

A script from



“Happy Feet”

A Puppet Script

by

Tom Smith

- What** Susie has dreams of becoming a missionary to Paris, France...the city of romance. Willie would be content just being the pizza delivery guy. Both come to a better understanding of the importance of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to other countries. If not me...who?
Themes: The Gospel, Witnessing, Missionaries, Kids Ministry, Puppets, Great Commission
- Who** Willie
Sammy
Susie
Betsy
Miss Pickles (voice only)
- When** Present
- Wear /Props/** Bushes/Tree limbs
Ball
- Why** Romans 10:15
- How** *See the end of this script for “how”.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Scene opens with an excited **Willie** and **Sammy** tossing a ball back and forth. Both are out of view of the audience at different sides of the stage. The ball will be seen as it's tossed from one side of the stage to the other. Several tosses will be made as **Willie** and **Sammy** shout back and forth to each other.

Willie: *(Shouting)* Good catch Sammy.

Sammy: *(Shouting back)* Thanks. *(Tosses ball)* Here it comes back at ya.

Willie: *(Excited)* I got it! I got it!

Sammy: Good catch, Willie.

Willie: Thanks. Here it comes. *(Tosses ball)* Watch out for Miss Pickle's flower garden behind you. You sure don't want to step in that.

Sammy: That's for sure. She'd skin us alive if we messed up her award-winning flower garden.

Willie: Yeah, for sure.

Pause

Sammy: *(Excited)* Hey Willie, here comes Susie and Betsy. Let's hide behind some bushes. Then we can jump out and scare 'em.

Willie: Good idea, Sammy. Come on over here.

Sammy rushes over to **Willie's** side of the stage where both boys drop from view behind some bushes. **Betsy** and **Susie** enter from the opposite direction.

Susie: *(Shouting)* You can't hide from us, Willie. We saw you.

Betsy: *(Shouting)* Yeah. And we saw you, too, Sammy.

Willie and **Sammy** pop up into view.

Willie: *(Disappointed)* Ah shucks. We were gonna scare you girls good.

Betsy: Not likely.

Sammy: We'll get'cha next time.

Susie: *(Giggling)* I doubt it. *(Pause)* So, what are you guys doing?

Sammy: Ah...we were just playing catch. You wanna play?

Willie: *(Flabbergasted)* What are you doing, Sammy? Girls can't catch.

S&B: *(In unison)* Can too!
Willie: *(Placing his hand to his head)* Oh, brother. Well, *(reluctantly)* I guess we can let 'em try. But let's take a break first. I'm kinda tired.

Sammy: Yeah, me too.

Susie: Sounds good. Let's sit a spell and catch our breath.

Pause.

Susie: Hey, Willie, wasn't that a cool Sunday school lesson we had last week about missionaries?

Willie: *(Excited)* Sure was. I really like hearing about all those neat places our missionaries get to go to.

Sammy: Yeah, me too.

Susie: I think someday I'd like to be a missionary. Then maybe I could take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to other parts of the world...just like Columbus or Dr. Livingston...

Willie: *(Thinking)* Hmmmm, yeah.

Susie: *(Continues)* ...or Hudson Taylor...or "Lottie" Moon. That would be so cool.

Willie: *(Surprised)* Really? You'd like to go to another country?

Susie: *(Excited)* Oh, yes, very much so.

Willie: You mean like Australia...or Mexico...or Massachusetts?

Susie: Willie, Massachusetts isn't another country.

Willie: *(Confused)* It isn't? Well it must be pretty far away. I heard my dad say that the people living there must be from another planet.

Sammy: *(Interrupting)* Where would you like to go Susie? I mean, if you were a missionary?

Susie: *(Thinking)* Oh, I don't know. Perhaps France. Yes...Paris, France. *(Dreamy like)* Le Parie...the city of romance.

W&S: *(In unison)* Romance! Yuck!

Susie: Pouvez-vous parler du français ? *(Which means 'do you speak French?')*

Willie: *(Confused)* Huh?

Susie: *(Slowly)* Pouvez-vous parler du francais?

Willie: Uh, no thanks, I already ate.

Susie: *(Shaking her head in disbelief)* Oh, brother. *(Pause)* Where would you like to go Willie? I mean, if you were a missionary, and could go anywhere in the world?

Willie: I don't want to be a missionary. I want to do something important with my life like...like maybe be an astronaut, or a doctor, or something. *(Becomes excited)* Or maybe I could even be one of those pizza delivery guys. Wouldn't that be cool?

Susie: *(Sarcastically)* Oh yes, pizza delivery. Now that's important...NOT!

Betsy: Willie, telling others about Jesus Christ is the most important thing we can do. More important than flying in space or fixing sick people. And definitely more important than delivering pizzas.

Susie: *(Pleased)* That's right Betsy, you tell 'em. *(Turning her attention toward Willie)* You see, Willie, the reason we send missionaries all over the world is so they can tell people the Good News about God and His love for them. And about how Jesus died for them and rose from the grave. If we don't go tell them, who will?

Willie: *(Thinking)* HmMMM.

Susie: The apostle Paul wrote about this in his letter to the Christians in Rome. He wrote that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Then he asked, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Willie: Cool.

Susie: *(Becoming excited)* Wouldn't that be exciting! How awesome it would be to have feet that take the Good News of Jesus Christ to other nations.

Willie: *(Nodding in agreement)* Yeah...I guess that would be pretty cool. But wouldn't you be kind of afraid to go to another country?

Sammy: Yeah. It could be dangerous you know.

Susie: Well, probably not in Paris, France. But wherever I would go I know that God would go with me. And I would trust Him to accomplish through me whatever He wills.

Betsy: My mom and dad said that in some countries there's not a lot of food to eat. And in some places, they don't even have clean water to drink. And some of the people get sick from drinking it.

Susie: Yes. That's true. We are so blessed to be living where we do.

Sammy: What about wild animals. Wouldn't you be afraid them? Some countries have lions and tigers, ya know.

Betsy: And bears.

Sammy: *(Shuttering)* Oh my.

All puppets begin dancing about in a spoof of The Wizard Of Oz. "Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my! Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my!"

Willie: *(Shouting over the others.)* Wait a minute! Stop! Stop! *(There is silence)* Oh, I saw that one coming.

Susie: Anyhow. Even if there were wild animals, I still wouldn't be afraid to go if I knew that was where God wanted me to be. I would just have to trust in Him.

All: *(Nodding in agreement.)* Yeah. That's right.

Willie: Hey, I just thought about where I'd like to go to be a missionary.

All: *(Curious)* Where's that, Willie?

Willie: *(Giggling)* Disney World.

Everyone laughs.

Betsy: Yeah, that would be fun.

Susie: Yeah, going to Disney World would make my feet really happy.

All puppets laugh.

Willie: So, are you all rested up and ready to play ball now?

Susie: *(Excited)* Yeah, let's play.

Willie: Okay. Boys on this side (*Willie and Sammy move to one side of the stage out of view*) and girls on that (*pointing*) side. (*Susie and Betsy go to the opposite side of the stage out of view.*)

Willie: (*Voice only*) Okay. Here comes the ball. Catch it if you can. (*Ball is seen going from the boy's side of the stage to the girls*) Hey, (*Surprised*) they actually caught it!

Susie: (*Voice only*) Okay, here it comes back at ya.

Ball is seen going from the girl's side of stage to the boys.

Willie and Sammy can be heard shouting at each other as they position themselves to catch the ball.

Willie: I got it.

Sammy: No I got it.

Willie: No it's mine.

Susie: (*Concerned and shouting*) Look out behind you!

W&S: (*Tripping and falling in the middle of Miss Pickle's flower Garden*)
Whooooaaaaa!

Sammy: (*Weakly*) We sure got it alright.

Willie: (*Weakly*) Yeah. And we're really gonna get it...when Miss Pickles sees her flower garden. (*Comes back into view with flowers, butterflies, etc on top of their heads and shoulders.*)

Betsy: (*Laughing*) Hey, Susie, check out the two daffy-dills.

Susie: (*Laughs*) Willie, before Miss Pickles sees you, this might just be the ideal time for you to go to Africa.

Betsy: Yeah, or Paris.

Miss Pickles voice can be heard off in the distance.

Pickles: (*Voice only heard shouting*) Willie, is that you?

Sammy: (*Shouting*) Or ANYWHERE! RUN!

All exit quickly with Miss Pickles in hot pursuit swinging her purse or waving a broom.

Pickles: Willie! I'll Get You!!!

The end.

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."
Mark 16:15.*

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who
proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7.*

*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.*

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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.