

A script from



## “Five Dollars”

A Puppet Skit

by

Tom Smith

What	Willie is really excited when he finds a five-dollar bill! But when he finds out that Susie has lost her five-dollar bill, will he do the right thing and return it to her? <b>Themes:</b> Honesty, Friendship, The Golden Rule, Character
Who	Willie Susie
When	Present
Wear (Props)	Five-dollar bill from a board game like Monopoly
Why	Matthew 7:12
How	*See the end of this script for ideas on how to perform this script.
Time	Approximately 6 minutes

**Willie** enters glancing downward and sees a \$5.00 bill on the ground.

**Willie:** What's this? *(Reaches down and picks up the \$5.00 bill and becomes excited)* Oh wow! It's five dollars. I just found five dollars. This is incredible. I'm rich! I'm a millionaire! *(Pause)* Hey, maybe I can get mom to take me shopping. Yeah! That would be so cool. I could buy me a new baseball. Or maybe some candy. Maybe even a super duper razzle dazzle squirt gun. This is awesome! *(Willie turns to exit as he mumbles to himself)* I sure hope dad won't want me to save it or anything like that. Wow! I can't believe I just found \$5.00.

**Willie** exits as **Susie** enters from opposite side of stage. She is also glancing downward.

**Susie:** *(Upset)* Hmm. I wonder where it could be. *(Looking all around)* It just has to be here somewhere. I can't believe I lost it.

After a few moments **Willie** returns singing joyfully.

**Willie:** La la la la la. Oh! Hi Susie. Isn't this a wonderful day?

**Susie:** *(Still searching and mumbling to herself, Susie doesn't seem to realize that Willie is there)* Now where can it be?

**Willie:** Uh, excuse me. *(In Susie's face)* Hellooooooo.

**Susie:** *(Startled)* Oh! Hi, Willie. Sorry. I didn't see you there.

**Willie:** Hey, what's got you so upset?

**Susie:** *(Upset)* My money is missing.

**Willie:** Your money is missing?! *(Excited and talking fast)* You mean...like a robber broke into your home and stole your money while you were sleeping and...and...and...

**Susie:** *(Interrupts)* No, no, no. Nothing like that.

**Willie:** *(Relieved)* Whew! You had me worried there for a minute.

**Susie:** I just misplaced it...or something.

**Willie:** *(Sympathetic)* Ah, gee, that's too bad.

**Susie:** Yeah. I had it with me right here this morning while I was playing, and now I can't find it.

**Willie:** *(Now realizes that it may have been Susie's money that he found)* Uh, *(slowly and cautiously)* you lost it, uh...right here?

**Susie:** Yes, right here.

**Willie:** Uh, how much did you lose?

**Susie:** Five dollars.

**Willie:** *(Mumbling to himself)* I was afraid you might say that. Uh, I mean, I don't suppose it was nickels, dimes and quarters, was it?

**Susie:** No. It was a brand new crisp five-dollar bill. My uncle gave it to me for my birthday.

**Willie:** *(Speaking directly to the audience)* I don't like where this is heading. *(Looking back at Susie)* Uh, do you mind if I ask you...what color it was?

**Susie:** *(Frustrated)* What color it was! What do you mean, "what color it was"? *(Becoming frustrated)* It was green...like all five-dollar bills. It had Abraham Lincoln's picture on the front and everything.

**Willie:** *(Speaking slowing and with a sinister voice)* But do you know...the serial number?

**Susie:** *(Frustrated)* OF COURSE I DON'T KNOW the serial number!

**Willie:** *(Pleased)* Ah ha! *(As in 'gotch ya')* Well, *(feeling relieved)* I guess I'd better go now. See you later.

**Willie** begins to exit as **Susie** continues her search.

**Susie:** Yeah, see ya.

**Willie:** *(Turning back to face Susie, Willie's conscience begins to bother him)* Uh, see ya.

**Susie:** *(Looking up)* You already said that.

**Willie:** *(Slight laugh)* I did? Oh yeah, I guess I did. *(Willie places his hand on his head and hangs his head low.)*

**Susie:** *(Concerned)* Willie, you don't look so good. Is there something bothering you? Something I can help you with?

**Willie:** *(Deciding to do the right thing)* No, but there's something I can help you with. *(Feeling better and a bit excited)* You wait right here. I'll be back in just a minute.

**Susie:** *(Confused)* Okay.

**Willie** exits as **Susie** continues her search. Very shortly **Willie** returns as if out of breath and with the \$5.00 in his hand.

**Willie:** *(Excitedly holding the \$5.00 out for Susie to take)* Here.

**Susie:** *(Perplexed)* What's this?

**Willie:** It's your five dollars.

**Susie:** *(Confused and excited)* Really? This is my money?

**Willie:** *(Still excited)* It must be. It's green and it has Abraham Lincoln's picture on it and everything!

**Susie:** But I don't understand. How...when...ah...

**Willie:** *(Interrupting Susie)* I was playing here this morning and I found it. I didn't know it was yours. Honest.

**Susie:** *(Grateful)* Oh Willie, you're wonderful. You could have spent this money on yourself and I never would have known.

**Willie:** *(Ashamed)* Yeah, I know. I thought about doing that alright. And I really wanted to. But I kept thinking that, well, that if I had lost something that was really important to me, and then someone found it, I would sure want for them to return it to me. And that's when I decided to give your money back to you.

**Susie:** *(Relieved)* Oh Willie, thank you, thank you, thank you. *(Pause)* You know, Jesus talked about this in the Bible.

**Willie:** *(Surprised)* Somebody in the Bible lost five dollars?

**Susie:** No, silly. They didn't have five dollar bills in Bible times. Abraham Lincoln hadn't been born yet.

**Willie:** *(Shyly)* Oh, yeah.

**Susie:** But Jesus did tell us in Matthew 7:12 to do unto others what you would have them do to you.

**Willie:** Oh yeah, I remember that verse. Mom said it's called the 'golden rule.'

**Susie:** That's right! It is. And you did just what Jesus would have wanted you to do when you gave me back my five dollars.

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

**Susie:** You sure did. And because of your honesty I want to give you something special.

**Willie:** *(Excited)* Really? What?

**Susie:** This. *(Susie surprises Willie by giving him a kiss on his cheek.)*

**Willie:** *(Upset and wiping his cheek off)* Yuck! Whad'ya wanna go and do that for?

**Susie:** *(Laughing)* I just wanted to, that's all.

**Willie:** *(Disgusted)* Girls...sheesh!

**Susie:** *(Still laughing)* Hey, I've got five dollars. Would you like to do something?

**Willie:** *(Thinking)* Well, if I had five dollars, I'd probably wanna buy you...an ice cream cone.

**Susie:** *(Giggling)* You would, huh?

**Willie:** Oh sure. Would you like to do that *(pause)* unto me?

**Susie:** *(Laughing)* Well, let's go ask my mom. Maybe she'll want to reward you for your good deed.

**Willie:** *(Excited)* Oh, cool!

**Susie:** I like chocolate peppermint ice-cream. What kind do you like?

**Willie:** Well... *(speaking as they exit together)* I guess my favorite is...uh, chocolate and ah...strawberry. No, I know. Rocky road. Yeah, that's what I like. Rocky road ice cream. No, banana nut. Yeah, I really like banana nut ice cream. No, raspberry's my favorite. Raspberry. No, no, no, no, no. Peanut butter. I like peanut butter ice cream the best. No...

**Susie:** *(Placing her hand to her head)* Oh brother, I had to ask.

*Both exit laughing.*

**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.

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PURCHASE  
SCRIPT  
TO  
REMOVE  
WATERMARK  
AT  
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