

A script from



“Sunday Munchies”

A Puppet Skit About Palm Sunday

by
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What Willie hopes that Betsy telling the story of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday will help him to take his mind off of food. This is a fun skit for Palm Sunday that points to the ULTIMATE TRIUMPH of Jesus over death the following Easter morning.

Themes: Jesus, Messiah, Palm Sunday, Victory Over Death.

Who Betsy
Willie
Sammy

When Present; Palm Sunday

**Wear
(Props)** Palm tree branches made from green construction paper.

Why Matthew 21:9b

How *See the end of this script.

Time Approximately 7 minutes

Willie: *(In apparent agony)* Ohhhhh, I'm hungry. I am soooooo hungry.
(Shouting) MOM! Can we eat now? Ohhhhhhh.

There is a sudden knock at the door.

Willie: *(Shouting)* Come in.

Sammy: *(Enters holding a palm branch in his hand)* Hi, Willie.

Willie: Hi, Sammy. What'cha doing?

Sammy: Well, I'm on my way to Sunday school. It's a little early though so I thought I'd stop by and see if you wanted to play or something.

Willie: *(Shaking his head no)* Nah. I'm too hungry to do anything. I just wanna eat. *(Looking over his shoulder he hollers for his mom again)* Mom! Your son is starving in here! *(Grumbling to himself)* I can't believe she hasn't fixed my breakfast yet.

There is another knock at the door.

Willie: Now who could that be? *(Shouts)* Come in.

Betsy: *(Enters holding a palm branch in her hand).* Hi, Willie. Hi, Sammy.

W&S: Hi, Betsy.

Betsy: What are you two up to this morning?

Sammy: Nothing really, 'cept Willie's starving. His mom hasn't fixed him his breakfast yet.

Betsy: *(Sarcastically)* Oh, you poor thing. *(Perks up)* A little fasting would probably do you some good. *(Giggles)*

Willie: *(Sarcastically)* Thanks. You're a big help.

Betsy: *(Excited)* Are you guys ready to sing our song in church this morning?

Sammy nods his head saying 'yes' as **Willie** shakes his head saying 'no'.

Betsy: *(Scolding directed at Willie)* Well, you should be. We've practiced it enough times. *(Pause)* Do you still have the palm branch our teacher gave us?

Sammy: *(Excited)* I've got mine. *(Waves branch)* See?

Betsy: Willie? Do you have your branch?

Willie: *(Nonchalantly)* No, I lost it somewhere. What do we need a dumb ol' branch for anyhow?

Betsy: *(Serious)* It's for Palm Sunday. This is a special day and we're supposed to use the branches in our song. You do know what Palm Sunday is don't you? *(Silence)* Well, don't you?

Willie: Of course I dooooooooooooo...on't.

Betsy: *(Disappointed)* Oh, Willie. *(Pause)* Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The people had been waiting centuries for a promised savior to come. And now, at last, here he was. It's a wonderful story. Would you like to hear it?

Willie: *(Uninterested)* Not particularly. *(Glancing over his shoulder and shouting)* Mom, I'm hungry!

Sammy: *(Excited)* I want to hear it, Betsy. Tell me the Palm Sunday story.

Betsy: *(Pleased)* Okay, Sammy. I'll tell it to you. Why don't you have a seat right here. *(Sammy stoops down as Betsy prepares to tell the story)* Okay, now *(thinking)* where should I begin? *(Perks up)* I know. Okay...here we go. The Bible tells us that Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem.

Willie: *(Interrupting)* Okay, I may as well listen too. *(Pause)* Maybe it will help me to take my mind off of food.

Betsy: *(Resumes)* As I was saying, Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem when they stopped at the village of Bethany. This was located on the slopes of the Mount of Olives.

Willie: *(Perks up)* Olives? Did you say olives? *(Famished)* Ohhhh, foood!

Sammy: Shhhhhh. I want to hear the story.

Willie: Okay, okay.

Betsy: *(Continues)* Anyhow, while they were waiting at Bethany, Jesus sent two of his disciples to another nearby village. He told them that they would find a colt of a donkey tied up there and that they should bring it to him. Well, sure enough, when the two disciples entered the village they found the donkey just as Jesus had said.

Sammy: Wow! How did Jesus know the donkey would be there?

Willie: *(Confidently)* Jesus knows everything.

Sammy: *(In awe and nodding)* Yeah.

Betsy: Okay, back to the story. Now, in the city of Jerusalem, large crowds had gathered because it was time for the Passover feast.

Willie: *(Perks up again)* Feast? Did you say feast? Food! *(Famished and drooling over each word)* Hamburgers...marshmallows...hot dogs...

Betsy: *(Becoming upset with Willie's interruptions)* Willie! *(Continues)* As I was saying, news soon began to sweep through the entire city that Jesus was coming and everyone was getting really excited about seeing him. They had heard about all the wonderful miracles that he had done. Especially about raising Lazarus from the dead.

Willie: *(Excited)* Yeah. I'll bet they'd never seen anyone do that before.

Betsy: That's for sure. *(Resumes telling story)* Anyhow, the people began looking for Jesus outside the city. There were people everywhere. Pretty soon they saw Jesus, riding on a donkey, coming their way.

Willie: *(Curious)* Hey Betsy! How come Jesus didn't ride a horse instead of a donkey? It would have been faster.

Sammy: Yeah, how come?

Betsy: That was the way it had to be. It was a fulfillment of prophecy written loooooong before.

S & W: *(Confused)* Huh?

Betsy: You see, Zechariah the prophet had written many years before these words: 'Rejoice greatly, oh my people! Shout with joy! For look-your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, The Victor! Yet he is lowly, riding on a donkey's colt.' You see, Jesus' riding on a donkey fulfilled what Zechariah had said. A horse wouldn't have done that.

Sammy: Cool. Thanks Betsy. So what happened next?

Betsy: Well, pretty soon it seemed like everyone was taking off their cloaks and placing them on the road, sort of like a carpet being rolled out, for the donkey to walk on. Other people began waving palm branches, like these, *(Betsy waves her branch)* and spreading them on the ground, too.

This was their way of greeting Jesus as their king. And they were shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna to the son of David."

Willie: *(Looking at Sammy and whispering loudly)* Hey Sammy, what does hosanna mean?

Sammy: *(Whispering back)* I don't know. What do you think it means?

Willie: I don't know either. But maybe it's some kind of food. It sounds like banana.

W & S: *(Begin acting silly and shouting)* Hosanna banana! Hosanna banana! Hosanna banana!

Betsy: *(Disgusted)* Oh, you two. Now stop! *(Silence)* Hosanna is a Hebrew word that means "Oh, save!" The people were using it to praise Jesus.

Willie: That's cool. People were following Jesus, waving palm branches and shouting "hosanna". I guess everyone was really happy to see him, huh?

Betsy: *(Regretfully)* Well, not exactly...everyone.

S & W: *(Surprised)* Huh? What do you mean?

Betsy: You see, the authorities were becoming very upset because they didn't want people to believe in Jesus.

Willie: *(Sadly)* Gee, it's sad when people don't believe in Jesus.

Sammy: Yeah, really sad.

Willie: So, what happened next?

Betsy: Well. What happened next is the saddest thing of all. The same people who shouted "Hosanna! Hosanna!" to their new found king would soon be crying out "crucify him". Jesus would be beaten and nailed on a cross.

Sammy: *(Upset)* That's terrible!

Betsy: *(Nodding in agreement)* Yes, it was. But it was all part of God's plan to save us. You and me.

Willie: I don't understand.

Betsy: Well...Palm Sunday is about the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. But the ultimate triumph would take place one week later when Jesus rose triumphant over death.

Willie: *(Excited)* I get it! You're talking about Easter, aren't you?

Betsy: *(Pleased)* That's right, Willie.

Sammy: *(Excited)* That's my most favorite story in the whole Bible.

Betsy: Mine too, Sammy. And that's what we'll be celebrating next week, the Easter story.

Willie: Can you come back next week and tell us the Easter story, Betsy?

Sammy: *(Pleading)* Yeah, can ya?

Betsy: I'd love to Sammy.

W & S: *(Excited)* Yeah! Yippie!

Betsy: Well, guess I'd best be on my way to Sunday school. I hope my story helped you to take your mind off of food, Willie.

Willie: Yeah, it sure did. That was a cool story. I had forgotten a lot about the Palm Sunday. Especially about how the authorities got mad at Jesus because the people wanted to follow him.

Betsy: That's right. The thought of the people following Jesus was something that the authorities just didn't relish.

Willie: *(Famished)* Relish?

Sammy: Guess Jesus had 'em in a pickle, didn't he?

Willie: Pickle?

Betsy: Yep. A real jam.

Willie: Jam? *(In agony)* Oh no! Now I'm hungry again. *(Looking over his shoulder and shouting to his mom)* MOM! I'M HUNGRY!

All puppets laugh as they exit.

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 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.