Be real with me
PUPPET SCRIPT: “BE REAL WITH ME…..”
(PJO005)

Aim of script: To encourage people to honestly speak to God from their hearts when they pray.

Use of Script: In an all age worship service setting, the script can be introduced by saying that Jesus taught his followers to be honest with God when they prayed and not to simply babble. Follow this by reading Matthew 6:5-8 and then saying that James is learning this lesson.

The script can be followed by teaching that Jesus was real with his Father in prayer (eg Matthew 26:39) as was the Psalmist and that is what God wants from us in our relationship with Him. You may want to continue by unpacking the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15.

Main themes: Prayer, honesty

Biblical references: Matthew 6:5-8, 9-15, 26:39, Psalm 6:3-6, 9:2, 56:3-4, 104:34

Characters: The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and God, who is an “off-stage” male voice. The puppet is operated by a person from behind a screen and so it is essential that their voice and the off-stage voice is heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including http://www.onewayuk.com/

Enter James.

James: I’m so worried I don’t know what to do……oh no…..what will mum say…..she’ll go mad with me? Perhaps I ought to pray……Grandad was encouraging me to pray last week……….I hope this works……but I’m not sure that God wants to hear from a misery… oh well…..let’s give it a try……

James bends over as if praying and says in rather a false, supercilious voice:

Oh, Lord you are a great big God………great big God……..in fact you are higher than the skyscraper I saw the other day in London and deeper than the submarine……...

God: offstage voice  James?

James: You are worthy O Lord of all honour and glory and……..I’m not sure what comes next……….oh yes….you are truly worthy….and I am glad….so glad that I can come to you this morning.

God: James?
James: (In a more normal voice) In fact I have been meaning to come to you for a couple of days.

God: Good.

James: Thank you for my mum and my dad. Thank you for my Grandad, for my friends, for my food, for water…..I like showers…..but I’m not so keen on baths…..

God: James….what’s with the voice?

James: (In a completely normal voice) Er…is that you God?

God: Yes it is…..I’m here. Why are you talking at me with that strange voice?

James: I’m praying.

God: No you’re not…..you’re putting on an act. Now come and tell me what’s really on your heart.

James: But you know already…..I mean you are God and you see everything….

God: I am your Heavenly Father James and yes I see and know everything, but I want a relationship with you. I have given you the gift of prayer so that we can know each other.

James: Oh I see. Well in that case, I’m sorry Father that I haven’t worked very hard at school lately….

God: I forgive you……carry on……

James: Please will you make Tom’s granny better and help all the poor people in the world

God: Stop changing the subject James…..tell me what is really worrying you.

James: I have a detention on Saturday…..Oh Lord…..thank you that I have a good teacher and that she has given me a detention to teach me a lesson.

God: Oh come on James you can’t lie to me. Let’s talk about why you have got a detention.

James: I have had a few problems with my exams recently…….

God: Good. Now we are getting somewhere. Tell me about these problems.

James: I couldn’t answer any of the questions in my Science exam. Lucy could…..she’s a brain box…..it’s not fair…..why couldn’t you have given me more brains Father?

God: Don’t change the subject again James……

James: Alright Father….the exam questions were too hard for me……
God: And?

James: I couldn’t think because the clock was making such a noise in the exam room.

God: James…..I want you to be real with me…..I want you to be honest…..that’s how your relationship with me will grow……

James: OK….well I couldn’t answer the questions. I hadn’t done any revision because I had watched TV every night.

God: Right.

James: When I saw Lucy writing away next to me…..I thought I would copy her answers…. which I did. I’m sorry Father for cheating.

God: I forgive you….

James: My teacher saw that my answers were the same as Lucy’s and realised that I had cheated……so she has given me a detention on Saturday. The problem is that it is mum’s birthday and she was going to take us all out to lunch for a treat and now I have gone and spoilt it all. I am so worried about this Father. Please will you help me know what to do?

God: Of course I will help you James…..we’ll sort this out together and I’ll show you the way forward. I’m glad you have been honest with me. In future, just tell me what is really on your heart and cut out all of the babbling and the silly voice…. OK?

James: OK Father…..and while I am being honest…..I am also worried about mum’s wedding ring…..I managed to flush it down the sink when I washed up last night

God: Oh James!

Exit James