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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Cy was excited for his birthday party. But he was especially excited to go home from school and open the presents his family had for him. He had asked weeks ago for the coolest new music player, the M-Box. Lots of other kids had them. Cy really needed a new pair of soccer shoes, but he wanted an M-Box more than anything. He couldn't wait to have it!

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

When Cy opened his last present, he was disappointed at first. It was a brand new pair of soccer shoes. But then he remembered that God teaches us to be grateful for the things we're given, not greedy for the things we don't have. Cy also thought about how his dad had been sick and unable to work, so his parents didn't have much money. Cy knew that following God's way meant being grateful for what he had been given. Cy happily thanked and hugged his father for the wonderful gift.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Cy's Birthday Present"

"Are you so excited for your birthday party, Cy?" Dee asked her friend as they walked home from school. "What do you think you're going to get?"

"I'm not sure," Cy answered. "I really need new soccer shoes, because my old ones are pretty beat up. But I really want an M-Box," Cy answered.

"What is an M-Box?" Dee wondered.

Cy rolled his eyes. "You know…. It's one of those music things. You can record songs on it and listen to them with headphones."

"Oh, right," said Paul. "My older sister has one of those."

"Anyway, I'll see you guys at the party later, okay?" said Cy. "My mom and dad are letting me open their presents as soon as I get home from school."

"Okay, Cy—see you later!"

"Bye!" Cy called as he walked into his house. His mom, dad, and little sister were waiting for him. "Happy Birthday, Cy!" they shouted.

Cy giggled. "Hi," he said. "How are you feeling today, Dad?" he asked.

Cy's dad hadn't been able to work for the last few weeks. Mr. Yung had been very sick, and had been to lots of doctors, but nobody seemed to know what was wrong. "Feeling all right, son," he answered. "Ready to open some presents?"

"Sure!" Cy shouted.

Cy opened a few packages. His mom had given him a book about great baseball players. His dad had given him a really cool new squirt gun. And his little sister, Becky, had picked out an ant farm for him.

"There's one more, Cy," said Mr. Yung. "Open it!"

Cy smiled. It *had* to be the M-Box—he had asked for it weeks ago! He tore off the wrapping and looked at the box. It was a brand new pair of soccer shoes.

Cy was disappointed. He had been *positive* he would get an M-Box. But then another thought raced through his head—something he had learned in Sunday school. "Be grateful for what you have," it said.

Cy looked up at his dad. Cy knew that his parents hadn't had enough money lately, since his dad had been unable to work. And Cy knew that the soccer shoes had been expensive.

Lots of other kids Cy knew had M-Boxes that they listened to at recess. But Cy knew that God wanted him to be thankful for the soccer shoes—not upset that he hadn't gotten what he wanted. Suddenly, having an M-Box didn't feel as important anymore.

"Thanks!" he said. "This is just what I needed!"

"You're welcome, Cy," said Mr. Yung. "I'm glad you like your presents!"

Cy gave his dad a hug. "Yes—I like my presents. And I love you!"

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

After his teacher, Mrs. Wile, mentioned to him that she had four extra basketball tickets, Paul offered to stay after school and help her. Paul's mom thought he was just doing a kind deed for his teacher, but Paul really just wanted his teacher to offer him the basketball tickets. After he'd finished helping out, Paul went to say goodbye to Mrs. Wile. He had worked so hard—and he really wanted to see the game!

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Mrs. Wile didn't offer Paul the tickets—she had donated them to the library to use as a prize. When Paul returned home from school, he angrily explained to his mom why he had really offered to help Mrs. Wile. Mrs. Shepherd answered that Paul had done a good deed by helping his teacher, but he had done it for the wrong reasons—only because he wanted the basketball tickets. The next day, Paul offered to help Mrs. Wile once a week after school, and not because he wanted something, but just because he wanted to help her. Mrs. Wile was grateful to Paul, and he felt much better knowing he was doing the right thing for the right reason.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "The Right Reasons"

"Hey, Mom!" Paul called just before he left for school. "Is it okay if I stay a little late at school today?"

Mrs. Shepherd was washing the breakfast dishes. "What for?"

Paul thought carefully. "I just thought I'd offer to help Mrs. Wile with anything she needs done."

Paul's mom stopped doing the dishes, walked over, and gave him a hug. "That's very sweet of you," she said. "Sure—just not too late, okay?"

"Okay, Mom," said Paul, running out the door. He really *did* want to offer to help Mrs. Wile. She had mentioned to Paul yesterday that she had four tickets to next week's big college basketball game, but that she wouldn't be able to use them. Paul thought that maybe, if he stayed late to help her, Mrs. Wile would offer *him* the tickets, and he could go with his brothers and sister.

Later that morning, Paul asked Mrs. Wile if there was anything she needed help with after school. "Sure!" she said, surprised at the offer. "I'm sure I can think of some things for you to do—thank you, Paul!"

After school, Paul helped Mrs. Wile take down two of the bulletin boards in the classroom. He emptied the garbage cans, cleaned out the pencil sharpener, and cleaned all of the white boards. Finally, Mrs. Wile said, "Thanks for all your help, Paul. I really appreciate it!"

"You're welcome!" Paul said. He stood just where he was, waiting for her to offer the tickets.

Mrs. Wile cleared her throat uncomfortably. "Um, well, I need to leave. I need to drop those extra basketball tickets off at the library. They're going to use them as prizes in a reading contest."

"Oh," said Paul. "Okay, well, see you tomorrow."

Paul walked home angrily. When he got home, Mrs. Shepherd asked, "How was helping your teacher, Paul?"

"Just great," Paul answered, slamming the door and throwing down his book bag. "I didn't get the tickets!"

"What tickets?" asked Mrs. Shepherd.

Paul explained to his mom about the basketball tickets and how he had volunteered to help his teacher hoping that she would give them to him.

"Oh, I see," said Mrs. Shepherd. "So you were doing a good thing, but you were doing it for the wrong reason."

"What do you mean?" asked Paul. "I was being nice!"

"Not really, Paul," Mrs. Shepherd corrected him. "Helping Mrs. Wile would have been a nice thing to do, but you didn't help her just to be helpful. You only helped her because you thought you would get something for doing it. And that's not the right reason to do a good deed."

Paul looked down. He did feel pretty awful, like he had been dishonest with Mrs. Wile. "I'm sorry, Mom," he said. "I guess you're right."

The next day, Paul asked Mrs. Wile if he could help her every Wednesday after school. "Wow, Paul—thank you!" she said. "Is there any particular reason?"

Paul shook his head. "No—I just thought you could use the help!"

"Well, I certainly can!" she laughed. "Wednesday it is, then!"

"Great!" said Paul. His mom was right—it felt much better to do a good deed for the right reason, rather than the wrong one.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Dee and her friends always spent recess talking and laughing on top of the monkey bars. But the kids at school thought that Jenny, who didn't live in their neighborhood, was kind of weird. Dee went to church with Jenny, but she didn't want her friends to think that she was weird, too. So when Jenny asked Dee if she could play on the monkey bars, too, Dee told her there was no room for her. Then Dee felt terrible for the rest of the week. What had she done? How could she have been so mean to Jenny?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

In Sunday school that week, when it was time to choose groups, Jenny was one of the leaders. To Dee's surprise, Jenny chose Dee first. After class, Dee apologized for the way she had treated Jenny at school. Dee realized that Jenny had done what Jesus would have done: Jenny had treated Dee the way that *she* wanted to be treated. On Monday, Dee introduced Jenny to her friends as they played on the monkey bars. All of the girls made a new friend, and Dee felt better knowing that she had been a better friend.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "The Monkey Bars"

Dee and her friends were laughing. Every day at recess, they met at the monkey bars. They climbed to very top, where the spent recess talking, laughing, and having fun.

Dee smiled as she looked across the playground. Then she saw Jenny.

Jenny went to Dee's church and was in her Sunday school class. But Jenny didn't live in Dee's neighborhood—she lived in an apartment in the middle of town. She didn't have many friends at school. Because she lived far away, she never got to meet the other kids at the park on the weekends, or play at a friend's house after school.

Dee always felt sort of bad when she talked to Jenny. Dee liked her, and would be glad to play with her, but most of Dee's friends thought that Jenny was kind of weird. Dee didn't want her friends to think she was weird, too. So when Dee saw Jenny at school, she would wave or say hello, but that was all.

Suddenly Jenny looked up and saw Dee looking at her. Dee's face felt hot as Jenny crossed the playground toward the monkey bars. "Hi, Dee!" Jenny called up to her.

"Oh, hi, Jenny," Dee said quietly.

"Maybe I could climb up there, too?" Jenny suggested.

"Uh," Dee stammered, and looked around at her friends on top of the monkey bars. They were all staring at Dee. "I, um, I don't think we have any more room up here, actually," Dee answered. "Maybe another time.

Jenny's face turned bright red. "Oh, okay, sorry," she said. She turned around and walked quickly away.

Dee felt awful for the rest of the week. She knew she had treated Jenny terribly. She was glad when the week was over.

But when Dee awoke on Sunday morning she felt horrible all over again. She had avoided Jenny at school, but she would definitely see her at church.

When Dee arrived at Sunday school, her teacher, Mrs. Anita, announced. "We're going to start out with a game. I've chosen three captains: Cy, Jenny, and Ben. Each of the captains can choose their groups. Cy, you choose first."

"Paul!" Cy said.

Next it was Ben's turn to choose. "Matt!" he called. Matt joined Ben.

Now it was Jenny's turn. Dee looked down at her feet. Jenny would never pick Dee. She had been terrible to Jenny at school.

"Dee," Jenny said softly. "I want you to be on my team, Dee."

After the lesson, Dee said to Jenny, "I am so sorry for the way I treated you at school. I was just…awful."

"That's okay, Dee," Jenny said. "I know some of the kids think I'm weird because I don't live in the neighborhood."

"But I know that you're not weird. You were so much nicer than I was. You…," she said, then thought about the Sunday school lesson they had just learned. "You treated me the way *you* want to be treated."

Jenny just smiled. On Monday, Dee waited for Jenny to come outside when it was time for recess. Together, they climbed to the top of the monkey bars. Soon, Jenny was talking and laughing with the rest of the girls. And Dee was glad, knowing she was treating her friend the way she would want to be treated.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Cy and Paul were watching a movie at Dee's house. But it was almost 7:00—the time that Paul had to go home. Paul was tired of being the first to go home. So when Mrs. Morgan reminded him of the time, Paul lied and said that his dad had told him that he could stay later. When Paul did go home, Mr. Shepherd was just hanging up the phone. Paul knew he was in big trouble.

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Paul called Mrs. Morgan and apologized, and apologized to his dad. They both forgave him. But Paul still felt terrible for telling a lie. Mr. Morgan explained that Paul also needed to forgive himself. God, Mrs. Morgan, and his dad had forgiven him, which meant that his sin was gone forever. In fact, Dee's family wanted Paul to come for a barbecue—Paul's favorite!

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Forgiven"

"Who wants more popcorn?" asked Mrs. Morgan, coming into the living room.

"Me!" shouted Dee, Cy, and Paul. Dee's parents had rented a movie and invited Cy and Paul over to watch.

Paul looked up at the clock. It was 6:45. His parents had a rule that he had to be home at 7:00, even on Saturdays. He sighed. The movie was only half over and there was a hot bowl of popcorn waiting to be eaten. He was tired of always being first to go home.

"Paul—don't forget, it's almost time for you to go home," Mrs. Morgan reminded him.

"Uh, actually," Paul lied. "Um, my dad said that I could stay and watch the whole movie."

"Really?" Mrs. Morgan asked. "Well, that's great! Dig in!"

Paul grabbed another handful of popcorn. He hadn't meant to lie to Dee's mom—it had just sort of happened.

Paul started walking home at 7:30. When he walked in the door, his dad was just hanging up the phone.

"Er, hi, Dad," he said. Paul could tell by look on his dad's face that he was in trouble.

"Hello, Paul," Mr. Shepherd replied. "I've been very worried about you."

"I'm sorry," Paul said. "I'm sorry I lied! It's just, that I'm tired of always having to be the first to come home! I just wanted to stay and watch the rest of the movie!"

"I understand that, Paul," said Mr. Shepherd. "And if you had called, I probably would have let you stay. But you didn't, and you told Mrs. Morgan a lie. I want you to call her now and apologize."

Paul called Mrs. Morgan and apologized for lying. "I forgive you, Paul," she said. "I'll see you tomorrow at church, okay?"

After he hung up, Paul turned to his dad. "I'm really sorry, Dad," he said.

"I forgive you, son," said Mr. Shepherd, giving him a hug. "Now, you've got some homework to do. Let's get it done tonight so you don't have to do it tomorrow."

The next morning at church, Paul still felt terrible for lying to Mrs. Morgan. When he saw her, he saw her wave to him, but he pretended like he hadn't seen. He even felt kind of funny talking to Dee, since she knew that Paul had lied, too.

After church, Paul was helping his dad put songbooks away. "I talked to Mrs. Morgan today, Paul," Mr. Shepherd said. "She said it seemed like you didn't want to talk to her—or even look at her."

"I'm sorry," said Paul.

"You don't need to apologize," said Mr. Morgan. "What's going on?"

Paul explained that he still felt awful for lying to Dee's mom. "Paul," said Mr. Shepherd. "Do you remember what Mrs. Morgan told you on the phone?"

"Yes," Paul answered. "She said that she forgave me."

"Right," Mr. Shepherd said, nodding. "And I forgave you, too. But I think there's still one more person who needs to forgive you."

"Who?" Paul wondered.

"You need to forgive yourself," said Mr. Shepherd. "God has forgiven you, and so have Mrs. Morgan and I. What you did was wrong, but you're forgiven." Mr. Morgan put his hand on Paul's shoulder. "That means that it's gone—forever."

Paul knew his dad was right. "Now, Dee wanted me to ask if you'd like to join her family for lunch," said Mr. Shepherd. "They're having a barbecue."

"My favorite!" said Paul. "Um, Dad—what time should I be home?"

"Why don't you just call me, okay?" said Mr. Morgan.

"Thanks, Dad!" shouted Paul, as he raced out of the church.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Dee, Cy, and Paul were working together on a school project. They were learning about how, in medieval times, kingdoms had crests that symbolized things that were important to the kingdom. They were each making their own crest. Paul pointed out that knights would often have their crest on their shield when they went into battle. When Cy teased Dee because girls couldn't be knights during medieval times, Dee told Cy and Paul that it didn't matter because she was a knight *right now*.

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Dee reminded Cy and Paul that as Christians, they were all knights—fighters whose loyalty was to a King—God—and His Kingdom. Their job was to defend the kingdom from evil—like sin and the temptation to do things that wouldn't please God. Cy and Paul were very excited. Suddenly their school project seemed like a lot more fun. They were knights, making their very own crests. They were the knights of God's Kingdom!

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Knights of the Kingdom"

"Hmm…" Cy mumbled as he thought out loud. "What things are important to me that I could put on my crest?"

"A soccer ball—and a baseball, too," Dee said.

"And some food. *Any* kind of food," Paul added, laughing.

Dee, Cy, and Paul were working together on a school project. They were learning about medieval times, when large families owned lands and castles. Eventually, those large families and the land that they owned became kingdoms. The kingdoms were ruled by kings. Each kingdom had its own crest, which was symbol that represented the things that were most important in the kingdom. Dee, Cy, and Paul's assignment was to make crests of their own.

"What are you guys putting on your crests?" Cy asked.

"I drew a computer on mine," said Paul. "It kind of looks like a computer, anyway."

"I drew me playing the piano," said Dee. "It's kind of fun to think about what is most important to me."

Paul nodded. "Sometimes, knights would have their crests on the front of their shields when they went into battle," he said.

"It would be pretty cool to be a knight," said Cy. "Too bad, Dee. Girls couldn't be knights!"

Dee was drawing her dog, Chip, holding a ball in his mouth on her crest. "Well, maybe not," said Dee. "But I am a knight now!"

"Huh?" asked Paul. "What do you mean?"

"Well, we're all knights, aren't we?" Dee said. She pointed at her crest. For the middle of her crest, she had drawn a large, wooden cross. "It was the knights' job to defend the kingdom, right? We'll, we're part of a kingdom, too!"

"That's right!" said Cy. "We're part of God's kingdom."

"Wow—I never thought of it like that," said Paul. "But didn't knights fight in wars? Who do we fight against?"

"We fight against evil," answered Dee.

"Cool!" shouted Cy and Paul and unison. "Except, uh, how do we do that?" Cy asked sheepishly.

"By fighting against things that would take us away from God," said Dee.

"Oh, yeah!" said Paul. "Like sin—we fight against doing things that wouldn't please God."

"Right!" said Dee. "Pretty cool, huh?"

"This project just became a *lot* more fun," said Cy. "I'm making my crest to show my loyalty to my King and His Kingdom."

"We're the knights of God's Kingdom!" said Paul.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Dee, Cy, and Paul emerged from Sunday school class, each holding a tiny glass vial that contained a single mustard seed. Mrs. Anita had told them about Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. Jesus had said that anyone who had faith as tiny as a mustard seed could do amazing things, but Dee, Cy, and Paul could hardly believe that. After all, the seed was so tiny. Could faith *that* small do anything at all?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Dee, Cy, and Paul's friend and classmate, Ben, overheard them talking. He told them about a time when someone he knew had shown just a tiny bit of faith—just asking him to go somewhere—and it had changed his life and his family completely. Those people were Dee, Cy, and Paul, who had invited Ben to Sunday school when they were in preschool. Since then, Ben and his parents had all become Christians. And now, two of his uncles were bringing their families to church, too! Dee, Cy, and Paul were grateful for the reminder—now they knew that just a tiny bit of faith really *could* go a long way.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Ben's Story"

"Wow," said Paul, holding a small glass vial up to the light. "My mom gardens, but I don't think I've ever seen a seed *this* small."

"I wonder if it tastes like mustard," Cy wondered.

"I don't know," said Dee. "But Paul's right—it's definitely the smallest seed I've ever seen."

Dee, Cy, and Paul had just emerged from their Sunday school class. They had learned about the parable of the mustard seed. Jesus had said that anyone who had faith—even faith as tiny as a mustard seed—could do amazing things. At the end of class, Mrs. Anita had given all the kids glass vials that contained a single mustard seed.

"It's hard to believe," Cy said. "I mean, how could faith *this* small do anything at all? Not to mention, something *great*?"

"I think it can," said a voice. "In fact, I *know* it can."

Dee, Cy, and Paul looked up. "Oh, hi, Ben," said Cy.

"Hi!" Ben replied. Ben was in Dee, Cy, and Paul's Sunday school class. He, too, held his mustard seed up to the light. "They sure are small, aren't they?"

"That's what we were just talking about," said Paul. "It's just hard to believe that faith *this* small could do anything at all."

"Yeah—I heard you say that," said Ben. "That's why I came over. I know that just a tiny bit of faith can do amazing things."

"How do you know that?" wondered Dee.

Ben smiled. "Because when I first moved here a few years ago, somebody had a little faith and invited me somewhere. Because of that, my whole life—and my whole family—has changed completely!"

"Wow!" said Cy. "That's cool!"

"Yeah—who was it?" Paul asked.

"It was…well…you," Ben said sheepishly.

"What?" Dee asked.

"You invited me to Sunday school, back when we were in preschool," Ben explained. "Don't you remember?"

"Oh, yeah," said Cy. "I think so."

"Well, I wanted to go, so I asked my mom and dad, and they took me. We had never been to church before, but they really liked it. So we kept coming to church. Soon, I became a Christian, then my dad, then my mom. Now, two of my uncles have started coming to church with their families, too. And one of my cousins just became a Christian last Sunday!"

"Are you serious?" Paul asked. "All because we asked you to Sunday school when we were in preschool?"

Ben beamed. "Yep!"

"We invited everyone we met to Sunday school when we were in preschool," Dee said slowly. "That didn't take very much faith."

"You're right—and look what happened!" said Paul happily.

"Thanks for reminding us, Ben," Cy said. "Now we know—just a little bit of faith can go a long way!"

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Cy's mom was a nurse at the local hospital, so she saw sick and hurt people all the time. She was always sad, however, when she saw a hurt child. One night, after coming home from work in tears, she explained to Cy that a little girl, Janell, had been in a horrible accident and might not live through the next few days. Cy asked his mom—even though she wasn't a Christian—if he could pray for the little girl. Mrs. Yung agreed. Cy prayed for God's help. Jesus had done miracles when he was on earth. Would He do another one now? Would He come and heal Janell?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Cy was disappointed the following day when Mrs. Yung said Janell had not improved, but he faithfully prayed again for Jesus to heal her. The next day, when Cy heard that his mom would be home late from work again, Cy was afraid—had Janell died? But his dad explained that not only was Janell alive, she was recovering so quickly that the doctors couldn't explain it! Cy was thrilled. He knew that Jesus—the Miracle worker—had once again healed a little girl.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Miracle Worker"

Cy looked at the clock. His mom was working late at the hospital tonight.

"Dad, when is mom supposed to be home?" he asked.

Mr. Yung shrugged. "I don't know, Cy. She called and said they had a special case, and she needed to help out."

Suddenly the door opened. Mrs. Yung walked in the door, looking exhausted. "Hi, Mom!" Cy said.

Mrs. Yung hugged Cy hard. Cy could see that her cheeks were smeared with tears. She had been crying. "Are you okay, Mom?" he asked.

"I've been treating a little girl at the hospital—she's just your age, Cy," she said. "Janell was in a terrible car accident and is hurt very badly."

Cy understood. His mom worked with sick people every day, since she was a nurse. But it was always difficult for her to see kids—especially kids who were about the same age as Cy or his sisters—who were sick or hurt. "I'm sorry, Mom," Cy said. Mr. Yung went to make Mrs. Yung a cup of tea.

"I'll be okay," said Mrs. Yung, wiping her eyes. "But I don't know if that Janell will. I don't know if she's going to make it through the next few days."

Cy suddenly had an idea. "Mom," he said, "Would it be okay if I, well, prayed for Janell?" Cy was always a little nervous about praying with his family, since they didn't go to church with him. But Mrs. Yung smiled.

"Sure, Cy," she said. "It can't hurt, can it?"

Cy closed his eyes and bowed his head. He prayed out loud so his mom could hear him. He thanked God for Janell, and he thanked God for Jesus, who loved to heal people—even children. "Jesus, I ask that you would come and make Janell better," Cy prayed. "Please help her get stronger over the next few days. Amen."

Cy opened his eyes and Mrs. Yung smiled. "Thanks, Cy. Now I guess we just wait and see what happens."

The next evening Cy waited anxiously by the door for his mom to get home. When she did come in, she said there had been very little change—Janell's life was still in great danger. Cy prayed again that Jesus would heal Janell.

The following evening, Cy was waiting again for his mom to come home. Suddenly, his dad came into the room. "Cy, your mom just called. She's going to be late again."

"Oh, no!" said Cy.

"No—it's good news!" Mr. Yung said, smiling. "Janell has been improving rapidly all day! The doctors are amazed—nobody can explain how she's getting better so fast!"

"Awesome!" yelled Cy. He was so happy, he could barely contain himself. The doctors might not be able to explain Janell's rapid recovery, but Cy could. He knew that Jesus—the Miracle worker—had once again healed a little girl.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Paul's family was having their annual clean-out-the-basement day. Paul's job was to dust the books that his parents had collected over many years—rows and rows of books. It was a huge job. Paul dusted the top of the books and the part of the shelves that was in front of them. Finally, he was finished. Or was he?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Mrs. Shepherd pulled a few books off the shelf and showed Paul the dusty, yucky mess that was behind them. As they worked together to clean off the rest of the shelves, Mrs. Shepherd commented that the hidden mess on the shelves reminded her of the Pharisees in the Bible, who looked good on the outside, but the evil in whose hearts made them dirty on the inside. "I don't want my heart to look like this!" said Paul as he wiped down the dusty mess. Paul was glad that all he needed to have a clean heart was to ask God to forgive his sins.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "All Clean?"

"Ah, of course—the question of the books," said Mr. Shepherd to his wife with a crooked smile. "What do you think? Are we ready to toss 'em?"

Mrs. Shepherd looked at the rows and rows of books on the shelves. "Not yet," she said, smiling back.

Paul laughed. His mom and dad did this every year when it was time to clean out the basement. The Shepherds' basement was full of books—his mom and dad's books from college, plus the hundreds they had collected over the years. Everyone in the family knew that they would never throw the books away, but every year they asked the question anyway.

"I guess we'll just dust them, as usual. Paul, that will be your job," said Mr. Shepherd.

"Okay, Dad," Paul answered. He began dusting the rows and rows of books. He dusted off the books, and the front of the shelves in front of the books.

"Achoo!" Paul sneezed loudly.

Up, down, and across the rows. Paul dusted shelf after shelf of books. Finally, he looked back across the bookshelves. They looked clean to him.

"I'm done!" Paul said.

Mrs. Shepherd walked over to where Paul was standing proudly. "They look nice, Paul—" Mrs. Shepherd began.

"Thanks!" Paul said. "Can I call Cy now?"

"I wasn't finished," Mrs. Shepherd said. "They look nice on the outside, but let's look at what's behind." Mrs. Shepherd grabbed a bunch of books and pulled them off the shelf. The part of the shelf that was behind the books was a dusty, cobwebby mess!

"I have to clean that part, too?" Paul asked, astonished. "It's gross!"

"I'll help you, Paul," said Mrs. Shepherd. "I'll pull off the books, and you can wipe down the shelves, okay?"

Paul nodded, and scrunching up his nose at the dirt, began wiping off the shelf where his mom had taken the books off. "This reminds me of the Pharisees in the Bible," Mrs. Shepherd said.

Paul sneezed again. "Really?"

"Yes. Jesus said that even though the Pharisees looked good, because they did everything right on the outside, their hearts were a dirty mess!"

Paul thought about that. "Yeah, that makes sense. Just like the bookshelves looked good on the outside after I dusted them, they weren't clean at all."

"That's right. Jesus taught that it doesn't matter how clean and nice you are on the outside; if you have evil in your heart, your heart is dirty," explained Mrs. Shepherd.

"Eew," said Paul, wiping a dead spider off the shelves. "I don't want my heart to look like this!"

Mrs. Shepherd laughed. "All we have to do to have clean hearts is ask God for forgiveness."

"That sounds better than wiping these shelves!" said Paul, sneezing one more time. His mom laughed again, and they continued with their job.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Dee and her family were having breakfast together one Saturday morning. Mrs. Morgan read a newspaper article about Officer Nelson, who lived and worked in their neighborhood. While his family was vacationing at the beach, Officer Nelson's son was struggling in the water. Officer Nelson saved his son, but almost died doing so. Dee thought about it. What would make a person risk his own life to save another person's life?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Mrs. Morgan explained that Officer Nelson risked his own life to save his son's life because he loved his son so much. "I would do the same for you, Dee, if you were hurt," her mom said. Dee thought it was amazing that someone would risk dying for her. Then Mr. Morgan said that someone had risked His life so that Dee could live—and had even died. Dee knew that her dad was talking about Jesus, but suddenly it made much more sense to her. Jesus had died for her because He loved her so much. Together, the Morgans thanked Jesus for loving them enough to die for them, and prayed for Officer Nelson's quick recovery.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "A Love So Great"

"Oh, no!" Mrs. Morgan said over her cup of coffee.

"What?" Dee said, looking up from the comic page. Dee's family was having breakfast together one Saturday morning. Dee was reading the comics while her mom and dad shared the newspaper.

"Do you remember Officer Nelson?" Mrs. Morgan asked Dee.

Dee thought to herself, then answered, "Yes—I remember meeting him when I was little. What's wrong? Is he okay?"

"I just saw Dave a few weeks ago," Mr. Morgan said. "He was driving by one of our construction sites and stopped to chat. He seemed fine. What's wrong?"

"He's been on vacation at the beach with his family. I guess one of his sons—the oldest one—was in the water and almost drowned!" Mrs. Morgan said, scanning the article.

"Oh, no!" said Dee. "Is he okay?"

"Well, yes—Officer Nelson's son is fine. It says here that Officer Nelson swam out to save his son, but that Officer Nelson almost died saving him!" Mrs Morgan exclaimed. "Oh, how terrible."

"That is terrible," said Dee. "I can't imagine that!"

"What, Dee?" Mr. Morgan asked.

"I just wonder what it would be like," Dee said. "If someone was hurt, and I could help, but I knew that I might get hurt, too." Dee sighed. "That would be hard to do!"

"It seems that way," Mrs. Morgan agreed. "But Officer Nelson had a very good reason for risking his own life to save his son's."

"What?" Dee wondered.

"Love," said Mrs. Morgan. "Officer Nelson risked his own life because he loves his son so much. I would do the same for you, Dee, if you were hurt. And I would risk my life for your dad, too."

"Wow," Dee said. "That's amazing, that someone would risk dying for me."

"Actually, someone *did* risk His life for you, Dee, so that you could live," Mr. Morgan said quietly. "He risked His life, and He died, so that you could live."

Dee thought to herself. "Jesus died for me," she said softly. "He loved me that much."

"And he still does, Dee," Mrs. Morgan said, hugging her. "It says at the bottom of the article that Officer Nelson is expected to be okay. Let's pray for his family, and then, Dee, we can go pick out some flowers to have delivered to the hospital, okay?"

"Okay," Dee answered. Together her family thanked Jesus for loving them enough to die for them, and prayed for Officer Nelson's quick recovery.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Paul had brought his tent to Cy's house, and they were having a sleepover in Cy's backyard. As it grew dark outside, they told jokes, played a game, and ate s'mores that Mrs. Yung made for them. Finally, it was time to go to sleep. As the crickets sang in the yard, Paul told Cy about how his brothers had sneaked out of the yard once when they were camping in the backyard. Reluctantly, Cy followed Paul in the bright moonlight toward the gate. Sneaking out would be a brave thing to do—wouldn't it?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

As they reached the gate, they both looked up at the bright moon, when they suddenly saw a huge shooting star. Seeing the star reminded Paul and Cy of God and how great He is. Cy knew that sneaking out wouldn't be courageous, because it wasn't the wise thing to do. They would be wise to stay where they were supposed to. Together they returned to the tent, and slept soundly until morning.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "The Shooting Star"

"Remember when we camped out with my brothers that one time?" Paul asked Cy, shaking out his sleeping bag inside the tent.

"Yeah—after we turned off the flashlights, they kept making weird animal noises!" Cy said. "They were funny."

"I think they were trying to scare us," said Paul, laughing. "But Mike's monkey sound isn't very scary at all."

Paul had brought his tent to Cy's house, and they were having a sleepover in the backyard. The sun had just set, and it was getting dark. Cy clicked on the lantern that was in the middle of the tent, and it filled with light. They told jokes and played a game while they waited until it was time to go to sleep. Finally, shortly after Mrs. Yung had brought them s'mores as a late snack, they turned off the lantern.

Cy laid still and listened to the crickets in the yard. Soon he heard Paul's voice. "One time my brothers sneaked out of the yard when they were sleeping in the tent at our house," Paul said.

"They did?" Cy asked. "How do you know? Did they get caught?"

"No, but they told me," Paul answered.

"Wow. What did they do?" wondered Cy.

"They didn't tell me that," said Paul. "Maybe we should find out for ourselves!"

Cy thought to himself. He wasn't sure it was such a good idea. "What will we do?"

"I don't know," Paul admitted. "But it sounds fun—kind of brave! Let's go!"

Paul clambered out of his sleeping bag and into the yard. It was dark—the only light was from the moon, which was very bright. Cy and Paul began walking towards the gate that led to the front yard.

"Look at how bright the moon is!" Paul exclaimed. Cy looked up.

Suddenly, both boys saw a huge shooting star that flashed right past the moon. "Wow!" Cy said. "That was awesome!"

"I've never seen a shooting star before!" said Paul.

"Wait a minute, Paul," said Cy. "I don't think we should go out of the yard."

Paul stopped, too. "I think you're right, Cy. For some reason, that star reminds me of God and how great He is. I don't think He would want us to sneak out."

Cy nodded. "Yeah. Plus, God wants us to be brave, but He also wants us to be wise. And we're safer in the yard—being daring is not the same as being courageous."

Together, Cy and Paul walked back to the tent and climbed inside their sleeping bags. They both fell asleep almost immediately. The next morning, they woke up happy, knowing that they had obeyed God by staying in the yard, and that He had demonstrated His greatness to them in the shooting star.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Mrs. Anita was starting three lessons on greatness in Dee, Cy, and Paul's Sunday school class. She asked them who they considered great. The kids thought that people like the mayor, the president, and different actors and singers were great.

Rather than just learning about greatness, Mrs. Anita explained that they would spend the next few weeks practicing greatness. The first week, they helped in the nursery, where Dee got thrown up on and Cy helped change yucky diapers. The second week, they picked up trash. And the third week, they scrubbed smelly garbage cans. What could *any* of this have to do with being great?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

After the kids had finished scrubbing garbage cans, they returned to their classroom. Mrs. Anita explained that the world around us sees greatness as being rich, successful, or beautiful. But in God's eyes, greatness is being humble and caring for others—even babies who throw up on you. This time when she asked them who was great, the class responded with great people from the Bible, as well as their parents, teachers, and people who helped others. Mrs. Anita added that *they* were great, too.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Great in Whose Eyes?"

"Today we're starting our lessons on greatness," said Mrs. Anita at the beginning of Sunday school class. She smiled. "Who can think of some people who are great?"

The class raised their hands. The kids suggested the mayor, the president, and a few famous singers and actors from television.

"Well, rather than just talking about being great," Mrs. Anita said, "For the next few weeks I've arranged for us to *practice* greatness. Follow me!"

Mrs. Anita led them down the hall and stopped in front of the nursery.

"What are we doing here?" Paul wondered aloud, listening to crying and gurgling babies.

"This is where we're going to practice being great today," said Mrs. Anita. "We're going to help with the babies."

For the next hour, Dee, Cy, Paul, and the kids in their class made silly faces at the babies and rocked the ones who were crying. The baby Dee was holding threw up on her. And since Cy had a little sister and knew how, he had to help change diapers.

"Yuck!" said Cy after class was over. I'm glad Becky doesn't wear diapers anymore!"

The next Sunday, Mrs. Anita led her class outside. "Maybe we're going to play a game against another class," said Dee hopefully. "Whoever wins is the greatest!" But when they got outside, nobody was there. "We're going to pick up the trash along the roads around the church!" said Mrs. Anita, handing out gloves and bags.

"*This* makes us great?" wondered Paul to Dee and Cy.

"Yeah—it's hard to imagine the mayor or the president doing this!" Cy agreed.

The last week was the messiest job of all. Mrs. Anita had volunteered her class to scrub all of the garbage cans from the church. When they were finished, the kids returned to the classroom, still smelling a little like garbage.

"So, what did everyone learn about greatness?" Mrs. Anita asked the class.

"I don't understand what *any* of those jobs had to do with being great," Cy answered honestly.

Mrs. Anita nodded. "That's because there are two different ways of seeing greatness," she explained. "The world around us sees greatness as being rich, successful, or beautiful. But that's not the way God sees greatness at all. Jesus tells us that in God's eyes, greatness is being humble—and it takes a lot of humility to pick up trash and clean garbage cans. Greatness is also caring for others—even little babies who throw up on you."

Dee laughed.

"So now, can anyone think of some people who God would consider great?" Mrs. Anita asked.

The class thought of many examples from the Bible. They also thought of their parents, teachers, and people whose job it was to help others.

"You forgot someone very important—yourselves!" Mrs. Anita pointed out. "You're all great!"

The class laughed, and Mrs. Anita led them in prayer, asking God to help them find more ways to practice greatness.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.

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

Dee-Cy-Paul "Bookends"

Introduction *(5 minutes)*
Use this "hook" to introduce the lesson.

Dee and Chip were visiting Dee's grandmother, who Dee called Oma. They were planning to plant a new flower bed in Oma's front yard. After they had selected flowers at the local nursery and cleared the bed of any weeds, they set to work. Dee dug a hole big enough for Oma to put her fist into. Then Oma told Dee to put some water in the hole. Dee poured a little bit of water in and it soaked into the ground immediately. "Fill it all the way to the top, Dee," Oma instructed. All the way to the top? Wouldn't that be too much?

Conclusion *(5 minutes)*
If you used the introduction to begin your lesson, use this to conclude.

Oma explained that when flowers first go into the ground, they need a lot of water to live. "Is that like 'living water?'" Dee wondered? Oma nodded, and explained that just like we give plants lots of water when we plant them, God gives us the Holy Spirit—His Living Water—to help us live. And just like Dee filled the hole to overflowing, so God fills us up all the way.

Dee-Cy-Paul Story "Water of Life"

"Here, Chip," Dee's grandma told Dee's dog. "Go put this weed in the pile over there."

Chip made a face, then took the weed out of Oma's hand and deposited it in the large pile of weeds they had made on the driveway.

"I think that's the last one, Dee," Oma said, looking at her granddaughter. "I think we're ready to plant our flower bed now."

Dee and Chip were staying with Oma for the weekend. Dee and Oma had spent the morning at the local nursery, picking out flowers to plant in Oma's flower bed in the front yard. Now they had just finished clearing all the weeds out of the flower bed.

"Okay, Dee, I need a hole big enough for me to put my fist in, okay?" said Oma. Dee nodded and began digging. Chip started digging, too.

"No, Chip!" Dee said. "We don't need your help digging, buddy."

Chip lay down in the grass, rolled onto his back, and closed his eyes. He seemed perfectly happy to just take a nap in the sunshine, anyway.

"Okay, Oma, the hole is ready." Dee said to her grandma.

"Okay, Dee, now, put water in it," instructed Oma.

Dee poured a little water from the pitcher she had prepared into the hole. It soaked into the ground immediately. "Okay!" said Dee.

"Lots of water, Dee," Oma clarified. "Fill it all the way to the top."

"All the way to the top?" Dee asked. "Really?"

"Oh, yes," Oma said. "When flowers first go into the ground, they are very, very thirsty. The water helps them to stay alive."

"Wait a minute," said Dee. "Is that like 'living water?'"

Oma nodded. "Living Water is God's Holy Spirit. When these plants go into the ground, we give them water to help them live. When we accept Jesus as our savior, God gives us the Holy Spirit—His Living Water—to help us live."

"Does He fill us up like I filled up this hole?" Dee wondered.

Oma laughed. "Absolutely—to overflowing, Dee," she said, placing a little purple flower in the hole then filling it in with dirt. "A little more water for this one now," she said.

"Living water?" Dee asked, smiling.

"Sure!" Oma answered, giving Dee a hug.

This material © DiscipleLand. Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use.