A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

Til Death Do Us Part

Based on 1 Corinthians 7 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 7 and up

PERFORMANCE TIME
12–15 minutes

CAST SIZE
6 puppets

PROPS REQUIRED
Time Machine (with funny sound effects)

MAIN THEME
Marriage and singleness are both good gifts from God, meant to be lived out under His care — and a marriage that lasts, like GRAMPY and GRAMMY's, isn't luck, but the fruit of following Jesus together.

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

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

BUDDY, freshly traumatized by his parents' divorce, declares he's NEVER getting married after serving as a ring bearer at a wedding. His friend CHILD 1 can't understand why — she'd love to be in a wedding herself. GRAMPY and GRAMMY, married almost fifty years, use their Time Machine to bring the apostle PAUL forward to explain what the Bible actually says about marriage and singleness: both are good, both are meant to be lived out with Jesus in charge, and neither is a guarantee against hardship without Him.

Spiritual Concept

Paul's letter to the Corinthians — written to brand-new Christians who were confused about marriage — teaches that both marriage and singleness are good gifts, not a hierarchy where one is better than the other. GRAMPY and GRAMMY's decades-long marriage isn't presented as effortless or lucky, but as something sustained by following Jesus together through hard seasons — an honest answer to BUDDY's very real fear, shaped by his parents' divorce, that marriage “never lasts.”

Age Suitability

Best for ages 7 and up; BUDDY's grief over his parents' divorce and the more mature conversation about marriage and singleness are handled with care, but are still weighty enough to benefit from an audience old enough to follow the discussion and a leader ready to talk further with any child from a similar family situation.

Performance Time

12–15 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 — A little girl, delighted by the idea of weddings and marriage — dreams of being a bride herself someday.

BUDDY — A little boy, recently a ring bearer at a wedding. Declares he'll never get married because his parents divorced and his dad left — carries real grief under the bravado.

GRAMPY — CHILD 1's grandfather, an older Christian, married to Grammy almost fifty years. Owns a Time Machine (prone to occasional mishaps) and brings the apostle Paul forward to help answer Buddy's questions.

GRAMMY — Grampy's wife of almost fifty years. Patient and warm, gently corrects Buddy's assumptions and reassures Child 1 at the end.

A BEAR — Comic relief, non-speaking — roars and exits several times throughout, playing on Buddy's “ring bear” mispronunciation and the Time Machine's occasional mix-ups.

PAUL — The apostle Paul, brought forward in time mid-way through writing his letter to the Corinthians. Explains that both marriage and singleness are good gifts from God, meant to be lived out with Jesus in charge.

Prop Options

- A Time Machine prop.
- Something to make funny sounds for the Time Machine.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

BUDDY's “ring bear” mis-hearing of “ring bearer” sets up the recurring BEAR gag — a light comic thread running underneath a genuinely tender conversation about his parents' divorce.

PAUL should read as gently amused by his time-travel situation, not alarmed — he's more concerned about getting back to his unfinished letter than about the mechanics of the Time Machine.

BUDDY's grief is real and should be played honestly, not just as comic stubbornness — his line about his dad leaving is the emotional core the rest of the play is responding to.

Staging

The Time Machine's placeholder lines — “This is ___ (wherever you are)” and “it’s 2___ (the current year)” — are meant to be filled in live by the performer with your actual location and year.

The bear's several entrances (roar and exit) are quick sight gags — keep them brief and punchy rather than drawn out.

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume/intensity.

Ellipsis (…) = the author's pacing notation.

Em dashes (the long dash, —) = the author's pacing notation, especially in interrupted lines.

TIL DEATH DO US PART

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(Enter CHILD 1 and BUDDY.)

CHILD 1: Where have you been? I haven't seen you in days and DAYS.

BUDDY: My family went to a wedding! I was in it. I had to be the ring bear.

(Enter BEAR, roar and exit.)

BOTH: Yikes! What was that all about?

CHILD 1: I would LOVE to be in a wedding.

BUDDY: All I did was carry the rings up to the front.

CHILD 1: Weddings are so BEAUTIFUL. I wonder who I'm going to marry.

BUDDY: Well, I am NEVER getting married, ever, ever.

CHILD 1: But why not?

BUDDY: Lots of reasons…

(Enter GRAMPY.)

GRAMPY: Well hello kids, what's cookin'?

CHILD 1: Grampy! Hi!

GRAMPY: Who's your little friend here?

CHILD 1: This is Buddy.

BUDDY: Can I call you "Grampy" too? I don't have a grandfather.

GRAMPY: Of course you can, I'd be honored.

CHILD 1: Grampy, Buddy was just in a wedding!

GRAMPY: Aren't you a little YOUNG to get married?

BUDDY: No! No! I was just the ring bear.

(Enter BEAR, roar and exit.)

ALL: Yikes! What was that all about?

GRAMPY: Anyway, don't you mean the ring BEAR-ER?

BUDDY: Oh! Is that what it is? I kept wondering why I was called a BEAR.

(Enter BEAR, roar and exit.)

CHILD 1: Yikes! There it is again.

BUDDY: Anyway— I am NEVER getting married!

(Enter GRAMMY.)

GRAMMY: Sorry I'm late to arrive! I had to take a phone call.

CHILD 1: Grammy! Hi! This is my friend Buddy.

BUDDY: Wait, you have a Grampy AND a Grammy?

CHILD 1: Well, sure…

BUDDY: Are you two married? To each OTHER?

GRAMMY: Yes! Almost fifty years now.

BUDDY: Oh, I am so jealous. Do you have any idea how lucky you are?

GRAMPY: Actually, son, it's not LUCK. It's all thanks to God.

GRAMMY: And we have had to do our share, too.

BUDDY: What do you mean?

GRAMPY: She means that we got married, a long time ago, and we had to take GOOD CARE of each other, to stay married this long.

GRAMMY: And it was not always easy!

BUDDY: That's what I'm talking about. Being married is TOO HARD.

CHILD 1: Like how?

BUDDY: Well! My mom says her parents got divorced when she was my age, and so she never got married to my dad— because she knew they would just get DIVORCED.

GRAMPY: That is so sad. I am so sorry to hear that.

BUDDY: And she must have been right! Because my dad LEFT us and I never see him anymore. So there! I am never getting married!

GRAMMY: I understand. It might help to know, that there are different KINDS of marriage, different WAYS to be married. There is one way that is good, that lasts until DEATH, and… it is full of God's love.

CHILD 1: But… how do you KNOW?

GRAMPY: The Bible is our best source, for how to follow Jesus, and how to live God's way.

CHILD 1: But… it's such a BIG book, and we don't know how to read very well yet.

GRAMPY: Tell you what! This is a puppet show, and we happen to have a Time Machine. We can bring one of the writers of the Bible for a visit. His name is PAUL.

GRAMMY: Oh, dear. Are you sure it's SAFE? Last time you brought Goliath by mistake, and he was very unhappy with you.

GRAMPY: Yes, what an unhappy man.

GRAMMY: And then there was that other time—

GRAMPY: Yes, yes, well, this time I will be more careful. I'll ask Paul for a visit. He is the man who wrote so many letters, to the first followers of Jesus.

CHILD 1: Were they Christians?

GRAMMY: Yes, dear. But they weren't used to it. They had a LOT of bad habits. They were all just getting to know Jesus. Some of them were very confused, about the new life that Jesus calls us to.

GRAMPY: I'll be right back. I think the Time Machine might need new batteries.

(Exit GRAMPY.)

BUDDY: Were the FIRST Christians confused about marriage?

GRAMMY: Oh yes!

CHILD 1: But… why are people STILL confused?

GRAMMY: Well, part of the problem is that people don't know Jesus well enough. And they don't trust Him, to do a good job of being in charge.

CHILD 1: You've told me about that! It's our SIN-nature that makes US want to be in charge.

(Enter GRAMPY with Time Machine.)

GRAMPY: OK, here we go! New batteries! Should work fine.

(Activate Time Machine. Enter PAUL.)

PAUL: Am I dreaming? I must have nodded off. Where is this?

GRAMPY: *(fill in wherever you are)* This is ___.

GRAMMY: *(fill in the current year)* And it's 20___!

BUDDY: Mr. Paul? Grammy and Grampy said you could help me understand about marriage.

PAUL: Is that a fact?

CHILD 1: Buddy says he is NEVER getting married. He thinks it always gets messed up.

PAUL: There are different ways to look at marriage. In fact I was working on a letter, to some dear people in Corinth, just now. I must have dozed off.

GRAMPY: No, I brought you here in my Time Machine!

PAUL: Ahh. Is that a fact?

GRAMMY: Well…Remember it's just a puppet show.

PAUL: Will you be able to get me back again? I have a lot to do, and that letter isn't quite finished.

BUDDY: Mr. Paul, can marriage really ever be a good thing?

PAUL: Oh yes, dear. A VERY good thing.

CHILD 1: Can you tell us about that?

PAUL: Let me see… there is so much to it, and you are so young!

BUDDY: I can't even read yet. But I know all about DIVORCE! That's why I won't ever get married, it just doesn't last.

PAUL: We should never be in a big HURRY to get married, that is true. Marriage is not for everyone.

BUDDY: So I am right!

PAUL: Wait, dear one. Can you hear me out?

BUDDY: OK. Sorry.

PAUL: God has made us male and female.

CHILD 1: Does that mean men and women?

PAUL: Yes.

CHILD 1: Fathers and mothers?

PAUL: Right!

GRAMMY: Now hush dear, and listen.

PAUL: Most grownups want to find someone to share their home, their life, and their bed. That's not wrong. But God says that they are to be married first. One man and one woman.

BUDDY: Excuse me? But what does that really mean? In the wedding I was in, they said "until death do us part." What do they DO until death?

PAUL: They do GOD'S kind of marriage. It means they promise to be true to each other! In their hearts, in their spirits, and with their bodies. And that way, if they have children, their children will have both a mother AND a father.

CHILD 1: Grammy and Grampy did that.

PAUL: Yes. But it's very hard sometimes, even then.

GRAMMY AND GRAMPY: We need Jesus!

PAUL: Right. And so, unless the mother and father are married, and ALSO following Jesus, their home will be hurt by their sinful natures.

BUDDY: Well that sounds too much for me. I am never getting married, and that's FINAL.

PAUL: I can tell you something about that.

BUDDY: What?

PAUL: If you can handle staying single, you will have more energy to follow Jesus!

BUDDY: Awesome!

CHILD 1: But… wait a minute… if everybody did that, there would be no more weddings! And… and no more babies, and no more families… and no more… people!

GRAMPY: That's true. Remember, being married and being single are BOTH good things, IF God is in charge. He will show you what is best for you, if you let Him.

PAUL: I really need to get back to work on my letter to the Corinthians. They are ALL mixed up about marriage.

GRAMMY: Thank you so much for your visit!

BUDDY AND CHILD 1: Yes! Thank you!

GRAMPY: Now if you will just step into the box…

(Activate Time Machine. Exit PAUL.)

BUDDY: Hey… I need to get home for LUNCH. See you later, alligators!

(Exit BUDDY.)

GRAMPY: Speaking of lunch, I wonder what we are having today?

GRAMMY: Something good.

GRAMPY: I'm going to put the Time Machine away, before anything happens.

GRAMMY: Remember when you brought that angry BEAR from Proverbs, by accident?

(Enter BEAR, roar and exit.)

GRAMPY: Oh my, that was dramatic! No harm done though.

(Exit GRAMPY and Time Machine.)

CHILD 1: Grammy? I was kind of hoping Buddy would marry me, I mean, when we are BIGGER. I really want to be in a wedding, and be married, and be a mommy, and all that… when I grow up. Like you did.

GRAMMY: If God wants you to be married, he will provide a husband for you, dear. God knows what is best for us. You can trust Him to give you a very good life.

CHILD 1: OK. But I can HOPE there is a wedding in there somewhere, right?

GRAMMY: Right. And that is all for today! Can the other puppets come back to say goodbye?

(Enter ALL.)

ALL: You can read more about marriage in the Bible, in the first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 7. Goodbye!

(ALL stand out front for a bow.)

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Why did BUDDY say he would never get married?
2. GRAMPY said their long marriage wasn't luck — what did he say it was instead?
3. Paul told Buddy that both marriage and singleness are good gifts from God. Does that surprise you?
4. What did Paul mean by God's "kind of marriage" — promising to be true to each other until death?
5. If you know a family that's gone through divorce, like Buddy's, how might this play help you understand what they're going through?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: 1 Corinthians 7 — Paul's teaching to the Corinthian church on marriage and singleness, written to new believers confused about how to live it out. (Summarized.)

Additional Scripture:

- Genesis 2:24 — “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” (NLT)
- 1 Corinthians 7:32–35 — Paul explains that remaining single allows a person to serve the Lord without the divided concerns of marriage. (Summarized.)

Song Suggestions

- “Be Thou My Vision” — Celtic Worship — https://open.spotify.com/track/48LzKKPsb3jdJUmXszWIpx
- “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” — The Cathedral Singers — https://open.spotify.com/track/0nARERmAyPkQ5lCCkrUWjV
- “Seek Ye First” — Tapestry Chamber Singers — https://open.spotify.com/track/3CDWmJfho5z4b0mbtRAd6Q

Ministry Context

Well suited to a wedding season, a marriage or family-themed series, or simply a congregation with children navigating their own parents' divorces. Because Buddy's grief is treated honestly rather than brushed past, this can also open a good door for a leader to check in with any child in the audience facing something similar.