

“Good Stuff Intake Deficit Disorder”

by
Tom Smith

What Willie is angry that Billy Shoemaker was mean to him at school, and it's all he can think about. Susie tries to help Willie see that carrying anger around only makes him (and people around him) miserable.

Themes: Puppets, Godly Thinking, Pure, Lovely, Honorable Thoughts, Anger, Frustration, Kids Ministry

Who Willie
Grandpa
Susie

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Shirt with buttons
Clip on Necktie

Why Philippians 4:8

How See “how” at the end of this script.

Time Approximately 9 minutes

*The scene opens with an upset **Willie** mumbling to himself. He has dressed haphazardly with his shirt tail hanging halfway out, his shirt buttons in the wrong holes, his necktie crooked and his hair uncombed.*

Willie: *(fuming)* Oh, I'm so mad I could just about scream. I'll never forgive that Billie Shoemaker.

Grandpa enters.

Grandpa: Good morning, Willie.

Willie: Morning, Grandpa.

Grandpa: Are your parents still in bed?

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah.

Grandpa: Hmmm. I guess it was pretty late when they got home last night.
*(Glancing at **Willie**)* Don't you think you should be getting ready for Sunday school?

Willie: *(confused)* What do you mean? I am ready.

Grandpa: *(surprised and examining **Willie** closely)* Looking like that?

Willie: Yeah, what's wrong with the way I look?

Grandpa: *(shaking his head in disbelief)* Oh, my. When I was your age, we always tried to dress proper for Sunday school. Hair combed, shoes polished, shirt tail tucked in...

Willie: *(interrupting)* Ah, gee, Grandpa. That was, what, a hundred years ago? Nobody dresses like that anymore.

Grandpa: *(disappointed)* Well, perhaps not. But it still seems to me that a fella ought to carry himself with a little dignity and self-respect, especially in church. *(Pause)* Is Susie going to class with you this morning?

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah, she should be here any minute.

There is a sudden knock at the door.

Willie: Oh, that must be her now.

Grandpa: Well, I reckon I'll go shave and get myself ready. You and Susie try to keep the noise down so you don't wake up your parents. I'll get them up for church before I leave.

Willie: Okay, Grandpa. *(Shouting towards **Susie**)* Come in!

Grandpa: *(hushing Willie)* Shhhhhhh

Willie: Whoops, sorry. Ha.

Grandpa exits as Susie enters.

Susie: Hi, Willie.

Willie: Hi, Susie.

Susie: Are you almost ready for Sunday school?

Willie: *(nodding)* Yep. I'm ready.

Susie: *(surprised.)* You don't look ready.

Willie: *(glancing toward the audience)* Here we go again. *(Looking back at Susie)* What do you mean, 'I don't look ready'?

Susie: Well, your hair's a mess for one thing. Your tie is crooked, your shirt's a mess and *(glancing downward)* look, even your shoes are on the wrong feet.

Willie: What difference does that make?

Susie: *(shaking her head)* Oh, brother! And you even have a green sock on one foot and a red sock on the other.

Willie: *(proudly)* Yeah. Pretty cool, huh.

Susie: *(disappointed)* Oh, Willie, can't you dress yourself without making so many mistakes? You must have had something else on you mind this morning while you were getting ready.

Willie: *(sighing)* Yeah, I guess I did.

Susie: *(curious)* What was it? Maybe I can help.

Willie: Oh, it's not important.

Susie: Are you sure? You're kinda grumpy this morning.

Willie: *(grumpily)* I'm not grumpy!

Susie: Say what?

Willie: *(calming down)* Okay. Maybe I am just a little bit grumpy.

Susie: A little bit grumpy? I don't think so. I think you might be suffering from a very severe case of the GUSIDDS.

Willie: *(concerned)* The GUSIDDS?

Susie: That's right, The GUSIDDS. Good Stuff Intake Deficit Disorder.

Willie: *(speaking slowly)* Good Stuff Intake Deficit Disorder? Is it serious?

Susie: Boy, I'll say it is.

Willie: *(worried)* Oh my, do I need to see a doctor or something?

Susie: *(shaking her head)* No, nothing like that. We just have to get the bad stuff out of you, that's all.

Willie: *(confused)* Bad stuff? What bad stuff?

Susie: Oh, you know. Whatever it is you've been thinking about that's causing you to be so upset. Now let's see. *(Thinking)* Have you been watching any TV programs or movies that you shouldn't watch?

Willie: *(shaking his head)* No.

Susie: Any bad computer games?

Willie: No.

Susie: Hmmm. Have you been listening to any of those songs with the bad words in them, and thinking about those?

Willie: *(shaking his head)* No, honest.

Susie: *(thinking)* Hmmm. Well then, have you been angry with anyone or thinking about things like that?

Willie quietly begins grumbling under his breath.

Susie: Willie?

Willie: *(confessing)* Yeah, I was thinking about Billy Shoemaker this morning and remembering how mean he was to me at school the other day. That's been making me kinda mad.

Susie: *(pleased)* Well, there you go. You see, you've been thinking about bad things. And that makes you an unpleasant person to be around. What we put into our minds determines what comes out in our words and actions.

Willie: Really?

Susie: Yep. In fact, the apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:8 that we need to think about 'good' things.

Willie: You mean like popsicles or puppies or things like that?

Susie: Well, he didn't mention popsicles or puppies specifically. But I suppose that might work. What he did say was this: Whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things.

Willie: *(thinking)* Hmmm. So, uh, if I think about good things like those, will it take away my Good Stuff Intake Deficit Disorder?

Susie: *(confidently)* It sure will. And it helps even more if you read God's Word and then spend some time with Him in prayer. You can always ask God to help you to focus on the good things. It's not always easy but I know you can do it.

Willie: *(gratefully)* Wow, thanks Susie. I feel better already. Sorry I was such a grouch.

Susie: Oh. That's okay.

Willie: Ya wanna know something?

Susie: What?

Willie: I'm gonna ask Billy Shoemaker if he would like to be my friend.

Susie: *(pleased)* Oh, Willie. That's just wonderful. Maybe you could even invite him to church next week.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah, good idea.

Pause

Susie: Now, about your clothes.

Willie: What about 'em?

Susie: Don't you suppose you could fix yourself up just a little bit before we go to Sunday school?

Willie: *(reluctantly)* Yeah, I guess I could. Give me just a minute while I go downstairs to clean up and comb my hair.

Susie: Okay but hurry up or we'll be late for class.

Willie drops down out of view of the audience. Susie begins singing to herself as she waits for Willie to get ready. There is about a fifteen second wait.

Susie: *(shouting down to Willie)* Are you ready yet?

Willie: *(voice only shouting)* Almost.

Susie: *(becoming impatient)* Are you ready yet?

Willie: *(shouting)* Just about. *(Pause)* Okay, here I come.

Willie pops back up facing the audience and standing perfectly still. Susie's mouth drops wide open as she examines him closely.

Susie: My, my. Just look at you.

Willie: *(proud)* Yeah.

Susie: *(amazed)* Your shoes are on the right feet. Your hair is combed. You have the same color sock on both feet. Everything looks great.

Willie: *(shyly)* Yeah.

Susie: Now...where's your tie?

Willie: *(still standing perfectly still and facing the audience)* My tie? I don't know. I just had it, but I can't remember what I did with it.

Susie: Oh, that's okay. I'll help you look for it later.

Willie: Okay.

Susie: *(pleased)* I gotta hand it to you, Willie. When you put your mind to it, even you can dress yourself without making any mistakes.

Willie: *(proudly)* Yeah. Thanks again, Susie. *(Pause)* Well, let's go.

Susie: Okay.

Willie: Sure wish I could remember what I did with my tie.

Susie: Don't worry, we'll find it.

As Willie and Susie exit, they turn their backs toward the audience. The audience will be able to see that Willie has clipped his tie onto the backside of his shirt collar rather than the front. The tie flops back and forth as they exit.

Additional Scripture that may be of some help when performing this skit.

Don't be fashioned according to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2.

Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. Colossians 3:2

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 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 different. 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 you for 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!**