

June 19, 2012

LITTLE HANDS CAN HUG

Staging:

- Small stage
- 2 Side curtains (with dowel rods)
- 2 wing panels
- 2 masking panels
- 1 rear panel (green)
- 1 front panel (brown)
- 3 tension rods
- Backdrop – “trees”
- Multiple clamps of various sizes
- Box of push pins

Lighting:

- 2 black (with extra flood lamps)
- 1 short/light extension cord
- 2-plug dimmer (with strap)
- 1 long/heavy-duty extension cord (with strap)

Sound:

- 2 hand mics

Tools:

- 7/16 wrench
- Hammer
- Wood block
- Nail set

Props:

- “River” rigged with string

Cast (Puppets):

- Meridith (hostess)
- Joe (host)
- Wolf
- Hampster

LITTLE HANDS CAN HUG

MERIDITH

Good morning, everyone! (Improvise until kids respond.)

Welcome once again to Little Hands Vacation Bible School! My name is Meridith.

JOE

And I'm Joe!

MERIDITH

We're your hosts for this portion of our program, and today, we want to show you how "Little Hands Can *Hug!*"

JOE

This is my favorite theme of the summer, 'cause I sure like getting a good hug.

MERIDITH

I think all of us like to *receive* a good hug, Joe. But sometimes, the hugs we *give* can be turn out to be pretty special, too—especially if we can give that hug to someone who doesn't expect it.

JOE

Doesn't everyone get hugs?

MERIDITH

Not always, Joe. And sometimes the ones who deserve hugs the most are the ones least likely to get one, so when they do get one, it's extra special.

For example...

[HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN. STAGE LIGHTS UP]

[HAMSTER ENTERS.]

Once upon a time there was a very old hamster who had gone to visit her grandchildren, but on the way home, she was cut off by a flooding river.

[BRING THE “RIVER” UP.]

It had only been a small trickle when she had crossed over the first time, but now it was a rushing torrent—at least to a hamster—so she knew she would never be able to cross it on her own.

But as she pondered about what to do, a big wolf came along.

[WOLF ENTERS.]

He was big and gray, and had *great big* teeth, and when he spoke to the hamster, she trembled with fear!

[WOLF LOOKS AT HAMSTER.]

JOE (as WOLF)

What seems to be the problem, little hamster?

MERIDITH

Well, the hamster didn't know what to do, because he was a very scary wolf, but she really did want to get home before dark, so she screwed up her courage and said, "It has rained so much, I can't get back across the river."

The WOLF looked at the river—which was to him just a little ditch—and said...

JOE (as WOLF)

I can help you there. I'll just stretch myself across the water, and you can use me as a bridge. You shouldn't even get your feet wet.

MERIDITH

Well, that's just what the wolf did: he stretched over the ditch, and put his head down, so the little hamster could climb on, and the little hamster was so surprised, she scurried up, scrambled across his back, and jumped down on the other side, before she could even think about what she was doing.

The wolf then stood up and shook himself dry. The little hamster wanted to run away, because the wolf really was *that* scary, but something held her back.

She looked at the wolf, and said, "Why did you help me?" He only shrugged.

JOE (as the WOLF)

I don't know. It just seemed like a good idea at the time.

MERIDITH

Well, that might be so, the little hamster thought. But I need to repay him somehow.

And the little hamster then did something that some might say was very brave and others would call foolhardy, but she rushed forward to give the wolf a big hug!

Then before the wolf could change his mind and decide she might make a good snack after all, she dove into the grass and headed for home.

Well, the wolf was at first startled, but then he grinned broadly.

JOE (as WOLF)

Who ever knew it could feel so good to be hugged by a hamster?

MERIDITH

And the wolf continued on his way, with a light step and wide smile.

[WOLF EXITS.]

[HOUSE LIGHTS UP TO CUE APPLAUSE.] [A grownup will need to start this.]

[WOLF AND HAMSTER TAKE A BOW AND EXIT AGAIN. STAGE LIGHTS DOWN.]

MERIDITH

So, you see, Joe, *giving* a hug can be just as important as receiving one, because it might really make a person's day.

JOE

Okay, Meridith. You're right. From now on, I'm not going to just wait for someone to hug me—I'll look for others who might need a hug, too!

[MORE APPLAUSE, PLEASE!]