

MOTHER GOOSE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Debbie Box

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STORY OF THE PLAY

At last, nursery rhymes with a reason. Here are 15 skits, based on popular nursery rhymes and tales, with delightful new twists toward Biblical lessons. Highly entertaining for the littlest members of your church as well as adults. For instance, "The Three Little Kittens" may have lost their mittens, but they end up dressed in the whole armor of God. In "The Grasshopper and the Ants," the grasshopper learns how important it is to make provisions for the future which explains why the ants collect the bread of life. In another, the Little Christian, like the little engine that could, finds he is rewarded for facing his challenges. These stories may be acted out, used as scripts for puppet shows, or may simply read as stories.

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BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Farmer Smith
Black Sheep
Red Hen
Brown Cow
Little Tree

Props - Clipboard.

(AT RISE: FARMER is walking down an "inspection line" with a clipboard in his hand, checking off names as he goes.)

FARMER: Baa, baa, Black Sheep, have you any wool?

SHEEP: Yes, sir; yes, sir, three bags full.

FARMER: Good, good. *(HE checks off something on the clipboard, and walks to RED HEN.)* Cluck, cluck, Red Hen, have you any eggs?

HEN: Yes, sir; yes, sir, three bags full.

FARMER: Good girl. *(Pats HER on the head.)* Moo, moo, Brown Cow, have you any milk?

COW: *(HER voice is a little strained and she's holding the bottom of her stomach like she's really "full.")* Yes, sir; yes, sir, three bags full.

FARMER: You poor thing. We'll have to do something about that, Brown Cow. *(COW nods her head yes with a painful expression on her face.)* Little Tree, Little Tree, have you any fruit?

TREE: No, sir; no, sir, there's no fruit.

FARMER: *(Looks up from the clipboard, surprised.)* What?!

TREE: I don't have any fruit.

(The OTHERS gasp and look at each other. They can't believe what they're hearing.)

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FARMER: The sheep has wool, the hen has eggs, the cow has milk and you're supposed to have fruit. *(EACH ANIMAL nods affirmatively as HE mentions them.)*

TREE: *(Shrugs HIS shoulders and hold his hands up as if to say, "So what?")* Sorry. There's no fruit.

FARMER: Little Tree, we all need each other on a farm. Wool keeps us warm in the winter, milk and eggs feed us, and your fruit is a treat that we all look forward to. Now we don't have that. Why should we let you take up space on the farm if you're not part of the sharing?

TREE: *(Eagerly.)* Oh, I'll still share! I love Brown Cow's milk. And Sheep's wool is so soft.

FARMER: So, you think it's okay to take our things, but not to give us anything in return?

(OTHERS have arms folded or their hands on their hips in a disgusted pose, impatiently tapping their feet at LITTLE TREE.)

TREE: I didn't do it on purpose. I was just too tired this year to grow fruit. Maybe next year.

FARMER: And maybe we should dig you up and plant something else in your place!

TREE: Oh, you couldn't do that!

FARMER: And why not?

TREE: Because that's not the Christian thing to do. And you are a Christian, aren't you, Farmer Smith?

(The OTHERS are looking at each other. They know LITTLE TREE is about to get in big trouble.)

FARMER: Yes, I am a Christian. Perhaps I should share a verse in the Bible with you. "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." *(FARMER walks to each ANIMAL as he speaks - patting him or her on the head, giving them a hug, whatever.)* Black Sheep shows his self-control when he lets us cut his wool so we can have warm socks and sweaters.

FARMER: *(Continued.)* Red Hen shows her goodness when she gives us eggs. And poor Brown Cow shows how patient she is when she waits for me to milk her. *(BROWN COW is crossing her legs by this time, like she really has to "go.")* Little Tree, you have only shown me laziness and selfishness. You did not think about the needs of others.

(FARMER picks up LITTLE TREE and carries him offstage. The OTHERS remain, looking at each other from time to time, thinking about Little Tree's fate. Black Sheep draws a finger across his neck [a fatal slash], and Red Hen shrugs her hands as if to say, "Who knows?" Farmer walks back into the room.)

FARMER: Let this be a lesson to all of you. We are part of a family. When one person lets the others do all the work, it's not fair to anyone, and it's not what God wants from us. Let's all get back to work now. *(As THEY start walking off, the others are looking at each other questioningly, wondering what happened to LITTLE TREE. Just before they get to the exit, FARMER turns.)* By the way, Little Tree is going to spend some time in the greenhouse. With proper pruning maybe he'll be ready to be a productive part of our family once again!

(ALL smile and nod their heads in agreement, then exit.)

The End

THE LITTLE MAN

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator

Little Boy

Father

Mother (no lines)

Sunday School Teacher (no lines)

Preacher (no lines)

(Note: Those playing roles of the Mother, Teacher and Preacher may pantomime the action described by the Narrator.)

(AT RISE: NARRATOR begins the story. LITTLE BOY addresses EACH ONE in a Reader's Theater style.)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time there was a little boy. He was a very stubborn little boy and did not like to obey ANYONE. One day his mother told him to clean his room, but he did not want to. His mother told him she would talk to his father about it, but that didn't bother the little boy at all.

BOY: Talk, talk as much as you can,
But I won't listen. I'm my own little man!

FATHER: *(HE tries to talk to LITTLE BOY.)* Son, you are a big part of this home. Everyone has his own job to do in order to keep the house running smoothly. If you don't do your part, then someone else has to do their job and yours, too.

NARRATOR: The little boy didn't care about others -- he only cared about himself -- so he did not listen.

BOY: Talk, talk, as much as you can,
But I won't listen. I'm my own little man!
I won't listen to my mother,

End of Freeview

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