

BIBLE DRAMAS FOR HOME, CHURCH, AND SCHOOL

Robert A. Allen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**The Truthful Prophet
The Two Sons
Meeting Christ
A Gift to God
Someone's At the Door
The End of Samson
The House on the Sand went Smash
Absalom's Folly
No Help Needed
The Stoning of Stephen
Just a Cup of Water
God Cares for the Widow
Joseph's Kind Words
Lot's Failure
Rabshakeh's Answer
Jairus' Daughter
Zacchaeus
The Lost Sheep
The Lost Son
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

NOTE: Permission is granted to make multiple copies for use by families, churches, and schools. These scripts will be useful for family devotions, Christian school Bible classes, and Sunday school classes.

THE TRUTHFUL PROPHET

II Chronicles 18:4-34

Cast of Characters

Narrator
King Ahab
First Prophet
Second Prophet
Micaiah

NARRATOR: In the days when Ahab was the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah, a strange thing happened. Usually, these two nations had nothing to do with each other, because Judah still worshipped God and Israel worshipped Baal. But on this particular occasion they decided to work together against their common enemy the king of Syria. King Ahab was very glad about the help, and in honor of the occasion he gathered four hundred of his false prophets together to tell him how wonderful the victory would be.

KING AHAB: Now, don't all speak at once. Shall we go up to Ramoth-Gilead to fight the king of Syria, or shall we not go up?

FIRST PROPHET: Go up! For God will deliver them into your hand.

NARRATOR: Well, that satisfied King Ahab, because that was what he wanted to hear. But King Jehoshaphat asked if there wasn't a prophet of God who could be consulted along with all the prophets of Baal.

KING AHAB: There is one, a man by the name of Micaiah. But I hate him. He never prophesies anything good about me. He always prophesies evil. I can't stand him. But if you insist, I will send for him. You'll see. He never says anything good.

NARRATOR: When Micaiah came, all four hundred of the false prophets were standing around the throne prophesying.

FIRST PROPHET: Go up! For the Lord will deliver them into your hand.

SECOND PROPHET: We have heard from the Lord. Go up! All will be well.

NARRATOR: When the prophets gathered around the throne saw Micaiah coming, they knew who he was. So, one of them decided to give Micaiah a warning.

SECOND PROPHET: All the other prophets have been saying good things to King Ahab, Micaiah. They have been telling Ahab and Jehoshaphat to go up to Ramoth-Gilead because the Lord is going to deliver the enemy into their hands. You had better say good things too if you know what is good for you.

MICAIAH: I will say whatever God tells me to say.

NARRATOR: When the prophet Micaiah came up to the throne, King Ahab asked him the same question he had asked all the other prophets.

KING AHAB: Shall we go up to Ramoth-Gilead to fight with the people of Syria, or shall we stay here?

MICAIAH: (Sarcastically) Oh, by all means go up. For they will be delivered into your hand just like all your prophets told you.

NARRATOR: Now, that was what the king wanted to hear. But the answer made him mad. He knew that Micaiah was just mocking the four hundred men who had already prophesied.

KING AHAB: How many times have I told you that you should speak nothing but the truth to me in the name of the Lord?

MICAIAH: All right! I see all of the men of Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep not having a shepherd. And I hear the Lord saying, "These men have no master, let them return every man to his house in peace."

KING AHAB: See what I told you, Jehoshaphat? Didn't I tell you that he would prophesy evil to me and not good?

NARRATOR: But the prophet of God was not yet finished. He went right on with his prophecy.

MICAIAH: Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne and one came before him and said, “I will entice the king of Israel into battle. I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets.” And the Lord sent him forth to cause thy prophets to speak evil against thee. You will not prosper but will die in battle.

NARRATOR: Well, that didn’t make King Ahab or his prophets very happy. But they weren’t about to listen to a prophet of God. So, before the kings went out to the battlefield, Ahab suggested a plan of action to King Jehoshaphat.

KING AHAB: When we go into battle, I’ll disguise myself as a common soldier. But you wear your kingly robes. Then they won’t know that I’m a king and Micaiah’s prophecy can’t come true.

NARRATOR: That was really brave, wasn’t it? But that’s what they did. In the meantime, God caused the king of Syria to give instructions to his army to kill only one person, the king of Israel. And of course they couldn’t find him. So finally, one of the Syrian soldiers just let an arrow fly into the air, and God directed that arrow right to the place where Ahab was trying to hide. The arrow hit only him.

KING AHAB: Turn this chariot around. I’ve been wounded. Take me back to my castle.

NARRATOR: But before they could get back to his castle, King Ahab was dead. The words of the truthful prophet Micaiah were indeed from God. But King Ahab chose to ignore them and it cost him his life.

THE TWO SONS

Matthew 21:28-32

Cast of Characters

Mrs. Clark (Narrator)
Wendy Clark
Father of the Two Sons
First Son
Second Son

MRS. CLARK: Wendy, why isn't your bed made yet? And your room is a mess. I thought I asked you to clean it up?

WENDY: I said I would, Mother. I just haven't gotten around to it yet.

MRS. CLARK: I know you promised to do it. But just making a promise isn't enough. You haven't really obeyed until the job is done. That is what Jesus was trying to teach us when he told the story about the man who had two sons who were supposed to work for him.

WENDY: Did they refuse to make their beds?

MRS. CLARK: No, I don't suppose they even had beds in those days. They probably just slept on a mat thrown on the floor.

WENDY: That would be neat. Then I wouldn't have to make my bed every morning.

MRS. CLARK: And they probably shared the floor with the sheep and goats and mice.

WENDY: Ugh! I'll take my bed, even if I do have to make it.

MRS. CLARK: Anyway, the father of these two boys came to both of them one day and told them exactly what he wanted them to do.

FATHER: Sons, there's some work that needs to be done out in the vineyard today. The grapes are ripe and the harvest is upon us. We need everyone to help harvest the crops before the weather changes, and before the birds carry away all our profit. I want you to go to work in the vineyard today.

FIRST SON: But Father, school has started, remember? I have studies to do, and there's a game over at the park this afternoon. I shouldn't have to work in the vineyard after I've been cooped up in the classroom all week. I'm not going! You can just find someone else.

FATHER: But Son, we need everyone to help.

FIRST SON: Not me. Sorry. I'm busy.

FATHER: How about you, Son? The grapes are ripe and we need help in the vineyard. Will you go and work today?

SECOND SON: Sure, Dad. I'll go. Be right there.

MRS. CLARK: That's what they said. So, what do you think of the two boys now?

WENDY: I think that if I talked to Dad the way the first boy did, I'd probably get punished.

MRS. CLARK: You probably would. But which of the two boys would you say was obedient to the father?

WENDY: Why, the second one, of course. He agreed right away to go and do the work.

MRS. CLARK: You're right. He agreed to do the work, and that was good. But the story didn't end there. Right after his father left him, the first son started thinking about what he had said.

FIRST SON: Wow! That wasn't a very smart thing to do. Here my father asks me to work in the vineyard and I give him a smart answer like that. I should be ashamed of myself. In fact, I am ashamed of myself. I'm going to get my work clothes on and head out there to the vineyard and get to work. Maybe father will forgive me for the way I talked to him if he sees that I'm working hard at what he asked me to do.

MRS. CLARK: So, the first son headed out to the vineyard expecting to see his brother already at work, harvesting grapes. But his brother wasn't there.

FATHER: Hello, Son. I thought you were too busy to come and help us today.

FIRST SON: Please forgive me, Father. I shouldn't have spoken to you the way I did. I've come out to work just like you asked me to. But where is my brother? I thought I heard him say he would be right out?

FATHER: You did. But I haven't seen him yet. Something must have detained him. I certainly am glad to see you here, and I certainly will forgive you. I know you've spent all week in school and this is your only day off, but we really need the help. Thank you for coming.

MRS. CLARK: The father and son worked side by side all through the day, and by nightfall the work was done. But the other brother never showed up. Now what do you think about the two boys?

WENDY: I see what you mean. It's one thing to say you're going to do something, and it's something else to go and do it immediately. I guess the first son was the best one after all.

MRS. CLARK: There's another important lesson Jesus wanted to teach us with that story also. When He finished the story, he asked those who were listening to tell Him which son had done the will of the father, and their answer was the same as yours. Then He said that sinners would go into the kingdom of God before some religious people because they believed in Him, but the others, even when they had seen Him, did not repent and believe.

WENDY: Does that mean that those sinners were like the first son?

MRS. CLARK;

Yes, they did terrible things, but they repented of their sin and He forgave them. It was the religious people who were like the second son. They claimed to be obeying God, but actually they were refusing to believe in Christ, the one God had sent. They were saying good things, but they were disobedient in their actions.

WENDY:

And Jesus loved the sinners best?

MRS. CLARK:

He loved both of them, just like the father in the story loved both of his sons. But he rewarded the one who learned the lesson of obedience. Say, where are you going?

WENDY:

To my room. I have some work to do—in the vineyard.

MEETING CHRIST

John 1:45-50

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Philip
Nathanael
Jesus

NARRATOR: Philip had a problem. Just that day he had met Jesus, and that was wonderful. But he still had a problem. He had heard about Jesus from his neighbors, James and John, and Jesus had invited Philip to follow Him, to become one of His disciples. That was where the problem came in. He wanted all his friends to meet Christ as well, especially Nathanael. But Nathanael was a hard man to convince. They had often argued, and Philip had never won. How was he going to convince him concerning Jesus? By the time he found him under a fig tree, Philip had decided that the best approach was simply to come right out and tell Nathanael what had happened when he met Jesus.

PHILIP: Nathanael! I've found Him!

NATHANAEL: Who have you found? What are you talking about? I didn't know anyone was lost?

PHILIP: I found the One Moses was talking about.

NATHANAEL: Moses talked about a lot of people. And they're all dead. How could you have found one of them?

PHILIP: He's the One all the prophets talked about.

NATHANAEL: What are you talking about?

PHILIP: It's the Messiah.

NATHANAEL: You mean the prophet who Moses said God would raise up from among the people, like unto him, and would put His own words in His mouth?

PHILIP: That's the One.

NATHANAEL: Well, who is He? Are you going to tell me, or aren't you?

PHILIP: His name is Jesus.

NATHANAEL: Jesus?

PHILIP: Yes, Jesus of Nazareth.

NATHANAEL: Nazareth? Did you say Nazareth? Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? You must be kidding.

PHILIP: Come and see for yourself.

NARRATOR: Well, that was the best answer Philip could have given. He knew there was no way he could convince Nathanael that Jesus was really the Messiah. Nathanael needed to come to Christ and settle that question for himself. So, the two of them headed back into town to where Jesus had been when he told Philip to follow Him. As they traveled, Philip kept talking about this wonderful man he had met. He was so anxious for Nathanael to believe in Him so they could serve Him together.

PHILIP: John the Baptist says that He is the Son of God.

NATHANAEL: I never put much stock in what John the Baptist says. There he is, down there in the wilderness, living in ragged clothes and eating locusts and honey. What would he know about the Son of God?

PHILIP: Andrew and Simon have already decided to become disciples.

NATHANAEL: The fishermen? Are they going to leave their nets to follow Him? They are probably just trying to get out of work. It won't last long. Simon is always jumping with both feet into something new and then trying to get out of it the next day.

PHILIP: He's a wonderful teacher.

NATHANAEL: So are some of the Rabbis. But I wouldn't give a penny for anything else about them. He'll have to be more than just a good teacher to convince me.

NARRATOR: Philip was really getting worried by this time. Maybe he had made a mistake in bringing Nathanael to see Jesus. Maybe Nathanael would just make fun of him, and of Jesus too. It was so hard to convince Nathanael of anything. Finally, the two men arrived at the spot where Philip had left Jesus, and sure enough, He was still there. It was almost as if He had been waiting for them. In fact, He saw them coming, and before Philip could even open his mouth to introduce his friend, Jesus called out to them.

JESUS: Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.

NARRATOR: Nathanael blinked. That was a perfect description of him. Someone else must have told Jesus about him.

NATHANAEL: How do you know me? Where have you met me before?

JESUS: Before Philip called you, when you were sitting there under the fig tree, I saw you.

NARRATOR: Nathanael couldn't believe his ears. That was impossible! There was no way Jesus could have seen him under the fig tree. Jesus had been in town when Philip found him. There was only one way Jesus could have seen him under the fig tree, and that was if He really was the Son of God and knew all things. All of Philip's arguments had failed, but one simple statement from Jesus was enough to convince Nathanael.

NATHANAEL: Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.

JESUS: Do you believe in Me because I said I saw you under the fig tree? As you follow Me you will see much greater things than that.

NARRATOR: Philip was thrilled. For the second time that day he had seen the power of Jesus to change lives. First, he had become a disciple, and now Nathanael. Right then Philip determined to bring everyone he possibly could to meet Jesus. And he kept that promise. From that day forward, every time the Bible talks about Philip he is bringing someone to meet Christ. He had learned that Jesus was the answer to his problem.

A GIFT TO GOD

I Samuel 1:1-28

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Eli
Hannah
Samuel

NARRATOR: Shofar trumpets rang out to call the people in the Tabernacle to the morning sacrifice. Eli, the priest, sat on a bench near the posts that held the curtains separating the courtyard from the Holy Place where only the priests could enter. It was a feast day, and people from all over the land had come to Shiloh to worship. Eli was just about ready to push himself to his feet and go in to preside at the brazen altar when he noticed a woman over near one side of the Tabernacle. She looked like she was talking to someone, but there was no one nearby to hear her.

ELI: My good woman, have you been drinking wine so early in the day? Are you drunk? Why are you talking to someone who isn't here? It would be better for you and your family if you would not do this.

HANNAH: But sir, I have not been drinking anything. I have been praying, pouring out my spirit before the Lord. I have a great sorrow which I have been asking Him to meet.

ELI: I do believe you are telling me the truth. What is this great sorrow? And why is it that you are weeping while you pray?

HANNAH: Oh, sir. I am married to a wonderful husband. We have been married for many years, but still we have no children. He has another wife who has many children, and she makes fun of me because I have none. I want to have a child, sir. I want a child more

than anything else in the entire world. And sir, if God will give me a child, I have promised Him that I will give that child back to Him. I will give him to the Lord to serve Him all of his life. And that is why I have been crying and praying. Do you think God will give me a child?

ELI: I believe He will, good woman. In fact, I will join with you in prayer and ask God that He might give you this request, this child that you have been praying for.

NARRATOR: Eli kept his promise. Many times, as he went about his business in the Tabernacle, he remembered the woman whose name was Hannah. And he prayed that God would answer her prayer and give her a son. In fact, he was so sure that God would answer her prayer that he looked for Hannah the next year during the feast. He expected her to come back with a little baby in her arms and show him God's answer. But Hannah didn't come back the next year.

Two more years went by, and Eli almost forgot about Hannah and her prayer. There were so many people who came to the Tabernacle and so many requests. But God had not forgotten Hannah. One day, as Eli was sitting on his bench, he looked up into the face of a woman who looked strangely familiar. Standing next to her was a small lad about three years old.

HANNAH: Greetings, sir. Do you remember me?

ELI: I know I should. Have you been here to the Tabernacle before?

HANNAH: Yes, I have. I'm the woman who stood right over there and prayed. Don't you remember? You told me that you would pray with me, and God answered our prayer. This is the child I prayed for, and God has given him to me.

ELI: That's wonderful! I'm so happy for you. And I'm so happy that you have brought the boy to meet me. I wondered about you when I didn't see you for so long.

HANNAH: I suppose you did. I could have come sooner, perhaps. But I wanted to wait until the lad was old enough to come and stay here with you.

ELI: To what? Did you say something about the boy staying here with me?

HANNAH: Certainly. Don't you remember? I promised the Lord that if He would give me a child, I would give him back to the Lord for a lifetime of service. Isn't the Tabernacle the place to serve God?

ELI: Well, yes... but...

HANNAH: Then it's settled. I'll come back to see him every year, and I'll bring new clothes for him as he's sure to grow every year. And a new coat. But he will be my gift to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.

NARRATOR: Eli couldn't believe his ears! He remembered now the promise Hannah had made, but he hadn't thought she would bring the boy here. What was he going to do with a three-year-old boy in the Tabernacle? But it was too late to ask Hannah about that. Confident that she had done the right thing, Hannah was already on her way home, happy that she had given her most precious possession to God. Slowly, Eli lowered his gaze to the small lad standing in front of him.

ELI: Can you talk, my child?

SAMUEL: Yes, sir.

ELI: And what is your name?

SAMUEL: Samuel, sir.

ELI: Samuel. Well, it's an appropriate name. "Asked of God." I guess when God gives you a gift, you just find some way to use it. What can you do, my child?

SAMUEL: I can pray, sir.

ELI: And pray you shall. I'll tell my wife to find a place for you to stay. My boys are all grown now. You can come here to the Tabernacle every day with me and pray. Who knows what God might do with a lad who prays every day from the time he's three.

NARRATOR: Eli settled back on the bench and watched the people move by with their sacrifices. Samuel stood by him and watched, too. The lines of people with sheep and doves and bullocks never seemed to end. Everyone was bringing their gift to God. As they watched, the old man and the young boy together, Eli reached out a rough hand and tousled the boy's hair.

ELI: You're just like one of those sheep, my lad. A sacrifice, a gift to God. But then again, you're even better. Those sheep will die later today. But you will live to serve God for many a year. I think that God must be happy to have you as His living sacrifice.

SAMUEL: I think so, too.

SOMEONE’S AT THE DOOR

Acts 12:12-17

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Rhoda
Samuel
Rhoda’s Mother
Peter
Sarah
Benjamin

SOUND EFFECTS: Knocking

RHODA: Just a minute! I’m coming!

NARRATOR: Rhoda ran quickly from the inner court to the front door where she thought that another family was gathered waiting for someone to let them in. Carefully she peered through the narrow slit next to the door. So far everyone who had knocked on the door had been a friend, but it was important to be careful. If the soldiers found out about their prayer meeting, they might come and break it up. Outside the door Rhoda could see her friend Samuel standing with his parents. Quickly she pulled the latch and opened the door wide.

RHODA: Hello, Sarah and Benjamin. Hello, Samuel. Come on in. Everyone is gathered in the inner courtroom.

NARRATOR: Benjamin and Sarah nodded without answering and moved off into the house. But Samuel stayed behind.

SAMUEL: It’s Peter, isn’t it?

RHODA: Yes, Samuel. He's in prison. Herod put him there for preaching about Jesus.

SAMUEL: What are they going to do to him?

RHODA: Well, I heard Father say that Herod has already announced the sentence. Tomorrow morning they're going to take him out of prison and kill him.

SAMUEL: They can't do that!

RHODA: Yes, they can, Samuel. The Romans run our country. Remember what they did to Jesus?

SAMUEL: But there must be something we can do.

RHODA: All we can do is pray. That's why everyone came here tonight. We're going to pray all night if we need to. Only God can help Peter now.

NARRATOR: As Rhoda and Samuel came into the inner court, they noticed that the Christians had divided into two groups. The men were standing on the far side of the room with their eyes open and their hands lifted toward heaven, pleading with God to save Peter from certain death. The women were seated in a tightly knit group on the other side of the room, heads bowed and eyes closed, but just as fervently pleading for the life of the great apostle. Samuel moved off to join the men, and Rhoda knelt on the floor next to her mother just as the older woman started to pray.

MOTHER: Dear God, you know how much Peter has done for Christ since the resurrection. So many people here in Jerusalem have come to know You because of his preaching. And now, King Herod has put him in prison and says he is going to kill him. Please, God, do not let them kill Peter.

NARRATOR: While this prayer meeting was taking place in Rhoda's home, Peter was sound asleep. There were chains on his ankles and wrists. There was a soldier standing next to him on the left and another soldier on his right. The cell door was locked with a big padlock, and two more soldiers were standing outside on guard. There was no way Peter could do anything else, so he decided to get some sleep. Suddenly, a bright light shone in his eyes. He tried to cover them with his hand, but his hand was chained down. So instead, he just turned his head away and tried to go back to sleep. But whoever was shining the light in his face wouldn't let him sleep.

Someone started touching him on his side and saying, “Get up, Peter. Arise up quickly.”

PETER: But I can’t! I’m chained down to these soldiers. And even if I could, there would be the cell door and the guards outside, and then there is a huge door at the entrance to the prison. What do you mean, get up?

NARRATOR: But whoever was shining the light kept shaking him. Finally, he turned around and opened one eye. There was an angel! He was as bright as sunlight and stood right in front of the soldiers. Quickly, Peter sat up, and as he did the chains fell off his wrists. Then he stood up, and as he did, the chains fell off his ankles. The angel motioned to him to follow, and the two of them walked right out of the cell through the door, which was now somehow open. The two guards outside the cell were just like the two inside. They stood there and looked right at the angel, but they acted like they weren’t seeing a thing. No one even tried to stop them as Peter and the angel walked down the long hall toward the front gate. As they came up to the iron gate, Peter stopped. He didn’t see how they would ever get through that gate, but the angel just kept on walking. The gate swung back on its hinges and opened as if an invisible hand was moving it. Peter knew he was dreaming then, but he followed the angel out through the gate and into the street. Suddenly he realized that it wasn’t a dream at all. The angel of the Lord had really come to rescue him from prison! He turned to say thank you, but the street was empty. The angel was gone! Peter was so excited about his rescue that he decided to go straight over to Rhoda’s house. He had heard that Christians were praying for him, and he wanted them to be the first to know that their prayers had been answered. Rhoda still sat with the others in the inner courtyard praying when the knock came on the door.

SOUND EFFECTS: Three knocks.

NARRATOR: Quickly Rhoda rose to her feet and ran to the door just as she had done to let all the others in. Her first thought was that someone was arriving very late for the prayer meeting. And her second thought was one that sent cold chills up and down her spine...soldiers! She peered through the crack, but it was dark outside and hard to see.

RHODA: Who’s there?

PETER: It’s me, Simon Peter. Let me in, Rhoda.

NARRATOR: Rhoda could not believe her ears. But she would have known that voice anywhere. It really was Simon Peter! He was really out of prison and was standing at the door. Their prayers had been answered! Rhoda was so excited that she forgot to unlatch the door and let Peter in. Instead, she raced back down the hall to the inner court, yelling as she ran.

RHODA: It happened! Our prayers have been answered. Peter is free! He's standing out front at the gate!

MOTHER: You must be mistaken, Rhoda.

SAMUEL: She's mad!

SARAH: That's for sure!

BENJAMIN: He can't be free!

RHODA: But he is! He's at the door, I tell you!

BENJAMIN: It can't be Peter.

MOTHER: It must be his angel. Herod must have killed him early, and now his angel has come.

RHODA: It's really Peter. Listen, he's still knocking.

SOUND EFFECTS: Knocking

SAMUEL: Well, why doesn't someone let him in?

MOTHER: That's a good idea. Rhoda, let him in. Then we will know if it's really Peter.

NARRATOR: So, all the Christians crowded into the hallway while Rhoda undid the latch and opened the door. Sure enough, there was Peter, waiting to come in.

MOTHER: Simon Peter! How did you get here? We thought you were in prison.

PETER: I was. If you'll let me in, I'll tell you all about it.

NARRATOR: All the people moved aside and then followed Peter as he made his way back to the inner court. When everyone was in and quiet, he told his story.

PETER: I was sleeping tonight between two soldiers when suddenly I was awakened by an angel. I thought I was dreaming when he led me out of the cell and down the prison hallway. And then the big iron gate opened without anyone touching it, and before I knew it, we were out on the street. It was only then that I realized I was not dreaming. God had sent His angel and had delivered me from the hand of Herod. Won't he be surprised when he comes to kill me tomorrow and finds that God has set me free?

MOTHER: I guess we didn't have much faith. God rescued Peter from prison just like we asked Him to, and then we didn't even believe it was Peter. I think we ought to pray again, and this time thank God for answering our prayers.

NARRATOR: And that is just what they did.

THE END OF SAMSON

Judges 16:4-30

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Delilah
Samson
Young Lad

NARRATOR: The sun streamed through the window and warmed Samson as he stretched out on the couch. He was so comfortable. On the floor next to him sat a large bowl of cherries and grapes and figs. Next to that was a pitcher of ice-cold spring water, the best water in all the land of the Philistines. And best of all, cradling his head in her lap, was one of the most beautiful women he had ever seen. Her name was Delilah.

DELILAH: Would you like some more grapes, Samson? Is there anything else the servants can get for you? Are you completely comfortable?

SAMSON: Yes, completely. There is nothing more a man could possibly want.

NARRATOR: Yes, Samson was comfortable. But he was not where God wanted him to be. God had chosen him to be one of the judges who ruled the people of Israel. He had called him to be a special man, a Nazarite, and had told him not to drink wine or touch a dead body, and not to cut his hair. As an Israelite, he was supposed to marry a woman who believed in God, but instead he visited in the country of the Philistines with a woman who worshipped idols. Samson had left God's way for his life, and his punishment was approaching rapidly.

DELILAH: Samson, you are so strong. Why, you can carry the gates of the city on your shoulders. You can kill a lion with your bare hands. Please tell me where your strength comes from. If one of your enemies wanted to bind you, how could they do it? You can tell me. You know you don't have any enemies in this house.

SAMSON: All right, I'll tell you. If you take seven grape vines that are still green, that have not dried up, and bind me with them, all my strength will disappear.

DELILAH: Oh, thank you for telling me, Samson. Now I know that you really love me. How about some more cherries and grapes?

NARRATOR: Samson had eaten so much that soon he fell asleep. When Delilah saw that he was asleep, she sent a servant out for seven grape vines and had them tie him up as he slept. Then she started poking him in the side.

DELILAH: Samson! Wake up! The Philistines are attacking you.

NARRATOR: Samson jumped up and broke the vines from off his hands as if they were thread. But when he looked around, no Philistines could be seen.

DELILAH: Oh, Samson. You lied to me. You didn't tell me where your strength comes from at all. How could you do that? You just have to tell me now, or I'll never believe that you love me.

SAMSON: Oh, all right. If you tie me up in new ropes that have never been used before, then I'll be weak.

NARRATOR: Samson still didn't catch on that Delilah was trying to trick him, and so he fell asleep again. This time, she had the servants tie him with new rope. Then she poked at him again.

DELILAH: Samson, wake up! The Philistines are upon you!

NARRATOR: Quickly Samson jumped to his feet and raised his arms to fight. The ropes broke away as if they had never been tied. Before Samson could question Delilah about the ropes, she started in on him again.

DELILAH: Oh, you don't love me at all. You lied to me two times. You must tell me where you get your strength. You must tell me, or I'll cry!

SAMSON: All right. All right. Don't cry. Here's what you could do if you wanted to take away my strength. Weave my hair into seven locks and tie it into a web. Then I'll be weak.

NARRATOR: You would think Samson would have caught on by then. But he still believed Delilah loved him and was just playing around. So, he went to sleep again and sure enough, she tried the new plan. But of course, it didn't work any better than the others. Delilah still didn't give up, though. She knew Samson was weakening.

DELILAH: Oh, Samson. How can you lie to me like this? You've lied three times. How can you say you love me? You would make me the happiest woman in the world if you would just tell me. Please, Samson. Please!

SAMSON: All right. I'll tell you. I have been a Nazarite since I was born, and my hair has never been cut. If my hair were ever shaved off, I would be weak like other men.

DELILAH: Oh, I know you are telling me the truth now. And I know you love me. How about some more grapes?

NARRATOR: Samson was so far away from God by then that he didn't realize what was happening. Delilah waited until he fell asleep again.

DELILAH: Come quickly and cut off his hair. He's told me the truth. Hurry! Cut it all off!

NARRATOR: So, the servants did as she said and right behind them came the Philistine soldiers.

DELILAH: Samson, wake up. The Philistines are here!

NARRATOR: Samson jumped up and prepared to defend himself as before. But this time his strength was gone because he had disobeyed the Lord. The Philistines soon overpowered him. They put out his eyes and led him to prison, bound by a heavy chain. There they tied him to a heavy grindstone so he could pull it like an ox. After some time had passed, they announced a great feast of celebration. They brought Samson into the room so they could mock him. As they were laughing at him, he called a young boy to him.

SAMSON: Listen, lad. I want you to take me over to the pillars that hold up the house. I'm tired and I need to lean on something.

LAD: All right, sir. I'll take you over there.

NARRATOR: When Samson felt the pillars, he began to pray.

SAMSON: Lord, I know I haven't done what you wanted me to do, and that's why I'm in this trouble. But please remember me and give me back my strength once more so I can be revenged on the Philistines for putting out my eyes.

NARRATOR: When he finished praying, Samson pushed on the pillars with all his might. The entire house fell down on Samson and all the Philistines. So Samson died, but in his death he helped to deliver his people from their enemies. That was the task God had given to him as a judge.

THE HOUSE ON THE SAND WENT SMASH

Luke 6:46-49

Cast of Characters

Miriam
Narrator
Hannah

- MIRIAM: Oh, Hannah! Guess what? My husband is going to build a new house for me. Just last night he told me. He's been making plans for it for a long time. And now we're really going to have a new house. Oh, I'm so excited!
- NARRATOR: Miriam had gone to the marketplace that day just so she could find someone to tell her good news. She had wanted to run out and tell someone the night before, but it had been too late when her husband came home from work and shared the news with her. So early that morning she had set out for the marketplace. Hannah was the first person she met.
- HANNAH: That's wonderful, Miriam. I'm so glad. Where are you going to live? Is it anywhere near the property where my husband is building our house?
- MIRIAM: Well, I don't know for sure. I didn't realize you were actually building yet.
- HANNAH: We're not. That is, we're not putting up walls yet. But my husband has been digging. It has taken him longer than he thought it would. But he wanted to make sure he was all the way down to the rock before he laid the foundation. It's a beautiful site overlooking the Brook Kidron.

MIRIAM: Why, that's where we're building. Right beside the Brook Kidron.

HANNAH: Great! Then we'll be neighbors. That will be exciting. Well, I have to get my shopping done. See you later.

NARRATOR: As the two women went on their way, Miriam couldn't forget what Hannah had said about digging deep so they could put their foundation on the rock. Her husband hadn't said anything about doing any digging. He had talked like they would be putting up the walls right away. So, she asked him about it, and the next time she saw Hannah, she had the answer.

MIRIAM: Oh, Hannah. I'm so glad to run into you. I just have to tell you about our house. I was over there yesterday and the walls are already starting to go up. And I think I saw where your house is going to be. At least I saw a hole in the ground.

HANNAH: That's the place all right. My husband finally got down to the bedrock, and just this week he started to lay the foundation. The foundation will be awfully deep, and it's going to take longer to get up to where we can start the walls than we thought.

MIRIAM: Won't that take more money too?

HANNAH: Yes, but my husband says it will be worth it.

MIRIAM: Well, I asked my husband about it and he said he was going to use the money he saved by not digging to improve the outside of our house. He said that the outside is what people see, and he wants to have the best-looking house in town.

HANNAH: That's wonderful, Miriam. I'm so glad for you. And I know you will be really happy in your new home. But I'm glad my husband is spending all that time digging deep. Somehow, I feel so much safer knowing our house's foundation is built on solid rock.

NARRATOR: It was almost three weeks later when the two women met in the marketplace again. Miriam was obviously in a hurry, but she took time to stop and talk anyway.

MIRIAM: Oh, Hannah. It's finished. We're going to move in this weekend. And it's beautiful, Hannah. It's just beautiful.

HANNAH: That's so exciting, Miriam. And it is beautiful.

MIRIAM: Then you've seen it?

HANNAH: Yes, we went by there a couple of days ago on the way to see our house.

MIRIAM: How is your house coming?

HANNAH: Well, the walls are starting to go up now. It will probably be a month or more before we can move in. The foundation took so long, you know.

MIRIAM: That's too bad. Your husband should have done like mine and just built on top of the ground. It was so much faster. We were able to do so much with the money we saved: new furniture and landscaping and everything. Well, I've got to hurry home and finish packing.

NARRATOR: Another month went by, and finally Hannah and her husband moved into their new house right next to Miriam and her family. The two houses looked very much alike. Oh, Miriam's had a few beautiful doors and windows that Hannah's husband hadn't been able to afford. But to look at them, you couldn't tell anything different at all about the foundation. Then, one night, a storm blew in. It raged all night with torrents of rain from the Judean hills. The Brook Kidron rose out of its banks, and as the flood of water rushed down the valley both houses stood right in its path. For a while it looked as if both houses would survive the storm, but then sand began to seep out from under the walls of Miriam's house. With a great crash, the entire house fell into the flood. The next morning Hannah and her husband went out to look over the damage. Their house still stood while the neighbor's house was completely destroyed.

HANNAH: Oh, husband. I'm so glad you took time to dig deep and build our house on the rock. It has made all the difference in the world.

ABSALOM'S FOLLY

II Samuel 15:1-6; 18:9-18

Cast of Characters

Shuah
Isabel
Narrator
Servant
Benjamin
Absalom
Joab

SHUAH: Look! There he is! There's Absalom!

ISABEL: I see him.

SHUAH: Isn't he handsome? Look at that long, wavy hair.

ISABEL: Yes, and beautiful too.

SHUAH: Where do you suppose he is going? It looks like he's going to stop right here in the gate. Look, Isabel. He's sitting down right at the gate of the city. Let's move closer so we can get a better look.

NARRATOR: Dozens of men and women crowded near the gate of the city of Jerusalem when they saw that the king's son Absalom was there. He was one of the princes, and the king's sons didn't usually spend their days sitting in the gate. But it wasn't long before they found out what was going on.

SERVANT: Ladies and Gentlemen.

SHUAH: Does he mean us?

SERVANT: Ladies and Gentlemen. Prince Absalom is going to be your judge today.

ISABEL: Oh, isn't that exciting. The king's own son is going to listen to all our problems and tell us what to do about them. I'll have to think of something that is wrong just so I can go up and talk to him.

SERVANT: Come on, now. Sir, you first. Where are you from?

BENJAMIN: I'm from Israel, sir. From the northern tribes.

SERVANT: Prince Absalom, will you judge his case?

ABSALOM: Definitely. It's too bad King David doesn't have anyone assigned to judge the northern tribes. He really seems to favor Judah over you men from Israel, doesn't he? It's too bad that I'm not the judge over the entire land. Then I would see that you men from Israel got what was coming to you.

ISABEL: Oh, he's so intelligent.

SHUAH; Yeah, and smart too.

SERVANT: All right. Who's next?

ISABEL: Oh, I am! I am!

SERVANT: Where are you from?

ISABEL: I'm from Israel.

ABSALOM: Then I'm happy to hear your case. King David has really neglected you northerners. What is your problem?

ISABEL: Just a minute, I'll think of something.

NARRATOR: So, Absalom stole the hearts of the people from the ten northern tribes. Eventually he led them into a rebellion against King David. Absalom thought he was really smart to get all those people to follow him. But he didn't know how foolish it was to fight against the man God had chosen to be king. Right in the middle of the battle between the army of Absalom and the army of David, the prince was riding through the forest and got his hair caught fast in one of the branches.

ABSALOM: Help! Somebody help me!

NARRATOR: There he was, hanging off the ground by his hair. He couldn't get up and he couldn't get down. Finally, he saw some men approaching.

ABSALOM: Help me! Get me down from here.

JOAB: Well, well. If it isn't the king's son Absalom. The young man who thinks he's smarter than the king.

ABSALOM: Joab?

JOAB: That's right. Your father's general. Who did you expect to see out here in the middle of the battlefield? Absalom, your tricks are over. You might have thought you were tricking the king, but you are about to find out how foolish you were.

NARRATOR; While Absalom was hanging there in the tree, Joab pulled out some darts and thrust them through Absalom's heart. Then the men took him down out of the tree and buried him. With the death of Absalom, the rebellion was over and the people followed King David again. They had learned that it doesn't pay to follow a foolish man.

NO HELP NEEDED

Joshua 7:1-12; 8:1-29

Cast of Characters

Joshua
Narrator
Soldier 1
Soldier 2

JOSHUA: All right men. I want your attention. The spies have returned from Ai and we're going to hear their report. Then we will decide what to do about this city.

NARRATOR: The men who met with Joshua were excited. They had just won a tremendous victory over the city of Jericho. The wall had fallen down, and they had been able to take the city without losing even one soldier. It had been exciting to be part of that great battle. Now, they knew there were other battles to fight. Just up the road was a little city called Ai. They knew that was the next city they would have to defeat. So, they had sent up some spies to see what the city was like.

JOSHUA: Men, let's hear your report.

SOLDIER 1: It's a small city just like we thought. They don't have a big wall like Jericho. Just a small wall. And their gates aren't strong. They can't have more than a couple hundred men in their entire army. It looks to us like this will be an easy city to defeat.

JOSHUA: What do you suggest?

SOLDIER 1: Well, I think it would be silly to send our entire army up there. Why don't you choose two or three thousand of us. We'll take the

city without any trouble, and the rest of the army can get ready for the next battle.

JOSHUA: That's a good idea.

SOLDIER 2: But, sir.

JOSHUA: What is it, soldier?

SOLDIER 2: What about the Lord?

JOSHUA: What do you mean? Out with it now.

SOLDIER 2: Don't you think we should ask Him?

JOSHUA: Ask Him what? He's on our side. Didn't you see what happened at Jericho?

SOLDIER 2: Yes, sir.

JOSHUA: What do you want to ask Him for?

SOLDIER 2: For help, sir.

JOSHUA: That's not necessary. Ai is so small. We don't need to bother God about helping us defeat this city. Jericho was different. This time we can do it ourselves.

NARRATOR: So, three thousand men marched up to Ai. They were so confident that they marched right up to the gates of the city and blew their ram's horns. To their surprise the gates opened up and the army of Ai attacked. There were more than they had expected, and they were well armed. The men of Israel turned to flee, and thirty-six soldiers died. Joshua knew immediately what had gone wrong.

JOSHUA: You were right, soldier. We should have asked God for help.

NARRATOR: So, Joshua prayed. He tore his clothes to show his great sorrow, and he bowed before the ark of the Lord, asking God to give the victory.

JOSHUA: Oh, Lord God. What shall I say when Israel turns their backs before the enemy? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall surround us, and cut off our name from the earth; and what will happen then to Your great name?

NARRATOR: God heard Joshua pray. And He told him what was wrong. A man named Achan had sinned and needed to be punished before God could again bless His people with victory. If Joshua had asked God before the battle, he would have known that and the army wouldn't have been defeated. All the people came together and punished Achan for his sin. Then they set off toward Ai once again.

JOSHUA: Men. I want your attention. We are going to have a prayer meeting and ask God for help. Then we will decide how to fight the battle for Ai.

NARRATOR: So, they prayed, and God gave them a plan. This time when they went out to battle, they were victorious, because they had remembered to ask God for help.

THE STONING OF STEPHEN

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1, 56-60

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Ebenezer
Jochan
Hanani
Stephen

NARRATOR: It was very busy in the temple at Jerusalem that day. Men were bringing their sheep and doves to the priests to be sacrificed. Women were watching children and talking while they waited for their husbands to return. Suddenly some of the men yelled and started to chase a man who had simply been walking through the temple courtyard.

EBENEZER: There he is!

JOCHAN: Stop him!

HANANI: Don't let him get away. It's Stephen. He's here to stir up trouble again.

EBENEZER: He went that way.

HANANI: Over there.

JOCHAN: Don't let him get away.

EBENEZER: There he is.

HANANI: Good job, Jochan. You caught him. Hold on now. Don't let him get away. We're going to take him before the council.

NARRATOR: Stephen knew what that meant. He was one of the believers in Jerusalem, and the council didn't like the believers. They didn't want people to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. They wanted everyone to just forget about Him. The men who had captured Stephen took him right into the council chambers. Then they started to tell lies about him.

HANANI: This man has spoken blasphemy against Moses.

EBENEZER: And against God.

JOCHAN: He has blasphemed the holy temple. He says that our sacrifices aren't worth anything anymore.

HANANI: He claims that Jesus paid the sacrifice for sin when He died on the cross, and that we don't need to sacrifice sheep and doves. That's blasphemy.

EBENEZER: He even said that Jesus of Nazareth would destroy this temple. Can you imagine such a horrible lie?

JOCHAN: He's against the law of Moses.

HANANI: He said that Jesus would change the customs Moses left for us.

JOCHAN: He doesn't deserve to live. I think he should be stoned.

EBENEZER: Yes. Stone him.

HANANI: Stone him! Stone him!

ALL: Stone him! Stone him!

NARRATOR: The high priest who was heading the council asked Stephen what he had to say for himself, so Stephen began to preach. He told them about Christ and how He had come to save them. But they just became angrier. They got so mad that they rushed him out of the chamber and outside the city wall.

EBENEZER: Stone him!

HANANI: Blasphemer!

JOCHAN: Stone him! Stone him!

NARRATOR: They were saying terrible things about Stephen, but not once did he yell back at them. In fact, those who were there said his face shone like the face of an angel. The men who were throwing the stones took off their coats and left them with a man named Saul. As the rocks pelted down on Stephen, he fell to his knees and began to pray.

STEPHEN: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

NARRATOR: The rocks continued to fly until Stephen was dead. The men picked up their coats and went home. But the man Saul couldn't forget how Stephen had answered when those men were stoning him. He remembered Stephen's words, and not many weeks later that young man accepted the one Stephen had served, the Lord Jesus Christ. Stephen's dying words helped bring the Apostle Paul to salvation.

JUST A CUP OF WATER

John 4:6-26

Cast of Characters

Narrator
John
Jesus
Peter
Samaritan Woman

NARRATOR: Jesus was tired. He had stayed up late into the night talking with Nicodemus. He had been preaching during the days and traveling with His disciples. Right now, they were on their way from Judea up to Galilee, and it was a long walk. So, when they came to the city of Sychar, in Samaria, Jesus was ready for a rest. He sat down beside the well.

JOHN: We'll go get something to eat, Jesus.

JESUS: That would be fine.

PETER: I'm sure we can buy something over in the city.

JESUS: Certainly, go right ahead.

NARRATOR: So, the disciples went over to the city of Sychar to buy some meat. While they were gone, a woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus wanted to talk to her about her need of salvation, so He began a conversation with her.

JESUS: Give me a drink, please.

SAMARITAN: But sir, you are a Jew. How can you ask me for a drink? I am a woman of Samaria. The Jews don't have anything to do with the Samaritans. Your people haven't had any dealings with us since just after the captivity. Did I really hear you right?

NARRATOR: Jesus had accomplished just what he wanted to do by asking for a drink. He had aroused her interest. Now he started to change the conversation from talking about water to talking about salvation.

JESUS: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that said to you, “Give me to drink,” you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.

NARRATOR: The woman looked closer and saw that Jesus didn’t have a bucket of any kind.

SAMARITAN: But sir, the well is deep, and you don’t have anything to draw water with. How can you speak of living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He dug this well and drank from it himself. Do you have a better well?

JESUS: Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I give shall never thirst. The water that I give will become inside of him a well springing up to everlasting life.

SAMARITAN: Give me some of your water. I get tired of coming out here to draw water. If I had your water, I would never get thirsty again, and I wouldn’t have to come back to this well.

JESUS: Call your husband and come back again.

NARRATOR: That seemed like a strange thing for Jesus to say. But He knew that the woman had been married five times and was now living with a man who wasn’t her husband. He wanted her to realize she was a sinner in need of a Savior. He was still leading the woman to salvation, and it wasn’t long until she began to ask about the Messiah who had been promised in the Old Testament. When she did that, Jesus revealed Himself to her.

JESUS: I that speak unto thee am He.

NARRATOR: When the woman heard that He was the Messiah, she was so excited that she went back into the city and began to tell everyone she met about Him. Many of them followed her back out to the well to hear Jesus speak. And many of them came to believe in Him just as she had believed. When the disciples returned, they were amazed that all those things had happened just because Jesus had asked for a cup of water.

GOD CARES FOR THE WIDOW

II Kings 4:1-7

Cast of Characters

Son 1
Widow
Son 2
Narrator
Elisha

SON 1: What's the matter, Mother? Why are you crying?

WIDOW: We had a visitor today, boys. You know that your father owed money to Balthazar before he died. Now that your father is dead, we have not been able to repay the money he owed.

SON 1: So, Balthazar came to see you today?

WIDOW: That's right. He came to get his money, and I didn't have it.

SON 2: So, what are we going to do?

WIDOW: I don't know. Balthazar said if we couldn't get the money by tomorrow, he was going to put our house up for sale and get his money back that way.

SON 1: Can he do that?

WIDOW: I'm afraid so.

SON 2: But where will we live?

WIDOW: I don't know. Maybe we can go back to Shechem and live with my parents or something.

SON 1: Mom? How about Elisha the prophet? Father was a prophet, too. Maybe Elisha knows some way to help us so we won't have to lose our house.

WIDOW: That's a good idea, son. I think I'll go talk to Elisha.

NARRATOR: So, the widow went over to the home where Elisha was staying and told him about her problem.

WIDOW: Elisha, do you remember my husband?

ELISHA: Certainly. He was one of the sons of the prophets, a wonderful man of God.

WIDOW: Well, since he died, we have not been able to pay our debts. Now the creditor is coming. I was not able to tell my boys this, but he doesn't want the house. He wants to take the boys and make them slaves. Don't let him take my two boys away from me.

ELISHA: What do you have in the house?

WIDOW: Almost nothing. I have one pot of oil left. When that is gone, I won't even have anything left to feed my family.

ELISHA: Here's what I want you to do. Send the boys out to borrow every container you can find from your neighbors. Big ones and little ones. Get every vessel that anyone will loan to you. Then when you have them collected, start pouring oil from your container into the other containers.

NARRATOR: That seemed like a strange instruction, but the widow obeyed. She and the boys went to all the neighbors and collected vessels.

WIDOW: May I borrow your empty jars?

SON 1: Do you have any empty bowls we can borrow?

SON 2: May we borrow your empty pots?

NARRATOR: Then they brought them all back to the house. The widow shut the door and locked it, then brought out her one jar of oil. Slowly she poured it into one of the empty jars.

SON 1: Look, mother. Your jar filled up the empty jar, but it still has oil in it.

WIDOW: Quick! Let's try another one.

NARRATOR: Soon they filled all the jars, and all the jugs, and all the pots. Their entire room was full of jars all filled with oil.

WIDOW: Bring me another jar.

SON 2: But Mother, they're all gone.

WIDOW: All of them?

SON 1: Yes, they are all full.

WIDOW: And there is still oil in our jar. God has done a great miracle. I need to go and tell Elisha.

NARRATOR: So, she did. She went to tell the prophet what had happened, and he didn't seem surprised at all.

ELISHA: Good! Now, take the oil and sell it. Pay your debt, and you and your children can use the rest of the money for food. God has honored you for your faith and the faithfulness of your husband.

NARRATOR: Elisha might not have been surprised, but Balthazar sure was when he came back the next day. He was surprised because he had forgotten that God cares for the widows.

JOSEPH'S KIND WORDS

Genesis 50:15-21

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Dan
Levi
Dan's Wife
Joseph

NARRATOR: Jacob was dead. He had lived for many years and had seen his entire family provided for in a wonderful way down in Egypt. For his funeral, all twelve of his sons traveled back up into the Promised Land and buried him there. Now they were back with their families in Egypt. But some of the brothers and their wives started to get worried.

DAN: Do you remember how we used to tease Joseph when he was a boy, and call him names?

LEVI: I sure do. We weren't very nice.

DAN: Remember how we used to laugh at him for his dreams?

LEVI: What were we supposed to think when he told us that we were stars bowing down to his star?

DAN'S WIFE: We all used to laugh at him. Do you suppose he remembers that?

DAN: I bet he does. And I'm sure he remembers how we threw him down into that well and then sold him into slavery.

LEVI: And what we did to his beautiful coat.

DAN'S WIFE: But does any of that matter now that he's the second ruler in all of Egypt?

DAN: He might still hate us for what we did.

LEVI: That's what worries me. If you had treated me like that, I would remember. We said some pretty hateful things.

DAN: If he hates us, he is going to get his revenge now that father has died. He's going to pay us back for all the evil we did to him.

DAN'S WIFE: So, what can we do about it?

LEVI: Maybe a couple of us should go and ask him to forgive us. If we don't, we're going to be in big trouble.

DAN'S WIFE: Great idea. Why don't you and Dan go?

NARRATOR: So, two of Joseph's brothers went up to the palace. Joseph was seated on a throne in a beautiful room, all decorated in gold and silver. He called for them to come in as soon as he knew they were waiting.

JOSEPH: Dan. Levi. What can I do for you?

DAN: Please forgive us, sir.

JOSEPH: Forgive you? For what?

LEVI: For all the terrible things we did to you when you were younger. All those evil things we said about you.

DAN: You have a right to hate us.

LEVI: But we're pleading with you to forgive us. It was wrong to sell you into slavery. I know you probably want revenge, and we are all willing to become your servants. That would be only right since you had to serve as a slave because of us.

JOSEPH: Levi. Dan. You don't need to be afraid of me.

LEVI: But you are a great ruler.

JOSEPH: I am also your brother.

DAN: And we've done such terrible things to you.

JOSEPH: I know. You thought that you were doing evil when you sold me into Egypt. But God meant it for good. Look what He has done through this. He made it possible for father's entire family to have

enough to eat when there was famine in every part of the world. All your families have been kept alive because God turned everything out for good.

DAN: I never thought of it that way.

JOSEPH: So, you have no need to fear. I will continue to see that you and your little ones are cared for. I don't hate you, and you have no reason to fear.

NARRATOR: Joseph kept his word. All the rest of his life he made sure that his brothers and their families were well cared for. God had been kind to him, and he knew what it was to be kind to others.

LOT'S FAILURE

Genesis 13:12-13; 19:12-17

Cast of Characters

Hannah
Elah
Lot
Narrator
Angel

HANNAH: Daddy, are we going to move?

LOT: Move? Whatever gave you that idea?

HANNAH: Well, I heard you and Mom talking about Sodom the other night. It would be so exciting to live in the big city. There's nothing to do out here in the country.

LOT: Well, we have considered it. There would be some advantages as far as my work is concerned. Some of the men of the city have even suggested that they would be willing to have me on the city council if we would move. But I'm not sure I want you girls to marry those city fellows. They're mighty wild.

ELAH: Oh, Daddy. You don't need to worry about that. But if we stay out here in the country, we might never get married at all.

NARRATOR: Lot stepped to the door of his tent and gazed out across the plains toward the lights of the city of Sodom. He had thought about moving there ever since he left the Jordan Valley where he and Abraham had lived as neighbors for many years. But he hadn't realized his children wanted to move there too.

LOT: I really don't like the way the people in Sodom live, girls. They don't know anything about Jehovah. They don't fear Him at all.

HANNAH: Maybe we can teach them about God. Please, Daddy. There are so many wonderful stores in Sodom, we could go shopping every day.

LOT: And spend all my money before I can even make it. I don't know. I'll have to think about it some more.

NARRATOR: It didn't take too much thinking after that, even though Lot knew the people of Sodom didn't believe in God. The advantages of living in a big city, serving on the city council, and having beautiful things for his family overcame all the possible disadvantages spiritually.

ELAH: Really Daddy? We're going to move to Sodom?

LOT: Yes. I've decided to make the move. But you must promise me something.

HANNAH: Anything Daddy. What do you want?

LOT: I want you to promise that you will never forget Jehovah God.

ELAH: O, Daddy. We would never forget God. We promise.

NARRATOR: So, Lot and his family moved to Sodom. For several months things went well. Lot was elected to the city council and sat with them in the gate. The girls got to know the other young people and were invited to all the big parties. Eventually they met young men who wanted to marry them.

ELAH: He's such a wonderful person, Daddy. You will let me marry him, won't you?

LOT: But he's one of the young men from here in Sodom. He doesn't believe in Jehovah. Are you going to marry a man who doesn't believe in God?

HANNAH: She loves him, Daddy. Besides, none of our friends here in Sodom believe in God. Your friends don't either.

NARRATOR: Lot didn't know what to say. He really didn't want his daughters to marry men from Sodom, but he hated to say "no" to them. So, he agreed, and soon both Hannah and Elah were married. A few years went by until the sins of Sodom became so great that God decided to destroy the city. First, He sent two messengers to warn Lot and his family to get out.

ANGEL: Do you have any relatives in the city besides your sons and daughters and their husbands? You need to warn them to get out. God is going to destroy this place.

LOT: Please give me time to go tell my daughters and their husbands. I'll tell them what you have said. Surely, they will listen to me. Please don't destroy the city before I tell them to escape.

NARRATOR: Lot hurried over to the house where his oldest daughter and her husband lived.

LOT: Hannah! You and your husband need to pack up and get out of Sodom immediately. God is going to destroy the city.

HANNAH: Oh, Daddy. Don't be silly.

HUSBAND: God? Who are you talking about?

LOT: Jehovah God. The God of our fathers. The One we worship.

HUSBAND: You've never told me about him before. Why should I believe you now?

LOT: But you must get out?

HUSBAND: That's ridiculous. Go on home, old man.

NARRATOR: Sadly, Lot left the house and went to where Elah lived with her family. But her husband laughed at him too. Lot had to leave the city with only his two youngest daughters and his wife. And when God destroyed the city, all the rest of his family died with the people of Sodom. Lot had gained many things, but he had lost his family.

RABSHAKEH'S ANSWER

II Kings 18:13-19:37

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Rabshakeh
Eliakim
Joah

- NARRATOR:** The gates of Jerusalem were shut tight. All around the city, as far as Eliakim and Joah could see, there were soldiers. Beyond the soldiers were tents, stretching far off into the hills. It looked as if the entire Assyrian army was camped in a large circle around the city. Down below the wall, just out of arrow range, stood one of the captains of the Assyrian army, a man named Rabshakeh. He was yelling at them in order to give them a message for King Hezekiah.
- RABSHAKEH:** Speak to King Hezekiah for my lord the king of Assyria. Why are you trusting in your God for deliverance from the hand of Assyria? Why are you trusting in help from Egypt? Egypt is not going to help you, and neither is your God. In fact, it was the Lord who told us to go up against you and destroy this land. There's no way you can escape from us, so you might as well just surrender.
- NARRATOR:** Eliakim and Joah were not the only two men on the wall. In fact, the wall was crowded with men who could hear what Rabshakeh was saying. So Eliakim called back to him.
- ELIAKIM:** This message is only for the king. Why don't you speak to us in your Syrian language. We can understand it. But don't talk in the

Jew's language because then all the people on the wall can understand you, too.

RABSHAKEH: Why do you think I'm speaking in your language? My message is not just for your king. I want everyone who hears me to know that we are going to defeat you.

NARRATOR: With that, Rabshakeh yelled even louder so everyone could hear him.

RABSHAKEH: Thus says the king of Assyria. Don't let King Hezekiah deceive you. He will not be able to deliver you out of our hands. Don't let him tell you that God will deliver you. Have any of the gods of other nations delivered them from us? Where are the gods of Hamath and Samaria? How can you expect your God to deliver you?

NARRATOR: When Eliakim and Joah heard that, they became very angry. It was bad enough to have him talk about their king that way. But now he was mocking their God. Eliakim was just about to yell some threats back at Rabshakeh when Joah stopped him.

JOAH: Wait, Eliakim. There's a message here from the king.

ELIAKIM: What does it say?

JOAH: The king says not to answer him.

ELIAKIM: Don't answer? But he's saying terrible things against King Hezekiah and against God as well.

JOAH: The king says that he is praying and asking God to give him an answer.

ELIAKIM: So, he wants God to answer instead of us? That sounds good.

JOAH: Right. That's what he wants.

NARRATOR: So Eliakim and Joah and all the people on the wall remained silent. Rabshakeh kept yelling, but no one answered him a word. Eliakim and Joah went back to the king and told him everything Rabshakeh was saying.

JOAH: He says our God can't deliver us.

ELIAKIM: He says that he will do to us what the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries and their gods.

NARRATOR: King Hezekiah took the two men with him and went into the house of God to talk to the prophet Isaiah and to pray. As they were praying, God told Isaiah that He would indeed give the Assyrian army an answer they would never forget. That night, when they were asleep in their tents, an angel of the Lord went through the camp of the Assyrians. Silently the angel killed one hundred and eighty-five thousand soldiers. When the rest of them woke up the next morning they were surrounded by dead bodies. No one knew how they had died. The army was so scared that they packed up and left Jerusalem behind. God had given his answer to Rabshakeh and delivered His people from the Assyrians.

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

Luke 8:40-56

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Daughter
Mother
Jairus
Servant
Jesus

NARRATOR: Jairus was a very important man in his city in Israel. He was one of the rulers of the synagogue. Several times during the past year men had come to his synagogue with stories about a new prophet called Jesus of Nazareth. Some of them had seen Him perform miracles, and they thought He was really from God. Others had heard Him talk about religious leaders who He said only claimed to serve God. They didn't like Jesus at all. They knew God had promised to send the Messiah, but they didn't think this was the One. Jairus and his wife had an only child, a twelve-year-old girl. She was a beautiful girl who loved to help her mother around the house and sit in the corner while her father and his guests discussed the law of Moses. One day she had just come from the village well with a jar of water when she felt dizzy and had to set the water down outside the door.

DAUGHTER: Mother, I don't think I can carry the water jug any further.

MOTHER: You better lie down in the cool shade for a while. The sun is pretty hot today.

NARRATOR: So, the girl lay down, and mother went about her task of preparing the evening meal. By the time Jairus came home from the synagogue, the girl was running a fever and couldn't eat at all. After supper she was even worse.

MOTHER: What are we going to do?

JAIRUS: I'm not sure there is anything we can do. It has come on so suddenly. It must be that dreaded fever of which so many children have already died.

MOTHER: Do you really think she is going to die?

JAIRUS: Unless a miracle happens. The doctors have found nothing that will cure this fever.

MOTHER: A miracle? What about Jesus of Nazareth. Do you think...?

JAIRUS: I'll try. I've heard that He is preaching not far from here. Maybe He can heal our daughter.

NARRATOR: So Jairus set off to find Jesus. There was a great crowd around Him when the ruler of the synagogue came near. Jairus saw many of his friends, some of whom thought Jesus was a fake. But that didn't stop him from throwing himself down at Jesus' feet.

JAIRUS: Jesus! My little daughter is dying. Won't you please come and lay your hands on her so she can be healed? She has a terrible fever and I don't want her to die. Please, Jesus. Come back to my house with me.

NARRATOR: How pleased Jairus was when Jesus immediately turned and began to follow him. But they hadn't gone far before there was an interruption. A woman crept up through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' robe. Jesus stopped and looked for her and had her explain how simply touching his robe had healed her of a terrible disease. It was exciting, but Jairus was anxious. If they didn't hurry, his daughter would die. While Jesus was still talking to the woman, Jairus saw one of his servants coming through the crowd.

SERVANT: Don't bother Jesus any longer, master. Your daughter is dead.

JAIRUS: Are you sure?

SERVANT: Yes, master. She died soon after you left, and I have come to tell you not to bother Jesus.

NARRATOR: Jairus turned to leave. It was too late. But Jesus had heard the servant, and reaching out a hand, He laid it on Jairus' shoulder.

JESUS: Be not afraid. Only believe.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus chose three of His disciples and left the rest behind so they could travel faster. The four of them followed Jairus to his house where neighbor ladies were already gathering to weep and mourn over the body.

JESUS: Why are you weeping? The damsel is not dead. She is only sleeping.

MOTHER: Oh no, master. You have heard wrong. She is really dead.

NARRATOR: All the neighbors laughed at Him. But that didn't bother Jesus at all. He followed Jairus into the house and asked to see the little girl. He walked straight up to her cot where she lay, as white as the sheet that covered her, and took her hand. Then, just as if she had been sleeping, he lifted her up by the hand.

JESUS: Damsel. I say unto thee, arise.

DAUGHTER: Mother. I guess I've been asleep. Is supper ready? I'm hungry. Oh, hello there. I know you. You must be Jesus.

NARRATOR: And that was the way Jairus' daughter met Jesus. Everyone in the room was surprised, and so were the neighbors when she came out to eat supper. But for Jairus it settled his question. Jesus was truly the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Only God could have the power needed to raise the dead.

ZACCHAEUS

Luke 19:1-10

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Javan
Sarah
Zacchaeus
Jesus

NARRATOR: Jericho lay on the caravan route between the east and the west, and Zacchaeus worked as a customs official in that important city. He had to inspect every shipment that came through town and decide how much tax must be paid on it. Part of every tax collection belonged to him, but the rest belonged to the Roman government. People didn't like him because he worked for the Romans. And they didn't like him because they didn't like to pay taxes. So, they made fun of him because he was short. That made him mad, but he got back at them by raising their taxes.

JAVAN: What do you mean by taxing me that much on my spices?

SARAH: How can we afford to buy silk if we must pay such huge taxes on every piece we buy?

ZACCHAEUS: Oh, go away and leave me alone.

NARRATOR: Zacchaeus was lonely. Despite living in the big city, in spite of the fact that everyone knew him, he was lonely. One day as he was working, he heard a great commotion in the street.

ZACCHAEUS: Who is it? What's going on?

JAVAN: It's Jesus of Nazareth. He's coming to Jericho. Maybe He'll do a miracle like He did up in Cana of Galilee.

ZACCHAEUS: Jesus? I've heard of Him. Oh, would I like to see Him.

NARRATOR: So, Zacchaeus stood on his tiptoes, but he couldn't see over the crowd. He was going to have to move closer.

ZACCHAEUS: Excuse me. May I get through? I want to see Jesus.

SARAH: Don't we all? Who do you think you are? Somebody special?

JAVAN: Go on and get your box, Shorty. Maybe then you can see Him.

NARRATOR: Zacchaeus pushed and shoved and even threatened people with higher taxes, but no one would let him through. Then he had an idea. Alongside the road was a big sycamore tree. Quickly hitching up his robe, he started climbing, and pretty soon he was perched like a bird on the biggest limb that hung out over the road. It was an ideal place to see Jesus, but it was also an ideal place to be seen.

JAVAN: Hey, look at the silly tax collector. Now he thinks he's a bird.

SARAH: How's the weather up there, Shorty?

NARRATOR: Zacchaeus could have cried. All he wanted to do was see Jesus, and now everyone was making fun of him. He was just about ready to climb down and go home when the crowd stopped moving. Jesus was standing right under the tree branch. Zacchaeus held his breath.

JESUS: Zacchaeus?

NARRATOR: He knew his name. Jesus knew his name!

JESUS: Zacchaeus, come down here. I'm going to stay at your house today.

ZACCHAEUS: At my house? Why, of course. I'll be happy to have you stay with me. And all your disciples, too. Yes! I'll be happy to have you.

NARRATOR: Zacchaeus knew right away that Jesus was a person who wanted to be his friend. And he wanted Jesus for a friend. He wanted to do everything he could to please Him. After supper that night he rose to make an announcement.

ZACCHAEUS: Jesus, I have decided to give half of what I own to the poor people of Jericho. And if I have taken anything from people by false charges on their taxes, I'm going to give them back four times as much as I have taken from them.

JESUS: Salvation has come to your house today, Zacchaeus. You were lost in sin and didn't even realize it. But I came to earth to seek those who are lost and to save them. Since you have accepted me as your friend and your Savior, you are no longer lost. You belong to God's family and will never need to be lonely again.

NARRATOR: Some of the people didn't think the change in Zacchaeus would last. They were waiting when he opened up his tax stand the next day.

ZACCHAEUS: Come over here. I want to give back the money I shouldn't have taken from you. I'm going to give you four times as much as I took.

JAVAN: You're going to do what?

ZACCHAEUS: Just what I said. Here's your money.

NARRATOR: They didn't understand at all what had happened to him. But it was hard to go on hating a man who was as kind as Zacchaeus became after that day. If any man had been lost, it had been Zacchaeus, but Jesus had found him and that made all the difference.

THE LOST SHEEP

Luke 15:3-7

Cast of Characters

Shepherd
Narrator
Fluffy

SHEPHERD: Ninety. Ninety-one. Ninety-two. Ninety-three.

NARRATOR: Late one evening in the wilderness country of Israel, a shepherd counted his flock of sheep as they made their way into the temporary fold he had constructed. He had led them through some rough hills that day in order to find a place for them to graze. They had followed him up the steep trails and down into the rocky wadis. He had led them beside still waters so they could drink and built them a shelter where they would be safe all night. He knew all the sheep. And they knew him. All of them followed him, except for the newest lambs. There were a couple of them who liked to run off on their own. But now they would be safe for the night in the fold.

SHEPHERD: Ninety-four. Ninety-five. Ninety-six.

NARRATOR: The shepherd glanced up from his counting when he heard the howl of a wolf in the distance. Once the sheep were inside the fold, he would wrap himself in a warm robe and stretch out across the door. Then the only way anything could get to the sheep was to go through him first. The sheep trusted him, and soon they would be asleep, no matter how many wolves howled.

SHEPHERD: Ninety-seven. Ninety-eight. Ninety-nine.

NARRATOR: Ninety-nine? There were supposed to be one hundred. He must have counted wrong, but he had been so careful. Which one could be missing? And then he knew. One of the lambs had not come in. He must have wandered off too far during his play and become lost. And now it was getting dark. He would have to leave the ninety-nine sheep there in the sheep fold and go look for the lost lamb. He couldn't leave him alone out in the wilderness all night.

FLUFFY: Oh, if only I had stayed close to the shepherd. I was sure I could have fun and still get back with the others in time. And now it's getting so dark.

NARRATOR: Out on the hillside, one scared-to-death little lamb was trying to find his way back home. He was not sure he was running in the right direction, but it sounded like the wolf howls had come from behind him. Then he saw something, a dark shadow up ahead, and tried too quickly to change direction. Over the edge of the cliff he fell and down into the heavy brush below. It felt as if every bone in his body was broken.

FLUFFY: Oh, if only I had obeyed. I'm so scared. And it's my own fault. I wish I were safe in the fold with all the others.

NARRATOR: The night grew even colder, and the lamb began to shiver. The lightning cracked and the howling moved closer and closer. And then, he heard another sound, way off in the distance.

SHEPHERD: Fluffy? Fluffy?

NARRATOR: He tried to answer, to bleat out his response, but nothing came. His legs still wouldn't work. Still the voice came closer.

SHEPHERD: Fluffy? Fluffy?

NARRATOR: He was almost above him on the trail. He was going to walk right on by. With all the strength he could muster, the little lamb bleated out a cry for help. The next thing he knew, the shepherd stopped. He reached the long shepherd's rod with its crook on one end down over the cliff and hooked it around the little lamb. Then he pulled it up to the path. He took off his own warm robe and wrapped the lamb inside.

SHEPHERD: We'll take care of that leg as soon as we get back to the fold.

NARRATOR: Best of all, the shepherd took the little lamb up in his arms and carried him all the way back to the fold. The path was still rocky and steep. The rain still fell. The thunder still rumbled and the wolves still howled. But now the little lamb was not afraid. He was safe in the arms of the shepherd.

THE LOST SON

Luke 15:11-32

Cast of Characters

Son
Father
Narrator
Boss
Elder Brother

SON: Father, I'm not getting any younger, and I've decided that I want what's coming to me right now. I want half of everything that belongs to you.

FATHER: All right, son. I've been planning to divide everything between you and your older brother. I guess now is as good a time as later. Each of you will have half of what is mine.

NARRATOR: Soon after the son got his half, he made another announcement.

SON: Father, I've decided to take a trip. I'm tired of this old place where nothing ever happens. I'm going to some far country, and I'm not sure when I'll get back.

ELDER BROTHER: I knew he was up to no good.

NARRATOR: The money helped him make lots of friends at first. They had big parties and ate lots of food and did some drinking. He just kept spending and spending until all the money was gone.

ELDER BROTHER: Served him right when his friends quit inviting him to their parties.

SON: I'm going to starve if I don't get something to eat pretty soon. Maybe there's a job with one of the farmers nearby. I know they raise pigs, and as a Jew I'm not supposed to have anything to do with pigs, but I have to live somehow.

NARRATOR: So, he took a job feeding pigs. He knew he had troubles, but he thought he could still help himself. Out in the field he got so hungry that he decided to take some of the husks the pigs were eating and munch on them.

BOSS: Hey, what do you think you're doing? That slop is for the pigs, not for you. Get back to work and leave that pig food alone.

NARRATOR: That was when the son realized that he needed help.

SON: There is so much food at my father's house that even the servants have bread left over when they are done eating. Yet I'm over here in this pig pen, and the farmer won't even let me eat their food. There's only one place to go for help. I'm going home. I'll tell Father to make me one of his servants. It will be hard, but at least I'll have something to eat.

NARRATOR: Once he realized he needed help, it didn't take long for him to set off toward home to get it. When he got close to home, the first person he met was his father. Right away he started on the speech he had prepared.

SON: Father, I've sinned against heaven and against you. I'm not worthy to be your son any longer.

NARRATOR; But before he could say anything about wanting to be a hired servant, his father stopped him with a big hug and a kiss. He turned around and called some of the servants who had come out to see what was going on.

FATHER: Bring out the very best robe and put it on my son. Bring out that ring I've been saving and put it on his hand. You there, bring shoes for his feet. Tell the cook to kill the fat calf and prepare a feast. We're going to celebrate. I thought my son was dead, and he's alive. He was lost, but now is found. This is a day for rejoicing.

NARRATOR: I guess he got even more help than he was looking for. The father accepted him as his son once again.

ELDER BROTHER: I wasn't too happy about it. But then I never did like my brother as much as Father did.

NARRATOR: I think the father loved both of his sons. He wanted to do everything he could for both of them. And when the prodigal came back home admitting he was a sinner and needed help, the father was ready and willing to help him. That's just like God, isn't it.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Daniel 4:1-37

Cast of Characters

Narrator
Nebuchadnezzar
Daniel
Servant

NARRATOR: Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, reclined on a golden couch in a jewel-studded room in the palace. As he slept, he had a dream. It wasn't just any old ordinary dream. It was a dream that was very important, because it was his dream. When he woke up, he called all the magicians, and the astrologers, and the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers to him.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: I've had a dream. You all know that it was an important dream, because I am the most important man in the entire world. I want you to tell me what my dream meant.

NARRATOR: But no one could interpret the dream. He was totally frustrated until he remembered Daniel.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Daniel, I know that you are able to interpret dreams. Listen to my dream and tell me what it means. In my dream I saw a very tall tree. The top of it reached the heavens. The leaves were beautiful, and animals lived under the tree and ate of its fruit. Then in my dream a voice from heaven said, "Cut down the tree and cut off the branches, but leave the

stump. Let his heart be changed for the heart of a beast until seven times pass over him.” What does that mean, Daniel? It is the dream of Nebuchadnezzar the king, and therefore it is very important.

NARRATOR: Daniel listened to the king tell his dream and was amazed. For an hour he sat without saying a word. Finally, the king grew impatient.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Daniel, don’t let the interpretation of the dream trouble you. Tell me what it means.

DANIEL: My lord, the dream will make those men happy who hate you. Your enemies will be glad to hear it. You are the tree. You have grown and become strong so that your dominion covers all the earth. Everyone lives under your branches and eats your fruit. But you have grown proud, O king. You do not realize that there is a God who rules in the affairs of men. Therefore, you are going to be deposed from your throne even as the tree in your dream was cut down. For seven years you will become like a beast and eat grass until you know that God is the King of kings.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: What should I do, Daniel?

DANIEL: My advice is that you stop sinning. Forget your pride and start to rule your kingdom in righteousness. Help the poor and needy. If you stop being proud it may be that God will not let this happen to you.

NARRATOR: The king listened to Daniel, but he didn’t change. He still bragged about all he had done to build the kingdom of Babylon. One day as he walked into the palace, he called to his servants.

SERVANT: We are all here, O king.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Look at this great Babylon which I have built. Is there anyone anywhere who is as great as I am? This kingdom has been built by the might of my power, and it is for the honor of my majesty. Just look around and you will know how great I am.

NARRATOR: Even as he spoke, a voice came from heaven and announced that the dream was now going to be fulfilled.

SERVANT: Look at him. His hair and fingernails. They're growing!

NARRATOR: Nebuchadnezzar became just like a beast of the field. He ate grass like an ox. His hair grew like eagle's feathers. His servants watched over him and protected him like they would an animal until the time was over. When he had learned his lesson, his mind returned to him and he was restored to the throne again. The first thing he did was to give a speech telling what had happened to him.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Now I know that the Lord God is the most High God and that He rules in the kingdoms of men. He only is to be praised and honored because He lives forever and ever, and His kingdom goes on from generation to generation. And now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise the Lord. All His works are truth, and His ways are just. Most of all, I have learned the important lesson that all those who walk in pride He is able to bring low.

NARRATOR: And that was a lesson Nebuchadnezzar never forgot.