

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

The Stars Have Names

Based on Isaiah 40:26; Psalm 147:4; Genesis 15:5 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
8 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
8–10 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
Star puppets and a night-sky backdrop
(both optional)

MAIN THEME

We humans often like to think we know better than God, or could do a better job than Him at being in charge of our lives. That is, until we pause to consider His creation.

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

A young child tells his grandparents that when he grows up, he wants to be God—because then he could finally be in charge. Gramma and Grampa hear him out thoughtfully as the child works through his logic: he'd fix bedtimes, diet, wars, and injustice. But the more he talks, the more complicated the job becomes. Five stars from the universe—Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Alpha Centauri, and Polaris—arrive to help him see what God's creation really looks like, and the child leaves with a new appreciation for the One who already knows every star by name.

Spiritual Concept

Our sin-nature persistently claims that we could "be like God" and be qualified at being in charge, at least of our own selves. Even young children chafe at having to follow the rules of others who are wiser or more powerful.

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 — A very young boy, maybe 4-5 years old. Earnest and totally logical—within his own limited frame of reference.

GMA — CHILD's grandmother, a follower of Jesus. Warm and loving, but also realistic—her first instinct is to correct him, but she defers to GPA's approach.

GPA – CHILD’s grandfather, a follower of Jesus. Wise and patient –he treats the child’s ambition as genuinely interesting rather than dismissing it outright.

ARCTURUS – A star from the universe. Roll-call leader for the stars; organized and serious about the task.

VEGA – A star. Practical and dry–notes the theater is already crowded with just five of them.

CAPELLA – A star. Playful and creative–suggests singing to the child and takes the lead on stage.

ALPHA CENTAURI – A star. Philosophical–reflects on the star-names God has given versus the names humans use.

POLARIS – A star. A touch anxious, but reassured once reminded this is a puppet show.

Prop Options

- A simple backdrop suggesting a night sky (optional).
- Star puppets (a Carolyn favorite): glue two gold five-point paper party plates back-to-back, leaving the top three points open so a hand slips in easily; add large (30 mm) googly eyes and squirt-bottle glitter glue to individualize each one. They double as a group craft project and as audience participation – kids go nuts for them.
- A recording of “Indescribable” (Chris Tomlin) on hand if the Stars sing along – see Song Suggestions.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

GPA’s key choice: when GMA wants to correct CHILD immediately for wanting to be God, GPA holds her back and engages with genuine curiosity. That patience is what lets the child’s thinking deepen.

CHILD should sound genuinely earnest – he’s not being bratty, just completely logical. He starts to feel the weight of the job himself before any adult corrects him.

ARCTURUS’s roll call establishes the scale: 500 named stars, 10,000 visible, hundreds of billions in the Milky Way, trillions in the universe. Play the size for wonder, not lecture.

Staging

GMA, GPA, and CHILD exit when the Stars take the stage – they can watch from the wings but must stay alert for their re-entry cue.

Only CAPELLA stays on stage when the others step back. The remaining four Stars can sing or speak from backstage, or even be held above the theater.

Open with the Doxology – all five Stars sing (or chant) it together before ARCTURUS begins the roll call.

Decide ahead of time whether the Stars sing “Indescribable” live, lip-sync, or recite it as a poem – CAPELLA announces the choice in the script.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

Extra commas = pause for breath.

THE STARS HAVE NAMES

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(Enter GMA and GPA.)

GMA: We get to have our little grandmouse over this afternoon.

GPA: Yes! He should be here any minute.

GMA: I wonder what new mischief he will be up to?

GPA: Ha! I love the way children look at the world with such fresh eyes.

GMA: True, but he wears me right out.

(Enter CHILD.)

CHILD: Gramma, Grandpa!

(Hugs as best you can with your puppets.)

GPA: What is new with our little grandmouse?

CHILD: I've finally decided what I want to be when I grow up!

GMA: Oh, how nice! What is it today? A fireman, a trash truck driver, or a referee?

GPA: Don't forget, last time it was a forklift operator.

CHILD: Nope, I have thought of something MUCH better than any of those.

GMA: Ok, we are ready.

CHILD: When I grow up, I'm going to be ...GOD.

GMA: What! You can't—

GPA: Hang on honey. Dear one, why would you want to be God when you grow up?

CHILD: Because THEN, I can really be in CHARGE.

GMA: Goodness, what an idea! You simply...you can't...

GPA: Hang on. This is really interesting!

GMA: Humph. As long as we don't have any LIGHTNING bolts.

GPA: So. What is it that you want to be in charge OF?

CHILD: Everything!

GPA: Give me some examples. I want to hear the details!

CHILD: Well! First of all, I would change my bedtime.

GMA: To what? When?

CHILD: To...whenever I feel like it!

GPA: That sounds harmless enough. That is what we do, right Gramma?

GMA: Yes, but—

CHILD: And second, I would only eat what I WANT to eat.

GPA: That one is harder, for sure.

GMA: Definitely! Because you don't understand about nutrition yet, and what your body needs to grow well.

CHILD: Yeah, but that is where being GOD would come in so handy! I would be in charge of that, too. My favorite SNACKS! Ice cream and candy and chips and soda, would be all my body needs, to grow big and strong! It would be AWESOME.

GPA: It's a bit nuts, but so far he is at least being logical.

CHILD: But after I got the most important things like THAT straightened out—

GMA: Yes?

CHILD: Wait for it! Wait for it!

GPA: We are READY. Lay it on us!

CHILD: I would make ALL the wars stop. There would be peace, all over the world. And everyone would be NICE.

GMA: That would be a change, wouldn't it?

CHILD: I don't see why God doesn't do that right now, anyway. If He is so big and strong, why does He let people do bad things?

GPA: That is a good question.

CHILD: And another thing! It's not fair that bad things happen to nice people.

GMA: What kinds of bad things?

CHILD: Oh, you know, like car crashes and cancer and getting old and stuff. I would make sure that only BAD people had problems.

GPA: And so...you would decide who was bad, and who was nice?

CHILD: Sure! But, wait a minute, because sometimes...

GMA: Yes. That sounds like a VERY big responsibility.

CHILD: And even bad people are nice SOMETIMES, and nice people are bad, sometimes.
GPA: But you would be God, so you would have to sort them out.
CHILD: Well! Maybe you and Gramma could help with that part?
GPA: I have an idea. This is a puppet show, right?
GMA AND CHILD: Right!
GPA: I know some other puppets that might be able to help us.
CHILD: Oh, yes! The stars! I saw some back-stage!
GMA: Let's make room for them and see what they have to tell us.

(Exit GMA, GPA, and CHILD. They can watch from the wings, but stay alert! Enter STARS.)

(ALL STARS sing or chant the Doxology:)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!

ARCTURUS: Roll call for the stars! Are you ready?
ALL STARS: Ready!
ARCTURUS: Vega!
VEGA: Here!
ARCTURUS: Capella!
CAPELLA: Here!
ARCTURUS: Alpha Centauri!
ALPHA CENTAURI: Here!
ARCTURUS: Polaris!
POLARIS: Here! But Arcturus, there are more than 500 MORE stars that the humans have names for.
VEGA: We won't all FIT in this little theater. It's already kind of crowded, with just us five.
CAPELLA: And the humans have counted more than ten THOUSAND stars that they can see—even without a telescope.
ALPHA CENTAURI: Hundreds of billions, just in what they call the Milky Way.

POLARIS: TRILLIONS more, in just our own little universe.

ARCTURUS: But listen up. You all know why we five are here, right?

VEGA: Yes! We heard there is a little boy, who wants to be God when he grows up.

CAPELLA: Will he change all of our names when he takes over?

ALPHA CENTAURI: The humans call me Alpha Centauri, which is ok, but I ACTUALLY prefer the name that God has given me.

POLARIS: Yes but...but they don't know our REAL names! What will we do? What will become of us?

ARCTURUS: Just relax. Remember this is a puppet show!

POLARIS: Oh right. And a good thing, too.

CAPELLA: He is very young, and doesn't even know, what billions and trillions are, yet.

VEGA: He doesn't even know, that God CREATED us, either.

ALPHA CENTAURI: AND— that God has ALREADY named each of us!

POLARIS: AND— that God has put us all in our right places!

CAPELLA: I have an idea. Let's sing to the child, that song that has us in it!

ARCTURUS: And if we can't sing it, we can recite it as a poem!

POLARIS: But how will we all fit? The theater isn't big enough.

ALPHA CENTAURI: Well, it was Capella's idea, so let's have her on stage with THEM, and the rest of us can either sing from backstage, or peek out around the edges.

ALL STARS: Yay! OK, please come back out here, humans!

(Exit all STARS except CAPELLA. Enter GMA, GPA, and CHILD.)

CHILD: Oh what a cool star!

CAPELLA: Little human, we thought of a way to help you appreciate who God, the only TRUE God, is.

GMA: Did I hear you say that you are going to recite to us? Or sing?

GPA: We are ready whenever you are. Can't wait!

CAPELLA: Ok, ready stars? Here goes!

(ALL STARS sing or recite "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin:)

ARCTURUS: From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
VEGA: Creation's revealing Your majesty
CAPELLA: From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
ALPHA CENTAURI: Every creature unique in the song that it sings
ALL STARS: All exclaiming
ARCTURUS: Indescribable, uncontainable. You placed the stars in the sky
VEGA: And You know them by name. You are amazing, God.
CAPELLA: All powerful, untameable. Awestruck, we fall to our knees
ALPHA CENTAURI: As we humbly proclaim, You are amazing, God.
POLARIS: Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go?
ARCTURUS: Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
VEGA: Who imagined the sun, and gives source to its light?
CAPELLA: Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
ALPHA CENTAURI: None can fathom

(GMA, GPA, and CHILD can join in:)

ALL: Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God.

CHILD: Well! I've changed my mind, for SURE. I think...now...
when I grow up, I'll be happy to be a pilot, or maybe an astronaut!

GMA: Oh, good.

CHILD: Because God can do a much better job, at being GOD,
than ANY one of us!

GPA: And that's all for today! You can find out more about
God's power in the stars in the Bible—

GMA: Especially in Isaiah Chapter 40:26 and in Psalm 147:4

ALL: And now goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. What did the CHILD want to be when he grew up? Why did that seem like a good idea to him?
2. What was the hardest part of being God that the CHILD hadn't thought about?
3. Why do you think God lets people make bad choices sometimes?
4. The stars told us God knows every one of them by name. What does that tell us about God?
5. Wanting to be in charge is a big part of the reason people resent God. Who can help us to trust God with our lives?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Isaiah 40:26 – "Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing." (NLT)

Additional Scripture:

- Psalm 147:4 – "He counts the stars and calls them all by name." (NLT)
- Genesis 15:5 – God takes Abraham outside and says, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if indeed you can count them." The same uncountable host the Stars marvel at points to a God whose plans are far bigger than we can grasp. (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)
- Isaiah 55:8-9 – God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours –a natural companion to the theme of human pride and divine wisdom.

Song Suggestions

- "Indescribable" – Chris Tomlin (feat. Laura Story) – <https://open.spotify.com/track/1GoE6xwwZ20NbxCKVA5nz2>
- "Stars in the Sky" – Kari Jobe – <https://open.spotify.com/track/7IaEEma8tP503iYG7pMTxG>
- Doxology – Cedarmon Kids – <https://open.spotify.com/track/2k8LfodXbKVj0iF4fYTx0W>

- "My God Is So Big" – Listener Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/1fCSen4IN1MXSWYWI7eKw5>
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" – Cedarmonst Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/2EKmcipc4bfMJjCzGnZupr>
- "Steadfast" – Praise and Harmony –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/29KH66DVIgreg00ddjzpYb>

Ministry Context

This script works well in any general Sunday School or children's ministry setting, and is particularly effective for conversations about trusting God's authority. The child's earnest logic—"If I were in charge, I'd fix everything"—is something many adults feel too but rarely say aloud. The Stars bring the moment of awe that shifts the tone from comedy to wonder. Consider pairing with a stargazing activity or a reading from Isaiah 40 beforehand.

Bible Background

The five stars named in this script are all real and well-known: Arcturus is one of the brightest stars in the northern sky; Vega and Capella are among the twenty brightest stars visible from Earth; Alpha Centauri is the closest star system to our own sun; Polaris is the North Star, used for navigation for thousands of years. Isaiah 40:26 and Psalm 147:4 both make the same astonishing claim—that God not only created every star but calls each one by name. Astronomers estimate there are more stars in the observable universe than grains of sand on all of Earth's beaches. The script uses that scale as a doorway to worship.