

The Doll That Grew

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Betsy was a little girl who lived in our country many years ago. Like other little girls, she wanted a doll of her very own to play with. Her family didn't have much money and there were no stores for miles around, so Betsy's mother made a rag doll and stuffed it with kernels of corn. ① Betsy called her doll Annabelle and loved the doll very much. She took her for walks, talked to her, and pretended she was her real friend.

Betsy's brother, John, wanted something to play with, too. ② Since there wasn't much money, he decided he'd make himself a boat. It took him a long time to carve it out of wood. When it was finished, he was very proud of it and played with it every day. One morning Betsy came into the kitchen. ③ She didn't see John's boat on the table and accidently knocked it onto the floor and broke it. "Betsy," he shouted. "What did you do that for?"

Betsy was frightened to see her brother so angry and all of a sudden she heard herself saying, "Well, I didn't mean to, but anyway, I don't even care! So there!" Why, she asked herself, did she say a thing like that? John felt very badly and so did Betsy, but she just turned and walked away. She was so upset that she forgot to take her doll with her.

John looked at his sister's doll. He was very angry. "I'm going to get even with her, if it's the last thing I do. If I can't have my boat to play with, she's not going to have her doll either!" ④ He had a plan. John went outside, got his father's shovel and walked way down in back of the house till he came to a place where the ground was nice and soft, but where nothing had been planted yet. ⑤ Then he dug a hole, put the doll in it and covered it all over with dirt. "There," he thought. "Now she'll be sorry."

It wasn't long before Betsy came back into the kitchen to get her doll, but it was nowhere in sight. "Have you seen my doll?" she asked Mother. No, Mother hadn't seen it. "Have you seen my doll?" she asked her father. No, he hadn't seen it either. "Have you seen my doll?" she asked John. Oh no, of course John hadn't seen it either. Poor Betsy. She cried and cried. Something was wrong with John, too. He thought he'd be real happy to get even with his sister, but it wasn't like he thought it would be. ⑥ Deep down inside he was miserable. Now there were two unhappy children in that home.

Several days later Mother went down to the garden. ⑦ Something in the corner of the garden caught her eye and she stared in surprise. Coming up out of the ground were some tiny green shoots that looked just like corn growing. She could see clearly

that the outline was in the shape of a doll. “How strange,” she thought. Then she realized what had happened. ⑧ It reminded her of a verse in God’s Word that said, “Be sure your sin will find you out.” (Numbers 32:23)

⑨ Mother explained to Betsy and John how that verse isn’t just for those who have robbed a bank or killed someone. The Bible says that “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) You see, God knew that we all would do things that are wrong. Sometimes we think that we can be good enough to fool our parents and our friends, but we can never fool God. He knows what is in our hearts. Even when John thought he had his family fooled, he was miserable inside. He knew he was guilty. How about you? Surely you know in your heart that you have done wrong things. Won’t you admit it to God right now? Ask Him to forgive you. God’s own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ will come into your heart, forgive you for your sins and help you to do what is right. It was Jesus Who was sent from God to take the punishment for your sin and mine. Now He can offer you the forgiveness that He bought by dying in your place. Then He rose from the dead to show that sin had no power over Him. He defeated sin to offer us eternal life in heaven with Him. Won’t you accept Him as your Saviour. Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” ■

Directions:

1. Stack the cards in order, starting with the cover. The audience always sees the front card and the teacher reads from the back card.
2. When the text on the back card has been read, move the front card to the back, read the text on the back card - and so on through the story.

Option 1 - You may cut along the doll outlines to make uniquely shaped flash cards.

Option 2 - You may leave the cards uncut, but punch the cards at the top left and top right corners. Install metal rings or colored string through the holes to bind the cards at the top. Then use the cards like you would a flip chart.

Option 3 - To use as flash cards, just leave uncut and unpunched.



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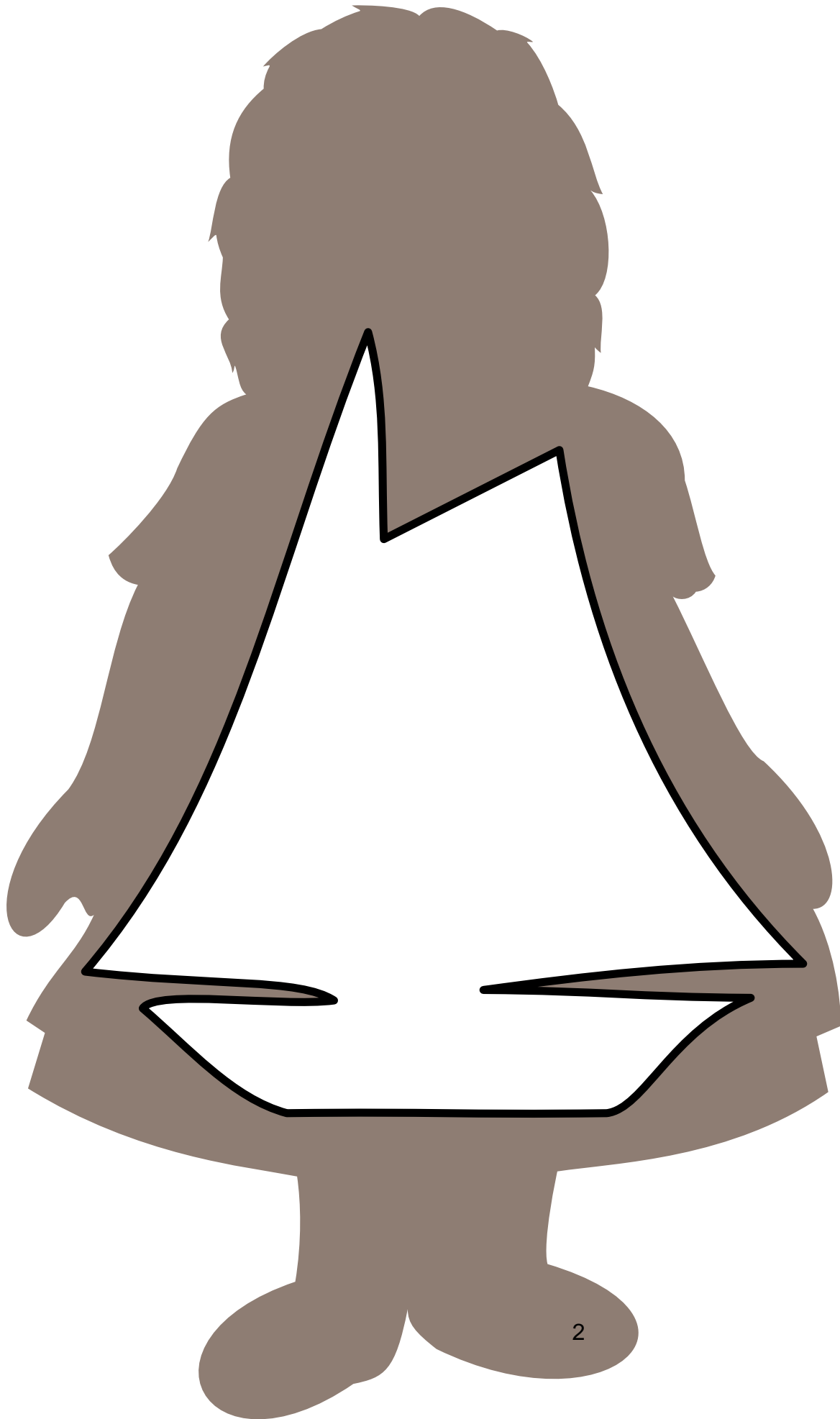
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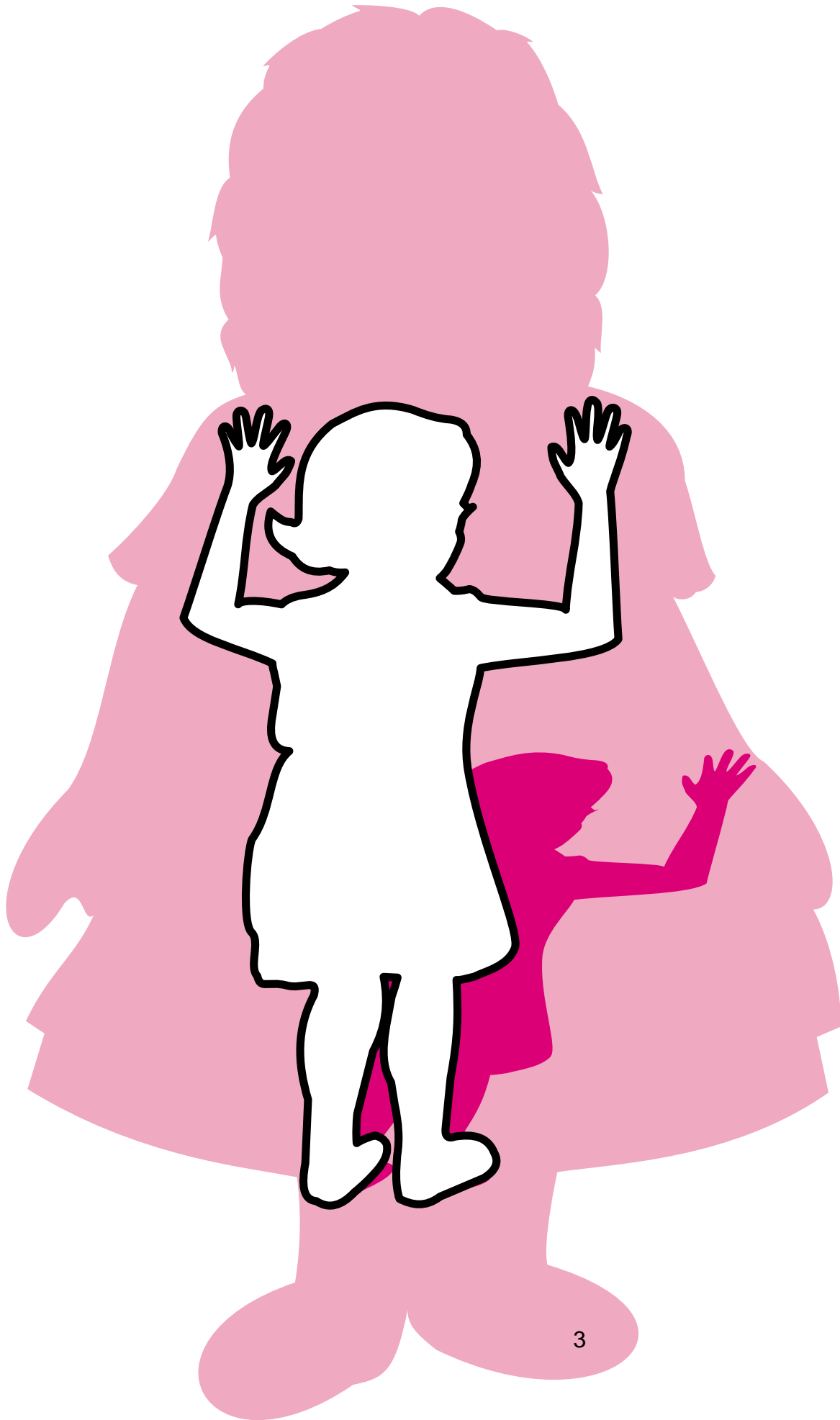
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and help you to do what is right. It was Jesus Who was sent from
God to take the punishment for your sin and mine. Now He can offer
you the forgiveness that He bought by dying in your place. Then He rose
from the dead to show that sin had no power over Him. He defeated sin to
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