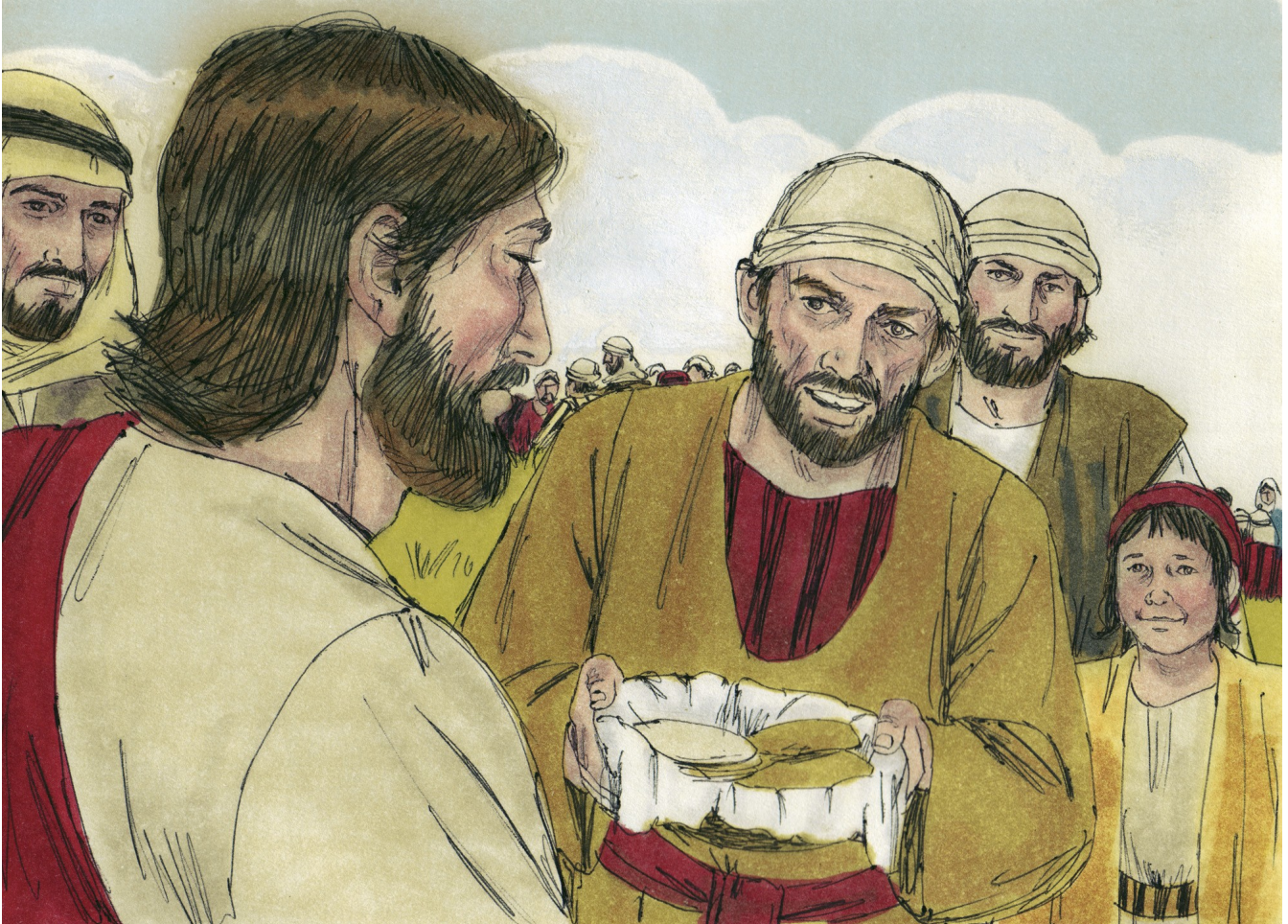


A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

The Faith of a Child

Based on John 6:1–14 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
A covered basket

MAIN THEME

A child's simple faith can open the door for someone who has never trusted Jesus.

Carrie Elderberry's Gospel Puppets · gospelpuppets.org

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5-9.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

BOY visits his dying GRANDPA, who believes in Jesus as a teacher but has never trusted Him as Savior. BOY challenges him gently, and GRANDPA admits he prayed for the first time the night before—and felt led to read John. To illustrate, two Bible-era children (RACHEL and BENJAMIN) tell their GRAMMA how Jesus fed five thousand people with Benjamin's small lunch. When BOY and GRANDPA return, GRANDPA realizes that his prayer was answered after all—and he's finally ready to open his Bible.

Spiritual Concept

Jesus cares about everyone—the dying grandfather and the skeptical grandmother alike. A child's willingness to share what little they have—whether food or faith—can become a miracle in Jesus' hands.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5-12; the grandparent subplot gives it emotional depth that resonates with older children and adult audiences too.

Performance Time

10-12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

BOY — A modern child and follower of Christ—gentle but persistent in sharing his faith with his grandfather.

GRANDPA — A modern man who believes Jesus was a good teacher but has never personally trusted Him. He knows he is dying.

RACHEL — A Bible-era child—BENJAMIN's sister. Enthusiastic and perceptive.

BENJAMIN – A Bible-era child—the boy from John 6:8–9 who shared his lunch with Jesus. Goes by BEN in dialogue.

GRAMMA – RACHEL and BENJAMIN’s grandmother—a skeptic who softens as the story unfolds.

Prop Options

- A covered basket for the leftover loaves and fish (carried on by RACHEL and BENJAMIN near the end of the Bible scene).
 - Bible tunics for RACHEL, BENJAMIN, and GRAMMA—easy to sew: cut a large cross shape from fabric, cut a slit for the puppet’s head, adjust sleeves and hem, sew up the sides.
 - A small head scarf for GRAMMA.
 - Doll-making eyeglasses for GRANDPA (available at craft supply stores).
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PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

GRANDPA’s admission that he prayed the night before—and felt led to the gospel of John—is the emotional turning point of the first scene. Let it land quietly.

BENJAMIN and RACHEL’s back-and-forth energy with GRAMMA carries the middle of the script—keep the pace lively.

GRAMMA’s moment of realization (“So! Your little lunch—that I packed myself—fed ALL those people?”) is her best line. Play it with genuine delight.

Staging

BOY and GRANDPA exit to the wings and watch the Bible scene from there. They must stay alert—they re-enter at the end.

RACHEL bursts onto stage; BENJAMIN follows carrying a covered basket.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.
Extra commas = pause for breath.

THE FAITH OF A CHILD

Based on John 6:1-14 · Written by Carrie Elderberry

(Enter BOY and GRANDPA.)

BOY: Hello, Grandpa.

GRANDPA: Well, hello, my little man. How's my boy?

BOY: I'm fine. But Dad told me you are VERY sick.

GRANDPA: Now, don't you worry your little head about me.

BOY: Grandpa?

GRANDPA: What is it?

BOY: When you die, do you know what will happen to you?

GRANDPA: *(pause before replying)* Who said anything about dying?

BOY: You have not answered my question.

GRANDPA: What will happen? Heh, heh, I have been trying NOT to think about that, son.

BOY: Dad says you don't trust in Jesus.

GRANDPA: Now, that is not true. I believe in Jesus. He was a good man, a good teacher.

BOY: No, I mean, you don't TRUST Him. You don't believe He came ALIVE again. You are not TRUSTING in Him.

GRANDPA: Well, well, you are too young to understand these things.

BOY: I am old enough to know that Jesus died for you and me. And He didn't stay dead!

GRANDPA: Well. Even if that is true, why should He care about me?

BOY: Grandpa, have you ever... have you ever TRIED to talk to Jesus...? I mean...

GRANDPA: You mean, have I ever really prayed to Him?

BOY: Dad says that would be a MIRACLE.

GRANDPA: Now, don't tell your dad, but I did really pray, for the very first time, just last night.

BOY: Really? What happened?

GRANDPA: NOTHING.

BOY: Nothing?

GRANDPA: Nothing. I just got this STRANGE feeling... that I ought to get out that old Bible your dad gave me. But I don't know where I put it...

BOY: That's all?

GRANDPA: Also, I got a weird feeling that I ought to read in some part called "John". Chapter 3.

BOY: SO? That's awesome! Did you look for it?

GRANDPA: Nope.

BOY: GRANDPA!

GRANDPA: Anyway, what good is an old book, at a time like this?

BOY: Grandpa, there are some other puppets that might help answer that question. Do you feel strong enough to give them the stage?

GRANDPA: Hey, I'm not dead yet. Let's take a back seat and see what they have to offer.

BOY: Thanks, Grandpa. Here, lean on my arm.

(Exit BOY and GRANDPA to wings. They watch and stay alert.)

(RACHEL bursts onto stage, followed by BENJAMIN, who carries a covered basket.)

RACHEL: Gramma! We're back!

(GRAMMA comes in from the other side.)

GRAMMA: Oh good. Benjamin, Rachel. Now I can start your supper.

BEN: No hurry, Gramma. We are not very hungry.

RACHEL: Not after that AWESOME lunch.

GRAMMA: Rachel, what do you mean?

BEN: Oh, Gramma! Remember that little lunch you packed for me?

GRAMMA: Of COURSE I remember. It was so SMALL.

RACHEL: Well, we both ate until we were STUFFED.

GRAMMA: *(pause before replying)* Are you making fun of me?

BEN: No!

RACHEL: No!

GRAMMA: So how can you say you shared it and were stuffed?

BEN: *(happily)* We shared it alright—with EVERYBODY!

GRAMMA: Everybody? Benjamin. For shame, to tell such a story.

RACHEL: Ben, let's start from the beginning.

BEN: Gramma, we were with Jesus!

RACHEL: Gramma, we were with Jesus!

GRAMMA: Jesus? You mean, that new teacher Jesus, that man that everyone has been talking about?

RACHEL: He's not just a man, Gramma, He is the Son of GOD.

GRAMMA: Some people have been saying that He must be the SAVIOR we have been waiting for. But I don't know...

RACHEL: He can do MIRACLES.

GRAMMA: Oh, you know how people exaggerate.

BEN: He did a miracle—right in front of our EYES.

GRAMMA: It must have been some sort of trick.

BEN: It could NOT have been a trick, Gramma.

GRAMMA: He probably had something up His sleeve.

RACHEL: (*balking*) Smoked fish? Up His sleeve?

BEN: And bread?

GRAMMA: What? That sounds like your lunch.

RACHEL: (*to BEN*) Jesus would have needed much bigger sleeves. Ha!

BEN: Yeah! Bigger than SAILS. Haha!

GRAMMA: What ARE you talking about? You must start from the beginning.

RACHEL: OK. So. The lunch WAS kind of small, and we were out looking for some dropped fruit, like figs? to eat, when all these people started shouting, and pointing—

BEN: And we saw JESUS sitting on the side of a BIG hill.

RACHEL: And people started spreading the word—

BEN: And people started to FLOOD in from all around.

GRAMMA: Exaggeration. Just as I thought.

BEN: How am I exaggerating? Am I exaggerating, Rachel?

RACHEL: (*shakes her head*) No!

BEN: Gramma, they COUNTED, five thousand men.

GRAMMA: Oh.

RACHEL: PLUS, there were all the women and children.

GRAMMA: But why in the world would they bother to count all those people?

RACHEL: Because Jesus wanted to FEED us.

GRAMMA: He must be a very rich man, Rachel.

RACHEL: No, I don't think so. One of His followers, a man named Philip, told Jesus that this was a CRAZY idea—

BEN: Yes. He told Jesus it would take a FORTUNE to feed so many people.

GRAMMA: Exactly. At least a year's pay.

BEN: A man named Andrew was next to ME, and right then I remembered that you tell me always to share.

GRAMMA: But only with your SISTER, Benjamin.

RACHEL: Jesus told us to share with anybody who has a REAL NEED. So we did!

BEN: Gramma, I shared with Jesus. And He made it enough for everybody!

GRAMMA: Benjamin! Don't tell such stories.

BEN: It's true, Gramma. I gave Jesus our little lunch—

RACHEL: And Jesus looked up to HEAVEN—

BEN: He gave thanks to God—

RACHEL: Yes! And then, Jesus started breaking up the bread, and then the fish—

BEN: And His followers served it to everyone.

GRAMMA: Such a STORY! With over ten thousand people, you wouldn't even get... not a bite, not a SPECK.

RACHEL: Gramma, we all ate, and ate, and ate. Until we were all filled up. We were all STUFFED.

GRAMMA: God knows, it is hard enough to fill up just you two... let alone ten thousand people...

BEN: Jesus just kept breaking the food apart, and there was more and more and more!

RACHEL: And when we had all eaten as much as we could, there was still more food, left over.

BEN: Twelve big BASKETS of food, left over.

GRAMMA: *(suddenly pleased)* So! Your little lunch—that I packed myself—fed ALL those people?

RACHEL: Yes! Jesus made it enough to feed us all, Gramma.

(They bring forward the basket.)

BEN: And LOOK. They gave us some of the leftovers.

RACHEL: You don't even NEED to make supper.

GRAMMA: A miracle. A real miracle.

BEN: But Jesus also fed us with WORDS, Gramma, such words—to feed our HEARTS.

RACHEL: That's how we KNOW Jesus is the Son of GOD.

GRAMMA: *(now sincerely curious)* Well, you must come with me to the kitchen then, and tell me all about these things.

BEN: Well! OK! He talked about...

RACHEL: He said...

(GRAMMA, BEN, and RACHEL exit.)

(Enter BOY and GRANDPA center stage.)

BOY: Grandpa, that is only ONE of the miracles. There are LOTS more.

GRANDPA: I always thought that Jesus must have TRICKED everyone. You know, into sharing their food, hidden up their sleeves, in that story.

BOY: Grandpa, you are wise in a lot of ways, but you have missed the truth about God's love—and His power.

GRANDPA: I never thought a little boy like you would be wiser than me...

BOY: Will you please, "pretty please with sugar on top," come to church with us on Sunday?

GRANDPA: If I am well enough, I promise I will. And in the meantime, there is a Bible around here someplace... your dad gave it to me, but I have never even opened it.

BOY: I'll go find it, alright? We can find that exact story in the gospel of John!

GRANDPA: Whoa! Did you say "John"?

BOY: Yes. Why?

GRANDPA: Because... that's the place... when I prayed last night... that's the place... Alright, little man. Let's see if God really did answer my prayer, last night.

(Enter ALL puppets.)

ALL: You can read more about the miracles of Jesus in the Bible, in the book of John! And now, goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why did GRANDPA think nothing happened when he prayed?
2. What did Jesus do with BENJAMIN's small lunch?
3. What does it mean to TRUST Jesus, not just believe He existed?
4. How did the first BOY show faith in this play? What did he risk by talking to his grandfather?
5. Is there someone in your life you could share your faith with?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: John 6:1-14 – Jesus feeds five thousand people.

Additional Scripture:

- John 6:35 – "Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again.'" (NLT)
- John 3:16 – "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (NLT)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- "My Redeemer Lives" – Integrity Worship Singers – <https://open.spotify.com/track/091Ws6itmWkpQswWQ5rE6I>
- "Jesus Loves Me" – Cedarmonk Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/2SZzV0eYQVeXodvaTJg0X6>
- "He's Got the Whole World" – Cedarmonk Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/2EKmcipc4bfMJjCzGnZupr>
- "Lord, I Need You" – Matt Maher – <https://open.spotify.com/track/4EHWldZTas5KUyFtT0rQlY>

Ministry Context

This play works well for intergenerational services, family nights, and any series on faith, miracles, or the gospel of John. The grandparent storyline resonates with children who have unsaved family members. Consider pairing with a reading of John 6:1-14 before the performance.