



The Cost Of Friendship

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Puppets

1. Tala
2. Grandma
3. Bobby
4. Flurpette
5. Mean Girl

People

1. Director

PROPS

1. Large Stage
2. Ball
3. Play money

SOUND

1. Worship Songs –
2. Music –
 - a. “You’ve Got A Friend In Me”
3. Sound effects –
 - a. Children Playing - playground

ACT I

Lighting: Light down on main stage. Up on one-man stage.

Scene: Director – enters and greets kids.

Director: Good morning kids! I didn't hear you. Good morning kids! That's much better. Now, before we get started this morning, everyone stand up. Hold your hands in the air... Now shake em!

Music: Play first worship song.

Director: Get ready to move... clap your hands... Great!
How many of you have ever wanted a friend? Do you think you can bully someone into being your friend? Do you think you can trick someone into being your friend? Could you buy a friend? ... A REAL friend?

Music: "You Have A Friend In Me (1)" (Sung by one of the S.O.C.K. It to Me Puppets)

Scene: Grandma is saying her morning prayers.

Grandma: Good morning Lord. First I want to thank you for my many blessings. I have a special request for you today though Lord. Please look after Tala. She has lost so much already and I know it will be hard for her here at a new school with new children. I would just ask you that you please let her make some friends so she won't feel so lonely. A grandma is only good for so many things and a best friend I'm afraid isn't one of them.
Keep us safe and in your care. Amen.

Tala: Good morning grandma. I think I'm getting a little sick. I think I have a fever. It's probably 200 degrees at least. I don't think I should go to school today.

Grandma: Come here child. (feels her forehead).
I think someone just has a bad case of "I don't want to go to the new school."

Tala: Please don't make me go Grandma. I promise I will clean and do the laundry and wash the dishes and....

Grandma: Whoa! Wait a minute Tala. I could certainly use the help but you can't keep running away from the things in your life that are difficult.

Tala: Sure I can, I'm a real fast runner. (Zooms back and forth)

Grandma: You know that's not what I mean Tala.

Tala: Fine. I'll go to that smelly old school. But that doesn't mean I have to like it.

Grandma: That's all I'm asking Tala. Just give it a chance. (Grandma prays under her breath as Tala leaves) And Dear Lord, she's going to need your help I'm afraid.

Director – Have you ever had to go into a new place? Have to make new friends? Sometimes new situations can be frightening and we do things we would never do under ordinary circumstances.
Let's see if we can see a little of ourselves as Tala spends her first day at a new school.

ACT II

Music: “You Have A Friend In Me(2)” (Sung by one of the S.O.C.K. It to Me Puppets)

Sound: Kids playing.

Scene: Tala comes to the playground at school. Two of the girls are playing ball.

Mean Girl: I need to get to know Bobby? He is sooooo cute!
And as popular as I am, all I would have to do is snap my fingers and he would be crawling on all fours – just to be my boyfriend.

Tala: Can I play with you?

Mean Girl: Well, that depends.

Tala: Depends on what.

Mean Girl: Well, if you want to be *my* friend, it's gonna cost you.

Tala: What do you mean it's going to cost me? Cost me what?

Mean Girl: Do you have any money?

Tala: Just my lunch money.

Mean Girl: I'll tell you what. You give me your lunch money every day this week and I'll think about letting you be my friend.

Tala: But what will I eat for lunch?

Mean Girl: Do you want to be my friend or not? You can always eat. I am the most popular girl in school. Can you imagine how that makes you look? What's a little cash?
Besides, it looks like missing a meal or two wouldn't hurt you anyway.

Tala: Well I guess so. (Gives lunch money to girls) Now, can I play with you? (Recess Bell rings)

Mean Girl: Ahh, too bad. Recess is over. Maybe tomorrow. But here, you can put my stuff away for me. (Throws the ball) (Tala goes chasing after ball)
(After Tala leaves - laughs) This is going to be toooooo easy! This new kid thinks she can buy my friendship? Well, I will get what I can and then...
(makes cutting motion across her neck) Cut her loose! (Laughs manically and slips down.)

Director – It seems as though Tala doesn't feel as though she has a right to be someone's friend, just because she is Tala.
Have you ever wanted someone to be your friend so bad that you would do anything? How much should friendship cost?

ACT III

Music: "You Have A Friend In Me(3)" (Sung by one of the S.O.C.K. It to Me Puppets)

Scene: Bobby and Yanal are talking.

Flurpette: I don't understand. You say this man named Jesus was not a man at all but the Son of God?

Bobby: Now you're starting to get it.

Flurpette: And he wants to be *my friend*? Why would he want to be my friend anyway? You know I have done a lot of bad things.

Bobby: We have all done a lot of bad things Yanal. That is why we need a friend like Jesus in the first place.

Flurpette: Now you're just trying to confuse me. Why would Jesus want all the bad people?

Bobby: Well, let me put it this way. We are friends right?

Flurpette: Yeah.

Bobby: Remember that big fight we got into and you wouldn't talk to me for a week?

Flurpette: Yeah you were being a real booger-head!

Bobby: Don't remind me. Anyway, remember when I came over to your house and apologized.

Flurpette: Oh yeah, and then you called your parents and asked to stay the night and we had pizza and watched movies. That was great!

Bobby: But why did you forgive me? I was really mean to you. You didn't deserve the way I treated you.

Flurpette: I know Bobby, but were friends. And friends mess up once in a while and then you just have to forgive them if you still want to be friends.

Bobby: Exactly! That's just how it is with Jesus. He has always been our friend and has always loved us. It's our sin that keeps us from being with Him and our stubbornness that keeps us from apologizing and saying we are sorry for it. And even though He didn't have to, He paid the price for our sins and all we have to do is acknowledge that and He will be our friend.

Flurpette: Oh, now I think I get it. But I'm late getting home. Can we talk about this some more tomorrow?

Bobby: Sure. You know where to find me... Friend.

Director – Jesus is a true measure of what a friend really is. A true friend is a giver, not a taker and more interested in what their friend needs more than their own.

Are you a friend like Jesus? Does your friendship depend on what someone does for you? Or are people your friend because you reflect Christ?
Do you suppose Tala will ever find a real friend?

ACT IV

Music: "You Have A Friend In Me(4)" (Sung by one of the S.O.C.K. It to Me Puppets)

Scene: Tala is crying.

Bobby: Hey aren't you the new girl?

Tala: Yes (sniff, sniff)

Bobby: Are you hurt or somethin'?

Tala: Not really.

Bobby: Then why are you crying?

Tala: You wouldn't understand.

Bobby: Well I could try couldn't I?

Tala: All right. You know that popular girl I have been hanging out with at school?

Bobby: Oh yeah – “Miss, thinks she's Wonderful?”

Tala: Well, I wanted to be her friend. And she said she would be my friends if I just gave her my lunch money and did stuff for her and well... They just wanted my money! She never really wanted to be my friend. (Starts crying all over again.)

Bobby: That girl really isn't the best choice for a friend anyway... what did you say your name was?

Tala: I didn't. But it's Tala.

Bobby: Tala is a pretty name. Anyway, you can't buy friends. Even you otta know that.

Tala: Yeah I know. I just want a friend so bad though. I am so lonely since I lost my parents.

Bobby: Have you ever heard of a man called Jesus?

Tala: No why?

Bobby: Well, Tala, Have I got a friend for you!
Come on and walk with me and I will tell you about Him.
(Bobby and Tala walk off)

Director: Hey kids, can we buy true friends? Do your friends sometimes let you down? Do you that Jesus wants to be your best friend? Remember that friends come in all shapes and sizes, colors and styles but the best friend we will ever have is the one that paid the price for our sins, the one that wants us to be with Him in heaven. And speaking of new friends ... Would you be mine? This is our scripture for the morning. Now, repeat after me.
⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

Let's sing shall we?

Music – Ripples Song

~Closing Prayer~