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**“The McCreadys: The Golden Rule”**

by  
Donna Evans

**What** In this puppet play featuring four siblings, the McCreadys teach the meaning of the Golden Rule.

Themes: The Golden Rule, Helping Others, The Good Samaritan, Kids Ministry, Puppets

**Who** Stevie  
Petey  
Mimi  
Ralph

**When** Present

**Costumes and Props** Cowboy Hat  
Memory Verse Sign “Do unto others what you would have them do unto you.”  
Question of the Day Sign “Are you treating others the way you would like to be treated?”

**Why** Matthew 7:12

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

Stevie (the oldest and a little up tight)  
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” and “Mama always knows best!” and “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

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the 2nd puppeteer does the voice, touching the front puppeteer on the 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 9 minutes

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*Stevie appears and cheerfully greets the audience.*

**Stevie:** 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:** *(appears with cowboy hat, using cowboy voice)* And I'm U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele of the *(circling his head)* w i l d w i l d west!

**Mimi:** *(giggles)*

**Stevie:** *(irritated)* Oh for goodness sakes! Everyone, let me introduce my youngest brother, Ralph!

**Ralph:** *(using cowboy voice)* You mean U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele! Howdy folks!

**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 something very valuable!

**Ralph:** *(changes to his cowboy voice)* Valuable? Whaddaya mean there, partner?

**Mimi:** Well, here's a hint...it's so valuable, it's *golden*...

**Ralph:** Golden? You mean like Uncle Dede McCreadys' gold tooth? He says he's got a fortune in his own mouth!

**Stevie:** *(irritated)* RALPH! We're not talking about Uncle Dede McCreadys' gold tooth... *(to Petey, confused)* are we Petey?

**Petey:** *(to Stevie)* No Stevie, I'm afraid we're not speaking of that kind of gold!

**Ralph:** I'd like to find me a gold nugget *(to Petey, pointing to his mouth)* and I'd put that piece right up here in the front, you know, so you can see it real good...

**Petey:** Excellent viewing...

**Mimi:** *(cheerfully)* I agree!

**Stevie:** *(confused)* You'd put *what* up in the front?

**Ralph:** My big-ole gold tooth, that's what!

**Stevie:** *(sighs, frustrated)* Oh good grief!

**Ralph:** Well, I thought you asked... *(to Mimi)* *(confused)* Didn't he ask?

**Mimi:** Yes dear, he did ask the question!

**Petey:** *(to Ralph)* Undoubtedly...

**Stevie:** Gentlemen!

**Mimi:** *(clears her throat)*

**Stevie:** Excuse me, uh, gentlemen and ladies, can we please get back to our lesson?

**Petey:** Certainly! *(to the audience)* I for one love this teaching because I can quickly determine what to do in situations when interacting with others.

**Ralph:** Huh?

**Mimi:** *(to Ralph)* It helps us in dealing rightly with other people dearie.

**Ralph:** Oh. So it's about how to treat other people? That's good 'cause when folks aren't acting the way they should, that's when they call *(using cowboy voice)* U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele of the *(circling his head)* w i l d w e s t! Yes-sir-ree! He'll get them dealing squarely, that's for sure! Don't you worry 'bout that now little' missy!

**Stevie:** Oh brother...

**Mimi:** *(giggles)* Petey, why don't we give them today's Bible verse?

**Petey:** Great idea, Mimi! "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you."

**Ralph:** Huh? Do unto others...what...what was the rest of it?

**Mimi:** Ralphie, it just means to treat others the way *you* would like to be treated, and that, my friends, is what we call the Golden Rule!

**Ralph:** Oh, treat others the way *you* want to be treated...okay.....got it!

**Petey:** Here's an activity to explore! Let's each name some of the ways we'd like to be treated ourselves!

**Mimi:** Oh, I see. Then we'll understand how to treat others! Wonderful suggestion, Petey!

**Petey:** Thank you, Mimi!

**Mimi:** You're welcome. Petey! And I'd just like to say that I for one like it when Petey always says "thank you" in appreciation for anything helpful I've said or done!

**Petey:** Likewise, Mimi!

**Ralph:** *(using cowboy voice)* That there's some good 'ole southern manners little missy... Yes sir ree... your mama done brought you up right...

**Mimi:** Thank *you* young man!

**Stevie:** Oh boy...okay Ralph, you start. Name a way you'd like to be treated.

**Ralph:** Oh...okay...so...how /would like to be treated? Hmm...well... I like it when my friends let me play with their toys...

**Petey:** Wonderful example!

**Mimi:** So if we apply the Golden Rule and treat others the way we would like to be treated, then, Ralphie, you should share your toys with your friends...

**Ralph:** *(slowly, with revelation)* Oh...I get it....

**Petey:** I myself find it pleasurable when someone compliments my playing of the violin!

**Ralph:** *(confused)* Huh?

**Mimi:** *(to Ralph)* Tell Petey "good job" when he plays a good tune on the fiddle...

**Ralph:** *(confidently)* Oh...yeah...yeah...I get that....

**Mimi:** Well, Petey, if we apply the Golden Rule, then you should find ways to genuinely compliment others in their accomplishments!

**Petey:** Excellent suggestion, Mimi!

**Stevie:** What about you, Mimi? What do you like?

**Mimi:** Well...I like it when people are friendly and smile at me!

**Ralph:** You mean like this? *(opens mouth wide and gets in Mimi's face)*

**Stevie:** Oh boy...

**Mimi:** Yes Ralphie, (*giggles*) but not maybe quite so close!

**Petey:** Well then, Mimi, you should always try to smile and be friendly to others too!

**Mimi:** Right, Petey! Now Stevie, can you name a way you would like to be treated?

**Stevie:** Well, I like it when Mama cooks my favorite dish for dinner!

**Ralph:** (*excitedly*) Macaroni and Cheese?

**Stevie:** No Ralph...uh... I believe that's *your* favorite dish!

**Ralph:** (*with revelation*) Oh yeah...

**Mimi:** (*giggles*)

**Petey:** Well Stevie, you should remember others and suggest cooking their favorite dish sometime.

**Ralph:** (*excited*) Oh! And I like it when my favorite television show comes on and Mimi lets me change the channel to watch it...

**Stevie:** So, then Ralph, what should you do if you were practicing the Golden Rule?

**Ralph:** (*uncertain*) Uh...let someone else change the TV channel to watch *their* favorite show?

**Mimi:** That's right! Now you're beginning to understand!

**Ralph:** (*confused*) But...but what if *my* show is on?

**Mimi:** Well, that's the sacrifice you would have to make. Sometimes, it's about putting others before yourself!

**Ralph:** Wow that's...*hard*.

**Petey:** It's been my experience that as you practice the Golden Rule, it builds spiritual maturity!

**Ralph:** I sure could use some of that, you know, what you just said Petey!

**Petey:** Spiritual maturity? That is simply behaving in a way corresponding to biblical teachings.

**Ralph:** Huh?

**Mimi:** Actually *doing* what the bible says Ralphie...actually *practicing* the Golden Rule.

**Ralph:** (*confidently*) Mama says you not only have to *know* what to do, you actually have to *do* it! And we know that...

**All:** Mama always knows best!

**Petey:** You know, the Golden Rule reminds me of the story that Jesus told that we call the Good Samaritan story. It's a story about a man who was robbed and left for dead on the side of the road.

**Ralph:** Oh my goodness! That's terrible!

**Petey:** You are certainly correct in your analysis Ralph!

**Ralph:** Huh?

**Mimi:** (*to Ralph*) You were right dearie, it *was* terrible!

**Ralph:** That poor man needed the services of (*using cowboy voice*) U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele of the...

**Stevie, Petey, Mimi:** (*circling their heads*) W i l d w i l d west! (*looking at Ralph*) We know!

**Ralph:** (*still using cowboy voice*) What happened next there uh...Petey?

**Petey:** Well, a priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man...

**Ralph:** (*excited*) I bet he stopped to help him now, didn't he?

**Petey:** Well, unfortunately Ralph, he passed by on the other side of the road.

**Ralph:** (*surprised*) Just passed him by? And he was a *priest*? You're kiddin'!

**Petey:** No I'm not. Then, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, *he* passed by on the other side.

**Ralph:** You mean he didn't try to help him either?

**Petey:** Well, he should have tried to help, Ralph, but sadly, he did not.

**Ralph:** Well, if U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele had been there, they would gotten a good talkin' to for sure! That ain't nothin' but some bad manners!

**Mimi:** I certainly agree!

**Stevie:** What happened next, Petey?

**Petey:** Well, then there was a man, a Samaritan, and he came upon where the injured man was. And when he saw him he took pity on him.

**Ralph:** Finally! *(looking at ceiling, very loudly)* Help has arrived!

**Stevie:** Oh boy...

**Mimi:** *(giggles)*

**Ralph:** *(excitedly)* What happened next, Petey?

**Petey:** Well, this Samaritan man went over and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. Then the next day, he took out some of his own money and gave it to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will pay you for any extra expense you may have."

**Stevie:** *(with revelation)* Wow. He was kind *and* generous to that injured stranger...

**Petey:** Yes, Stevie, undoubtedly...he was.

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

**Mimi:** Yes, Ralphie, that is good!

**Petey:** Now, which of these three men do you think demonstrated our lesson on the Golden Rule, to do unto others as you would have them do unto you?

**Ralph:** *(excitedly)* I know! Now if I was injured and lying on the side of the road, I would for sure want someone to stop...and help me...and pick me up off the road...and bandage my wounds...and put me in a place where I could get better...so...it was the Samaritan man who helped him! He's the one who obeyed the Golden Rule!

**Petey:** That's right, Ralph. And Jesus tells us to "Go and do likewise."

**Ralph:** Hey...you know what else?

**Mimi:** What's that, Ralphie?

**Ralph:** Well, the injured man that was helped by the kind stranger, *he* should learn to help others too when they need something because someone sure did help him!

**Petey:** Well said, Ralph! An astounding observation!

**Ralph:** Huh?

**Mimi:** He just means you made a very important point, dearie!

**Ralph:** Oh...yeah...yeah I get that...

**Petey:** You know, our God in heaven loves each one of us *so* much, and He wants us to love each other and help each other. And when we do this, it shows others the love in our hearts and our love for God!

**Stevie:** 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:** And that, my friends, is why we need to memorize the Golden Rule! Okay everybody, let's read our memory verse together!

*Hold up sign with memory verse.*

**All:** *(slowly)* Matthew 7:12 "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you."

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

*Hold up Question of the Day sign.*

**Petey:** Are you treating others the way you would like to be treated?

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

**All:** Amen!

**Stevie:** Well... this is Stevie!

**Petey:** ...and this is Petey!

**Mimi:** ...and this is Mimi!

**Ralph:** *(using cowboy voice)* ...and this is U.S. Marshall Matthew Steele of the  
*(circling his head)* wild wild west!

**All:** We're the McCready's! See you next time! Good-bye everybody!

*Lights out.*

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