

A script from



"The Big Bang"

by
Tom Smith

What While Susie and Sammy wait for Willie and Joey to arrive at the picnic grounds, they pass the time playing a game called "Famous Quotes". Throughout this Independence Day skit Joey learns a little bit about the history of his country and the faith of its founding fathers. And a mischievous Willie sees to it that the 4th of July celebration doesn't end without a proper "Big Bang".

Themes: Independence Day, Faith of Our Fathers, American's Christian Heritage

Who	Susie	Willie
	Sammy	Joey

When Present; July 4th

**Wear
(Props)** Large firecracker
Small firecracker
Small button or switch

Why Psalm 33:12

How *See how to perform this script and with puppets at the end of this script.

Time Approximately 6 minutes

Scene opens with **Sammy** and **Susie** near a picnic table talking to each other.

Sammy: (*Complaining*) I'm hungry. Can we eat now?

Susie: No, Sammy. I've already *told* you. We *have* to wait for Willie and Joey to get here. Then we can eat. And after that we'll have plenty of time to rest up before the firework show.

Sammy: (*Persistent*) But I'm really hungry.

Susie: (*Perks up*) Hey! Why don't we play a *game* until they get here? Maybe that will help take your mind off of food.

Sammy: (*Reluctantly*) Oh, okay. What kind of game?

Susie: (*Thinking*) Hmmmm. I know. "*Famous Quotes*". Let's play "*Famous Quotes*".

Sammy: Famous Quotes? (*Unenthused*) Never *heard* of it.

Susie: (*Excited*) Oh, it's a fun game. You'll like it. All you have to do is try and guess who it was who said something that later became a famous quote. (*Pause*) They can be quotes from anyone. Movie stars, musicians, politicians, missionaries. Anyone.

Sammy: (*Begrudgingly*) Oh, Okay. I'll try it. But it doesn't sound like much fun to me. (*Mumbling to himself*). I'd much rather be eating.

Susie: Yes, I know you'd rather be eating. But we have to wait for Willie and Joey. Come on. This will be fun.

Sammy: Oh, Okay. You start.

Susie: Okay (*Thinking*) Hmm. Okay...got it. Who said this, "May the force be with you."

Sammy: (*Excited*) Oh, I know that one. That was Han Solo from Star Wars.

Susie: Very good, Sammy. I told you could do this.

Sammy: (*Proudly*) Yeah...I guess so. Okay...my turn. (*Thinking*) Uh... who said, "One small step for man..."

Susie: (*Interrupting*) "One giant leap for mankind." That was Neil Armstrong when he first stepped on the moon.

Sammy: Yeah, you got it.

Susie: That was kinda easy though. Let's see if we can make this game a little more difficult.

Sammy: How do you suggest we do that?

Susie: Well, since we're celebrating Independence Day, perhaps we can focus on quotes from our founding fathers. Or maybe some of the other great patriots.

Sammy: Okay. I guess we can try that. But I'm not sure I can think of very many quotes from way back then.

Susie: (*Reassuringly*) Oh, I'm sure you'll do just fine. Once you start hearing some ... more will come to mind. (*Thinking*) Hmmmm. Okay, who said this? "Give me liberty or give me death"?

Sammy: Uh, Patrick Henry?

Susie: (*Surprised*) Very good, Sammy. I knew you could do it. Now it's your turn.

Sammy: Okay. (*Thinking*) Uh...okay, who said, "The British are coming, the British are coming"?

Susie: Oh, that's easy. Paul Revere.

Sammy: Yeah, you're right. That was an easy one. Okay...your turn.

Susie: Hmmmm. Let's see now. Okay. I've got one. Who said this: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible?"

Sammy: (*Struggling*) Hmmmm. Gee, that's a *hard* one. Give me a hint.

Susie: Well, he was our nation's first president.

Sammy: (*Perks up*) Oh. George Washington.

Susie: Very good.

Sammy: (*Surprised*) I didn't know that President Washington was a Christian.

Susie: He sure was. Many of our founding fathers were Christians. And it was their faith helped shape our nation's course. Men like George Washington, John Adams, Patrick Henry and so many others.

Sammy: Hmmm.

Susie: In fact, Patrick Henry once said that, "It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionist, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Pretty cool, huh?

Sammy: Boy, I'll say.

Susie: And even our institutions of higher learning- Yale, Harvard, Princeton- were all founded by Christians for the purpose of training ministers in their faith, men who loved the Lord and revered His Word. Can you believe that Noah Webster once said that, "education is useless without the Bible"?

Sammy: Wow!

Willie enters.

Willie: Hi, guys.

Susie: (*Whispering loudly to Sammy*) And in Willie's case, education is just plain useless.

S & S: (*Giggling*) Hi, Willie.

Susie: Where's Joey?

Willie: He had to run home for something. He'll be here in a minute. What'cha been doing?

Susie: We're playing Famous Quotes.

Willie: Huh?

Sammy: It's a game about famous quotes that our founding fathers and other people have said. We're taking turns trying to guess who said them. You wanna play?

Willie: (*Reluctantly*) Yeah, I guess. But I'm not very good at history. Public education, ya know.

Susie: (*Perks up*) Okay, my turn. Who said this, "We recognize no sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus"?

Sammy: (*Thinking*) Hmmm. That's a hard one. (*Pause*) Was it John Adams?

Susie: (*Surprised*) Very good Sammy. So far you're batting about 100%.

Sammy: (*Bashfully*) Yeah, gosh.

Willie: (*Unimpressed*) Ah, that was just a lucky guess.

Sammy: My turn to give a quote. Ah, who said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal"?

Willie: (*Trying to remember*) Uh...uh...

Susie: (*Answers quickly*) Easy. Thomas Jefferson.

Willie: (*Upset*) Ah, gee, I was gonna say that.

Sammy: (*Complaining*) I'm hungry. Can we eat now?

Willie: (*Thinking **Sammy** just gave a famous quote responds*) Uh...Ben Franklin?

Sammy: No....me! Sammy. I'm hungry. Let's eat!

Willie: Yeah, good idea. Then we can celebrate Independence Day with firecrackers and sparklers.

Susie: (*Disappointed*) I'm not allowed to use firecrackers at my home.

Sammy: How come?

Susie: 'Cause when my Uncle Stubs was a little boy, he picked up a firecracker that accidentally went off in his hand.

Sammy: Oh my, was he injured?

Susie: Why do you think they call him "stubs"?

Willie: Ooooooh. Ouch.

Sammy: I've got a firecracker. (***Sammy** raises his hand to reveal a tiny firecracker*) See!

Willie: (*Unimpressed*) You call *that* a firecracker!? I'll show you a firecracker.

Willie exits and then returns in a few moments with a huge firecracker as large as himself. Now this is a firecracker.

S&S: (*In awe*) Wow!

Sammy: That's the biggest firecracker I've ever seen.

Susie: Me too. *(Concerned)* You're not going to light it, are you?

Willie: Of course I'm *not* gonna light it. We're puppets. We can't play with matches.

Susie: Oh yeah, I forgot.

Willie: Besides, this kind of firecracker has to be set off by remote control.

S&S: Huh?

Willie: Yeah. I just have to push this button *(Shows button or switch in his hand)* and then kabooooooooommmmm!

Sammy: *(Excited)* Cool. Let's push it now.

Susie: Yeah. Let's do it.

Willie: Okay. Let me set the firecracker down here... *(Willie places the huge firecracker at one edge of the stage)* and then *(Willie begins moving to the opposite edge of the stage)* we should go waaayyy over here. *(Susie and Sammy join Willie standing as far from the firecracker as they can).*

Sammy: *(Excited)* This is going to be so cool. Sure wish Joey could be here to see it.

Willie: Yeah, me, too. *(Pause)* Okay. Now, when I push this button the firecracker will go off. Are you ready?

Susie: *(Excited and nervous)* Yes... *(Crouching down low)* I'm ready.

Sammy: Yeah, me too.

Willie: Okay. *(Willie prepares to push the button)* On three. *(Silence for a moment and then Willie begins his count)* One. *(Silence)* Two. *(Silence)* Two and a half. *(Silence)* Two and three quarters. *(Susie and Sammy quiver and their mouths are wide open)* THREE!!!

Willie pushes the button and **Joey** pops out of the top of the large firecracker.

Joey: *(Waving to the audience)* Happy Independence Day everybody! Happy birthday U.S.A.!

All: (Join **Joey** in waving to the audience and tossing confetti upward) HAPPY
4TH OF JULY!

The end.

**Author's note.*

The huge firecracker can simply be a large sheet of red construction paper rolled up leaving a space in the center wide enough for a puppet to be squeezed into it. It can have a red cardboard top and a white shoe string for the fuse. Be creative.

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.

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SCRIPT
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