

A script from



“Gobble Gobble”

A Puppet Script

by

Tom Smith

- What** Betsy and Susie give Willie a lesson in what the Bible says about being grateful.
Themes: Thanksgiving, Gratefulness, Thankfulness, Puppets, Children’s Ministry
- Who** Susie
Betsy
Willie
- When** Present; Thanksgiving
- Wear** Turkey puppet with a leash
(Props)
- Why** 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- How** *See the end of this script for ideas on performing with puppets.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

Betsy and Susie enter together carrying on a conversation

Betsy: I thank Him for the sunshine and the rain.

Susie: Yeah, me too! And for the birds. I love to listen to the birds sing.

Betsy: And I thank Him for my church, my pastor and for my Sunday school teacher. She's so nice.

Susie: *(Nodding in agreement)* That's for sure. Okay, my turn. I thank God for my friends, *(pause)* especially you Betsy.

Betsy: *(Shyly)* Thanks Susie. You're my best friend too.

Willie *(Enters)* Hi Susie, Hi Betsy.

Bet&Sus: *(In unison)* Hi, Willie.

Willie: What'cha doing?

Susie: We were just thinking about all the different kind things that we're thankful for.

Betsy: Yeah. It's Thanksgiving so we wanted to spend some time thanking God for some of the things that He's done for us and given to us.

Willie: You mean like our moms and dads and stuff like that?

Bet&Sus: *(Nodding in agreement)* Yeah, stuff like that.

Betsy: *(Curious)* What about you Willie, what are you thankful for?

Willie: *(Without hesitation)* Pizza! I'm thankful for pizza.

Susie: *(Giggling)* I should have known.

Betsy: *(Sarcastic)* Yeah, I know pizza's high on my list of priorities. NOT!

Susie and Betsy giggle.

Susie: We all have so much to be thankful for. It would probably take us all day to remember everything.

Betsy: Yeah, I suppose you're right.

Susie: But we do need to thank God. It's important. And He wants us to be thankful too.

Willie: Huh?

Susie: That's right. The apostle Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Willie: What does that mean?

Susie: Well, just like our parents want us to be thankful to them when they do things for us, God wants us to be thankful to Him too. He deserves our thanks and our praise.

Betsy: Yeah.

Willie: *(Thinking)* Hmm.

Susie: But God doesn't demand that we thank him.

Willie: Really?

Susie: Sure. Lots of people receive his blessings and never bother to give thanks.

Willie: Like who?

Susie: Well, do you remember the story about the ten lepers from the gospel of Luke?

Betsy: *(Excited)* I do. That's the story about the ten lepers who came to Jesus to be healed. And after Jesus told them what they needed to do they went to the priest, who was the one who could say that they were really healed or not, and he told them that they were.

Willie: Cool.

Betsy: Yeah, but the sad thing is only one of the ten lepers went back to thank Jesus.

Willie: That's sad.

Susie: The point is all ten lepers received the same gift of healing even though only one offered thanks. God doesn't tell us that we have to be thankful. He still blesses us regardless of whether we're thankful or not. But he sure is pleased when we are.

Bet&Will: Yeah.

Betsy: What about when bad things happen to us. Are we supposed to be thankful then too?

Susie: The Apostle Paul said to give thanks in all circumstances. That means not just the good ones, but the bad ones too.

Betsy: Gosh, that's kinda hard to do sometimes.

Willie *(Agreeing)* For sure.

Susie: Yeah, I know. But we need to remember that, while God doesn't bring us the bad times, we can always count on Him going through them with us. He's always there. Good times and the bad.

Betsy: Hmmm.

Susie: I guess that's what it must have been like at the very first Thanksgiving.

Willie: How do you mean?

Susie: Well, if you remember, the first Thanksgiving was a joyful celebration. There was much to be thankful for. The Pilgrims had built their shelters, their harvest had been good and they had befriended the Native Americans. But even though there was much to be thankful for, the Pilgrims were still sad because they had lost many of their family members to the cold and bitter winter. But through it all they knew that God was with them. He was their strength. And they gave him thanks.

Willie: Cool.

Susie: Cool, is right. And just like those first Pilgrims, we should also give thanks to God in all circumstances, good and bad, as we trust our lives to his care.

Betsy: Good story, Susie.

Willie: Yeah, thanks Susie.

Pause.

Susie: So, ah...what else are you thankful for, Willie? I mean besides pizza.

Willie *(Thinking)* Oh, I don't know. I guess I'm thankful for my new pet.

Bet&Sus: *(Excited)* You got a new pet!? Whad'ya get? A puppy? A kitty?

Willie: Wait right here for a minute and I'll show you.

Willie exits and soon returns with a turkey on a leash. The turkey is wearing a tux, tie and top hat.

Bet&Sus: *(Taken by surprise)* A turkey? You have a turkey for a pet!!

Willie *(Excited)* Yeah. I wish everyone did. They're lots of fun.

Betsy: *(Sarcastic)* Yeah, right. Can he roll over or fetch a ball?

Willie: Don't be silly, Betsy. He's a turkey not a dog.

Betsy: Duh.

Willie: Wanna know his name?

Susie: Nope.

Willie. It's Gobble.

Betsy: Gobble?

Willie: Yeah, Gobble. Wanna know his last name?

Susie: Nope.

Betsy: Oh please, do tell.

Willie: It's Gobble.

Betsy: Gobble Gobble?

Willie *(Gleeful)* Ha! Tricked ya. I got you to talk like a turkey. Gobble gobble gobble gobble gobble gobble.

Betsy: *(Places her hand to her head)* Oh, brother.

Willie: *(Excited)* Gobble is really a nice pet. My dad brought him home yesterday and said that we're going to have him for Thanksgiving dinner. Hmmm, I wonder if he likes mashed potatoes and gravy.

Betsy: *(Realizing that Willie doesn't understand his father's intentions for Gobble)* Uh, Willie. I think when your dad says that you're going to have him for Thanksgiving dinner...that he didn't actually mean that Gobble is invited to...

Willie: *(Interrupting)* Maybe he'll like pumpkin pie. He probably shouldn't eat too much of that though. He's liable to get stuffed.

Susie: How come you put cloths on your turkey Willie?

Willie: 'Cause Mom said that before we could eat Thanksgiving dinner, she was going to have to dress the turkey. I thought I'd surprise her and go ahead and do it now.

Betsy: I think maybe it's you who's going to be surprised on Thanksgiving Day.

Willie: What do you mean?

Betsy: Oh, never mind. I think I'll leave that for your mom and dad to explain.

Willie: *(Confused)* Okay...whatever. Well, I guess it's time to get Gobble back home. He's going to need his rest. The whole family will be here for Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday. Dad says that Gobble is going to be the guest of honor. Imagine that. I think they're even going to have a 'roast' for him or something like that. You know, that's where they tell jokes about him and stuff like that.

Betsy: I don't think that's the kind of 'roast' your dad is talking about. But good luck.

Willie: Thanks. Too bad I can't stay longer. Gobble just loves bugs.

Susie: *(Curious)* What's that got to do with anything?

Willie: Oh, I just know he'd love to get at those spiders down there by your feet.

Sus&Bet: *(Freakin' out)* SPIDERS! WHERE? EEEKKKKK! *(Screaming as they exit.)*

Willie: Hmm. Wonder what got into them. Oh well, let's go boy. Maybe we can get home in time to watch a little TV before bath time. I think you'll like Duck Dynasty. **(Willie & Gobble exit as Gobble 'gobbles')** Gobble gobble...gobble...gobble...

The end.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 188:1.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:2.

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!

"Gobble Gobble"

PURCHASE
SCRIPT
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