INTRODUCTION

Puppets can be a great addition to a children's ministry program. Through the use of puppets Bible truths can be reinforced and the children can gain a better understanding of how to apply these Bible truths to their own lives.

Two puppets are included in this Children's Church Kit. The puppet personalities are listed on GP•5 of this book. After you identify your puppets and understand their personalities, it can help as you or the Park Patrol members present the puppet skits. (If you would like to purchase additional puppets to use in your program, call 1-800-323-7543 or visit our web site at www.cookministries.com.)

There is one puppet skit provided to correlate with each week’s Bible story. For the puppet skit presentation, we suggest that you combine the Elementary and Preschool children. If you have an exceptionally large Children’s Church and would like to keep the Elementary and Preschoolers separated for the entire program, you might want to consider having more than one puppet theater and purchasing additional puppets.

You will want to train the Park Patrol members by using the Park Patrol Training Book. This training will help them confidently use the puppets and present the skits.

Have fun as you use these puppets and skits. Remember that this is a ministry that can have a great impact on your students!
PERSONALITIES

PONDER the Frog
Ponder the frog is the leader that everyone looks up to in Noah’s Park. He watched Noah and Noah’s relationship with God and now tries to help the other animals understand how God can help them in their everyday lives. Favorite quote: “I remember the ark!”

HONK the Camel
Honk the purple camel hates dirt; he loves to be clean. Honk is proud of his looks, from his clean and shiny fur to the proud gleam in his eye. Favorite quote: “I’m one good-looking camel.”

DREAMER the Rhinoceros
Dreamer the blue rhinoceros is a very sweet and very sleepy animal. Dreamer loves to sleep, loves to dream, and loves to dream about sleeping. Favorite quote: “When I dream, I can do anything!”

STRETCH the Giraffe
Stretch the giraffe is the big sister to all the animals in Noah’s Park. She is kind, generous, and very naïve. Favorite quote: “I am curious about everything!”
PUPPET THEATRES

Set up your puppet theater in a place apart from the Bible story area or the snacks, games, and crafts areas. That way the Park Patrol members can be setting up and be prepared to perform the day's puppet skit just as soon as you move the children to the puppet skit location. It will also make it obvious to the children that this is a special part of the program.

The following suggestions are given for some simple puppet theaters. Decide on the type of puppet theater by considering the space you have available and the cost of preparation. Be sure to have the puppet theater constructed before working with the Park Patrol for training. They will need to actually use the puppet theater, puppets, and skits as they practice to become proficient for this part of your program.
GP1: Spinfitzle

Cast: Noah’s Park Puppet, adult leader

Puppet hurries onstage to the leader.

NP Puppet: Is that what I think it is? (Points back offstage.)

Leader: That depends. What are you talking about, and what do you think something is?

NP Puppet: I think that purple, orange, and green food backstage is Spinfitzle.

Leader: You’d be right. It’s grape-flavored custard with orange marmalade and a pickle.

NP Puppet: I knew it! I knew it! Spinfitzle is my favorite food. Do I get to eat it?

Leader: You could . . .

NP Puppet: Great! This is a great day!

Leader: But I wouldn’t if I were you.

NP Puppet: Why not?

Leader: Because you get a tummy ache every time you eat Spinfitzle.

NP Puppet: Do not.

Leader: Do too.

NP Puppet: Do not. You just don’t want me to eat my favorite food in the whole world.
LEADER: I don’t care if you eat it, but if you eat it, you’ll get a tummy ache.

NP PUPPET: I will not. And . . . I can prove it. I saw that Spinfitzle, and I already ate it. (Speaks to the kids.) Do you want any, kids? (Listens to responses and nods.)

LEADER: Well, (Name of puppet.), I guess I was . . . (Puppet moans and holds stomach.) I was . . . (Puppet moans.) What’s wrong?

NP PUPPET: My tummy hurts. (Moans.) How did you know I’d get a tummy ache?

LEADER: Oh, (Name of puppet.), sit down. Do you know how Jesus knows ALL about you? Well, sometimes adults know a lot about you too. You’re important to me.

NP PUPPET: I wish I had listened to you. I feel like I’m going to throw . . . (Runs off stage.)