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“Loving God”

by
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What It’s easy to say we love God, but sometimes our actions tell a different story. In this puppet skit, Susie helps Willie to understand that truly loving God means giving Him first place in our life.

Themes: Puppets, Loving God, Loving Others, The Greatest Commandment, Kids Ministry

Who Willie
Susie

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Baseball
Baseball Cap

Why Matthew 22:37

How While this is written to be performed with puppets, it’s possible to perform it with people.

To perform with puppets, see “how” at the end of this script.

Time Approximately 7 minutes

Susie enters singing (la la la la) and humming a pleasant little melody that she is making up in her head. The lyrics are taken from Matthew 22:37 which read 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. Willie soon enters from the opposite side of the stage. He is wearing a baseball cap and tossing a baseball upwards and then catching it. He approaches Susie.

Willie: *(upbeat)* Hey Sally, what'cha doing?

Susie: *(annoyed)* Funny! Ha ha. You know my name's *not* Sally.

Willie: *(acting surprised)* It isn't? Well then, what is it?

Susie: It's *Susie*, silly.

Willie: Oh, *yeah*. Now I remember. Hi, Susie *Silly*.

Susie: *(upset)* Ohhhh. My name is not Susie Silly; it's...it's... *(frustrated)* ohhhh, nevermind. You know what it is. You always do this to me.

Willie: *(proudly)* Yeah, I know. *(giggling)* That's 'cause you're so easy.

Susie: *(fuming)* Ohhhhhh!

Willie: Hey *Susie*, what was that song you were just singing? It was kinda pretty.

Susie: *(pleased)* Thank you Willie. I was just making it up in my head. It's a song about the first commandment. That's the one that tells us to love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah, I remember hearing that verse before.

Susie: I'm sure you have. It comes from Matthew 22:37. Jesus said that it's the greatest of all the commandments. That and to love our neighbor as our self.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah, I remember.

Susie: *(slight pause)* So, uh...*do* you?

Willie: *(confused)* Do I *what*?

Susie: Love God. I mean, do you love God...with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?

Willie: *(nonchalantly)* Yeah, sure. *(Pause)* So, uh, ya wanna play some catch?

Willie tosses his baseball into the air and catches it.

Susie: No thanks. I'd like to, but I promised my mom that I'd stop by Mrs. Wilson's place. She came home from the hospital yesterday and could probably use a little cheering up. Would you like to go with me?

Willie: No thanks. I think I'll just hang around here in case some of the guys come by and wanna play ball.

Susie: Okay. Well, I'll see ya later.

Willie: Yeah, see ya later.

Susie begins to exit but suddenly stops and turns back around to face Willie.

Susie: Oh, yeah! I wanted to ask you if you'd like to go with me to Sunday school class this week. We're starting a new series and it should really be interesting.

Willie: *(shaking his head)* Nah, I don't think so. Sunday is the only morning I can sleep in.

Susie: *(curious)* Can't you sleep in on *Saturday*?

Willie: *(amazed)* Are you kidding? And miss my cartoons? No way!

Susie: *(disappointed)* Oh, okay. Well, I'll see ya later.

Willie: Yeah, see ya.

Once again Susie begins to exit then suddenly stops and turns back around facing Willie.

Willie: What is it now?

Susie: Sorry, I almost forgot. *(excited)* We've got this really cool missions project going on at church next week. Do you think you could help me with it?

Willie: Sure...what can I do?

Susie: Well, we're trying to raise enough money to send three students to Mexico. That would be awesome. We're asking anyone who possibly can to make a small donation to help with the expenses. It doesn't have to be much. So, *(excited)* how much can I put you down for?

Willie: *(squirming restlessly)* Well, uh...I mean, uh. Ya see, the thing is, there's this really cool computer game that I've been saving up for and ah, well, I've almost got enough saved up now to buy it. Maybe I can help ya next time. Okay?

Susie: *(disappointed)* Yeah, okay. I understand. Well, gotta go. See ya.
Susie exits from the audience's view.

Willie: *(shouting in the direction of Susie)* Hey, Susie! CATCH!

Willie tosses his baseball in the direction which Susie exited. Susie can be heard shouting 'ouch' before coming back into view holding Willie's baseball in one hand and rubbing her head with the other.

Susie: Thanks, Willie. *(Sarcastically)* I can always use another bruise.

Willie: Whoops! *(Slightly giggling)* Sorry Susie. I didn't mean to hit you.

Susie: *(frustrated and speaking to herself)* Boys! Do they ever grow up? Now I really need to be going. It'll be dark before I even get to Mrs. Wilson's place.

Willie: Okay. Have fun.

Susie: Are you sure you don't want to go with me? I know Mrs. Wilson would be happy to see you.

Willie: Nah. I'm good. Thanks.

Susie: Okay. See ya.

Willie: Yeah. See ya.

Susie begins to exit but, once again, stops and turns to face Willie.

Susie: Willie, do you mind if I ask you a question?

Willie: Again? What is it now?

Susie: Well, I was just wondering if you're really *sure* that you love God with *all* your heart and with all soul and with all your mind.

Willie: *(adamant)* Yeah, I'm sure. Why do you keep asking me that?

Susie: Well, because loving God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind means that there is nothing or no one more important to us than Him.

Willie: Yeah, I know.

Susie: So when we truly love God we'll want to give Him first place in our life. We'll give Him everything—our worship, our time, our money, our

devotion, our obedience ...our...our all. It means that all we are and all we have is His.

Willie: *(thinking)* Hmm.

Susie: And it just seems to me that *(pause)* well, cartoons are more important to you than Sunday school. And computer games are more important than missionaries. And, well, playing ball seems to be more important to you than visiting someone who could really use some cheering up. *(pause)* It just kinda made me wonder, that's all. *(pause)*

Willie: Hmmm.

Susie: Well, I won't bother you again. Goodbye.

Willie: *(quietly)* Yeah. Goodbye.

Susie exits and soon Willie begins talking to himself.

Willie: Hmmm. I wonder if Susie is right. She usually is. Maybe I really haven't been loving God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind. I've really been more concerned about *me*, and the things that make *me* happy, and not at all with what pleases *God*. Wow, that's terrible. I need to put God first in my life. *(Becoming excited)* And I'm gonna start right now. *(Willie shouts toward Susie who is no longer in view)* Susie! Hey, Susie!

Susie: *(returns in view)* What is it Willie?

Willie: *(excited)* Wait up! I want to go with you to visit Mrs. Wilson.

Susie: *(pleased)* Oh, Willie, that's wonderful. She'll be so happy to see you. And here, *(holding up Willie's baseball)* I forgot to give this back to you. Catch!

Willie steps out of the audience's view as Susie tosses the ball in his direction.

Susie: *(shouting)* Good catch, Willie!

Willie steps back into view with the baseball in his mouth.

Susie: *(giggling)* But you weren't supposed to catch it in your mouth.

Willie: *(spitting out the ball)* Thanks. Hey, *(jokingly)* that tasted pretty good. But it could have used a little ketchup.

Susie: Gross!

Willie and Susie laugh as they exit together. Lights out.

Additional Scripture which may be helpful with this skit.

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24.

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Here, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31.

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Proverbs 8:17.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. John 14:21.

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!

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