

A script from



## **“A Puppy”**

A Puppet Skit

by

Tom Smith

**What** Willie feels like it's time he has a puppy, but first he has to prove that he's responsible.

**Themes:** Responsibility, Commitment, Parable of the Talents

**Who** Willie  
Mom (voice)  
Sammy

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** Small hammer

**Why** Mark 4:25

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

**Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Scene opens with **Willie** pounding with a small hammer and singing way off key.

**Willie:** La la la la la (The sound of hammer can be heard hitting the stage). Bang! Bang! Bang. (Suddenly **Willie** strikes his thumb with the hammer).

(In pain) OUCH! OOOHHH. Ouch.. ouch.. ouch.. ouch! (A sobbing **Willie** hollers for his mom). MOM! I hit my thumb with the hammer and it hurts bad. (Sniffle sniffle). Real bad.

**Willie** goes to the edge of the stage where he speaks with his **Mom**. His **Mom** can be heard but is not seen by the audience.

**Mom:** (Compassionately) Oh honey, I'm so sorry. Here, let me kiss it for you. (Sound of a kiss is heard). There now, did that help?

**Willie:** (Sniffing and shaking his head). Not really. It hurts mom!

**Mom:** Oh, I know dear. Is there anything I can do to make you feel better?

Silence

**Willie:** (Suddenly perking up as if he wasn't really hurt at all). Can I have a puppy?

**Mom:** (A little disappointed) Willie. Now you know what your father and I have said. When you can show us that you can be responsible, then we'll discuss getting you a dog.

**Willie:** (Disappointed) Ah, gee mom.

**Mom:** Now, you run on and get yourself ready for church.

**Willie:** (Reluctantly) Oh. Okay.

There is a knock at the door from the opposite direction of where Willie's **Mom** was standing.

**Willie:** (Shouting) Come in!

**Sammy:** (Enters) Hi Willie.

**Willie:** Oh, hi Sammy.

**Sammy:** Hey, what's the matter with you?

**Willie:** (Upset) Ah, it's my mom. She and my dad won't let me have a puppy. They think I'm not...responsible enough.

**Sammy:** *(In disbelief)* Not responsible? Not responsible! Why...you're about the most responsible person I know.

**Willie:** Yeah, that's what I thought, too. Remember when Mr. Wilson fell off of his roof 'cause someone moved his ladder? Well, I was responsible for that.

**Sammy:** *(Nodding)* Yeah.

**Willie:** And when my kitty cat ate Miss Pickle's pet goldfish, I was responsible for that, too.

**Sammy:** Yeah. You're sure responsible all right. But I think your mom and dad are probably talking about a different kind of responsible.

**Willie:** *(Confused)* A different kind of responsible?

**Sammy:** Yeah, you know. They're talking about showing them that you're all grown up; ready to take on responsibilities. Doing things like taking care of the stuff you already have...like your toys and your clothes and stuff. Doing things like making your bed and picking your junk up off your floor. Stuff like that. Oh, yeah...and acting more grown up too.

**Willie:** Oooohhh, That kind of responsible.

**Sammy:** Yeah. They want to know that you can take care of the things you already have before they give you something new to care for. It's like that story in Matthew where Jesus talks about the talents. One man was given five talents of money, another was given two talents and the third man was given one. The first two guys thought responsibly and invested what God had given them. Then they ended up with a lot more. But the last guy wasn't very responsible at all...so he ended up losing what he had. Something like that.

**Willie:** Yeah, I sort of remember that story from Sunday school. God wants us to be responsible with what He gives us. Things like our time and our talents; and even our allowance. He wants us to take care of those things and also to make wise decisions about them.

**Sammy:** *(Nodding)* Yeah. And if we do make wise decisions, God will trust us with more. I think that's what it's all about. And when your parents feel that you are grown up enough, and that you are ready to take care of a puppy, then they might let you have one.

**Willie:** Yeah, I guess so. But I sure would like to have one now. *(Pause)* Hey, Sammy. How come you're here anyhow? Shouldn't you be getting ready for Sunday school?

**Sammy:** Nah, me and a bunch of the guys are getting together at the park to play some football. That's why I came by... to see if you would like to join us.

**Willie:** *(Excited)* Football! Cool! That sounds like fun. I'll go ask my mom if it's okay. *(Willie starts to holler toward his Mom but then hesitates and turns his attention back to Sammy)* Nah...I don't think so. You go on ahead and play and maybe I'll see you later this afternoon.

**Sammy:** *(Surprised)* Huh? You don't wanna play football?

**Willie:** Well sure I do. But I don't want to miss Sunday school. It's important that we learn about God. The Bible says that we are supposed to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul. Studying His word teaches us how to do that. It also helps us to learn to listen to Him when He talks to us. I want to learn those things.

**Sammy:** *(Thinking)* Hmmmm. Yeah. I guess you're right. I think I'll go to Sunday school, too. I can always play football later. I'm going to run home and get ready. I'll meet you in class, okay?

**Willie:** *(Pleased)* Yeah,...cool.

**Sammy:** Okay. Gotta run. See ya. *(Sammy exits)*.

**Willie:** Yeah. See ya.

*Pause. Mom's voice is heard.*

**Mom:** Willie!

**Willie:** *(Turning to face the direction of his Mom's voice)* Yes, Mom?

**Mom:** I couldn't help but overhear your conversation with Sammy.

**Willie:** Yeah!

**Mom:** And I want you to know that I thought you acted very responsibly.

**Willie:** *(Surprised)* I did?

**Mom:** Yes Son, you did. I'm very proud of you and I'm thinking that perhaps it's time for me to speak to your father about letting you have a puppy.

**Willie:** *(Very excited)* Oh wow! Do you really mean it! *(Willie begins jumping up and down with excitement)*. Oh, thanks mom! This is so great. This is fantastic. This is... *(Willie stubs his toe and begins to sob)* Ouch! Ohhhhh. I stubbed my toe. It hurts, Mom. It hurts really bad. Ouch ouch ouch. Boo-hoo.

**Mom:** *(Compassionately)* Oh, I'm so sorry honey. Bad things just seem to keep happening to you. Is there anything I can do to make you feel better?

*Silence*

**Willie:** *(Willie perks up)* Can I have a pony?

**Mom:** *(Upset)* Willie!

**Willie:** Just kidding mom.

**Mom and Willie** 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.