

# **Prince Charmin (Prodigal Son) (Forgiveness) (God's Love)**

*Luke 15:11-32*

## **The Basic Bible Truth**

This parable is a remarkable telling of a story that gives a beautiful picture of our Father in Heaven and His great love for us. We are the foolish young boy who mistreats his father, and turns his back on everything he was ever taught, to go his selfish way, only to meet a troubled end. But we have a loving Father who is looking for our return and accepts us with open arms when we repent and come back to Him.

## **The Object and Lesson**

An Original Play/Poem Entitled “Prince Charmin”

Props For The Play:

Opening And Closing Credits Cards

Three Rolls Of Toilet Paper—The Single Ply Kind

Cd Player And CD's

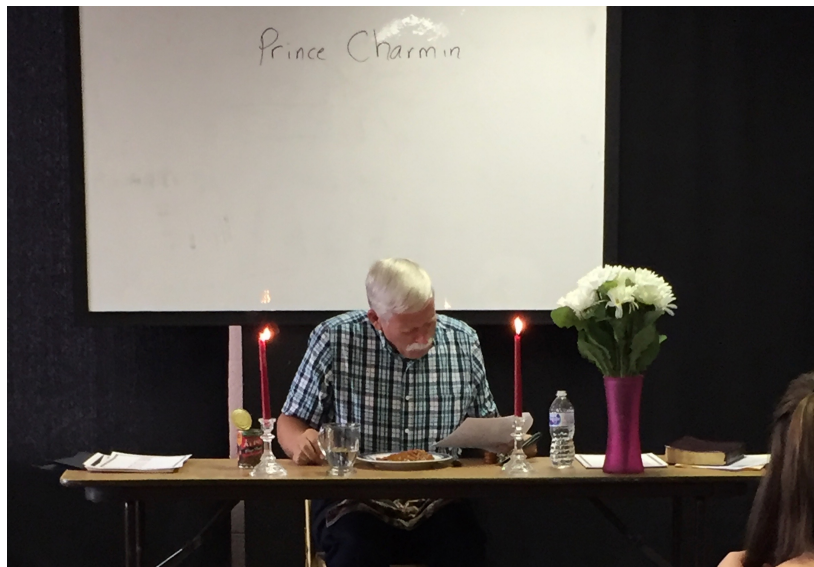
Electric Leaf Blower

Toilet Paper Roll Dispenser

Can Of Dog Food

Can Of Potted Meat

Complete Fancy Table Setting With Crystal, Candles, Napkin, Etc.



This lesson is a retelling of the story of the Prodigal Son. It is a play on the name “Prince Charming”. We drop the “g” and have a story about Prince Charmin, and the king of the toilet paper world. I typically have a narrator read the poem while I act everything out. When I have the help, I add the music into it just to add a little flair. Here is the play with my production notes added so you can see how I tell the story. (One very important production note: remove the label from the dog food and place it on the can of real potted meat. The idea is to convince those watching that you are going to eat dog food in your hunger. Potted meat has enough of a smell that many will actual think it is real dog food.)

I always begin and end with some ridiculous credits. I take my inspiration from movies that sometimes seem to have endless opening credits. Typically, I will have printed up or made into a Power Point this list. (And of course personally taking credit for each.)

1. Start with the standard FBI warning screen
2. Produced by
3. Directed by
4. Filmed by
5. Executive producer
6. Assistant executive producer
7. Assistant to the assistant executive producer
8. Screenplay by
9. Make-up by
10. Edited by
11. Camera work by
12. Animals trained by
13. Special effects by
14. Academy award accepted by
15. Grammy award accepted by
16. TV Land award accepted by
17. Emmy award accepted by
18. Golden Globe award accepted by
19. Dove award accepted by
20. Cars parked by
21. Noses wiped by
22. Lunch catered by
23. We had bologna sandwiches made by
24. The ants that showed up at lunch were stomped to smithereens by
25. Doughnuts by (Krispy Crème, I make terrible doughnuts)
26. And so.....
27. Are you finally ready?
28. Here is our feature presentation

## PRINCE CHARMIN

Narrator reads all black lines. Lyle reads red. Farmer reads blue. The green lines are action cues.

(Opening credits begin as music begins playing Favorite Hits Disc 1 track 3. These credits may take a while. The song is 3 minutes in length, so it should last long enough. Music fades down as credits end. Narrator then begins reading. Get Kansas track 1 ready.)

Won't you sit back, folks,  
And let me tell you a tale  
About two boys and their dad.  
Oh, their life was good  
But there was this one  
Very big problem they had.

You see, Dad worked in paper  
Paper in rolls.  
Rolls that you'd hang on the wall  
You know the kind.  
That special room?  
With a porcelain fixture in a stall?

Yes, Dad was the king  
Of the Toilet Paper World.  
His success shouldn't be too alarmin'.  
And between his two boys  
The one we will meet  
Is the one they called "Prince Charmin"

He was quite a boy.  
He was stubborn and proud.

"I don't want to live under Dad's controls"

So he gathered is courage

Walked up to his dad and said,

"Dad, you ain't dead yet? I want my rolls"

(TP King hands Lyle a roll of toilet paper)

The king was sad

To see him behave this way  
But gave him his roll with a look of pity  
The prince grabbed it up  
And turned with a shout and said,  
“Woo hoo! Party City.”

(Bring music up nice and loud: Kansas track 1. Wait until Lyle arrives at Party City, then fade music down a little, but keep it going. The narrator then begins reading.)

What a time he had  
With all that were there  
And his family he did not miss.  
He took out his roll  
And said to all there.  
“Hey Y’all, look at this!”

(Bring the music back up. Wait until the roll is completely unrolled, then fade music out entirely. Narrator waits until things in the classroom have calmed down a bit, then begins reading again. Get Carpenters track 17 ready.)

But it didn’t take long  
And the whole roll was gone  
And the party soon came to an end.  
The prince looked here at there  
Then sadly exclaimed,  
“No one has a roll they can lend.”

It was then that he saw  
For the very first time  
That all of his friends had gone home  
He was utterly broke  
No roll at all  
And totally, completely alone.  
He looked for a job  
To have food and a roof

But there was none to be had.  
Except feeding farm critters

(The next line is voiced by another actor off stage)

“Hey kid, feed the pigs and the dog”  
And that was disgusting and bad.

His stomach was empty  
All the food was long gone  
He was an extremely hungry young man  
And all he could find  
Was food for some dogs  
“Mystery meat with gravy, in a Mighty Dog can.”

(Music comes up: Carpenters track 17. While the music plays on, Lyle will go through a rather lengthy table set up procedure. When he has his dinner all set up, fade music down a bit and the Narrator begins reading again.)

The first bite was awful

(At this point Lyle will ad lib something about that not being in the script, but you can show him that it is. Then repeat that last line.)

The first bite was awful

(Lyle will still ad lib a protest but finally give in and take a bite. After he has chewed and swallowed the first bite the narrator reads again.)

The second was worse

(Lyle will turn and look at you in disbelief. Say something like Hey, you wrote this stuff. Lyle will take his second bite.)

“Gah! How can dogs eat this stuff?”  
Putting the fork down  
He thought about home  
And how at home he’d always had enough.  
So he humbled himself  
And started for home

Leaving that scrumptious dog food behind

"I'll tell Dad I'm sorry

And I'll beg him for mercy.

In the past he's always been kind."

(Music fades out if the song hasn't ended already. Get Favorite Hits track 5 ready.)

But before he got home

When he was still far away

The king saw him and could hardly control

"Go quickly," he said,

"Get everything ready,

Load the royal canon and lob him a roll."

(TP King hands canon operator a roll, who then loads it and gets ready to fire.)

With a might boom

(Shoot the roll of TP at Lyle)

And a puff of smoke

That roll flew high into the air.

Prince Charmin reached up

And caught it with ease

And said "Dad really does care!"

(Lyle and the King "man hug" each other)

So what more can I tell

Of this wonderful sight

The prince and the king now together

It took a roll and a can

To make the prince a real man,

And now they live happily forever and ever.

(Music immediately comes up Favorite Hits Disc 2 track 5. Run through ending credit sequence. Then fade out.)

Ending credits are much like opening ones except I am not mentioned in them. They run as follows: No Animals Were Harmed In The Making Of This Documentary, Any Similarity, Between the Characters, In This Documentary, And Real Life, Is Purely Coincidental, This Is Not, Intended To Portray, A Real Life Situation, And It Is A Total Fabrication, Of Reality, Which Is Pretty Much, The Way Mr. Lyle Lives Life Anyway, So Don't Let It Bother You Too Much, Just Humor Him, And Ask Him, To Take His Medication, So That This Doesn't Happen, AGAIN!!!!, The END.

From here, a regular look at the story of the Prodigal Son would be in order.