



“My New Years Revolution”

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PUPPETS

1. DIRECTOR
2. Ripley
3. Flurpette
4. Bitsy
5. Clay
6. Sock Puppets

PROPS

1. FULL STAGE
2. Gummy Worm
3. Confetti
4. Necklace

SOUND

1. RIPPLES THEME
2. BEGINNINGS
3. YOUR KISS IS ON MY LIPS
4. OOPS I DID IT AGAIN

ACT I

Music: Worship and Ripples theme

Director: January is a time of new beginnings. We are past the holidays and are faced with a brand new year. The holidays were filled with promise and difficulties but it is in January that we begin to put things into perspective.

The New Year is like a blank chalkboard, just waiting for the story of our lives to be written on it. Do you kids know that you have something to say about that story? The decisions that you make will change it for good or bad.

So kids, what are your plans for the year? Do you plan to do something great? Learn something? Are you going to be moving? Growing taller? Making new friends? Are there big changes coming?

I imagine that you will agree with me that the new year is filled with promise. For some of you, this will be an exciting year. For some of you this year might be difficult. But we will be in God's hands no matter what happens if we are his children right?

Some people make resolutions at the new year. Resolutions are the things they want to change in their lives. And with a new year coming, it is a good time to make changes. Did you make any promises for the new year?

Our verse today is from the book of Matthew 5:37 And Jesus said - ³⁷But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (NKJV)

Our friends at the Brook are also facing a new year as they make plans. Let's see what happens as we look in shall we?

Music: Beginnings

Scene: Ripley and Flurpette are ringing in the New Year together.

Flurpette – Five, four, three, two, one.... Happy New Year (Confetti flies over the top of the stage)

Ripley – Happy New Year!

Music: Auld Lang Syne

Flurpette – Now what?

Ripley – I dunno. I think you're supposed to kiss someone (both look to the left and then the right and then back at each other.) EWWWW!

Flurpette – Well... I am NOT kissing a fish!

Ripley – And I am NOT kissing a... uh... What are you anyway?

Flurpette – None of your business!

Why don't we make a New Years **revolution** then?

Ripley – New Years revolution? I think you mean New Years "resolution"!

Flurpette – Oh yeah, resolution. That's what I meant. So what are we going to resol?

Ripley – Resol? Resol isn't even a word Flurpette. That's not what a resolution is. It is when you decide to change something in your life and make a promise to do it.

Flurpette – Are you sure that's what it means?

Ripley – That's what they taught me in school.

Flurpette – Okay, well I guess I'll take your word for it.

Now... Let me see... What am I gonna resol?

Ripley – It's not resol... it's... Oh. Nevermind.

Flurpette – Like I was saying, My resol is NOT to kiss a fish for the whole year HAH! See, I have kept it already.

Ripley – The year is not over yet.

Flurpette – Well I guess I'll just have to restrain myself. But you can bet that this is one resol I won't be breaking.

So, what is your New Year's Resolution?

Ripley – I really haven't thought about it. Okay, let's see... I make a resolution

Flurpette – (interrupts) You mean "resol"

Ripley – Okay. I give up! I hereby resol to read my bible every day and keep all of the commandments for a whole year!

Flurpette – Is that even possible?

Ripley – If it was easy I wouldn't have to make a resol about it would I.

Flurpette – You're a lot braver than me Ripley! I would never make that resol.

Ripley – (Yawns) It's getting late Flurpette and I need to get to bed. Thanks for staying up with me so I could ring in the New Year.

Flurpette – That's what friends are for right? Goodnight Ripley.

Ripley – Goodnight Flurpette.

Flurpette – I guess you're going to be sleeping with the fishes... ha ha ha.

Ripley – Oh you're too funny. Too bad your New Years' resol wasn't to tell better jokes.

Scene: Both slip off stage.

ACT II

Director: Did you kids make any new years resols? How about resolutions?

What do you think happens to most of the resolutions that people make?
That's right they break them.

Do you think that Ripley will be able to keep his resolutions? Why did God give us the 10 commandments anyway? He gave them to us to show us how much we need His grace. No one can keep them perfectly except for one man. Do any of you know who that is?

That's right. Only Jesus lead a perfect life and as the bible tells us was tempted in all things and yet without sin.

Let's look in on Ripley and see how he is doing, shall we?

Music: Oops I did it again!

Scene: Clay happens upon Ripley eating a gummy worm.

Ripley - Oh yummm! (Eating noises, smacking etc.)

Clay – Ripley..... STOP!

Ripley – (mumbling) Stop What?

Clay – That isn't what I think it is... Is it?

Ripley – (still mumbling) That depends on what you think it is.

Clay – You're not eating a... a... worm are you?

Ripley – (ducks head so worm can be pulled out) Gulp! Oh yep! That's what it was all right.

Clay – What do you mean what is was? WHAT IT WAS? It was a WORM – that's what it was. A fellow compatriot. A brother of the underground , A slime sister. Traveler of the tunnels, denizen of the dark.

How could you Ripley?... How could you?

Ripley – Whoa my slimy friend! I thought they kicked you out!

Clay – They did. But that doesn't mean I want you to eat them. That is all except for that night crawler Brick... but I digress.

I know they kicked me out. I still forgave them though. Isn't that what you've been saying Ripley when you talk about how we are to forgive those that persecute us?

Ripley – I didn't realize you were listening.

Clay – Of course I was listening Ripley. You are my best friend! You saved me. I mean of course that God saved me but he used YOU to do it.

Ripley – Thanks Clay. That means a lot to me.

Clay – So then why are you eating one of my brothers?

Ripley – (laughs) That was not one of your brothers Clay. It was a gummy worm.

Clay – Whew! I thought.. you know... Wait a minute. Where did you get that gummy worm anyway?

Ripley – Oh, I got it from the Brook Store.

Clay – But old man Fuzzelwig doesn't get in until 10:00 and it's only 9:30.

Ripley – Yeah I know. But he left the store open so I helped myself. Don't worry though, I will pay him when he gets in.

Clay – But Ripley, if Old Man Fuzzelwig wasn't in the store – It was stealing.

Ripley – I told you I am planning on paying him back.

Clay – Was he in the store?

Ripley – No

Clay – Did he tell you it was okay to take it?

Ripley – No

Clay – Have you paid for yet?

Ripley – No

Clay – Did you eat it already?

Ripley – You know I did – you saw me.

Clay – Then... I am sorry to say... you STOLE it.

Ripley – I hadn't looked at it that way. I guess you are right. What will I tell Old Man Fuzzelwig?

Clay – I am sure he will forgive you – especially if you pay him.

Ripley? Can I ask you one more question?

Ripley – Sure Clay.

Clay – I was talking to Flurpette earlier and she said you two had made New Years Resols. Is that correct?

Ripley – Uh huh. Why do you ask?

Clay – Because I guess I owe her a quarter.

Ripley – Why do you owe her a quarter?

Clay – She bet me that you would break your New Years Resol before she broke hers. She said you had resol'd to keep the 10 commandments which she said was impossible. But I told her you were the best fish I have ever known and if anyone could keep the 10 commandments it would be you.

I guess I owe her a quarter.

Ripley – I am sorry that I let you down buddy.

Clay – No it was my fault I should have never made that bet with her in the first place. I still don't know how I was going to trick her into kissing a fish.

Ripley – Yeah, I feel your pain.

Anyhow, I need to find Old Man Fuzzelwig and give him the money for that gummy worm. My conscience is killing me.

ACT III

Director – It didn't take long for Ripley to break his resolution did it kids? Do you how hard it is to keep the 10 commandments? In fact, it is so hard that God sent his only son to sacrifice himself for us to cover us when we do break them. Isn't that amazing?

God loves us so much that he gave us wonderful rules to live happy lives. But He also provides grace when we fall short – and we all do.

Do you think Flurpette is going to be able to keep her New Years Resolution? Why don't we check in on them and see?

Music: Your Kiss is on my lips

Scene: Flurpette is talking to Bitsy

Flurpette – ... And you should have seen his face when he had to give me the quarter! It was priceless I tell you!

I did feel a little bad for him though and told him that I would give it back to him if I kissed a fish before the day was over. Like that's going to happen!

(They Both laugh)

Bitsy – Oh I can just see Mar Clean having to part with his cash. I wish I had been there to take a picture. Was it spotless?

Flurpette – Was what spotless?

Bitsy – You know – the quarter. Was it spotless? I mean he is so particular about everything being clean.

Flurpette – Now that you mention it. It did sparkle like it was just made.

Bitsy – (Laughing) I knew it. By the way Flurpette. What was your New Years Resol?

Flurpette – I resol'd not to kiss any fish!

Bitsy – Ahh... that explains why you told him you would give him back his quarter before the end of the day if you kissed a fish. I thought you were just being ridiculous.

Flurpette – I was being both actually. Why on earth would I ever kiss a fish?

Bitsy – I got ya. Clay was stupid to have ever made the bet to begin with.

Flurpette – No kidding huh?

(Puts hand to neck) Bitsy? Have you seen my necklace?

Bitsy – No why?

Flurpette – Did I have it on when I got here this afternoon?

Bitsy – I don't remember.

Flurpette – (starting to panic) Oh No! I can't have lost it!

Bitsy – But it's just a necklace Flurpette. You can always get another one.

Flurpette – You don't understand Bitsy! That wasn't just any necklace. That was the cross that my Grandmother used to wear. When she went to be with Jesus, it was the only thing of hers that I wanted and my mother gave it to me.

I'll just die if I don't find that necklace.

Bitsy - Calm down Flurpette. I am sure we will find it.

Scene – Both look around but can't find it anywhere.

Flurpette – (Crying) What am I going to do Bitsy?

Ripley – (Comes up) Hi Flurpette.

Flurpette – Oh Hi Ripley.

Ripley – Well, gee don't sound so happy to see me.

Flurpette – Sorry Ripley, It's not you.

Ripley – I thought you would be more happy to see me after winning the bet with Clay and all. I am sure he has told you. Old Man Fuzzelwig forgave me but Clay was right – it was stealing.

Flurpette – I am sure you are all sorry and stuff but I have more important concerns right now.

Ripley – Oh, sorry.

Hey Flurpette (holds up necklace) I found this outside on the sidewalk. Do you know who owns it?

Flurpette – Do I? DO I? I have been looking for that everywhere! Thank you Ripley. (Runs to him and gives him a big kiss)

Ripley – Wow! I didn't expect that.

Clay – (yells from behind the stage) I want my quarter back!

Ripley – I told you the year wasn't over yet.

Flurpette – Ripley, you don't know how much this means to me. Let's not make any more silly promises deal?

Ripley – Deal.

Although I am still going to try to keep the 10 Commandments.

Flurpette – Me too.

C'mon, we better give Clay his shiny quarter back before he has a fit.

Clay – (From behind stage) It better not be dirty.

Ripley – I love my crazy friends.

Epilogue

Director: January is indeed a time of new beginnings. But do you know that each day is a new beginning. Each day is a new opportunity for us to please God.

Our verse for today is to let our yes be yes and our no be no. This means that we need to be people of our word. So think carefully before you make a promise and make sure that you can keep it.

I have one more challenge for you to day. Maybe Flurpette was right. Instead of a New Year's Resolution, why don't we start a New Years Revolution and turn the world upside down for God – not by making promises but by being the people he has called us to be and making the changes we need to make.

Let's not just talk about it. Let's just do it!

What do you say?

**End
Closing Prayer -**