

A script from



## "A Cheerful Giver"

by  
Tom Smith

- What** Willie is not quite convinced that he needs to tithe. He's worked very hard for his allowance and he has his eye on a new baseball glove. Tithing will only postpone the purchase of it. What's a fella to do?  
**Themes:** Giving, Tithing, Stewardship, Blessings, Grateful
- Who** Willie  
Betsy
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** One banana peel
- Why** 2 Corinthians 9:7, Psalm 24:1
- How** \*See the end of this script for the "how".
- Time** Approximately 7 minutes

Scene opens with **Willie** at center stage holding a banana peel in his hand.

**Willie:** Yum yum. I just loooooove bananas. I could eat bananas all day long.

**Betsy:** (*approaches*) Hi Willie.

**Willie:** Oh, Hi Betsy. Are ya ready to go to Sunday school?

**Betsy:** (*excited*) Sure am. I've really been enjoying our lessons this month.

**Willie:** Yeah...it's been a fun class.

**Betsy:** (*noticing the banana peel*) I see you're having a late breakfast.

**Willie:** Yep, just finished. I loooooove bananas.

**Betsy:** (*nodding*) Yeah, me too.

**Willie:** Well, (*glancing at the banana peel*) guess I don't need *this* anymore (*tosses banana peel off a distance*).

**Betsy:** (*upset*) Hey...what are you doing?

**Willie:** (*confused*) What?

**Betsy:** You can't throw your banana peel on the ground.

**Willie:** Why not?

**Betsy:** 'Cause you're littering.

**Willie:** So?

**Betsy:** It's not nice to be a litterbug Willie. And besides, someone might come along and step on your banana peel and trip and get hurt or something.

**Willie:** Oh, that only happens in cartoons.

**Betsy:** No it doesn't. (*Bossy*) Now you go pick up that banana peel and dispose of it properly.

**Willie:** (*reluctantly*) Oh, okay. (*Willie walks in the direction he tossed the banana peel calling out as if calling for a pet dog*) Now where is that banana peel? Here banana peel. Here banana peel. Where are you banana peel? (*Returns to Betsy*) I can't find it.

**Betsy:** Well it has to be here somewhere.

**Willie:** (*frustrated*) I know, I know, but I don't see it anywhere. The grass is too tall. (*Pause*) Tell ya what I'll do.

**Betsy:** What?

**Willie:** After Sunday school class I'll come back and look for the banana peel. Then I'll throw it away, okay?

**Betsy:** Promise?

**Willie:** Yeah, yeah I promise. Now, are you ready to go to class?

**Betsy:** Almost. I need to run back home for a minute first.

**Willie:** (*confused*) Run back home? How come ya gotta run back home?

**Betsy:** My allowance. I forgot to bring it with me and I want to put some of it in the offering plate this morning.

**Willie:** How come?

**Betsy:** Well, 'cause I want to, that's all.

**Willie:** Not me. I've been saving up for a new baseball glove. I need all the money I can get.

**Betsy:** Shame on you Willie. Don't you know that you're supposed give back to God a portion of what He's given you?

**Willie:** (*confused*) But, if God gives me something why would He want some of it back?

**Betsy:** Well, actually, He does that for us.

**Willie:** Huh?

**Betsy:** You see, when we give back to God, it helps to remind us that what we have comes from Him in the first place. Get it?

**Willie:** (*uncertain*) Yeah...I guess so.

**Betsy:** Truth is, everything we have belongs to God. The Bible says, "The earth and the fullness therein is His." He just sorta lets us borrow it for a while.

**Willie:** So then, when we give back to God, that's tithing. Right?

**Betsy:** Yep. Sure is. You and I are a part of God's church....and tithing is a part of what makes us His church. Much like praying and worshiping are. It's important to God that we take care of the needs of His church. Giving back to God helps us to do that.

**Willie:** Hmmmm.

**Betsy:** Just think of all the wonderful things that can be accomplished when we all give to the Lord's work.

**Willie:** What kind of things?

**Betsy:** Oh, you know. Hungry people can be fed. Bibles can be bought and given away. Sometimes God even uses our money to send missionaries to other countries so they can tell *those* people about Jesus.

**Willie:** (*perks up*) Now that's cool.

**Betsy:** Yes, it is. (*Sigh*) We are so blessed Willie. Ya know, God never stops giving to us. In fact, He's giving us something right now.

**Willie:** (*surprised*) Right now! Like what?

**Betsy:** Oh, you know. Little insignificant things like...the air we breath...

**Willie:** (*thinking*) Hmmmm.

**Betsy:** (*continues*) ...or how about the sun in the sky so we can see...and be warm.

**Willie:** (*nodding in agreement*) Yeah, I get your point.

**Betsy:** And those are just a few of the reasons why we should want to give back to God. Are you convinced yet?

**Willie:** (*reluctantly*) Well, yeah, I guess so. I sure have been blessed alright. So, uh...how much of my allowance do I have to give.

**Betsy:** You don't have to give anything. Just follow your heart. The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that, "each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

**Willie:** You're right Betsy. God has given me so much. In my heart I know that giving some back to Him is the right thing to do. I want to use part of

my allowance to help other people know about Jesus, too. That's a lot more important than some dumb o' baseball glove.

**Betsy:** (*excited*) Oh, that's wonderful Willie. I'm so proud of you.

**Willie:** (*bashfully*) Thanks. (*Perks up*) I'm gonna run home right now and get my allowance so I can give a tithe too.

**Betsy:** (*excited*) Great! You run on to your home and I'll run to mine... and we can meet back here in five minutes.

**Willie:** Sounds good. I'll race ya. (Shouts quickly as he exits) 1-2-3 GO!

**Betsy:** (*surprised*) Wait...I'm not ready...

*Willie is suddenly seen flying upward before dropping from view.*

**Willie:** (*heard but not seen*) Ouch!

**Betsy:** (*concerned and glancing down toward Willie*) Willie? Are you okay? What happened?

**Willie:** (*unseen and in agony*) Ohhhhh. I think I found... (*slowly pops up into view with his banana peel spread out on top of his head*) my banana peel.

**Betsy:** (*laughing*) Oh, Willie.

*Willie and Betsy both laugh.*

*The end.*

*"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1.*

### Tips for performing with puppets:

Puppets are wonderful tools for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in a fun, lighthearted way. What great joy it brings to hear the laughter of children when your performance goes well. I would like to take just a moment to focus on a few areas that I believe are key in order for that to happen.

The first has to do with the stage (curtain) itself. PREPARE YOUR WORK AREA. How you feel *behind* the curtain can make a big difference in how your presentation is seen in *front* of it. You will want a large enough work area behind the curtain to allow three or four puppeteers to maneuver comfortably behind it. A short stool or a rolled-up blanket can provide relief from the discomfort to your knees and back. Proper lighting is a must. This will help prevent you from losing your place while reading from the script. You may want to attach several copies of the script to the back of the curtain and have each puppeteer highlight their individual parts.

Next, because puppets are mostly expressionless, you will need to give them their spirit and vigor. BE HIGHLY EXPRESSIVE AND ANIMATED. Wave those arms, raise your voice and include lots of *wows, boings, zonks and thuds!* Children love that.

The presentation is most important. It is so easy for a good skit to suddenly go bad due to poor delivery. Reading over a script two or three times before performing it can make a world of difference. COMMIT TO MEMORY AS MUCH OF THE SCRIPT AS POSSIBLE. This will free you up to spend more time concentrating on the handling of your puppet...adding slap-stick humor, etc. ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOUR PUPPET IS DOING. Is he positioned too high up...or down too low. Is he looking at who he's speaking to. Are his lips in sync with your words?

And finally...don't forget the 'risk' factor. By this, I mean to be bold. Take risks. Dare to be differently. So what if your puppet (or your audience) gets a little wet. Who cares if your puppet ends up with whipped cream (shaving cream) on its face or with a little Play-Doh in its hair? It all comes out in the wash. DO THE UNEXPECTED. Your children will love it. If they are still talking about your puppet skit days, or even weeks, after it's over you're probably doing something right. In short, HAVE FUN!

1. Prepare your work area
2. Be expressive
3. Commit to memory much of the script and know what your puppet is doing
4. Do the unexpected
5. Have fun.