

A script from



“Lost”
A Puppet Skit
by
Tom Smith

- What** The gang goes on a camping trip, but get lost in the woods and soon remember that they are not alone. God is always with them!
Themes: Fear, Courage, Trust
- Who** Sammy
Betsy
Willie
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Canteen
Sound effect- owl hooting (this could also be done by someone backstage on a microphone)
- Why** Psalm 56: 3-4
- How** *See the end of this script.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Stage background is decorated to appear to be a scene in the middle of some woods. Tree branches, flowers, etc. **Sammy** and **Betsy** enter apparently searching for someone.

Sammy: Where do you suppose he could be?

Betsy: (Concerned) I don't know. But I hope we find him soon. It's beginning to get dark and it's kind of scary in these woods.

Sammy: (Nodding in agreement) Yeah, I'll say. Hey, let's look over *there*. (Sammy points toward the back of the stage).

Betsy: Okay.

Sammy and **Betsy** exit in the direction **Sammy** was pointing to. A few seconds pass then **Willie** enters from the opposite direction.

Willie: (Shouting) Help! HeIIIIIIp!. (Upset, scared and talking to himself) Can anybody hear me? Ohhhh. I'm glad my dad agreed to take us camping, but I sure wasn't planning on getting lost. Gee, it's already starting to get dark.

Cue sound effect- Owl. From a distance an owl can be heard.

Willie: (Frightened) Not me. Not me. Oh. (Giggles and feeling a bit embarrassed as he realizes that it was only an owl that he heard) Ha. That was just an owl. Silly me. (Beginning to panic a bit) Gosh, I sure do hope this is one of those "I was lost but now I'm found" puppet skits. Gulp! (**Willie** begins shouting again) Where is everybody? HeIIIIp!

Willie exits from the same direction he entered from. After a few seconds **Sammy** and **Betsy** return.

Sammy: (Worried) Still no sign of him anywhere.

Betsy: I know. Poor Willie. He's probably really scared by now.

Sammy: Yeah.

Betsy: I sure hope he remembers the song I taught him last week.

Sammy: What song was that?

Betsy: It was from Psalm 56. It tells us what King David says he did whenever he was afraid. It says, "When I am afraid I will trust in you. In God who's word I praise. In God I trust".

Sammy: Hey. Why don't you sing it now. Maybe Willie will hear you.

Willie: *(Excited)* Yes! I *did* hear my name. It sounds like Betsy and Sammy.
(Shouting) Hey guys! I'm over here. *(Waving his arm)* Over here!

Betsy and Sammy enter and there is a loud and joyful reunion with **Willie** as they greet each other with hugs and pats.

Betsy: *(Excited)* Oh Willie, we were so worried about you. Are you okay?

Willie: *(Relieved)* I am now.

Sammy: I'm so glad we found you. It was starting to get dark. Were you afraid?

Willie: *(Putting up a brave front)* Who, me? *(Confessing)* Well, I guess I was kind of scared at first. But then... then I remembered what Betsy told me last week, about how we should trust God like King David did. Then it wasn't so scary anymore. At least ...not as much.

Betsy: *(Pleased)* Oh Willie, that's wonderful.

The three puppets exchange a few more pats and hugs.

Sammy: So, now, how do we get out of here?

Betsy: *(Confident)* Oh, that's easy. I think our camp is...

Betsy, Willie and Sammy, in unison and pointing in three different directions:

That way.

Willie: *(Worried)* Oh no. Now I guess we're *all* lost.

All begin to moan and grumble.

Sammy: *(Suddenly excited)* Hey look! *(Pointing)* Over there! I think I see a campfire.

Willie: *(Excited)* Yeah, It's a campfire alright. And look! There's my dad.

Betsy: Alright! We're all safe.

All puppets begin jumping and dancing with excitement.

Willie: Let's get going. I think I can smell the hot dogs cookin'!

Sam&Bet: Yeah. Me too. Let's go.

Puppets begin to exit as Willie speaks.

Willie: Hey. Ya know what?
Sam&Bet: What?

Willie: There really wasn't ever a reason to be afraid in these woods.

Sammy: How come?

Willie: Well, because the only scary things around here are furry little squirrels and cute little bunny rabbits...and butterflies.

Bet&Sam: *(Nodding in agreement and laughing)* Yeah. I think you're right.

Suddenly they hear a very loud growl.

All: AAAAHHHHHHH! *(Exit quickly)*

The end

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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 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 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.