

A script from



“Christopher Columbus”

A Puppet Script

by

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What Miss Pickles teaches her class a few facts about the faith and missions of Christopher Columbus.

Themes: Columbus Day, School, Missions, Children’s Ministry

Who Miss Pickles
Willie
Betsy
Susie
Sammy
Extras/Classmates

When Present

Wear Toy spider or any creepy insect
(Props)

Why Matthew 24:14

How *See the end of this script for ideas how to perform this script.

Time Approximately 10 minutes

Scene opens with several children gathered in their classroom waiting for their teacher to arrive. The top of **Willie's** head is seen as he crouches down almost out of view. He whispers upward to **Susie**.

Willie: (Whispering loudly) Susie! Hey, Susie! Is she here yet?

Susie: (Glancing downward) Who?

Willie: (Still whispering) Miss Pickles. Is she here yet?

Susie: (Shaking her head) No, not yet. Why?

Willie: (Popping up into full view holding a toy spider in his hand) Good, I wanna surprise her. I'm gonna put this (holds toy spider up to **Susie's** face) in her desk drawer.

Susie: (Frightened) Eeeeekkkkk!!!!

Willie: (Laughing) Oh...it's not real. But when Miss Pickles opens up her desk drawer and sees this spider (becoming excited) oooooooweeee (gleeful) is she ever gonna be surprised.

Susie: (Hoping to discourage **Willie** from his prank) Oh, Willie. You don't want to do that. You'll only end up making Miss Pickles mad and then she'll give you lots and lots of extra homework.

Willie: (Boastfully) Nah...I won't get into trouble. Miss Pickles won't even know who *did* it.

All children, nodding in unison, "Oh, she'll know, all right" etc.

Willie: (Doubtful) Nah, she won't know. (**Willie** works his way to the side of the stage and places the toy spider into **Miss Pickle's** unseen desk drawer). There, that ought-a do it. (Excited) This is gonna be so much fun.

Willie's classmates shake their heads mumbling in disbelief.

Sammy: (Excited and whispering loudly) Oh, here she comes now.

Willie and his fellow classmates stand quietly erect as **Miss Pickles** enters the classroom.

Miss Pickles: (Enters) Good morning class.

All children: (In unison) Good morning teacher.

Miss Pickles: *(Joyfully)* My, my, such lovely class this I have this morning.

All Children: Thank you, Miss Pickles.

Miss Pickles: And just look at all of those smiling faces.

Students giggle with delight.

Miss Pickles: Well, seeing that you're all in such a good mood, how about a pop quiz.

All children begin grumbling.

Miss Pickles: *(Sarcastically)* Oh, I *knew* you'd be pleased. *(Pause)* So here's your first question. Who can tell me what holiday we celebrate this week?

Susie: *(Excitedly waving her hand)* I know, I know.

Miss Pickles: Yes, Susie.

Susie: Columbus Day?

Miss Pickles: Very good, Susie. And who can tell me what's so special about Columbus Day?

Willie raises his hand.

Miss Pickles: Yes, Willie.

Willie: Ah, no school, Miss Pickles?

All children giggle.

Miss Pickles: *(Proudly)* Why, that's absolutely correc— *(suddenly becomes rattled realizing exactly what Willie said)* uh...I mean...uh...no! No, Willie! It's not because there's no school.

All children continue to giggle.

Miss Pickles: *(Regaining her composure)* Okay class, let's settle down. *(Pause)* Now is there anyone here who can tell me something about Christopher Columbus? Anything at all?

Betsy raises her hand.

Miss Pickles: Yes, Betsy.

Betsy: In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.'

Miss Pickles: Very good, Betsy. It's nice to know that, at least, one of my students has been paying attention in class. Next question: Who can tell me the names of the three ships Christopher Columbus used during his voyage to the new world?

Susie raises her hand.

Miss Pickles: Yes, Susie?

Susie: (*Proudly*) The Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

Miss Pickles: (*Pleased*) Wonderful! Perhaps I underestimated you all. (*Pause*) Now who can tell me why Christopher Columbus wanted to come to the new world?

Betsy: (*Excited*) To find treasures, Miss Pickles? Like gold and silver?

From this point on **Miss Pickles** and her class continue their discussion but the children no longer raise their hands.

Miss Pickles: Well, that would certainly be one of the reasons. Columbus had often heard about the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia.

Susie: (*Unsure*) I think Columbus was trying to find a new sea route to China and India.

Miss Pickles: Very good, Susie. That was indeed the main reason for Columbus to make such treacherous journey. (*Pause*) Anyone else like to take a guess? Why might Christopher Columbus have wanted to travel to the new world?

There is a moment of silence as the children try to think of a reason.

Miss Pickles: Well, let me tell you. According to Christopher Columbus' own personal log, he mentioned two reasons for seeking undiscovered worlds. The first reason mentioned, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the heathens.

Susie: (*Surprised*) Really?

Miss Pickles: Yes, really. And the second reason mentioned in Columbus' log was to bring the Word of God to unknown coastlands. (*Pause*) Apparently, Christopher Columbus took to heart the words of the

PURCHASE
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Lord Jesus found in Matthew 24:14 where it says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come." Now isn't that interesting?

Susie: (*Nodding*) Yeah, sure is. It's kinda like he was a missionary or something.

Miss Pickles: Indeed. Christopher Columbus was a devoutly religious man. Concern for the salvation of lost souls was a heavy burden in his soul.

Will&Sam: Cool.

Miss Pickles: Yes, it is. (*Pause*) Okay, here's your next question. When Columbus first arrived in the new world, he didn't immediately rush to shore, which is most certainly what I would have done. Can anyone tell me why?

Willie: He was afraid of alligators?

The class giggles.

Miss Pickles: No, Willie, he wasn't afraid of alligators. Anyone else?

Willie: Crocodiles?

The class giggles again.

Miss Pickles: (*Becoming annoyed*) No, Willie. Not crocodiles either. (*Pause*) Anyone else like to guess why Christopher Columbus didn't rush to shore right away?

Willie: Quicksand?

Miss Pickles: (*Totally losing it*) NO! Not quicksand! (*Composing herself*) Excuse me, class. (*Clearing her throat*) The reason that Christopher Columbus didn't immediately go to shore upon his arrival was because he first wanted to go to his knees and give thanks to God. He would pray that God's Holy Name would be proclaimed in this newly discovered part of the earth.

Susie: Wow. That's so cool. I think it would be awesome to be like Columbus. To be like a missionary, I mean, and to go looking for new worlds and lost people.

Betsy: *(Excited)* Yeah. We could travel all over the world. To Russia, Mexico, Africa...

Willie: *(Interrupting excitedly)* Yeah, Africa. That would be awesome. They have lions in Africa.

Susie: *(Nodding excitedly)* Yeah, and tigers.

Betsy: And bears.

All Children: Oh, my!

The Children begin dancing about repeating the words, "lions and tigers and bears, oh my" in a spoof of the movie "Wizard Of Oz."

Miss Pickles: *(Interrupting)* Okay, children. Let's settle down now. Settle down.

Willie: Hey, Miss Pickles, do you know why they put Christopher Columbus in jail?

Miss Pickles: *(Surprised)* Why, no Willie, I didn't even know that Christopher Columbus was put in jail. How come he was?

Willie: *(Laughing)* Because he double crossed the ocean. Get it? Double crossed?

All children begin laughing.

Miss Pickles: *(Exhausted)* Okay, settle down class. I get it, Willie. Thank you for the comic relief. *(Pause)*. Okay class. I think that's enough question and answer time. You all did very well on our pop quiz. I'm so proud of each of you. And, because you did so well, I have a special treat.

All Children: Yippie!

Miss Pickles: I've got coupons for free ice-cream cones from the market across the street. I've already obtained permission slips from each of your parents so, if you'll line up right here, we'll march on over and enjoy our treat.

All children become excited as they begin to form a line.

Miss Pickles: Very good. Now, *(looking about)* where do you suppose I put those coupons? *(Perks up)* Oh, yes, now I remember. I put them in my desk drawer.

*Walks over to her desk and begins to open the drawer as **Willie** tries to stop her.*

Willie: *(Alarmed and shouting) Wait, Miss Pickles!! Don't open—*

Miss Pickles: *(Screams as she opens her desk drawer and sees the spider that Willie had placed in it) Eeeeeeeekkkkkkkkk!*

Willie: *(Weakly) —that drawer.*

Students become silent with their mouths wide open.

Miss Pickles: *(Furious) Willie!!*

Willie: *Gulp! I think now might be a good time for me to go and discover new worlds. (Shouting) I'm outta here!*

***Willie** exits quickly with **Miss Pickles** in hot pursuit.*

Miss Pickles: *(Shouting) I'll get you Willie.*

All children break out in uncontrollable laughter.

The End.

How:

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.