

A script from



“He Is Risen: The Easter Story”

A Puppet Script

by

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What Betsy finishes telling Willie and Sammy the story she began last week that started with Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and now concludes with resurrection morning. In this skit Willie and Sammy learn the importance of the empty tomb.

Themes: Jesus, The Resurrection, The Empty Tomb

Who Betsy
Willie
Sammy

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Puppeteer’s hand will appear without the puppet on it.

Why Matthew 28: 5-6

How *See the "how" at the end of this script.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Scene opens with no puppets in view. There is suddenly a knock at the door.

Willie: *(Voice only shouts)* Come in.

Sammy: *(Enters)* Hey Willie. *(Looking around and shouting)* Where are you? *(No response)* Are you ready for Sunday school?

Willie: *(Shouting)* I'm down here in the basement Sammy. I'll be up in just a second.

Sammy: *(Continues shouting)* Okay. Don't forget your memory verse.

Willie: *(Shouting)* I won't.

Pause

Sammy: *(Shouting)* And don't forget to bring your Bible.

Willie: *(Shouting)* I won't forget my Bible.

Pause

Sammy: *(Shouting)* And don't forget to ask your mom if you can come over to my house after church so we can play ball.

Willie: *(Slightly annoyed)* I won't forget to ask her.

Pause

Sammy: Oh yeah, and don't forget to bring some notebook paper so we can-

Willie: *(Interrupting and frustrated)* **Willie** pops up in view of the audience. But only the puppeteer's hand...no puppet. The puppeteer opens and closes his hand just as if he had the puppet over it). Hey! Just what makes you think I'm so forgetful anyhow?

Sammy: *(Flabbergasted...stares at the puppeteer's hand 'naked' hand)* Uh...Willie?

Willie: *(Annoyed)* What? *(The puppeteer's hand looks to the left...then to the right. The puppeteer's hand looks upward and then downward. Then the puppeteer's hand screams and quickly drops from view. An embarrassed Willie's voice is heard).* Oh, man. I can't believe I forgot my...outer me. *(Puppeteer's hand pops back up but his time with an embarrassed Willie over it)* How embarrassing! I'll never live this down. *(Willie catches his breath as Sammy chuckles a bit)* Hey, how come you're here so early?

Sammy: *(Excited)* Don't you remember? Betsy promised to finish telling us the story she started last week.

Willie: Oh yeah. The Easter story. I almost forgot. Last week she told us about Palm Sunday.

Sammy: Yeah.

Willie: About how Jesus rode the donkey into the city and how everybody was spreading palm branches and stuff on the road in front of him.

Sammy: That's right. Seemed like just about everybody was happy to see him.

Willie: Yeah. That was neat. Then we had to go to our classes so she didn't get to finish telling us the story. I don't think my Sunday school teacher was very happy when I started singing 'Hosanna Banana'. *(Sammy and Willie both laugh)*.

Sammy: I don't think she was very happy with you *singing...*period. *(Pause)* Oh, here comes Betsy now. *(Betsy enters)*

S & W: Hi Betsy.

Betsy: Hi, guys. Happy Easter!

Sammy: Yeah. Happy Easter to *you*, too. *(Pause)* Hey Betsy, are you going to finish telling us the story you started to tell us last week?

Betsy: *(Excited)* I sure am. That's why I *got* here so early this morning.

S & W: *(Excited)* Cool.

Betsy: Now, let's see. Last week I told you about Palm Sunday. About Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Sammy: Yeah. He was riding on a donkey.

Willie: Yeah. Giddy-up donkey!

Betsy: *(Mildly scolds Willie)* Quiet Willie. Now, with Palm Sunday behind us, we turn our attention to Good Friday.

Willie: Yeah, good for us but not so good for Jesus, huh?

Betsy: That's right! That's when they did all those terrible things to him.

Willie: Yeah, I'll say. They beat him up and put a crown of thorns on his head.

Sammy: *(Sadly)* Yeah, and then they nailed him to a cross.

W & S: Yeah. *(Nodding and speaking sadly)* It makes me sad just to think about it.

Betsy: Yes, it was sad. The saddest day in all of history. *(Pause)* After they nailed Jesus to the cross...he died. *(Pause)* After Jesus had died the soldiers took his body down from the cross and had it placed in a tomb. There it would remain for three days. *(Pause)* And now, Easter morning.

Sammy: *(Excited)* Oh good, Easter.

Willie: *(Excited)* Yeah, this is the best part. It makes me want to sing. *(Willie begins singing WAY OFF KEY)* "He is risen, He is risen, He came out of the toooooommmmbbbb."

Betsy: *(Sarcastically)* Willie, if I came out of a tomb and heard you singing, I'd probably want to go right back in.

Sammy and Betsy laugh.

Willie: Very funny...not! *(Willie begins telling the Easter story)* Okay. So then they placed Jesus in the tomb and rolled a big stone if front of it. And then they...

Betsy: *(Interrupts)* If you don't mind, I'm telling the story.

Willie: *(Embarrassed)* Oh, yeah. Sorry.

Betsy: Well, after three days had passed, Mary Magdalene and another Mary decided to go to see Jesus' body. When they arrived at the entrance of the tomb they discovered that the large stone that sealed it had been rolled away. They couldn't imagine what had happened. Suddenly, *(Betsy begins to speak in a quiet whisper)* an angel of the Lord appeared to them, *(Willie and Sammy listen intently with their mouths wide open)* and they were frightened.

Willie: Yeah. I would've been frightened, too.

Sammy: *(Interrupting)* Shhhhh. This is my favorite part.

Betsy: Then the angel said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen from the dead just as he said he would."

Willie: *(Amazed)* Wow! Even Superman couldn't do that!

Betsy: Nope. Only Jesus. Jesus was stronger than death. The grave couldn't hold him down. That's why we celebrate Easter. Jesus gives us the hope that we, too, can be victorious over death and live with him forever and ever.

Willie: Gosh. Easter really is important, isn't it?

Betsy: I'll say it is. It's so important that the apostle Paul said that, 'if Christ Jesus has not been raised from the dead, our faith is worthless; and we are still in our sins.'

Willie: That would be terrible.

Betsy: That's for sure. But praise be to God that Jesus has, indeed, risen.

At this point the puppets can all sing and dance happily to a simple melody. The lyrics might go something like this: 'Don't be afraid, He is not here. Don't be afraid, He is not here. Don't be afraid, He is not here, He has risen from the grave.' Repeat two or three times. Willie should sing off key.

All puppets look toward the audience, wave and shout, "Happy Easter everybody! He is risen".

The end.

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 finallydon'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 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.