

“The McCreadys: The Ten Commandments”

by
Donna Evans

- What** In this puppet play featuring four siblings, the McCreadys learn the meaning behind each of the Ten Commandments.
- Themes: Ten Commandments, Kids Ministry, Puppets
- Who** Stevie
Petey
Mimi
Ralph
- When** Present
- Costumes and Props** Sound effects- growling stomach and nose blowing.
*You can find free sound effects on the internet.
- Question of the Day Sign- Are you obeying the Ten Commandments?
- Why** Exodus 20:1-17
- 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” 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 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 14 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)* And I'm Ralph!

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 Ten Commandments.

Ralph: Can I name the first one? Please? Can I? Can I?

Mimi: Okay Ralphie, go ahead!

Ralph: Thou shalt clean thy room!

Petey: No, I'm afraid that is incorrect Ralph...

Ralph: Oh! I know! I know! Thou shalt eat thy vegetables!

Petey: No Ralph, again, incorrect.

Ralph: Do your homework?

Petey: No...

Ralph: Wash behind my ears?

Mimi: Ralphie, I believe you're referring to the rules we have at our home, aren't you, dearie?

Ralph: Well yeah, and, if I don't do them, Mama says there will be con...consequences! I'm not sure what means exactly, but it don't sound good!

Mimi: "Doesn't". And Ralphie, that just means there will be some kind of punishment if you don't obey Mama's rules!

Ralph: I *knew* it! *(swings his arm)*

Mimi: What we're talking about today is the commandments that *God* wants us to live by!

Ralph: *(with revelation)* Oh...yeah! Hey, can I be excused?

Stevie: But Ralph, we're in the middle of a show!

Ralph: Please? I need to get something and I promise it won't take long! Please please please please....

Petey: This is highly unusual! What do you think Mimi?

Mimi: Well, *(to Ralph)* if you promise you'll hurry back?

Ralph: *(confidently)* Won't even know I'm gone! *(Ralph leaves)*

Stevie: *(soberly, leans toward the audience)* Somehow, I find that very hard to believe.

Petey: Mimi, can you give us a little background on the Ten Commandments please?

Mimi: I'd be happy to! The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. These were commands that God wanted everyone to live by, and it's important to know what they are!

Petey: Stevie, can you please read the 1st Commandment for us?

Stevie: Sure can! Love God more than you love anything or anyone.

Mimi: This means that God should come first in everything we do. Not anything or anybody should be more important in our lives than God!

Petey: Wonderful explanation, Mimi! Now, on to the 2nd Commandment.

Ralph: *(suddenly appears, breathless)* Petey! Wait!

Petey: You're back! Good! We just covered the 1st Commandment!

Ralph: Petey, can I read *my own* writings of the Ten Commandments?

Stevie: *(amazed)* You have your *own* writings of the Ten Commandments?

Ralph: Sure do! We were learning them in Sunday school, so I made out my own list to help me remember!

Petey: Well now, that *is* impressive! What did you write for the 1st commandment?

Ralph: *(clears his throat)* Number one: Keep God first in all you do, and make sure you obey this rule!

Mimi: *(giggles)* Very good, Ralphie!

Petey: Well now, that sums it up properly I believe! What do you have written for the 2nd commandment?

Ralph: Number two: Worship our God in heaven alone, no earthly idol's on the throne!

Petey: Very good Ralph! We only worship God in heaven, and nothing else! No idol worship!

Ralph: Right! *(unsure)* Uh...Petey?

Petey: Yes Ralph?

Ralph: What's an idol?

Petey: Oh well, an idol would be anything or anyone that you worship or put more importance on than God in heaven.

Stevie: Wow. You know something, Petey, if we love God above anything else, then we *will* worship only Him!

Petey: Excellent observation Stevie! The first two commandments fit nicely together, don't they?

Mimi: They really do!

Stevie: What did you write for the 3rd commandment, Ralph?

Ralph: Number three: Holy is God's precious name. Never speak His name in vain!

Mimi: That's right! Gods' name is precious and should never be spoken carelessly.

Petey: So, the first three commandments are all referring to God and how we should love Him above all else...

Ralph: Above all else...

Petey: Worship *only* our God in heaven...

Ralph: Worship *only* our God in heaven....

Petey: And *a/ways* show respect to His holy name!

Ralph: Respect His holy name! Got it!

Mimi: Ralphie, I like how you made the commandments rhyme to make them easy to remember!

Ralph: *(embarrassed, looking down, moving his head back and forth)*
Aww...go on Mimi...

Stevie: Hey Ralph, what do you have for the 4th Commandment?

Ralph: Number four: The Sabbath day was made for rest, so do *no work* and be... your...best!

Mimi: That's right! God created the universe in six days and then rested on the Sabbath. We should rest on the Sabbath day too!

Petey: I like that, Ralph! When we obey God's commandments, we are doing our best!

Mimi: *Anytime* we're obeying the Lords' commandments, we're doing our best!

Stevie: Now, Ralph, onto the 5th Commandment!

Ralph: Number five: Your mommy and daddy gave you life. Honor them both with all your might!

Stevie: You know something, if it wasn't for our parents, we wouldn't even *be* here now, would we?

Mimi: That's right, Stevie!

Petey: Now, I want to go back to something that Ralph brought up previously, when he spoke of our mother's house rules. By *obeying* mother's rules, we are honoring this 5th commandment given by God because...we are honoring our mother!

Stevie: I see what you mean! We love God, so we obey the 5th commandment to honor our parents, and then by obeying our parents and their rules, we are honoring the 5th commandment and obeying God!

Ralph: *(dreamily, looking up)* You know something...it's like the circle of life!

Mimi: *(giggles)*

Stevie: *(laughing)* Good one, Ralph! Now read the 6th Commandment please!

Ralph: Number six: Don't let your hatred hide within; to kill someone is a deadly sin!

Mimi: Thank you, Ralph! God wants us to love one another. Every life is precious. Taking someone else's life is a very serious offense to our God.

Stevie: How true! And many times, a terrible act can start with hate. The first murder recorded in the bible is in the book of Genesis when Cain murdered his brother Abel.

Ralph: *(in disbelief)* You mean...he killed his own *brother*?

Petey: Yes, Ralph, he did! And he did it because he was jealous. Jealousy can very easily turn to hatred. If we ever feel these feelings of jealousy or hate, we need to quickly turn it all over to God and ask for His help.

Ralph hangs his head low.

Mimi: Ralphie dear, what's the matter?

Ralph: *(emotionally and loud, eyes to the ceiling)* I just wanna say...I would never hurt my brothers! I...I love *all my* brothers! *(to Mimi)* And...and I love you too, Mimi!

Mimi: Aww, I love you too, Ralphie! *(hugs Ralph)*

Petey: *(emotionally)* And I love all *my* brothers! And you too Mimi!

Ralph and Mimi and Petey hug and tell one another that they love each other.

Silence as Ralph, Mimi & Petey stop to look at Stevie.

Stevie: *(very emotionally, eyes to the ceiling)* I just love...*(crying)* EVE-RY-BO-DY!

All four puppets hug and tell one another that they love each other, then separate, wiping their eyes.

Petey: Well now, there's nothing like an emotional outburst on occasion...but...I guess we had better get back to our lesson! Now Ralph, dearest brother, will you please read the 7th Commandment?

Ralph: *(affectionately)* Anything for you, Petey! *(wiping his eyes)* Number seven: Love your husband and love your wife. Stay faithful to them all your life!

Mimi: Thank you, Ralphie! Staying faithful in marriage means to never give your affections to someone other than your spouse. Once a man and woman have spoken marriage vows, they should be committed to each other for the rest of their lives.

Petey: Now, Ralph, are you ready to read the 8th commandment?

Ralph: Number eight: Stealing stuff is just not cool, so never, never break this rule!

Mimi: Very good Ralphie! Now this is very simple to understand. Never, never, *NEVER* take something that doesn't belong to you.

Petey: Right, Mimi! If it doesn't belong to you, then it's hands off! What's next, Stevie?

Stevie: Number nine: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Mimi: *(looking around)* And who is our neighbor?

Ralph: Mimi, you know our neighbor is our sweet little 'ole cousin, Edie McCready!

Stevie: That's right...and boy does she ever make the best biscuits and gravy! Melt in your mouth good! Mmmm! Wish I had one right now!

Ralph: *(covers his mouth)* Oops!

Mimi: What is it, Ralphie?

Ralph: *(suspiciously)* Uhhhh...nothin'!

Mimi: Well, Ralphie, biblically speaking, everyone you meet is your neighbor. False testimony is saying something that isn't true, or to put it simply, telling a lie. So, we should never tell a lie about anyone or anything. Ralphie, what did you write for the 9th commandment?

Ralph: *(slowly and sadly)* Number nine: Be...be tru...truthful in the words you say, and do this every... single...day...

Mimi: Very cute Ralphie! Good job!

Petey: I agree! We should always, always, ALWAYS tell the truth! Now Stevie, will you please read the 10th commandment?

Stevie: You shall not covet your neighbor's house, or your neighbor's wife, or his servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Mimi: Thank you, Stevie! To covet means to want for yourself the things that belongs to another person. This is *not* pleasing to God.

Ralph: *(crying)* Ohhhh!

Mimi: Ralphie, what's the matter, dearie?

Ralph: Does...does that include 'You shall not covet your neighbor's biscuit and...and...gravy? I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm *SO*sssooooooryyy!

Mimi: Ralphie dear! Whatever are you talking about?

Ralph: *(staring at the ceiling)* I've broken so many commandments, I can't count them all! *(crying loudly)*

Petey: This is very concerning indeed!

Stevie: You shall not covet your neighbor's biscuit and gravy? Huh? What is he talking about?

Mimi: Ralphie, calm down, dear. *(patting his shoulder)* Now tell us what this is all about...

Ralph: Well...you know...cousin Edie McCready sent over biscuits and gravy this morning...for...for the whole family...

Mimi: *(nodding in agreement to Petey)* Yes, and it was delicious...

Petey: Truly delectable....

Stevie: I didn't get a biscuit...there wasn't enough for everybody.

Ralph: That's it! That's it!

Mimi: What's it, dearie?

Ralph: Well...after I ate my biscuit, I was still a little hungry and...and Stevie's biscuit was just lying there...so...so... *(crying loudly, eyes to the ceiling)*
I ATE STEVIE'S BISCUIT AND GRAAAVVVVVY!

Mimi: *(soberly)* Oh...I see.

Petey: Truly unfortunate...

Stevie: You did... *WHAT?*

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

Mimi: Yes, Ralphie, that was *bad!*

Stevie: *(with revelation)* So *you* ate my biscuit and gravy?

Ralph: I'm sorry, Stevie! I lied! I broke the 9th commandment! *(crying)* I'm a no-good lying...so and so!

Stevie: *(looking down, loud GROWLING NOISE)*

Petey: *(irritated)* Whatever is that disturbing sound?

Stevie: Oh! That's just my *(irritated, looking at Ralph)* *EMPTY STOMACH GROWLING!*

Ralph: Oh! *(crying uncontrollably)*

Mimi: Now Ralphie dear, that's quite enough! No need to make yourself sick!

Ralph: But...I broke the 1st commandment by not putting God first, because...
God wouldn't have wanted me to take Stevie's biscuit...

Petey: True enough...

Ralph: ...and I broke the 8th commandment because I took Stevie's biscuit...when it didn't belong to me...

Petey: ...*and* the gravy...

Ralph: *(crying uncontrollably)* And the gggrrraaaavvvyy!

Mimi: *(scolding)* Petey!

Petey: *(to Mimi, factually)* Well...you know it's just not as good without the gravy...Still! That's not an excuse!

Ralph: And... *(blows his nose)* I broke the 9th commandment when I lied to Stevie...I...I told him Cousin Edie didn't send over enough biscuits...I bore false witness!

Mimi: My goodness, Ralphie!

Ralph: And I broke the 10th commandment because...I was longing for something that wasn't even mine!

Petey: *(troubled)* Oh when will all these deceptions end?

Ralph: *(crying loudly)*

Mimi: Ralphie, the whole reason for the Ten Commandments is to show us that there are absolutes. Some things are absolutely right, and some things are absolutely wrong. And, by studying these commandments, you have realized some things you have done wrong, but now that you know this, you can repent, say you're sorry, and behave better in the future.

Petey: Mimi is absolutely correct. We *all* make mistakes. What is important is to recognize when we do. Ask the Lord to forgive you, and then ask Stevie to forgive you too.

Ralph: Really? Okay. Stevie, *(sniff, sniff)* I'm sorry I lied to you about your biscuit. Do you forgive me?

Stevie: Well, I can see you're really sorry. *(very decisively)* Yes Ralph, I forgive you!

Ralph: Thank you Stevie! *(bows his head)* Dear Lord, I broke 4 commandments today, I didn't put You first in this situation, I coveted, I stole, and then I lied, and...I'm so sorry. Please forgive me. And I pray for your strength to help me in the future. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

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

Mimi: Yes Ralphie, that was good!

Petey: Wait a minute, we haven't heard Ralph's writing for the 10th commandment. Go ahead and read it to us Ralph!

Ralph: Oh...okay. Number ten: Be happy with the things you have, to wish for someone's biscuit...I mean...*stuff... is bad!*

Mimi: *(giggles)*

Petey: I am thankful for God's word and the Ten Commandments because it shows me what God expects of me as a follower of Jesus. It's good to commit these commandments to memory to help us make right decisions!

Mimi: Right Petey! God's word is precious!

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 everybody, remember, the Ten Commandments can be found in the book of Exodus chapter 20 and verses 1 through 17!

Hold up Question of the Day sign.

Petey: Here is the question of the day. Are you obeying the Ten Commandments?

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

Stevie: Well... this is Stevie!

Petey: ...and this is Petey!

Mimi: ...and this is Mimi!

Ralph: ...and this is Ralph!

All: We're the McCready's!

All: See you next time! Good-bye everybody! Good-bye!

Lights out.

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