

A Smudged Promise
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A SMUDGED PROMISE

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5 MINUTES

A group of Jr.soldiers in training are sitting impatiently in their Sunday School Room.

All characters can be played by either gender. Feel free to double up characters if needed or add more as an ensemble that repeats the lines of the Junior Soldier Promise

ALEXIS

Why is it taking Miss Gertrude so long to get back with snacks? I'm hungry!!

AVERY

It's scary being alone.

PEYTON

And we need to practice our speech!

AVERY

(Scared)She's probably talking to another old person. When a grown up starts talking it takes forever. She might never come back.

TAYLOR

Don't be scared. She'll come. It's taking a long time because she's so old she needs to nap between walks.

(Imitates Miss Gertrude walking,Avery and Alexis find it really funny)

PEYTON

That's mean! She's a volunteer and my dad says we need to be nice to volunteers. Even if they're slow.

TAYLOR

And boring?

AVERY

And always have food in their teeth?

ALEXIS

And take forever to bring us snacks, even on the day of our Junior Soldier Promise!?

PEYTON

Yes. He say's volunteers keep the Army going.

TAYLOR

He has to say that he's in charge of the corpse.

PEYTON

The Corps

TAYLOR

That's what I said.

PEYTON

No you called the church a dead person.

TAYLOR

I did not!

PEYTON

Did too!

TAYLOR

Did not!!

ALEXIS

Guys stop fighting it's only making me more hungry!

AVERY

And shouting is scary.

PEYTON

You're right. What we should be doing is working on our promise.

TAYLOR

Yea, we need to make it good.

AVERY

We're saying it in front of like 10 million people in like five minutes!! (*Begins hyperventilating*)

ALEXIS

Just think of the snacks we'll get at fellowship!

PEYTON

Ok let's get lined up like we practiced.

TAYLOR

Hey! Who made you the leader?

PEYTON

(Matter of fact) I'm bigger than you by two months.

ALEXIS

And her Mom and Dad are the bosses of the Church.

TAYLOR

(Earnestly) Ok, you're right.

(They get into their spots in the most disorganized way but really attempt to do it well.)

PEYTON

Perfect, now let's begin on the count of three.
One, two, three!.....

(Awkward pause as all four realize that they don't know the promise)

PEYTON

Doesn't anybody know how it goes?

AVERY

(Really Hyperventilating) We are in so much trouble!

ALEXIS

Wait! I do! I wrote it on my arm!

(Holds his forearm up for everyone to see)

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

(Celebrate saying different things at the same time)

Yes!/ You're so smart!/ You saved us!/ Etc.

PEYTON

Okay Alexis, here's what's gonna happen. You are going to stand in the middle and hold your arm out so that we can all read it together... and nobody will notice the difference.

(Alexis walks to the middle and heroically holds out his arm the rest of the group leans in and tries to read it but struggles)

AVERY

It's all blurry

TAYLOR

Alexis you smudged it!

ALEXIS

Oh no! I was worried that would happen. I probably did it at breakfast. I ate too many pancakes and got the sweats.

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

*(all saying different things
at the same time)*

Dude!/ I knew it was too good to be true/ we're doomed!/ Etc..

ALEXIS

Guys, Guys! I can fix this. I know my own writing. I'll read what it says and then you guys repeat it. Easy as Apple Pie.

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

(Not confident but it's their only hope) Okay.

ALEXIS

(Reading his arm) Alright, here goes. Repeat after me....I know that Jesus is my behavior of sin.

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

(Repeating) I know that Jesus is my behavior of sin?

ALEXIS

I have asked him to give me sins and will trust them to keep me good.

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

(Repeating) I have asked him to give me sins and will trust them to keep me good.

(While Alexis continues to figure out the smudged words Peyton speaks discreetly to Avery and Taylor . Avery realizes it's wrong but is too scared to respond. Taylor is happy as long as they have something to say. Alexis is oblivious and thinks he is getting it right)

PEYTON

(Discreetly) This doesn't feel right. I think it's supposed to say Jesus is my Savior from sin and why would we ask for sins?

TAYLOR

(discreetly) Just go with it. It's better than nothing.

ALEXIS

By his help, I will be this loving and obidi..obidnt churd,
and will help others to follow sin.

PEYTON, AVERY, TAYLOR

(Repeating) By his help, I will be this loving and obdi
obidnt churd, and will help others to follow sin.

PEYTON

(discreetly) That definitely was wrong.

TAYLOR

(discreetly) Just go with it!

ALEXIS

I promise to pay, to eat my bibbo.. *(realizes)* bible, and to
lead a wife that is clean and taught words indeed.

PEYTON

I'm not saying that.

TAYLOR

It's fine!

AVERY

(Hyperventilating) I don't feel good, I feel really dizzy.

PEYTON

It's not fine! I'm not going to eat my Bible!

AVERY

(Fainting sound)

*(Avery can't take it anymore
and faints falling onto the
child beside her, who catches
her and tries to wake her up.)*

ALEXIS

(notices the tension) I know, it's a lot right?! Don't worry
there's just one more line and then we're done, and this one
isn't smudged!... I will not use anything that may injure my
body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and
tobacco.

PEYTON, (MAYBE) AVERY, TAYLOR

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind,
including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

ALEXIS

See guys, easy, easy as apple pie!

(Peyton, Avery freeze in place facing out in various states of nervous energy, Taylor freezes with a confident expression. Alexis looks out triumphantly smiling.)

THE END