

## **“A Surprise for Father’s Day”**

by  
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**What** In this puppet play for kids, Willie, Joey, and Betsy talk excitedly about what they're doing for their dads on Father's Day. Betsy reminds the boys what the Bible says about fathers and offers encouragement that the Heavenly Father is also there for them.

**Themes:** Father’s Day, Dads, Kids Ministry, Puppets

**Who** Willie  
Betsy  
Joey  
Skunk

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** Skunk (puppet or stuffed animal)  
Leash and collar for skunk

**Why** Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 17:6; Psalm 127:3-5

**How** \*See the last page of this script for ideas on how to perform with puppets.

**Time** Approximately 5 minutes

*Willie enters wearing eye glasses. He stumbles about and walks into a wall.*

**Willie:** Ouch! I don't think I'm going to like wearing glasses. *(Sudden knock at the door)* Come in!

**Betsy:** *(enters)* Hi, Willie.

**Willie:** Hi, Susie. What'cha doing?

**Betsy:** *(confused)* Susie? I'm not Susie, I'm Betsy.

**Willie:** Whoops, sorry. I'm trying out these new prescription glasses and everything looks kinda blurry to me.

**Betsy:** *(surprised)* I didn't know you wore glasses.

**Willie:** I don't. I found 'em at the park yesterday so I thought I'd wear 'em because they make me look cool.

**Betsy:** Well, I wouldn't know about that. *(Concerned)* But you do need to be careful wearing those things. Ya can't go around all day walking into walls, ya know.

**Willie:** *(rubbing his head and nodding in agreement)* Yeah. I've sure been doing that alright. *(Pause)* Hey, ya wanna walk with me and Joey to Sunday school this morning? He should be here any minute.

**Betsy:** Sure, that'd be great. But after church I need to go straight home because we're taking my dad out to eat for Father's Day.

**Willie:** Cool. *(Knock on door)* That must be Joey now. Come in!

**Joey:** *(enters)* Hi guys.

**Betsy & Willie:** Hi Joey.

**Joey:** Ready for Sunday school?

**Willie:** Yeah, we're ready. I invited Betsy to walk with us.

**Joey:** Okay

**Betsy:** Hey, Joey, are you doing anything special for your dad today?

**Joey:** *(excited)* Sure am. After church I'm going to let Dad do all of his favorite things. He just loves taking me to the park. After that I might let him take me to the movies. He likes doing that too. And then, if it's not too late, he'll probably want to take me to get some ice cream or something. *(Sigh)* I just love Father's Day.

**Betsy:** Sounds more like "Joey's Day" if you ask me.

**Joey:** Huh?

**Betsy:** Oh, never mind.

**Willie:** What about you, Betsy? Are you doing anything else for your dad today after you've had lunch?

**Betsy:** Yeah. After lunch we'll all go home. Then we'll just let Dad goof off all day and won't bother him so much. He likes that the best. Oh yeah, I also bought Dad some new slippers.

**Willie:** Cool. *(Pause)* Hey, Betsy, does the Bible say anything about Father's Day?

**Betsy:** Well, not about Father's Day exactly. But it does have a lot to say about Fathers and what an important responsibility they have raising kids like us so we'll grow up to love God and everything. It must be very difficult being a dad these days...especially yours, Willie.

**Willie:** *(proudly)* Yeah, I'm a handful alright.

**Betsy:** The Bible also says that we should honor our dads.

**Joey:** How do we do that?

**Willie:** By loving them, silly.

**Betsy:** Well, while honoring our dads does include loving them, it really means much more than that.

**Joey:** What do you mean?

**Betsy:** Well, honoring our dads, and moms too for that matter, means to respect them and obey them.

**Willie:** Hmm.

**Betsy:** Not just because of *who* they are—our moms and dads—but also because of *what* they are...our parents.

**Joey:** Hmmmm.

**Betsy:** It's kinda like the way we honor God, partly because of *who* He is, our Heavenly Father, but also for *what* He is, the Lord of the universe.

**Willie:** Cool.

**Betsy:** Another way we can honor our dads is by showing them how much we really appreciate them. Show them respect, listen to them, do as they request, ask their advice and follow their example. And always—and this is really important—always be ready to give 'em a great big hug.

**Joey:** *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah, I like to hug my dad.

**Betsy:** Just think of all the things our dads do for us. They feed us and cloth us and provide us shelter. They take us to the park or to ball games or to the mall. I mean really, we are all soooooo blessed to have good dads.

**Willie:** Yeah, I sure do have a good dad, all right. And he loves me *(stretching his arms wide)* thiiiiisssss much.

**Joey:** *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah, mine too.

**Willie:** *(sadly)* I have a friend at school who doesn't have a dad.

**Betsy:** *(sadly)* Gosh, that's too bad. *(Becomes upbeat)* But you wanna know what?

**Willie:** *(perks up)* What?

**Betsy:** Even if we don't have a dad, or hardly ever get to see our dad, we still have our heavenly Father. And He's the best Father of them all. Sometimes our earthly dads can't always be there when we need them, but our heavenly Father is always there. Always and forever.

**Willie & Joey:** *(nodding in agreement)* Yeah.

**Betsy:** Well, I guess we'd best be getting along. We don't want to be late for Sunday school.

**Willie:** Yeah, you're right.

**Joey:** Hey, Willie. You haven't told us yet what you're doing for your dad today.

**Betsy:** Yeah, what about your dad, Willie? Doing anything special for him?

**Willie:** *(excited)* I'll say I am. I got my dad about the best surprise ever.

**Betsy:** *(curious)* Really? What did you get him?

**Willie:** Well, while I was playing at the park yesterday, after I found these eye glasses, I also found a cute little lost kitty cat. So I used my allowance and bought a collar and leash for it. I'm going to surprise my dad with a new kitten. It's soooooo cute and cuddly. I just know Dad is gonna love him. I named him Fluffy.

**Betsy & Joey:** *(excited)* Oh, that's cool. Can we see Fluffy? Please?

**Willie:** Well, I guess it'll be okay. I've been hiding him in the garage all night. I'll go get him so you can see him.

*Betsy and Joey show excitement as Willie goes to get the kitten. Willie walks into the wall or door on his way out. After a brief moment Willie can be heard returning.*

**Willie:** Here I come! *(Willie comes back in view holding a leash in his hand)* And here's Fluffy.

*Betsy and Joey mouth drops open as they stare at Willie's new pet which is still unseen by the audience.*

**Betsy:** *(quivering)* Ah, Willie, were you wearing those glasses when you found Fluffy?

**Willie:** *(nodding)* Yeah, why?

**Joey:** *(quivering)* Because Fluffy isn't...a cute little kitten.

**Willie:** What do you mean?

**Joey & Betsy:** *(trembling and speaking slowly)* Fluffy...is a...SKUNK! *(Exit yelling)*

**Willie:** *(laughing)* Oh, that's silly. *(Willie removes his glasses as the skunk pops up into view)* Eeeeekkkkkk! *(Exits quickly)*

*The end*

### Tips for performing with puppets:

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 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!