



Dramatic and Alternate ways of presenting Bible stories for use in Kid's Clubs, Girls' Brigades, Church or youth camps.

~ Cathie Hopkins ~
Compiled 2015

DRAMA	STORY	BIBLE REFERENCE	PAGE
1. Rocky XXII Battle of the Building Sites	Wise and Foolish Builders	Matthew 7	3
2. AVAST! There be Adventures on the High Seas of Galilee	Jesus Walks on Water <i>(featuring that well known pirate, Gunpowder Gertie)</i>	Matthew 14, Mark 6, John 6	7
3. 23 rd Sea Shanty	Piratical Psalm	Psalms 23	11
4. Swimming Where Jesus Walked	Jesus walks on water	Matthew 14, Mark 6, John 6	12
5. Exodus – Stage Left	Story of the Exodus	Exodus	16
6. Jonah and the Big Fella	Jonah and the Whale	Jonah 1 – 4	21
7. Something Fishy This Way Comes	Casting the nets	Luke 5	26
8. Don Quixote Presents	Balaam and the Ass	Numbers 22	31
9. Ten Commandments in Poetry	Ten Commandments	Exodus 20	35
10. God's Rainbow	Story of Noah in poetry	Genesis 5	36
11. CSI Israel	Parable of the Mustard Seed	Matthew 17, Luke 17: 5-6	39
12. The Grass Is Always Greener in the Other Vineyard	Naboth's Vineyard	1 Kings 21	42
13. Ewe Need Help	The Lost Sheep	Luke 15:3 – 7	44
14. Wall to Wall Rubble	Joshua at Jericho	Josh 6:1-22	48
15. Matilda and the Mirror	Seeing God	1 Tim 4;12-13	50
16. I Noah Guy	Matilda and Noah	Genesis 5	51
17. The Tax Man Cometh	The Temple Tax	Matthew 17:24-27	53
18. Lion Down on the Job	Daniel in the Lion's Den <i>(poetry)</i>	Daniel 6	55
19. Would You Like Fries With That?	Daniel in the Lion's Den <i>(different poetry)</i>	Daniel 6	57
20. I'm Totally Phat	Christian Rap	Hmmm....	59
21. My Kitchen Rules	Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego	Daniel 3	60

SOME NOTES ON DRAMATIC STORIES

If you have been truly called by God to children's or drama ministry, then if you open your heart and mind to His leading, He *will* qualify you. You do not need to be an Oscar winning actor!

- ❖ **ALWAYS** have a prayer support team. (Husband, wife, chaplain, pastor, people within your church.) Make it official, and structured. Keep your prayer support team INFORMED of what you are doing and what is happening.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** arrive in plenty of time to set up.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** pray that the Lord's love for children or the church will be expressed through you.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** be well prepared, and always plan ahead so in the event of some unforeseen occurrence, someone can readily take over from you, by simply accessing your visual aids or program notes.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** talk to God about the children / congregation *before* you talk to the children / congregation about God.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** pray, asking God to show you the way and He will!!!! Pray for discernment, wisdom and love.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** put your confidence in God. Remember it is He who has called you, and that His full giving to you is just beginning when you feel like you have reached the end of your skills or talents or resources.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** be a student yourself. Seek God's Word, learn from the background and context of what you are teaching, spend time with the Biblical Narrative and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you. Let God's words from the Bible minister to you. **ALWAYS** communicate with **JOY**. Joy is contagious. If you find the grace to be obedient to the command to "rejoice in the Lord always" it will rub off on those around you.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** be comfortable with what you are doing. This doesn't mean you should not try new things, but if you are not comfortable, the people will pick up on that. But don't look at something and think, "I can't do that". God does not overlook our personality, but He sets us free in our personality so His love can come through.
- ❖ **ALWAYS** put your confidence in God. Remember it is He who has called you, and His full giving to you is just beginning when you have reached the end of your hoarded resources.

Advertise for FAT people to help you.

FAITHFUL

AAVAILABLE

TEACHABLE

I hope these help you in your ministry. My inspiration for writing these was apart from God, to find alternate ways to present Bible stories to children / churches so they do not roll their eyes and think "Oh no! Not that story again!" I have been a Girls' Brigade Leader, Kid's Club leader, Camp Chaplain and Sunday School Teacher for over 30 years. I have cut and paste a lot of them, so they still refer to Pioneers or Leaders which are references to Girls' Brigade.

*Blessings on your great woolly heads,
Cathie*



Rocky XXIII – Battle of the Building Sites.

Matthew 7:24-27 (New International Version)

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

CAST

Narrator

Sandy Beach

Rocky (Wearing boxing gloves if you can get some)

Tourists (3 or more, with cameras and sunglasses and hats and such)

Triceratops dinosaur - with dinosaur horns if you can.

Walls of Rocky's House (2 girls or women)

Walls of Sandy's house (2 boys or men)

Melbourne Storm footballer

Stream – placed in the audience secretly dressed appropriately

Wind – also placed in the audience dressed appropriately

Sun – also placed in the audience – dressed in yellow and wearing sunglasses.

A "plant" in the audience who will "sneeze" at the appropriate time.

The following verse on overhead or powerpoint, so the whole church can see it. "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds." 1 Corinthians 3:10

Soundtrack from "Eye of the Tiger".

Before the performance, lead the audience in rehearsal for the rainstorm.

The Opening Scene: The stage is empty except for Sandy, who lies on the floor on her side, facing the audience. The tourists, Rocky and the walls are offstage.

Open with "Eye of the Tiger" music which fades out and then narrator starts.

This script is totally guided by the narrator who actually speaks out the actions and words of the players before they do it. So lines of script delivered by the players are always delivered by the narrator first. The players are just repeating lines that the narrator feeds them. Even stage direction. The only things that are not spoken out by the narrator is what is written in *italics*. So the narrator interacts with the cast.

The Script

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, where the grass was blue, and the sky was green, where they never used Palmolive soap or iPads, in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10.98 each. The villagers seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest, and started catching them. Oh wait... that is the wrong script.... *(rustles through papers and makes a great performance of it, clears their throat and starts again.)*

Once upon a time there was a beautiful beach named Sandy – Sandy Beach. Sandy claimed to be the best building site that there was for a sandcastle, or a five star Island resort or even a house! As she lay there, tourists stopped and stared at her, asked for her autograph and took photos, admiring the beautiful view.

After a while, which is a bit longer than a jiffy and a bit shorter than an ice age, Sandy got tired of them staring and told them to move along. She wanted to be appreciated for the person she was, not the way she looked, which by the way was absolutely stunning!!! *(Sandy poses and does the model walk).*

One day a total stud named Rocky sauntered by Sandy. Rocky saunters in, stops, and does the boxing hands. He was trying to get ideas for a storyline for the next big blockbuster movie. As he walked around Sandy Beach, he was busy admiring his physique *(Rocky does the body building poses)* and he didn't notice Sandy.

He flexed his biceps, back and forth and then he flexed his triceratops ...

The triceratops walks in and stands in front of Rocky as Rocky screams at the narrator, *"That's triceps, not triceratops you silly sausage!"*

This confused Rocky and as the triceratops left, he lost his step as it pushed passed and tripped over Sandy. *(Rocky falls over Sandy)*

Sandy and Rocky got up on all fours and faced each other, nose to nose. They said in unison "Who are you?"

(Have them say it the first time NOT in unison..so one starting just after the other..)

Narrator clears his/her throat and says **AHEM...** They said in **unison** ... which means **AT THE SAME TIME..** "Who are you?"

(Rocky and Sandy make faces at the narrator and say it in unison)

Sandy immediately gets up and does the "model walk" around the stage and says "I'm Sandy Beach, **ALL** the best houses get built on me."

Rocky saw that Sandy was a total babe, and his eyes came out on stalks like they do on cartoon animals, and he proclaimed loudly "I can see why!"

Sandy slapped Rocky. Rocky was so mad he said, "They *used* to be built on you, now they will be built on me! Nah nah nah nah nah!"

Rocky punches the air several times, does the dancing boxer feet and flexes his biceps and then he flexed his triceratops ...

The triceratops walks in and stands in front of Rocky as Rocky screams at the narrator, "That's triceps, not triceratops you silly sausage!"

This confused Rocky and as the triceratops left, Rocky and Sandy moved to the opposite sides of the stage. Snorting in each other's general direction. As Rocky and Sandy moved to opposite sides, half of the audience cheered for Sandy, and half for Rocky. (*Get the audience cheering according to what side of the room they are on*).

Rocky called out "Yo!" and two walls ran in, joining their hands together over him to form a house.

Sandy called out like a damsel in a dress, "Help! Oh help!" and two guys ran in and asked her if she needed rescuing from a dragon or a triceratops. (*The triceratops walks in ever hopeful*). Then they realised she needed a house. (*Triceratops leaves, weeping uncontrollably*). So they made walls for her.

When all the walls were in place, Rocky said, "Yo, Sandy – here comes the Storm!" (*The Melbourne Storm footballer walks in*)

The Narrator looks at the footballer and says "Not that kind of Storm!" (*the triceratops comes on stage and consoles the footballer who has begun to weep, saying things like "Oh I know how you feel!"*)

And then the audience started rubbing their hands together, and snapping their fingers and slapping their legs, and clapping (*this will sound like a storm – when they start clapping, the triceratops and the footballer come running on and bowing*) The Narrator says .. "Get off they are not clapping for you, this is a Storm!" (*They leave, weeping and wailing*).

(*The Narrator starts again*) And then the audience started rubbing their hands together, and snapping their fingers and slapping their legs, and clapping (*the triceratops and footballer, just in view start to come on again but the narrator points and looks daggers at them*).

During this crescendo of rain, a stream rose from the audience heading for the two houses. Sandy beach grabbed her house and held on for dear life. The stream ran right through Sandy's house, which wobbled and wibbled and shook and shivered and teetered and tottered but managed to stay standing.

Then the stream headed for Rocky's house. Rocky held his house with one hand and blocked the stream with the other, knocking it right back into the audience.

Meanwhile, the audience was still slapping it's legs. And now a wind ran up, blowing very hard. It arrived and Sandy's house and blew with all it's might.. it huffed and it puffed and it.. oh wait wrong story... it blew and blew and had such bad breath Sandy fainted and the walls toppled to the ground.

Meanwhile, the audience was still slapping its legs, and the wind ran to Rocky's house and began blustering. Rocky stuck his fist into the wind's stomach and winded the wind, causing it to make gagging noises and go "OOF!" very loudly.

Rocky's house exclaimed "You knocked the wind right out of us, Rocky!"

But the wind recovered to blow on Rocky again. This time Rocky trod on the wind's toe – and the wind fell to the ground, whimpering. The triceratops and the footballer came on and escorted the wind back to the audience making soothing comments, like "there, there, never mind".

The audience continued slapping their legs. They snapped their fingers (*wait till they do it*). They rubbed their hands (*wait till they do it*). Then they became silent. (*The "plant" sneezes, the narrator glares daggers at the "plant" who says "I'm sorry, it's not my fault!" and then runs to the triceratops and the footballer who make soothing comments like "there, there, never mind".*)

Then the sun came out spreading light and happiness to everyone, even the triceratops and the footballer. (*sun comes out to the front dancing and carrying on, running around the room*)

Rocky looked over at Sandy's house all toppled in a heap and proclaimed loudly "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds." (*Rocky whispers it – Narrator clears their throat*) I said... proclaims **LOUDLY**.. "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds." (*Rocky speaks it – Narrator clears their throat*) I said... proclaims **LOUDLY**.. "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds." (*Rocky yells it out.*)

That is from God's word, 1 Corinthians 3:10

- Curtain -

AVAST! There Be Adventures on the High Seas at Galilee!

Cast of Characters:

A *Foreign Correspondent* Reporter, Anna Prentiss (If you pronounce her name right it sounds like “An Apprentice”)

A Pirate Captain – Gunpowder Gertie (Captain of that scourge of the seas, “The Rusty Cutlet”)

THE SCRIPT

Anna *Enters with microphone, clipboard, on which you can pin the script, talking to audience*
This is your Foreign Correspondent, Anna Prentiss, reporting live. I have learned from sources close to no one of importance that some miracles of Jesus were witnessed by someone apart from the disciples. It is said I could find that person here..... *looks around and then notices Gunpowder Gertie entering.*

Gunpowder Gertie *Enters from the back of the church/hall wherever you are brandishing a cutlass and “interacting” with the audience saying things like “Avast ye landlubbers!” and “Shiver me timbers” and other pirate phrases. She is wearing an eye patch (It is MOST important that she has an eye patch) and pirate clothes. Eventually she makes it to the front and sings “Yo ho ho and a bottle of lemonade!” Then she spies Anna pokes her with the cutlass and says...*

GG Who be ye, ye puny onion eyed measle?

Anna I be... I mean I am a Foreign Correspondent and I would like to ask you a few questions!

GG Well, heave ho ye spongy beetle eyed minnow let's have 'em.

Anna Was that a sea shanty I heard you singing?

GG Yup. (Sings) Yo ho ho and a bottle of lemonade.

Anna Isn't that supposed to be "Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum"?

GG Who can afford rum? You didn't come here to ask about a song. You gonna ask a real question or do I have to give you a taste of me cold steel, land lubber? (*pokes Anna with cutlass again*)

Anna Are you a pirate?

GG You bet your mizzenmast!! Gunpowder Gertie is the name! I have sailed the seven seas including Galilee! I saw Jesus performing miracles!

Anna You are a pirate on the Sea of Galilee?

GG You deaf, lily-livered land lubber? I said I was a pirate. You doubtin' my word? Am I gonna have to carve you up in little pieces and feed you to the sharks?

Anna No! No Ma'am! It's just that I didn't think a pirate could make a living on the Sea of Galilee.

GG Actually, pickins is pretty slim there. That's why I'm letting you pay me for this interview. You *ARE* going to pay me for this interview, aren't you, sturgeon breath?

Anna Pay you? (laughs) Pay you for an interview? (*regards the cutlass which Gertie pokes at her again*) Why, yes, of course, I'll pay you.

GG How much?

Anna Every penny I own. (*hands Gertie her purse*)

GG Good. Let's get on with it then. I'm a very busy woman. There's a row boat just off shore there (*points to exit*) that needs to be pillaged and scuttled.

Anna You pillage rowboats??!!?? (*Gertie growls "Aarrggggh"*) Oh back to the interviewSo... a pirate in the time of Jesus on the Sea of Galilee... isn't that a bit before your time?

GG I travelled there

Anna But how would you travel back there? In your ship? You do have your own ship, don't you?

GG Arrgggghhh of course I have me own Ship, finest vessel to ever sail, name of "The Rusty Cutlet"

Anna The Rusty Cutlet? Isn't that an unusual name for a Pirate Ship?

GG There was a problem with the sign writer. It was supposed to be "The Rusty Cutlass" (*brandishes her cutlass again*) Next Question?

Anna So, how could you be on Galilee in the time of Jesus? I mean... wasn't he a bit before your time?

GG I know people.

Anna Who do you know?

GG The Doctor

Anna Doctor Who?

GG Oh you know him too ye warty squid biting pigeon!!! Now, get on with this interview, time is doubloons, or as you would say, time is money.

Anna Please tell our viewers of the alleged miracles you saw on Galilee

GG Listen here bilge breath, there is no alleging, and if you keep alleging, I'll slit your alleged gizzard. (*Brandishes cutlass*)

Anna Yes Ma'am!! Please tell us about the miracles.

GG The miracles happened just the way them boys said.

Anna You mean the apostles...

GG Who's tellin' this story, you or me?

Anna When did you witness these miracles?

GG When I was travelling with my friend The Doctor, just before I took on the skull and cross bones.

Anna Before you became a pirate?

GG You new around here, lass? Of course, it was before I became a pirate. My boat was for hire. I was carrying that Jesus and his 12 friends...

Anna ..the apostles...

GG Who's tellin' this story, you or me?

Anna Sorry, keep going.

GG We was sailin' from one side of the Sea of Galilee to the other. Jesus fell asleep as soon as we hauled anchor. Suddenly, this big squall came up.

Anna ...Gale force winds? (*Gertie brandishes cutlass*) ...Sorry. Continue.

GG Very near capsized the old tub, but she righted herself and we was carried in all directions by the winds... near 60 knots, I reckon. Black as night it was. Hopelessly lost we was. That's when they woke up Jesus. He raised his hand and spoke to the wind. Quicker than the squall came up, it was gone.

Anna And were you gobsmacked?

GG Heck no! I aggrieved!

Anna But why? You were in danger of losing your life... hopelessly lost.... Adrift on a raging torrent...in fear for your..

GG (*Interrupting*) Yeah, but at 60 knots we was 2 hours ahead of schedule.

Anna I heard you witnessed a second miracle?

GG That was some time later. This time Jesus stayed behind and sent his friends...

Anna ...you mean his apos...(Gertie glares at Anna) go on.

GG He sent them on ahead on my boat. Later, Jesus came alongside.

Anna In a row boat?

GG Nope. He was walking on the water. The hem of his tunic never even got wet.

Anna And how did that make you feel?

GG At first, I didn't think much of it. I see lots of stuff like that after a long days on the water. But, then, one of Jesus' friends, the one with the big mouth...

Anna That would be the apostle Peter.

GG (*dirty look*) The one with the big mouth steps out of the boat and walks on water too.

Anna THEN, you were gobsmacked!

GG No. I was yay, verily miffed!

Anna But, why?

GG Now, there were TWO passengers who weren't paying passage!

Anna Are you sure it wasn't rum that caused you to see these things?

GG Of course it wasn't! Ever hang by your thumbs from the yard arm, shark bait?

Anna Sorry.

GG (*Changes eye patch to other eye*) I seen it with me good eye.

Anna So, you saw Jesus and Peter walking on the water and you were angry.

GG I was irked, but when the loud mouthed one began to sink, Jesus grabbed him and they both came on board. Then I was happy.

Anna Because Jesus proved himself to be the messiah?

GG No, keep up here.. because Jesus was on board for only half the trip but paid full price.

Anna **That was not the only time Jesus paid full price.**

GG Excuse me. I have a row boat to pillage. (*exits singing yo ho ho and going arrgggghh and avast!*)

Anna This has been Anna Prentiss, Foreign Correspondent..and Gunpowder Gertie. Now back to the studio. (*exits*)

Arrrgghh Me Hearties, 'Tis the 23rd Shanty

AVAST! The Lord be Cap'n
And I ain't wantin' nuthin'.
He shivers me timbers, and leads me forrard
And sails me through blistering barnacles to
where there be doldrums
He refreshes me rum
And guides me to Spanish galleons
For treasure. aaarrggghhh
Even though I walk the plank or be keelhauled
by salty dogs
Over shark-infested waters,
I ain't afeared,
For me Cap'n is wi' me.
Along with the bo'sun
And first mate who parlay wit' me in the shade of the mizzenmast
The Cap'n gets ready the mainsail
And broadsides the scurvy dogs who would maroon me,
And gives me a banquet in the presence of those scoundrels
Me deck o'erflows wi' treasure an' gold.
Surely shwashbuckling
Will be me pirate life, yo ho
But I will weigh anchor in t' house of me Cap'n
Forevermore. Arrrrrgghhh-men.



SWIMMING WHERE JESUS WALKED

One person takes the part of the speaker, use the names of people you are talking to... the other takes the "That's good, that's bad!" part, written in bold

Hello girls and hello Mrs J. Hey have I got some news for you!! Did you know that I have swum where Jesus walked!!

Wow that is awesome!!! Wait a minute, how could you SWIM where Jesus WALKED?!?!?!?!?

Oh yes, I have been swimming in the Sea of Galilee.

Oh wow!! Wait a minute, didn't you just say you had swum where Jesus walked?!?!?!

Yes.

But on water?!?!?!?

Oh yeah Jesus can do that. And you know what else He can do?

What?

He can stop bad weather.

Really?!?!?!?

Yes, let me tell you about it. Jesus had been teaching by the lake

Is this the same lake you swam in and he walked on?

Yes. Anyway, he had been teaching by the lake and lots of people were listening.

Oh that's good!

Well no, that's bad!

That's bad?

Well, the day soon passed and all of a sudden it was evening.

Oh that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

Well, it was evening, so it was nearly time to rest.

Oh that's good!

Well no, that's bad!

That's bad?

Well, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side"

What?!?!? The other side of the lake? At that time of night? Oh that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

Jesus was with them, remember?

Oh yes, that's good!

Well, it was good that Jesus was with them, but right then for the disciples, getting into the boat was bad.

That's bad?

It was at that exact time, because a big storm came up.

Oh that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

If Jesus was with them of course it was good, when Jesus is around we can be strong and of good courage.

Oh that's good!

Well no, that's bad!

That's bad?

Shhhhhh!!!! Jesus was asleep!!

Oh that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

Yes, the disciples woke him up to ask for help!!! They asked him "Teacher don't you care if we drown?"

Oh that's good!

Well no, that's bad!

That's bad?

Well, do you like being woken up when you are tired?

Oh you are right, that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

It was Jesus, remember? It doesn't matter how we feel or how afraid we are, he still loves us and wants to help us.

Oh that's good!

Yes, but it's not all good news.

What's bad?

Well, the storm was still raging and the disciples were afraid they would die.

Oh that's bad!

Well, no that's good!

That's good?

Yes, Jesus got up, and said to the waves, "QUIET! BE STILL!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

BOTH TOGETHER And *THAT* is definitely good!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXODUS – STAGE LEFT

The Players

Magda and Schmelda, two Hebrew girls

The Costumes

Keep it simple, just a sideways or back to front baseball cap, with maybe some painted freckles, you can go over the top if you like. (I usually use Pioneers)

The Props

A small (card) table, a pack of cards, two chairs and a copy of the script **in large font** placed on the table where the players can see it and the audience cannot. A scroll with passages of scripture printed on it in large font so it is easy to read.

The Rehearsal

Your responsibility, the more rehearsal the better it becomes and the more the players slip into character.

The Accolades

The following are all acceptable: Bravo!! Thank you!! Well done!! I love you! You are wonderful! Exceptional! Extraordinary!

The Script

Provided following this

The Writer

Unavailable for comment

The Scene

The script will explain the scene, however, I will tell you... Two girls who have grown up in the wilderness, having never experienced the Exodus, meet and have a discussion about “what the olds” are saying”

Note

Use a real pack of cards ... it does not really matter what numbers you say or what cards you hand over, just make it look like as if you are *really* playing, after all, the audience will not be able to see the cards.

The Script

Girls walk on stage towards each other, Magda carrying the playing cards.

Magda Yo, Schmelda!

Schmelda Yo, Magda!

Magda You want to play fish?

Schmelda Yeah, okay!

They sit at the table (make sure they both face the audience and start playing cards)

Magda My mum was whinging at my Dad the other day, "Izzy" she said, "I'm sick of living in this wilderness, we've been here since before the kids were born!" Got any fives?

Schmelda Go fish ... yeah I know what you mean. My Mum is forever complaining about the dust, and now the camel has mumps! *(pause)* Got any fives?

Magda Go fish ... *(Schmelda fishes)* yeah the olds are always sitting around talking about the "good old days" of slavery in Egypt. Got any sevens?

Schmelda Go fish *(Magda fishes)* I cannot figure out how slavery can be a good thing! This Pharaoh dude was one very nasty piece of toast from what Grandpa said. Got any twos?

Magda *(Hands over a two)* Sometimes I hear the stories they tell, I am glad you and I have grown up in the wilderness. Got any nines?

Schmelda Go fish *(Magda fishes)* Have you heard the story about the Red Sea Crossing? Got any nines?

Magda Go fish *(Schmelda fishes)* No.. how did they do that? I've never heard anyone talking about boats. Unless you count the camels.. aren't they ships of the desert? We are wanderers, not sailors! Got any kings?

Schmelda *(Hands over a king)* No – Old man Bjorn Agenagen reckons they crossed the Red Sea on foot!

Magda *(Puts down all her cards in utter amazement and exclaims loudly...)* NO WAY!!!!

Schmelda Yes, way!!! *(Puts down her cards also.)* Wait till I tell you about this one!

Magda Are you sure about this? Maybe Old man Bjorn Agenagen is going ... you know... *(taps her head with her finger)* ... loopy?!?!?

Schmelda Oh, I'm sure, I checked with my Dad, and he said to me, "Schmelda, as Sure as Magda's Dad's name is Izzy Ralite, this is the truth!

Magda Well, tell me!

Schmelda Well, first of all, when our people were still slaves in Egypt, God sent in all these plagues....

Magda *(interrupting)* Yeah, yeah, I know all about the plagues, tell me about walking across the Red Sea!

Schmelda You see, after Pharaoh let our people go, he changed his mind.

Magda *(Interrupting again)* Well, I bet it didn't work any better than the one he had before!

Schmelda What one?

Magda The mind, silly. I bet the one he changed it for didn't work any better!

Schmelda No, well he didn't change his mind, he just changed the way he thought and ...

Magda yeah okay, stop talking while I'm interrupting and get on with it!

Schmelda *(sighs VERY loudly)* Well, anyway, the Pharaoh decided that he did *really* want to let our people go and he and his army chased them to the Red Sea. Well, Old Man Bjorn Agenagen reckons everyone was so afraid they were shaking in their sandals.

Magda I would be too, if Pharaoh's army was marching after me!

Schmelda Well Moses..

Magda You mean *the* Moses, Gershom's Dad?

Schmelda That's the one, he told people not to be afraid, because after all, God had sent them a pillar of cloud to guide them by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Magda Epic! Was it really a pillar of cloud?

Schmelda It was indeed, we know it is true, not just because Old Man Bjorn Agenagen told me, but also because it is recorded in the Scriptures.

Magda What do you call a sheep with no legs?

Schmelda *(sighs)* I don't know, what do you call a sheep with no legs?

Magda A cloud! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

Schmelda Shall we get back to the cloud which was the presence of God?

Magda Sorry...

Schmelda Well, it was the presence of God.. listen to what the Scriptures say... *(picks up scroll)* "The angel of God had been traveling in front of Israel's army. Now he moved back and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved away from in front of them. Now it stood behind them. It came between the armies of Egypt and Israel. All through the night the cloud brought darkness to one side and light to the other. Neither army went near the other all night long. Then Moses reached his hand out over the Red Sea. All that night the Lord pushed the sea back with a strong east wind. He turned the sea into dry land. The waters were parted." That's from Exodus 14: 19 – 21

Magda Whoa... wait...is this like the cloud at the Tent of meeting?

Schmelda Yes.. listen to what the Scriptures say *(picks up the scroll and reads)* "Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting. The glory of the Lord filled the holy

tent. Moses couldn't enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled on it. The glory of the Lord filled the holy tent. The people of Israel continued their travels. When the cloud lifted from above the holy tent, they started out. But if the cloud didn't lift, they did not start out. They stayed until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was above the holy tent during the day. Fire was in the cloud at night. The whole community of Israel could see the cloud during all of their travels."

Magda I am totally blown away....

Schmelda You want to hear the rest of the story?

Magda Oh yes please!

Schmelda Well, Moses just lifted up his rod over the Red Sea and it parted! Then our people were able to cross the Sea on foot.

Magda Bet the fish were scared out of their scales! This is better than Lord of the Rings!

Schmelda Lord of the Rings?

Magda Yup, happening bout 4000 years from now!

Schmelda *(unsure)* ... right, anyway, an angel of God and a pillar of cloud moved in behind our people, between them and the Egyptians.

Magda So the cloud made it dark for the Egyptians and guided our people?

Schmelda Now you are getting it!

Magda Well, it's still a bit cloudy.... Didn't the Egyptians just follow our people across?

Schmelda Well, yes they did, but you have not heard the best bit yet.

Magda Hurry up... hurry up!

Schmelda When our people got to the other side of the Red Sea, Moses lifted his rod again and the sea closed over the Egyptians and their horses.. and chariots and....

Magda Wait.....What?!?!?! They all did the dead man's float?

Schmelda You got it! That just about nails what old man Bjorn Agenagen told me!

Magda So that explains it!

Schmelda Explains what?

Magda That song that Miriam is always singing.. I'm off to see Miriam! *(Runs off stage)*

Schmelda *(Calling out to Magda as she runs off)* What song? Oh well, I guess I can ask her later... hey! We never finished our game of "fish" and I was winning too! *Shrugs her shoulders and gathers up the cards, and exits... muttering ... I may go and make cloud pictures.*

~ CURTAIN ~



Jonah and the Big Fella

Bible Reference Jonah 1 – 4

Cast: Two Readers

Susan: So, here's the story so far.

Cathie: Jonah's all at sea 'cause the Big Fella (That's God) told him to go to Nineveh.

Susan: Where???

Cathie: Nineveh

Susan: Nivea? Never heard of it.

Cathie: So instead, Jonah goes on a whale watching trip to Tarshish

Susan: Tar-shish. That's a disease, isn't it?

Cathie: No, it ain't, it's a funny name, and Jonah went there.

Susan: To run away ...

Cathie: From the big man ...

Susan: On a hurry, on a boat.

Cathie: You serious? You can fly to Perth in a few hours and Jonah got on a boat?

Susan: Yep

Cathie: He has a serious problem

Susan: Absolutely. "Cos the big fella (that's God) is waiting for him at the other end.

Cathie: Does he beat the daylights out of him?

Susan: No

Cathie: I would

Susan: Oh yeah?

Cathie: Yeah

Susan: Yeah?

Cathie: Yeah!

Susan: Well, that wouldn't make a lot of sense, would it? You pick a guy for an important job, and then just to make sure he does it right, you break his legs.

Cathie: I never mentioned his legs, that wouldn't be what I'd be busting.

Susan: So everyone is on the boat, and an huge storm hit

Cathie: *Makes a storm with the kids*

Susan: Are you done?

Cathie: Not quite...

Susan: So what next?

Cathie: The audience applauded. *(Cathie bows)*

Susan: Just get on with it!

Cathie: Right so this huge storm hits and the rain and the thunder came and joined the wind, making loud storm noises, spinning the boat and all the people went flying from one side to the other, and got very seasick.

Susan: So do you know what happened next?

Cathie: Barf. I bet they all began barfing over the side of the ship. Bleh *(Vomit sound)*

Susan: So Jonah screamed loudly over the wind and rain and barf, and told them to throw him overboard.

Cathie: Seriously? Into the sea? With all the barf floating around?

Susan: Well, the storm stopped!

Cathie: Meanwhile, Jonah went for a surf... *(Sings "Let's go Surfing Now")*

Susan: No! There was a big fish

Cathie: What?

Susan: Shall we get back to the story here?

Cathie: Oh okay, there was a big fish and it swallowed Jonah. Which is humanly possible apparently, I mean the movie Jaws was about a man eating shark and it had two sequels.

Susan: It wasn't a shark.

Cathie: No, of course not, but whales are similar.

Susan: Uh uh *(shakes head)* It wasn't a whale either. The Good Book says it was a big fish. AD LIB BIG

Cathie: Do whales have teeth? You're telling me it swallowed Jonah. *(Chomp chomp chomp...)*

Susan: No, we are telling **THEM** *(points)* it swallowed Jonah. It is possible.

Cathie: Have you seen Free Willy? That was a good movie about a whale.

Susan: Shhh! The **BIG FISH** swallowed Jonah!

Cathie: Epic! Did it burp? Can you imagine the size of the toothpicks?

Susan: So Jonah began to pray.. he prayed about his attitude

Cathie: I bet he prayed for a nicer view as well.

Susan: Be quiet. Remember what happened next?

Cathie: Barf, it spewed him up on the beach at um.....

Susan: Nineveh

Cathie: That's the one. Bleh ... (*Vomit sound*) Right on the beach. Bleh, all over your swimming costume.

Susan: I bet Jonah felt cool

Cathie: Yeah! And I bet he realised who was boss and all! So he talked to the people and did the job that God told him too. And although he didn't feel like it, God was always with him. Then voooooom!

Susan: What? Not back into the fish?

Cathie: No! He went off under a tree for a rest.

Susan: Is that the end?

Cathie: No. The tree died.

Susan: Must have been the smell. End of story?

Cathie: End of story.

Susan: So, er .. what can we learn from all this?

Cathie: Oh plenty.

Susan: Plenty?

Cathie: Plenty.

Susan: Plenty. Hmmm ... like what?

Cathie: I dunno, let me think about it for a while.

AD LIBS THE LEARNING *(This means applying the story so the children can learn scriptural truth that is relevant to their heart.)*

SOMETHING FISHY THIS WAY COMES

Based on Luke 5; 1 – 11

Luke 5

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Background: Even though the first disciples had started to follow Jesus, they had not really recognised who he was. One day, after a miraculous catch of fish, they left their nets behind and followed Jesus for good. When we recognise the true identity of Christ, our lives are changed forever as well.

Cast:

Susan – a slightly more serious (only slightly) storyteller trying to tell the story

Cathie: Her friend, who occasionally gets things mixed up.

Props: None. It is all mimed.

During the storytime section, Cathie should be enthusiastic about doing the actions, but keep going too far or doing the wrong ones. When Susan corrects her, she should nod and acknowledge that she understands. This acknowledgement is recorded in the script as “oh!”

Cathie: Lights! Camera! Action!

Susan: Okay for today’s story one of us will have to do the actions while the other tells the story.

Cathie: I’ll do the actions

Susan: Are you sure?

Cathie: *Shaking her head no, but answering vehemently*
Absolutely!

Susan: You are not going to mix them up or anything?

Cathie: Me?!?!?!? Not a chance!!

Susan: Are you sure?

Cathie: No problems.. where should I stand?

Susan: Right over there....

Cathie: *Takes one or two steps* Here?

Susan: Yeah

Cathie: Alrighty!

Susan: You ready?

Cathie: Yup! *But shakes her head no...*

SUSAN	CATHIE
Okay one day Peter and John were out fishing	<i>Cast and reel as though using a rod</i>
With their nets....	<i>"Oh" Tosses net towards audience</i>
All night long	<i>Yawns and continues to toss nets</i>
But they didn't catch anything	<i>Falls asleep and snores</i>
Um... they didn't fall asleep	<i>Wakes up and stretches her arms</i>
In the morning, they were sitting on shore cleaning and brushing their...	<i>Brushes teeth</i>
Nets!!! Their nets!!!	<i>"Oh" Brushes off nets with toothbrush</i>
Now, nearby, Jesus was preaching to the crowds	<i>Acts like a dramatic preacher</i>
The crowds were so big that Jesus didn't have a place to stand	<i>Repeat dramatic actions, this time very tiny</i>
So Peter let him stand on his boat	<i>Rock back and forth and nearly fall over</i>
I don't think it was windy	<i>Freezes</i>
They pushed off from the shore	<i>Push off with an oar</i>
And Jesus finished his sermon	<i>Gesture wildly then take a bow</i>
After Jesus excused the crowd	<i>Wave goodbye</i>
He told Peter to drop the nets	<i>Mime dropping a net to the floor then hop around holding foot</i>
Not on his foot!!! Off the side of the boat	<i>Drops the net off the side of the boat</i>
Um, the other side of the boat	<i>Drop the net off the other side of the boat with an exasperation</i>
He complained because he had been fishing all night and had not caught anything, and could not understand how there could be anything on the other side of the boat.	<i>Mutters and carries on like a pork chop</i>
And the net began to fill with fish	<i>Make fish lips and pretend to swim</i>
Peter began to worship Jesus	<i>Praise actions</i>
AS the nets filled with fish	<i>Make fish lips and pretend to swim, swim up to Susan</i>
Peter and the other disciples were amazed	<i>Look completely shocked</i>
The nets were so full that the boat began to sink	<i>Hold the nose with one arm up in the air and go "down"</i>

Not that much	<i>"Oh" Straighten up and as Susan looks away, lean sideways</i>
Peter rowed back to shore	<i>Row</i>
Um... Shore is that way....	<i>"Oh" turn around and row again Run into Susan and say "Sorry, too many waves"</i>
When they arrived onshore, they got out of the boat	<i>Climb out of boat</i>
They left their nets full of fish	<i>Drag your net a few feet and then leave it behind</i>
And followed Jesus, and it changed their lives forever	<i>Walk in place... start singing "We are walking in the light of God"</i>
The end.	<i>Bow</i>

Susan: Well that wasn't too bad, Cathie

Cathie: Wait a minute Susan, are you telling me that they left their nets full of fish to follow Jesus?

Susan: Uh-huh

Cathie: But they were fishermen! This was the catch of a lifetime! How could they do that?

Susan: They had biggerer fish to catch

Cathie: Biggerer?

Susan: Not just biggerer but much more biggerer!

Cathie: What are you talking about?

Susan: Jesus told them to fish for people, which means to bring people into his kingdom. He was calling them to a whole new way of life.

Cathie: But they left their nets behind.....But how can we fish for people? It will break the nets!!!

Susan: If we have Jesus in our lives, and we are following Him, then we can catch others for Him as well, by telling them about Jesus, and living so that other people say “Oh I want to know what makes them different!”

Cathie: So Jesus wants us to tell others about him and by doing that we are fishing for people?

Susan: Now you have it! Yes, and when we follow Jesus, can you guess what we need to leave behind? (AD LIB WAITING)

Cathie: Hmm... old ways of acting and thinking and anything that might get in the way of following Jesus?

Susan: Good job! But it’s good to remember that we will never be perfect until we get to heaven.

Cathie: And that’s where the love and forgiveness of Jesus comes in!

Susan: Absolutely!

Cathie: Good... now you wanna go fishing?

Susan: Why not ... as long as you don’t mess things up! *Start to wander off....*

Cathie: Me? Not a chance... Wait... are we fishing for fish or people? Can we fish for both at the same time? Are we using nets or lines?RAMBLE & Exit

DON QUIXOTE PRESENTS – NUMBERS 22

(Communicating, Old Testament Style)

CHARACTERS: 2 Seniors or Pioneers, or leaders if they feel inclined! I actually asked two people from our church that not all the girls knew, so it was novel. One is Dr Don Quixote (pronounced don-key-o-tee) and the other is Jenny. A donkey, who is welcome to wear “donkey ears”

PROPS: Dr. Don Quixote has a microphone, with a label on it that says something like 150.9 Canaan News, and a clipboard: you can then hide the script on the clipboard and she can hold it in a position so they can both see it.

SETTING: TV or radio show

Based on Numbers 22 – 24, 2 Peter 2:15, Jude 1:11, Rev. 2:14

SCRIPT

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Welcome to Talk About Animals . I’m Dr. Don Quixote a virtuous, valiant, valuable, verbose, versatile, vivacious vet and the host of this show. On every show we examine the wonders of God creation in the animal world. As you know, on my show, animals are able to speak with human voices. But how many of you knew about a donkey who spoke with a human voice in the Bible? We will be interviewing that delightful, daring, dynamic, darling, diligent, dazzling donkey today. The story can be found in Numbers Chapters 22 – 24 in the Bible, so we KNOW it is true!

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Welcome to the show. What is your name?

JENNY: Jenny. In fact, all female donkeys are called Jennies.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Where were you living in Bible times?

JENNY: In the desert area around Moab, I worked for a man named Balaam. It was a tough area, but we donkeys were fashioned by God to do quite well in a land with little water or grass.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: That is quite different than ... say, horses.

JENNY: Very different. We are smaller than horses, have a tail that looks more like a cow’s tail and our voices carry almost 2 kilometres. And we are much more beautifuller.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Two kilometres! Why?

JENNY: In the wild, donkeys do not live in close herds as horses and ponies because food is generally scarce. That means there isn’t a lot of food. Our HEE-HAW has to carry over great distances so we can keep in contact with one another, and send “mule-tide” greetings at Christmas.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: I guess that’s why God created you with such big ears.

JENNY: Precisely. God knew we’d need larger ears also allow us to hear the distant calls of our friends and neighbors. We can communicate in sign language using our ears. Kind of like semaphore for Donkeys.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: That is fascinating.

JENNY: Our long ears also help keep us cool in the hot desert heat. We donkeys are some of God's finest creations.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Tell us about what happened before you spoke like a human the first time..

JENNY: King Balak had seen how God was with Israel. They had heard how he had helped them leave Egypt.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Yes, Egypt was one of the world powers at that time. Go on.

JENNY: Balak and all the Moabites and Midianites were very afraid. King Balak tried to hire Balaam to come curse them. The first time, my master Balaam, wisely refused because God told him not to go.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: What happened the second time?

JENNY: God told Balaam he could go, but God was angry about it.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Was that because He loved the Israelites and didn't want anything bad to happen to them?

JENNY: Yes. Balaam was riding on me. Suddenly an angel of the LORD was standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, so I turned off the road into a field. Balaam didn't see the angel and started beating me.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: YIKE!.

JENNY: Yes. I got back on the road once the angel had moved. Then the angel appeared a second time. He looked like he might use his sharp sword on Balaam so I pressed close to the wall. Unfortunately that crushed Balaam's foot against it.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Did Balaam see the angel?

JENNY: No. He was too busy hitting me again. And his ears were too small.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: How mean. People shouldn't hit their animals.

JENNY: I agree. Especially when I was just trying to protect Balaam. We donkeys are very protective, you know.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: I didn't know that.

JENNY We are. We are often put with sheep or goats because if a fox or dog or dingo comes to hurt one, we'll protect the animals like they are one of our own.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: A predator like a fox or dingo that might try to eat a sheep or goat or calf?

JENNY: If we hear any strange noises with our big ears we will voice a warning to the herd and chase off the predator. Able to hear small sounds in a single ear flick... to run and jump ... saviour of the weaker...

DR DON QUIXOTE: *(interrupting)* Can we get back to the Bible here?

JENNY: Right. Donkeys are slower and less powerful than horses but we are extremely intelligent animals. We have a strong sense of survival.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Then what happened?

JENNY: We were back on the road to King Balak's when the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place between two vineyards with walls on both sides. There was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: What did you do?

JENNY: What any intelligent creature would. I lay down. If a donkey deems something as dangerous we simply won't do it. In times of panic or danger horses will run away but donkeys, will simply freeze. Even in summer when it is hot!

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Did Balaam finally see the danger?

JENNY: No, he started hitting me again. God then gave me the ability to speak like a person. I said "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" Balaam was so angry he didn't even notice a donkey was talking to him. He says "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

DR. DON QUIXOTE: He was going to kill you?!!!

JENNY: Yes, for saving his life. I said "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you? Then the angel of the Lord spoke to him and asked "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me."

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Did that finally get his attention?

JENNY: Yes. The angel told him that I had turned away these three times and had saved his life. He did add "I would certainly have killed you" meaning Balaam, "by now, but I would have spared her."

DR. DON QUIXOTE: What a close call for Balaam.

JENNY: Unfortunately, my master did not learn his lesson permanently. He did bless the Israelites instead of cursing them after this incident. However, later on, he really messed up.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: I think I remember something in the New Testament about that.

JENNY: The New Testament writers talk not once, not twice, but three times about Balaam. And it isn't good.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Can you give us an example?

JENNY: Sure. Both Peter and Jude talk about Balaam rushing off to do evil to make a profit. Peter says “wages of wickedness”

DR. DON QUIXOTE: That is too bad.

JENNY: Very much so. How quickly you humans forget God’s graciousness.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: I wish God had given humans ears as big as you donkeys have. We need to listen to him better.

JENNY: And big ears sure do help you be quick to listen.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: So what lesson do you think our listeners should take away with them after hearing your story?

JENNY: Besides how important it is to listen to God, they should remember it is always important to protect other by warning them when they are headed for danger. I mean, if God can speak through a donkey, he can speak through human beings made in his image.

DR. DON QUIXOTE: You know there is a verse in the Bible that says “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” It’s from John 10:27

JENNY: Shouldn’t that be donkeys?

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Well, I am sure it would include donkeys.

JENNY: What a relief!!

DR. DON QUIXOTE: Jenny, thank you so much for being on Talk About Animals today. Stay tuned for further adventures in God’s wonderful world of animals.

MEMORY VERSE

“Hear the word of the LORD, you nations” Jeremiah 31:10

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN POETRY

Worship only God and declare to Him his worth
Never worship anything else in heaven or on earth.
Never use God's name in a disrespectful way.
Always honour God on his special holy day.

Respect your parents even if they are old and grey,
(Be nice to them and listen to what they say.)
Never take another human life.
Always be loyal to your husband or your wife.
Never nick what does not belong to you.
Report about others only what is really true.
And don't envy those dudes who just happen to
Have lots more stuff than you ever do.

The commandments above they number ten
But it's not yet time to say "Amen"
In the gospel of John, a commandment new
Love one another, as I have loved you.

GOD'S RAINBOW

The Bible tells that long ago
God looked on earth and here below
Saw his creatures not full of love, but hate:
He asked: "Oh, *what* did I create?"
"Why *do* my people war and fight
When they've been told about what's right?
They don't seem sorry for their ways
Nor *want* to change to better days."

God thought a while and then declared:
"The only one that can be spared
Is Noah, who it's plain to see,
Has lived in peace, with his sons, three.
But every other living thing
Will be destroyed by covering
The whole wide world with floods so great
I'll sweep away the fear and hate."

To save him from the floods to come,
God spoke to Noah near his home,
An ark he must start building now,
One hundred and twenty two metres from stern to bow
Three stories high, and extra wide,
With door and window on the side.

"It must be big, since in this boat
You'll need to keep yourselves afloat –
Your wife and sons and wives then bring
A pair of every living thing
That creeps or crawls or runs or flies.
What space you'll need just for supplies!"

Shem Ham and Japheth Noah's sons, all three
Found each was willing to agree
And started building this great ark,

All working hard from dawn to dark.
They heard their neighbours laugh and jeer –
And say, "How crazy they all appear –
To build a boat on high dry land!"

They just refused to understand.
The ark took many years to build
God watched and waited while they filled
The ship with all the needed things
For months of water voyagings.
Much food and clothing, pots and plants
Were stowed aboard, they took no chance
Of starving either beasts or men
While on the ark for weeks on end.

Next, Noah searched before the rain:
From mountain hill, and jungle plain

He led the creatures two by two,
Tigers, bears and kangaroo,
The horses, goats and porcupines,
And more, all in two long lines.

The sky grew dark with flapping wings:
The ground alive with creeping things:
Earth trembled at the mighty roar
Of creatures moving towards the door.
Then Noah's wife and sons and wives
Went up the ramp, they dried their eyes
As the sun shone hot about,
They heard people laugh and shout.

Aboard at last! The rains did come
They beat the roof with steady drum
For forty days and forty night
As the land below sunk from their sight.
The tops of the mountains disappeared
As Noah from his windows peered
An awesome sight to look around
And see no trace of your home ground!

Can you imagine how you'd feel
To hear the thunder's crashing peal,
And pitch and toss in wind and storm
And be the *only* people warm?

For six long months on board they stayed
It was not easy, but they prayed
That God would see them safely through
Until dry land came back in view.
The rains did stop: the flood went down
Until the ark bumped on a crown
Of mountain tall called Ararat,
And there the ship stuck fast, and sat.
Soon Noah let a raven go
A big, black bird which to and fro
Went flying, finding food afloat
As they all watched it from the boat.

God sent strong winds the earth to dry,
Yet still the waters seemed so high!
A dove flew next to look around
But did not find unflooded ground.
A week went by, and out again
This time the dove – Oh kew! – AMEN!
Brought back a fresh picked olive leaf –
A sign of life! What a relief!

Another week, the dove once more
Was sent abroad to search, explore
This time she did not reappear,
Which meant that dry land must be near!
The earth was drying rapidly,

And soon they found that they were free
To leave the ark; this small family
They jumped around with joy and glee.

To show thanks that they were safe and sound
The family built an altar on holy ground
And God was pleased as He looked on:
He blessed Noah and his three son.
To them He said, "Go build a new home;
Have children who in turn will roam
And settle countries far and near:
Another flood you need not fear.

"To show you that my promise will
Be kept forever, see that hill?
Beyond it I have placed up high
A lovely rainbow in the sky.
By this great sign will people know
My promise will be kept. So go
With faith to plant the earth again"
To this Noah's family said "AMEN!"

You will need two competent Pioneers or two leaders for this. Make sure they get at least a week to practice. The two "poem readers" stand each side of the room at the front, and read the following poem alternately, one verse at a time. (*try and get the lilt of the poem into the reading, the children will love it.*) I even dressed them in Biblical garb. (Read: sheets and tea towels).

Another thought: This can work really well on display night, Pioneers reading, Juniors acting it out... they only have to mime, so if someone is away on the night, you can easily replace them.

Note of interest: When viewed from above, for example in a plane, a rainbow is not an arch, but a complete circle, so from "God's view" His promise is never ending.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have put my bow in the clouds." Genesis 9:13

Read Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17: 5 – 6 **out loud before you start the performance**

CSI ISRAEL

You will need a large plant/tree in a pot (it doesn't have to be real) and a small bag/case which is your "Crime scene Investigation Kit" (I used a Winnie the Pooh Suitcase, hence the notations in the script) I put a sign on the plant that read "Genuine Imitation Mustard Plant" but I did not reveal that till the end. My husband and I performed this at a Church Parade, so I have left the script with his name in it. You could use two pioneers.

(Michael is up the front, Cathie is not in the room)

Michael -- And now, sit down, put your feet up, relax and listen to another edition of... Parables on Parade. Tonight's parable comes from Mark chapter 4 beginning at verse 30.

"Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Cathie -- *(enters with noise & British accent and as she speaks, moves to the front to be with Michael, the tree in the pot is already up there)* Alright, nobody leaves the room until I find out who done it!

Michael -- What is it now?

Cathie -- I'll solve this case, or my name isn't Sherlock Holmes.

Michael -- Your name isn't Sherlock Holmes. What are you doing with that Winnie the Pooh Suitcase?

Cathie -- This is no ordinary Winnie the Pooh Suitcase. This is an official crime scene investigation kit.

Michael -- An **official** crime scene investigation kit?

Cathie -- That's what it said in the ad in the back of the comic book.

Michael -- And in your official crime scene investigation kit is an official fingerprinting kit.

Cathie -- Precisely, Dr Watson. I am fingerprinting this flower pot. Then I shall compare the finger prints on the pot with the fingerprints of all those who had access to this church during the last two days. Then, by a process of elimination I shall uncover the culprit.

Michael -- And just what was the *alleged* culprit alleged to have done?

Cathie -- He switched pots.

Michael -- He switched pots?!?!?!?

Cathie -- Precisely. For reasons which I have yet to uncover, the perpetrator gained access to the church and made off with my flower pot, leaving behind an identical flower pot.

Michael -- Uh huh.

Cathie -- You see, Watson, in anticipation of today's parable, I planted a tiny mustard seed in my flower pot two weeks ago. Then, when I came in here today, my pot was gone and this identical pot was put in its place.

(Cathie then spends some time in the congregation, "fingerprinting" people.)

Michael -- Leave that girl alone!

Cathie – This is no ordinary girl, it is <use a leader or older girl>

Michael – Leave her alone!!!!

(Cathie eventually returns to front)

Michael -- And what makes you think that this is not the same flower pot that you brought in here two days ago?

Cathie -- Elementary, my dear Watson. My pot had nothing but soil and a tiny mustard seed in it. Even a child can see that this pot has a big plant growing in it. Aha! A clear fingerprint! Right here near the top edge of the pot. The game is afoot, Watson!

Michael -- And whose print is it?

Cathie -- (clears throat, mumbles) Mine.

Michael -- *Excuse me?*

Cathie-- Mine. I said it's mine. I don't know how the cunning villain did this, but he not only stole my flower pot, but he also transferred my fingerprints to the new pot. Fascinating, eh, Dr Watson?

Michael -- I'm totally gobsmacked

Cathie – Far-fetched as it sounds, it's possible that the villain emptied my pot and made off with the soil and the mustard seed, after transplanting this tree. But why go to all the trouble, eh?

Michael -- What kind of tree is that?

Cathie -- (no accent) How should I know, do I look like a botanist to you?

Michael -- The species of tree may provide a clue for solving this case.

Cathie -- (British accent) By Jove, Watson, you may have something there! Perhaps this whole thing is a diabolical clue planted by <insert Girls' Brigade Captains, Pastors, Ministers or Chaplains name here> to take me far afield and away from discovering a far greater crime. I happen to have a botanical guide book in my official crime kit. *(Gets out an appropriate looking book from case)* Let's see. Green stem. That eliminates all deciduous and coniferous trees. Small yellow flower. Uh huh. Uh huh. That brings us to... only remaining... possib... oh.

Michael -- Well, Sherlock, have you cracked the case?

Cathie -- (clears throat) Ah, well, perhaps we should finish this investigation another time.

Michael -- What kind of tree is it, Sherlock?

Cathie -- (no accent) You know very well, it's not a tree at all.

Michael -- What kind of plant starts as a small seed and ends up as a six foot plant that looks like a tree?

Cathie -- (muffled) A mustard plant.

Michael -- Excuse me?

Cathie -- I said, it's a mustard plant.

Michael -- Tune in next time for another edition of Parables on Parade.

Cathie -- (afar) I'm so embarrassed.

Michael -- (afar) Maybe you could fingerprint my clothes dryer. One of my socks is missing.

Cathie -- (afar) Very Funny.

.....

NABOTH'S VINEYARD –

1 Kings Chapter 21

The Grapes are Always Greener in the Other Vineyard.

Week 1; Greedy Ahab

1 Kings 21; 1- 21a

BIBLE TIME:

Suggested Method

Put two adults behind a “News desk” with a microphone (make one from cardboard or use a real one, which you do not have to have turned on if the group is small). Put Biblical headdresses (read tea towels or towels) on their heads. This then runs like a news bulletin. The wonderful thing about this is that your script can be in front of you. It may make it easier to enlarge the script on a photocopier. Be **DRAMATIC**

Cast: Newsreaders 1 & 2 (**NR1 & NR2**)

NR1: Good afternoon (or whatever, make sure you use the appropriate time of day for when you are presenting it). Welcome to “The Bible Today”. This afternoon we bring you the story of King Ahab.

NR2: King Ahab was spending the summer in his palace at Jezreel. Here, he spent many a day wandering through the gardens and planning on what he would do next. Directly next door to the king’s garden was a piece of land belonging to a man called Naboth. He had turned it into a place where he grew grape vines, and had worked hard to hollow out a trough where he crushed the rich grapes to make wine.

NR1: Ahab had wanted to add Naboth’s land to his for a while. He wanted to turn it into a vegetable garden. With this in mind, he sent for Naboth and offered to give him another piece of land, or pay Naboth for his. However, much to King Ahab’s surprise, Naboth shook his head, claiming that when a man called Joshua, on God’s business divided the land amongst Naboth’s ancestors, it was handed down to him, and he must leave it to his sons. Naboth stated that God had given him this land and that God forbids him to sell it, no matter how much he was offered.

NR2: King Ahab was angry and disappointed. So much so, that when the servants announced that dinner was ready, he said he didn’t want any. He sulked and lay on his bed, facing the wall. It was at this point that Queen Jezebel came looking for him. Upon enquiring what the matter was, and why he was so miserable, Ahab looked at her, sat up and said, “It’s because of Naboth; I want his vineyard and he won’t let me have it.”

NR1: Jezebel is reported to have laughed at him, and asked, “Are you supposed to be the king? What is the point of being King if you can’t get what it is that you want? Leave it to me!” Jezebel thought hard, and decided that if Naboth would not hand over his and, then she must get rid of him and his family. That is the way she figured to give the king what he wanted.

NR2: Jezebel then commenced writing to the most important people in Jezreel, She signed it using the king's name, and put his royal seal on it. "Announce a public holiday," she wrote "and call all the people together" It was at this point that her evil plan became known. "See that Naboth is there and put him in a special seat. Then pay a couple of rogues to say that they have heard Naboth calling out curses against God and against the king. Take him to court for these things, and when he is found guilty, kill him."

NR1: Unfortunately the city council lived in fear of the Queen, and obeyed her orders. A message arrived at the palace that Naboth and his sons were dead. Jezebel reported this to Ahab. "You can have your land, Naboth is dead."

NR2: Ahab took possession of the land at once, but God sent a man named Elijah to speak to the king. They were old enemies. Elijah told Ahab he had brought a message from God. "All your life you have done wrong and broken God's law. What you have done is very wicked" After Elijah had left, Ahab was ashamed and knew that what he and Jezebel had done was wrong. He took off his fine clothes and refused to eat the palace food. He went around looking gloomy and sad. He wanted to show how sorry he was. God noticed how Ahab was behaving and told Elijah that Ahab seemed to be sorry. God decided that Ahab and his family were not suitable to be kings of Israel.

NR1: There is more to this news bulletin. Ahab's greed had caused the death of Naboth and his family. Ahab put on an unhappy face, and God was sad also. Do you have a comment on this? (Call other person by name).

NR2: Remember, God will always supply for us what we need, which can be different to what we want! I believe there is a simple way to fight greed and put a smile on God's heart. Be thankful for what you have, thank God for it. Then you will be happy, and so will others around you.

NR1: Thank you. That concludes this afternoon's edition of "The Bible Today".

MEMORY VERSE *(for use with Naboth's Vineyard Story)*

"My God will meet all your needs" Philippians 4:19

EWE NEED HELP

Bible Reference; The Lost Sheep

Luke 15; 3 - 7

Themes;

God's love, His desire to come looking for us
And to help us When we are in trouble.

Red letters are sound effects made by the audience and led by someone other than the reader using signs that have the sound effects written on them in HUGE writing.

I was out a walking
Just the other day -
When I saw a man across the road,
Across the way.

He was looking down,
Well, he was looking sad;
He was looking like he'd
Just lost the only friend
He ever had.

Awwwwwwwww

He said he was the farmer
he said he was the boss
He said he was the *best*
Sheep farmer that there ever was. **Waaaa - hooooo**

But he's gone and lost a little lamb;
It had run off in the heat;
And all that was left behind
Was the droppings in the street. *Ewwwwwwwwwwww*

We headed out of town,
And we checked the restaurants too;
And we looked for the places
That were serving up lamb stew.

We searched high and low,
Till the day was getting dark,
And the wolves began to howl *Aaaaaa-ooooooooo*
And the dogs began to bark. *Bow -wow.....*

Well it was getting scary,
And it was getting rather weird,
When the bright eyes shone,
And the possums all appeared. *Oooooohhhhhhhh*

But he didn't give up;
Not a chance - not a shot;-
he kept looking for that lamb
Like it was the only thing he'd got.

And then at last - what a shock!
My goodness what a fright;
When we heard this bleatin'
Come a-beatin-
through the night. *Maaaaaaaaaaaaa*

We found this little lamb
Just a-quaking in a rut;
His nose was all bashed
And his ears were all cut. *Awwwwwwwwwwwwww*

Well the farmer he simply
Just reached down from above
And he picked up the little fella
And he gave him a big hug.....

And the farmers big old eyes
Well they were filled with tears;
At last he'd found his sheep -
And he's lost all his fears. *Waaaaaa-hooooooo*

And as I strode on my way home,
I thought hard about the lamb;
And I thought hard about the day,
And I thought hard about the man.

And Then I said to myself
As I hung up my hat;
I hope that somebody cares for me
Like that.....

A lost sheep is completely helpless. It can't find its way home. It can't take care of itself. A wild animal can steal it away easily.

A good shepherd knows this. He will drop everything to find a lost sheep. He will face great danger for that sheep.

Jesus is sometimes called our Shepherd. Which means that we are His sheep. Jesus cares for you, and He knows you better than a shepherd knows his sheep. He loves you more.

Jesus knows when you feel lonely. He knows when you feel helpless. He knows when you are in trouble. And He wants to keep you close. He will come right away when you call. Now we are not really sheep you know that, but we can call to Jesus by praying. He will always help you. He has promised because He is your shepherd.

Now, He has promised that He will always help us, and He always does, because He can be trusted, but sometimes He helps us in ways we don't understand....(shearing, dipping).....

If something is special to you, you take care of it. Some things are special because you bought them with your own money. Some things are special because you lost them and found them again..like the shepherd found his sheep..Some things are special because you made them. God made us, so we are very special to Him and to Jesus.

When you have something special, you keep it safe.

Jesus, our shepherd takes good care of things too. And you are so special to Him. He looked for us when we were in trouble, and saved us by taking the punishment for our sins, when He died on the cross. Without Jesus we are lost like the sheep. But when we believe in Jesus and make Him our best friend, we are not lost anymore. Jesus loves you, so you don't have to be afraid. He will take good care of you because you are special to Him, and if you call out to Him in prayer He will come looking for you.

Dear Jesus, thank you so much that you hear us and come looking for us when we cry out to you, when we need help. Help us to trust in you to take care of us in the way that is best. AMEN

WALL TO WALL RUBBLE

Cathie Hopkins © originally written 1995

Based on Joshua 6: 1 – 20

Two people – one reading the script and one responding with “that’s good” or “that’s bad!”
(Written here in bold.)

I’m going to tell you a story

That’s good!

No that’s bad!

That’s bad?

Well, it’s about a city that was being attacked

Oh, That’s bad...

No that’s good!

That’s good?

Well, God had directed Joshua and his army to attack the city of Jericho

Oh, if God directed, then that’s good!

No, that’s bad...

That’s bad?

Well, God said “I am putting into your hands, Jericho, with its King and all its brave soldiers. You and your soldiers are to march around the city once a day for six days. Seven priests, each carrying a trumpet are to go in front of the covenant box. On the seventh day, you and your soldiers are to march around the city seven times while the priests blow the trumpets. Then they are to sound one long note. As soon as you hear it, all the men are give a loud shout, and the city walls will collapse. Then your whole army will go straight into the city.”

Oh, that’s bad...

No that’s good

That’s good?

Yes Joshua called to the priests and is other men and said to them “Take the covenant box and seven of you go in front of it carrying trumpets. Then he ordered his men to start marching around the city. In front were the priests with the trumpets, then the priests carrying the Covenant Box, then the rear guard. All this time the trumpets were sounding, but the men were not making any noise with their mouths. So it’s good, because Joshua and his men were doing as God had told them.

Oh, that’s good

No, that’s bad

That’s bad?

Well they had to get up early every morning and march around Jericho!

That's bad....

No, that's good...

That's good?

Well, it wasn't very long way!

That's good.

No, that's bad.

That's bad?

They had to do it for seven days.

That's bad!

No that's good

That's good?

Well by the seventh day they knew what they were doing!

That's good!

No That's bad!

That's bad?

On the seventh day, they had to do it seven times!

Oh that's bad!

No that's good...

That's good?

Yes, on the seventh time, the priests sounded their trumpets and all the men shouted!

That's good!

No that's bad.

That's bad?

Well it's bad if you lived in Jericho, because all the walls fell down.

Oh, that's bad,

No that's good....

That's good?

Well after the walls fell in down, the army went up the hill to the city and captured it, So God's plan was completed.

TOGETHER: AND THAT'S DEFINITELY GOOD!!!!

MATILDA AND THE MIRROR

(Matilda is my puppet)

Matilda: Good afternoon

Cathie: I want to talk to you about the Bible today, but first I have something in my handbag...can you guess what it is??

Matilda: A piano?

Cathie: No

Matilda: A hippopotamus?

Cathie: No, I used it this morning

Matilda: How do you use a hippopotamus?

Cathie: I didn't use a hippopotamus, I used what I have in my handbag. What do you think it is?

Matilda: A bath towel.

Cathie: it's flat

Matilda: A bicycle tyre

Cathie: no, most ladies have one in their handbag!

Matilda: a handkerchief!

Cathie: Men use it when they shave! Boys Brigade may use it for signalling!

Matilda: Boys Brigade? Humph, we are far better looking!

Cathie: Maybe so, but can you guess what I have?

(Encourage children...)

Matilda: Oh! A mirror! Of course! What does it do?

Cathie: Let me show you.. (shows Matilda her own image.. Matilda tries to bite it.)

Matilda: She is pretending to be me! That's what I look like in photos! I'd bite her if there wasn't a piece of glass between us!

Cathie: That is not someone pretending to be you, it *is* you!

Matilda: How can that be me? I am here and she is there! Wait a minute.. that's me? I am better looking than you!

Cathie: Don't kid yourself. A mirror is where you can see what you look like. A photograph is where you can see yourself as well.

Matilda: What has that got to do with the Bible?

Cathie: The Bible is where you can see what God is like, especially as you read the N.T., the stories about Jesus, you will see that Jesus shows us what God is like. You read about how He loves us. How He sent Jesus into the world to show us how He loves us, how He loves all the people of the world, even if they don't love Him! By reading the Bible carefully, we can see what God is like just as we can see what we ourselves look like by looking in a mirror.

1 Timothy 4: 12 – 13 "Don't let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity. Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship."

I NOAH GUY!! (MATILDA AND NOAH)

Cathie; Hi Matilda! Great to see you this morning. You're just in time.

Matilda: What for ?

Cathie: Well, I am just about to tell the people the story of Noah

Matilda: Yeah, well everybody knows that story...(sound like a seal..) ark ! ark ! ... animals and a big boat. So what's so interesting about that ?

Cathie: It's a true story about real people and helps us learn about faith.

Matilda: I thought it was about Noah !

Cathie: Well, Noah had faith- he believed all that God told him to do. I mean he must have looked pretty strange building this huge boat and then gathering all the animals to go on board ... all because God told him to .

Matilda: Exactly. Did Noah really have a son called Ham ? (Did he pig-out ?)

Cathie: Noah did have a son called Ham and he also took his other two sons..

Matilda: (interrupting) Pickles and Jam ?

Cathie: No, Shem and Japheth . Their wives went with them into the ark as well. Then the rain started to fall.

Matilda: 40 days and 40 nights ... and no-o water restrictions.

Cathie: Yes Matilda but the sad thing was that all the people who wouldn't listen to God's warnings and kept disobeying Him, were drowned. Only Noah and all those on the Ark were kept safe.

Matilda: Is that where faith come in? I mean believing that God is going to look after you - even when you're stuck with your family and lots of animals surrounded by water ... all those animals he had to take care of. He could have let the spiders drown.

Cathie: It was 150 days before the water started to go down and until finally God brought them to a safe place to begin a new life.

Matilda: It must have been hard to keep trusting God...(getting faster) . Trusting that there would be enough food for all the animals...faith to believe that Noah wasn't nuts and that he really did hear God and do all that he'd been told. .. Faith to believe it would all work out OK in the end.

Cathie: Well Matilda it sounds like you really do know a lot about this story already.

Matilda: I guess I do. The part that I still don't get is that we still talk about Noah, the ark and the rainbow even today. It make a puppet think doesn't it ?

Cathie: It helps us all think a bit more about trusting God. And to think a bit more about how God wants us to be like Noah.

Matilda: What? I have to build an ark?

Cathie: No, silly, we need to have faith and take care of animals that God has created and put on this earth.

Matilda: Even spiders?

Cathie: Even spiders.

Matilda: Rats.

Cathie: Yes, rats as well.

Matilda: No, I meant "rats" as in "Oh, bother"

Cathie: Well after all that talk about boats and water I'm feeling a bit seasick.. I don't think I'll be able to eat my special sandwich.

Matilda: Ham?

Cathie: No-ah, Pickles and Jam. Ha ha ha ha .

THE TAX MAN COMETH

This is an interactive story, the children / congregation need to shout “HOORAY!” and throw their hands up when say JESUS they need to “BOO!” when you say taxes and they need to make fish fins and a fish face when you say fish which is in pink. You think this will be distracting, but people listen VERY closely for their bit! Make sure you give them a chance to do their bit and have one person leading them in the actions... you should just read.

Rehearsal...Hooray and BOO..... Happy (hooray in yellow) and boo in green, FISH in pink (make fish fins with your hands and fish lips)

And begin.....

When Jesus and His friends came to a town called Capernaum a collector of taxes asked Peter if Jesus was going to pay the temple taxes. People collected taxes for the king to have money to build buildings or make roads.

Peter told the man that Jesus would pay the taxes. He knew that he must tell Jesus that the taxes was due.

When Peter came into the room, Jesus already knew what was on his mind. Jesus asked Peter a question, “Do kings get taxes money from their sons, or from others?” Peter answered, “From others.” He knew that a king would make sure his own family did not have to pay taxes.

Jesus said, “You’re right. The king’s family would never have to pay taxes.” Jesus said this because He was trying to help Peter see that He was God’s son. He was the King’s Son. He should not have had to pay taxes because of who He was.

Jesus did a strange thing—He told Peter to pay the taxes anyway. Why? So that they would not be upset and also to keep a promise.

Jesus knew that some people did not understand who He was. They would be upset if He didn’t pay the taxes—especially because He always talked about following God and doing what He said. This act helped them see that He kept His promise and He cared for them.

Well, Jesus did not have any money. So what would they do? This is what Jesus told Peter to do. He told Peter to go to the lake and throw out a line to catch FISH. When he caught the first FISH, he was to open its mouth. There would be a surprise inside. It would be a coin that would pay all the taxes—both Peter’s and Jesus’ taxes.

Peter did what Jesus said. Sure enough, there was a coin in the FISH. It was enough to pay for both of their taxes. Jesus cared about Peter too!

- end interaction -

(Thank the children / congregation for their help, and the person leading the actions sits down. This way they know that their interaction is over and you can just talk.

There are several things in this short story that help us learn more about Jesus. First, Jesus was not rich. In fact, He probably didn't even have the money for the taxes. Peter had to FISH for it. Second, He kept His word (promise) and paid His taxes. Third, Jesus helped Peter learn a lesson on faith and trust—He had to believe Jesus and FISH for the coin. Fourth, Jesus told Peter that He was the King's Son. He helped His friends see that He was God's son.

Jesus kept another promise too. God told us long ago that He would make a way for all people to go to Heaven. God planned a special way that would not be easy. He knew that the only way for people to come to Heaven would be if someone took their punishment for them, cleaning all the dirt from their lives. Jesus did that! He died for all the bad things we have done. Bad things are ANY thing bad/wrong that we do or even think! That means that every person in the whole world has done wrong.

Is there any hope for all of us? Yes! Jesus didn't just stay dead. He came back to life. This means that if we believe in Him and follow Him, our bad things are buried/gone, and now we want to live a new life with Jesus. We don't want to do wrong things again and if we do, He will forgive us. If you want to know how you can follow Jesus, talk to me or Susan or one of your leaders.

Lion Down on the Job

DANIEL IN POETRY

Ask another leader to help you. She may wear a lion mask if she wants. Her actions are written in brackets and italics, and highlighted in yellow. Do not be afraid to *roam* into the congregation or you could have two lions interacting with each other.

There could be more actions, allow her to ad lib.

I'm a hungry lion (*kneel down on all fours*)
Big and fierce (*rear up with arms out and claw at the air*)
I have a fluffy mane (*stroke hair*)
And little small ears (*flap hands by head to signal flapping ear*)
I am a carnivore - That means I eat meat (*pretend to bite a child or someone in the congregation or the other lion*)
The animals run away from me (*roar and scare them*)
But I catch them with my feet! (*catch a child around the waist with hands*)

My friends and I were hungry (*rub tummy*)
We lived in a pit:
The poor little lions
Who never got fed! (*make sad face*)
Then they threw down a man (*push the air*)
And we thought "YAY! Fresh meat!" (*make happy face*)
But the Lord closed our mouths (*cover mouth with hand*)
And we just couldn't eat! (*keep mouth covered / make shocked face*)
We snuggled down next to him (*lie down with children or the other lion*)
And he went straight to sleep (*close eyes*)
This man had no fear
Of our mighty sharp teeth! (*bare teeth*)

Then came the king
Who called "Daniel, are you okay?"
And the man began to sing:
"I'm fine! It's another day!"
The king he was glad (*make happy face*)
And so were we
Cause then he got mad (*make angry face*)
And threw down meat! (*push the air*)

120 servants (*pretend to eat the children*)
That makes a great feast (*continue with above action*)
Daniel went free
But we still got to eat! (*make om nom nom noises*)
So thank the Lord
For His reward
We couldn't eat one man
But we ate a whole horde! (*pretend to eat the children again*)

Now the king said to the people

This God you must follow *(point upwards)*
He knows what He's doing -
His promises aren't hollow!
He's the Lord who feeds lions
And the God who cares for us
He's the Lord of justice *(shake finger)*
And the God of love *(cross heart with hands)*
The circus has a ringmaster – He has a circus to lead
And God leads us when His Word we read *(read)*
The Ringmaster knows what's best for his circus family
And God knows what's best for you and me.
So follow this God -
You'll never go wrong *(shake head)*
Read the Bible and pray *(bring hands together in 'book' and pray)*
And praise Him with a song *(cup mouth)*

Would you Like Fries With That?

Daniel 6

King Darius's rule held mighty sway
And it's still famous to this day;
He needed help to justly run
The lands he had by conquest won

So Darius made some presidents
Appointed three distinguished gents;
But Daniel out of all the rest
Darius liked the very best

Seeing what the king had done
By making Daniel number one;
The presidents and all their crew
Hated they were number two

So, jealous they continued on
To find a way to make him gone
At last the only flaw they saw
Was his adherence to the law

Now this law that they had in mind
Was not the law of human kind;
For Daniel worshipped God above
God of justice, peace and love

The presidents and all their ilk
Went in to Darius, smooth a silk
"All of us with one voice plead
That you will this petition read"

"O mighty king, there is no need
For anyone to others plead;
No need of gods, or even us
But just the mighty Darius"

"So if you sign this new decree
All complaints will come to thee;
For thirty days your stature will
Be greater with this newest bill"

So Darius signed, but never knew
That Daniel did not have a clue
Of what these wicked men intended:
Daniel's life would soon be ended

Now Darius knew that Daniel's day
Included not just work but pray;
So suddenly he saw the trap

If Daniel prayed he'd take the rap

"According to the new decree
All petitions come to me;
Daniel's done. And this I rue
There's really nothing I can do".

He knew, as did the wicked band
A king's decree just has to stand;
When Daniel prayed, they clearly saw
That he had up and broke the law

To break the law they thought it fair
To dine with lions in their lair;
Then Darius spoke and said "I pray
Your God will rescue you this day"

They then threw Daniel in the den
And quickly sealed it up again;
They all looked forward to the sight
That they would find in morning light

But Darius prayed throughout the night
And did not sleep; he thought "I might
For Daniel pray that his God too
Will find some help that He can do"

'Twas early in the morning when
They gathered at the lions' den;
And Darius said, "Hey Daniel, say
If you are still alive, OK?"

"Did God whom you still venerate
Save you from this awful fate?
Then came a voice, was hard to hear,
"My God has saved me, have no fear"

The King was glad, was heard to say
"Just roll that doorway stone away
And let poor Daniel come on out;
For he's not hurt, we have no doubt"

"But now round up those wicked men
And bring them to the lions' den;
Their wives and children, throw them in
Small punishment for all their sin

Then Darius made a new decree
And posted it for all to see;
"That from this day we worship Him
Who saved our Daniel's life and limb.

I'M TOTALLY PHAT

I rap Christian and I'm on a mission
To tell y'all 'bout God now don't you go dissin'
It's God you need cos He made you and me
The choice is yours – love God and be free
Werd up guys now listen to me
God made me a-maz-ing-ly
I'm saying lyrics that be worthwhile
Cos I got class and I got style
Yo! God made me don't you know that?
My head, hands and feet are totally phat
I'm super special tight down to the bone
Every gene and chromosome
Just look at me I'm fully sick
I'm alive and it's fan-tast-ic
Peace out dude it's a rap not a jive
I'm special to God and I'm alive.

MY KITCHEN RULES

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Summary

Come and enjoying cooking with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Take a journey with television's latest celebrity chefs from within the fiery furnace. Learn how to cook and fire a pot at the same time, and other important culinary skills.

Scripture

Daniel Ch. 3

Characters

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Script

(The three actors are on the stage with chef hats and aprons on and a counter nearby.) You can have the script typed out in **BIG FONT** and put on the table where the audience / congregation cannot see it, but the actors can, so you don't have to learn so much.

Shadrach: Welcome to cooking with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Meshach: We are so glad you could all join us here today on location in sunny Babylon. We have something extra special designed for you today.

Abednego: BBQ cookery.

Shadrach: Now with BBQ cooking, as with all outdoor cooking, the heat is very important

Meshach: You want to get everything nice and hot. We always like to check the furnace temperature from within, but you might not want to try this method at home.

Abednego: Traditionally when you think of cooking on an open fire you are limited, as you use the ember and remaining coals rather than the blistering flames.

Meshach: But with King Nebuchadnezzar's ingenuity and assistance...

Shadrach: Friendly as it is...

Abednego: And with the assistance of our Saviour, anything is possible.

Shadrach: Today we are going to do a dish not normally associated with BBQ cooking...

Meshach: But a dish that should be added to everyone's menu...

Abednego: A hot pot.

Shadrach: One pot cooking is easy and never fails to impress.

Meshach: It also limits the washing up.

Abednego: Since we find ourselves today in this lovely furnace we thought that we might begin this demonstration by making our very own pot.

Meshach: It is always easier making a hot-pot in a freshly fired pot.

Shadrach: With the tenderest lamb you have ever tasted.

Abednego: Now to fire a good clean pot you need to kiln it at above 1100°C...

Meshach: ...but since we have the heat...

Shadrach: Artwork!!

Abednego: Adding a glaze will make the pot aesthetically pleasing...

Meshach: As well as providing a great sealer on the ceramic.

Abednego: When you are making a pot, remember to try and keep the air out of the gaps, otherwise when it gets hot the air will expand and the clay will break, and in later years will become a headache for Archaeologists.

Shadrach: Please remember this at home, because a pot can actually explode if it is not built correctly, and that can be very dangerous.

Meshach: Especially if you are IN the kiln when it explodes.

Abednego: Now, since we have limited time, here is a pot that Shadrach fired earlier this morning. *(Pulls out ornately designed pot from behind the counter.)* Here is one I prepared earlier.

Shadrach: We don't recommend always holding a freshly kilned pot or baking a hot pot while holding onto your pot. Please use a pot mitt.

Meshach: Definitely not. If this is your first hot-pot you might want to keep a safe distance.

Abednego: Unless you also have King Neb's unwanted assistance.

Shadrach: Kings like to push us to do our very best.

Meshach: I guess that is why he has taken over so much of the world.

Abednego: No faith though.

Meshach: Not very many manners either, all he has done all morning is stare.

Shadrach: I guess not every cooking show is brought to you from within an oven.

Abednego: True.

Meshach: I don't know if many chef shows can get Jesus as a special guest either.

Abednego: I didn't think of that. That is probably the reason. Back to the show.

Shadrach: The trick to a hot pot is not getting it too hot.
Meshach: Which can be difficult in a raging inferno seven times hotter than normal.

Abednego: But not impossible.

Meshach: Oh no, not impossible.

Shadrach: Faith, my friends.

Abednego: To make life a little easier, place on a lower heat for a longer time.

Meshach: All we do is place all our meat and vegies into the pot...

Abednego: Add a little water...

Meshach: And some stock.

Shadrach: Stir every few minutes and add a few herbs for flavour.

Abednego: And voila! Dinner for three.

Meshach: Now, if you are a bachelor trying to impress a young lady, it is probably a good idea at this time to get some bowls...

Shadrach: And garnish with a dash of cream and a sprig of parsley.

Abednego: But if you are just watching the footy with your mates, grab three spoons, dig in and save on dishes.

Meshach: That is all we have time for this week.

Shadrach: Our flames are dying down and it's time to go.

Abednego: Thanks for joining us on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the cooking show for believers, and we hope you can join us next week at the same time...

Meshach: When we will be coming to you live downtown Galilee

Shadrach: Where we will be covering the story of how to feed five thousand with only one lunch box full of food.

Abednego: Can't wait, it is sure to impress.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: Goodbye (all wave and walk off).