FROM DEATH TO LIFE
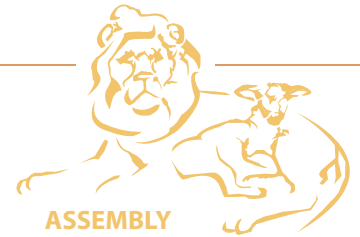## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

DEAD IS DEAD

Supplies

a stuffed toy animal

Set up the animal where everyone can see it. Explain to the class that you are going to watch it to see if it can jump, swim, run, etc. You could even prod it with a pencil. Have another teacher or helper indicate sarcastically that it is not going to move because it is not alive! Play dumb and ask why that should matter. Tell the other teacher that you know quite well that it is not alive but that it shouldn't matter.

Play out this comical scene a little bit then turn to the class and ask them who they think is correct and why. After you finish the exercise, connect the illustration to the passage of Scripture and help the children understand that while we were dead in our sin we could not walk toward God. Only after God makes us alive in Christ can we move toward God.

FROM DEATH TO LIFE
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 2:1-10
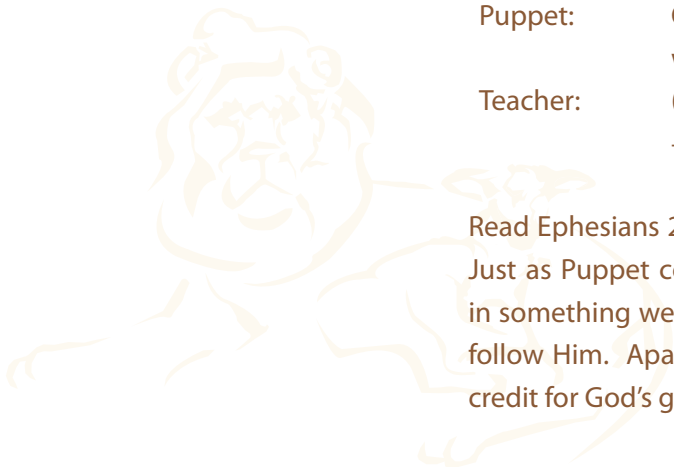
NOT OF WORKS

Supplies

• a plate

• Oreo™ cookies (Have enough for all the class to get a cookie after the illustration.)

The object of this puppet show is to show how absurd it is to take credit for something we are given. If it is a gift, we cannot take credit for it.

Puppet:	(Pointing to a plate of cookies) I am going to be a great chef.
Teacher:	A great chef? Why, Puppet, I didn't know you knew how to cook.
Puppet:	Oh, I do a lot of things you don't know.
Teacher:	What do you most like to cook?
Puppet:	Cookies of course!
Teacher:	What kind of cookies do you like to cook?
Puppet:	This kind (pointing to a plate of cookies).
Teacher:	Why they look just like the Oreo™ cookies you buy in the store.
Puppet:	Go ahead and try one.
Teacher:	Okay. (The teacher takes a bite then looks at the cookie and sees the Oreo™ name and design).
Puppet:	What do you think? Do you like it? I am thinking about entering them in a cookie baking contest.
Teacher:	Yes, it is very good, but you can't enter these cookies in a baking contest.
Puppet:	And why not?
Teacher:	You didn't bake them.
Puppet:	So what, they taste good don't they?
Teacher:	You can't take credit for something you didn't do.
Puppet:	I can't?
Teacher:	No, you can't. If you didn't do the work you can't say you did.
Puppet:	You mean I can't be a cookie chef?
Teacher:	Not if you are going to use somebody else's cookies.
Puppet:	Oh well, (as he leaves) maybe I will be a fashion designer. I'm wearing some pretty cool clothes!
Teacher:	(calling down to the puppet) You didn't make those clothes – so you will have the same problem!

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Help the children understand the similarities to the skit. Just as Puppet could not boast in something he did not do, we cannot boast in something we did not do. It is God who changes our hearts and helps us to follow Him. Apart from God, none of us would follow Jesus. So we can't take credit for God's grace in our lives. We were dead. It is God who made us alive!

FROM DEATH TO LIFE
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Where Is the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul refers back to the Gospel when he tells us in Ephesians 2:5 that God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Jesus died on the cross for sinners – His enemies.

We were objects of God's wrath, but Jesus took the wrath of the Father in order that we, who deserved death, might be made alive in Christ! It is the work of Christ which saves us. That removes the boasting. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves perfect. We can only accept the perfect work of Jesus on the cross. As a result, there is no boasting. Who can boast in a gift which he has done nothing in and of himself to receive?