

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

A PUPPET PLAY

This can be done as a children's address, as part of the sermon, or anywhere in a service. It can also be done as a skit.

Characters: Three puppets – Sarah, Jordan and Danielle
One adult

SARAH: *(Walks on talking to the adult)* I've got a new bag and a new lunch box.

ADULT: You're excited about going off to school for the first time today.

SARAH: I sure am. I've got a new school uniform and everything.

ADULT: What about you Jordan? You've got a new uniform too but you look sad.

JORDAN: I don't want to go to school because my big brother told me that the teacher hits you with a stick called a cane and the big kids pick on you.

ADULT: And what about you Danielle? You look a little bit worried. Don't you want to go to school?

DANIELLE: Maybe. I want to go but I can't read and my sister has to do all this reading for school. What if the teacher gets angry with me because I can't read and what if the other kids think I'm stupid?

ADULT: *(Talking to the audience)* Well children what do you think? Is the teacher going to hit Jordan with a cane? Is the teacher going to get angry with Danielle because she can't read yet? *(Invite the children to make comments about what they think might happen at school)*

(Addressing both the puppets and the audience) Let me tell you what I think will happen when you go to school. I think it doesn't matter if you can't read yet because most of the children in your room at school won't be able to read either. That is one of the jobs of the teacher, to teach all the children in the room to read. I think that if you make a mistake the teacher will help you to get it right. Jordan, they certainly won't hit you with a cane. That never happens at school.

(To the audience) What about other children being mean to you?

Do you think that might happen sometimes? *(Wait for responses from the children)*

(Talking to Jordan) The other children might be a bit mean sometimes but that is why there is always a teacher around to help you out if something goes wrong. School is a place for you to learn new things and there will be a whole lot of new people for you to make friends with. And another thing. *(Turning to the audience)* I know that Sarah, Jordan and Danielle all have a very special friend who will always be with them and that they can talk to any time they like. Does anyone know who that friend is? That friend is Jesus.

(Turning back to the puppets) I am going to pray for you three and for all the other children who are starting school. Dear Jesus, thank you that we can go to school and learn new things and make new friends. Thank you too that you are always with us to help us if things get a bit hard. Please help us to remember that you are with us all the time. Amen. Now come on you three. I'll walk to school with you. If we don't get a wriggle on we'll be late.