

A script from



## **“A Joyful Heart”**

A Puppet Script

by

Tom Smith

**What** Betsy and Susie give Willie a joyful heart transplant.

**Themes:** Puppets, Joy, Broken Spirit

**Who** Betsy  
Susie  
Willie  
Ralphie (dog)

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** Stethoscope  
Gauze  
Band-Aid  
Super Glue  
Cut-out paper heart with a smiley face

\*You can use cardboard cutouts of all the props

**Why** Proverbs 17:22

**How** \*See the end of this script

**Time** Approximately 6 minutes

Scene opens with **Susie** and **Betsy** chatting with each other.

**Betsy:** (*Giggling*) Oh Susie, I'm so glad your mom let you spend the night. I had such a good time.

**Susie:** (*Cheerful*) Yeah, *me* too. You really *are* my best friend, and I *never* realized how *funny* you could be.

**Betsy:** (*Giggling*) *Me* either. I guess I just get a little *silly* when I don't get much sleep.

**Susie:** (*Scolding in fun*) Well, you might have gotten *more* sleep if you hadn't stayed *up* half the night talking about *boys*.

**Betsy:** Oh, I didn't *just* talk about boys.

**Susie:** Oh yeah? What *else* did you talk about?

**Betsy:** (*Thinking*) Hmmmm. *Food*. I talked about food. *Spaghetti...* remember?

**Susie:** Yeah, *I* remember. Spaghetti. Chef *Boy-ar-dee*.

Both **Susie** and **Betsy** laugh.

**Betsy:** Hey, Susie. We've still got about an hour before your mom picks you up. Would you like to do something?

**Susie:** Sure. We could have a tea party, or maybe play house.

**Betsy:** (*Shaking her head*) Nah. (*Excited*) Hey! I know. Why don't we play *hospital*. I can be the *nurse*.

**Susie:** (*Excited*) Okay. And *I'll* be the doctor. And we can pretend that my doll is sick and we'll try to make her all well.

**Betsy:** (*A little disappointed*) Yeah, okay. But I wish we had a *real* patient.

**Susie:** (*Nods in agreement*) Yes. That *would* be fun.

**Ralphie:** (*Suddenly **Ralphie** enters*) Art! Arf!

**Betsy:** (*Excited*) Hey, we can operate on Ralphie.

**Ralphie:** (*Begins yelping as he turns and exits quickly as though he understood*) Arf! Arf! Arf!

**Betsy:** (*Watching **Ralphie** exit*) And then again, maybe *not*. I sure wish we had a real patient.

**Willie:** (***Willie** knocks on the door shouting*) Hello! Anybody home?

**S&B:** (*Excited and shouting in unison*) Willie!

**Susie:** (*Shouts*) Come on in Willie!

**Willie enters.**

**Betsy:** Willie. We're sure *glad* to see you.

**Willie:** (*Confused*) You are?

**Susie:** Yes. We *really* need you to *help* us with something.

**Betsy:** (*Pleading*) Yeah. Can ya? Huh? Please. Can ya?

**Willie:** Well, uh...I don't know. What do you want me to *do*?

**Susie:** Well, Betsy and I are playing hospital, and we want you to be our patient.

**Betsy:** (*Excited*) Yeah. We want to *operate* on you.

**Willie:** (*Panic*) Uh... I think I hear my *mom* calling. Gotta go. (***Willie** begins to exit as **Susie** and **Betsy** try to convince him to stay.*)

**S&B:** (*Pleading*) Wait. Stop! Don't go, Willie. *Please*. It's *only* pretend. We're not *really* going to operate.

**Willie:** (*Concerned*) Are you sure?

**Susie:** Yeah, we're sure. We're just playing.

**Willie:** (*Hesitates*) Well, I don't know. I was planning on practicing my song for my church solo this week.

**Susie:** (*Thinking*) Hmmmm. Well, how about if I promise to let you sing your song to us just as soon as we finish operating on you.

**Willie:** (*Amazed*) You'll let me sing to you? Nobody's ever done *that* before.

**Betsy:** (*Panic as she whispers loudly to **Susie***) Hey, do you know what you're *doing*? If he sings to us, it's going to be us who'll need a doctor.

**Susie:** *(Whispering to Betsy)* Trust me. I know what I'm doing.

**Willie:** Okay, Doc, whenever you're ready. What do you need me to do?

**Susie:** Well, *first* we'll need to examine your eyes. *(Susie puts her face close to Willie's face)* Let's see. Hmmmm. Yep. There are *two* of them, all right.

**Willie:** Of *course* there's two of 'em. How many did you expect there to...

**Susie:** *(Interrupting)* Shhhhhh. Don't interrupt the doctor. Now, open your mouth and say Oooooooooo.

**Willie:** You're not supposed to say 'Oooooooooo,' you're supposed to say 'Ahhhhhhh'.

**Susie:** Ahhhhhh?

**Willie:** Yes, Ahhhhhh.

**Susie:** *(Understanding)* Ohhhhhh.

**Willie:** Not ohhhhhh...ahhhhhh.

**Susie:** *(Looking at the audience)* I can tell this *isn't* going to be easy. *(Looking at Willie)* Now, open wide. *(Susie practically sticks her face down Willie's throat)* Oh my! This doesn't look good. *(Looks at Willie and sounding concerned)* This doesn't look good, at all.

**Willie:** *(A little concerned)* What? *What* doesn't look good doc?

**Susie:** Oh, never mind. You just lay down right here while I get my stethoscope. I want to listen to your heart. *(Susie exits as Willie lays down out of view of the audience. Susie then returns wearing a stethoscope)* Okay, let's listen to your heartbeat. *(Susie places the end of the stethoscope up to Willie's chest)* Hmmmm. *(Pause)* That's strange. I don't hear anything.

**Willie:** *(Panic)* What!

**Susie:** *(Perks up)* Oh, *there* it is. *(The audience will hear the faint sound of Willie's heartbeat as puppeteer taps his/her finger on the side of the stage).*

**Willie:** *(Relieved)* Whew!

**Susie:** Sounds a little weak. Yes, *(pause)* I'm afraid we're going to have to operate. *(The sound of Willie's heartbeat becomes loud and rapid).*

**Willie:** *(Concerned)* Operate? Can I get a second opinion?

**Susie:** Sure. *(Looking at **Betsy**)* Nurse Betsy?

**Betsy:** Operate!

**Susie:** Okay. *There's your second opinion. Now, let's proceed. (**Susie** begins to ask nurse **Betsy** for items she requires for the operation as **Betsy** hands them to her one by one in rapid succession)* Scissors.

**Betsy:** Scissors. *(Hands the scissors to **Susie**)*

**Willie:** *(Concerned)* Scissors?

**Susie:** Band aid

**Betsy:** Band aid. *(Hands a band aid to **Susie**).*

**Susie:** Gauze.

**Betsy:** Gauze. *(Hands a roll of gauze to **Susie**).*

**Susie:** Super glue.

**Betsy:** Super glue. *(Hands the glue to **Susie**).*

**Willie:** Super glue?

*Pause*

**Susie:** Oh, no. This is worse than I expected.

**Willie:** *(Very concerned)* Huh?

**Betsy:** Do you think we need to put the patient to sleep, Doctor?

**Susie:** Perhaps we should. Nurse Betsy...*(**Susie** resumes asking for items).*  
*Anesthesia.*

**Betsy:** Anesthesia. *(**Betsy** holds up a hammer as **Willie** pops back up in view of the audience).*

**Willie:** *(Panic)* DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT USING THAT THING ON ME!!

**Susie:** *(Reassuringly)* Okay. Nurse Betsy...hold off on the anesthesia. We'll have to proceed *without* it. Lay back down Willie.

**Willie:** *(Drops back down out of view of the audience)* Whew!

**Susie:** Hmmmm. Now *let's see. (Pause)* Ah ha! *(Excited)* There's your problem.

**Willie:** *(Concerned)* What is it, doc?

**Susie:** Why it's...a broken spirit.

**Willie:** *(Confused)* Huh?

**Susie:** ...and that dries up your *bones*.

**Willie:** *(Confused)* Dries up my *bones*?

**Betsy:** *(Starts singing)* Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones. Dem bones, dem bones...

**Willie:** *(Shouting)* Enough already! *(Frightened)* Can you help me doc?

**Susie:** Oh, sure I can. All you need is a heaping, healthy dose of *(pause)* ...a joyful heart.

**Willie:** A joyful heart?

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\*Optional

Sing Proverbs 17:22 to a simple upbeat melody.

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**Susie:** Okay nurse Betty... let's finish up here. Give me a joyful heart.

**Betsy:** *(Upbeat)* One joyful heart coming up. *(Nurse Betsy hands Doctor Susie a large cutout paper heart with a happy face colored on it).* Here.

**Susie:** *(Pretending to be giving Willie a joyful heart)* Okay. We'll just place this joyful heart right here....like this.

**Willie:** *(Begins laughing)* That tickles doc.

**Susie:** Shhhhh. Quiet. *(Pause)* There! *That* should take care of the problem.

**Betsy:** Wonderful job, Doctor Susie. You can operate on me anytime.

**Willie:** *(Still unseen by the audience)* Are ya done doc?

**Susie:** Yes, Willie. I'm all through operating on you.

**Willie:** *(Relieved)* Whew! *(Pause)* Does this mean I can sing my song now?

**Susie:** *(Panic)* Ah...no! Not quite yet! I need to do *one* more thing first. ***(Susie resumes operating)*** Okay, put this here. Wrap this around like *that*. Tie this here. There! All done. *(Pause)* Okay Willie. Now you can sing to your heart's content.

**Willie** pops back up in full view happily singing and waving his arms as if he were conducting a choir. His mouth has been covered with gauze so he can barely be heard.

**Betsy:** Willie...you never sounded so good.

**Betsy** and **Susie** both laugh.

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### **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.