

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

My Will Be Done

Based on Matthew 6:5–13 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 6 and up

CAST SIZE
4 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
None

MAIN THEME
Real prayer is a conversation with God — not a ritual to get what we want.

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v.2.0 · June 2026

To print just the play on its own, print pages 4-8.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

CHILD 2 is determined to get something from God through prayer, and is trying every trick imaginable – rocking, candles, kneeling, special "thees and thous" – convinced that the right technique will force God's hand. CHILD 1 patiently explains that prayer isn't a vending machine, and that knowing Jesus changes everything about how and why we pray.

Spiritual Concept

Jesus teaches His followers to pray simply, honestly, and with a surrendered heart – not through ritual or performance. Real prayer begins with knowing God as Father, continues with gratitude, and trusts Him to answer in the best way, which is not always "yes."

Age Suitability

Best for ages 6–12. The theological content is slightly more complex than some other scripts – suitable for older children or groups with some Bible background.

Performance Time

10–12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 – A follower of Jesus – patient, knowledgeable about prayer, and genuinely kind to CHILD 2.

CHILD 2 – Not a Christian, but with some knowledge of God. Convinced that prayer is about technique, and frustrated when it isn't working.

SPARKY (Puppy) – CHILD 1's dog – alert to the conversation, mischievous, and reactive to everything. Can ad-lib with noises and reactions. May chase another small puppet animal if desired.

OTHER ANIMAL – Optional – a cat, chipmunk, squirrel, or other small puppet. Appears briefly to distract SPARKY. Can be omitted if cast is limited.

Prop Options

- A small puppet animal (cat, chipmunk, squirrel) for SPARKY to chase – adds physical comedy and breaks up the two-person dialogue.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

CHILD 2's opening rocking movement should be broad and obvious – play it for comedy.

CHILD 2's fake "religious" prayer ("Oh Father God, almighty Lord, pleaseth giveth to me...") should be performed with great solemnity and then immediately deflated.

Staging

SPARKY sits between the two children throughout most of the play.

The OTHER ANIMAL appears at the edge of the stage twice to lure SPARKY away – each time CHILD 1 retrieves SPARKY and brings her back.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

Extra commas = pause for breath.

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(Enter CHILD 2. Begin rocking violently back and forth.)

(Enter CHILD 1 and SPARKY, with SPARKY in between the children. They watch CHILD 2 for a moment. SPARKY watches and "comments" on everything with a whine, a bark, a growl, etc.)

CHILD 1: Uh, hello?

CHILD 2: Hush! Can't you see I'm busy?

CHILD 1: I can see... that you are rocking...

CHILD 2: I am also praying!

CHILD 1: Oh, excuse me. I didn't mean to interrupt.

CHILD 2: *(stops rocking)* As long as you have interrupted me, maybe you can tell me: is it better to rock side to side *(demonstrates)* or back and forth? *(demonstrates)*

CHILD 1: Better for... what?

CHILD 2: To make God to listen to me.

CHILD 1: You think He can't hear you?

CHILD 2: What's wrong with you? You're a Christian, aren't you?

CHILD 1: Yes.

CHILD 2: You're supposed to know all about praying!

(Another animal appears at the edge of the stage.)

SPARKY: Woof, woof!

CHILD 1: Sparky, it's ok, quiet now!

CHILD 2: Well? Don't you know all about praying?

CHILD 1: I do know some things. I never heard anything about rocking, though.

CHILD 2: I've seen that some people rock when they pray. So maybe it will make my prayer work better.

CHILD 1: What do you mean, work better?

CHILD 2: So that God will give me what I want, silly!

(SPARKY growls.)

CHILD 1: What do you want from God?
CHILD 2: I can't tell you. It's a secret.
CHILD 1: Oh. Are you sure that it is something good for you?
CHILD 2: Of course I'm sure! Well, pretty sure..
CHILD 1: Because the Lord only gives us things that are good for us.
SPARKY: Woof, woof!
CHILD 2: Surely I am the best judge of what is good for me!
CHILD 1: No, not always. Anyway... I know for sure that rocking won't make any difference.
CHILD 2: Oh. (changes subject) I like your dog.
CHILD 1: Thanks. Her name is Sparky.
CHILD 2: Can I pet her?
CHILD 1: Sure, just don't try to pick her up.
CHILD 2: Hey there, Sparky. (pets SPARKY)
CHILD 2: Ok, I know what I'll do! I will promise God to be extra good, until I get what I want.
CHILD 1: Like with Santa?

(SPARKY cries and hides her head.)

CHILD 2: Yeah! That works at Christmas time!
CHILD 1: But God is not at all like Santa!
SPARKY: Woof, woof!
CHILD 2: Ok, ok, don't get so excited. Let's see... I know! I'll light a bunch of candles.
CHILD 1: What? Why?
CHILD 2: I've seen people do that when they want something from God.
CHILD 1: You can't trick Him. He knows your heart.
CHILD 2: What? He does?
CHILD 1: Yes, He knows everything about us.
CHILD 2: Ugh, I don't like that idea at all.
CHILD 1: And Jesus –
CHILD 2: *(cuts him off)* Oh, I just thought of something else that might help. Kneeling!
CHILD 1: Will you listen please? Prayer means we are having a conversation – with God!

CHILD 2: (*ignoring him*) I've seen pictures of people praying on their knees. Kneeling is really hard for a puppet though...
hmm...

(*OTHER ANIMAL appears and teases SPARKY.*)

SPARKY: (*takes off after animal*) Woof!

(*CHILD 1 chases SPARKY and brings her back.*)

CHILD 1: It doesn't matter whether you are sitting, or kneeling, or standing on your head! It's your words, it's what you say in your heart, that matters.

CHILD 2: Words, words! I've got it! I've heard people use special words when they pray.

CHILD 1: What kind of words?

CHILD 2: Religious words, like "thou" and the ones that end in "eth". Giveth, leadeth...

CHILD 1: Oh, no... no...

CHILD 2: How about this: "Oh Father God, almighty Lord, pleaseth giveth to me, oh Lord, this thingeth that I wanteth, Father God". How's that?

CHILD 1: He doesn't care about that. He just wants us to talk to Him, like we talk to our folks.

CHILD 2: (*disgusted*) Look. The only reason I am praying at all is because my folks won't give me what I want.

CHILD 1: But God loves you! And He wants you to love Him back. And Jesus –

CHILD 2: OK, ok, ok, I need to get back to work, here. Which way is east? Maybe if I face east! I simply have to convince God that I'm serious about this.

CHILD 1: Seriously, we are also supposed to start our prayers with a thankful heart.

CHILD 2: How can I be thankful? He hasn't given me what I want yet!

CHILD 1: Can't you be thankful to Him for being such a wonderful God?

CHILD 2: Hmm... you mean, kind of soften Him up first? Yeah, that might help. It even works with my folks, sometimes. Okay! I'll try it.

CHILD 1: Wait! Wait. Can we just start over?

CHILD 2: What? What are you talking about?

CHILD 1: First of all, which god are you praying to?

CHILD 2: Well, I don't know... the Biggest One, I guess.

CHILD 1: So you mean the God Who made us?

CHILD 2: Yes. That One. The One Who made everything. The One who gives us stuff.

CHILD 1: So far, so good. Now. Do you know why He answers our prayers?

CHILD 2: Isn't that what He is there for?

CHILD 1: Well –

CHILD 2: So why shouldn't He answer?

CHILD 1: Because we are so selfish... the Bible calls it being "sinful". God loves us, but He hates sin.

CHILD 2: Maybe you are a sinner, but I am not! At least... not very often.

CHILD 1: Sin means that we want our own way.

CHILD 2: Well, forget Him then. I guess I will have to find another god.

CHILD 1: No! Don't do that! God's Son, Jesus, made a way for us to be forgiven for our sin.

CHILD 2: I heard something about that in Sunday School. It sounded too complicated.

CHILD 1: When we give our life to Jesus, He takes away our sin!

CHILD 2: I heard that too. But there was a catch.

CHILD 1: Don't you want your sins to be forgiven?

CHILD 2: Well, sure, but...

CHILD 1: But what?

(SPARKY takes off after the animal again. Both kids give chase.)

CHILD 2: When you say "give your life to Jesus", don't you mean that He is in charge from then on?

CHILD 1: Absolutely.

CHILD 2: And then we have to obey Him. Right?

CHILD 1: Yes. That is why we call Jesus our "Lord".

CHILD 2: So that is the catch. In case you did not notice, I like to be in charge.

CHILD 1: Hmmm...

CHILD 2: That is the only way I can be sure things will turn out good.

CHILD 1: But He works ALL things together for good, to those who love Him! We can't come close to that on our own.

CHILD 2: Hmmm... that is true.

CHILD 1: So when we pray, we have to trust Him to answer with the best answer.

CHILD 2: Hmm.

CHILD 1: And it's not always what we want.

CHILD 2: You mean He can say "No".

CHILD 1: Or, sometimes, He says "Wait".

CHILD 2: But I'm not good at waiting!

CHILD 1: Then you can ask Him for patience, too!

CHILD 2: I can see that this prayer business is a lot different than what I thought.

CHILD 1: Can I pray with you? That might help.

CHILD 2: Ok, but tell me some more about Jesus, too. I wasn't listening very carefully before.

CHILD 1: OK! And that's all for today, folks! You can find out more about prayer in the Bible, in Matthew, Chapter Six!

(SPARKY takes off after the animal.)

CHILD 1 AND CHILD 2: SPARKY!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why is God willing to answer the prayer of a sinner?
2. How do you know when you are praying – does it depend on your position or your words?
3. Does God always answer our prayers? What are His three possible answers?
4. CHILD 2 said, "I like to be in charge." What does it mean to let Jesus be Lord?
5. What is something you could thank God for right now, before asking for anything?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Matthew 6:5-13 – Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray.

Additional Scripture:

- Romans 8:28 – "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God." (NLT)
- Philippians 4:6-7 – Don't worry about anything; pray about everything.
- 1 John 5:14-15 – Confidence in prayer.
- James 4:3 – Asking with wrong motives.

Song Suggestions

- "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" – Alan Jackson – <https://open.spotify.com/track/6pMnEX2iBcqQtUyIl1L60o>
- "Lord, I Need You" – Matt Maher – <https://open.spotify.com/track/4EHWldZTas5KUyFtT0rQlY>
- "Open the Eyes of My Heart" – Paul Baloche – <https://open.spotify.com/track/02HdjmfXq1F20sX6yPg86n>
- "Open Our Eyes, Lord" – Oasis Worship – <https://open.spotify.com/track/1vCWPFDbTaqUgvWtzgX6Xq>

Ministry Context

This play works well for Sunday School, midweek children's programs, and any series on prayer. The two-character format makes it easy to stage with a small team. Consider pairing with a reading of Matthew 6:5-13 (the Lord's Prayer passage) after the performance.