

“The McCreadys: Forgiveness”

by
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What In this puppet play featuring four siblings, Stevie learns a lesson about the need for constant forgiveness.

Themes: Repentance, Forgiveness, Restoration, Humility

Who Stevie
Petey
Mimi
Ralph

When Present

Costumes and Props Cowboy Hat
Memory Verse Sign ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’
Question of the Day Sign ‘Do you need to forgive someone...Or ask someone for forgiveness?’

Why Matthew 18:21-22

How The characters are siblings and their voices/personalities should be practiced as follows:

Stevie- the oldest and a little uptight
Petey- extremely intelligent and kind
Mimi- sweet and helpful
Ralph- the youngest, cute and funny

Practice having the puppets say certain words simultaneously for effect (i.e. ‘We’re the McCreadys,’ ‘Amen’ etc.).

For ease of performance, having 2 persons per puppet works very well. One sits directly behind the other. The front puppeteer actually works the puppet, and the 2nd puppeteer does the voice, touching the front puppeteer on the

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shoulder when he has a line. Add a lot of expression to each voice for dramatic effect.

Ask middle school or older puppeteers to do the actual performance for the younger class. The middle schoolers will learn the lesson too.

Time

Approximately 10 minutes

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Lights up. **Ralph** appears cheerfully.

Ralph: Howdy everybody! Y'all havin' a good day?

Stevie: *(appears)* Ralph!

Ralph: What's up Stevie?

Stevie: *(irritated)* What are you doing? I'm supposed to be the first one out!

Ralph: *(confused)* You are?

Stevie: *(still irritated)* You know I always start the show!

Ralph: Oh, okay.

Stevie: Okay...what?

Ralph: Go ahead Stevie...start the show!

Stevie: *(still irritated)* You've already started it!

Ralph: I have?

Stevie: Oh for goodness sakes!

Petey: *(appears)* Excuse me gentlemen, but I believe this would be a good time to introduce the subject of our show today.

Stevie: Petey, you're not supposed to be out here yet, you haven't been properly introduced!

Petey: My goodness you're correct! *(To the audience)* Please excuse me, where are my manners? I'm Petey McCready!

Ralph: And I'm Ralph!

Stevie: RAAAALLLPHH!

Ralph: What's up?

Stevie: *I'm* supposed to introduce everybody!

Ralph: Well, Petey introduced his own self...

Petey: Oh, please accept my apologies!

Mimi: *(appears)* Now Stevie, since Petey and Ralphie have already introduced themselves, why don't we just let that stand this time? *(To the audience)* Hello everyone, I'm Mimi McCready!

Stevie: Mimi! *(sighs)* Oh well, since we're already out here, I guess it'll be okay...but just this once!

Ralph: *(cheerfully)* And this is our big brother Stevie McCready!

All: We're the McCready's!

Stevie: And we've got a wonderful lesson for you today...don't we Petey?

Petey: Indeed we do! What are we talking about today, Mimi?

Mimi: Well, Petey, we're gonna talk about the importance of forgiveness!

Ralph: You mean like when someone says they're sorry when they did something wrong?

Petey: Exactly Ralph! And a very good subject, don't you agree Mimi?

Mimi: Yes Petey, forgiveness is something we should all try to demonstrate, one to another. Don't you think so Stevie?

Stevie: Oh, I reckon.

Ralph: What's eatin' at ya, Stevie?

Stevie: I guess I'm just upset about how badly the show started...

Mimi: Ralphie, why don't you apologize to Stevie for jumping out ahead of him at the beginning of the show?

Ralph: *(to Mimi)* Oh, okay. Uh...good idea. *(To Stevie)* Hey Stevie, I'm sorry I messed up. I'll try to do better next time. Do you forgive me?

Stevie: Well... *(sighs)* okay, Ralph. Don't worry about it.

Petey: Well boys, you just demonstrated a perfect example of how to say, "I'm sorry" and then accepting the apology given!

Ralph and Stevie: We did?

Mimi: Yes! And as you said Petey, a perfect example!

Ralph: *(proudly)* Wow! And I wasn't even trying very hard!

Petey: Well now, funny you should mention that Ralph because sometimes... it can be hard to forgive people.

Ralph: *(to Mimi)* That's bad, right? Not to forgive?

Mimi: Yes, Ralphie, that is bad.

Stevie: Hey, do you think we could practice our introductions again? You know, just to make sure we all know how the show is *supposed* to start?

Mimi: Well, I don't see any harm in practicing...

Petey: A perfectly reasonable idea, as long as our audience doesn't mind?

Mimi: *(to the audience)* Would you mind terribly if we practiced our introductions?

Let the audience respond approvingly.

Petey: Well, it's settled then, on with the practice!

Ralph: Can we each practice introducing ourselves?

Mimi: What do you think Stevie? Wanna give it a try?

Stevie: Oh alright. But if it doesn't go well, back to the old way!

The McCready's disappear.

Stevie: *(voice only)* Is everyone ready?

Ralph: *(voice only)* Ready for what?

Mimi: *(voice only, giggles)*

Stevie: *(voice only)* To practice our introductions!

Ralph: *(voice only)* Oh! Yeah, yeah, ready!

Petey: *(voice only)* Ready and willing, Captain!

Stevie: *(voice only)* Okay, here we go...

Stevie: *(appears)* Hi boys and girls! Let me introduce myself! I'm Stevie McCready...

Petey: *(appears)* ...and I'm Petey McCready!

Mimi: *(appears)* ...and I'm Mimi McCready! And this is... *(looking around)* and this is...

Snoring sounds.

Mimi: *(looking down)* Ralphie dear, wake up please! We're in the middle of a show!

Stevie: *(In disbelief)* Is he asleep?

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Petey: Oh my! This is highly unusual!
Stevie: *(irritably and loudly)* RALPHHHHHHHH!
Ralph: *(jumps up)* What's up?
Mimi: I'm afraid, dearie, that you'd fallen asleep!
Petey: ...and in the middle of a show!
Ralph: I did? Golly, I'm sorry...
Stevie: Ralph, we are trying to practice our introductions, can you please try to stay awake?
Petey: He did say he was sorry, Stevie...
Stevie: Oh...well...okay...apology accepted. Now can we please begin...*AGAIN?*
Ralph: *(cheerfully)* Sure thing!

The McCready's disappear.

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Stevie: *(voice only)* Is everyone ready?
Ralph: *(voice only)* Ready for what?
Mimi: *(voice only, giggles)*
Stevie: *(voice only)* *Ralph!*
Ralph: *(voice only)* Oh yeah, yeah, I'm ready this time!
Petey: *(voice only)* Take it away, Captain!
Stevie: *(voice only)* Okay, here we go...
Stevie: *(appears)* Hi boys and girls! Let me introduce myself! I'm Stevie McCready...
Petey: *(appears)* ...and I'm Petey McCready!
Mimi: *(appears)* ...and I'm Mimi McCready!
Ralph: *(wearing a cowboy hat)* ...and I'm Buck-eyed Bill, the fastest ropin' cowboy in the *(circling his head)* wild wild west!
Mimi: *(giggles)*

Stevie: *Ralph!*

Ralph: You mean Buck-eyed Bill!

Stevie: No...I mean *RALPH!*

Petey: *(calmly)* Now Stevie, don't get yourself all worked up...I'm sure he has a perfectly good explanation...

Ralph: How do you like my cowboy hat? I thought I'd play a cowboy today!

Mimi: It's very dashing!

Stevie: We are *NOT* playing fictional characters today, Ralph, we're playing ourselves! Hey, where did you get that hat anyway?

Ralph: Where? *(changing to his cowboy voice)* Well now...outta my room there, partner...

Stevie: Are you sure...because...it looks like *my* hat!

Ralph: *(confused)* It's your hat? Golly, I'm sorry. I thought it was mine!

Stevie: I thought I recognized it! Yeah...that's MY HAT! I've been looking for it everywhere!

Mimi: Now Stevie, he said he was sorry. It was an honest mistake!

Stevie: For goodness sakes, Ralph! *(fuming)* And did I tell you that first thing this morning Ralph ate the last waffle and I didn't even get one?

Ralph: Ooh, sorry 'bout that...

Stevie: *(still angry)* And then...and then... he messes up my introduction for the show!

Mimi: Now Stevie, he's already apologized for that...

Ralph: *(defensively)* Yeah, I thought you already forgave me for that one!

Stevie: *(still angry)* And then he falls asleep...and right in the middle of our show!

Ralph: *(looking up at the ceiling)* Again, already apologized...

Petey: *(to Ralph, nodding his head)* ...and apology accepted...

Stevie: And now, he's taken *my* cowboy hat without even asking!

Ralph: Golly Stevie, I thought it was mine, really...

Stevie: How many times do I have to forgive him today?

Petey: Well Stevie, funny you should ask, because as it turns out, the answer to your question is in our bible scripture today!

Stevie: It is? Good! Go ahead and read it because I wanna know when enough is enough!

Petey: Well, Jesus said we need to forgive...

Stevie: Just once...right?

Petey: Now Stevie, what if you made some mistakes and you were forgiven only once?

Stevie: Well... (*soberly*) hmmm...that could be bad. Two times then?

Mimi: I'm afraid it's higher, dear!

Stevie: Three times?

Petey: No, it's not three....

Stevie: Four times? I have to forgive him four times?

Mimi: Getting closer...

Stevie: (*in disbelief*) Not five times?

Petey: (*shakes his head no*) No...

Stevie: Six times?

Mimi: No, not six times...

Ralph: (*with relief*) Woo-we! I haven't even come close to messing up that many times!

Stevie: Seven times? I have to forgive him seven times?

Petey: Well actually Stevie, Jesus said to forgive your brother seventy *times* seven times!

Stevie: (*soberly*) You've got to be joking....

Ralph: Seventy *times* seven? Woo-wee...that is a *BIG* number! Let's see now, what is 70 times 7 anyway? (*To himself*) Seven times zero is...zero... put down the zero, and... nothing to carry...and seven times seven is ...uh...forty...is uh...fortyyyyyyyyy...

Petey: I believe the number you're looking for is 49!

Ralph: Uh, thanks Petey!

Petey: *(cheerfully)* You're very welcome, Ralph!

Stevie: *(looking up)* Oh boy...

Ralph: Wow wee! That's four hundred and ninety times! That's a lot of forgiving!

Mimi: Ralphie dear, Jesus was actually teaching us that instead of keeping count, we should live in continual forgiveness toward others.

Stevie: Continual forgiveness...hmmm...even toward your own brother?

Petey: *Especially* toward your own brother!

Ralph: Golly! I forgive you...I forgive you...I forgive you...I forgive you...I forgive you...

Stevie: *(interrupting)* Ralph, what *are* you doing?

Ralph: Well, if I have to forgive that many times, I need to practice!

Mimi: *(giggles)*

Stevie: Hmmm... But hey, what about my hat?

Ralph: Oh yeah... here...take it... *(takes off hat, passes it to Stevie)* Sorry, I thought it was mine.

Petey: Stevie, Ralph said he was sorry...*soooooooooooooo...*

Stevie: *(sighs)* Hmmm...okay then...apology accepted. But in the future, could you *please* pay more attention!

Ralph: *(cheerfully)* Sure thing Stevie!

Mimi: Hey, I thought I saw something written inside there...

Stevie: Something written...where?

Petey: Yes, I see it too...written just inside the lining there...

Stevie: *(reading the inside lining of the hat, slowly)* "To Ralph from Aunt Gigi McCready, Happy 5th birthday".

Ralph: *(happily)* Well what do you know! It *is* my hat!

Petey: My goodness how quickly the circumstances can change!

Stevie: Huh?

Mimi: I think you owe Ralphie something... *(nodding her head toward Ralph)*

Stevie: *(suspiciously)* I owe Ralph what?

Mimi: An apology?

Stevie: For what?

Petey: For accusing him of taking your hat...

Mimi: When it did actually belong to Ralphie...

Stevie: Oh. *(Realization sinks in)* Ohhhh.

Mimi: Sometimes it's hard to say you're sorry, but if you're in the wrong, it's what you need to do.

Stevie: *(passes hat back to Ralph)* You're right, I know.

Ralph: *(clears throat in anticipation)*

Stevie: Uh, Ralph...

Ralph: Buck-eyed Bill...

Stevie: *(sighs)* Uh, Buck-eyed Bill?

Ralph: *(slowly)* Yes, Stevie?

Stevie: I just wanted...just...just wanted to say...

Ralph: Yeah?

Stevie: *(very quickly)* I just wanted to say that I'm sorry!

Ralph: Thank you Stevie! Everyone can make a mistake you know! *(Extremely loud)* I FORGIVE YOU!

Mimi: *(giggles)*

Ralph: *(to Mimi)* That's good, right...good to forgive?

Mimi: Yes, Ralphie, that is good.

Petey: Now wasn't that kind of Ralphie to accept your apology so quickly Stevie?

Stevie: *(sincerely)* Why yes, yes it was. Thank you, Ralph.

Ralph: *(changes his voice)* Sure thing, partner! Buck-eyed Bill never holds a grudge! No-sir-ree!

Mimi: I wonder if we've all thought about how many things that *we've* been forgiven from our Father in heaven, and all because Jesus paid for our sins?

Stevie: Wow Mimi, that really puts my forgiving Ralph in perspective. *We all* need forgiveness!

Petey: I for one am thankful for Jesus! I'm glad I've been forgiven!

Mimi, Ralph, Stevie: Me too!

Petey: That's right! Let's give Him praise!

Ralph: *(enthusiastically)* We serve an awesome God!

Stevie: You can say that again!

Ralph: *(loudly)* We serve an awesome God!

Petey: Most assuredly!

Mimi: Praise the name of Jesus!

All: Amen!

Stevie: Okay Mimi, could you read our memory verse?

Mimi: Certainly!

Hold up sign with memory verse.

Mimi: *(slowly)* Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

Petey: Excellent job everyone! So...here is the question of the day...

Hold up 'Question of the Day' sign.

Petey: Do you need to forgive someone...

Stevie: *(interrupting)* Or *ask* someone for forgiveness?

Ralph: Let God have *His* way, and it will be one of the best things you can ever do!

All: Amen!

Stevie: Well...this is Stevie!
Petey: ...and this is Petey!
Mimi: ...and this is Mimi!
Ralph: ...and this is Buck-eyed Bill!
All: We're the McCready's! (*waving good-bye*) See you next time! Good-bye everybody! Good-bye!

Lights out.

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