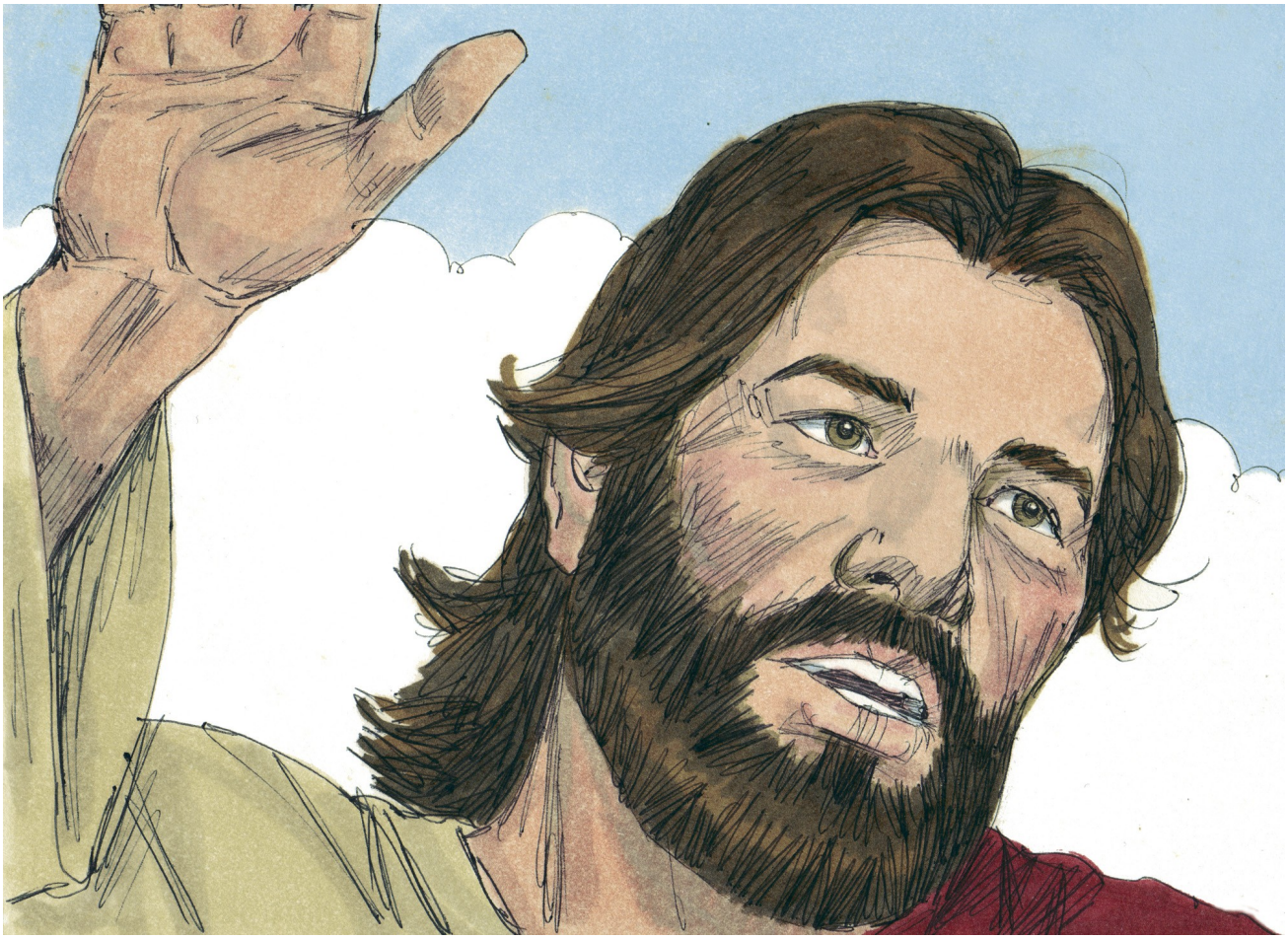
A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

His Voice, Your Choice

Based on John 10:1–30 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 6 and up

PERFORMANCE TIME
8–10 minutes

CAST SIZE
6 puppets

PROPS REQUIRED
A Bible; sheep and wolf puppets; white cloth

MAIN THEME

Jesus's sheep know His voice — and knowing it is how they tell Him from every voice that only sounds like Him.

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5–10.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

A CHILD is troubled after friends tell her she has to follow all of their “church rules” or the devil will “eat her for breakfast.” Her GRANDMA and GRANDPA share Jesus's story of the sheep who know their shepherd's voice, and a SHEEP and a WOLF-in-sheep's-clothing act out what it looks like to recognize—or fall for—a false, manipulative voice.

Spiritual Concept

Following Jesus isn't about earning safety through a list of rules imposed by others—it's about knowing His voice well enough to recognize when someone else is trying to lead you astray. The WOLF's whole strategy depends on the SHEEP not checking with the real Shepherd first.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 6 and up. The premise involves peer pressure around religious legalism and a genuinely manipulative WOLF character, which lands better with kids old enough to recognize social pressure tactics.

Performance Time

8–10 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD — A modern girl about 8 years old, troubled by friends' claims about extra “church rules” she must follow.

GRANDMA — Compassionate and wise.

GRANDPA — Wise also; reads/recites the Bible passages.

SHEEP — Innocent as a dove, wise as a serpent; trusts the Shepherd's voice above all.

WOLF — In sheep's clothing; tries to lure the SHEEP away with flattery and a false “special message.”

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD — Heard from offstage only.

Prop Options

- Ask someone in the audience to hold a Bible for GRANDPA to “read” from.
- Sheep and wolf puppets aren't hard to find; a picture affixed to a stick works too. The wolf can wear a small drape of white cloth as a disguise.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

CHILD's fear at the top of the play is genuine—she's been told real consequences await if she doesn't comply with her friends' church rules. Let her relief at the end land as real relief, not just a tidy resolution.

The WOLF is charming and persistent rather than obviously menacing—its flattery (“such nice, FAT—uh, I mean fluffy, sheep”) and repeated use of the word “special” are the tell, not a scary voice.

SHEEP is trusting but not gullible—notice it keeps asking practical questions (how did you get in if the gate was locked?) even while being friendly to the WOLF.

Staging

The WOLF's voice shifts between a growly wolf voice and a higher, falsetto “sheep” voice—use that shift for comic effect whenever the WOLF catches itself slipping.

The VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD is heard from offstage at two key moments—both function as a “check the actual source” beat that resolves the tension.

Reading the Script
CAPS = volume/intensity or emphasis.
Ellipsis (…) = the author's pacing notation.

HIS VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

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(Enter CHILD. She is unhappy.)

CHILD: *(shaking head, hands to head)* What to do, what to do…?

(Enter GRANDMA and GRANDPA. They are concerned.)

GRANDPA: Well hello, there, little one. What is the trouble?

CHILD: Hi, Grandpa, hi Grandma. I'm not sure I want to talk about it to anyone.

GRANDMA: We're not just "anyone", you know.

GRANDPA: We have been around a LONG time.

CHILD: That is true, you are VERY old.

GRANDPA: Ho-ho! But we know a lot.

CHILD: That's true, too.

GRANDMA: I bet we can help.

GRANDPA: Now you just try to tell us. What is the trouble?

CHILD: OK, I'll tell you.

GRANDPA: Good.

CHILD: You know how I gave my life to Jesus?

GRANDMA: Of course we do. It was so wise.

CHILD: Well, now I'm not sure, any more.

GRANDMA: Sure about what?

CHILD: Just…well…that it was the right thing to do.

GRANDPA: What MADE you not sure?

CHILD: I'm just…not sure I can DO it.

GRANDMA: Do it? Do WHAT?

CHILD: Well, one of my friends told me that now I have to be PERFECT.

GRANDPA: Oh! Really? Perfect according to who?

CHILD: They say I have to follow ALL their church rules—or ELSE.

GRANDMA: Or else…what?

CHILD: That's it, Grandma. They said it's not ENOUGH to give your heart to Jesus. To obey HIM.

GRANDPA: Oh…They said it is not that simple?

CHILD: Yes. How did you know?

GRANDMA: That happens a lot, dear.

CHILD: They say if I mess up, the DEVIL is going to EAT ME FOR BREAKFAST.

GRANDPA: *(tries not to laugh)* Oh, really?

CHILD: So—they say I have to keep all their "church rules" now.

GRANDMA: What kind of rules?

CHILD: I don't know ALL of them yet, but it sounds very hard.

GRANDPA: Have you PRAYED about this?

CHILD: What? Why?

GRANDMA: You need to talk to JESUS about all this.

CHILD: Oh…Is that what we should do?

GRANDMA: YES. And find out what the Bible says.

GRANDPA: I have an idea. Jesus told a story about this very thing.

GRANDMA: Right. And it's fun, it's about SHEEP.

(Enter SHEEP.)

SHEEP: Baa! Did you call? Am I on now?

GRANDMA: Not just yet, dear.

SHEEP: Ok, but I'm READY. Baa! Baa!

(Exit SHEEP.)

CHILD: How cool! A TALKING sheep.

GRANDMA: ANYTHING can happen in a puppet show.

GRANDPA: Want to hear the story?

CHILD: Sure, Grandpa.

GRANDPA: OK, let's look it up. It is in the book of John.

(Volunteer can hold up a Bible for GRANDPA.)

GRANDPA: Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep."

CHILD: So that means JESUS?

GRANDMA: Right. And WE are His sheep.

CHILD: *(sighs)* Oh, I like that. That's much better.

GRANDPA: The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.

CHILD: I want that! I do want to follow Jesus.

GRANDMA: That is the right idea.

GRANDPA: They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice. And Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. (John 10:1–5, 11, NLT)

CHILD: So I don't have to follow their church rules?

GRANDMA: No, because you have JESUS, Who is perfect, inside of your heart now. He will help you to do what He wants!

GRANDPA: Jesus also says in Matthew chapter 7, "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves."

(Enter WOLF in a corner.)

WOLF: I heard my name, and I think that is my cue. Off you go, folks. Heh, heh, heh…Scene change!

(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung.)

(Exit CHILD, GRANDPA, and GRANDMA to wings.)

(Enter SHEEP.)

SHEEP: *(looking up and around)* Oh! It's such a NICE new day. I can't wait to see my SHEPHERD.

(WOLF moves closer. It listens to SHEEP.)

SHEEP: My shepherd will be here soon, to take us all out for breakfast.

WOLF: *(starts off talking in a growly wolf voice, then changes to a falsetto/higher voice)* Ah, breakfast…ahem…baa! Haha…baaa!

SHEEP: Who are you? I don't think I know you. Baa!

WOLF: You mentioned breakfast. What a LOVELY idea.

SHEEP: You must be new to the flock. I don't believe we've met. Baa!

WOLF: New?—oh, right. I'm new here, but glad to be part of such a nice, healthy flock.

SHEEP: Baa—Thank you. Baa.

WOLF: *(cough)* With such nice, FAT—uh, I mean fluffy, sheep. Baa, baa.

SHEEP: But…how did you get into the sheep fold? The gate has been LOCKED all night.

WOLF: Oh, that was easy. I'm a very SPECIAL kind of sheep, a climbing sheep. I came in OVER the wall.

SHEEP: SPECIAL?…hmmm…well, if the SHEPHERD says you're part of the flock, I guess that's alright with me. Baa.

WOLF: Yes, of course…speaking of the Shepherd, and BREAKFAST, I have a special message for you from the shepherd! About breakfast.

SHEEP: A special message? That's nice. What is it?

WOLF: He wants you to come with me, this very morning, early, before He arrives.

SHEEP: Really? Baa. That is very strange.

WOLF: He has a SPECIAL breakfast planned, just for you and me. Alone. Just the two of us.

SHEEP: That word "special". You sure say it a lot.

WOLF: Yes! Haha…Well! We need to hurry along.

SHEEP: Why?

WOLF: Just you and me. Alone. Baa, baa.

SHEEP: But why?

WOLF: Because the shepherd wants us to have it before he arrives.

SHEEP: That doesn't sound like him at ALL…

WOLF: It's just on the other side of the wall…

SHEEP: But the gate is still locked. We ONLY use the gate.

WOLF: Ah…but I will show you a special secret way out, right over there…

SHEEP: Everything is "special" this and "special" that.

WOLF: Yes, yes! And ALL for YOU.

SHEEP: I'm not at all sure…baa…about this "special" breakfast.

WOLF: Don’t worry! But we need to go, right NOW.

SHEEP: I’m just going to check with my Shepherd first, if you don’t mind. I hear the gate opening now.

(The Shepherd’s voice is heard offstage.)

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD: “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.” (Matthew 7:15, NLT)

SHEEP: Aha! So that’s your SPECIAL plan. Well, I’m NOT going. Baa!

WOLF: *(speaking in growly voice again)* Curses…foiled again! Scene change!

(Helpers can hold up a curtain while chimes are rung.)

(Exit WOLF. SHEEP stays.)

(Enter CHILD, GRANDMA, and GRANDPA to main stage; SHEEP is next to CHILD.)

CHILD: I think Jesus means that we are a lot like the sheep, in that story. And Jesus is OUR Shepherd.

SHEEP: *(nodding its head Yes)* Baa-aa-aa.

(CHILD pets SHEEP, and SHEEP rubs up against CHILD.)

CHILD: I’m going to make sure I get to know His voice, and only follow Him; not some other way.

SHEEP: *(shakes its head No)* Baaa-aaa.

CHILD: I’m sure glad we have the Bible, to make sure we know Who Jesus REALLY is, and what HE wants us to do.

SHEEP: *(rubbing its head yes against the CHILD)* Baa-aaaa!

(Voice of the Shepherd is heard offstage.)

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me.” (John 10:27–28, NLT)

GRANDPA: Let’s finish the play together. Even Mr. WOLF!

(Enter WOLF.)

GRANDMA: On the count of three—one, two, three:

(All puppeteers.)

ALL: You can read all about the wolf in sheep’s clothing, and the Good Shepherd, in the Bible, in John Chapter 10. Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. How was the wolf disguised?
2. What book did the grandparents take the story from?
3. In the story, which character represents Jesus?
4. How can we get to know the sound of Jesus's voice?
5. How do we know that we belong to Jesus?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: John 10:1–30 — Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd whose sheep know His voice and follow Him, and warns against false shepherds who try to lead them astray.

Additional Scripture:

- Matthew 7:15 — “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves.” (NLT)
- Psalm 23:1–4 — the shepherd who leads, provides, and walks with his sheep through the darkest valley.

Song Suggestions

- “I Just Wanna Be a Sheep” — Brian Howard — https://open.spotify.com/track/6zwk8UPTwE2uBmgux7SrJn

Ministry Context

This play works well for a series on discernment, legalism, or knowing God's voice—it directly addresses the real experience of kids being told by peers that faith requires extra rules to be “real.” Consider pairing with a reading of John 10, or a short conversation about how to recognize manipulative pressure from friends.