PUPPET SKITS
Vol. 1
WITH SKITS FOR:

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About These Skits

Puppets have long been favorites among children and have become a regular part of many children’s church programs. Puppets capture a child’s attention and elicit emotional responses. They can teach valuable lessons while making the children laugh.

Puppets for the following characters are available for purchase through Gospel Publishing House. These characters will help children learn and understand important biblical values and how to apply them to everyday life.

To use with Young Explorers: Place the pages in the Resources section of your Young Explorers binder. After each skit, ask questions to initiate discussion and lead children to discover lessons learned. Apply the lessons learned to the truths taught in each Young Explorer session.

To use in any setting: These skits aren’t just for Young Explorers! They can be used in any setting: children’s church, Sunday and Wednesday night children’s programs, or any time that best suits your church’s needs.

Place the skits in a loose-leaf binder. Use them whenever you wish to teach about biblical values and Christian living. For the principal taught in each skit, see the subtitle.

NIKKI: She is musical, a singer, creative, a logical thinker. She relates well to adults, is helpful, confident, and yet soft spoken. A group leader, not sports friendly or coordinated but willing to try. Can be an “I told you so” person. Computer literate.

TROY: Boastful of accomplishments and often in trouble. A new Christian, Troy often doesn’t understand biblical concepts.

TIFFANY: She is inquisitive, loves to read, and seeks a reason for everything. Creative in art, she is a dreamer, is detail oriented and likes to solve mysteries. The youngest of the group, she tends to be bossy and doesn’t like coming in second in competition.

MARC: Laid back, he takes things in stride. He likes to avoid trouble, is conversational, and determined to do his best. He likes X-games and skateboarding. He is a team player and a jokester.

BUSTER: He likes to follow the kids everywhere but can be a little lazy, especially when doing tricks. Has a large appetite. (Watch your food!) Hates baths and cats.
Items Needed

- Young Explorers puppets
- Balloon

As the skit begins, Troy enters and remains onstage as though waiting for something. Nikki appears and moves across the stage, then disappears. She can be humming quietly as she moves. When she goes offstage, make noises (move chairs or blow up a balloon). Then Nikki appears again and moves the opposite direction across the stage. When she disappears offstage, make noises again.

TROY: OK, I’m ready! Let’s start Children’s Church.
Nikki appears again and moves across the stage, humming to herself. She disappears offstage.

TROY: I said, I’m ready! Time for Children’s Church to begin!
Nikki appears again and moves across the stage, this time carrying an uninflated balloon.

TROY interrupts her.

TROY: Nikki! Come on! It’s almost time for Children’s Church to start. Come and sit down.
Nikki: Not yet, Troy. I’m busy helping Pastor get things ready. Children’s Church doesn’t run all by itself, y’know.

TROY: What do you mean?
Nikki: There are lots of things to do before we’ll be ready to start. The chairs have to be set up, papers have to be copied, pictures have to be drawn, balloons have to be blown up….

TROY: Yikes! I didn’t know it took so much work just to have church. I thought the pastor just showed up and away we went!
Nikki: Well, it’s not like that. Children’s Church could never happen without a lot of work ahead of time. You just don’t know about it because you don’t see everyone who works behind the scenes, helping Pastor get things ready. Since you’re here early, why don’t you help?

TROY: What can I do?
Nikki: (showing him the balloon in her hand) You can help blow up some balloons.
TROY: Hey, that sounds like fun! Show me where the balloons are!

Both puppets exit.
Session 2—Most Valuable Player

I’m Valuable!
(being a servant)

Tie a bundle of blown-up balloons to one side of the puppet stage. As the skit begins, Troy is onstage. Nikki joins him.

NIKKI: Troy, what are you doing sitting up here on the stage?
TROY: I’m going to sit up front during Children’s Church, right next to pastor.
NIKKI: Why?
TROY: Since I did so much work helping get things ready, I thought I should be able to sit where everyone can see me. That way, everyone will know how valuable I am.
NIKKI: Just because you helped get things ready for church, you think you’re valuable?
TROY: Well, sure! After all, I helped blow up all those balloons.
NIKKI: Troy, lots of people helped get things ready.
TROY: Then they should sit up front, too. Everyone should know how much work we do.
NIKKI: (shaking her head) It doesn’t work that way. Sure, we help with the work, but we don’t broadcast it to everyone. We are like servants, helping because we love the pastor and we know his job is important. Servants don’t get recognized or rewarded for what they do. And since we work out of love, we don’t expect a reward.
TROY: Oh. I guess you’re right. I was just being selfish, wanting everyone to think I was valuable.
NIKKI: You are valuable, Troy. But it doesn’t matter if the other kids don’t know that. God knows how important you are, and so does the pastor. And I do, too.
TROY: Thanks, Nikki. Come on, let’s go sit with the rest of the kids.

Both puppets exit.
Session 3—Warming The Bench

**What’s Most Important**

*(leading others to Christ)*

As the skit begins, Tiffany is onstage, head down as though she is sad. Marc enters.

MARC: What’s the matter, Tiff?

TIFFANY: (sadly) Oh, nothing. *(She heaves a deep sigh.)*

MARC: C’mon, you can tell me.

TIFFANY: It’s not important. Besides, no one cares how I feel.

MARC: I care. Tell me what’s wrong.

TIFFANY: Well, it’s just that I can’t seem to do anything important. All the older kids are helping with the work, but I never get a chance. Like yesterday, when my older sister was helping to make signs for the church service, and I asked to help, she said I couldn’t because I didn’t know how to write.

MARC: Well, maybe you can’t write, but there’s lots of things you can do.

TIFFANY: *(in disbelief)* Like what?

MARC: Like...you can help set up chairs.

TIFFANY: I tried, but the older kids said I wasn’t putting them in a straight line and they told me not to help anymore because it just made more work for them.

MARC: Well, you could fold papers.

TIFFANY: No, I can’t. *(lifting up a finger)* I got a paper cut when I tried that. I hate paper cuts.

MARC: Well, I suppose you could blow up balloons.

TIFFANY: *(heaving a sigh)* No, I can’t blow hard enough to get them started. And I can’t tie them. All I’m good for is sitting in the chair and listening to the service.

MARC: Well, that’s important, too. In fact, that’s very important. That’s when you learn all about Jesus and how to obey Him. Listening to the service is the most important thing.

TIFFANY: Do you think so?

MARC: I know so! And while you sit and listen, you can wait for an opportunity to do whatever God calls you to do. Some day He will want you to do something, and you’ll be ready.

TIFFANY: *(lifting her head)* I guess so.

MARC: And you know what else? You did an important thing last week. A very, very important thing. The most important thing of all!

TIFFANY: I did? What did I do?

MARC: You brought a friend with you to church, and she went forward to receive Jesus as her Savior. You brought someone to Jesus!

TIFFANY: Hey! I *can* do something important! I can tell others about Jesus! Hey, Marc! Come with me to ask my neighbor to come to church with us next week.

MARC: OK, let’s go! *(Both puppets exit.)*

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Session 4—Strikeout King

Keep Your Eyes On Jesus
(do what Jesus would do)

Hang a picture of Jesus on or near the puppet stage. As the skit begins, Troy is standing close to the picture, staring intently at it. Marc enters and looks at Troy, then at the picture, then back at Troy, then at the picture again.

MARC: Hey, Troy, what are you doing?
TROY: (without turning away from the picture) I’m keeping my eyes on Jesus.
MARC: You’re what?
TROY: I’m keeping my eyes on Jesus. Y’know, it’s like in baseball when you’re supposed to keep your eyes on the ball so that you can hit it—I’m keeping my eyes on Jesus so that I won’t betray Him like Judas did.
MARC: (looking at the picture) And you think that by staring at this picture of Jesus you’ll keep from betraying Him?
TROY: Sure! ’Cause when I’m looking at Jesus, I’m not doing something I shouldn’t be doing.
MARC: (coming closer to the picture and staring at it with Troy, then shaking his head) This isn’t working.
TROY: Why not?
MARC: I don’t think that when pastor said to keep our eyes on Jesus, he meant that we should stare at Jesus’ picture.
TROY: (turning away from the picture to look at Marc) What did he mean, then?
MARC: He meant that we should always do what Jesus wants us to do. Before we do anything, we should think, “What would Jesus do?” Then we should do what Jesus would have done.
TROY: Oh, I get it! We’re not just supposed to keep our eyes on Jesus like we keep our eyes on the baseball—we’re supposed to think like Jesus and do what He wants!
MARC: Now you’re getting it!
TROY: (rubbing his eyes) That’s good, because I was going bug-eyed staring at this picture for so long. Anyway, I think it’s time for lunch. Let’s go see what Jesus would eat! (Troy exits.)
MARC: Uh, Troy, I don’t think that’s what pastor meant. Troy! (Marc exits.)
Session 5—Pinch Hitter

You Can Count On Me

(being dependable)

As the skit begins, Troy is onstage looking downward into the stage as though watching a television set that is behind the stage. Tiffany enters.

Tiffany: Hey, Troy—come help me carry a big box to the car.
Troy: (without moving) OK, Tiff, you can count on me.
Tiffany: (watching Troy, who remains as he was, watching TV) Well? Are you coming?
Troy: (without moving) Yup, I’m coming. You can count on me.
Tiffany: Come on, then; let’s go.

Troy does not respond; his eyes are glued to the TV.

Tiffany: Troy, what are you doing?
Troy: I’m watching my favorite program: “Puppets On Mars.”
Tiffany: But you said you would help me move this box to the car.
Troy: I will. You can count on me.
Tiffany: You keep saying I can count on you, but then you don’t do anything.
Troy: I’ll do it as soon as the show is over.
Tiffany: But the car is leaving NOW. Are you going to do like you said and help me?
Troy: Not during the show.
Tiffany: Troy, you’re not very dependable.
Troy: Sure I am. I’m dependable.
Tiffany: If you were dependable, you’d come and help me right now.
Troy: OK, watch. Here I come. (He moves toward Tiffany.)

I’m coming to help you just like I said. I said you could count on me, and here I am.

Tiffany: Hey, that’s really great of you, Troy—missing your show just to help me. I guess you really ARE dependable. (She moves offstage.)

Troy: (whispering to the audience) It’s a commercial.

(Laughing to himself, he follows Tiffany offstage.)
Session 6—Double Play

I Believe
(believing without seeing)

Position a fan behind the stage to blow toward the puppets. As the skit begins, Troy is staring into the sky. Nikki enters holding a pinwheel. The fan should be positioned where it will blow on the pinwheel.

NIKKI: What are you doing, Troy?
TROY: I’m looking for God.
NIKKI: (looking up) Why are you looking into the sky?
TROY: Well, God lives in heaven, doesn’t He? Maybe if I look long enough, I’ll see Him.
NIKKI: You can’t see God by looking into the sky, Troy.
TROY: (looking at Nikki) Where can you see God, then?
NIKKI: You can see God in all the things He has created. And you can see God working through people.
TROY: So, I can’t really SEE God at all, can I?
NIKKI: Not like when you’re looking at a person, if that’s what you mean.
TROY: Then how do I know He exists?
NIKKI: We know because He sent His Son Jesus to earth. Jesus taught people about God.
TROY: But I can’t see Jesus, either.
NIKKI: Not now, you can’t.
TROY: How can I believe in Him when I can’t see Him?
NIKKI: It’s like this, Troy. Do you see this pinwheel? (She holds the pinwheel out for him to see.)
TROY: Yeah.
NIKKI: What makes this pinwheel spin around?
TROY: The wind.
NIKKI: Can you see the wind?
TROY: No.
NIKKI: How do you know the wind is there?
TROY: Because I can see the pinwheel moving. And I can feel the wind on my face.
NIKKI: You believe in the wind even though you can’t see it. But you can see what the wind does. It’s the same with God. We believe in God even though we can’t see Him. But we can see the things He does.
TROY: Oh, I get it! I guess I don’t have to stare into the sky anymore, do I?
NIKKI: No, you don’t.
TROY: That’s good, ’cause I was getting a kink in my neck. Both puppets exit.
Session 7—The Comeback Kid

You Can Do It
(don’t give up)

Attach a small, plastic baseball bat to Nikki’s hands. As the skit begins, Nikki is swinging the bat and growing frustrated for not hitting the ball. Tiffany enters and watches.

NIKKI: RATS!
TIFFANY: What’s the matter, Nikki?
NIKKI: I can’t hit the ball. I’m just no good at sports. I try, and I try, and I try, but I can’t do it. I give up!
TIFFANY: Don’t give up! You really wanted to join Little League, didn’t you?
NIKKI: Yes, I did.
TIFFANY: No one ever got what he wanted by giving up. You have to keep trying.
NIKKI: I’ve had it with trying. I mean, look at you. You’re younger than me, but you’re better at sports.
TIFFANY: And you’re better at schoolwork. But that doesn’t make me stop trying to do my homework. Hey, even professional athletes have trouble now and then. But they don’t give up.
NIKKI: But if I can’t hit the ball, I won’t make Little League.
TIFFANY: And if you give up, you sure won’t make it then! Hey, do you remember when Peter denied that he knew Jesus? He probably felt so bad that he was ready to give up.
But Jesus forgave him and Peter tried again. Then Peter became a great preacher for Jesus. What would have happened if he had just given up?
NIKKI: I suppose you’re right. (sighing) I guess I’ll just keep on trying.
TIFFANY: And I’ll help you!

Both puppets exit.
Session 8—Signing Up

On The Inside
(being a new person)

As the skit begins, Troy is wearing a new shirt. He struts past Marc very proudly, showing off his new shirt.

TROY: Well, what do you think?
MARC: What do I think about what?
TROY: My new shirt. I'm wearing a new shirt, new pants, and new shoes. I'm a new person!
MARC: You're a new person because you have new clothes on?
TROY: That's right.
MARC: Uh, Troy...I hate to tell you this, but wearing new clothes doesn't make you a new person.
TROY: Oh, you're right! There's something I forgot! (Troy disappears behind stage, then reappears wearing a new hat.) My new hat! NOW I'm a new person. I've got my new shirt, my new hat, my new pants, and my....
MARC: (shaking his head) No, no, no. Wearing new clothes doesn't make you a new person.
TROY: It doesn't?
MARC: No, it doesn't.
TROY: Then how can I be a new person? Pastor said that if I signed up for Jesus' team, I would become a new person. I want to be on Jesus' team, so that means I have to be a new person.
MARC: You've got it backwards, Troy. First you sign up for Jesus' team, then Jesus makes you a new person on the INSIDE. You don't have to change your outside by putting on new clothes.
TROY: But how do I sign up for Jesus' team?
MARC: You just ask Jesus to forgive your sins.
TROY: That's it?
MARC: That's it. Then Jesus comes to live in your heart and makes you a new person.
TROY: (looking at his heart) He lives in my heart?
MARC: Yup.
TROY: Hey! With all my new clothes on, I can be a new person on the inside AND on the outside!
Troy struts proudly offstage. Marc follows.
Session 9—Wearing The Uniform

Wearing The Fruit
(the fruit of the Spirit)

Tiffany appears onstage with several pieces of fruit attached to her clothes. These could be real or plastic fruit, or pictures of fruit. She is also wearing a make-shift hat covered with fruit. Nikki enters.

NIKKI: Tiffany! What is that you have all over you?
Tiffany: It’s the fruit of the Spirit! Do you like it?
NIKKI: The fruit of the Spirit? You have grapes and apples and oranges and....
Tiffany: Right! Pastor said we should put on the uniform by wearing the fruit of the Spirit. So I made this outfit all by myself. What do you think?
NIKKI: Well, it’s um...well, it’s, uh...it’s nice. But it’s not exactly what Pastor meant.
Tiffany: What do you mean?
NIKKI: The fruit of the Spirit isn’t apples and oranges. It’s love and patience and kindness....
Tiffany: Wait a minute! How do you “wear” those things?
NIKKI: When you act with love and kindness, you are “wearing” the fruit of the Spirit!
Tiffany: You mean I went to all this trouble for nothing?
NIKKI: Well, I suppose you could give your outfit to someone who’s hungry.
Tiffany: Hey, if I did that, I would be wearing the fruit of kindness!
NIKKI: Right! Let’s go spread some kindness. (Both puppets exit.)

Session 10—Talking With The Coach

Talking With The Coach
(prayer)

Marc is onstage with his head bowed and hands folded, mumbling a prayer. Troy enters.

TROY: Come on, Marc, let’s go!
MARC: (lifting his head) Go where?
TROY: Go talk to the coach. You said you had a problem and you needed to go talk to the coach. I thought I’d come with you.
MARC: That’s nice of you, Troy, but I was just talking to the Coach this very moment.
TROY: (looking around) Where? I didn’t see the coach come in.
MARC: I mean God. God is our real Coach because He tells us what to do. I was talking to God in prayer to find out how to solve my problem.
TROY: Oh! Did you get an answer?
MARC: I think so. Anyway, I know everything will be all right, now that I’ve talked to the Coach! He always helps me with my problems. (Both puppets exit.)
Session 11—Proper Nutrition

A Square Meal
(spiritual growth)

Partially cut a paper plate into a square. Attach the plate to one of Troy’s hands. Attach a pair of child’s scissors to his other hand.

NIKKI: Hey, Troy, what are you doing?
TROY: I’m cutting this plate into a square.
NIKKI: (looking at the plate) Why?
TROY: So I can eat a square meal.
NIKKI: (giggling) A square meal?
TROY: Yeah. Coach said that we should eat three square meals a day so that we can build up our strength. I didn’t have any square plates, so I’m making one. (He holds up the plate.) What do you think?
NIKKI: (trying not to laugh) I think it’s nice. What are you going to eat from that plate?
TROY: Oh, the usual. Some potato chips and Jell-O and a hot dog. Next I have to make a square cup for my soda pop.
NIKKI: Potato chips and Jell-O and soda pop are not part of a square meal.
TROY: It’ll be on my square plate, won’t it?
NIKKI: You don’t even know what a square meal is, do you?
TROY: I’ll know in about a minute because you are about to tell me.
NIKKI: Right! A square meal is a meal that is full of good nutrition. It’s a meal with meat and bread and vegetables and fruit.
TROY: Served on a square plate, right?
NIKKI: It doesn’t matter what kind of plate you serve it on, as long as you eat it.
TROY: Hey, Nikki, since you know so much—what did Pastor mean when he said that we should have a “spiritual square meal”?
NIKKI: He meant that we should pray and read our Bibles so that we stay spiritually healthy. Prayer and Bible reading are to the spirit what good food is to our bodies.
TROY: Do you think I should put my Bible on a square table for my “spiritual square meal”?
NIKKI: (walking away) If it makes you feel better, Troy.

Troy exits.
Session 12—Scouting

Recruiting New Players

(witnessing)

As the skit begins, Troy is peering at the children, studying them very closely.

TROY: (pointing to one child) OK, you can join. And let's see....(He looks at another child.) You're in! (He continues to peer at the children.) Hmm...what about you? No, I don't think so.

Tiffany enters and watches Troy as he continues to study the children and choose only a few of them to be “in.”

Tiffany: Troy, what are you doing?

TROY: Pastor told me I could be the scout for Children's Church. I'm supposed to recruit new players. (looking at the children) OK, you're in. (He looks at another child.) You're not!

Tiffany: Why is that child not allowed?

TROY: She's too small.

Tiffany: Too small for Children's Church?

TROY: (continuing to look at the children and select only a few) Yup! As a scout, it's my job to search for the strongest and smartest members to make a winning team!

Tiffany: That's not what you're supposed to do!

TROY: Yes, it is. That's what a scout's job is.

Tiffany: Not when it comes to Children's Church. God wants ALL children to join His team. You should let EVERYONE into Children's Church.

TROY: Listen, Tiff—if we let EVERYONE on the team, how are we supposed to win?

Tiffany: Win what?

TROY: The Big Game! Pastor said that those who join the team will win The Big Game.

Tiffany: He was talking about heaven, Troy! Anyone who joins up with Jesus can go to heaven. And all children are welcome. Big ones, little ones, strong ones, weak ones....

TROY: (looking at all the children) You mean ALL these kids can join God's team?

Tiffany: Yes, they can. When Pastor said you could be a scout, he meant that you could tell others about Jesus and help them to join God's team.

TROY: And anyone can join?

Tiffany: Anyone who wants to. (She turns to the audience.) Kids, who wants to join God's team? (Pause for response.)

TROY: Do you think there's room for them all?

Tiffany: There's room for everyone on God's team. Now, if you really want to be a scout, why don't you see if you can scout out some cookies?

TROY: Hey, now you're talking! (Both puppets exit.)
**Session 13—Teammates**

**I Can Do That!**

(working together)

As the skit begins, Marc is onstage. Nikki enters and approaches him.

NIKKI: Marc, Pastor said we should find someone to help take the offering.

MARC: OK, I can do that!

NIKKI: And we need someone to help pray with the kids.

MARC: OK, I can do that!

NIKKI: And we need someone to pass out the snack.

MARC: OK, I can do that!

NIKKI: And we need someone to….

MARC: I can do that!

NIKKI: And we need….

MARC: I can do that!

NIKKI: Wait a minute, Marc. How come you’re trying to do everything?

MARC: Because I want to show everyone what a great team player I am!

NIKKI: A great team player doesn’t do EVERYTHING.

MARC: Sure he does. I mean, if I was only good at one thing, I wouldn’t be such a great player, would I?

NIKKI: Nobody can be good at everything. We all work together to get things done. That’s what makes a team.

MARC: But I can do it all because I’m the greatest!

NIKKI: What if someone wants to pray while you’re taking the offering or passing out the snacks? How are you going to help them pray?

MARC: Well, I can race through the offering and throw the snacks on the table, then run over to help anyone who wants to pray.

NIKKI: What if more than one person wants to pray?

MARC: If I spend only 10 seconds praying with each person, I should be able to cover them all.

NIKKI: But that isn’t right. You need to spend time with someone in prayer. It’s like I said, one person can’t do it all. We need to all work together as part of the team! That’s how to get things done right.

MARC: Well, if you say so, I guess I can do that!

Both puppets exit.
New Frontiers

Session 1—Dreams And Drudgery

A Burst Balloon

(when plans are ruined)

Just as the skit is about to begin, and before the puppets appear onstage, pop a balloon behind stage and drop several small items on the floor to sound like candy spilling. Then bring Tiffany onstage with a broken shiny silver balloon attached to her hand. If a silver balloon is not available, change the wording in the script to match the color you are using.

Tiffany: Oh no! (She begins to cry.)
Marc: (entering) What’s the matter, Tiff?
Tiffany: Someone burst my balloon!
Marc: There’s no need to cry. It’s just a balloon. You can get another.
Tiffany: It wasn’t just ANY balloon. It was my birthday balloon. It was big and round and shiny silver—my favorite color. And it was full of candy. We were going to play a game with it at my birthday party. Now the balloon is broken and all the candy is all over the floor!
Marc: Let’s go get another balloon just like this one, and I’ll help you stuff the candy back in.
Tiffany: There isn’t time! The party is about to start. Oh, what am I going to do?
Marc: (thinking) Hmm….I can fix a lot of things, but this looks like a problem I can’t fix.
Tiffany: No one can fix this. Now my plans are ruined!
Marc: Well, maybe your original plans are ruined, but we can come up with some new plans.
Tiffany: New plans? What do you mean?
Marc: Instead of playing a game with the balloon, let’s make up a new game to play with the candy.
Tiffany: That sounds like fun.
Marc: Maybe our new game will be even better than the first game.
Tiffany: Thanks, Marc! You always seem to get me through the tough times!

Both puppets exit.
**Session 2—That’s Not Fair**

**It’s Not Fair!**

*(God is always fair)*

As the skit begins, Tiffany is onstage, holding a piece of chalk or a marker in her hand. Nikki enters.

**Tiffany:** It’s not fair! It’s just not fair!

**Nikki:** What’s not fair, Tiffany?

**Tiffany:** I’m being punished for something I didn’t do!

**Nikki:** Really? What happened?

**Tiffany:** Well, I was the first one in from recess. When I came in the room, I found wads of paper all over the floor! Someone was goofing off in here and left a mess behind. At first I was just going to leave the papers because they weren’t mine, but then I decided that the right thing to do would be to clean them up. So I started picking up the papers and throwing them in the trash can. I never should have done it.

**Nikki:** But that was the right thing to do. Why shouldn’t you have done it?

**Tiffany:** It got me into trouble, that’s why! When the teacher came in and saw me throwing some papers away, she thought I was the one who made the mess. *(She waves the chalk or marker.)* So now she’s making me stay after class and write “I will not mess up the classroom” one hundred times on the board.

**Nikki:** Didn’t you tell her that you didn’t do it?

**Tiffany:** Of course I did! But she wouldn’t believe me. Boy! You try to do what’s right, and it gets you into trouble. It’s just not fair!

**Nikki:** You’re right, Tiff, it’s not fair. But there are a lot of things in life that aren’t fair.

**Tiffany:** I know. I just wish everyone could see the truth and judge everything fairly.

**Nikki:** No one can do that but God. Good thing He always judges fairly. He sees what you did and He will reward you.

**Tiffany:** That’s a nice thought. But I sure don’t like having to do this. It’s taking so-o-o long; my arm is killing me!

**Nikki:** Let me go talk to the teacher; maybe I can get her to listen to you. If not, I’ll see if she’ll let me help you write.

**Tiffany:** Hey, that would be great! Thanks, Nikki!
Session 3—Satisfaction Guaranteed

I’m So Great!
(God rewards your work)

Make a child’s drawing of Troy on a piece of paper and attach the paper to Troy’s hand. As the skit begins, Troy is onstage admiring the drawing.

TROY: I’m so great! I am just so-o-o-o-o GREAT!
TIFFANY: (entering) What’s so great?
TROY: Me! I am the greatest!
TIFFANY: Why do you say that?
TROY: (showing Tiffany the picture) Just look at what I drew. Isn’t this the greatest?
TIFFANY: Well…uh, what is it?
TROY: It’s a self-portrait, can’t you tell? Look at that handsome face, that noble brow….
TIFFANY: You sure think a lot of yourself.
TROY: And why not? Not only am I a great ar-TEEEST, but I’m good looking, to boot. Tell me what you think. Have you have you ever seen such talent?
TIFFANY: Well, I….uh…I haven’t seen talent exactly like this, that’s for sure.
TROY: It’s what I’m tellin’ ya…I’m GREAT! Come on, you can say it. TROY is GREAT!
TIFFANY: I don’t have to say it. You’re saying it enough all by yourself.
TROY: But it’s nice to hear someone else say it. A great ar-TEEEST should be rewarded by his adoring fans.
TIFFANY: Rewarded? Ha! You’re spoiling your reward.
TROY: Spoiling my reward? What do you mean?
TIFFANY: You’re heaping all the praise on yourself! I know it feels good to do a job well, but no one thinks about your good work if you keep praising yourself. All they think about is how stuffy you are.
TIFFANY: You need to be quiet and let others enjoy your work on their own. Then let them praise you without you telling them to do it.
TROY: But what if they don’t?
TIFFANY: That doesn’t matter. When you do a good job, God will reward you even when no one else does. And His rewards are the best kind. If you heap the reward onto yourself, you’re spoiling the chance for God to reward you.
TROY: I wouldn’t want to do that! Quick! Get me another piece of paper!
TIFFANY: Why?
TROY: I’m going to make another drawing. And I won’t tell anyone about it. Except you, and Nikki, and Marc, and maybe a few kids at school, and…. 
TIFFANY: Oh, brother! (Both puppets exit.)
Session 4—No Rain, No Grain

It's Not Raining Now
(prepare for the future)

As the skit begins, Troy is onstage with Buster. Troy is wearing a baseball hat. Buster is holding a block of wood in his mouth, which he offers to Troy. When Troy doesn’t take it, Buster whines. Marc enters.

MARC: Hey, Troy, what’s up? What is Buster crying about?
TROY: Aw, he wants me to build him a dog house.

Buster whines, then picks up the piece of wood again.

MARC: Hey, look at that! (He pats Buster) You know how to ask for what you want, don’t you?
BUSTER: Bark! Bark! (The barks should be muffled since his mouth is full.)
MARC: Oh, I know why! Last night it rained and rained. Poor Buster must have gotten all wet.

Buster whines and nods his head.
MARC: So, Troy—when are you going to build the dog house?
TROY: Later. I’m busy right now.
MARC: Doing what?
TROY: I’m getting ready to play baseball.
MARC: But this is a great time to build the dog house. Look, the sun is shining and it’s a beautiful day.

TROY: Which is exactly why I don’t have to do it right now. He doesn’t NEED a dog house on a nice day like this.

Buster whines.

TROY: Aw, go and play, Buster. Make use of the nice day.
MARC: What if it rains again tonight? Then what will Buster do?
TROY: Like I said, it’s not raining now, is it? Might as well make use of the sunshine and….
MARC: And build a dog house!
TROY: And go play baseball.
MARC: Don’t you think you should prepare for the future? If you don’t build that dog house now, when WILL you build it?
TROY: Some other time when Buster needs it. No sense wasting my time on something completely unnecessary. So long, Marc! I’ll see you later. (Troy exits.)

Buster whines.

MARC: (patting Buster) Poor Buster. You can come sleep in my garage until your dog house is done. Buster barks happily.
Session 5—Problems From The Past

Of Butter And Beds

(facing the consequences)

As the skit begins, Troy is onstage, pacing. Nikki enters.

TROY: Oh no! Oh no! Oh no! Oh no!
NIKKI: What's the matter with you?
TROY: You know that homework assignment we had? The one where we were supposed to write a story about our summer vacation?
NIKKI: Yes.
TROY: It's due today!
NIKKI: So?
TROY: So, I'm not done!
NIKKI: How can you not be done? We had two weeks to work on it.
TROY: I kept thinking I had plenty of time, so I put it off. What am I going to do?
NIKKI: You made your bed, now sleep in it.
TROY: That sounds like a good idea. I think I'll go take a nap. Maybe I can dream up a solution.
NIKKI: That's not what I meant.
TROY: What did you mean?
NIKKI: I meant, well, you buttered your bread, now eat it.
TROY: What are you talking about? I didn't make a sandwich today. But now that you mention it, I'm hungry.
NIKKI: Forget about that! You have a problem to deal with!
TROY: Well, you're no help. You keep talking about beds and sandwiches. What do they have to do with my problem?
NIKKI: What I've been trying to say is, you need to face the consequences.
TROY: The conse-what?
NIKKI: The consequences. You need to confess what you did wrong and take the punishment that comes.
TROY: It would be a lot easier to take a nap.
NIKKI: But that wouldn't help your situation, would it?
TROY: No, I suppose not. But it couldn't hurt! I'll see you later, Nikki. I'm going to bed. But first, I'm going to make a sandwich!

Nikki sighs as Troy leaves the stage.
**Session 6—Strangers In The Land**

**Not Of This World**
(being different)

As the skit begins, Troy is rummaging through a closet, mumbling to himself. Marc enters behind Troy. Have available offstage something to put on Troy’s head, such as alien antennae. The goofier the object, the better.

**TROY:** I know I had it here somewhere.

**MARC:** Hey!

**TROY:** (jumping in surprise) Yikes! Oh, Marc, you shouldn’t scare a guy like that.

**MARC:** Sorry. What’re you doing?

**TROY:** (returning to his rummaging) I’m looking for something.

**MARC:** What are you looking for?

**TROY:** (as he rummages) Well, you know how Pastor said that when we become Christians, we’re supposed to be different from everyone else?

**MARC:** Yeah.

**TROY:** That we’re supposed to be “not of this world”?

**MARC:** Yeah.

**TROY:** Well, I have just the thing to show everyone that I’m not of this world. Oh! Here it is! *(Troy disappears offstage. When he returns, he is wearing the alien antennae.)*

**MARC:** (bursting out laughing) What in the world is that?

**TROY:** That’s just it! It’s not “in the world.” It’s out of this world!

**MARC:** And that’s what you’re going to wear to show everyone that you’re not of this world?

**TROY:** Right!

**MARC:** *(still laughing)* Well, you’re right about one thing.

**TROY:** What’s that?

**MARC:** People will definitely know that there’s something different about you!
Session 7—Sticks And Stones

Words That Heal
(Words can be good or bad)

As the skit begins, Troy is onstage, yelling to some unseen people in the distance, as though he is trying to retort over some criticism they just gave him. But he’s not doing a very good job.

TROY: Oh yeah? Oh yeah? Well...same to you!

Marc enters on the opposite side of the stage from where Troy is and watches.

Marc enters on the opposite side of the stage from where Troy is and watches.

TROY: (still calling to the unseen people) You...you...you...

MARC: Who are you calling a “you-you”?

TROY: You bunch of cupcakes!

MARC: (sarcastically) Cupcakes? Isn’t that being a little hard on them? What did those other kids do to you?

TROY: They were making fun of me and calling me names.

MARC: Well, you know the old saying: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

TROY: Yeah, I know it, but it’s not true. The bad words that some people say really do hurt me, deep down inside. Especially when they call me names.

MARC: I know what you mean. Words can be hurtful. Words can also be helpful.

TROY: Like how?

MARC: Well, since someone else used words to make you feel bad, I’ll use some words to make you feel good. Let’s see...you’re a good friend, you’re fun to be with, and you make me laugh.

TROY: Hey, you’re right! Words can make you feel good. Thanks, Marc.

MARC: Anytime, Troy.

TROY: (thinking) I wonder if the words I said hurt those other kids.

MARC: (sarcastically) Yeah, calling them cupcakes probably dug real deep.

TROY: (laughing) It probably gave them a good laugh, anyway. Hey, you’re right! I DO make people laugh. I even make myself laugh. (He calls toward the unseen kids.) You Tootsie Rolls! You cotton candy! You chocolate bars!

MARC: Uh, Troy...I think you’ve provided enough laughter for one day. Let’s get out of here!

Both puppets exit.

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Session 8—When The Wheels Come Off

Making The Team
(God turns the bad to good)

Tiffany is onstage. Nikki enters with a paper in her hand.

TIFFANY: I don’t believe it. I just don’t believe it!

NIKKI: What don’t you believe?

TIFFANY: I don’t believe I didn’t make the soccer team. I tried so hard!

NIKKI: Don’t fret, Tiff. I’m sure something good will come out of this.

TIFFANY: I can’t think of anything good that can come out of this.

NIKKI: I can. (He shows Tiffany the paper.) I just saw the list of new Bible Quiz team members. Guess what? Your name is at the top! That means that you were the best of the new member competition and try-out. If you joined Bible Quiz now and worked hard at it, I’ll bet you could win some awards.

TIFFANY: Wow! That would be so cool!

NIKKI: And if you had made the soccer team, you wouldn’t have time for the quiz team.

TIFFANY: Wow, I guess you were right, Nikki. I’d rather be on the quiz team, anyway. God really did work everything out for good.

Both puppets exit.

Session 9—Making Tracks

In The Dog House
(don’t run from trouble)

As the skit begins, Troy is hiding onstage in a location barely visible to the kids. Marc enters and looks around. Buster is with him and is also looking.

MARC: Troy! Troy, where are you?

TROY: (to kids) Shhhhh!

MARC: Troy, is that you?

TROY: (in a quiet, high-pitched voice) No, it isn’t me.

Buster perks up at the voice and begins to make his way to where Troy is.

MARC: Hey, I know that’s you, Troy. Where are you?

TROY: (in the same high-pitched voice) I’m not here.

Buster finds Troy and growls at him.

MARC: There you are! What are you hiding from? And why is Buster growling at you?

TROY: (coming out from his hiding place) You know that dog house that I promised to build for Buster? Well, I never did build it. And now Buster is mad at me. So I was hiding on him.

© 2006 Gospel Publishing House, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, Missouri 65802 Permission to duplicate this page for classroom use only.
Marc: I guess you could say that you are the one in the dog house! *(Marc laughs at his own joke, whooping it up. Buster joins him with a doggy laugh.)*

Troy: Very funny. Now what am I supposed to do? I can't keep hiding from Buster all my life.

Marc: Why don't you just build the dog house?

Troy: That's too much work.

Buster: Grr-r-r-r.

Troy: Easy, boy.

Marc: Troy, you can't keep running from your problems. You have to face them and fix them if you can. Tell you what; I'll help you build that dog house.

Troy: Hey, that would be great! All the wood and stuff is in the back yard. Why don't you get started, and I'll come join you later! *(Troy runs off.)*

Marc: Troy! Where are you going? Get back here! *(Marc exits after Troy. Buster follows.)*

**Session 10—Brush Fire!**

**Tricky Maneuver**

*(God equips you)*

Marc moves quickly back and forth across the stage as though riding a skateboard. Have his arms extended and his body swaying side to side. Tiffany enters and watches.

Marc: Yippee-e-e-e-e! Go, baby! Yahoo-o-o-o! *(He begins to lose balance and falls.)* Whoo-a-a-a-a! Yikes! Oh, man! I just can't do it right.

Tiffany: Do what right?

Marc: A frontside kickflip shove-it.

Tiffany: A what?

Marc: It's a tricky move on the skateboard. Your board is supposed to flip around 180 degrees while it pops forward and....

Tiffany: OK, I get it. But you're pretty good, Marc. You should have that trick down in no time.

Marc: *(disappointed)* Not soon enough for the contest. I'm just not as good as those other hot-doggers.

Tiffany: Keep working at it, Marc. You have a God-given talent. Don't give up on it. You could even ask God to help you with it.

Marc: You think? You think God would help me with my skateboarding?

Tiffany: He can help you with anything. It's God who gives us the abilities in the first place.

Marc: Hey, you're right. Great idea, Tiff! From now on, I'm going to depend on God for all the help I need!
Items Needed

- Young Explorers puppets
- Hacky Sack® or small, soft ball
- Children’s clothing

Session 11—The Last Straw

Hacky Sack Flack
(fighting discouragement)

Before the skit begins, attach a Hacky Sack or other small, soft ball to Troy’s hand. Keep that hand out of sight until called for in the script. As the skit begins, Troy is rummaging in his messy room and has become buried under piles of clothing. Provide several articles of children’s sized clothes and drape them over Troy’s head and shoulders. Keep Troy out of sight at the beginning of the skit. When Nikki enters, she is looking downward as though looking into Troy’s room backstage.

NIKKI: Oh my goodness! Just look at this mess! Troy? Troy, are you in here?
TROY: (with a muffled voice) I’m under here!
NIKKI: Under…where? I can hear you but I can’t see you.
TROY: (appearing onstage with clothes piled on him) I’m right here.
NIKKI: What are you doing?
TROY: I was looking for my Hacky Sack.
NIKKI: Any luck?
TROY: No. It’s hopeless! I can’t find a thing in here!
NIKKI: If you kept your room cleaner, you could find things when you need them.
TROY: Don’t start giving me any flack about that. You sound like my mother. Besides, I’ve tried to keep my room clean, but I just can’t. Whenever I get started, I get bogged down. And when I get bogged down in a difficult job, I get too discouraged to go on.
NIKKI: You can’t let discouragement stop you from doing what you know is right. You have to keep at something until you finish.
TROY: But that’s too hard!
NIKKI: Nothing’s too hard when you ask God to help you.
TROY: I suppose you’re right. I should probably start cleaning my room and keep at it until it’s done. Then maybe I can find my Hacky Sack. Oh! Wait a minute! What’s that I’m feeling with my toe? (Troy bends down as though looking at the floor. Throw several articles of clothing in the air as though he is looking underneath them. Then Troy stands up with the Hacky Sack in his hand.) It’s my Hacky Sack! I found it! Now I won’t have to clean my room after all!
NIKKI: Troy! Don’t you remember what we were just talking about? About letting God help you keep at something and not get discouraged?
TROY: I remember. But I’ll do that later. Right now I’m going to play with my Hacky Sack. (He exits.)
NIKKI: (exasperated) Troy! (She follows him offstage.)
Session 12—Gnats, Flies, And Frogs

The Trouble With Bugs

(God’s deliverance)

As the skit begins, Marc and Tiffany are onstage. Marc is swatting mosquitoes.

Tiffany: Just look at all the beauty around us. God created such a wonderful world, didn’t He, Marc?
Marc: (swatting himself) Huh? What did you say? (He swats himself again.)
Tiffany: I said, didn’t God create a wonderful world?
Marc: All I can see are mosquitoes! (He swats himself again.) Whose idea was this campout, anyway?
Tiffany: I think it was your idea.
Marc: Well, next time remind me that I don’t like camping! (He swats himself again.)
Tiffany: That’s not true. You love camping, Marc. You love the sound of the wind in the trees and the waves as they lap against the shore.
Marc: I DON’T love these mosquitoes! (He swats himself again.) Why did God have to create bugs, anyway? They’re nothing but trouble!
Tiffany: I’m sure He had a reason. Like when He used flies to help deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
Marc: Well, I wish He had a reason to deliver me from the mosquitoes! (He looks around.) Oh great! Now the wind is picking up. This camping trip is turning out to be a disaster.
Tiffany: The wind? Oh, Marc, that’s wonderful?
Marc: How can that be wonderful? Now we have to get the tent secured better or it will blow down.
Tiffany: But look, Marc; the wind is keeping the mosquitoes off you!
Marc: (looking at his arms) Well, I’ll be! Hey, I don’t mind securing the tent if it means no mosquitoes. Good thing God sent that wind.
Tiffany: Like I said, isn’t God’s creation wonderful?
Marc: It sure is!

Both puppets exit.
Session 13—Pharaoh’s Last No!

Always Remember
(God’s power over death)

As the skit begins, Tiffany is onstage with her head down as though she is sad. Nikki enters.


TIFFANY: My grandmother just died.

NIKKI: Oh, I’m sorry to hear that. I know you and your grandmother were pretty close.

TIFFANY: She was almost like my best friend. She was always there with a smile when I was down, and with cookies and hot chocolate to cheer me up. Now I’ll never see her again.

NIKKI: Oh, but you will see her again…in heaven.

TIFFANY: I know that the Bible says we will go to heaven when we die, if we believe in Jesus, but now that someone I love has actually died, I’m beginning to wonder if it’s really true. I mean, death seems so final.

NIKKI: Tiff, you can know for certain that it is really true. God has power over death, and He wants us to never forget His power. Always remember that He cares about those who believe in Him and He will let them live forever in His kingdom.

TIFFANY: How can you be so sure?

NIKKI: I know a really good story in the Bible about how death came to God’s enemies, but those who believed in God were spared from death. Come on over to my house and I’ll read it to you.

TIFFANY: OK. I could use a good story right now. Thanks, Nikki.

Both puppets exit.
Castles And Kings

Session 1—The Great Hall

Ruling Jesus’ Way
(a heart for God)

As the skit begins, Troy is onstage with a paper crown on his head and is playing “king.”

TROY: I am king of all I see. Everyone must bow to me. I rule over all the people.
NIKKI: (enters while Troy is talking and watches him) Hi, Troy!
TROY: (startled) Yikes! (He jumps in surprise and the crown falls off his head.) Whoops! Now look what you did.
NIKKI: What are you doing? Playing king?
TROY: Not just playing…I’m practicing.
NIKKI: Practicing for what?
TROY: For when I go to heaven and I get to rule and reign with Jesus. I’ll be like a king!
NIKKI: I don’t think that’s quite right, Troy.
TROY: Sure it is! The Bible says we’ll rule and reign with Jesus, doesn’t it?
NIKKI: Well, yes, but….
TROY: So, I’m practicing ruling and reigning. Now go pick up my crown, servant!
NIKKI: I’m not your servant. Get it yourself.
TROY: If I’m going to rule, then I have to have servants.
NIKKI: No, you won’t have servants; you will be a servant.
TROY: Huh? How can a king be a servant?
NIKKI: When he uses his powers to help people, not to bully them. You see, Jesus wants us to have a heart like His. When we have a heart for God, then we will want to serve people, not make them serve us.
TROY: That’s not how a king acts.
NIKKI: Well, not too many earthly kings act that way, but once there was a great king who did have a heart for God. His name was David, and he loved God so much that He often celebrated with joy before the Lord. If you really want to practice something, why don’t you practice worshiping and celebrating before the Lord like David did.
TROY: Hmm. (He thinks for a moment, then goes backstage and puts the crown back on, then reappears.) You’re right, Nikki. OK, everybody, let’s party!

Both puppets exit.
Session 2—The Dungeon

Sacrifice Or Obedience

(obeying is better)

Troy is onstage. Tiffany enters carrying a bag of candy.

Tiffany: Hey, Troy, I just got this big bag of candy. Want to share some with me?
Troy: Um...nope. (He doesn't sound convincing.)
Tiffany: It's Chewy Gooey Super Wonkers...your favorite.
Troy: (looking at the bag) Uh...well...I guess...nope, I won't do it. (This is said to convince himself.)
Tiffany: (putting a piece in her mouth) Mmmm, this is so-o-o-o good. All chewy and chocolatey and....

Troy stares longingly at Tiffany and her bag of candy.

Tiffany: You sure you don’t want any?
Troy: Well, uh...no, I shouldn’t.
Tiffany: What's the matter? Are you sick?
Troy: No, I’m not sick. I’m just trying to please God.
Tiffany: Please God by doing what?
Troy: I’m making a sacrifice. I’m sacrificing eating candy. I figured if I gave up something I really liked, God would be pleased with me.
Tiffany: You can’t please God like that.
Troy: Sure you can. People used to make sacrifices to God all the time.
Tiffany: They made sacrifices for different reasons. What God really wants us to do, if we want to please Him, is to obey Him. The Bible says that to obey is better than sacrifice.
Troy: But obeying God is harder. I’d rather make a sacrifice.
Tiffany: Obedying God isn’t hard.
Troy: Sure it is. You have to do good all the time, and I keep doing wrong and getting into trouble.
Tiffany: (waving the bag in front of him) Is doing good harder than staying away from Chewy Gooey Super Wonkers?
Troy: Well...now that you mention it...doing good isn’t all that hard. OK, I’ll take a piece. (He reaches for the bag.)
Tiffany: Are you sure? I wouldn’t want to make you give up on your sacrifice.
Troy: Hey, if obedience is better than sacrifice anyway, I’ll work on the obedience. Now give me a piece of that candy.

He takes a piece and both puppets exit.
Session 3—The Throne Room

Who’s On Your Throne?
(making Jesus Lord of all)

TROY: Hey, Marc! Want to go skateboarding with me and some friends tonight?
MARÇ: Not tonight; there’s a church service.
TROY: But we’re going out for pizza afterward.
MARÇ: No, thanks. Maybe some other time.
TROY: Come on, Marc. You can go to church every week. This opportunity doesn’t come along every day.
MARÇ: That’s OK. I like to put God first in my life.
TROY: Even before skateboarding and pizza?
MARÇ: Yes, even before skateboarding and pizza.
TROY: But you LOVE skateboarding.
MARÇ: Yes, but I love God more.
TROY: More than skateboarding?
MARÇ: Yes.
TROY: More than pizza?
MARÇ: Yes. You see, when I accepted Jesus into my heart, I made Jesus the King of my life. So now I do the things that He wants. That’s how I show that Jesus rules on the throne of my heart. Who’s on your throne?
TROY: Well…I suppose I sometimes put other things before Jesus in my life.
MARÇ: That’s like putting those things on your throne. Think about it, Troy. Do you really want pizza on the throne of your heart?
TROY: That sounds silly.
MARÇ: It is silly. It’s smarter to let Jesus rule your life.
TROY: If Jesus rules your life, does that mean you’ll never eat pizza again? Or you’ll never skateboard again?
MARÇ: Of course not! Letting Jesus rule means I put Him first in everything. Then afterward I still have time to skate and eat pizza and stuff.
TROY: Maybe I need to put Jesus first in everything.
MARÇ: Hey, why don’t you come to church with me tonight?
TROY: OK, I will. I want to let Jesus on the throne of my heart.
MARÇ: Great! Then after church we can go for pizza.
TROY: Cool!
   Both puppets exit.

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Session 4—The Chapel

Of Princes And Promises
(keeping promises)

As the skit begins, Troy, Tiffany, and Buster are onstage. Troy is reading a comic book. Buster whines at Troy.

Tiffany: What’s the matter with Buster?
Troy: (looking up from his reading) I don’t know. What is it, Buster? What’s the matter? Buster barks and runs around.
Troy: I don’t understand a word he’s saying. Come on, Buster, give me another clue. Buster cocks his head, then disappears and reappears with a leash in his mouth.
Troy: Oh! I promised Buster I would take him for a walk. (He resumes his reading.) Buster whines.
Tiffany: Aren’t you going to take Buster for his walk?
Troy: Not right now. I’m reading.
Tiffany: But I thought you said you promised him.
Troy: That was before I started reading this way cool story.
Tiffany: It must be a good story if it keeps you from keeping your promise.
Troy: It is! It’s about Prince Pumpernickel and the Purple Penguin.
Tiffany: I was being sarcastic!
Troy: What do you mean?
Tiffany: I mean, nothing should keep you from keeping a promise that you made!
Buster barks in agreement.
Troy: But I just can’t stop reading! This is too good. Prince Pumpernickel is about to find the Purple Penguin!
Buster whines.
Tiffany: Troy! Don’t you know that when you make a promise, you need to keep it?
Troy: (looking back and forth Buster to the comic book) Well, OK. I guess you’re right. Come on, Buster, I’ll take you for that walk now.
Buster barks happily. All puppets exit.
Session 5—The Lists

Practice, Practice
(keeping at it)

Troy is practicing skateboarding, but he isn’t very good. He speeds across the stage, arms extended for balance, and swaying wildly from side to side.

TROY: Whoa-a-a-a-a-a-a! (As he reaches the opposite side of the stage, he falls behind the stage. Crashing sounds are heard. Then Troy reappears and heads in the opposite direction. The same thing happens.)

MARC: (entering and watching Troy go across the stage a third time and crashing at the other end) Whoa! That's gotta hurt!

TROY: No kidding!

MARC: I'll bet your pride is hurt worse.

TROY: No, my head is definitely hurt the worst.

MARC: What are you doing?

TROY: I'm trying to learn some tricks on the skateboard so I can join the big kids on the ramp. Well, that's enough practice for today. I'm going home now. (He begins to head off.)

MARC: How long have you practiced today?

TROY: Oh, a long time. About ten minutes.

MARC: Ten minutes? You can't improve your skills by practicing only ten minutes.

TROY: I'll practice again tomorrow for ten minutes, then the next day, and the next. By Saturday I'll have put in an hour's worth of practice. I figure by then I should be good enough.

MARC: You're not going to make it.

TROY: Sure I will! One hour of practice is like forever.

MARC: But I practiced for years before I became good enough to join the big kids on the ramp.

TROY: That's you. This is me.

MARC: You're headed for trouble, Troy. Take my advice—you need to work long and hard if you want to be good enough.

TROY: You just wait until Saturday. Then we'll see who really needed the practice. (Troy walks off.)

MARC: (shaking his head) Yeah, we'll see all right. (Marc exits after Troy.)

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Session 6—The Well

The Wrong Kind Of Water
(Living Water)

As the skit begins, Tiffany is looking down into a well. Nikki is with her. (Hint: when having the puppet speak into the well, speak through a long cardboard tube to alter the voice.)

Tiffany: *speaking into the well* Hello down there!

Nikki: Tiff, who are you talking to?

Tiffany: Oh, nobody. I was just talking. OK, here goes. *She holds a penny in her hand.* I wish I could win the T-ball game on Saturday. *She throws the penny into the well. Drop a penny into a cup of water for sound effect.* Well, that should do it.

Nikki: Do what?

Tiffany: Clinch the victory for my team!

Nikki: By wishing in a well? Do you really believe that?

Tiffany: Well, lots of people must believe it. Look at all the money down there.

Nikki: Looks to me like lots of people are going to be disappointed. That's the wrong kind of water. It doesn't have any power at all. It's not living water.

Tiffany: Living water? What's that?

Nikki: Jesus is the Living Water. If you really want help in your life, you should go to Him instead of this wishing well.

Tiffany: Do you think Jesus cares about my T-ball game?

Nikki: He cares more than this well does.

Tiffany: I guess you're right. OK, I'll go ask the Living Water for help. *She speaks into the well.* See you later!

Both puppets exit.
Session 7—The Drawbridge

Flipped Out
(witnessing and commitment)

Nikki is onstage. Marc appears and approaches her.

MARC: Hey, Nikki, I have a problem. Maybe you could help me with it.
NIKKI: What is it?
MARC: I've been trying to get a friend of mine to come to church. I'd really like to see him get saved.
NIKKI: Have you asked him to come to church with you?
MARC: Lots of times. And last week I had a great plan. I really thought it would work, but it didn't.
NIKKI: What was your plan?
MARC: I took him to the skateboard ramp so he could see how great I was! You should have seen me! (He becomes excited as he talks about his skill.) First a hardflip, then a kickflip! Executed to perfection! But that wasn't all. Then I did a combination heelflip kickflip backflip. It was excellent! Anyway, I figured that if I could really impress him, he'd come with me to church.
NIKKI: You can't get someone to go to church by impressing them with your physical feats.
MARC: Why not?
NIKKI: It's takes a lot more than that. It takes showing people how committed to God you are.
MARC: When people see that you are really serious about God, then they start thinking more seriously about Him. When they see God working in your life, then they start to understand that God is real and He really cares about people.
MARC: You mean my hardflips, kickflips, heelflips, and backflips won't do the job?
NIKKI: No. People need to see you flipped out on Jesus.
MARC: Hey, that's great! (He begins to walk away.)
NIKKI: Where are you going?
MARC: Back to the ramp. I'm going to do a double-twisting hardflip and shout, "I'm flipped out on Jesus," while I'm sailing through the air!

Both puppets exit.
Session 8—The Gatehouse

Keep Away!

(guarding your heart)

Before the skit begins, attach a red paper heart to Troy’s hand. Keep the hand out of sight until called for in the skit. As the skit begins, Troy is busy working at something that the children can’t see. Make sounds of scissors cutting paper. Tiffany enters.

TIFFANY: What are you doing, Troy?
TROY: (turning to Tiffany and showing the red paper heart in his hand) I made a heart, see?
TIFFANY: What’s it for?
TROY: It’s for me to guard. I’m going to make sure no one touches my heart.
TIFFANY: We’re not supposed to guard pretend hearts. We’re supposed to guard our real hearts, in here. (She reaches to touch his chest.)
TROY: (being protective of his paper heart) Get back! Keep away! Don’t touch my heart!
TIFFANY: How can I touch your heart? Your heart’s inside here. (She touches her own chest.)
TROY: Yeah, but I don’t have to do anything to guard that heart; it’s already where no one can touch it. So I made a paper heart that I can guard.
TIFFANY: That’s not what it means to guard your heart. You’re not supposed to try to keep people from touching it.
TROY: Oh yeah? What does it mean, then?
TIFFANY: It means that you should be careful not to let bad thoughts and sin into your life. That’s guarding your heart.
TROY: (looking from Tiffany to his paper heart, then to the audience) Oh.
TIFFANY: Troy, you’re so silly.

Both puppets exit.
Session 9—The Walls

The Last Shovelful
(undermining your faith)

As the skit begins, Troy is holding a piece of paper. Nikki enters with Buster.

TROY: There! I'm finally done!
NIKKI: Done with what?
TROY: My report on what I did last summer.
NIKKI: But that was due last week.
TROY: I know. I'll just tell the teacher that Buster ate it so I had to do it over again.
       Buster growls.
NIKKI: But that's a lie, Troy.
TROY: It's just a little lie. It can't hurt anything.
NIKKI: Oh, but it can. Even the smallest sin can start to break down your faith.
TROY: What does this report have to do with my faith?
NIKKI: If you lie about it, you are undermining your faith.
TROY: What do you mean, “undermining”?
       Buster begins to dig in the ground.
NIKKI: I think Buster knows what it means. He's showing you.
TROY: I don't get it.
NIKKI: Imagine your faith is like a wall. Undermining is when you dig a tunnel under the
       wall. You know what happens to a wall when a tunnel is dug underneath it?
       Buster falls onto his side, making a howling sound as he does so.
TROY: Uh, it falls over?
NIKKI: That's right. Thanks for the demonstration, Buster. Anyway, when you tell even a small lie, it's like shoveling the dirt
       out from under your wall of faith.
TROY: (looking at his paper) I guess I should tell the teacher the truth, huh?
NIKKI: That would be the right thing to do.
       Buster pants and nods his agreement. All puppets exit.
**Session 10—The Battlements**

**Where’s Your Trust?**

*(trust God, not yourself)*

As the skit begins, Buster is all groomed and primped. This can be shown by combing the puppet’s hair and putting a bow either on his head or around his neck.

**MARC:** Hey, look at you, Buster! Why are you looking so sharp?

**TIFFANY:** He’s ready for the dog show this afternoon.

**MARC:** Think he has a chance to win?

**TIFFANY:** I’m sure he does! After all, he’s smart, he’s fast, and now he’s beautiful. He has everything a winning dog needs.

*Buster shows himself off proudly.*

**MARC:** Did you pray about it?

**BUSTER:** *(in a doggy voice)* Huh?

**TIFFANY:** Pray about the dog show? Are you serious?

**MARC:** Of course, I’m serious. You see, it doesn’t matter how much you prepare yourself for something if you don’t have God on your side.

**TIFFANY:** You’re right. Come on, Buster…there’s one last thing we need to do before you’re ready. *(All puppets exit.)*

**Session 11—The Sally Port**

**Escape Plan**

*(salvation)*

Attach a stiff wire to Troy’s hand so it can be manipulated. As the skit begins, Troy is onstage. Tiffany enters and watches him.

**TROY:** *(pats his head three times)* One, two, three. *(rubs his stomach, then touches his nose)* Honk! *(Then he turns completely around three times.)* One, two, three.

**NIKKI:** What in the world are you doing?

**TROY:** I’m working on my escape plan. *(He repeats the same procedure as before.)*

**NIKKI:** How is whatever you’re doing going to help you escape from anything?

**TROY:** Well, I was reading about these people in another country who perform certain rituals to escape death. So I made up some rituals of my own. *(He repeats the same procedure, then sways from dizziness after turning around.)*

**NIKKI:** No rituals will ever help anyone escape death. There’s only one escape plan, and God
already provided for it.

TROY: Really? Tell me what I have to do to execute God’s escape plan. Do I jump up and down? *(He jumps a few times.)* Do I kneel three times and salute? *(He kneels three times and then salutes.)* Do I…?

NIKKI: No, no, no! All you have to do is ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior.

TROY: That’s it?

NIKKI: That’s it. Jesus already did all that needs to be done when He died on the cross in your place.

TROY: Wow! That’s way cool. So, if I’ve already asked Jesus into my heart, I don’t have to do any of that other stuff?

NIKKI: That’s right.

TROY: Whew! I am so glad. I was getting pretty dizzy working out my own escape plan!

*Both puppets exit.*

Session 12—The Castle Keep

You’ve “It” *(safety in Jesus)*

If you have all four Young Explorer character puppets, you can let Tiffany and Troy join Marc in playing tag. They would run to the safe zone the same time that Marc does.

MARC: *(tags Nikki)* You’re “It”! *(He runs to the other end of the stage.)*

NIKKI: *(chasing after Marc and tagging him)* Now you’re “It”!

MARC: You can’t tag me here. I’m in the safe zone.

NIKKI: What safe zone?

MARC: This safe zone. No one can be tagged in the safe zone. That’s the rule.

NIKKI: You can’t add new rules after the game has started.

MARC: This has always been the rule. But I’ll be fair. Since you didn’t know about it, we’ll start over. *(He tags her.)* You’re “It”!

NIKKI: You can’t tag me. I’m in my safe zone.

MARC: Huh? You have your own safe zone?

NIKKI: Uh huh. It’s Jesus. I know that I can always go to Jesus and be safe from all harm.

MARC: OK, you got me there. But this is just a game and according to game rules, the safe zone is over there (he points), so I tagged you fair and square and now you’re “It.”

NIKKI: *(quickly tagging Marc and running in the opposite direction)* Nope! Now you’re “It”!

Catch me if you can!

MARC: Hey! You tricked me! *(He chases her as they exit.)*
Items Needed
• Young Explorers puppets
• Bible
• Pieces of candy (optional)

Session 13—The Storeroom

Greatest Treasure Of All
(God’s Word)

Attach a small Bible to Tiffany’s hand. Keep it out of sight until called for. As the skit begins, Troy is dividing some candy with Tiffany. You can either provide pieces of candy on a table for the puppet to push around with its hand, or just make it look like the candy is being divided behind the stage.

TROY: One for you, and one for me. Two for you and one, two for me. Three for you and one, two, three for me.
TIFFANY: Hey, that’s not fair! You have to divide the candy up fairly!
TROY: But if I divide it up fairly, I won’t have the greatest treasure of candy ever. Four for you and one, two, three, four for me. Five for you and one, two, three, four, five for me.
TIFFANY: Well, if that’s the way you’re going to be, then I won’t share with you the greatest treasure of all.
TROY: The greatest treasure of all? You have a great treasure?
TIFFANY: Uh huh.
TROY: The greatest treasure of all?
TIFFANY: Uh huh.
TROY: Give me some! I want to have some of that great treasure!
TIFFANY: Will you divide the candy fairly?
TROY: OK. Give me your candy back and I’ll start over. (He divides the candy evenly.) Now give me some of your treasure.
TIFFANY: OK, here. (She hands him a Bible.)
TROY: That’s a Bible. Where’s the treasure?
TIFFANY: It’s all in there. Salvation, eternal life, the Holy Spirit, and all of God’s promises. And the neat thing is, the more you read it, the more treasure you find.
TROY: How much of this treasure can I have?
TIFFANY: As much as you want. There’s plenty for all!
Both puppets exit.
Life’s Classroom

Session 1—You’re Invited!

Birthday Invitation
(the Golden Rule)

As the skit begins, Tiffany and Nikki are onstage.

NIKKI: Hey, Tiff, are you inviting Sherrie to your birthday party?
Tiffany: No way! She didn’t invite me to hers, so I’m not inviting her to mine!
NIKKI: That’s not any way to treat someone.
Tiffany: She did it first. I’m just treating her the same way she treated me. Isn’t that the Golden Rule?
NIKKI: No, it isn’t. The Golden Rule says you should treat others the way that you want to be treated. Didn’t you want to be invited to her party?
Tiffany: Well, yes.
NIKKI: And weren’t you real sad when you found out you weren’t invited.
Tiffany: Yes, I was.
NIKKI: That’s the way she probably feels. I’ll bet she wants to come to your party, and I’ll bet she’ll be sad if you don’t invite her. If you want to renew your friendship with her, you should invite her. Besides, that’s the way Jesus would handle the situation. People don’t treat Him right all the time, and yet He still invites everyone to come to Him.
Tiffany: I guess you’re right. I’ll go home right now and make an invitation for Sherrie.

Both puppets exit.

Session 2—Gratitude Attitude

“Thank-You” Notes
(being grateful)

As the skit begins, Tiffany and Nikki are onstage.

NIKKI: Hey, Tiff! Want some help writing “thank you” cards for your birthday presents?
Tiffany: Huh? Why would I have to write “thank you” cards?
NIKKI: Well, aren’t you grateful for the presents you received?
Tiffany: Well, sure, but….
NIKKI: Don’t you want to say “thank you” to the people who gave the gifts to you?
TIFFANY: I shouldn’t have to say “thank you” for something I deserved. It was my birthday. I deserved those presents.
NIKKI: No, you didn’t. Just because you had a birthday doesn’t mean you deserved the gifts. People gave out of love for you and you should thank them. It’s kind of like salvation. We don’t deserve to have Jesus forgive our sins, but He does it because He loves us, and so we thank Him for what He did.
TIFFANY: I never looked at it that way. OK, you can come help me write those “thank you” notes. And, Nikki...thank you for offering to help me.
NIKKI: You’re welcome.
Both puppets exit.

Session 3—It’s Not Fair!

A Wrong Righted
be content with what you have

As the skit begins, Nikki and Marc are onstage.

NIKKI: Hey, Marc, how come you didn’t talk to Tiffany today in class? It looked like you were slighting her. She was kind of hurt.
MARC: I was slighting her.
NIKKI: Why?
MARC: Did you see what she got for her birthday? A brand new skateboard! And she doesn’t even know how to skateboard! I’ve been skateboarding for a year and all I have is this old beat-up one. I’ve been wanting a new one for a long time, and I don’t have one. It’s not fair! I should have the new skateboard, not her!
NIKKI: Lots of things in life aren’t fair, Marc. There’s always a reason why some people have more than others. Jesus said that we should be happy with what we have and not be jealous of others.
MARC: I know, but it’s hard not to be jealous sometimes.
NIKKI: I’ll bet Tiffany is sometimes jealous of you because you can skateboard so well. Maybe you should offer to teach her how now that she has a board.
MARC: Hey, that’s a good idea! Then maybe she’ll let me borrow her board sometimes.
NIKKI: Right!
MARC: I’m going to go find her right now and apologize for the way I treated her. See you later!
Both puppets exit.
Session 4—Do Your Homework

Hear And Obey

(2e a doer of the Word)

As the skit begins, Troy and Marc are onstage. Troy is calling toward his parents, who are not visible. He can be calling either toward one side of the stage or downward toward the backstage area.

TROY: I said I’ll do it later!
MARC: Who are you talking to?
TROY: My parents. They want me to take out the garbage.
MARC: You shouldn’t talk to your parents like that!
TROY: But I can’t take out the garbage now. I have company to entertain.
MARC: I don’t need entertaining. You should do what your parents said. It’s one of the commandments, you know. “Honor your father and mother, so that….”
TROY: Yeah, yeah, yeah; I know all the commandments by heart. “You shall have no other gods before me; you shall not make for yourself an idol; you shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God; remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; honor your father and mother”; and so on, and so on, and so on.
MARC: Just knowing the commandments doesn’t mean anything if you don’t obey them.
TROY: I know that one too: “To obey is better than sacrifice.”
MARC: That’s great, Troy, but you’re still missing the point. It’s great to hear God’s Word and even to memorize it, but it’s more important to obey it.
TROY: But that’s the hard part.
MARC: It’s not so hard. For instance, if you want to obey God’s Word right now, all you have to do is take out the garbage like your parents asked you to.
TROY: Is that all?
MARC: That’s all for now. Come on, I’ll help you. It’ll be fun to work together.
TROY: I guess obeying God doesn’t have to be hard when you look at it that way. Let’s go!
Both puppets exit.
Session 5—The Troublemaker

The Winning Team
(separating sheep from goats)

As the skit begins, Marc and Tiffany are onstage. Marc looks dejected.

MARC: Oh, man! I can’t believe it!
TIFFANY: What can’t you believe?
MARC: Ricky didn’t pick me for his softball team. His is always the winning team! I wanted to be on the winning team!
TIFFANY: That’s funny. Ricky usually picks you right away.
MARC: I know. I thought he would call my name first, to make sure he got me. But he didn’t.
   So Sammy picked me instead. Now I’ll be on the losing team all summer.
TIFFANY: I never like it when the captains choose their players. It’s like separating all the good ones from the bad ones.
MARC: Now I’m stuck with all the bad ones.
TIFFANY: Well, at least you’ll get picked for Jesus’ winning team.
MARC: What do you mean?
TIFFANY: When Jesus separates the wheat from the chaff. If you believe in Jesus, you’ll be on the wheat team!
MARC: Hey, that’s right. I guess that’s what really matters, anyway—not winning softball games but going to heaven and being with Jesus.
TIFFANY: Yeah! And who knows—maybe you’ll make the difference on Sammy’s team and you guys will wind up the winners.
MARC: You’re right! Maybe I can even show the rest of the team how to improve their swing.
TIFFANY: Now you’re talking!
   Both puppets exit.
Session 6—Choices We Make

Smacker Doodles
(your choices affect your future)

Attach a partially eaten candy bar (in wrapper) to Troy's hand. As the skit begins, Troy is eating the candy bar. Nikki enters. Troy speaks quickly as though he is overexcited. He is also acting as though he is over-energized.

TROY: Man, I just love these Smacker Doodle candy bars! If I could choose to eat anything I wanted, I'd eat Smacker Doodles all the time. I'd eat Smacker Doodles for breakfast. I'd eat Smacker Doodles for lunch. I'd eat Smacker Doodles for supper. I'd even eat Smacker Doodles for a midnight snack!

NIKKI: Ick! Wouldn't you get tired of eating the same thing all the time?

TROY: Not if it's Smacker Doodles! (He sings the next lines.) Smacker Doodles are so fine. I'd like to eat them all the time!

NIKKI: Sounds like a foolish choice to me. You don't get any nutrition from candy bars.

TROY: It doesn't seem to hurt me any. I've eaten three Smacker Doodles today already, and I feel just as strong as ever. In fact, I feel energized!

NIKKI: That's just a sugar high. Soon you'll be feeling very tired, and you'll probably have an upset stomach.

TROY: Not me! Smacker Doodles never upset my stomach. I can eat them all day long!

NIKKI: Well, it's a good thing it's not your decision to make. If you chose to eat only Smacker Doodles all day long, you would regret it in the future.

TROY: Who cares about the future? I only care about right now.

NIKKI: You ought to care about the future. The choices you make right now will affect what happens to you in the future. Like when I said that eating so much candy will give you a stomach ache today—it will also make you weak and sick in the future. A bad choice has bad results. But if you make good choices now, you'll have good results in the future.

Troy begins to slow down and puts a hand to his stomach.

NIKKI: Troy? Troy, what's the matter? Are you OK?

TROY: Suddenly I don't feel so good. My head is spinning and my stomach hurts.

NIKKI: See what I told you? It's the Smacker Doodles.

TROY: It can't be. Smacker Doodles are the greatest.

NIKKI: If they're so great, go ahead and take another bite. I dare you.

TROY: (looking at the candy bar, then turning his head away) Ugh! I just couldn't!

NIKKI: Maybe next time you'll make a wiser choice.

TROY: Maybe next time I just won't drink all that soda pop with my candy bar.

NIKKI: (frustrated) Troy! When will you ever learn? (Both puppets exit.)

Items Needed
• Young Explorers puppets
• Partially eaten candy bar in wrapper

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Session 7—Coming Back Home

The Prodigal Boy
(forgiveness)

As the skit begins, Troy and Marc are onstage. Troy looks toward one side of the stage and acts like he has just seen someone he wants to avoid.

TROY: Oh no! Here comes Nikki! (He hides behind Marc.) Quick, hide me!
MARC: Why?
TROY: Yesterday I called her a name. I said she was bossy. She didn’t like that very much.
MARC: Neither would I.
TROY: I felt bad about it later. Now I feel pretty stupid for having done that. I can’t face her again!
MARC: Why don’t you just apologize?
TROY: I can’t do that!
MARC: Why not?
TROY: That’s too hard.
MARC: It’s easier than hiding every time you see Nikki. You can’t avoid her forever.
TROY: Wanna see me try?
MARC: Why are you so afraid to apologize to her?
TROY: She was pretty upset when I called her “bossy.” I’d hate to see what she’d do to me next time she sees me.
MARC: She’s a very understanding person. If you apologize, she’ll forgive you.
TROY: I don’t think so. You didn’t see her yesterday. You didn’t see how upset she was.
MARC: No, but I know Nikki. She’s not the kind to hold a grudge. Just go over there and apologize to her. You’ll see that I’m right.
TROY: Well… (He starts to come out from behind Marc, then ducks behind him again.) I can’t!
MARC: Sure you can!
TROY: How can you be so sure?
MARC: Because I know that Nikki wants to be your friend. She’ll accept you back if you just let her know that you feel bad for what you did and you’re sorry.
TROY: (gradually coming out from behind Marc) Uh…well…OK, I guess. I’ll give it a shot. (As he steps totally out from behind Marc, he changes his mind.) No, I just can’t.
MARC: Here, I’ll help you! (He moves away from Troy and calls toward the side of the stage.) Hey, Nikki! Come on over!
TROY: Yikes! Oh, well, here goes nothing.

The two head off the stage.
Session 8—Gifts To Use

Use It Or Lose It
(find and use your gifts)

As the skit begins, flute music is heard from backstage. If flute music is not available, play the music of any instrument available to you. Adjust the script accordingly. Tiffany appears onstage and listens. As Tiffany begins speaking, stop the music.

TIFFANY: Hey, Nikki! Is that you? What are you doing?
NIKKI: (entering stage) I was just practicing my flute. Practice makes perfect, you know.
TIFFANY: What are you practicing for?
NIKKI: I’m going to play a special number in church next Sunday.
TIFFANY: You don’t sound like you need much practice. That was flawless! You have a special gift.
NIKKI: Well, thanks, Tiff, but I still have to practice if I want to keep my gift. If you don’t use it, you lose it.
TIFFANY: I wish I was gifted in music. I tried to learn to play piano, but I had to quit. I just couldn’t understand it. I’m just no good at it. I guess I don’t have the gift.
NIKKI: I wouldn’t worry about it. You’re gifted in other areas.
TIFFANY: Like what?
NIKKI: You’re good at art. I’ve seen some of the pictures you’ve drawn. I think that’s your gift.
TIFFANY: Really?
NIKKI: Or maybe sports. You can hit a baseball or make a free throw in basketball. I can’t do any of those things. I’m just not gifted in sports. But that doesn’t make me feel like I can’t do anything. I just work harder at the things I can do. If I don’t work at it, it’s like burying my gift.
TIFFANY: Work harder at the things you can do. Hey, that’s good advice!
NIKKI: Right! Like just before the team tryouts, you always spend more time working at your jump shots, don’t you?
TIFFANY: You’re right, I do.
NIKKI: That’s how you develop the gift you have.
TIFFANY: But you use your gift to serve God when you play in church. How can I use my gift to serve God?
NIKKI: Just leave that to God. You never know what He has in store for you, and He always finds a way to put your gifts to use. But you have to be ready.
TIFFANY: Then I better go and practice some more. I’ll see you later, Nikki! I’ve got to work on my swoosh shot!

Tiffany runs off. Nikki watches, then exits.

Items Needed
- Young Explorers puppets
- Flute music (or music of another instrument)
**Items Needed**
- Young Explorers puppets
- Flashlight
- Black paper circle with the letter J cut out
- Tape

**Session 9—Lights For God**

**Give Me A “J”!**

*(shining your light)*

_Cut the letter J from a circle of black paper. Tape the paper to the lens of a flashlight. As the skit begins, Troy is busily working at something the children can’t see. Tiffany enters._

Tiffany: What’cha working on, Troy?

Troy: My light for Jesus.

Tiffany: Your what?

Troy: My light for Jesus. Pastor said we should shine our light for Jesus. So I’m making a light for Jesus that I can shine. There! Finished!

Tiffany: Let’s see it.

*Turn on the flashlight and shine it so the children can see the J.*

Troy: Ta da-a-a-a!

Tiffany: Uh…it’s real nice, Troy. But how does that shine a light for Jesus?

Troy: J for Jesus. Don’t you get it?

Tiffany: I kinda figured that out, but how will anyone else know?

Troy: I’ll just shout “Jesus!” whenever I shine this light on someone.

Tiffany: You’re going to shine the light on people?

Troy: Yeah! Watch this! (*Turn the light off, then turn it back on and aim it at Tiffany’s head.*) Jesus!

Tiffany: Troy, I don’t think people are going to like you shining lights at their faces and shouting at them.

Troy: Well, how else do you shine a light for Jesus? (*Turn off the flashlight.*)

Tiffany: You show people love and kindness, that’s how.

Troy: Oh yeah?

Tiffany: Yeah. Love and kindness are like lights in a dark world full of sin and hate. When you love people, especially when you love people who don’t love you back, you are shining a light for Jesus.

Troy: I get it! OK, from now on, I’m going to show love and kindness. But I’m going to carry my flashlight around, too.

Tiffany: What for?

Troy: To help make my point. Whenever I show someone love and kindness, I’ll shine my light and say, Ta-da-a-a-a! Jesus! (*Turn on the light and shine it at Tiffany.*)

Tiffany: *(sighing)* Oh, Troy.

*Both puppets exit.*
Session 10—Lost And Found

Billy The Bully

(leading sinners)

Attach a small Bible to Marc's hand. As the skit begins, Marc is walking across the stage. Troy joins him.

TROY: Hey, Marc, where are you going?
MARC: I'm going to Billy's house. *(He shows Troy his Bible.*) I'm going to tell him about Jesus and see if he wants to accept Jesus as his Savior.

TROY: Billy? Billy the Bully? Why would you want to tell him about Jesus?
MARC: Because Jesus loves all people.

TROY: Yeah, but Billy is mean. He takes other kids' lunch money. He pushes little kids down on the sidewalk. Just yesterday he put a stick through the spokes of my bicycle wheel. The bike stopped, but I didn't!

MARC: All the more reason to tell Billy about Jesus.

TROY: But Billy will never change! He'll never become good enough for Jesus to forgive him.

MARC: You've got it all wrong, Troy. You don't have to become good enough before Jesus will forgive you. Jesus loves the sinner.

TROY: How can Jesus love a sinner?

MARC: Jesus loves everyone. That's why He died—to take our sins upon himself because He loves us so much.

TROY: So Jesus even loves people like Billy, huh?

MARC: Yup.

TROY: But Billy will never change.

MARC: You don't know that. Jesus can do anything—even change a heart as hard as Billy's.

Maybe Billy just needs to know that God loves him. Maybe he's mean because he doesn't think anyone can love him. When people know that they can be forgiven for their sins, it makes a change in their hearts.

TROY: Wow, maybe you're right. Hey, do you think I could help?

MARC: Sure! In fact, if you tell Billy that you forgive him for what he did to you yesterday, you can be an example of Jesus' love. That would be a great help!

TROY: All right, then; I'm in! Let's go!

*Both puppets exit.*
What's In It For Me?
(being a Good Samaritan)

As the skit begins, Nikki and Troy are on stage.

Nikki: Hey, Troy! Want to come to church with me?
Troy: But it’s not Sunday.
Nikki: It’s Good Samaritan day!
Troy: I never heard of Good Samaritan day. What is it?
Nikki: The whole church is getting together and then going out in the neighborhood to do
things for other people. We’re all going to be Good Samaritans.
Troy: What’s a good Samaritan?
Nikki: Someone who does kind things for others.
Troy: What kinds of things?
Nikki: Oh, rake yards, weed gardens, take out the trash, walk the dog—any kind of work that
someone needs help with but can’t afford to pay for.
Troy: You mean you’re doing it for free?
Nikki: Of course. How else can we be Good Samaritans?
Troy: Come on, there has to be something in it for you.
Nikki: No, there isn’t.
Troy: Then why should I go with you? What would I get out of it?
Nikki: You would get the feeling that you have done a good deed for
someone less fortunate than yourself. You would feel like you
were doing God’s will for the day. You would feel grateful that
God has given you the strength to do things that other people
can’t do. And you would reap a reward in heaven.
Troy: Oh, why didn’t you say so? OK, count me in.

Both puppets exit.
Session 12—Be Alert!

Watching Or Working?

(work till He comes)

As the skit begins, Troy is looking up into the sky. Tiffany enters. She looks up to try to see what Troy is looking at but doesn’t see anything. Troy keeps looking up throughout the entire skit.

Tiffanny: What are you doing, Troy?
Troy: I’m waiting for Jesus to return.
Tiffanny: (looking into the sky, then back at Troy) How long have you been doing this?
Troy: All morning. I’m getting a stiff neck.
Tiffanny: Well, no wonder! You’re not supposed to just sit and watch for Him.
Troy: Why not? After all, I already did enough good deeds to last the rest of my life.
Tiffanny: Are you talking about the work you did for Good Samaritan day last week?
Troy: Uh huh. Now I’m ready for Jesus to come.
Tiffanny: We’re not supposed to stop doing good works and just sit and wait. We’re supposed to keep on doing good until the moment He arrives.
Troy: But I’m tired of doing good works! So I’m just going to sit here and wait and watch.
Tiffanny: All that will do is give you a sore neck! It won’t make Jesus come any faster.
Troy: Do you think if I do more good works, Jesus will come faster?
Tiffanny: No, but it will make the time seem like it goes by faster.
Troy: Well, since you put it that way, let’s go find some good deeds that need doing. (He tries to move his head.) Uh oh, I think my head is stuck in this position. Now what am I going to do?
Tiffanny: (reaching for his hand) Here, take my hand. I’ll lead you home to rest your neck. We can do the good deeds tomorrow.

Both puppets exit.
Session 13—Be Ready!

Be Prepared
(being prepared)

Put a child-sized jacket on Nikki. As the skit begins, Nikki is onstage. Marc joins her.

NIKKI: Come on, Marc—are you ready to go hiking?
MARC: Yup, I’m all ready.
NIKKI: You better bring a jacket. The wind can get pretty cold.
MARC: I don’t need a jacket. It’s nice out.
NIKKI: It’s nice out now, but it will get cold later on.
MARC: Nah, it won’t get too cold. I’ll be fine.
NIKKI: Suit yourself.

The two puppets walk offstage. Wait a moment, then bring them back onstage. Marc has his arms wrapped around his body.

MARC: Brrrr. It sure did get cold. This wind is awful!
NIKKI: I told you so. You should have brought a jacket.
MARC: Let me borrow yours. I’m going to catch a cold.
NIKKI: If I loan you my jacket, then we’ll both catch a cold.
MARC: Ple-e-e-e-ease? Just for a minute?
NIKKI: I warned you to be prepared. Boy, you sound just like one of the ten virgins.
MARC: The ten who?
NIKKI: The ten virgins. Jesus told a story about ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom to come. Five of them brought extra oil for their lamps. The other five didn’t. When the groom took a long time to come, the lamps started to go out. Those who brought extra oil were prepared and were able to keep their lamps burning. But the others’ lamps went out. They asked the first women if they could borrow some oil, but the first women were afraid that if they gave away their own oil, then they would run out too.

Marc: I guess it’s a warning to always be prepared. I cooked my own goose, I guess.
NIKKI: Speaking of cooking…

Marc: Hey! There’s a campfire up ahead! Maybe they’ll have some hot chocolate! (He runs ahead and offstage.)

NIKKI: Well, I hope he learned a lesson here.