

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Hidden Treasure

Based on Matthew 13:44–46 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
8–10 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
Time Machine box, sound effect

MAIN THEME
The kingdom of heaven is worth giving up everything to receive.

To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-8.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

CHILD 1 wonders aloud what the kingdom of heaven is like. GRANDPA suggests they use a time machine to watch one of Jesus's parables play out. They observe two Bible-era children excitedly sharing the news of a man who sold everything he owned to buy a field – because he'd found a priceless treasure hidden inside it. Back in the present, GRANDPA helps CHILD 1 understand that belonging to God's kingdom means giving up everything, and getting something far greater in return.

Spiritual Concept

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field – worth selling everything you have to obtain. Giving our lives fully to Jesus means surrendering our own control, but gaining God's love, His kingdom, and a life that will ultimately be made new.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5-12; adaptable for all ages.

Performance Time

8-10 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 – A modern child, curious and thoughtful – asks the big questions.

SPARKY – CHILD 1's dog, attentive and expressive.

GRANDPA – A warm, modern grandfather who knows his Bible and loves a good story.

CHILD 2 – A Bible-era child – the one hearing the news about the treasure.

CHILD 3 – A Bible-era child – bursting with the good news about the treasure field.

Prop Options

- A box to represent a Time Machine – held or hung in a corner. Covered with foil and battery-powered flashing lights works well.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

CHILD 3 is the storyteller in the parable scene – build the suspense of the big reveal through pacing. "Wait for it, wait for it!" should feel genuinely teasing.

SPARKY's moment of apparent speech near the end ("And soon, Jesus will return, and make all things new") is a gentle miracle moment – play it warmly, not for laughs.

Staging

Hang the Time Machine in a corner of the stage at the start.

CHILD 1, GRANDPA, and SPARKY can peek from the wings while CHILD 2 and CHILD 3 perform the parable scene.

Remove the Time Machine (or turn off the lights) when the Bible-era characters exit.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

Sound Effects

- Time Machine: An Otamatone, kazoo, or slide whistle works well. Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/sci-fi

More options and noise-maker tips at gospelpuppets.org/sound-effects.

HIDDEN TREASURE

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(Enter CHILD 1 and SPARKY. Have Time Machine ready to hang or display.)

CHILD 1: Sparky, I wish you could speak.

SPARKY: Woof!

CHILD 1: No, I mean really speak.

SPARKY: Woof! Woof!

CHILD 1: That's ok, good doggy! I was reading in the Bible that people, and only people, have a problem with God.

SPARKY: *(sad)* Mmm...

CHILD 1: All the other created things are waiting patiently for Jesus to come back and make all things new.

SPARKY: *(happy, wag tail)* Mmmm, mmm!

(Enter GRANDPA.)

GRANDPA: Hello my little grandmouse! Oh, and here is my grand-dog. Hi Sparky! Good doggy! Speak!

SPARKY: Woof!

CHILD 1: When Jesus returns, I hope we can all speak –

SPARKY: Woof!

CHILD 1: Ha ha! – the same language.

GRANDPA: That would be awesome. But you know, we don't have to wait for Jesus to return, to enjoy the kingdom of heaven. It's already here!

CHILD 1: How could that be? I can't see any kingdom.

GRANDPA: You can't see air, either. But it's just as real.

CHILD 1: Seriously, Grandpa. What is the kingdom of heaven like?

GRANDPA: Jesus told several stories to help people with that.

CHILD 1: Do you know any of them?

GRANDPA: Yes! But let's pretend we can go back in time and watch them. There are some other puppets who will help.

(Add Time Machine and turn on any lights.)

CHILD 1: Ok! Come, Sparky!

(Exit CHILD 1, GRANDPA, and SPARKY. They can peek from the wings.)

(Enter CHILD 3 and CHILD 2.)

CHILD 3: Did you hear the news? Did you hear the good news?

CHILD 2: What? What good news?

CHILD 3: It's the most amazing thing ever!

CHILD 2: Tell me! Tell me!

CHILD 3: You are not going to believe this.

CHILD 2: So... tell me already!

CHILD 3: Well. You know that field, we play ball in?

CHILD 2: At the end of the street?

CHILD 3: Yes. That one.

CHILD 2: It's been growing nothing but weeds for years!

CHILD 3: But! Wait for it! Wait for it!

CHILD 2: So... I am waiting... patiently...

CHILD 3: Ok. So! Ok. Guess what happened?

CHILD 2: I can't guess, and if you aren't going to tell me I am going to POP.

CHILD 3: No, I'll tell you. My father just sold everything we had to buy that field.

CHILD 2: What? What could he want with that dried-up empty field?

CHILD 3: He knew something special about it. It wasn't quite empty!

CHILD 2: I give up. Some new kind of gopher?

CHILD 3: No listen! He was just walking along, past that field, a few days ago.

CHILD 2: Yes?

CHILD 3: And there was this big gopher mound, and he saw the corner of a BOX, sticking up, out of the gopher mound.

CHILD 2: What kind of box?

CHILD 3: He went over to look, and it was... a Treasure Box!

CHILD 2: Oooh... for real?

CHILD 3: Yes. So he buried it again, very quickly, and then he went to the owner of the field, and he asked to buy the field.

CHILD 2: Oooh... because the owner of a field is the owner of everything in the field?

CHILD 3: Yes. And it cost every penny our family had. Every penny. We had to sell our land, and our house, and even our furniture!

CHILD 2: Wow.

CHILD 3: But that's not all. Guess what was in the box!

CHILD 2: Well you said it was a treasure box, so... gold?

CHILD 3: No! Even better than that, there was a giant... PEARL.

CHILD 2: Oooh. Those are so expensive.

CHILD 3: It was really big.

CHILD 2: What do you mean, was? What happened to it? Did he lose it?

CHILD 3: No, it's all good! My father took it to a jewelry expert, and now it's for sale.

CHILD 2: Oooh.

CHILD 3: And a pearl expert is coming to buy it! And he says he will buy it, even if HE has to sell everything HE has!

CHILD 2: Now that is a story worth waiting for. What is your father going to do with all that money?

CHILD 3: He is going to buy back our land, and our house, and our furniture, and then...

CHILD 2: What?

CHILD 3: Wait for it, wait for it...

CHILD 2: Oh, not again!

CHILD 3: He's going to start a little orphanage!

CHILD 2: An orphanage? Why?

CHILD 3: He and my mom have been dreaming for years to help the orphans in our village. Now they can!

CHILD 2: Oh! Like it says in God's word! "Care for the widows and orphans in their distress."

CHILD 3: That's right!

CHILD 2: Can we go look at the pearl?

CHILD 3: Sure! Let's go!

(Exit CHILD 3 and CHILD 2. Turn off or remove Time Machine.)

(Enter CHILD 1, GRANDPA, and SPARKY.)

CHILD 1: Grandpa, did that really happen?

GRANDPA: No. Jesus told stories like that, to help people understand, about the kingdom of heaven.

CHILD 1: So... let me think. So... if I want to be part of the kingdom of heaven, I have to give up everything?

GRANDPA: In a way, yes.

CHILD 1: Even... Sparky?

SPARKY: Woof!

GRANDPA: Let's look at that. If you are willing to give up everything, especially your own self, to Jesus...

CHILD 1: I know... He promises to save us if we do. But what about Sparky?

GRANDPA: Think of it this way. We give up our rights to everything, and then we are part of God's kingdom. Then we have God's kind of love, for people, and also for animals.

CHILD 1: That really is so much better!

GRANDPA: That's right. You can still care for Sparky.

SPARKY: And soon, Jesus will return, and make all things new.

(GRANDPA and CHILD 1 react with wonder at SPARKY apparently speaking.)

GRANDPA: Did you hear that?

CHILD 1: It seemed like she was able to speak!

SPARKY: Woof! Woof!

(ALL puppets enter.)

ALL: You can read more about Jesus, and the kingdom of heaven in the Bible, especially in Matthew, Chapter 13. Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. What did the man in the story give up to buy the field? Was it worth it?
2. What do you think it means to "give up everything" to be part of God's kingdom?
3. What did the father in the story plan to do with the treasure money? Why does that matter?
4. CHILD 1 worried about giving up SPARKY. What is something you would find hard to give up?
5. GRANDPA said we don't have to wait for Jesus to return to enjoy the kingdom of heaven – it's already here. What do you think that means?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Matthew 13:44–46 – The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.

Additional Scripture:

- Matthew 13:44 (NLT) – "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field..."
- James 1:27 – Care for widows and orphans.
- Romans 8:18–21 – All creation waits for renewal.
- Revelation 21:5 – "I am making everything new!" (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- "Seek Ye First" – Karen Lafferty / Tapestry Chamber Singers – <https://open.spotify.com/track/3CDWmJfho5z4b0mbtRAD6Q>
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" – Integrity Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/5Hw8GY6YSqc2FFLPnX7Ib9>
- "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" – Lauren Daigle – <https://open.spotify.com/track/0ZMOWXDlnlkMGTn4H0u24u>
- "More Precious Than Silver" – <https://open.spotify.com/track/6hjb6bAJK85MH4Mwc4o0LX>

Ministry Context

This play works especially well for teaching on sacrifice, commitment, and the value of following Jesus. The time-machine device makes the parable engaging and visual. Consider pairing with a reading of Matthew 13:44–46 before or after the performance.