all part of that Church,” Mr. Shepherd answered. Even though there were many church buildings, there was only one Church—the people who call Jesus Lord and obey His teaching are God’s Church. The Holy Spirit unites them all—no matter what building they worship in. Cy was thrilled to be part of God’s global Church—and to celebrate with a little cake, too!

Dee, Cy, and Paul were riding in the Shepherd family’s van into the city for a special church service. Cy’s little sister Becky was coming along, too.

“So, now Cy has two little sisters, and a sister church?” Dee asked. “That’s a lot of sisters.”

Mr. Shepherd laughed. “It’s not quite the same thing, Dee,” he explained. “Our church helped train the new leaders of this church, and it’s very exciting that now they’re ready to start having their own services!”

“Cy said today is the church’s birthday!” said Becky excitedly. “Are we going to have a party?”

“Yeah—and is there going to be cake?” Cy added.

Paul’s dad laughed. “Cy, I have no idea how you can even think about eating cake this early in the morning. And yes, Becky, there will be a big party after the service to celebrate the opening of our sister church. But it’s not the church’s birthday.”

“It’s not?” wondered Paul. “I don’t get it! I thought this is the first day the church was open!”

“It’s the first day that this church is having a service,” Mr. Shepherd explained. But the Church—the Church started by Jesus’ disciples, is much older.”

“Oh, well that doesn’t matter,” said Cy. “I’m not part of that Church.”

“Actually, we are all part of the Church of the disciples,” Pastor Shepherd said. “There is only one Church.”

“The Church is one,” Becky declared. Dee and Cy looked at each other and shrugged.

“There are tons of churches, Dad!” Paul replied. “They’re all over the place!”

“There are tons of *buildings*, son,” Mr. Shepherd corrected. “But the Church is not a building. The Church is a people—the people who have decided to follow Jesus! Today, we’re celebrating the opening of a new building—a place where people can come to worship and learn about Jesus. But the Church has been around for 2,000 years.”

“Wow—I never thought of it that way,” said Cy.

“The Church is old!” Becky added.

“The Church is united by the Holy Spirit,” continued Paul’s dad. “Through the Spirit that God has given us, we are all united. All churches who call Jesus the Lord and obey His teachings are part of God’s global Church.”

“Wow—that must be a huge Church!” said Paul.

“The Church is big,” Becky announced. Dee and Cy covered their smiles with their hands.

“It is—so huge it couldn’t ever fit inside a single building,” Mr. Shepherd agreed.

Pastor Shepherd drove the van into a parking lot. *There’s the new church—no, building*, Cy thought to himself. Many people had come to celebrate its opening. Streamers and balloons decorated the entryway.

“Is it time for the party?” Becky asked.

“Almost, Becky,” Mr. Shepherd answered smiling. And bending down to Cy, he whispered, “And just wait—I think there just might be cake, too!”

“Yes!” Cy said quietly, then walked with his friends to the new building where the Church could worship King Jesus.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Cy couldn’t believe his ears. Austin Ellis—one of Cy’s soccer teammates—was teasing and mocking their neighbor, Mr. Coe. Even though Austin, who was in sixth grade, was known to be a bully, he had always been friendly to Cy. Mr. Coe didn’t really talk anymore, and hadn’t since the death of his wife, but Cy knew that Austin was wrong to be so cruel. Silently, he prayed to God for help, in Jesus’ name.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Confident that God would be with him, Cy asked Austin to stop bullying Mr. Coe. “You can’t tell me what to do!” Austin replied. “No, but I can tell right from wrong,” Cy replied. “And this is wrong.” Finally, Austin walked away, leaving Cy to wonder what the next soccer practice would be like, but knowing that God had been with him. As Cy turned to leave, Mr. Coe thanked him—the first words Cy had heard him speak in two years!

“Hey, old man!” Cy heard as he crossed the park on his way to Paul’s house. “You stink! Why don’t you take a shower? Oh, that’s right, because you’re so sad and don’t care anymore.”

“Whoa!” Cy said aloud as he rounded the corner. “That’s Austin Ellis!”

Cy stopped in his tracks. Austin was standing with another sixth-grade boy, who was laughing at Austin’s comment. Just beyond them, sitting on a bench, was a man who looked as if he hadn’t slept in several days.

Cy recognized the older man—it was Mr. Coe. He and his wife had lived in Cy’s neighborhood Cy’s whole life. They had always been at neighborhood events until two years ago, when Mrs. Coe had died. Since then, Mr. Coe rarely came out of his house, and when he did, he sat in the park and stared at the birds. Even if you talked to him, he never spoke back.

Cy watched as Austin and his friend laughed at the old man. Cy had been on Austin’s soccer team for the past two years. Cy knew that Austin could be a bully, but he’d always been pretty nice to Cy.

Austin continued to taunt Mr. Coe, his friend giggling behind him. “God,” Cy prayed silently, “This isn’t right—Mr. Coe shouldn’t be treated this way! In Jesus’ name, I need Your help!” Cy was intimidated—maybe even a little afraid—of Austin Ellis. But he had to do something.

Cy walked up to Austin and his friend. Taking a deep breath, he said, “Hey, Austin. What are you doing?”

Austin winked at Cy. “Just playing around with the old man. I don’t think he really knows what’s going on anyway.” Austin turned to Mr. Coe and waved his arms. “Do you, old man? Just sit there and stare at your birds, that’s right!” Austin and his friend laughed again.

“Well, I think he does know what’s going on. And you don’t have the right to treat anyone this way!” Cy could hardly believe the words as they came out of his mouth. Not only was Austin known as a bully, but he was almost a foot taller than Cy.

“Who do you think you are, Yung?” Austin asked. “You can’t tell me what to do!” He took one step closer to Cy.

Cy swallowed hard, but stood his ground. “That’s right, I can’t. But I can tell the difference between right and wrong. And making fun of someone just because they won’t fight back is wrong, Austin.”

Austin leaned forward. “It’s a good thing I like you, Yung.”

“Come on, Austin,” said Austin’s friend. “Let’s go.”

“Yeah, sure,” Austin said. “We’ll leave these two here—maybe they’ll find something to talk about!”

Austin and his friend laughed hysterically as they walked away. Cy couldn’t believe it—he had just stood up to Austin Ellis! Cy looked at Mr. Coe, whose expression hadn’t changed and who was still looking into the trees. Cy began to walk away.

“Cy,” said a small voice behind him as he walked. It was Mr. Coe. Cy turned around just in time to see Mr. Coe smile and say, “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome, sir,” Cy answered. It was the first time he’d heard Mr. Coe speak in two years. Cy turned on the path and kept walking towards Paul’s house. He wasn’t looking forward to facing Austin at the next soccer practice, but he knew one thing—God had empowered him to help Mr. Coe, in Jesus’ name. *Well, at least I know Who to ask for help at soccer practice!* Cy thought to himself, and smiled.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee paced nervously outside Mr. Lemon’s classroom after school. For the first time, she had been asked to stay after school. She thought back to class that day—the students had been put into small groups to discuss the jobs they would like to have as adults. Dee had mentioned that she would like to become a veterinarian, but that it was most important that she follow Jesus. In that case, she knew she would end up having the right career. Was she in trouble?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“You made some of your classmates uncomfortable today in your small group, Dee,” Mr. Lemon explained. “Not everyone in our class believes what you believe.” Dee explained that she understood that not everyone in the class had the same beliefs, but that she had expressed hers as a part of answering the question. After thinking about it, Mr. Lemon agreed—obviously, Dee’s beliefs about Jesus were very important to her. On the way home, Dee prayed that whoever had been made uncomfortable by Dee’s talking about Jesus, would learn how much He loved him or her, too.

Dee paced outside Mr. Lemon’s classroom. For the first time ever, Dee had been asked to stay after school. Mr. Lemon had assured her she wasn’t in trouble. Still, it seemed suspicious—and a little scary—to wonder why she had to come by Mr. Lemon’s class before walking home.

“Hi, Dee,” Mr. Lemon said, opening his classroom door. “Thanks for stopping by.”

“Hi, Mr. Lemon,” Dee replied, following him into the classroom. Mr. Lemon sat at his desk and put his hands together. Dee stood in front of the desk, nervously shifting her weight from one foot to the other.

Mr. Lemon laughed. “You look nervous!”

Hearing Mr. Lemon laugh helped Dee relax. “I am nervous,” she admitted. “I’m not in trouble, am I?”

“No, Dee,” Mr. Lemon replied. “I want to talk to you about your small group discussion today.”

The kids in Dee’s social studies group had been discussing what job they would like to have as adults, and what it would take to get those jobs. “Right, I remember.”

Mr. Lemon nodded. “I have to tell you that you made some of your classmates uncomfortable during the discussion.”

“I did?” Dee asked, genuinely surprised.

“Yes,” he said. “I understand that you would like to be a veterinarian, but that you trust God to guide you into the right job as a grown-up?”

“Actually, what I said is that I trust that by following Jesus, I will end up doing exactly the job I’m supposed to do once I grow up,” Dee answered.

“Right—that’s right. Jesus.” Mr. Lemon crossed his arms. “You need to understand that not everyone in our class believes what you believe.”

Dee nodded. “Yes—I understand that.”

“So, you can see how it might make another student uncomfortable for you to talk about Jesus. Maybe you should leave Jesus out of the discussion next time.”

Dee thought, then replied, “No, I can’t do that.”

“You can’t?” Mr. Lemon pressed.

“No,” Dee confirmed. “I know that not everyone believes what I believe. I want to be a veterinarian, but I believe that to be a veterinarian—or to be anything—I will have to follow Jesus.” Dee took a deep breath. “Jesus is part of who I am. I can’t just ‘leave Him out’ when I talk about my life.”

Mr. Lemon thought to himself for what was probably only a few seconds, but it felt like forever to Dee. Then he said, “I think I’ve made a mistake by calling you in today, Dee.”

“You have?” Dee asked.

Mr. Lemon nodded. “Yes. You’re right. You simply participated in the discussion, and obviously, your beliefs about Jesus are extremely important to you.”

Dee nodded. “Jesus is the most important thing to me.” Dee stood up and picked up her backpack. “May I go now, Mr. Lemon?”

“Yes,” Mr. Lemon said. “We’ll see you tomorrow.”

“Thanks, Mr. Lemon,” Dee said, walking out of the classroom. On her way home, Dee wondered which of her classmates had been upset to hear Dee talk about Jesus. She asked Jesus to show that person how much He loved him or her, too.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Mr. Yung, Cy’s dad, was very sick. Mrs. Yung, who was a nurse, explained to Cy that he had a very serious form of cancer. “I can’t explain this to your sisters, Cy. But I need you to understand that Dad might not get better.” Cy understood. Mrs. Yung then handed Cy a small package—a prayer flag, part of his Grandma’s ancient religion. Cy looked at the package. “Mom,” he said, “I don’t think I want that.” Why would Cy reject his grandmother’s gift?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“It can’t hurt, Cy,” Mrs. Yung argued. But Cy and his younger sister, Becky, were the only people in his family who believed that Jesus was God’s Son. Cy knew that God could hear his prayers—with or without a flag. “I pray for Dad—and our family,” Cy explained. “But I pray to Jesus.” Mrs. Yung understood. “I’m grateful you have your faith to depend on, Cy,” she said. “Just don’t stop praying!”

Cy’s dad was very sick.

For a few months, Cy’s dad hadn’t felt very well at all. He had gone through test after test at the hospital, and finally, the worst was confirmed. Mr. Yung had cancer.

Mrs. Yung was a nurse at the hospital. This meant two things. It meant that she was a great help to Cy’s dad and could give him as much help and medication as he needed. It also meant that she could explain to Cy exactly what was happening.

“Cy,” Mrs. Yung explained as they sat on Cy’s bed. “Dad might get better. He might.” Cy’s mom looked down. “But he has a very serious form of cancer. I can’t explain that to your sisters, but I need you to understand that he might not get better.”

Cy’s eyes filled with tears. He knew what his mom was saying, even if he couldn’t say it himself. “I understand, Mom.”

Mrs. Yung handed Cy a small package. “Here,” she said. “It’s from your grandmother.”

Cy opened the package. Inside was a small rectangle of red cloth, with black swirling designs printed on it. It looked sort of like a handkerchief.

“What is it?” he asked.

“It’s called a prayer flag,” she replied. “It’s part of Grandma’s ancient religion. She wants us to put one in every room in the house and use them to pray for Dad.”

Cy looked at the package. “Mom,” he said. “I don’t think I want that.”

“Why not, Cy?” Mrs. Yung asked. “It can’t hurt.”

Cy couldn’t completely explain to his mom why he didn’t want the prayer flag. Nobody in his family—except for his younger sister, Becky, believed that Jesus was God’s Son. He prayed every night that the rest of his family would someday follow Jesus. To accept the prayer flag from his grandmother felt wrong. Cy knew God could hear his prayers—with or without a flag.

“I know that Grandma is worried about Dad and wants him to get better,” Cy answered. “I pray for Dad—I pray for everyone in our family all the time. But I don’t need a flag to remind me. And Mom,” Cy said, looking straight at his mother. “You know that I pray to Jesus. Putting the prayer flag in my room feels like I’m saying I need *more* than Jesus—but He’s all I need.”

“I understand, Cy,” Mrs. Yung said. “And I’m so grateful that you have your faith to depend on. Just keep praying, okay? Don’t stop praying!”

“I won’t, Mom,” Cy said, handing his mom back the package. Mrs. Yung wrapped her arms around him, and she and Cy both burst into tears.



Teacher—These special Dee-Cy-Paul application stories reinforce the Bible lesson. Choose the “Bookends” or the Story 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 disappointed. They had all tried out for acting parts in the first-ever stage production put on by their Sunday school class, but none of them had made it. Instead, they were part of the crew: Dee was to help with costumes, Cy with the sets, and Paul with the lights. Abbey McCarthy, who was the very talented lead-actress, thanked them for being part of the crew. “You’re the most important part!” she said. “Yeah, right!” thought Dee, Cy, and Paul. Abbey must have been making fun of them!

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Without the crew, the show never happens!” Abbey explained. It would take Dee’s creativity in the costume department, Cy and his team making sure the sets were in the right place throughout the production, and Paul’s skills on the computer to develop the light show, to make the show great. “This is like the Church in Acts,” Dee realized. “They needed everyone to help out to get the job done—just like we need everyone for our stage production!”

Dee, Cy, and Paul walked out of their Sunday school classroom disappointed.

The fourth grade Sunday school was putting on its first-ever stage production. There would be actors, and singers, and performers—and the crew. Dee, Cy, and Paul had all tried out for acting parts, but none of them had made the cut. They were all part of the crew.

“What do I know about costumes?” grumbled Dee.

“Oh, yeah?” Paul said. “I’m part of the lighting team! What’s so interesting about lights? You turn them on, you turn them off. So what?”

“At least you get to do something during the show!” Cy pointed out. “I’m part of the set team. I help paint the background, then I sit around until this show is over!”

Suddenly Abbey McCarthy approached the three friends. Abbey was the most talented person in the fourth grade. She had a wonderful singing voice, could play several instruments, and had even won the lead role in several of the city plays that Dee’s mother had taken the kids to see.

“Hey, guys,” Abbey said excitedly.

“Uh, hey,” Paul replied. Dee and Cy didn’t say anything. Abbey, of course, had gotten the lead role.

“I wanted to thank you guys for being part of the crew,” Abbey said. “You’re the most important part of the production, you know.”

Dee laughed. “Abbey—you’re the lead actress! You’re the most important part of the play,” she said.

Abbey shook her head. “That’s not true at all!” she said. “I know it seems that way, but without the crew, the show never happens!”

“What do you mean?” asked Cy. “I thought my job would be over as soon as the sets were painted.”

“No way,” Abbey answered. “The stage crew has to be on its toes all the time. Between scenes, it’s your job to come onstage—in the dark—and make sure that all the sets are in the right place.”

“What about costumes?” said Dee. “I mean, not that I know anything about costumes, anyway.”

“You know more than you think you do, Dee.” Abbey laughed. “Remember our last costume party? You put lint and dryer sheets all over yourself and made your hair stand up straight!”

“Oh, right,” Dee said, remembering. “I was ‘static cling!’”

“That was the most creative costume I’ve ever seen!” Abbey said. “I can’t wait to see what you come up with for our play!”

“Well, being part of the light team is just turning the lights on and off, right?” Paul asked.

“Not at all, Paul,” Abbey answered. “The lights are all part of a computer program—and you’re great with computers! It will take weeks to come up with the light show, but with you in charge, it should be amazing!” Abbey smiled. “Anyway, I just wanted to say that I’m glad you guys are on the crew. This is going to be the best production ever!”

Abbey walked away. “Wow,” said Paul. “I had no idea that being part of the crew was so important!”

“This reminds me of what happened to the Church in Acts,” said Dee. “They realized that they couldn’t depend on just a few people to meet all the needs of the Church—they needed everyone to help out to get the job done! Just like we need everyone to make our stage production great!”

Cy smiled. “Even the set crew!” he said.

“And the lighting people,” Paul added.

“Costumes, too!” Dee said, winking.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Dee and Paul’s class at school was learning about trials and why they’re important. “Trials prevent innocent people from going to jail for crimes they didn’t commit,” Paul said. But the class acknowledged that trials aren’t always perfect—sometimes people were falsely accused and convicted of crimes they didn’t commit. “Like the witches in Salem in 1692,” Mrs. Kelley explained. “After many people were executed for being guilty of witchcraft, it turned out that many of those people had been falsely accused.” Paul knew of another person who had been falsely accused and executed....

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Stephen who?” wondered Mrs. Kelley. “Stephen from the Bible was accused of speaking falsely about God, but he didn’t do it. The people in power just didn’t like that people were believing in Jesus because of what Stephen was teaching, so they arranged for him to be falsely accused and stoned to death!” Sydney, one of Dee and Paul’s classmates, thought Stephen’s story sounded interesting, and asked Dee and Paul to tell her more about him. “Sure,” said Dee and Paul, then agreed that God was still using Stephen to teach people about Jesus.

“Okay, class,” Dee and Paul’s teacher, Mrs. Kelley, said. “Tomorrow is our mock trial, so don’t forget your costumes. Can anyone remind us why trials are important?”

Paul raised his hand, and Mrs. Kelley called on him. He answered, “Trials can help prevent innocent people from going to jail for crimes they didn’t commit.”

“That’s right, Paul,” replied Mrs. Kelley, nodding. “The purpose of a trial is to determine whether or not a person who has been accused of a crime is actually guilty of the crime.”

Dee raised her hand, then added, “But trials aren’t always perfect, are they? I mean, sometimes, people can be falsely accused of committing a crime.”

“That’s exactly right, Dee. Can anyone think of a trial when a person was falsely accused of a crime, and convicted of it?”

Sydney, one of the kids in Dee and Paul’s class, raised her hand. “A long time ago, a lot of people were accused of being witches, even though they really weren’t. Some of them were hung even though they were innocent!”

The class gasped. Mrs. Kelley nodded again. “That’s right, Sydney. In 1692, in Salem, Massachusetts, a group of men accused many people of witchcraft. They executed 19 people for being witches. But many of the accusations were based on conflicts between families or businesses.”

“So those people died, even though they hadn’t actually done anything wrong?” Dee asked in amazement.

“Sadly, yes,” Mrs. Kelley answered. “Can anyone else think of a person who was falsely convicted of a crime?”

“I can,” answered Paul.

“Are you going to say ‘Jesus,’ Paul?” Mrs. Kelley knew Paul liked to talk about Jesus.

“No, I wasn’t—but you’re right. Jesus was falsely accused. I was going to answer, ‘Stephen.’”

“Stephen who?” asked Mrs. Kelley.

“Stephen, from the New Testament. The Book of Acts,” Paul explained. “The people who were in power didn’t like that many people were believing in Jesus because of what Stephen was teaching. So they arranged for a couple of witnesses to falsely accuse Stephen of blasphemy.”

“What’s blasphemy?” one boy in their class asked.

“Blasphemy is speaking falsely about God,” replied Paul.

“What happened to Stephen?” Sydney wondered.

“He was stoned to death,” Dee answered.

“Those are great examples, kids.” Mrs. Kelley looked at the clock. “I wish we had more time to keep discussing this, but it’s time to pack up. We’ll see if the defendant in our mock trial tomorrow has been falsely accused, okay? See you then!”

After school was out, Sydney approached Dee and Paul. “I’d like to hear more about Stephen sometime,” she said. “It sounds like a really interesting story!”

Dee and Paul smiled. “Sure!” said Dee. “Maybe tomorrow at recess we can talk about Stephen and his trial.”

“Great!” Sydney said, before running off to catch her bus.

“Stephen died a long time ago because God used him to teach people about Jesus,” Paul said thoughtfully.

“I was just thinking the same thing,” Dee agreed. She looked at Sydney as she climbed onto her school bus. “But God is *still* using Stephen to teach people about Jesus!”



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Cy was visiting Paul when they received a letter from their friend Luis. Luis’ family had become missionaries in South America many years earlier. In his letter, Luis described how many people in his family’s village had become ill during the rainy season. The doctor explained that it was a common illness and easily treatable, but one man in the village was blaming Luis’ family for bringing the sickness upon the village! “You’re not welcome here anymore!” the man and his family would shout at Luis. What would happen to them? Would the village turn against them?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

One night, the man’s daughter became sick. Luis’ dad had medicine that the doctor had left, and offered it to the man who had been persecuting them. Within a few days, the girl felt much better. And the man and his family stopped persecuting Luis’ family—in fact, the man started attending Bible study with Luis’ dad! People from their village and even surrounding villages wanted to learn more about why Luis’ family would care so much for a man who had persecuted them, and about Jesus! Because of the persecution, God was blessing Luis and his family more than ever!

Cy had just stepped into Paul’s house, ready to watch his favorite sports show with his friend.

“Hey, Cy,” Paul shouted, waving a piece of paper. “You’re just in time. We just got a letter from Luis!”

“We did?” asked Cy. Luis was their friend whose family had become missionaries in South America many years earlier. “Well, what are you waiting for? Read it!”

Paul nodded, then began to read:

Dear Dee, Cy, and Paul:

Thanks for all your letters. It’s always good to hear from you all, even though it sometimes takes a long time for the letters to get here.

My family is good. It’s been really interesting around here the last couple of months. Let me tell you about it.

A few months ago, some people in our village started getting sick. There is a doctor who visits us from the city about once a month. He said that it’s a common illness that occurs here during the rainy time of year, and most of the sick people would recover quickly with medicine. But there was one man in the village—a man who has never spoken with us and won’t really even look at us—who decided that it was our fault. He thought that my mom and dad and I were causing all these people to become sick!

He started trying to get all the villagers together to have us thrown out of the village. Fortunately, most of the people here know us, so they didn’t pay any attention. But his family joined with him, and now I understand what it’s like to be persecuted! They were always shouting at us whenever we walked around, yelling things like “You’re not welcome here anymore!” and “Go home!” and even worse things.

Well, one night this man’s daughter became sick with the same illness that other people were suffering from. By then, everyone who had received the doctor’s medicine was getting better. The doctor had left the village, but he gave some extra medicine to my dad just in case anyone else got sick. My dad went to the man’s house and offered the medicine to him to help his daughter. It took a while, but finally he agreed to try it. Within a few days the little girl was just fine.

Now things are really different! His family understands that we’re not here to hurt anyone—we want to help! And the man has even begun coming to my dad’s Bible study! He’s learning about Jesus—this same man who was persecuting us just a few months ago!

God is doing amazing things in our village—and even in other villages. The neighboring villagers have heard that my dad shared the medicine to the man who was persecuting us, and they want to know why we love these people so much. Slowly, they are learning that we love them because Jesus loves them! It’s almost as if through the persecution, God has blessed us more than ever!

I hope you’re all doing great. Cy, I hope your dad feels better soon. We are all praying for him.

Your friend,

Luis

When Paul finished reading, he and Cy looked at each other. The sports show they were going to watch was completely forgotten. At the exact same time, they both exclaimed:

“We gotta tell Dee!”



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

Cy’s dad was dying. He could no longer walk up the stairs, so he stayed in the living room all the time, in a special bed. Cy was sad—and scared. He wasn’t ready to say goodbye. Wiping off his tears, he walked into the living room. “Hey, buddy!” Mr. Yung said. “There’s something I’ve been wanting to talk with you about.” *What could it be?* Cy wondered.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

Cy’s eyes popped open when his dad said, “I want you to tell me about Jesus.” Cy had prayed for this day for as long as he could remember. Cy’s mom and dad didn’t mind that he was a Christian—they even encouraged him and Becky to go to church—but they weren’t Christians. For the next half hour, Cy told his dad about Jesus’ love and forgiveness. When his dad finally needed to rest, Cy knew it was the best—and worst—day of his life. His dad was dying, but Cy’s prayers had been answered. Mr. Yung was learning about Jesus.

Mr. Yung was sick—very, very sick. Cy hated to think about it, but he knew that his father was dying. Cy’s mom, who was a nurse, had arranged for a special bed for Cy’s dad. He couldn’t walk up the stairs anymore, so the bed was in the living room.

Cy was scared. He had known other people who died before. But he loved his dad so much. He wasn’t ready to say goodbye. He would miss hearing his dad cheering at baseball games and seeing him jump up and down on the sidelines of the soccer field when Cy’s team scored a goal.

Now his dad was different. He was very thin. He had to wear an oxygen tube in his nose all the time. Cy’s eyes filled with tears as he realized that his dad would probably never jump up and down again.

Cy had just come home from school. He had a hard time concentrating in class lately, because his dad was always on his mind. Cy put his backpack in the closet and wiped the tears off his cheeks. He took a deep breath, and went into the living room.

“Hey, buddy!” Mr. Yung said as Cy walked in. “I’ve been waiting for you!”

“You should be resting, Dad,” Cy said. “Mom says you need to rest as much as possible.”

“I’m okay,” Mr. Yung said. “I’m actually feeling pretty good today. Think I might go out for a jog later.” Mr. Yung smiled and winked at Cy. “How was school?”

“All right,” Cy said.

“Cy, I’ve been thinking all day about something. It’s what I want to talk to you about.” Cy’s dad took a deep breath. “I was wondering if you could tell me about Jesus.”

Cy’s eyes popped open. He had prayed for as long as he could remember for his dad to ask him about Jesus. Nobody in Cy’s family—except his little sister—was a Christian. They didn’t mind that Cy believed in Jesus. In fact, they encouraged him to go to church, but only because they knew he was learning “good moral lessons.” Cy had always prayed they would see it was so much more than that.

“Sure, Dad!” Cy answered, his eyes filling with tears again. “I’d love to! What do you want to know about?”

“Well, for starters, I’ve heard you say that Jesus is God’s Son. What does that really mean?”

For the next half hour, before Mr. Yung became tired and needed to sleep, Cy talked to his dad about Jesus. He brought out his Bible and read his favorite passages. He explained how much Jesus loved people when He was on earth, and how He was willing to forgive them of anything they’d done wrong. Cy never thought he would see his dad so interested in Jesus.

This might be the best—and worst day—of my whole life, Cy thought to himself. His dad was dying, but God had answered Cy’s prayers. Mr. Yung was learning about Jesus.



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

Dee-Cy-Paul “Bookends”

Introduction (5 minutes)

Use this “hook” to introduce the lesson.

“Let’s go play ball outside, Chip!” Dee said, holding Chip’s red ball. But something was wrong with Chip. He barely raised his head, then groaned and buried his nose in his paws. “Nothing’s wrong with Chip, Dee,” Mrs. Morgan explained. “We took him for a long walk this morning, and it’s a hot day. He’s not a puppy anymore—he needs his rest!” *Not a puppy anymore?* Dee thought. *How could that be?*

Conclusion (5 minutes)

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

“Chip looks exactly the same!” Dee said. Mrs. Morgan laughed and showed her the picture of Chip when they had first gotten him—a tiny puppy curled up in Dee’s lap. Now, just Chip’s head filled up Dee’s lap as she sat on her bed and petted him. Chip had been miraculously transformed—he was no longer a puppy, but a big dog. “Just like Saul was transformed to Paul, and became a great leader of the early Church!” Dee remembered. Mrs. Morgan agreed, then offered Dee and Chip an even better treat than playing ball—ice cream!

“Chip!” Dee said, tossing Chip’s favorite red ball in the air. “Chip! Let’s go!”

Chip barely raised his head from where he was laying on Dee’s bed, then groaned and buried his nose in his paws.

“Chip!” Dee repeated. “Let’s go play ball outside! Don’t you want to play ball?”

Chip didn’t move.

“Mom,” Dee cried, panicked. “Something’s wrong with Chip!”

“What?” Mrs. Morgan answered, walking into Dee’s room. “What’s wrong with him?”

“He doesn’t want to play ball!” Dee said. “It’s his favorite thing!”

Dee’s mom walked over and stroked Chip’s head. Chip wagged his tail slightly.

“Dee, Chip is fine. Did you forget that it’s a hot day out, and we took him for a walk to the park and around the lake already?”

“Well, no,” said Dee. “But he always wants to play ball, no matter how tired he is! Isn’t that right, Chip?” Dee sat down on her bed. Chip put his head on Dee’s lap, then closed his eyes again.

“He did always want to play ball—when he was a puppy,” Mrs. Morgan said, putting a hand to her forehead. “When Chip was a puppy, I didn’t think he would ever get tired. We could hardly keep up with him. But he’s not a puppy anymore, Dee. He’s a full-grown dog, and he needs more rest than he used to.”

“Not my puppy anymore?” Dee wondered, scratching behind Chip’s ears. “But he looks the same!”

Mrs. Morgan laughed. “It only seems that way because you see him all the time.” She picked up a picture from the top of Dee’s dresser. It was taken the night Dee’s dad had brought Chip home. The tiny puppy was curled up in Dee’s lap. Now, Chip’s head almost filled Dee’s whole lap.

“Wow—you’re right! Chip is...transformed!” Dee realized.

“Yep, he’s a little miracle,” Mrs. Morgan agreed. “God makes all kinds of transformations. He’s transformed you from a tiny baby to a strong girl, and Chip from a teeny puppy to a big dog.”

“God transforms seeds into plants, tadpoles into frogs, and caterpillars into butterflies. And He transformed Saul to Paul and made Paul a great leader of the early Church!” said Dee.

“You’re right. The way God transforms us when we believe in Jesus—that’s the most miraculous transformation of all!”

Dee’s forehead wrinkled. “I hope Chip doesn’t get too old, too fast.”

“Oh, you don’t need to worry about that,” laughed Mrs. Morgan. She raised her voice. “Now, we’ll let Chip have his nap. Maybe you and I will go out for...” Mrs. Morgan winked at Dee. “Ice cream!”

Chip immediately opened his eyes, jumped off the bed, wagged his tail, and barked. He really loved ball, but nothing could beat ice cream!