

A script from



“Go”

A New Year’s Puppet Script

by

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What	Willie finds himself ‘up a tree’ as he and Susie consider making their first ever New Year’s resolution. Themes: New Year’s Resolutions, Good News, Evangelism
Who	Willie Susie
When	Present
Wear (Props)	String of Christmas tree lights A cut-out paper star Other tree ornaments Sound effects- crashing
Why	Mark 16:15
How	*See the end of this script for the “how”.
Time	Approximately 7 minutes

The sound of someone knocking at the door can be heard. Knock, knock, knock.

Willie: (Voice only shouting) Just a minute!

Knocking at the door continues. Knock, knock, knock.

Willie: (Becoming impatient shouts again) Okay, okay... I'm coming. (**Willie** pops up into view and walks to the door.) I'm coming. (Opens the door to let **Susie** in) Oh, hi Susie. What's up?

Susie: Hi, Willie. I saw your light on so I thought I'd stop by and say "hi" and to see how your Christmas was.

Willie: (Excited) Oh, it was great. I got lots of nice stuff. And I haven't even broken anything yet.

Susie: (Sarcastically) Will miracles ever cease. (Pause) How come you're up so early this morning?

Willie: Oh, I was just downstairs in the game room trying to take the decorations off our Christmas tree.

Susie: (Concerned) Shouldn't you let your mom or dad help you with that. Seems like I recall you had an awfully tall tree.

Willie: (Unconcerned) Nah. I can do it. I have a ladder. And besides I only have one more thing to take off the tree. It's the star at the verrrry top.

Susie: Well, I still think you should let your mom or dad help.

Willie: Don't worry 'bout it. (Pause) So, uh...how about you? How was your Christmas?

Susie: (Excited) Oh, it was great. I just love the whole holiday season.

Willie: (Nodding in agreement) Yeah, me too. Especially Christmas.

Susie: Are you doing anything for New Year's Eve?

Willie: I'm not sure. I think we played games last year like...moneyopolly and scribble.

Susie: (Correcting **Willie**) That's Monopoly and Scrabble.

Willie: Whatever. And I think my dad let me stay up till nine o'clock. That was pretty cool.

Susie: Yeah, mine too. *(Pause)* So, are you making a New Year resolution?

Willie: *(Curious)* Res...o...luuuuu...sion? What's that?

Susie: Oh, you know. That's when grown-ups say they're going to start doing something in January that they usually end up not doing by February.

Willie: *(Confused)* Huh?

Susie: You know. Like they might say that during the New Year they're going start exercising every day. Or they might decide to begin a savings account at their bank...or something like that.

Willie: Yeah. I guess I've heard about New Year's resolutions before. I've never made one though. How about you? Have you ever made a New Year's resolution?

Susie: *(Shaking her head)* No. I never have before either. But I'm going to try it this year. It could be fun.

Willie: Yeah, maybe. What about me? What kind of resolution can I make?

Susie: *(Thinking)* Hmm. Well...you might say that during the New Year you're going to try to finish your homework on time.

Willie: *(Nodding)* Yeah. I guess I could do that. Doesn't exactly sound like 'fun' though.

Susie: Or you could say that during this New Year you're going to volunteer to help with the dishes more often.

Willie: *(Sarcastically)* Yeah...right. So, uh, what is going to be your New Year's resolution? Have you decided on something yet?

Susie: *(Excited)* Yes I have. I think that during the New Year I'm going to try to memorize one new Bible verse each week.

Willie: Hey, cool. Maybe that can be my resolution too.

Susie: *(Excited)* That would be fun. Then, maybe, we could help each other be accountable.

Willie: Yeah, maybe. *(Thinking)* Hmm. Let me see if I can think of something else. *(Suddenly becomes excited)* I know. Why don't I say that I won't argue with anyone for a whole year?

Susie: *(Doubtful)* Oh, you couldn't do that.

Willie: *(Confident)* Could too.

Susie: Could not.

Willie: Could too.

Susie: Could not.

Willie: *(Shouting)* Could too!!!

Susie: See.

Willie: *(Frustrated)* Oh...maybe I just won't make a resolution. I probably wouldn't be any good at it anyhow. *(Pause)* So have you decided on a memory verse for your first week yet?

Susie: *(Excited)* Sure have. I chose one this morning during my study time. It's from the Gospel of Mark. Mark 15:16 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Willie: *(Excited)* I remember that verse from our Sunday school class.

Susie: Yeah. It's a good one.

Willie: Yep, sure is. *(Pause)* Hey Susie...do you think *we're* supposed to do that?

Susie: Do what?

Willie: You know. Go into the world and tell people about Jesus.

Susie: Sure we are. That's what the Bible says.

Willie: *(Concerned)* But we're just kids. We have to go to school and stuff. And besides, wouldn't you be afraid to go to places like Africa...or Tanzania...or Pocahontas?

Susie: *(Correcting Willie)* Pocahontas is a person...not a place.

Willie: *(Embarrassed)* Whoops...sorry.

Susie: And besides...we don't have to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus.

Willie: We don't?

Susie: No way. When the Bible tells us to go into the world, it's telling us to go wherever there are people who haven't heard about Jesus.

Willie: You mean like...Kentucky (*enter your own state*)?

Susie: Sure. Even right here in Bowling Green (*enter your own city*). In fact, going into the world can even mean going to your very own school.

Willie: My school?

Susie: That's right. There are lots of boys and girls in our school who don't know Jesus.

Willie: (*Nodding in agreement and sounding sad*) Yeah. Sometimes it makes me sad when I think about that.

Susie: Yeah...me too. And you know what else?

Willie: What?

Susie: You can even 'go into the world' right in your own home.

Willie: (*Surprised*) But everybody in my home already knows Jesus.

Susie: I know. But sometimes you invite friends to your home who don't know Him...right?

Willie: (*Perks up*) Hey...that's right. I hadn't thought about it like that before. Cool. (*Pause*) So... when Mark 15:16 says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation," it means that I should go anywhere ... even right here ... if there are people who don't know Jesus?

Susie: Correctomundo.

Willie: Hey. Maybe that can be my New Year's resolution.

Susie: What?

Willie: To tell everyone I can about how Jesus loves them and died for them and how he wants them to open their hearts to him.

Susie: (*Excited*) That would be awesome. Hey, maybe that can be my resolution too.

Willie: (*Teasing*) Copycat, copycat.

Susie: Okay. Forget it then. I don't want to be a copycat.

Willie: Just kidding. *(Becomes excited)* I know. Why don't we do both of our ideas for our New Year's resolution.

Susie: Huh?

Willie: We can both memorize a new verse each week and we can both tell others about Jesus.

Susie: *(Pleased)* That's a wonderful idea, Willie.

Willie: *(Excited)* Alright. Give me five *(raises hand as Willie and Susie give each other a high-five)*.

Susie: Hey, Willie. Would you like to come over to my house? We could decide what Bible verse we want to memorize for next week.

Willie: Sure. Let's make it an easy one though. Too much memorization hurts my brain.

Susie: *(Giggling)* I will. I promise.

Willie: Okay. But first let me go downstairs and take the star off the top of the Christmas tree. Then my mom can pack up all the Christmas decorations and put them away till next year.

Susie: Okay. I'll wait. Be careful.

Willie drops from view. A few moments pass and he can be heard singing to himself way off key.

Susie: *(Shouting)* Are you alright down there, Willie?

Willie: *(Shouting)* Yeah. I'm climbing up the ladder right now.

Susie: Be careful.

Willie: I will. Don't worry. I won't faaaallllllllllll...

Crashing sound followed by complete silence.

Willie: Uhhh...Susie?

Susie: Yes, Willie?

Willie: *(weakly)* Maybe I *will* let my mom or dad help me with the tree.

Willie pops up in view tangled in flashing Christmas tree lights and with ornaments over his head and a star dangling from his nose.

Susie: (Laughing) Oh, Willie.

Willie joins in the laughter as they exit together.

The end.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.
Philemon 1:6.

Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.
John 4:35.

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.

"Go"

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SCRIPT
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