

a script from  
**skitguys.com**

**“Texts, Tweets, and Twitters”**

by  
Tom Smith

**What** Willie is spending way too much time distracted by technology and is suffering consequences left and right. Susie helps him understand what it means to be a good steward of his time and to think beyond himself.

**Themes:** Kids Ministry, Puppets, Time, Technology, Distraction, Selfishness

**Who** Willie  
Susie  
Ralphie (pet dog)

**When** Present

**Props** Bandages  
Gauze  
Crutch  
2 pairs of headphones

**Why** Ephesians 5:15-16

**How** \*See the last page of this script for ideas on how to perform with puppets.

**Time** Approximately 8 minutes

*Scene opens with Susie at center stage reading from her Bible.*

**Susie:** Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get

*The sound of someone apparently in pain is heard at a distance.*

*Willie enters wearing headphones. He is covered in bandages and gauze from head to toe and in apparent discomfort.*

**Willie:** Oooooohhhh

**Susie:** *(concerned)* Oh my! Willie? Is that you? Are you okay? What happened?

**Willie:** *(in agony)* Oooooohhhh. Yeah, it's me.

**Susie:** *(alarmed)* What happened?

**Willie:** Texting and riding.

**Susie:** *(confused)* Texting and riding?

**Willie:** Yeah. I was texting Sammy while I was riding my bike. Then I crashed.

**Susie:** *(consoling)* Oh, Willie. Didn't you do that very same thing just last week?

**Willie:** *(regretfully nodding)* Yeah.

**Susie:** *(concerned)* Well, what's it going to take to get you to stop texting while you're riding your bicycle?

**Willie:** Well, this time...it took a telephone pole. That stopped me real fast.

**Susie:** Ouch!

**Willie:** Yeah. 'Ouch' is right.

**Susie:** *(troubled)* Willie, I've really been concerned about you lately.

**Willie:** Concerned?

**Susie:** *(nodding)* Yeah, concerned. Seems like you've been spending an awful lot of time lately with your brother's gadgets. His iPhone, or iPad or iPod or 'I' something.

**Willie:** What about it?

**Susie:** Well, I know it was nice of him to let you use those things while he's away at camp, but it just seems to me like you're always texting or

tweeting or something. And every day you're walking into walls or stumbling over something. And now you spend all of your time either staring at one kind of gadget or another, or you've always got headphones on your head. You've totally tuned out everything...and everybody.

**Willie:** Huh? I'm sorry...did you say something? I was listening to a song on my iPod.

**Susie:** (*upset*) See, there you go again. Don't you see what's happening to you, Willie?

**Willie:** What do you mean?

**Susie:** Well, you use to like to do things. You know, with Sammy or Betsy or Joey or...or...well...me. Now it's just you...by yourself...all the time. I guess that's why they call those things 'I'pods or 'I' phones or 'I' pads. I, I, I. There's no 'we' in 'I'.

**Willie:** Oh, I haven't been *that* bad.

**Susie:** (*continuing her rant*) And it's not just those small gadgets. You're also spending way too much time on your computer and with video games. You have no social life at all. You're becoming just like Lester Paddlewinkle.

**Willie:** Who?

**Susie:** My point exactly. Lester used to sit right next to you in Miss Pickle's class. Then he got some new computer games for Christmas and no one has seen or heard from him since. He's all but forgotten.

**Willie:** Gee.

**Susie:** I'm concerned about you Willie. All these new gadgets are wonderful, and some are even necessary; but they can consume you and you can become addicted to them.

**Willie:** (*thinking*) Hmmm.

**Susie:** The Bible says that a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. That's what's happened to Lester. He got so caught up in his computer games that he couldn't escape.

**Willie:** Oh, I'm not becoming addicted.

**Susie:** Oh really? How much time do you spend on your computer?

**Willie:** Uh, I don't know.

**Susie:** How many friends do you have on Facebook?

**Willie:** *(proudly)* One thousand two hundred and twelve.

**Susie:** And how many of those 'friends' have you actually met?

**Willie:** Sammy and Joey.

**Susie:** See. You're spending hours and hours with people who are just names. People you don't even know.

**Willie:** What's wrong with that?

**Susie:** Well, not only are you wasting your time, you're missing out on lots of really great things. Your social life is zero. Zip. Nada.

**Willie:** What kind of things?

**Susie:** Well, for instance, last night you missed a truly awesome pizza party at Betsy's house.

**Willie:** *(upset)* Pizza? I missed a pizza party?

**Susie:** That's right. And you're the only one who wasn't there. Well, you and Lester Paddlewinkle.

**Willie:** *(upset)* Gee. How come nobody told me about the pizza party?

**Susie:** I did. I sent you an invitation in the mail last week.

**Willie:** Oh, guess I've been too busy to check the mailbox.

**Susie:** Time is a precious resource, Willie, and the Bible cautions us to manage it well.

**Willie:** It does?

**Susie:** Yes, it does. The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:15-16, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." Did ya hear that, Willie? Making the most of your time.

**Willie:** Hmmm.

**Susie:** And making the most of your time means using your time carefully and wisely. Just think of all that you could have accomplished this past week if you hadn't been plugged into one kind of contraption or another.

**Willie:** Like what for instance?

**Susie:** Well, for instance, your homework might have gotten done. Or you could have given Ralphie his bath. You might have even gotten your room cleaned. Well, perhaps that's expecting a bit too much. But one thing is for sure, your stomach could have been full of pizza.

**Willie:** Yeah...I hear what you're sayin'.

**Susie:** But more important than all of those things, we need to be busy about the Lord's business.

**Willie:** How do we do that?

**Susie:** Easy. By putting kingdom things first on our 'to do' list and everything else second. Don't worry so much about the ways of the world—what you will eat, what you will wear, how your hair looks—stuff like that. Be busy about the Lord's work. Use the gifts that God has given you. Encourage others, show kindness, study God's Word, pray for our missionaries, smile, be nice to the new kid at school. Stuff like that.

**Willie:** Yeah...I think I get it now. Kinda like what my mom does all the time. She visits our neighbor, Miss Tomkins, when she's lonely or does volunteer work at the church nursery. Stuff like that?

**Susie:** *(pleased)* That's right, Willie! Now you got it. The apostle James said that "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." It is so important that we make the best possible use of the time we are given here on earth living our lives as God would want us to.

**Willie:** *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah. I get it now. And you're right. I've been spending way too much time thinking only about me, myself, and I. And wasting my time.

**Susie:** Congratulations, Willie! I think you just graduated to a new stage of maturity.

**Willie:** *(proudly)* Really? Me? Mature? Al-right!!!

**Susie:** So, no more texting and riding?

**Willie:** Promise. No more texting and riding.

**Susie:** Good for you, Willie.

**Willie:** Hey, Susie. Now maybe you might need to talk to Ralphie about this.

**Susie:** Ralphie? Why Ralphie? Dogs don't text and ride.

**Willie:** I wouldn't be too sure about that.

***Ralphie** howls as he enters wearing headphones and covered in bandages from head to paws.*

**Susie:** *(giggling)* Oh, Willie.

***Willie** and **Susie** exit laughing as **Ralphie** follows behind barking.*

*The end.*

Additional scripture references:

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33.

#### **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 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!

TO

REMOVE

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AT

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