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“My Dog Ate It”

by
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What In this skit Susie helps Willie to understand that lying is a sin that is never acceptable, even if it means missing out on one of Miss Pickle’s award-winning chocolate cakes.

Themes: Lying, Telling the Truth, Honesty, Kids Ministry

Who Willie
Susie
Sammy
Miss Pickles (Teacher)
Additional puppets if desired.

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Classroom Scene
Paper attached to puppets’ hands excluding Willie

Why Psalm 34:13

How See “how” at the end of this script

Time Approximately 9 minutes

The scene opens as Willie enters his classroom panting and out of breath.

Willie: Whew! *(Looking about)* I beat everybody to class this morning. I even got here before Miss Pickles did. Cool. *(Excited)* This is really gonna be a fun day. *(Thinking)* Hmm. I wonder what I should do now. I guess I could look over my homework. *(Shaking his head)* Nah.

Willie suddenly realizes that he accidentally left his homework at home.

Willie: Hey! Wait a minute! *(Staring at his empty hand)* Where is my homework? *(Panic)* Oh, no. I must have left my homework at home. Miss Pickles will be so mad at me. I did the same thing just last week. She'll probably think I didn't even *do* my homework. *(In agony)* Oh, what am I gonna do? *(Slight pause then perks up)* Hey, Maybe I can make up a story or something. I could tell Miss Pickles that my dog ate my homework. Then she wouldn't be mad at me. *(Having second thoughts and feeling upset)* No, that wouldn't be right. I shouldn't tell a lie. *(Shaking his head)* Ohhhhh, what am I gonna do?

Susie enters the classroom cheerfully.

Susie: Hi, Willie.

Willie: *(moping)* Hi, Susie.

Susie: Gee, you really look terrible. Are you okay?

Willie: *(shaking his head)* No, I feel like I've been stuffed in a box all week.

Susie: Willie, we're puppets. You *have* been stuffed in a box all week.

Willie: Oh, yeah. You're right. *(Slight chuckle)* But I feel even worse than *that*.

Susie: *(concerned)* Oh, my. What's the matter?

Willie: I left my homework at home.

Susie: *(disbelief)* Again?

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah. And Miss Pickles is gonna think that I didn't even do it.

Susie: Gee, Willie. That really is terrible. Miss Pickles promised to bring some of her award-winning chocolate cake for our lunch picnic today if we all finished our homework assignments.

Willie: *(upset)* Yeah, I know. And I stayed up really late last night just to make sure that I got it done. And then I left home this morning without it.

Susie: So, what are you going to do?

Willie: Well, I was thinking that I might tell Miss Pickles that my dog ate my homework.

Susie: *(surprised)* Your dog ate your homework. Are you kidding? Nobody uses that 'dog ate it' story anymore.

Willie: Yeah, I suppose you're right. I just don't know what else to do.

Sammy enters.

Sammy: Hi, guys.

Willie & Susie: Hi, Sammy.

Sammy: What's going on?

Susie: Willie left his homework at home and he doesn't know what to do.

Sammy: Oh, gee, that's terrible. *(Perks up, excited)* Hey, why don't you tell Miss Pickles that your dog ate your homework.

Susie: *(upset)* HE'S NOT GOING TO TELL MISS PICKLES THAT HIS DOG ATE HIS HOMEWORK! *(Pauses then speaks slowly)* He's going to tell the truth.

Willie: *(surprised)* I am?

Susie: Yes, you are, because that's what God would want you to do.

Willie: Does the Bible tell us not to lie?

Sammy: Yeah, does it?

Susie: Oh, sure it does. The Bible has a lot to say about lying and how God is angry with us when we do. The Bible also tells us that God is really pleased with us when we tell the truth.

Sammy: I think I'd rather God be happy with me than angry.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah. What else does the Bible say Susie?

Susie: Well, one thing the Bible tells us is that Satan is the father of lies.

Willie & Sammy: *(shaking with fright)* Oooooo. Wow! That's not cool.

Susie: For sure. Satan is never cool.

Willie & Sammy: *(nodding)* Yeah.

Susie: And another thing. Experience tells us that when we do tell lies, it almost always makes our problems worse.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah, I've learned that lesson before, lots of times.

Susie: I think a good verse to remember from the Bible about lying is Psalm 34:13. It says, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies." Now, I think that's pretty good advice, don't you?

Sammy: Yeah

Susie: Willie?

Willie: *(hesitant)* Yeah. But I'm still a little bit tempted to tell Miss Pickles that my dog ate my homework. I would sure hate to miss out on her chocolate cake.

Several more puppets enter the classroom followed by Miss Pickles.

Miss Pickles: Good morning class.

Children: *(in unison)* Good morning, Miss Pickles.

Miss Pickles: My, my. What a lovely class I have this morning. Just look at all these smiling faces.

Children: *(giggle).*

Miss Pickles: Now, does everyone have their homework?

Willie ducks down to hide as the other children excitedly wave their homework assignments high above their heads for Miss Pickles to see.

Children: *(excited)* I do! I do!

Miss Pickles: *(pleased)* Very good.

Realizing that she did not see Willie's hand being raised Miss Pickles calls on him.

Miss Pickles: Willie.

(Silence)

Miss Pickles: Willie.

Willie: *(timid)* Uh, yes Miss Pickles?

Miss Pickles: I don't believe I saw your hand raised Willie. Do you have your homework?

Willie: *(struggling to answer)* Uh, well, ah. It all depends on what you mean by the word 'have.' Now, when you ask me do I 'have' it...meaning... is it here with me *now*, well, that would be one thing. But, on the other hand, if by 'have' you mean do I possess it...or do I have access to it, well, that would be quite another thing all together and...

Miss Pickles: *(interrupting)* Willie.

Willie: *(worried)* Yes, Miss Pickles?

Miss Pickles: *(deliberately and slowly)* Do ... you ... have ... your homework?

Pause

Willie: *(glancing downward and shaking his head)* No, Miss Pickles. I left my homework at home.

There is silence as Willie's classmates gasp at the thought of Willie getting punished.

Miss Pickles: Oh, my. I think that is just *(pause)* WONDERFUL!

Children: *(confused and in unison)* Huh?

Miss Pickles: You told me the truth, Willie. I'm so proud of you.

Willie: *(surprised and relieved)* You are?

Miss Pickles: Yes, I am. It's very important that we always tell the truth. Even when it's not the easiest thing to do.

Willie: Wow.

Miss Pickles: You know, Willie. I was concerned that you might try to make up a silly story or something.

Willie: *(acting innocently)* Who, me?

Children: *(in unison)* Who, him? No way. He would never do that.

Miss Pickles: *(pleased)* Well, this is certainly cause for celebration.

Willie: Thanks, Miss Pickles. Does this mean that I'll still be able to have some of your award-winning chocolate cake for lunch today?

Susie: *(excited)* He's right, Miss Pickles. You did promise to bring us one of your famous chocolate cakes for lunch today if we all finished our homework.

Miss Pickles: Yes, I did. And I'm going to go next door to my house and get it right now. This will only take me a couple of minutes.

Miss Pickles begins to exit the classroom then turns to face the children.

Miss Pickles: Now I want all of you to behave while I'm gone. I'll be right back.

Children: *(in unison)* We will Miss Pickles.

Miss Pickles exits and there are a few moments of silence. Willie peeks to make certain that Miss Pickles has truly exited the building. Once he is sure he shouts.

Willie: *(shouting)* SHE'S GONE!

The class goes wild with puppets jumping up and down, shouting and tossing paper wads. After a few moments Willie sees Miss Pickles returning.

Willie: Shhhhh. Here she comes!

All the children become quiet and stand in attention acting as if they have been behaving all along. Miss Pickles enters.

Miss Pickles: Oh, you're such a good class.

The children all giggle.

Miss Pickles: I want you all to know that I made you an extra-large chocolate cake.

Children: *(excited)* Oh, goodie. Yummy, yummy.

Miss Pickles: And I put lots of extra frosting on top.

Children: *(jubilant)* Yippie!

Miss Pickles: But guess what?

Children: What?

Silence.

Miss Pickles: My *dog* ate it.

Children: *(grumbling)* Oh, brother!

Additional Scripture that may be useful in this skit.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.
Col. 3:9

Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. Psalm 120:2

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.
Proverbs 12:22.

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!**