

A script from



“Two Left Feet (A Veteran’s Day Script)”

A Puppet Script

by

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What In this puppet script, Willie, Joey, and Susie talk about what Veteran’s Day is all about and discuss ways they can show respect and gratitude to veterans.

Themes: Veterans, Veteran’s Day, Patriotism, Sacrifice

Who Willie
Susie
Joey

When Present; Veteran’s Day

**Wear
(Props)** Two Tiny American Flags

Why John 15:13

How Allow for plenty of room behind the puppet stage for puppets to march from one side to the other. This skit can be performed by people as well as using puppets.

*See the end of this script on how to perform with puppets.

Time Approximately 7 minutes

Scene opens with **Willie** and **Joey** marching in unison as **Willie** shouts out a familiar military cadence. Each puppet is holding a tiny American flag in his hand.

Willie: *(shouting)* Your left... Your left... Your left, right, left. Your left... Your left... Your left, right, left. Companyyyyy...Halt! *(Puppets stop marching and stand at attention)* Right face. *(Both puppets pivot to their right).* Left face. *(Willie pivots to his left as Joey incorrectly pivots to his right causing him to be facing in the wrong direction; frustrated)* Your other left Joey.

Joey: *(embarrassed)* Whoops, sorry. My dad always did say that I have two left feet.

Susie enters as **Joey** pivots again in order to face the same direction as **Willie**.

Susie: Hi guys.

W&J: Hi Susie.

Susie: What'cha doing?

Joey: *(excited)* We're playin' army.

Willie: Yeah, we're soldiers in the U.S. Army and I'm a drill instructor.

Susie: I see. *(Pause)* Hey, where'd you get those cute little flags?

Willie: We got 'em at the 'Veterans Day' parade this morning. Pretty cool, huh?
(Waves flag)

Susie: Yes, they are.

Joey: Were you there?

Susie: *(shaking her head)* No, I didn't go.

Willie: Too bad. It really was a nice parade.

Susie: I'm sure it was. And I do like parades. Maybe next year I'll try to go.

Willie: I hope so. My dad said that going to the Veteran's Day parade is a good way for us to honor our veterans.

Susie: *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah. All the more reason I should go, I guess. There sure have been a lot of veterans in my family; going all the way back to the Revolutionary War.

Willie: *(amazed)* The Revolutionary War! Wow!

Joey: *(excited)* Hey, I have a cousin who's a veterinarian.

Willie: Not a veterinarian Joey, a veteran. Someone who served, or still serves, on active duty in the armed forces.

Joey: *(embarrassed)* Whoops. Sorry again. Guess I got confused.

Susie: That's okay Joey. *(Slight pause)* My dad is a veteran. He was stationed somewhere in South Korea.

Willie: *(surprised)* Hey, that's where my Grandpa was. I wonder if they knew each other.

Susie: *(shaking her head in disbelief)* Not hardly, Willie. My dad was there just a year ago. Your Grandpa was probably there back in the 1950s.

Willie: *(slightly embarrassed)* Oh, yeah. I guess you're right.

Joey: *(excited)* I have a neighbor who came home from Afghanistan just last week.

Susie: Good for him, Joey. I'm really proud of our veterans. We've truly been blessed having so many wonderful men and women willing to serve their country and keep us safe from generation to generation.

Willie: Boy, I'll say we have. And that's why we need to honor them. They've sacrificed so much in order to keep us safe and to give us the kind of freedoms and comforts that we enjoy today.

Susie: *(nodding)* That's right, Willie. We definitely need to honor our veterans.

Joey: *(curious)* So, ah, how do we do that?

Susie: Well, lots of ways, Joey. I suppose the easiest way to honor our veterans is to simply tell 'em 'thank you' for your service to our country. Anybody can do that.

Joey: *(thinking)* Hmmm.

Susie: And if they let ya, you might even give 'em a hug or a pat on the back. I bet they'd like that.

Joey: *(nodding)* Yeah, that sounds easy enough.

Susie: It is. And another way we can honor our veterans is to fly the American flag in our yard on Veteran's Day. That lets them know that we stand united with them in our love of country.

Willie: *(nodding)* Yeah. We always put our flag out on Veterans Day.

Susie: Good for you, Willie.

Willie: Sometimes my dad likes to go to the VA Hospital. He enjoys listening to the older men tell stories about their time on active duty. He especially likes to visit with the sailors 'cause he was in the Navy too.

Susie: Cool. That would be fun to do. Ya see, Joey, there's lots of ways we can honor our veterans. Visit them, send them a card, draw them a picture. Lots of ways.

Joey: *(nodding)* Yeah, I think you're right.

Willie: And don't forget to pray for 'em. That's really easy to do.

Susie: *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah, and important too. We definitely want to remember to pray for our veterans. *(Pause)* Ya know, I think if we ask our parents, they'd be able to help us come up with some other ways we can honor our veterans.

Willie: Yeah, I'm gonna do that just as soon as I get back home.

Joey: Me too.

Willie: *(curious)* Hey, Susie. Does the Bible say anything about Veteran's Day?

Susie: Well...not 'Veteran's Day' exactly. But there sure are a lot of veterans in the Bible.

Joey: Really? Like who for instance?

Susie: Well, like David for instance. He was a veteran.

Joey: *(surprised)* He was?

Susie: Sure he was. And Joshua. You do remember Joshua, don't you?

Willie: *(perks up)* I do.

Willie begins dancing, waving his arms and singing the song 'Joshua Fit the Battle Of Jericho' wayyyyy off key.

"Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
And the walls came tumbling down."

Susie: *(holding her hand to her head)* Oh, brother. What have I unleashed?

Joey: Any other veterans in the Bible?

Susie: Well, let me think. Ah...oh yeah. Gideon. He was a veteran.

Willie: *(excited)* Yeah, I like Gideon. He was cool. With only 300 men he won a huge battle against the Midianite army. He sure was brave.

Susie: Yes, he was. And he served his country well.

Willie: *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah, for sure.

Susie: Personally, I believe there's something very...special about veterans.

Willie: Special? What do you mean?

Susie: Well, I just mean that veterans seem to embody those principles that set them apart from so many others. They're brave, heroic, selfless, and they all share in their love of country. But more than that, veterans are one of our best examples of our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). Our veterans do that. They're willing to lay down their lives to protect their families their friends and their country. I just think that makes 'em extra special.

Willie: I think you're right Susie. Our veterans truly are special. Probably more than we even realize.

Susie: *(nodding)* Yeah.

Willie: *(perks up)* Hey, Ya wanna know what?

Susie: What?

Willie: I think that someday...I'll be a veteran.

Joey: *(excited)* Yeah, me too.

Susie: *(encouragingly)* Cool. I'm sure you'd both make fine soldiers. Maybe I'll be a veteran too.

Willie: You? But you're a girl.

Susie: (*proudly*) And proud of it. Don't you know by now that lots girls are veterans. We're lean, mean fightin' machines.

Willie: (*sarcastically*) Yeah, right.

Susie: And I think I could probably be a good drill instructor too.

Willie: (*doubtful*) Well, I don't know 'bout that. It's not easy, ya know. Especially if you're working with Joey and his two left feet. Ha.

Joey: (*sarcastic*) Funny...not!

Susie: Here, let me give it a try. Why don't you both just line up right here and stand at attention.

Willie: (*reluctantly*) Oh, okay.

Willie and Joey stand side by side at attention.

Susie: Very good. Now, do as I say.

Susie begins shouting out a series of commands for Willie and Joey to follow. Left face, right face, forward march, about face, etc.

Puppeteers may take as much time they like marching the puppets around. At first all goes well as Willie and Joey march in unison. At some point Joey gets confused and makes his usual wrong turn causing him to be standing, facing Susie on her left as Willie stands facing Susie on her right. As Susie then issues the command 'forward march' she is unaware that it puts Willie and Joey on a collision course with her.

Susie: (*shouting*) Your left...your left...your left, right, left. Your left...your left...your left, right, left.

Susie soon notices that Willie is marching toward her from her right side and Joey is marching toward her from her left. She issues the command to 'stop' but they both continue marching toward her. Looking back and forth at Willie and Joey, Susie begins to panic.

Susie: Stop. STOP!!!! (*Shouting*) STOOOOOP!

CRASH!!!! Willie and Joey collide with Susie and all puppets drop from view.

Susie: (*in agony*) OUCH! Ohhhhhhh. That hurt. (*Pause*) Hey, how come you guys marched into me? I gave you the order for you to 'stop'.

Willie: (*in agony*) Ohhhhh. Sorry Susie. 'Stop' isn't the right word. In the military, you're supposed to say 'halt'.

All three puppets pop back up into view. Their hair and clothing are all in a mess and the two tiny flags are sticking out of Susie's hair.

Susie: Oh, brother.

All: *(waving to the audience)* Happy Veteran's Day Veterans.

The end.

Optional dialogue:

This Veterans day we want to honor all of those who have bravely served their country. Here are a few verses of encouragement you might like to share with a veteran you know. Perhaps someone in your own family.

Haven't I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid. Don't be dismayed, for Yahweh your God^d is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on, there is stored up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7

"Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you." Psalm 33:20-22

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

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 you are 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.