

Drama in the Ministry Toolbox

Volumes 1-7
and Drama Games



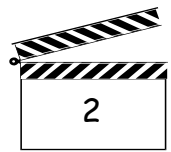
Volume One: Beginning and Developing
a Drama Ministry

Volumes Two-Seven: 125 Scripts

Drama Games contains 16 activities

Total: 396 pages

Drama in the Ministry Toolbox Volumes 1-7



Drama in the Ministry Tool Box
Volumes One-Seven
Drama Games

Written by Mark Schaufler and Shawna Beers

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MST Ministries
PO Box 8490
Lacey WA 98509

www.mstgo.com

ISBN# 1-886904-08-1 Volume One
ISBN# 1-886904-09-X Volume Two
ISBN # 1-886904-40-5 Volume Three
ISBN # 1-886904-42-1 Volume Four
ISBN # 1-886904-52-9 Volume Five
ISBN # 1-886904-55-3 Volume Six
ISBN # 1-886904-62-6 Volume Seven
ISBN # 1-886904-51-0 Drama Games

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Getting Started In Drama Ministry

I (Shawna) will never forget my first drama “performance” on Broadway. I was a young, shy, nervous, scared-out-of-my-mind teenager, but my team and I had practiced and prepared for this moment so I put everything into it. Fighting the sounds of traffic and activity on the Seattle street, our team literally screamed our lines in our courageous attempt to dramatically share the message of the Gospel to the people of this big city. This was our first drama outreach downtown Seattle on Broadway Avenue. Not quite the Broadway drama people dream of, but it was still a huge step for our youth group. We had discovered a new avenue, at least new to us, to share Christ with the world. We had also learned to use drama for enhancing Sunday services and youth meetings, creatively communicating Scripture, and discipling and growing spiritually the youth of our church. From that point drama became and remains a vital part of our church ministry with adults, children, and youth.

Drama is more than memorizing and quoting lines. It’s more than standing in front of a group of people and “acting”. It’s more than scripts, music, and hours of practice. There are many elements to drama including vocal control, movement, character development, finding the right scripts and/or music, recruiting participants, preparing practice schedules, utilizing ministry opportunities, knowing who, what, where, when, why, and how, costuming, staging, and on and on. It takes commitment and an investment of time, talent, and resources. And it’s worth it. It’s worth learning how to lead and perform and

You remember:	
10%	Of what you read
20%	Of what you hear
30%	Of what you see
50%	Of what you see and hear
70%	Of what you say
90%	Of what you do

involve others. It is a method that God uses to spread His message while also training His children to be more like Him. Drama is one of the ways you can utilize the people God has given you to work with and to accomplish His purpose for them and the people who don’t know Him yet. And drama works! Why?

Research has shown that we only remember ten percent of what we read. If we hear the same message we remember twenty percent of the information. Seeing the same information in a visual form will bring our retention up to thirty percent. If seeing and hearing are combined then you remember fifty percent of the information.

Once you have the capacity to verbally share the contents of the information you have your retention increases to seventy percent. Acting out the information will

bring the retention level to ninety percent.

As you can see, drama has a much higher capacity to communicate than many forms, over fifty percent of the message can be understood with most basic drama formats. You can also increase the retention level of your audience if you involve them in the drama. Few other media methods have this capacity.

Sharing the Gospel means we share a message that already exists. We don't have to create a new message, instead we have to determine how to share it. That is the same task that Jesus faced as He shared an eternal message with mortal beings. ***John 12:49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.***

Jesus used the everyday events of life and the common things all around Him to communicate the truth that we needed. Nothing has changed. Drama that utilizes the everyday events, thought patterns and props of life, can be used in the same way Christ's teachings were—to change lives.

Coaches

The coach sets the pace in a drama ministry. You determine how often you practice, what type of ministry you will do, who is involved in the team, etc. If you set and keep the pace and enable those who participate to keep the pace with you, you will have opportunities to minister in ways that you would not have imagined were possible.

If you are the coach, or one of the coaches, you need to take the time to formulate a plan before you launch out with this ministry. You need to let the “baby” come to full term before you deliver it to the cold, cruel, world of reality. That will be your best chance of seeing it succeed. Developing a drama ministry requires a lot of extra work. Your “baby” is ready to be born when the following things have been dealt with and are on paper and in place.

- Permission from all the authority figures you need, i.e. parents, pastors, ministry sites, etc. – when planning for drama practices, special events, and ministry times it is important to seek approval from those in authority. Ask for the opportunity to minister and perform your dramas, avoid “informing” your leadership what you will be doing. There may be other events planned that you are unaware of that conflict with your plans. Don’t assume anything. Ask and plan for everything.
- You have a place to meet and practice. Church hallways and a coach’s living room can work for practice when necessary but having a place for the team to call home is good. Having enough space for everyone to move around is important.
- You have some training arranged, whether you are doing the training yourself or bringing in someone from the outside. Be aware that you probably can’t do everything. That’s okay. There are people out there who can fill in the gaps and offer training your team will need.
- You have a schedule for ministry that people can look forward to. Teaching drama and getting a team started is great. Be sure to have an output for the input they will be receiving. People need to know they are investing their time and discipline for a bigger purpose than just having fun. Drama can be great fun, but the ministry value is even greater.
- You have dramas picked out for your first ministry opportunity. At the beginning, stick to something not too complicated. Drama ministry is more than putting on a full production play. It can be a simple five minute drama to enhance a sermon or share the Gospel on the street.
- Your participants know what is expected of them and what standards are a

part of this ministry team, not only in dramatic ability but also in character, discipleship, and ministry opportunities.

- You have developed your preliminary vision statement, purpose, or philosophy of ministry. Know what target you are aiming for before you begin shooting at it. With a target in sight, it is much easier to hit. Develop your philosophy so people will know what they are getting into.
- You have gathered resources to feed your ministry with new material. You may find a winning drama that your team does really well. Great! Have them learn it and do it, and then find another one. Keep the challenge before your team members to do something bigger and continue stretching them in their drama abilities. The more dramas you know, the more variety you have, the greater ministry opportunities you can step into.

Take the time to set these things in place. It is always easier to do it right the first time than try to remodel something that is already started. You may see that you need help at this point. Good! Better now than three weeks into it. Doing your homework will make it easier to recruit help. Show your potential leaders the plans and purposes and they will be much more likely to help and stick with the program.

Coaches work harder than anyone else. It's a big commitment, but it's worth it. You take on many roles as a coach. You're the architect sketching out all the plans and details for the ministry, not only where you will do ministry but also what it will look like, what dramas you will do, and who is sharing testimonies or even preaching.

You will become the referee of relationships among team members. Learning to work together is always a challenge. Anytime you put two people in the same place under any kind of stress you will have some differences and conflicts that develop. People have different relational styles, opinions, and personalities which need to be taken into account as you try working together and keeping unity among your team members. Ministry of any kind will bring this forth and drama is no different. You can react when the conflict happens or be proactive and rewrite history before it happens.

Being proactive means you train people how to deal with certain issues long before they happen. Then, when they arrive, people have tools to deal with them. Without the tools you run the potential of some serious damage to an individual or team. For example conflict and anger are common human issues that can escalate to the breakdown of a team. Therefore in the early stages of forming your team do some training on anger management and conflict resolution. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the

sons of God.” Equip your drama team to be peacemakers. It will pay big dividends with your team and for them as individuals the rest of their lives. If you don’t have the skill, then find someone who does.

Drama magnifies the point that it isn’t just one person but a team working together that increases the impact. If one person forgets a line everyone is impacted. If one person forgets their cue everyone is affected. Even though individuals have to memorize their own lines everyone has to learn to work together as an ensemble. Much like a double play in baseball or a marching band at a football game, it’s beautiful when it works and obvious when it doesn’t. You need to understand and spend time with this dynamic of drama.

You are also the cheerleader standing on the sidelines and encouraging your team as they learn, struggle, and powerfully share the message of their dramas. Sometimes you may feel like a parent, and you are the encourager enforcing all the right things your team is doing. You may have to discipline at times, but that’s part of parenting and coaching as well.

The struggles of learning and working together are common among any group or ministry. An area common to drama is the issue of pride. Being in front of people and seeing people impacted by your ministry can become the breeding ground for pride. There is a paradox in drama ministry. You have to practice enough that pride can be a possibility. In other words, you should be good enough that people will pat you on the back for a job well done.

The Paradox:
Practice
Pride
Prayer

To counteract this you need to pray enough that pride is not an option. Going into the presence of a holy God quickly eliminates the pride. If you won't humble yourself, He will. So prayer and practice become a paradox. Put in the practice time to be really good, but also put time into prayer so pride can't happen.

That is the paradox you need to watch out for you among your team members. How much prayer and practice you need for your group is impossible to tell until you get there. But if you have been proactive and warned them of this potential it will make sense to them if they have to skip a practice to pray or skip a prayer time to practice. Being proactive on the potential issues that may arise will help them to grow and minimize the problems that two or more people together can create.

Any issue can be approached in a proactive way if you have enough foresight to know it could be an issue. That is part of the discipleship opportunity that ministry always creates. Take advantage of it and you will see the strength and depth of your team grow. Ignore it and you will have horror stories to tell for years to come. Walk into coaching with your eyes wide open and be as prepared as you possibly can.

Step One: Your Drama Philosophy

So, how do you get a drama ministry started in your area? Who do you get involved in drama? Where do you find good, useable resources? Where do you perform your dramas once you've learned them? Why start a drama ministry? That final question is where we begin. "Why?" It's the first step in getting a drama ministry started. In the formation of your team you need to decide what your philosophy is and what your main emphasis will be. This may change with time but you need to have a fairly well defined target in order to hit it.

My (Mark) first team was constructed around the idea of reaching out to people on the streets, parks, and public places of our world. Our drama library and efforts developed along a fairly narrow band of issues and styles. It was understood that if you were interested in ministering specifically to the church and those issues then you probably wouldn't be as fulfilled in your involvement with our team. But at least you knew what you were getting into. Now at least half of our drama efforts occur in a church setting. We basically work with two kinds of teams, street and church. Each has a different philosophy, method, and style.

Make your philosophy known before you recruit people, so they can whole-heartedly join. To get people involved, they have to believe in the vision and purpose of the ministry. If you don't know your specific philosophy then you need to think about your focus of interest and the opportunities that seem to be available to you. Will you be enhancing the Sunday morning message or maybe using the creativity of drama to make announcements in service? Are you focusing on an evangelistic effort or specific outreach? Are you putting together a team for children, youth, and/or adults? As you ponder these things God will have the opportunity to direct your steps and your philosophy of ministry.

In order to develop any level of competency, you need to at first narrow your philosophy and focus your efforts. Broaden it after you have some experience and exposure. If you try to do everything too quickly you won't be able to do anything well.

Save some areas of ministry for later after you have a foundation to work from. Start

building your foundation by answering some important questions:

- Where will you focus your ministry? In the church? On the street? On an outreach?
- What ministry opportunities do you see are possible or already have available?

- Who will be your actors? Children? Youth? Adults? Mixture?
- What do you wish to achieve with your team?

With your purpose for your drama ministry defined, begin planning and preparing to share it with those who desire to be part of your team. But before you can recruit your actors, they need to be aware of what they are stepping into. What is required of them? Putting together a **drama contract** can sometimes help people realize the commitment you are requiring, and remind them after things get involved that this really is what they have committed to do. Following is an example of a drama contract. It would help any prospective member know what they were getting into and provide guidelines for the day-to-day function of the team. Being proactive in this area will save you a mountain of heartache later.

Any team needs to have clear expectations and guidelines so that people can realistically devote themselves to it. People who have to quit part way through because of unknown expectations will feel like failures. You may fail because they do quit and leave you hanging. This may seem unspiritual but it isn't. It provides an honest understanding of what is involved and what guidelines will be there. Being proactive enables you to have a team that has great potential to function fruitfully together. Check out the following contract and find what fits for your team and your expectations.

Drama Contract

SAMPLE DRAMA CONTRACT

MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of the Drama Team is to bring people to a greater understanding of Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of their life by ministering through drama.

1. I understand that the Drama Team is not performing. It is ministry, and as such it requires commitment.
2. I will attend regularly scheduled weekly practices. If I am not able to attend a scheduled practice it is my responsibility to contact the drama coach prior to the practice I will miss.
3. I understand that two un-excused absences means that I might not be able to continue to be on the Drama Team.
4. I will complete all Bible study and devotional homework, as assigned.
5. I will weekly attend at least two of the following: Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Sunday School, or the midweek youth meeting.
6. I will be faithful to practice throughout the week.
7. I will attempt to display an attitude that reflects the character of Christ, even during difficult times.
8. I will be respectful of the leadership and fellow Drama Team members to promote unity.
9. I understand that the breaking of this contract could result in being removed from the Drama Team.

Signature of Drama Team Member

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Step Two: Your Calendar for Success

After clarifying your drama philosophy, the next step may feel like it should be recruiting and practicing, but we still have a few things to set in place before stepping on the “stage”. Whenever you have a ministry team you need to have a ministry plan that is on a calendar. That way people know what they are signing up for as well as how to order their personal lives so that they can be a part of the team effort. If you are working with youth or children that means parents are also involved, and they will need to know all the details, practice times, and expectations as well. Communication is a key to success in any ministry endeavor.

It is important for the drama team leader to get some things on the calendar before a team forms and continue to work with a calendar once the team is established. This means that certain decisions need to be made regarding drama ministry. How long will the team exist? Is this on-going or for a particular event with a beginning and ending date? How often will you practice? When will you perform? As you answer these questions and put things onto your drama ministry calendar, there are some important things to take into account. There are a variety of different calendars that may provide opportunities but also may show you days to avoid in your planning. Be sure to check the following calendars as you start planning your ministry times:

- Church Calendar
- Community Calendar
- School Calendar
- Denominational Calendar
- Any other Calendars you are aware of

Check dates on calendars to see which opportunities may be offered to your team. For example, let’s say that the 4th of July is a large community event with various groups sharing talents on different stages in the city park. This would be a good opportunity for your team to share the Gospel with the community through drama. On the other hand, let’s say your church plans its all-church camping trip for the 4th of July. This would limit your team’s involvement in the community event. Be aware of what’s going on outside your ministry, because it will impact the involvement and availability of your team members.

As stated earlier, in order to put a schedule and calendar together you have to determine what type of team you will have, **One-Time Event**, **Seasonal**, or **Perpetual**. **One-Time Event Teams** allow people to get involved as little or as much as they can. A team put together for a specific event, like a 4th of July community event, offers a clear beginning and ending date. People with limited

schedules find these one-time events easier for them to get involved with. A shorter commitment is required, and when the ministry performance is over the commitment has come to an end.

You may find that a **Seasonal Team** makes a lot of sense for your location. It also allows new people to become a part of the team every year. **Seasonal Teams** have a definite beginning and ending time. For example, a team may begin in September but disband after Christmas. One could begin in January and disband in June. Disbanding doesn't mean failure, if it is planned. Most of our lives are lived in a seasonal way and many ministries will have a seasonal element to them. If you operate on a seasonal time table of six months, for example, you give people the opportunity to get in or out as well as celebrate what has been done in your time together. Your season can be as long or as short as you see best for your group. Here are some calendaring examples for a **Seasonal Team**.

Concept One

- Promote/work out details June to August
- August: Information & Team-Building Meeting - with food provided
- September 3rd weekend: Training Seminar
- Weekly meetings calendared
- October 15: First ministry event (already planned before meetings begin)
- November: Thanksgiving Ministry Event
- December: Mall Outreach, Children's Event, Youth Event, New Year's Eve
- January: Month Off
- February: Restart with Valentine's Day Event
- March: Outreach to another church
- April: Easter Event (not large production)
- May: Mother's Day Event, Prison Ministry Opportunity, Local Parade
- June: High School Graduation Event, Celebrate the Year's Accomplishments

Concept Two

- Promote/work out details March to May
- June 1st weekend: Information & Team-Building
- June 2nd weekend: Training seminar
- July 4th: Outreach in park
- July 20-24: Help with Children's Vacation Bible School
- August 15-22: Mexico Outreach
- September: See You At The Pole Rally, Back to School Rally
- October: Halloween Outreach
- November: Celebrate what you have done.

- Start up again in February with the idea of being together until June

Concept Three

- Promote for three months
- Informational Meeting
- Start with training seminar
- Have six weeks of training then begin doing drama for pastor's sermons
- Every four weeks have another ministry outlet for the team - prison, mall, other churches, youth groups, etc.
- Every three months have an improvement clinic
- Every three weeks celebrate what God is doing

If your team is going to be a **Perpetual Team** then you start with a similar promotional calendar and timeline as a Seasonal Team but also consider some additional aspects.

- Be sure you provide times for people to get in and out gracefully. These times need to be part of your planning calendar so you can secure people for a full term until the next exit point or encourage others to come in at the next entrance point.
- Be sure you schedule celebration times for all that has been accomplished.
- Specific training times need to be scheduled. You will need to eventually provide several kinds of training for the beginner and the more advanced people.
- Your ministry calendar will need to be confirmed as far in advance as possible. Giving people short notice for a ministry opportunity will create unnecessary stress, as well as create conflicts that a well-planned calendar could help avoid. You need to be planning for ministry opportunities that you aren't even preparing drama for yet.
- Be sure to schedule evaluation times when people can express their ideas or concerns in regards to all aspects of the team. Are we doing too much? Do we have the proper time to prepare? Are our families suffering? Am I growing as a Christian or only as an actor or neither?
- Leadership assessment times are important, as well. Ask yourself: Do I have help to keep this kind of commitment and involvement going in a fruitful way?

Here is a sample calendar to get a **Perpetual Team** started:

Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Let's have a drama team!	Do your coach homework	Research Calendars	Research Ministry	Recruit and advertise	Recruit and advertise
Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Information Meeting	Training Month	Halloween Event	Rest Homes	Dinner Theatre Three churches	Celebrate work and retire until next season

After taking all these things into consideration, it is time to start planning the calendar. Setting practice times should be done after you set up ministry times. Once you know when you are required to be somewhere, you can find dramas to fit the occasion and figure out how much practice time you will need. So, where do you take your team to do ministry? Here is a partial list of some of the potential places where ministry opportunities may exist in your setting.

1. Sunday School Classes
2. Vacation Bible School
3. Children's Church
4. Dinner Theatre
5. Mission Fundraiser — Drama Night
6. Youth Group Activities
7. Park Outreach Programs
8. Drama Ministry Tour
9. Drama Ministry Workshop
10. Float in a Parade
11. After-School Care
12. Shopping Mall
13. Children's Ministry Fundraiser
14. Youth Revivals
15. Summer Camps
16. Illustrate the Pastor's Sermon
17. Area-Wide Youth Rallies

18. Public Schools
19. Advertisement
20. Worship Starter
21. Street Evangelism
22. Foreign Field Evangelism
23. Altar Call
24. Advertise an Upcoming Event
25. Retirement Home
26. Video You Make to Send To Shut-ins
27. Prisons
28. Foreign Speaking Churches in your Community
29. Fifth Quarter Youth Event
30. Church Banquets
31. You and the Holy Spirit see what kind of a list you can

write

Once your ministry opportunities are set up, a promotional calendar can be developed so that you can reach your potential participation audience. Start promoting a couple months before your actual start date so potential team members can put important dates onto their calendars. Remember, communication is a key in successfully developing a drama ministry. After you've shared your philosophy and put out a calendar of events, be sure you do it again and again. People need to see the information often. A simple rule is to tell them the same thing six times in three different ways: flyer, verbal announcement, posters, mailing, one-on-one invitation, etc. As you plan, you need to consider the schedules of the people you may be working with. That's where checking out different calendars becomes vital. You won't always be able to avoid conflicting with personal schedules, but having things planned, calendared, and communicated early will allow your team adequate time to arrange their lives accordingly.

Step Three: The Actors

Your philosophy for ministry is defined and ready to be communicated, the calendar is set with practices and ministry opportunities already scheduled. Now it's time to recruit the actors for your drama ministry. One of the great things about drama is that people of all ages and abilities can participate. You might find that you discover a drama star in someone you may not have initially thought would be amazing.

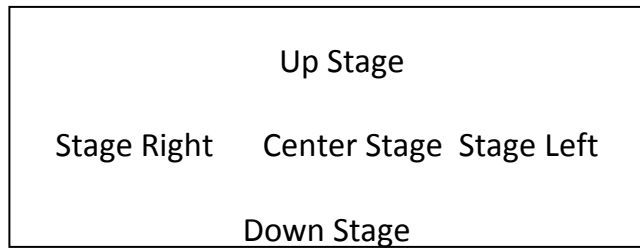
I (Shawna) know that drama became the launching point of confidence for a few people who have been a part of my different drama teams over the years. I had one young man in particular who was a little socially awkward and didn't carry himself with much confidence. His sister was one of the key drama people on our youth team, and he was often in her shadow. During an intense drama training week, this young man was chosen to play a key role in every drama we learned, much to the surprise of many members of our team. This literally changed his life. He finally believed he was really good at something, and it showed. I wouldn't have chosen him to be the star, but when he was picked he rose to the occasion and did a great job. So when you are choosing people to play different roles, don't be afraid to take a risk on someone now and then. They may surprise you, and it just might change their life. When Mark, who was my youth pastor for ten years, started us in drama ministry, he often chose us for parts by simply drawing our names out of a hat. We all got a chance to learn, be stretched, and grow in drama.

Of course some parts may be played better by someone with more life experience, but there is always a part for the average Joe or Jane. My philosophy is that if one can breathe, one can act. I've even had some of my drama team members be the props, like a door, tree, or table. Anyone can do drama, but you have to take into account that not everyone understands drama. It has its own lingo and culture. No matter what level of acting experience or training your team members have, begin at a level where everyone can succeed, and don't assume too much initially. So, how do you start with drama beginners? Take time to teach the basics, like simple drama vocabulary.

Beginners: For people who have had little or no drama training, there are some basics they need to learn and understand. One of the biggest obstacles I often find with beginning actors is lack of confidence. Once they have been successful with drama, the confidence begins to grow and the abilities begin to shine. So we need to help make that success happen. This comes with planning for success but also by teaching the actor how to speak "drama-ese" and how to act. In all

you do, plan and teach for success.

The Stage:



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXX **AUDIENCE** XXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

- Stage Right: Stage directions are determined by their location when facing the audience, therefore if you are stage right you would appear to be on the left side of the stage from the audiences viewpoint
- Stage Left: From the audiences viewpoint you are on the right side of the stage but on the left side when facing the audience
- Up Stage: In the early theatre the back of the stage was higher than the front for sight purposes, therefore if you are up stage you are towards the back of the stage.
- Down Stage: Since the early theatre had the slope towards the audience, to be down stage meant you were near the front of it .

The Seven Drama Basics:

1. **Body Control** – Being able to tell your body what to do and not to do at any time and with any movement is important. Trying to figure out what to do with your hands or even how to walk across a stage is difficult for some people. When performing nervousness often settles in, and we can forget how to just be and not over-act the part. Once on a stage, some people start flapping around or become very robotic. Controlling the body involves building confidence and being comfortable in the role you are playing. Physical conditioning may become a factor for some people, depending on the requirements of the part they are playing. Many professional actors condition much like a professional athlete because of the sometimes grueling requirements of body control. Body control includes being natural, not over-acting, knowing what to do with the character you are portraying, and also being able to stand still when necessary, even to the point of no eye movement. One of the ways to help an actor freeze is to locate a focal point either on the stage or back wall of the auditorium and keep your eyes on it. It's okay to blink if you need to, and don't forget to breathe even if you are in a

frozen position.

2. **Movement** – Every movement should support the character that is being portrayed and there should be a reason for moving. Don't just move to move. We have often watched people pace, because they don't know what to do with themselves if they don't move. It's okay to stand still if that's what the drama calls for. Remember, make it natural. No movement should be wasted or without purpose. Don't turn your back on your audience unless you have a reason for doing so. Let's say you are down stage and your next movement is to go up stage. Don't walk backwards. That's not natural. It's okay to turn your back to the audience and simply walk where you need to be. Some of the key movements that will need to be learned have to do with the relationships that are portrayed by the stances that one has with the other actors. With the simple movement of feet and arms you can express a thousand words with the picture you present to the audience. Here are the three basic stances that will need to be mastered.

- The positive relationship stance



Turning your feet at a 90 degree angle with your foot closest to the audience pointing down stage and then your other foot facing either stage right or stage left, depending on which way you are standing. Keep your body open to the entire audience.

- The confrontational relationship stance



Face to face is this stance. Point your toes toward the person you are confronting and stand strong. When in a confrontation, we often cross our arms to let our feelings be seen. The audience will not be able to see your face if in confrontation and that is okay.

- The avoidance stance



To avoid someone, you turn away. However, in drama, don't turn directly back to back, but in a reverse relationship stance. The same 90 degrees with your feet but not looking at each other. Keep the 90 degrees with the feet and the audience will be able to see.

3. **Projection** – You need to ask the question, “How loud am I?” Being able to be heard at a greater distance than normal conversation levels is extremely important. This requires you to push your words out with more force. This happens as you fill your lungs and push upwards from your diaphragm, the muscle in your lower abdomen. Anyone can be loud without screaming if they spend some time working on this. If you have to whisper on stage, you also have to project. A stage whisper means keeping the projection and adding an airy tone as you speak, simply whispering loudly.

4. **Diction** – Here is where you ask the question, “Am I being understood?” Diction has to do with the clarity of the words that are spoken. It’s important for people to hear you, but they also have to understand you. Even if your character is someone who talks funny, the words need to be understood. Enunciate your words. Practice this by doing tongue twisters with your team.

5. **Eye Contact** – There are times when it is appropriate to engage your audience by looking at them and interacting with them. Take caution when you look at your audience. Find people that won’t make you laugh if you look at them. Eye contact is not usually the norm in a drama, but there are times when it is appropriate. Looking over the heads of your audience, when eye contact is what needs to be portrayed, detaches the actor from the people they are trying to minister to. Deliver the message of the drama directly to your audience. If there is no audience interaction required then the actors must keep focus on the stage. If you think about a stage, there are naturally three walls, but you have to imagine the fourth, the one where the audience is sitting. This means keeping your eyes on the stage. Don’t break past the fourth wall unless it is part of the drama. Eye contact with other actors can be difficult to maintain without breaking character. A good trick to keep from laughing is to obviously to practice a lot, but also don’t look directly in the other person’s eyes but look at their forehead or nose. This can be awkward, but after a lot of practice it becomes more natural and easier to keep control.

6. **Owning Your Lines** – This is more than memorizing and saying your lines on cue, but also saying them because you mean them and have become the character you are portraying. You have to convince the audience you are not yourself speaking words, but you are the character. Along with your lines, your movements need to match what you are saying and the attitude you are saying it

with. Don't stomp across a stage if you are portraying someone who is shy. Don't slouch and whisper your lines if you are acting like someone who is confident and ready to take on the world. Think about how your lines, attitude, and actions all need to go together.

7. Characterization – Each person (character) that is portrayed in a drama has a characterization. It shows the key elements of the character's personality. If a person is a loud, proud, boastful husband then the audience will know that fairly soon by the actor's characterization of the role, the delivery of his words, and the confidence of his actions. Characterization must be consistent and carried throughout the entire drama. If the character is supposed to be loud, proud, and boastful the entire drama then that is all the audience should see. You "break character" if the actor suddenly becomes meek and quiet. Maintain your character's personality even if you are not saying lines. It has to show in your body control as well as through your projection and diction of your lines.

Consistent characterization makes it possible for the audience to follow the message of the drama. If a person only has a short part they still need to spend enough time to develop their character so their actions are understood. A simple rule: You need at least seven seconds to establish a character. More is better but you can do it in seven seconds if the characterization is consistent and relies on some overt actions, like proud, evil, naive, stupid, drunk, blind, etc. Become the character you are asked to portray and don't stop being that character until the drama has come to an end. A perfect drama does not mean there are no mistakes. It means you do not break your character.

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Advanced Beginners These people should have a basic working knowledge of the drama basics. Their challenge will be to minister to a variety of audiences with a variety of drama styles. Growth for them will come with the level of experience you provide for them and the greater risks they have to take in drama. They can begin to work towards creating their own dramas and finding their own ministry opportunities. At this stage your guidance is needed so their zeal doesn't take them to places they shouldn't go but not to stop them from moving forward.

They can still improve on the basics but at least they know what they are. They also need to be exposed to people at higher levels of drama so they can see what is next for them. Let them set new goals for themselves and the group based on something they can now understand.

Experienced At this point the next step of growth involves passing on to others what they have learned themselves. They can train the new people in the

group and they can be the lead coach on a particular drama or program. Perhaps it means you take your group on the road and do a training clinic for a new group somewhere. This not only allows your team another growth opportunity, but it also cements what they have been taught. As stated earlier, we remember 90 percent of what we do.

If we don't train our people to pass on what they have learned and experienced then we are doing them a disservice. They need to give away what God has given to them. That principle of raising others up is a key to any ministry form. Making that a normal part of what you do will open future doors for you and your group.

Exposing your team to a variety of others at their level or higher is still important and challenges growth and improvement. This way the growth edge will still be there. Without it stagnation begins to set in and that is death to any organism/organization.

Expert Now your team(s) is/are doing more ministry in any kind of setting using a variety of styles whenever you realistically can. You are preparing others as much as you are doing drama. You have become a resource for those who want to get involved in drama ministry. At this point you will also have volumes of drama and experiences that you can share with others.

The opportunity for discipleship takes on a whole new level of responsibility and accountability as your team members become the teachers. At this point others know who you are and what you have done. Your walk with God and the actions of your team are viewed in a different light and you will be held to a higher standard. That's a big responsibility, and your team needs to know how to deal with it correctly.

As with all things in life, we never fully "arrive" in our drama abilities. We can always learn something new and always improve on what we know. To help your team increase their range of action, expression, and vocal control, involve them in some drama exercises and games. You can find some of these in the "Warming Up Them Old Bones" section. We also have an entire drama games book written by Shawna. Never stop learning and helping your team members grow,

Step Four: Finding Dramas

There is a variety of drama styles that you can become proficient in. Like most things you will probably like one kind over another, but you should learn more than one for the sake of versatility and your potential audiences. Not all things work in all places.

Certain settings and countries will lend themselves to certain styles. Being able to function with them will open doors for you. For example, mime is a great style for some audiences but it isn't universal. Often slap-stick humor works where mime won't, but it doesn't go everywhere either. That's where studying and educating yourself on the culture and setting you will minister in is very important. Avoid offending your audience. Not everyone will like everything you do, but knowing your audience will help you prepare correctly for effective ministry.

As you learn about the variety of styles don't settle on only one as your tool. You need multiple tools. This becomes apparent when you find yourself working with captive audiences (churches, schools, jails, etc.) versus audiences you have to captivate (streets, parks, bus stations, etc.). These two extreme ends of the spectrum will show you the need for a variety of drama tools.

Sketch: Five Minutes or Less

This is a great place to start with your drama ministry. Beginning with shorter dramas will provide a good deal of success fairly quickly. Your challenge is to find ministry places to use your first one. You aren't building a ministry program that can fill a whole service time so you need to work well with others.

In time, the five-minute sketch will become a building block of your ministry. Putting five of these sketches together along with five testimonies and a short message can fill an entire service. They can be the basic building blocks in your drama team as there is a lot of flexibility in a five-minute drama.

Short sketches have the value of being new and fresh every five minutes. They also don't require the same level of acting skill as a longer program. Learn to work with them but don't limit yourself to them either.

Platform Drama

This kind of drama often ends abruptly and leaves you hanging, wondering what is next. It can even feel like the drama is incomplete. That's the idea. Bring people to the edge of their seats and then stop. This creates a "platform" for a preacher, teacher, or student sharing a testimony related to the issue of the drama. At the end of the drama, whoever is going to be speaking needs to step

up immediately so you don't lose your audience. Working from a platform like this is like giving an altar call after a very clear, fully developed message, but it only took a few minutes instead of the better part of an hour. Remember, pictures are worth a thousand words, and you just gave your audience thousands of them.

Humor

Laughter can open the human heart in some unique ways when used correctly. Even a very serious topic can be approached from a humorous angle. This doesn't mean making light of a serious topic, but presenting it in such a way that people are willing to listen. It's like coming in through a back door to approach an issue people might want to avoid. As with any style, you need to learn how and when to use humor and when to steer away from it.

Mime

One of the more difficult forms of drama, this can be the key in some countries to draw a crowd. It is considered an art form and works well in some, but not all, settings. If your target group is attracted to mime, don't be afraid to take the time to learn it and then use it. Mime involves music with no words, a certain style and skill in movement, and mime make-up, which is often a white face with eyeliner and mascara for the eyes and lipstick on the lips. Mime is very specific and takes time to learn. This is where body control is very important and time is required to be able to master mime. Without words, your body and actions have to tell the story. Mime is creative and when done well can deliver a powerful message.

Narration

For a beginning group this can be very effective, especially if they are a little shy on the verbal end or not loud enough at first. One person narrates the story and the other team members act out what's being said. This can be used in your own area and also used effectively overseas where you can do a good drama with a native speaker as the narrator. Having a narrator doesn't necessarily mean the rest of the team has no lines. You can do a combination of a narrator and the actors. This can allow the narrator to set the scene or be the off-stage voice. They can also be used for vocal special effects.

Plants

In this format you have people hidden in the audience who become a part of the drama at unexpected points. I (Shawna) have done this with my team. Preaching a message on the love of God, I had some of my drama team hidden in

the audience and the script written into my message. At the right moment one of them jumped up and started yelling at me, “Wait a minute, preacher!” The shock on everyone’s face was priceless. People had no idea this was coming, and the impact of the message was awesome. They have never forgotten that moment. It is important if you are using plants that they speak loudly and clearly. This is where practicing diction and projection come into play. Standing up in an audience and speaking means no microphones, so you have to be sure you are heard and understood. This type of drama involves your audience in a way that increases the impact and retention.

Audience Participation

Using the audience as part of the drama needs to be voluntary cooperation from them. How do you use an audience you haven’t practiced with? You may have them “boo” the bad guy or applaud the good guy. They might become an angry crowd or a forest in a wind storm. They can help set your stage by creatively “building” the set with their imaginations. Ask them for a color and make that the color of the walls or the sky. How you involve them will depend on your audience, location, and intention.

One-Act: Ten Minutes

These longer dramas can approach a more complex topic or deal with one to a greater depth. Where the five-minute sketch works well to present one key point, the one-act can present many facets of an issue. There are some things to consider when looking at doing a one-act. It’s probably not the first step to take with a brand new team, but it can be something to work towards. Even though the drama time is doubled, the complexity of doing a one-act is probably tripled. Small errors that are overlooked in a sketch become apparent in a one-act. Your actors’ abilities are seen for what they really are. Do they stay in character or are they easily distracted? In a short sketch you can hide the weaknesses because there is little time to see them. You can also lose your audience to boredom in ten minutes. If you don’t have all your cast for a presentation it is difficult to substitute someone at the last minute. In a practical sense that means you need to allow much more time to properly prepare.

Having said all this as a warning, there are some great benefits to a one-act. Done well, they can triple the impact of a skit. People will sit through hours of a movie if it is done well. Do your drama well and it will pay off. Because more work is required for a one-act, use it as often as you can. It would be good to schedule a few ministry opportunities for your team to share this drama.

If you are doing a longer program, let’s say an entire service, you can combine a one-act with some sketches. Building from something light-hearted or

funny to something more serious is usually best. You can also lead up to something intense, preach a short message, ask for audience response, and then end on something upbeat. This, of course, depends on the purpose and hopeful outcome of your ministry opportunity and who your audience is, a captive audience or one you have to captivate. We'll address this more thoroughly in the section "Planning Your Program".

One-acts can also be a good stepping stone for a full production. It can help train your team for the added time and focus needed for a longer involved program. Your usage of this drama style depends on the focus and scope of your ministry.

Full Productions

A full production play can range from thirty minutes to ninety minutes to two hours. It can be very elaborate or more relaxed and simple. You could even put together three one-acts for a thirty minute full production. You can, of course, be longer than thirty minutes but that represents a typical sermon in many church settings. Full productions are great for fund-raisers, dessert or dinner theaters, Christmas, Easter, most any holiday, and special events. Preparation will typically take about four months with one rehearsal a week. That would translate into a September through December schedule for a Christmas production. Finding a good script can take some time and a lot of digging, but they are out there. Some plays are written as a dinner theater and can even involve the audience, which can be really fun.

If you have a network it would great to schedule your full production for others who could also benefit from it. Scheduling several performances allows you to utilize all the work that has gone into your full production. It will also allow your team to minister in a variety of settings. Exposure to these different groups will force you to be flexible (stage size, response level, follow-up, etc.) and that will increase your opportunities for growth and involvement. Here are some potential places where you could be a real blessing.

- Small churches in your region
- Rest homes
- Jails
- Malls (some are looking for local productions during holidays)
- Salvation Army or Union Gospel Mission feeding programs
- Hospitals
- Various specialty groups in your church
- Neighborhoods/Housing Units/Apartment Complexes
- Community Day Celebrations

- Etc.

Full productions also mean that you will need to look for help in additional areas as well as at greater levels. Props, costumes, makeup, lighting, backdrops, special effects, technical challenges, and portability all create great ministry opportunities for those who would rather stay off the stage but still want to get involved. Practices for full production plays means more than the cast. You have to include the stage managers, sound techs, lighting techs, etc. Dress rehearsals are a must for any full production play you do.

As long as you recruit for all your anticipated needs you will enjoy working with a bigger team. If you are short on people, it may force extraordinary efforts on some people's parts. That can be good but too often it burns people out as they are forced to unbalance their lives and pay a price somewhere that isn't healthy (family, finances, personal devotions, etc.). You might be surprised by the people you find to be part of your production. When given the opportunity, people will usually come forward with talents that have yet to be discovered.

A September to December schedule would be preceded by a June to September recruiting period that far exceeds the demands you would expect for a drama team that will focus on sketches and one-acts. It can be worth it if you have opportunities to minister with the program. Look at the whole process before you make commitments to a project of this magnitude.

Human Video

Human videos can be defined several ways. For our purposes we will define them as "using a song to tell a story." The song can either have words or just be a musical arrangement. We have successfully used both in a variety of cultures and settings. Human videos can cross the language barrier if the song is either done in the local language or has little or no words. The most important part of a human video is that it tells a clear story that fits with the song. There are some dramas we have labeled as "human videos" that are simply creative movement to music, emphasizing certain words or phrases in the song, like the song "When God Ran" by Benny Hester. There isn't a clear story that we have dramatically created for this song but rather use certain movements to clarify the impacting phrases of the song. Although this may not be what we've defined as a human video, it still has its place in the drama ministry world. Remember, we retain fifty percent of something when we see and hear it. Putting drama and music in the same place at the same time allows you to utilize this fact in your ministry. The two should complement each other. If they do, you can combine two powerful media and multiply your

impact.

Human videos can be either complex or simple and will take a lot of practice. Not only do you have to learn the movements but also the music needs to be memorized. Fluid movements and making sure everyone is on cue is vital to human videos. Some general guidelines for putting together a human video should include the following:

The Song

- Use a song that is easily understood the first time it is heard. As with a sketch, the words need to be understood.
- If using a song that has a lot of repetition in its lyrics, be sure to find creative ways to vary your movements. Don't do the same actions over and over but change things a little to keep it interesting.
- Try to tailor the music style to your audience. Certain music genres don't work well in some areas. Know your audience.
- Try to find a song that has a clear story. If it doesn't, be sure you create the story with your actions. You need to include character development, a clear story line, a good, attention-getting introduction, conflict and climax to the story, and bring it to a resolution.
- If using a song with a long musical intro, try to create something that goes with your story line that can begin with the first beats of the music. You don't have to wait for the words in order to begin.

The Drama

- Creating the story line of a human video can be difficult but also fun. Involve your team members in the creating after giving them some exposure to good human videos. As they help with the creating, they will own the drama.
- When training a human video, think of your time commitment as one hour per minute of the song. A five minute song will take about five hours to teach and fine tune.
- Teaching the drama includes teaching the music cues that you work from in the song. You have to know the song as well as you know the drama that goes with it
- Having someone come and train your team can cut the practice time down. This is a good idea to get your group started in human videos. They get an idea of the time commitment and also the ins and outs of the drama style.
- It can take much longer to create and develop a drama for a song that doesn't have a clear story line. Don't get discouraged but continually

think outside the box. It can be challenging, but it's worth it.

- Only use movements that add to the impact of the message. Move with purpose and have a good reason for your actions.
- Not every word needs a movement. Emphasize the concepts and story of the song. Keep it simple and understandable.
- Don't do things that only a select group of people will understand. Sign language is often used to illustrate words in a human video. This isn't understood by all people, so don't overdo it. Watch your movements in certain cultures. Don't offend your audience.

Human video acting can require a higher level of proficiency than a sketch does. Your mistakes will be noticed much sooner. While complex choreography can add interest, if the participants are not synchronized in their movements then the choreography can become a distraction. Make sure your choreographed movements are cued to specific musical cues to help ensure your movements are crisp. Since most songs fit into the general time element of a sketch they can be used as a building block in your program the same as a sketch. You can use them as a platform for ministry or let the message of the song take its full impact as you follow it with a prayer or testimony. Either way it can be a powerful tool.

Human videos can be done by a single person or small or large groups. I (Shawna) have had up to forty people in one human video. But how in the world do you put that many people in a single human video? We divide the drama into two parts: story line and illustration. The story line people are usually up front and act out the story. They are your main characters and develop the message of your human video. The illustration people are in the background and do synchronized movements to emphasize key phrases of the song. Using story line and illustration allows you to involve a lot of people and adds a creative touch to the human video. Being part of the illustration is where some of my shy team members found their place in drama. Knowing they had other people doing their same movements, they felt like they could hide in the background but still be a part of drama ministry. As I said before, if you can breathe you can do drama.

Step Five: Putting Together a Practice

Our goal in practicing is to get it perfect. Right? Well, sort of. We do want to get as good as we possibly can. So, we practice really hard. But drama should be more than just hard work. It should also have an element of fun to it. Your drama performance schedule and practice times determine what your practices can look like. If you have one hour, you might need to keep drama games and warm-ups to a minimum. If you set aside ninety minutes or more, you can allow for more warm-up time. With an all-day drama practice you can mix things up a bit between practice, prayer, and play times.

Getting started with a group and not knowing their dramatic abilities can be difficult to know who to cast for which parts. Drama games can help in this area. There are certain drama games and warm-ups that can help you determine a lot about someone's ability in drama. If someone is really shy, it comes out in drama warm-up time. If someone is over the top, you find that out rather quickly as well. One simple drama game that I often use with new groups I am training is simply "The Name Game". This game and others can be found in our "Drama Games" book. I use this game to learn the names of those I'm working with and also to give me an idea of how daring and outgoing they are. Here's how the Name Game is played.

Everyone stands in a circle. Choose someone to go first. People are usually quick to volunteer to be first when they hear how the game is played. Don't tell them right away that if they are first that means they are also last. Person One says their name and does an action. The action can be anything from jumping up and down, raising their hands, waving, somersault, etc. Person Two then says the name of Person One and does their action, then they say their own name and do their own action. Person Three starts with Person One, Person Two, then their own. Carry this pattern all the way around the circle and back to Person One who then does the entire group. This is a good warm-up for your group, too. It gets them active and makes them focus and be creative. Check out the "Warming Up Them Old Bones" section for drama warm-up ideas.

After you've warmed up a little, it's time to dive into the practice you have before

you. Often the best beginning to practicing is prayer. This doesn't have to be long, drawn out hours of prayer. With some of my teams we do creative prayer. At my home church we have something we call WAVE Prayer. WAVE is the name of our youth ministry, so the name fits our group. Give this type of prayer whatever name works best for your team. WAVE Prayer consists of everyone praying aloud for the same thing at the same time for about two minutes or more. It can feel kind of strange at the beginning, but with everyone speaking at

the same time your team members will start opening up and become more confident to pray aloud in front of others. This has been a powerful prayer style for various groups I have worked with. At times we have focused our prayer times on different groups around the world. I have taped out a world map on the floor, and we have travelled from country to country praying for the nations. There are many creative ways to involve your group in prayer.

Now that your team is warmed up and prayed up it's time to start practicing the dramas you are preparing for ministry. Learning a new drama involves different aspects depending on the level of your actors, so we will address this from all those varying levels.

Beginners:

For beginners, success is as important as competency. You need to be able to help your beginners rough out the drama before you perfect the pieces of it. Once they have seen what the drama is all about and how they fit into it, then they can take the criticism and correction that is needed. Until they have a framework for the ins and outs of drama, a lot of correction and criticism only weakens their resolve to be involved and discourages them. That is one reason why it is important to have drama training times in addition to drama practices.

At the beginner level it is important to use good dramas. What makes a good drama? It clearly communicates the message. Even if it isn't done perfectly, it will bolster the confidence and desire of your team to be involved. In contrast, a poor drama done at a beginner level will have people wondering just what it was they saw and minimize its impact and therefore their encouragement to your actors.

Teaching a drama to a beginning team requires time, patience, and details. They aren't usually the ones to come up with the ideas of what to do and how to make the drama look natural. They simply don't know how to make it happen yet. You want to achieve more than a group of people quoting their lines. You want them to take ownership and become their characters. This means you will have to tell them how to be that character. Be sure you have looked over the script and planned out the blocking. Blocking determines where the characters stand and how and when they move during the drama. Blocking can be very simple or complex. This is up to you and your team. After you decide on the blocking, share it with your team and have them write their blocking on their scripts. They have more than just lines to memorize when it comes to doing a drama. Here are some things to consider when blocking a drama:

- Be sure those who need to be seen can be seen by the majority of your audience.

- Avoid standing everyone in a straight line unless that is what is called for in the drama. Standing in groups of three and in a triangular position breaks up the straight line look and allows the audience a good visual of the drama.
- Don't be afraid to use your staging area. Being down stage and close to the audience is great, but most beginning actors are afraid and try to hide in the back. Set their blocking so they can't.
- Try to keep your actors in relatively close proximity to each other. Don't spread them so far across the stage that people have to look back and forth at those who are speaking.
- Be sure every movement has a purpose. Avoid pacing, unless that's the character's personality. Move only if there is a reason. Standing still and saying lines really is okay.
- Watch what your actors do with their hands. Often people are unsure where their hands should go. This usually means they will either flap their arms, slap the sides of their legs, shove their hands in their pockets, or stand stiff as a board.

Blocking hand movements can also be important, especially with beginners.

When handing out a new script to your team, walk through it with them before sending them off to memorize and be sure to give them a reasonable deadline for the memorization of their part. I usually try and give the team two weeks for getting their lines down, but of course this depends on the length of the drama. If everyone has their lines done at the same time your team can move onto the specifics of blocking and character development. This is where the team factor can sometimes get challenged and open the doors for discipleship. With the busy schedules of our lives, getting everyone to memorize their lines on time can prove difficult and frustrating for those who faithfully pour themselves into completing the task. Emphasize the importance of deadlines and teamwork and help your group work through the frustrations that are likely to come up.

We all memorize and retain information differently. For me, saying my lines over and over again works well. I often try and practice with another person reading all the other parts while I try to do mine. Some people can amazingly read through something a couple times and have it down. That's awesome, but not the norm. I have found that I memorize some of my lines during the initial run through of the drama. I don't suggest this for beginners, but it does work for some people. Help your team members find a memorization technique that works best for them.

Spiritual training will also be a necessary part of the beginner's world because the newness and challenges of starting a drama ministry and working in a team will force maturity in the group. The more rough edges, the more human issues that need to be worked on. Plan on discipleship being a key part of your practices.

Advanced Beginners

At this level success is still important for your team, but your actors have a capacity to receive criticism and correction earlier because they will be able to sense where the drama is going in the teaching session. It also means that they will have suggestions for the drama that need to be taken into account. In fact, it is good to develop

a practice of having some time when everyone shares their ideas and the group can discuss them. No idea is a bad idea, even if it really isn't the best idea. Allow your team the freedom to share anything they dream up with the understanding that not all ideas will be used. You will more than likely get someone with a totally off the wall idea, but it can spark something in someone else that actually becomes a part of the drama. Set some rules about brainstorming sessions.

- All thoughts and ideas are welcome, but that doesn't mean that every idea will be used.
- Everyone is encouraged to give input.
- No one is allowed to shoot down an idea or say that it is stupid.
- The coach is the final word on what is or is not included in the drama.

Your team will also have the ability to take on more difficult dramas and can spend more time learning dramas. But don't forget to train them, too. Drama training is necessary at all levels of dramatic ability. You don't always have to come up with new dramas for your team to learn. You can use the same materials you have done before but involve your advanced beginners in the training of any new people at this time. This is a good discipleship and growth point for them.

Spiritually you will need to have a steady time of spiritual training to deal with character issues that will surface, like pride because of success or conflict with others on the team. You're still working in a team setting and that means continually dealing with a variety of personality styles. Conflict is bound to happen at one point or another, but your team will be better equipped to handle these things.

Experienced & Experts

Giving scripts to your students in advance to your practice session will

allow them to come with the script memorized and prepared with suggestions and ideas about their character and blocking. Set this as a general rule with your experienced actors. At your first practice discuss their suggestions, any potential corrections, and criticism

before you even begin the drama. You'll be able to jump into practices quickly and easily with your experienced group because they know the drill and what is expected of them by this point. Warm-up time is still important to get everyone on the same page, but doesn't necessarily have to be as long as before. Prayer is still a vital part of practice time and can be creative. There are always heart issues to deal with and having ministered in different places, these groups or churches may become your focal point.

Drama training is still important for your team but should address some different topics than would be addressed with your beginners, like how to write a drama. Now is the time to give them the tools to start writing their own. Let's say you have a particular ministry opportunity coming up and need to address a certain topic. Inform your actors far enough in advance what they need to write about and then work with the scripts they produce. The same rules apply as with brainstorming.

Your team, at this level, is ready to start training others. Find a group that you can bless with what you have learned, not only your dramas but also your drama skills. Give away what has been given to you. Teaching other people can be a stretch for your team and is a good growth point for them. Your team members should be growing not only in their drama abilities but also in their capacity to minister with the ministry moments that have been created (see "Milking the Ministry Moment"). In some practice sessions, you may find you spend more time preparing for the ministry moments than the drama that created it.

No matter the level of your drama team, it is good to periodically have an outsider come in and evaluate your group and their skills. The enclosed evaluation tool is one way to do that. It covers the key aspects of a drama that determine whether or not it will be effective. Don't be afraid to use it and train your drama people to respond positively to criticism and learn to grow from its challenge.

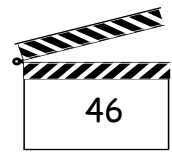
Watch the DVD *Instant Drama Improvement*

Watch the sketch on the DVD to see a small group's improvement from bad to better by using the evaluation tool and applying the issues it addresses. Don't be afraid to use this tool with your own group or individuals. If you don't address these kinds of technical issues in drama, your ministry potential will never be reached. Evaluating your team gives you a chance to improve and increase your ministry capacity. As you can see from the DVD this drama went from bad, really bad, to an effective tool that is used in ministry.

It can be helpful to videotape your group once the drama appears to be done and review it. There are several ways to tell if your drama is as synchronized as it needs to be. First, close your eyes and just listen to the drama. Does it tell the story that way or are there gaps, gaps caused by timing or dropped lines? Sometimes seeing the drama will cause us to fill in the missing parts without realizing it.

Now watch what you videotaped. Does it flow smoothly? Are there pauses while people are trying to remember lines? Does it spend too much time on one point and not enough time on another? Are the actors moving too much or too little? Do the movements make sense? If you watch the video in fast forward it can give you a good, and hilarious, look at how the movements work in the drama. In other words, do people get it or are you giving them insufficient information to work with?

Enough review will allow you to see areas that need work and improvement. Without review you can have all the parts but it doesn't come together to create the whole picture that you are trying to paint. Using the evaluation tool will help you step back and evaluate the various parts that make up a drama and also allows you to see what the comments are and why they are being made.



Evaluation Tool

Drama Name: _____ Date: _____

JOHN 8:31-32

poor	fair	good	excellent	superior
1	2	3	4	5

A score determined from the above format should be noted for each of the following areas.

DRAMA CONTENT (The drama apart from the actors)

- ___ Opening (did the presentation gain and maintain attention?)
- ___ Development of the material (was the thought clear, logical, and climatic?)
- ___ Theme Interpretation (was the indicated theme portrayed clearly?)
- ___ TOTAL POINTS

DELIVERY (How well is it acted out?)

- ___ Bodily expression (is the expression consistent with the ideas stated?)
- ___ Facial expression (is the expression consistent with the ideas stated?)
- ___ Characterization (was the audience able to identify with the characters?)
- ___ Confidence/Self Control (was it forceful and full or shy, timid, and halting?)
- ___ Voice and Diction (was the character portrayed clearly and every word heard?)
- ___ Actor Ensemble (was their timing correct and was there polish on the lines and action?)
- ___ TOTAL POINTS

OVERALL PRESENTATION (did the parts merge together and present the message?)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

_____ Grand Total of all points earned

Comments:

Warming Up Them Old Bones

Many people will come to your practices but won't be ready to do much of anything. And there will be those with so much energy from their daily intake of lattes, that they just need to be harnessed and pushed in the right direction. Tense from the day and distracted by all that is going on in their world they need some warm-ups or drama games to get ready and focused for practice.

Allowing your team members to let out some steam can be a good idea, as long as it is controlled. Using warm-ups and drama games are a great way to get everyone on the same page. Here are some example of things you can do to "warm up them old bones."

Count to ten the following ways:

- like you are counting pennies on a table



- like counting people in a crowded room



- like counting passing railroad cars



- like counting a knock-out in a world championship boxing match



- Blow up an imaginary balloon until it pops.



- Play a game of imaginary baseball, basketball, hockey, etc. You are the announcer and they have to respond to what you say



- Become an ice statue, but let somebody else tell you what kind. Now start melting until you are a puddle on the floor.

Create a space for an imaginary elevator and put four people inside

- One is the door operator
- One is blind
- One is pregnant, very pregnant, did I say ready to deliver the baby?
- One is carrying a large bag of groceries

Now have the pregnant lady begin the process of having the baby. After thirty seconds call freeze and replace one of the people with someone new. Have the new person begin

to take the drama in an entirely different direction however they want. Continue switching people out every thirty seconds until everyone has had a chance.

- Turn your whole team into a special forces unit that is parachuting into enemy territory. Start from the jump out of the plane, then parachute

ride down, and then lading into enemy territory where they get ambushed and shot at. Make someone a medic and have them try to take care of the wounded while under fire. Continue until people appear to run out of intensity.

Find a Bible account and have them act it out after a two minute review of the passage.

- Matthew 7:24-27 – The wise and foolish builders
- Matthew 13:1-9 – The parable of the sower
- Matthew 20:29-34 – Two blind men receive their sight
- Mark 4:35-41 – Jesus calms the storm
- Mark 12:1-12 – The parable of the tenants
- Luke 15:11-31 – The parable of the lost son
- John 11:1-44 – Lazarus

You can possibly use these as dramas for ministry or in a service at some point.

Have them become superman/woman and do the following activities;

- Change clothes in a phone booth (pantomime)
- Bend steel bars
- Lift up a car and pull an old lady out from underneath it
- Be exposed to Kryptonite for fifteen seconds
- Have half of the team become Batman and have them battle imaginary foes.
- Get up the nerve to tell Lois Lane who you are and that you love her! If it is a girl have her get up the nerve to tell Superman that she loves him!

Have an imaginary race in imaginary race cars around the imaginary race track in your practice room. Your commentary on the event will determine their actions. For example, number four spins out on the corner and crashes into three others.

Pair people up and have a staring contest where you can do any kind of action or motion, except touch the other person, to get them to blink.

Have your team participate in a TV aerobics show and have people take turns leading for fifteen seconds.

Shout out different objects, animals, colors, etc. and have everyone become those things. The object isn't that they do these correctly, but that they do something for everything you call out.

- Fly being chased by a fly swatter. After a little bit have them get squashed

- Piece of chewing gum being chewed, blown into a bubble, and popped
- The color purple, red, orange, green, etc.
- Toaster
- A piece of fruit: apple, banana being peeled, bunch of grapes, etc.
- Tornado
- Nail being hammered into a piece of wood
- Anything you can think of or even see in the room

Be creative and come up with your own ways to “warm up them old bones.”

Step Six: Utilizing Drama Around the World

All Christians are called to be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. It doesn't take long to see that language and cultural barriers can make that seemingly impossible. But that's not so. Drama can become a way for us to cross the barriers and minister the cross of Christ to people who would otherwise be out of our reach. That is true whether it is somewhere in the bush of Africa or the neighborhood down the street.

This method also makes anyone a carrier of the message of the Gospel. Drama doesn't require a theology degree or years of training in theatre. Through the simple sketch, testimony, and message you can draw a crowd, keep it, and share the message of Christ that you have been entrusted with. Of course there are some factors that you have to take into consideration wherever you choose to go, whether in a church in your area or across the ocean to a foreign land.

When you start to minister you will find that each church, community, and people group has their own culture. The more you know about it the more effective you will be as you minister to them. It may be as simple as knowing the local High School mascot, which you could use as a reference in the drama, to understanding that divorce doesn't exist in a culture.

It will also have a lot to do with the vocabulary that you use in your drama. Churches have certain words that nobody else uses and few of the people in the church really understand. Whenever possible use a normal person's vocabulary in contrast to church words. Here is an example. Both of these statements do say the same thing. Trust me.

The Trinity by grace will grant you salvation and righteousness, enable sanctification, and endurance till the time of the blessed hope.

God has made a way for you to know Him and change and given you the strength to live for Him.

Keep it simple so people will understand. It will also help you to avoid the complications that come when you realize that many churches use the same words but that they have a very different meaning. Words like "saved", "filled with the Holy Spirit", "sanctification" all mean different things in different circles. If you are going to use these words, you need to know how your audience will interpret what you say when you say it.

Ministry to other cultures and languages forces you to do your homework as well. Sit down with someone who understands the culture and go over your ministry program before you go public with it or take some time to investigate

information online. It will save you a lot of misunderstanding and heartache if you do this. Being able to minister in a way that your projected audience can understand and apply the message is worth all the time you spend learning to be relevant. Don't offend your audience but rather learn to work within the culture you are ministering to.

Knowing the culture is important and so is knowing your audience. It determines your vocabulary, the length of a drama, the audience's attention span, and the style. Age is important enough to design your program based on the ages you will be working with.

For example, if you have an opportunity in a **retirement home** it is better to format your ministry program towards an audience that won't be able to keep up with a lot of fast-paced drama or human video with contemporary songs. You would do well to pick dramas that utilize easy to understand themes and music. Then you can anticipate being able to be understood and see a real ministry time take place. Mixing in some relationship time where you spend ten or fifteen minutes getting to know some names would be good and can have a greater part in a ministry setting than the two or three dramas that could have been done in that same time frame.

For a **teen audience** you are better off to start with something that is very powerful and impacting. If you can do that and minister quickly and in a relevant way then you will have time later to get to know the individuals. You will gain the right to talk to them if they see you have something to say and care enough to take the time to do it well.

For **children** you find a balance somewhere in between the two previous groups. Children will enjoy interacting with you if you are sensitive enough to interact on their level and listen to them as they answer any questions you might have asked them. You can also tell them what you are going to do before you do the drama. In this way, they will understand what may be a little over their normal understanding level.

When you are trying to connect with children there are several aspects you need to take into account. While ministering in a day camp setting, I (Mark) noticed that the children loved the characters that came back day after day to play their part in the new drama. They would boo or cheer appropriately once we had developed the characters. As a result, their retention level was much higher.

At a certain point, in order to increase the impact, we did a full drama on our knees because this group of kids was so young and small. If we had stood, we couldn't have played children's parts and have them be believable. The adult parts still stood but the kid parts were played by people on their knees.

For a **general church audience** you need to be well polished not just in the

individual drama ministry segments but also in the transitions that take place between the two. When one drama is done, have the testimony that follows it immediately ready to take advantage of the ministry moment. Have that person or another ready to take the audience to the next step in the program. If you can smooth out the transitions, then you will minimize the distractions that can take away the ministry impact.

Having worked with many groups in many countries and a huge variety of cultures we have learned through our experiences what works where and when. As you minister in a various places, you will learn these things as well. Don't be afraid to step out into the world and share the gospel.

Step Seven: Planning Your Program

After considering who your audience will be, what culture you are ministering in, and what styles of drama you will be using, it's time to put the program together. Without a plan, transitions from one element of the program to another can be awkward and even distract from the message you are trying to convey. After you have put your plan together be sure everyone on your team is aware of what is happening and when they need to be where. I (Shawna) have even posted the program in non-conspicuous places or made copies for everyone so that the team can check it as the service is going and be sure they are in the right place at the right time. Things should flow easily from one point to the next. Practicing your program, even the testimonies and message, can help make your ministry time very impacting. Here are a few sample program plans.

Illustrating Your Pastor's Sermon

If your drama is during the offering, let's say, then have your team walk onto the platform and set up during the prayer. When amen is said, wait for the person to walk off the stage and then begin the drama. This keeps the service flowing.

If your pastor would like you to do the drama in the middle or at the end of his message, try to work out key words that will let you know when it is time for your team to set up. Don't be afraid to have your team quietly set up while your pastor is still speaking. Inform your pastor how the drama will end, the last line or someone stepping up from a platform drama and bringing it to a close, so that your pastor can step up immediately after you are done. This is something that takes time to learn both for your team and for your pastor, especially if he hasn't used drama in his message very often. If possible have your chairs and props set up before the service and leave them on the platform. This will build curiosity in the congregation, and they will anticipate something special is coming in the service. However, if your church's platform is anything like mine, there isn't usually enough room to leave props on the stage. That's okay, just be sure you take time to practice setting things up and taking them down before your ministry time. The transitions need to be as smooth as possible.

An Entire Church Service

Doing a thirty to forty minute program takes quite a bit more preparation than doing an illustration for a message. This doesn't mean that the entire program has to be one drama after another. There's more to a drama service than just dramas. Each one of your team members has something very valuable to add to the service, their own personal stories. God is working in their lives and

they need to share these truths with other people in the church. We've got some great stories of first-time moments of someone publicly sharing their testimony. It can be difficult for them, but it's amazing when they do it and see God use it to change someone's life. Challenge your team to take this huge step of growth in their lives.

When putting your program together think about what your goals are for the service. Are you wanting to address a certain topic that runs through each drama and testimony? How will you begin? Lighthearted? Jump right in to the core of the message? How will you close? An altar call? Upbeat? Determine your goals and focus and then plan accordingly. Let me show you a couple examples.

Example One – The Drama Team Sharing Testimonies

- Humorous, lighthearted drama with a clear message (5 minutes)
- Introduction of the direction of the service, what you want to tell them and share with them through the dramas (3 minutes)
- Drama starting to lead into the theme for the night (5 minutes)
- Testimony relating to the drama just done (3 minutes)
- Human Video (7 minutes)
- Testimony relating to the message of the human video (3 minutes)
- Closing drama or human video (5-7 minutes)
- Closing testimony (3 minutes)
- Prayer, altar call, ministry time (as long as God is working)

Example Two – Someone Preaching and Drama Team Illustrating the Message

- Worship by church worship band
- Church business (offering, etc.)
- Intro of drama team and/or speaker (3 minutes)
- Drama to intro the message (5 minutes)
- Intro and point one of the sermon (5 minutes)
- Drama or human video (5-7 minutes)
- Point two of the sermon (3 minutes)
- Drama or human video (5-7 minutes)
- Testimony from drama team member (3 minutes)
- Point three of the sermon (3 minutes)
- Drama or human video (5-7 minutes)
- Closing of sermon and lead into ministry time

Program for Evangelism on the Street, at an Apartment Complex, Park, Etc.

When doing something for a crowd you have to captivate you don't know

how long you will have their attention so be sure to deliver the message with a drama and follow up with a testimony giving people a chance to talk with someone, respond in some way, get more information from your team. You may only have them for a few minutes. Make the best of it.

- Draw the crowd (see Reaching the Lost section)
- Drama or human video with a clear message (5-7 minutes)
- Testimony/Gospel message and opportunity to respond (5 minutes)
- Drama or human video with a clear message (5-7 minutes)
- Testimony/Gospel message and opportunity to respond (5 minutes)

You can keep this rotation going as long as you have the time. Take a break after a few dramas and play with the kids in the area, talk to people, etc. After a little while start up again. You will probably have new people that have joined you.

Building and Utilizing a Testimony

Each of us has a distinct testimony that ministers to a part of any audience. Each person can also tie parts of his/her life to a drama that is presented and share how Jesus has worked in their life. Practicing testimonies in front of the team will help you and your team members be more confident when the time comes to speak in front of a crowd. This is also a great team-building exercise and makes your team aware of what other people have to share. Let's say I'm talking with someone on the street and they start opening up about their addiction to bubble gum. That may not be an issue for me, but I know that Kimberly on my team has had that same problem and God did a miracle in her life. I can then get Kimberly and we can talk to this person together. Knowing the testimonies of your other team members helps with effectiveness and impact of ministry.

We know that everyone has a testimony, but few people have taken the time to organize it or see its effect when used in conjunction with drama. Paul used his testimony three times in scripture (Acts 22:2-21, 26:4-29, and Galatians 1:13-24) as the first tool in his ministry. We can be as ready as he was.

These ten questions will give the same information that Paul gave in his testimony presentation. If Paul had done this exercise we would find the same testimony that he shared from scripture on this page.

1. What kind of religious background did those who raise you have?
2. What did they raise you to be?
3. What was your driving force in life prior to following Jesus?
4. How did you spend your time prior to your conversion?
5. How did the Gospel get introduced to you?
6. Why did you believe the Gospel?
7. How do you know that you have a relationship with God?
8. What has God done for you over the years (organize by topics)?
9. What is God doing for you today?
10. What are you doing for God today?

Watch the DVD and you will see how you can utilize the platform that a drama presents to share a testimony and open up the doors of ministry. You may not need to share your entire testimony but just the relevant portion that relates to the drama.

Reaching the Lost

Ministering in churches will put you in contact with some non-Christians. In some settings you may be able to gather a group into a church or a pavilion. But to really reach out to people who don't come to church you have to go where they are and minister to them there. When you take it to the streets there are some things you need to take into account.

In the street, it's a spiritual battle. It can also be a spiritual battle in church but there people have been praying and trying to serve Jesus. In the street setting that isn't the case, especially if you are working in a poverty area or one known for its illegal activities. Even the finest parks or hangouts need to be prepared through prayer before you try to minister. You have to work in the spiritual realm before anything happens in the natural realm. Praying for your time there and in personal preparation is critical to any kind of success.

When you go there, you also need to minister as part of the body of Christ. You may use drama as one of your tools but it better not be your only tool. If it is, you may find yourself without a tool for the issue at hand. You need to be ready to express Christ's truth to others in more than just a theatrical way. Practical ways of helping meet needs such as food, conversation, clothing, medicines, networking, etc. can be just as effective in the ministry picture as an academy award performance.

You need to know your culture so your message can be relevant, so take the time to know your culture. Surveys can be a tool to get to know your potential lost street audience. It has been said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Surveys can help you accomplish that.

If you have taken care of the battle, gotten to know your audience, and earned the right to speak to them, then you have a legitimate ministry opportunity. Once you have that, make the most of it. Your ability to be flexible and comfortable outside the church walls will enable you to see the opportunities that are there.

Your opportunities for ministry may happen:

- In a wide spot on a sidewalk
- At the end of a cul-de-sac
- In a park
- At a bus station
- Outside of a movie theatre
- Near a school entrance
- In front of a business park



- On the beach

Your flexibility will determine where you can minister effectively. Therefore learn to be flexible. Don't just rely on drama as your only method of ministering to people. Be ready to utilize any number of tools that can be available to you. When you've set up your ministry plan and arrive at your ministry sight, you may find that things are not what you had hoped or planned for. With multiple elements to your program, you have the flexibility to change things around to fit the situation you now have. Plan A doesn't always work, so you need to have Plans B, C, D, E, and F ready to go as well. Here are some elements you need to be sure are a part of your ministry plan.

"Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be broken."

- Prayer: Not just beforehand but also while you are there. You can pray while on the streets and you can pray with people if they grant you permission.
- Personal Testimonies: Everyone has one. Help them to organize it and then tie the testimony to the specific drama you are using. Use it to spark people's attention before the drama as well as after.
- Literature: Have literature that is easily understood by your audience. It can even be linked to your church or group you are working with or the drama that you do.
- Songs: You can sing. Know your audience and team for this and only sing if you have the capacity to do a pretty good job. You can sing a song that they might all know, a Christmas Carol (Christmas time), or one that is worship to God. Any of these can also augment the drama you will do.
- Media: If you have the capacity, use any of the media you can. Films thrown up on a sheet or wall. Live camera interviews that are projected on the same screen. A TV show done there "live" can be a platform to minister from. Interviews from the man on the street can be revealing as well as open hearts for further ministry.
- Attention Getters: Balloons or face paints for children can be offered. This can help draw a crowd as well as bless the children and parents. There are some kind of crazy dramas that you can do that will attract a crowd as well.

Keeping technology simple will allow you to do what you do effectively. Know your equipment and have what you need to do it well. Makeshift equipment and cords running all over the place are a formula for failure. Don't

use a new technology for the first time on the street, but make sure it works someplace safe first, like the church parking lot.

On the street, you will find the variety of spiritual gifts that God gives to the church will have more opportunity to flourish than in a church ministry program. You need to help equip and provide for their ministry. For example, the gift of mercy shows itself in compassion for others. There may be little or no opportunity to express that gift in a drama. On the streets, showing mercy may be one of the keys to the people there. Equip your team to minister to street people's needs: bringing clothes, food, medical supplies, diapers, and contact people for on-going follow-up, etc.

Administrators help turn chaos into productive order. After you've had a street session, work with them to come up with an effective way to run the three-ring circus that street ministry often is (i.e., balloons and face-paints with kids, basketball with teens and men, clothing and diapers going to moms, and personal evangelism in a variety of locations.)

Know your team and its gifts so you can see how those various gifts can be used in a street outreach. Your team members have a variety of gifts and they each need a place to use that gift to the best of their ability. Using all of the gifts in your team members will help the drama increase in its impact for the people there as well as those who are involved in the ministry.

Getting to know your street audience will help you to understand their felt needs. Are they looking for work? Do some need to learn to read? Is English desired as a second language? Are they looking for shelter? From any one of these you may find a key that allows you to meet their felt need as well as give them their real need – Jesus.

Street work can't run by a time clock. It needs to run by a flow clock. For example, after your fifteen minutes of balloons for kids you can't go right into your drama program if you have twenty kids waiting in line for a balloon. You do balloons until you have finished with your first bag and tell the kids you can do more afterwards, but don't stop if you still have half a bag in your hand. You need to move on to the drama if people are beginning to leave because nothing new is happening.

You may have had four dramas planned with a testimony following each one and then a short message but you see that the weather is changing for the worse. Just do one drama, a testimony and a short message instead.

After thirty minutes of personal evangelism you were going to do your drama program. But you have people still involved in personal evangelism and others who aren't as comfortable with that. Have those not doing personal evangelism pray or break out the face-paints or balloons if there are a lot of children there.

If you are getting ready for a street service and no one seems to be there, go ahead and clean the area up. It's their backyard so be a good neighbor to them. All these examples should say this – be flexible. As you are flexible, you will be able to meet the natural needs and realities of street ministry.

In addition to the natural areas of the street world you need to be ready for the supernatural as well. Your time in prayer will enable you to see things that would never happen otherwise. When you think of prayer you need to think in at least three ways.

First, you have the privilege of prayer for yourself. That will give you all the awesome gifts that God has for His people. Full of these gifts you will be ready to give them away to the people you meet on the streets.

Second, you can intercede in prayer for the people you are ministering to. That can be done from the safety of your church, at each of your team's homes, or on the streets as you pray for the people who will come.

Finally, you can pray for people on the street. Many of these people will never come to the Jesus we know at church unless we take Him to them on the street. Scripturally, when we pray, two or three are gathered in His name, He shows up too. Jesus can impact lives anywhere He is given the chance.

In all that you do have a follow-up plan in place. Will these people go to your church? If not, where? Can they get there? Do they need transportation? Are there financial resources available for their long term needs?

You need a good connection with an on-going ministry that can deal with the total needs of these people. Groups like Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, Teen Challenge, and others need to be a part of your planning and ministry efforts. Often they can provide you with some excellent training for street work too.

Milking the Ministry Moment

Drama is not done for the sake of drama itself nor its actors. Drama is done for the opportunity of ministry that it creates. If it is done for any other reason than we need to take a step back and reevaluate. We must be prepared to utilize the “ministry moments” we have created. Most of us have been in a church setting where someone has sung a special song or done a drama that really touched people’s hearts. At that point you have a “ministry moment”. Unfortunately people have the normal response of clapping and thus nullifying it.

Our challenge comes with preserving and milking that moment for all it is intended to be. Jesus did it on a regular basis. Someone was healed, part of the great human drama called life, and almost always Jesus would turn it into a ministry opportunity because there was a ministry moment.

In fact, if we don’t use these moments wisely when they happen then nothing will happen when we want it to. Just because we want to put an altar call at the end of a service doesn’t mean people will respond. Often people will respond in the middle of your ministry set rather than only at the end. Be sensitive to how people are reacting and responding to the ministry you are presenting. People get numb if their hearts are constantly opened up but not ministered to. If they are ministered to, then they open up again more easily.

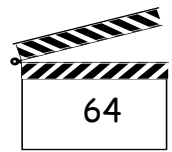
In practical application that means a few basic things. First, don’t give people a chance to clap. Only you know when the drama is going to end, so jump in at that critical moment and minister. Relate the topic to the audience and acknowledge that this drama is really talking about us. But what do we do with it? Well, we can go to God because of Christ and honestly deal with the issues of our heart. People respond when they are ready, not just when it is convenient.

When you are working in a setting where you have to captivate your audience this is especially true. People in a park may have to go home for dinner. The bus may come that people have been waiting for. You have no guarantee of the audience being there at the end to respond. Give them the chance when they are ready and at various times during your ministry time.

Be ready to follow up on the response. In a captive audience setting, such as a church service, jail, or rest home, have an altar call that includes and relates to the previous ministry moments. Get name and information for follow-up contacts and maximize what God has started.

When you are trying to captivate an audience be ready to get the important information for follow-up right after a ministry moment. Potentially have people in the crowd with pens and follow-up cards or literature. Have literature related to the drama issue and be ready with Bibles and the address for

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a church they can go to. Remember we are called to make disciples not just converts.

Step Eight: Dealing with Technical Realities

Keep it simple. You have probably already experienced the technical problems so common to special music, video cues, and microphones. When the music doesn't start on time or isn't cued up to the correct song and the microphone is turned off, what do you do? Keeping it simple will allow you to avoid these problems as much as possible.

- Whenever possible don't require technical help. Don't let your actors become dependent on amplification. Practice projection.
- Have your own system that you take with you so you can be very familiar with it and have someone who runs it when you need it.
- Put all of your music or special effects onto a CD or mp3
- Carry an extra CD or backup of your material.
- If you are outdoors make sure you have a system that doesn't require power. There are several good systems that run on internal batteries that charge from a wall socket and can then be used for a long day of ministry. These can fill a football field sized area with decent sound. To maximize the sound, put them on speaker stands and elevate.
- If anything uses batteries, always put new ones in for a ministry opportunity.
- If anything uses batteries, always have plenty of extras for each size needed.
- Carry an extra cord for the microphones.
- Carry an extra microphone.
- Get there early enough to walk through the technical part of your program and still have time to pray.
- The more technical your program, the more people you need to make it work. Be sure you have people to take care of all the details.
- Understand the basics of feedback so you don't create the ear-piercing squeal that drives people away. (If you don't know, talk to someone who does. Simply put, feedback happens when you put the microphone in front of the speaker. It creates a loop of sound from your microphone to the speaker and from the speaker to the microphone, and that's the source of the squeal.)

Despite all the precautions you take, some technical problems will still pop up. Train your actors what to do during those times. You can live with the problems or be sabotaged by them. How you deal with it will determine the

outcome.

- No one acting should have to give any signals to the sound people. Someone else needs to be paying attention to all that.
- If there is a problem and the actors are aware of it, they can:
 - freeze in position and do not move until things are fixed
 - continue on with more powerful voices, if a speaking drama
 - have a built-in commercial that they go to that turns the technical problem into a ministry moment. For example, “Just like real life isn’t it? Not on the script. Not what you would have wanted to have happen. What do you do? Well, you can get upset and rant and rave like a child or learn from it. Did we overlook something in our planning? Are we facing a new problem we have never experienced before? Is God wanting to interrupt? Is He trying to say something to us? Let’s pray now for this unique moment.”
- Pray!
- Have a placard (the black and white ones like they use for movie production) and someone that comes out saying “cut!” From that point you have another ministry moment if you like or you can invite people to turn to those around them and say,

“Nobody is immune to these problems are they?”

The technical world makes things possible that wouldn’t be possible otherwise. Learn to work with it and be proactive. If there is a repair that needs to be made then get it done. If something is wearing out, replace it. If your current system isn’t what it should be in order for you to do what you are doing, upgrade. Finances are always a part of these kinds of discussions but there are ways to generate funds and have what you need when you need it. Here are some financial considerations for the technical world.

- Buy quality not a cheap “have to buy it more often” item.
- Charge people to be on the team.
- If you do an event where you have to charge, add a few dollars to the cost for the technical equipment.
- Seek local business sponsors or donations.
- Check the old church closet. Treasures are waiting in some of them.
- Fundraisers with a specific purpose, “Drama ministry sound system.”
- Consider simplifying your program.
- Pawn shops can have treasures at reasonable prices. Know your



equipment needs before you go, and take someone with you who knows how to evaluate the equipment.

Costumes and Props

There are many ways you can approach the costume and prop issue. We prefer simplicity because it means portability, lower costs, and flexibility. That fits our general ministry opportunities. If you decide to go with more complex costumes and props then you will still need to take the suggestions mentioned in this section and apply it to your approach.

Keep them clean, washed, and mended. No one likes to put on someone else's dirty clothes so don't make them. It is usually good to have one person who takes care of all costumes and props, as well as be in charge of storage.

Consider a variety of possible sources for your costuming and prop needs. Local second-hand stores can provide a wealth of materials for different characters. After various holidays, many local stores discount their costume items for quick sale: Halloween, New Year's Eve, etc..

Here are three mail-order companies that have a variety of potential costume and prop items at reasonable costs. You may also find many of these items at the growing number of dollar stores that are appearing in many areas.

Oriental Trading Company 1-800-246-8400 or www.orientaltrading.com

U.S. Toy Company 1-800-255-6124 or www.ustoy.com

Fun Stuff Toy and Novelty Catalog 1-877-222-2FUN or www.funstuff4u.com

In the simplicity tradition a XXX-Large tee shirt can make you a good guy (white) or a bad guy (black). If you stencil a red cross on the white shirt it is now a very specific good guy. One hundred percent cotton is nice because it breathes and doesn't make anything any hotter than it has to be. They can also be very inexpensive at discount shopping stores (Wal-Mart, K-Mart, etc.).

To stay simple but dress up a costume, sashes in a variety of colors can be in your costume bag. A silver or gold one makes the good guys look like royalty or angels. A dark red one can make the bad guys look worse. Simple masks can transform a person quickly. A hard hat, baseball cap, stocking cap, floppy hat, Dr. Suess hat can all be a part of the costume bag. Each one of them helps someone become a character to their audience. A second-hand cane makes someone old, injured, or crippled.

A dark-colored sheet becomes a burial cloth, a wrap for all your worldly possessions, or a cape. Your drama bag becomes a pillow for a street person, a burden weighing hundreds of pounds, or a backpack for a student. Drama is a creative ministry and your prop use and selection should represent that same level of creativity.

Old cell phones can live again as props. Foam pipe insulation (usually comes in three foot sections in a dark color) can be used to beat people with all the noise but none of the damage. Plastic pipes can be painted any color to represent rifles, spears, staffs, and be broken down into smaller sizes if you use the connecting portion to join pieces together.

If you go the elaborate route you need to make sure you have specific people that handle this part of a drama ministry. It is a job all by itself. A coach has enough to do without the burden of props. It needs to be noted that good props and costumes don't make anyone a better actor or take the place of rehearsal time.

In all your costumes and props remember not to include anything that can damage your people or the location you are ministering in. I have seen drama teams break things, leave water behind in puddles, smear makeup, and special effects stain walls and carpets. When ministering anywhere, be sure you leave it looking better than it did when you arrived. Clean up any mess you make and put things back where you found them.



The Armor of God (DVD)

Cast: 3 +

This is a mime drama. Based on Ephesians 6:10-18 this drama portrays the need for us to be ready for the attack of the same enemy that Jesus resisted during his time here on earth. Each of the six war tools is addressed by a different demon. With an introduction this is effective in foreign countries as well. You can vary the size of this drama.

Mrs. Righteous (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Mrs. Righteous (or Mr. Righteous)

Johnny (at 4 different ages)

Setting: Johnny lives next door to Mrs. Righteous. She is very busy in her church and though they have never actually talked before, Johnny has often looked longingly at her. Johnny and Mrs. Righteous bump into each other at five year intervals.

Mrs. Righteous is backing out of her house and bumps into Johnny while on her way to the car. She is quite busy doing her last minute primping. Johnny was just hanging around in front of the house.

Mrs. Righteous: Oops! Oh!! Johnny, it is Johnny isn't it?

Johnny (*at five years old*): Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um...Mrs. Righteous, could I go to church with you?

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny, that's such a good idea but I'm afraid that I wouldn't have time for you to run in and change your clothes before I left and I have to be there soon.

J: These are the best clothes I have Mrs. Righteous...

Mrs. R: Oh...well.. I have to go now....I'll pray for you today, Johnny, Ok?

(Mrs. Righteous runs off as Johnny turns to face audience and interact)

J: Well, she really is a nice lady. She must be. She always has such nice clothes on and her car is clean and she even has flowers in her yard. She must be a nice lady...

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again just as he is finishing up his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny... it is you, isn't it, Johnny? My! You have grown.

Johnny (*at ten years*): Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um...Mrs. Righteous, may I go to church with you?

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny... I am in such a hurry and I...well, I'm just not sure what class you would be in. Um, how old are you anyway, Johnny?

J: I'm ten, Mrs. Righteous. My friend, Michael goes to your church and he said I could go with him if I could get a ride...

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny! You don't mean Michael Brown do you?

J: Well, yes, Mrs. Righteous. He is my best...well, my only friend, at school.

Mrs. R: Well, Johnny, I don't think he would be a very good influence. I mean, his parents don't come to church and He always smells like cigarette smoke. Just like you do...and well, today is our mission convention and well...I just don't think you would understand it. The theme is won by one and well, it's really quite...quite... grown up....

J: Ok, Mrs. Righteous. Thanks anyway.

(Johnny turns to speak to audience again as Mrs. Righteous runs off)

J: She must really be a nice lady. She was trying to look out for me...I think. She always smells so good when she goes by and all the people that come to her house are always dressed up. Wow! I wonder if she's famous!

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again just as he is finishing his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oops... Oh! Johnny, it is Johnny, isn't it?

Johnny *(at fifteen years)*: Yes, Mrs. Righteous. Um, Mrs. Righteous could I...

Mrs. R: Oh, yes, Johnny you can wash my other car. You're probably almost old enough to drive one now aren't you?

J: Well, yes, I'm fifteen now, but...

Mrs. R: Oh, don't worry about supplies. I've got them all right alongside the house. You can use any you need. And I'll pay you \$20.00. How's that?

J: Well, I could use the money. I have to pay off some court fines.

Mrs. R: I'm so glad I can help. Oh, too bad you're going to be washing my car. I was thinking maybe you could go to church with me tonight to hear a guest singer. But you probably need at least an hour to do a good job on my car. Here's a CD he recorded. May you'll like it. *(she hands him a CD)*

(Mrs. Righteous runs off again to church as Johnny turns to speak to the audience)

J: Switchfoot...Beautiful Letdown. Well, I suppose that was nice. But I don't have a CD player that works. Well, at least it's still sealed. I can get \$3.00 at the pawn shop. I have some pretty hefty fines to pay off and every little bit helps.

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again as he's finishing his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oops!! Oh! Johnny, it is Johnny, isn't it??

Johnny *(at twenty years old)*: Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um... Mrs. Righteous?

Mrs. R: My, I almost didn't recognize you. You've grown up so much. Why, how old are you, Johnny?

J: I'm twenty years old. But, right now that doesn't matter. Mrs. Righteous, I want your purse.

Mrs. R: What...

J: I want your purse, and I want it now!

Mrs. R: But...a...you can wash my car again...and..

J: Washing cars won't cut it. I need \$300. a day to feel good and this works.

Mrs. R: But, Johnny, you're my neighbor. You've lived here all your life. How could you think of such a thing?!

J: I don't think anymore. It hurts too much. Your purse, Mrs. Righteous...

Mrs. R: But, I don't have \$300. Johnny.

J: That's okay, all I have to do is get it one by one.

Sinwear (DVD)

Written by Faith Assembly of Lacey Drama Team

Cast:

Female Buyer

Lucifer

Jesus

Whistling male

Three Friends

Tim

Setting: Person is leaving church and on their way to the mall.

Props: One coat large enough for both the buyer and Jesus, also some kind of stand to support the coat in an imaginary store window.

Buyer: Oh another boring day in Sunday School. I'm so tired of hearing the Pastor tell us to "go" out into the world and tell people about Jesus. I think I'll go to the mall instead. *(starts walking)* Oh, Lucifer's Place? I've never seen this store before. Look at that jacket!

Lucifer: Well, hello. How are you doing today?

Buyer: Fine. What is this called?

Lucifer: It's called "sinwear"

Buyer: Oh yeah, I've heard of this before. Some of my friends at school are wearing it. But it doesn't look this good on them.

Lucifer: Yeah, once you try it on it feels great!

Buyer: Can I try it on?

Lucifer: Sure you know once you put it on you just can't seem to get it off...

Buyer: Oh, wow!

Lucifer: Doesn't it feel great?

Buyer: Oh, yes!

Lucifer: Looks super!

Buyer: How much does this cost?

Lucifer: Well, it's on sale... a very good special... only your soul.

Buyer: My soul?!

Lucifer: Yes.

Buyer: Well, how do I pay for it like that? I've never paid for anything like that before.

Lucifer: Here I'll show you... let me see your finger for a second.

Buyer: Is this going to hurt?

Lucifer: A tiny bit, but a small price to pay for such a lovely jacket. *(He pantomimes pricking the buyer's finger)*

Buyer: OK.

Lucifer: Just write your name here and the coat is yours.

Buyer: That's it?!

Lucifer: That's all.

Buyer: Wow, thanks!

Lucifer: Remember to tell all your friends where you got it. Lucifer's Place ,666 Hellway Lane.

Buyer: OK.

Lucifer: See Ya.

Buyer: Bye.

Whistling Male: *(whistles at buyer)*

Buyer: Wow, this coat must really make me look good! Feels so soft.

Three Friends: *(ad lib...go googles over coat and her in it)*

Buyer: Hi Guys. *(Three friends continue ad libbing)* Thanks guys... I got it at this new store; Lucifer's Place, 666 Hellway Lane.

Three Friends: I've got to go...

Buyer: Yeah, go check it out.

Three Friends: That coat is so cool....

Buyer: It only cost my soul... it was really weird but I didn't have to pay money or anything.

Three Friends: Bye

Buyer: Glad I bought this coat.

Tim: Hey, Jessie... nice coat.

Buyer: Thanks, Tim.

Tim: Where did you get it?

Buyer: I got it at this new store; Lucifer's Place, 666 Hellway Lane.

Tim: Too bad, I already have a girlfriend... nice coat... think I'll go check it out.

Buyer: This tag kinda itches....What's going on! Oh, man, this coat is starting to itch so much!

Jesus: Would you like some help getting that coat off?

Buyer: No! This cost a bloody fortune. *(rejects Jesus)*

Buyer: It didn't hurt this much when I put it on. How come it itches so bad! I can't get it off. What am I going to do?!

Jesus: Are you sure you don't want some help?

Buyer: Oh, yes, please. Can you help me get it off?

Jesus: *(takes it, then puts it on, and dies, hanging like Jesus)*

Buyer: *(with her back to Jesus)* Oh, wow... Oh wow!... I'm never going to get into that again... No matter what it costs. It looked so good in the window but I am never going to get into that again. I need to tell that man thank you! *(turns around)* Oh, No! What did I do? He's dead?!

(Buyer goes to her knees and cries. Jesus comes down off the cross and raises the buyer in a victory stance)



Won by One (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Christian

8 people (can flex a bit on size)

Satan

Setting: Satan is trying to prevent the Christian from winning people. The Christian speaks to the people one by one and has to deal with the lies that Satan throws at him. The entire cast lines up facing the audience with the Christian at one end and Satan at the other end. The 8 people stand with their hands to their side, head down until Satan approaches them and speaks into their ear. Satan comes up from behind and whispers lies to each of them and then the person speaks the line out loud as if it's his own idea.

The Christian will look at his Bible and then step out to try and speak to each of the people in turn, but Satan always shuts him up just before he gets the courage to actually speak. After Satan reproves him, he returns dejectedly and prays or looks at his Bible again.

Satan: You stupid, gutless Christian (pointing at Christian) Remember the last time you tried to share with someone? They asked you a question you couldn't answer. Remember how stupid you felt and how they laughed? I think you just better stay quiet.

(Satan turns to first person and whispers into his ear)

First Person (man): *(acting arrogant)* Oh, it's so awesome to be so good looking. I'll bet I could do fairly well with the ladies. I mean, not everyone has the charm that I do. Go ahead, set your sights high.

(Christian begins to step out and speak to first person)

Satan: *(Pointing back to Christian)* Remember your own sin Christian. If I can even call you that. As a matter of fact, I think maybe God has already written you out. Yes... doesn't it say something about that in the Bible? . *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Second person (girl): *(looks at first person, rolls eyes, flirts, etc...)* Oh, take a look at that hunk. Oh, wow, that young man next to me. Maybe he likes me. Maybe it's more than like...maybe...just maybe...he's the one! You know, this just might be my future husband...the man of my dreams...the future father of my children! I can have that wonderful life I never had as a child. *(as she continues to make eyes at first person, he looks back and responds)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan: *(running back to Christian)* What about that promise you made to God? An hour a day...remember? You were going to pray an hour a day. Did you? Well, did you? Of course not. *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Third person: Just look around. Look at the people with all the things. They're the happy people, it's simple to see. The more things you have the happier you will be so... Got to figure out a way to get it all... Just..that's right! Now I've got it. Lots of school and then the big bucks will roll in. That's right! That's right! What a life I could have... *(pantomimes fingering lots of money)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan: *(pointing back to Christian)* Who are you to even think of telling these people about Jesus! It's a private thing between them and God. Remember? People don't like to talk about private things... Remember? . *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Fourth person: So much pain, I'm in so much pain. It must be because God hates me. He hates people like me. Well, I know what I did. God has to hate me for it. Someday I'll just do Him a favor. Go ahead and kill myself. It's okay. Judas did it. *(pantomimes holding a gun to his head)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan *(to Christian)*: Look, you've got a life to live. These people can just watch you live it and then they'll ask you questions. You might offend someone if you say something without an invitation. *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Fifth Person: Stupid religion. Sure, my parents go to church, but what do they know. They haven't always lived up to what the preacher says. *(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)*

Satan *(laughing at Christian)*: Look at you...silent...gutless, Christian. Look what I've been doing while you sit there gutless as can be. *(begins to whisper in the next 3 people's ears)*

Sixth person: Look, we have all been shafted by our parents, haven't we? We never get what we want. So, let's go out and get what we deserve.

Seventh person: Yeah! There's that rich old Wagner woman down the street. We could rip her off and no one would ever know. She wouldn't even miss it.

Eighth person: And just in case there's a guard or something, I'll bring my 22 pistol. Just to scare them...you know...

(Christian stepping out and speaking to the people beginning with first person, as he speaks the scripture to them, each person turns from

doing their pantomiming to listening to the Christian as he speaks a specific verse to them that relates to the lie Satan spoke to each of them)

Christian to first and second person: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.

(Satan starts to run pointing at the Christian but his shouting is all silent, he continues to run back and forth trying to keep the people from listening to the Christian without saying anything)

Christian to third person: What good is it for a man to gain the whole world yet forfeit his soul?

Christian to fourth person: If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

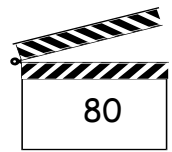
Christian to fifth person: If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Christian to remaining group: Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you.

Satan: One by one, I had them all. One by one.

(Satan and Christian freeze)

(People turn and point to the audience) One by one, the battle is on. Who will win in your world? Won by one.



Drama in the Ministry Tool Box
Volume Two
Scripts with DVD

Written and compiled by Mark Schaufler

Copyright 1996
MST Ministries
PO Box 8490
Lacey WA 98509

www.mstgo.com
ISBN# 1-886904-09-X

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The Armor of God (DVD)

Cast: 3 +

This is a mime drama. Based on Ephesians 6:10-18 this drama portrays the need for us to be ready for the attack of the same enemy that Jesus resisted during his time here on earth. Each of the six war tools is addressed by a different demon. With an introduction this is effective in foreign countries as well. You can vary the size of this drama.

Mrs. Righteous (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Mrs. Righteous (or Mr. Righteous)

Johnny (at 4 different ages)

Setting: Johnny lives next door to Mrs. Righteous. She is very busy in her church and though they have never actually talked before, Johnny has often looked longingly at her. Johnny and Mrs. Righteous bump into each other at five year intervals.

Mrs. Righteous is backing out of her house and bumps into Johnny while on her way to the car. She is quite busy doing her last minute primping. Johnny was just hanging around in front of the house.

Mrs. Righteous: Oops! Oh!! Johnny, it is Johnny isn't it?

Johnny (*at five years old*): Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um...Mrs. Righteous, could I go to church with you?

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny, that's such a good idea but I'm afraid that I wouldn't have time for you to run in and change your clothes before I left and I have to be there soon.

J: These are the best clothes I have Mrs. Righteous...

Mrs. R: Oh...well.. I have to go now....I'll pray for you today, Johnny, Ok?

(Mrs. Righteous runs off as Johnny turns to face audience and interact)

J: Well, she really is a nice lady. She must be. She always has such nice clothes on and her car is clean and she even has flowers in her yard. She must be a nice lady...

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again just as he is finishing up his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny... it is you, isn't it, Johnny? My! You have grown.

Johnny (*at ten years*): Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um...Mrs. Righteous, may I go to church with you?

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny... I am in such a hurry and I...well, I'm just not sure what class you would be in. Um, how old are you anyway, Johnny?

J: I'm ten, Mrs. Righteous. My friend, Michael goes to your church and he said I could go with him if I could get a ride...

Mrs. R: Oh, Johnny! You don't mean Michael Brown do you?

J: Well, yes, Mrs. Righteous. He is my best...well, my only friend, at school.

Mrs. R: Well, Johnny, I don't think he would be a very good influence. I mean, his parents don't come to church and He always smells like cigarette smoke. Just like you do...and well, today is our mission convention and well...I just don't think you would understand it. The theme is won by one and well, it's really quite...quite... grown up....

J: Ok, Mrs. Righteous. Thanks anyway.

(Johnny turns to speak to audience again as Mrs. Righteous runs off)

J: She must really be a nice lady. She was trying to look out for me...I think. She always smells so good when she goes by and all the people that come to her house are always dressed up. Wow! I wonder if she's famous!

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again just as he is finishing his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oops... Oh! Johnny, it is Johnny, isn't it?

Johnny *(at fifteen years)*: Yes, Mrs. Righteous. Um, Mrs. Righteous could I...

Mrs. R: Oh, yes, Johnny you can wash my other car. You're probably almost old enough to drive one now aren't you?

J: Well, yes, I'm fifteen now, but...

Mrs. R: Oh, don't worry about supplies. I've got them all right alongside the house. You can use any you need. And I'll pay you \$20.00. How's that?

J: Well, I could use the money. I have to pay off some court fines.

Mrs. R: I'm so glad I can help. Oh, too bad you're going to be washing my car. I was thinking maybe you could go to church with me tonight to hear a guest singer. But you probably need at least an hour to do a good job on my car. Here's a CD he recorded. May you'll like it. *(she hands him a CD)*

(Mrs. Righteous runs off again to church as Johnny turns to speak to the audience)

J: Switchfoot...Beautiful Letdown. Well, I suppose that was nice. But I don't have a CD player that works. Well, at least it's still sealed. I can get \$3.00 at the pawn shop. I have some pretty hefty fines to pay off and every little bit helps.

(Mrs. Righteous bumps into Johnny again as he's finishing his dialogue)

Mrs. R: Oops!! Oh! Johnny, it is Johnny, isn't it??

Johnny *(at twenty years old)*: Yes, Mrs. Righteous...um... Mrs. Righteous?

Mrs. R: My, I almost didn't recognize you. You've grown up so much. Why, how old are you, Johnny?

J: I'm twenty years old. But, right now that doesn't matter. Mrs. Righteous, I want your purse.

Mrs. R: What...

J: I want your purse, and I want it now!

Mrs. R: But...a...you can wash my car again...and..

J: Washing cars won't cut it. I need \$300. a day to feel good and this works.

Mrs. R: But, Johnny, you're my neighbor. You've lived here all your life. How could you think of such a thing?!

J: I don't think anymore. It hurts too much. Your purse, Mrs. Righteous...

Mrs. R: But, I don't have \$300. Johnny.

J: That's okay, all I have to do is get it one by one.

Sinwear (DVD)

Written by Faith Assembly of Lacey Drama Team

Cast:

Female Buyer

Lucifer

Jesus

Whistling male

Three Friends

Tim

Setting: Person is leaving church and on their way to the mall.

Props: One coat large enough for both the buyer and Jesus, also some kind of stand to support the coat in an imaginary store window.

Buyer: Oh another boring day in Sunday School. I'm so tired of hearing the Pastor tell us to "go" out into the world and tell people about Jesus. I think I'll go to the mall instead. *(starts walking)* Oh, Lucifer's Place? I've never seen this store before. Look at that jacket!

Lucifer: Well, hello. How are you doing today?

Buyer: Fine. What is this called?

Lucifer: It's called "sinwear"

Buyer: Oh yeah, I've heard of this before. Some of my friends at school are wearing it. But it doesn't look this good on them.

Lucifer: Yeah, once you try it on it feels great!

Buyer: Can I try it on?

Lucifer: Sure you know once you put it on you just can't seem to get it off...

Buyer: Oh, wow!

Lucifer: Doesn't it feel great?

Buyer: Oh, yes!

Lucifer: Looks super!

Buyer: How much does this cost?

Lucifer: Well, it's on sale... a very good special... only your soul.

Buyer: My soul?!

Lucifer: Yes.

Buyer: Well, how do I pay for it like that? I've never paid for anything like that before.

Lucifer: Here I'll show you... let me see your finger for a second.

Buyer: Is this going to hurt?

Lucifer: A tiny bit, but a small price to pay for such a lovely jacket. *(He pantomimes pricking the buyer's finger)*

Buyer: OK.

Lucifer: Just write your name here and the coat is yours.

Buyer: That's it?!

Lucifer: That's all.

Buyer: Wow, thanks!

Lucifer: Remember to tell all your friends where you got it. Lucifer's Place ,666 Hellway Lane.

Buyer: OK.

Lucifer: See Ya.

Buyer: Bye.

Whistling Male: *(whistles at buyer)*

Buyer: Wow, this coat must really make me look good! Feels so soft.

Three Friends: *(ad lib...go googles over coat and her in it)*

Buyer: Hi Guys. *(Three friends continue ad libbing)* Thanks guys... I got it at this new store; Lucifer's Place, 666 Hellway Lane.

Three Friends: I've got to go...

Buyer: Yeah, go check it out.

Three Friends: That coat is so cool....

Buyer: It only cost my soul... it was really weird but I didn't have to pay money or anything.

Three Friends: Bye

Buyer: Glad I bought this coat.

Tim: Hey, Jessie... nice coat.

Buyer: Thanks, Tim.

Tim: Where did you get it?

Buyer: I got it at this new store; Lucifer's Place, 666 Hellway Lane.

Tim: Too bad, I already have a girlfriend... nice coat... think I'll go check it out.

Buyer: This tag kinda itches....What's going on! Oh, man, this coat is starting to itch so much!

Jesus: Would you like some help getting that coat off?

Buyer: No! This cost a bloody fortune. *(rejects Jesus)*

Buyer: It didn't hurt this much when I put it on. How come it itches so bad! I can't get it off. What am I going to do?!

Jesus: Are you sure you don't want some help?

Buyer: Oh, yes, please. Can you help me get it off?

Jesus: *(takes it, then puts it on, and dies, hanging like Jesus)*

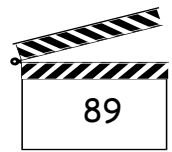
Buyer: *(with her back to Jesus)* Oh, wow... Oh wow!... I'm never going to get into that again... No matter what it costs. It looked so good in the window but I am never going to get into that again. I need to tell that man thank you! *(turns around)* Oh, No! What did I do? He's dead?!

(Buyer goes to her knees and cries. Jesus comes down off the cross and raises the buyer in a victory stance)

The Race (DVD)

Cast: 5+

Setting: Jesus calls us all to a race in which we follow him. People present many excuses in regards to that call. You can make up your own for this one. The key is found in the last person who timidly begins but then is encouraged when they realize that Jesus is running the race with them. Focus your excuses on ones that apply to your situation to increase the effectiveness of this drama.



Won by One (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Christian

8 people (can flex a bit on size)

Satan

Setting: Satan is trying to prevent the Christian from winning people. The Christian speaks to the people one by one and has to deal with the lies that Satan throws at him. The entire cast lines up facing the audience with the Christian at one end and Satan at the other end. The 8 people stand with their hands to their side, head down until Satan approaches them and speaks into their ear. Satan comes up from behind and whispers lies to each of them and then the person speaks the line out loud as if it's his own idea.

The Christian will look at his Bible and then step out to try and speak to each of the people in turn, but Satan always shuts him up just before he gets the courage to actually speak. After Satan reproves him, he returns dejectedly and prays or looks at his Bible again.

Satan: You stupid, gutless Christian (pointing at Christian) Remember the last time you tried to share with someone? They asked you a question you couldn't answer. Remember how stupid you felt and how they laughed? I think you just better stay quiet.

(Satan turns to first person and whispers into his ear)

First Person (man): *(acting arrogant)* Oh, it's so awesome to be so good looking. I'll bet I could do fairly well with the ladies. I mean, not everyone has the charm that I do. Go ahead, set your sights high.

(Christian begins to step out and speak to first person)

Satan: *(Pointing back to Christian)* Remember your own sin Christian. If I can even call you that. As a matter of fact, I think maybe God has already written you out. Yes... doesn't it say something about that in the Bible? . *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Second person (girl): *(looks at first person, rolls eyes, flirts, etc...)* Oh, take a look at that hunk. Oh, wow, that young man next to me. Maybe he likes me. Maybe it's more than like...maybe...just maybe...he's the one! You know, this just might be my future husband...the man of my dreams...the future father of my children! I can have that wonderful life I never had as a child. *(as she continues to make eyes at first person, he looks back and responds)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan: *(running back to Christian)* What about that promise you made to God? An hour a day...remember? You were going to pray an hour a day. Did you? Well, did you? Of course not. *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Third person: Just look around. Look at the people with all the things. They're the happy people, it's simple to see. The more things you have the happier you will be so... Got to figure out a way to get it all... Just..that's right! Now I've got it. Lots of school and then the big bucks will roll in. That's right! That's right! What a life I could have... *(pantomimes fingering lots of money)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan: *(pointing back to Christian)* Who are you to even think of telling these people about Jesus! It's a private thing between them and God. Remember? People don't like to talk about private things... Remember? . *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Fourth person: So much pain, I'm in so much pain. It must be because God hates me. He hates people like me. Well, I know what I did. God has to hate me for it. Someday I'll just do Him a favor. Go ahead and kill myself. It's okay. Judas did it. *(pantomimes holding a gun to his head)*

(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)

Satan *(to Christian)*: Look, you've got a life to live. These people can just watch you live it and then they'll ask you questions. You might offend someone if you say something without an invitation. *(begins to whisper in next person's ear)*

Fifth Person: Stupid religion. Sure, my parents go to church, but what do they know. They haven't always lived up to what the preacher says. *(Christian begins to step out and respond to person)*

Satan *(laughing at Christian)*: Look at you...silent...gutless, Christian. Look what I've been doing while you sit there gutless as can be. *(begins to whisper in the next 3 people's ears)*

Sixth person: Look, we have all been shafted by our parents, haven't we? We never get what we want. So, let's go out and get what we deserve.

Seventh person: Yeah! There's that rich old Wagner woman down the street. We could rip her off and no one would ever know. She wouldn't even miss it.

Eighth person: And just in case there's a guard or something, I'll bring my 22 pistol. Just to scare them...you know...

(Christian stepping out and speaking to the people beginning with first person, as he speaks the scripture to them, each person turns from

doing their pantomiming to listening to the Christian as he speaks a specific verse to them that relates to the lie Satan spoke to each of them)

Christian to first and second person: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.

(Satan starts to run pointing at the Christian but his shouting is all silent, he continues to run back and forth trying to keep the people from listening to the Christian without saying anything)

Christian to third person: What good is it for a man to gain the whole world yet forfeit his soul?

Christian to fourth person: If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Christian to fifth person: If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Christian to remaining group: Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you.

Satan: One by one, I had them all. One by one.

(Satan and Christian freeze)

(People turn and point to the audience) One by one, the battle is on. Who will win in your world? Won by one.

Elevator (DVD)

Written by the Faith Assembly of Lacey Drama Team

Characters:

Edward: a periodic church attender who works in the same building as Florence.

Florence: attends church regularly and works in the same building as Edward.

Christian: has no name but knows God and relies on Him in all situations.

Setting: All three people are riding on the elevator in an office building. The elevator experiences some difficulty while going up. No props are necessary for this drama.

(Edward arrives first and gets on the elevator.)

Florence: Good morning, Edward

Edward: Good morning, Florence

Florence: So how does your day look like today?

Edward: Oh the usual, the coffee, the secretary, the work, the usual. And how about you?

Florence: Oh the same, just a normal day.

Edward: Yes.

Florence: So how is your family doing?

Edward: The wife is good, the kids are good, the dog is good, I like the dog. And how about your family?

Florence: Oh pretty good, haven't been able to spend much time with the family. Work is more important you know.

Edward: Oh yes.

Florence: Say how are your stocks doing?

Edward: Oh God...

Florence: is wonderful isn't He?

Edward: Oh yes, I was just going to say that.

Florence: I didn't see you in church on Sunday?

(Christian arrives rather joyfully)

Christian: I love days like this. Oh hi! How are you. Isn't this a wonderful day?
What was it you said your names were again?

Florence: Florence?

Edward: Edward?

Christian: What a wonderful day. So where are you guys going?

Florence Edward together : Work?!

Edward: After all, this is a business building.

(Elevator has some difficulties at this point. Action is keyed to the word "building". People need to pantomime the elevator shaking and coming to an unexpected stop.)

Edward: What just happened?!

Florence: What is going on!?

Edward: Help! *(Edward tries to call on the emergency phone)*

Florence: Yes, help us!

(Continued cries for help from Edward and Florence)

Christian: You know you can always get out through the shaft by the trap door in the top.

(Both Edward and Florence try to crawl out on Christians back)

Christian: Whoa, whoa, calm down. Settle down. Breathe in, breathe out. You guys we need to pray about the situation. OK! Lord, we come to
You right now and just ask that You help in this situation in Jesus' name, amen.

Florence: Please get us out of here.

Edward: It's not moving!

Florence: I knew He wouldn't help.

Christian: You guys we need to give God just a little time that's all.

(At the cue word "time" the elevator starts to move as evidenced by people's actions)

Edward: Oh, it's moving?

Florence: I knew God would help us all along.

Edward: Yes, after all He is an awesome God.

Florence: Omnipotent Father.

Edward: Creator of all things.

Florence: Yes, wonderful God.

(Christian stands in the middle of Florence and Edward with a perplexed look on his face.)

Machines (DVD)

Cast:

Burdened Person

Janitor/Jesus

Various people as machines

Setting: Flexibility is the key to this drama format. Matthew 11:28-30 is the message that is shared. Each player determines his or her own message for the burdened one when they put the money in the slot. Again, you can tailor the players and their parts to the situation and point needing to be made. This can work well with six or a dozen people involved.

Caught in Sin (DVD)

Cast:

2 people stuck

Bible deliverer

Various other people

Setting: John 8:31-32 frees two people who have been caught in sin. Other than the one who brings the scripture, each person who does not help can be as creative as you like. Many excuses come out as people pass by. Again this drama can accommodate a large number of players. This drama can be performed on the street, in a park, or if you have two people who speak a foreign language in that language, (the only necessary speaking parts are in the sin puddle).

Hearts (DVD)

Cast:

Man

3 Girls

Other characters as desired

Setting: In this mime we see the struggle people often have with their affections. Giving our hearts to people results in pain and often a tragic ending. Putting our hearts in God's hand protects us. Here is a drama that utilizes a large number of people. The guitar is an added touch that helps emphasis and build the message. This can be done in just about any culture where people make marriage choices.

Society Train (DVD)

Cast:

Jesus

Various People

Setting: This mime depicts the realities of trying to fit into our society. One by one people hurt our heart. Forgiveness becomes the issue which is highlighted here and in Matthew 6:9-15. Our need for forgiveness is magnified in the ending scene with Jesus on the cross. Without a happy conclusion this drama requires a preacher to finish the work that the drama has begun.

Prop: The prop used in this drama is created from a 12" square piece of ½ " plywood with a piece of 2" builder's foam glued onto it. It is wrapped in fabric with a heart painted on to it and worn on the neck of the person. The spikes are long dull spikes. It is imperative that the cast members look where the spikes are going so as not to injure someone. Please feel free to contact us to purchase the prop or to ask more questions concerning the usage of this.

Between Demons and Angels (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Monolog

There I was standing in the middle of... well, thousands of....I guess they were demons and angels. The demons were on my left and the angels on my right. The demons taunted the angels, yelling this one's ours. This one's ours. And the angels, they just stood there and stared at me. It was, it was awful. I tried to wake myself up after all... this had to be a dream, right? But all my blinking and denying couldn't, wouldn't make them go away. I screamed, the demons... they just stood there and laughed at me. I tried to get away but I felt my feet stuck to the floor. In sheer terror I waited.

Slowly, time ticked by. One by one, the minutes were turning into hours. All I could do was stand there. Stand there and wait and wonder. Where was I? And how had I gotten here? Suddenly, a rumble started to build up inside of me. It felt like as if I was about to give birth. A memory was coming back to me. Yes! A memory. At first it was faint...but soon the demons and the angels seemed to be disappearing in the background. I was someplace else now. I was in school, of all places. No wonder I started tripping out about demons and angels!

Yeah, I was at school, and I was eating lunch with all my friends and that new kid was there, Joey. Now he was different... I mean, sure he was new to the school and all, but he was different than all that too. He started telling us about this guy named Jesus, well I guess he's not really a guy but, the Son of God. Anyway, Joey said Jesus had turned his whole life around. He used to use drugs to escape the pain. And he would drink just to forget.

But, Jesus had taken that all away from him. And... he even gets along with his parents now. I laughed. Only because I didn't know how to cry anymore. We all laughed, I guess none of my friends can cry anymore.

They all left, but I stayed behind. I tried to talk to Joey, but, I guess I wasn't very good at that anymore either. But he seemed to understand, and he said he'd walk me home from school. So he did. Somehow being outside really seemed to help. So I started to ask Joey about Jesus. And he really seemed to know this guy, I mean, Savior, pretty well. And he even assured me that I could know Him, too. Could he...could he introduce me to Him? Joey just, well, he began to cry. And he said, yes. And when he was there explaining things to me, I

began to cry, too. And I prayed and I felt so good and so clean and new inside. That the sun shining in the sky had it's twin shining in my heart.

Oh, yeah, and then I remembered more pain than I have ever experienced before in my entire life. My dad's beatings and my mom's harsh words, they never hurt me this much. There were lights and screaming people. And then it all went dark. At least, for a while. So here I am back in the middle of the demons and the angels. The demons, they're still taunting the angels. But there's a new presence here as well. I turned to see, Jesus, it had to be Him! The way that Joey described Him...the way I felt when I prayed! It had to be Him! Suddenly the place erupted in a violent... demons and angels fought with a vengeance. The noise was deafening and the intensity kept me where I was. All around me they fought. And nobody seemed to be winning. Until, well, until Jesus stepped into the fight.

Then things changed, changed for the worse. He didn't even pull out a weapon. Instead, well, He offered His hands to the demons... then His side was pierced and see, pretty soon He was so bloody, I couldn't even stand to look at Him anymore. I couldn't even tell it was Him. But it was. It was Jesus. The demons grabbed me and squealed with glee. But just as quickly somebody else grabbed me. I turned to see...it was Jesus again! Without the blood, but it was Him. Finally, all my fear vanished. And somehow, so did all the demons, thousands had fought but it had all been Won, by One. Jesus.

Amy Died Last Week (DVD)

Written by Lynn Lenzion

monolog

Amy died last week. She died in a car accident coming home from Seattle. She was up there visiting her grandma in some hospital. She loved her grandma... always talked about her... talked about going to stay with her for weeks at a time when she was little. Her grandma was one of her favorite people...besides me...

Amy died last week.

I met her when we were in the 4th grade. She was new - from California. Amy was in my classroom. She was really...she...just sat there and didn't talk much to anyone, so I decided to introduce myself. I'm glad I did because it was the start of a friendship that lasted these last 8 years...up until last week...when Amy died.

Our friendship had it's ups and downs. Amy's parents were just divorced when I met her. That's why she lived up here. She had come up with her mom because her mom was originally from Seattle. Amy was really sad about the divorce and at first she didn't want to talk about it. She would almost get angry with me when I tried. After a while she started trusting me with her feelings and we could talk about it a little. But there was always something really sad about her.

Well, we went through elementary school and junior high together and had a pretty good time. Amy knew I went to church. In fact, she used to ask me about why we went so much...to Sunday morning and Sunday night and youth group on Tuesday and Wednesday night service and didn't my family do anything else but go to church? What did we do for fun? I used to give her feeble excuses about why we went. I remember feeling embarrassed about it.

Then, going into 9th grade, she started getting into things...bad things...it started small and I remember hoping it would all go away. It started with drinking. Well, really it started with the kind of friends she was hanging with. They drank, smoked, and did drugs so she started with the drinking. I tried to talk to her...to give her some good moral reasons why she shouldn't drink, but I never mentioned Jesus. Then she started into all that other stuff and by the time we were in 10th grade she was coming to school loaded and barely making it

through the day. I would keep trying to talk to her...telling her I cared but I never got down to the honest truth. What a coward I was. I would even ask her to church but never talked about the One who loved her so much that He died for her.

Then one day...I'll never forget it...I was standing in the hallway at school in front of the science room and there was this big window on the other side of the hall. I was talking to my friends when something goes flying through the window. The whole window just shattered and my first thought was that someone threw a chair or something through it. I ran over with everyone else to see what happened. On the grass outside the window, just lying there all cut up and bloody was Amy. It seems that one of her "friends" got mad at her because she thought Amy had stolen some drugs from her.

Well, Amy ended up in the hospital that day. She had lost a lot of blood. I remember being so upset...all I could see was her body lying there. I called mom and she came and got me from school and we went home and talked and cried and talked and cried. Then mom opened her Bible. I still remember what she read to me. In fact, I have it memorized. It's from Second Corinthians. "He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making an appeal through us". Then mom and I prayed that I would be bold enough to tell Amy what she need to hear. I would let God make His appeal through me.

When I visited Amy in the hospital, she was embarrassed and didn't want to see me. After she came home, I started visiting her regularly and began to tell her about Jesus. It was really awkward at first and Amy didn't want to hear it, but I would pray and go visit...pray and go visit. It became easier and easier each time because I became bolder and bolder. And another thing happened to me. I felt myself loving Amy in a new way. Before it was friendship...now it was more...it was like Amy could say the worst things to me and I didn't care because I knew that she had come so close to death and all that mattered was that she needed to know Jesus.

Now I remember a lot of things in my short 17 years but 2 weeks ago something happened that I will never forget as long as I live. It was about 9:00 at night and I got a phone call from Amy. She was crying and she asked me to come over. Well, of course my mom says yes, but we prayed together first. When I got to Amy's I went up to her room, opened her door and the first thing out of her mouth is "I'm ready". Now, you would think

after about a year of praying for her salvation I would know what she is ready for, but I said, "Ready for what?". And she said, "I'm ready to know Jesus" and she started crying and I didn't know what to do so I started crying. Then she said "Pray with me" so right then and there we get on our knees and she received Jesus into her life.

Boy, what a change! Her whole face began to look different. Her eyes began to sparkle and she began to read her Bible, Well, my Bible. Then she would call and ask questions or sometimes spend hours talking with me about Jesus. and we became closer than we ever had been because we had something, well actually, Someone in common now.

Then the call came. Amy had been killed in a car crash on the freeway. Seems it was rainy and there was a stalled car in her lane...

Amy died last week.

Drinking (DVD)

Written by Zach Lucas

monolog

How was I supposed to know? Ok, maybe I shouldn't have gone to that party, but nobody told me there would be alcohol there, it really wasn't my fault.

Although ... I did know how wild Joey's parties could get, and I did know that his parents wouldn't be there the whole weekend.

Well at first everything was cool ... the music was playing, everybody was dancing, talking, just having a good time. Then all of a sudden people started taking out six packs from the refrigerator, cupboards, book bags and even out of the couch!

Everybody started drinking around me, until I was the last one! I stuck out like a small bleach spot on black jeans! Joey asked if I would like a drink. I didn't know what to do so nervously I said the first thing that came to mind. "I don't drink".

As soon as he heard me say that, he started making fun and laughing at me. Half-drunk he was yelling so loud the whole party could hear.

Suddenly everybody was looking at me, some laughing, some with smirks, and some with astonished looks on their faces. Comments from my friends and others started to pop out. "Why don't you? Just one won't hurt. It's a lot of fun! come on!"

Feeling ashamed, embarrassed, and nervous, I said to myself, "only one, only one, I'll only drink one." "Well, Ok, I guess I could just drink one." You should've seen the smile Joey gave me as he handed me my first beer. I had an unsure feeling as I took my first sip. Though it tasted like fermented peach juice, I drank about half the can.

As I looked around the room I saw that the attention was drawn off me, and the party started up again. "Good", I thought to myself, "Now it's over." But it wasn't. Even though most of the pressure of my peers was gone, I drank three more that night. By the way I was acting, and what people told me the next morning, they all knew it too.

How could I have done such a thing? They all knew I was a Christian, they all knew I went to church and worst of all, some of them I took to my youth group.

I have repented and asked for forgiveness, and I know that by the blood of Jesus, I am forgiven. There are some things that I have been neglecting to do as a Christian, and I need to start doing them.

(He thinks to himself for a while)

I know! First, I'll go back to everybody that was at the party, and tell them that what I did was wrong! Then I'll tell them why it was wrong, and that I won't do it again. I'll tell them that I fell short of the glory of God, and that we all do, but that is not an excuse for what I did!

I'll start inviting all my friends to both Sunday school and church, and also to youth group. I'll bring a Bible to school, and share with others during lunch, especially Joey!

I can start attending my student prayer meeting at school, and get a strong group of Christian friends to hang out with, ones who won't put me in a sinful situation.

I'll let my light shine before everybody, for it says in Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven".

I can also read and learn more about God's word, so I can use it as a tool to fight back at the enemy when he attacks!

I can be a pure open vessel that the Holy Spirit can work through, so that one by one souls can be won for Christ!

I'll... I'll be... I'll be an ambassador for Christ! I'll represent the kingdom of God! I'll be His high ranking representative and let His light shine through me, so that others will see Him!

As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:20 ...

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God."

Take A Stand

Written by Mark Schaufler

monolog

Setting: A widowed young lady dramatically tells the story of her martyred husband.

Just bury Him!!! I don't care how, or where you put him, or what you put him in ... just bury him. I remember those words so well. I guess it was a combination of ... grief ... anger ... and uncertainty.

We had only been married seven years. No children yet. We were waiting to get our missionary appointment before we started a family. Then in the whirlwind of raising our support the pressure postponed that ... well, forever. But they were seven incredible years. He turned his life over to Jesus at a camp that my dad had preached. My dad saw something special in him and two years later he traveled with us. That is where we ... "we" began. He was like my dad in so many ways. "You've got to take a stand for Jesus." Seems like it came in stereo with my dad's seasoned voice providing the bass and his young vibrancy the tenor tones. Like my dad, he had seen enough of the darkness of the world to totally love what Jesus had done for him..

Sometimes I was jealous. He would have this faraway look on his face and whimsically I would ask him what was on his mind. He'd cry, "Jesus has been so good to me ... so good to me ... so good to us." Then I would cry and wonder when Jesus would ever mean that much to me. I was raised in the church. Jesus was just, "always there." Church was my life. Everything was just so normal. Regular, I guess. But him and my dad. What a pair. As a kid I used to find my dad out in the garage fixing something for my mom with tears streaming down his face. At eight years old, it didn't make much sense when he said that they were happy tears and that Jesus loved us so very much. Once I caught both of them telling our neighbor about Jesus. She accepted Christ that day. My dad and him both bawled at the dinner table that night.

"Take a Stand." It was the sermon my husband was preaching when they entered the tent that night. It was the first night he had ever preached without an interpreter. He was so excited that he could finally communicate well enough to share what was on his heart with the people ... he ... we ... had come to love so much.

I wish I could have felt that way at the funeral home. But they kept rattling on and on and on ... and I didn't understand enough for it to make any sense. Where was my dad ... where was God?

I guess it was a blessing that it happened so quickly. They came in. They shouted. He smiled. Then they fired three shots. I'd never seen anyone die before. But it was so much like Stephen before the Sanhedrin in the book of Acts. He was with Jesus before his body hit the ground.

The shock finally hit me in the funeral home ... If you can call three bamboo walls ... open to the street ... with the caskets in full view a funeral home. I was alone now. No children. My parents still on the way. But as the shock hit me full force, the strength of the Lord was there and a verse. *Hebrews 12:12-13 Therefore strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees, make level paths for your feet so that the lame may not be disabled by rather healed.*

I wept at the funeral. My own dad buried my husband. But I stood. Somehow it showed me that I had a new strength. Strength to take a stand. Strength to carry on the work that we ...I was called to do.

The Altar: Almost a True Story

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Mabel: Old Lady

Narrator

Two girls at altar praying

Setting: Front of sanctuary, young lady and sister go to the altar, kneel and begin to pray. Mabel is seated in the congregation about halfway back in a row. She stands up once the two have established themselves at the altar.

Narrator: At this time we would like to share a drama with you called, “The Altar, Almost a True Story.”

Mabel: There’s that preacher’s kid at the altar again. No wonder, I hear she’s out partying every Friday night, even dragging her little sister in on it.

Narrator: Truth is ... she helps out at the rest home on Friday nights. They have a party for everyone who had a birthday or anniversary that week. Her little sister has been begging her to go for a long time.

Mabel: As a matter of fact she is down at that altar every Sunday; morning and night. My word ... she can’t even go a day without sinning.

Narrator: Truth is ... she has been to the altar 87 times in the four years that her dad has pastored at this church. Of that;

20% was for her own sin

40% was time spent interceding for the rest home people

10% was when she received her call and confirmed it with God

and 30% of the time she prayed for her dad as he struggled with Mabel.

Mabel: Why I haven’t been to an altar since ... March 3rd, 1954.

Narrator: Truth is ... she is correct to the very day on this one. She gave her heart to Jesus on that day. But Jesus has gotten very little else from her since then. He never got her time, finances, or energy. You see she’s too afraid of what others might think, others like her, who have resisted God’s plan for their lives.

Mabel: You wouldn't catch me dead down there!

Narrator: Truth is ... Mabel is 100% wrong on this one. She will be down here and she will be dead. Every funeral ever held in this church rolls the casket down in front; to the altar. Why are we so afraid of the altar? We end up down here sooner or later anyway.

The Newsletter

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

John: leader

5 Senior Citizens

Setting: Gathering of senior citizens who are listening to their fearless leader examine their first newsletter.

John: So this is the new newsletter, Huh!? Just what does A.W. stand for?

One: Ages wages.... It rhymes, besides it doesn't take long to type it or say it.

John: O.K. But what about this first article?

Two: You mean Sally Smith goes on a crime spree?

John: Yes! You can't call getting a ticket on the freeway for going too slow a crime spree.

Three: Well, this one should get their attention.

John: Fred Jones joins the millionaire club. Well, Fred, I didn't know. Congratulations!

Three: Keep reading, John, keep reading.

John: Fred Jones swallowed his millionth pill on December 19, 2005. Making him the seventeenth million-pill member in Thurston County...What?!

Four: Now, look at this one.

John: Jenny Johnson swings real estate deal.... Class, nobody wants to read about Jenny buying her grave site.

Five: But John, you said to write articles on what people seem to hear about our generation!

John: No, I said to write articles about what they need to hear from our generation!

Five: Sorry John, I must have had my hearing aid turned down again.

John: Look, this class has more wisdom and experience than any other in this church. If we do a good job with this newsletter we could help a lot of

people.

One: You mean articles on hemorrhoids and how to live with them?

John: No! I mean articles like Walking on Water One more Time, Satan Trembles when Laura Lewis Prays, or Hubert Secrist builds another Church in His Seventies.

Two: But John, nobody wants to read about that.

John: What do you mean, those are great stories.

Three: Two, is right John. If people wanted to hear those kinds of stories, they'd be reading their Bibles.

Four: Sure, they'd read about Moses leading at 80, or Joshua conquering Jericho for his seventieth birthday, or Daniel's intercessory prayer at 85.

Five: This younger generation has spent too much time eating fast food at McDonald's and reading National Enquirer headlines at the checkout counter. They don't want to hear that it takes time to know God's will and time to know God well and time to get to know the scriptures.

One: Plus, they consider work to be a 4-letter word. They don't realize that all our homes, cars, motor homes, and vacations are the wages from our 60-hour work weeks, budget living, and blessings from God.

John: I didn't realize it was this complex. You have so much to say and nobody wants to listen.

Two: That's right, John. Now you know how God feels. He has all the right answers but nobody wants them.

Love?

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Mom

Child

One: child

Two: child

Bully:

Teacher:

Counselor: school counselor

Extra children to help set the stage

Setting: A child goes to school, pantomiming a school bus ride, and various school settings. The child gets confused when mom says she loves him/her and then the other children and teacher "love" things that are frightening.

Mom: Good-bye dear! Remember we love you. See you after school. Don't miss the bus.

Child: Ok mom! Goodbye.

(Mom kisses child on cheek ... child heads to school bus ... child boards school bus and sits next to friend number one. The children pantomime riding on a bus)

Child: Hi!

One: Hi! Guess what?

Child: What?

One: My parrot died!

Child: Oh that's too bad.

One: No, it's great. I had him stuffed. Now he doesn't eat anything or make a mess. He sits at the bottom of my bed. I LOVE my parrot.

Child: Love?

(Bus arrives at school ... kids depart to playground)

Two: Let's play kick-ball.

Child: Ok!

Two: I LOVE to play kick-ball. I LOVE smashing that ball!

Child: Love?

(Bell rings ... child turns to go ... bumps into bully)

Bully: Hey squirt what's in your lunch?!

(Child is afraid)

Child: A sandwich and a pickle.

Bully: Great I LOVE pickles. I bite their heads off and then I suck out the juice.
Gimme your pickle.

Child: *(hands bully the pickle)* Love?

(students go to class and are seated)

Teacher: Ok, class let's get our papers. Today we are going to talk about World War Two. I LOVE to talk about history!

Child: War ... love?

(child panics and runs to the school counselor)

Counselor: What's wrong?

Child: I don't want to go home! ... My mommy LOVES me!

Where's Joey?!

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast: Unlimited but eight with speaking parts and one of those is a girl.

Setting: The entire cast starts frozen and then together begin to mill around looking for someone. They can even search in the audience.

One: Joey!? ... where are you, Joey?

Two: Joey ... it's Sunday and a three day weekend ... no work tomorrow?!

Three: Come on Joey!!! ... we're going to be late!

Four: What are we going to do ... no Joey ... no fun

One: Yeah, nobody knows how to party like Joey!

Girl: What an animal ... sigh ...

Three: Look, didn't Joey say 6pm ... here at his place?!

Four: Of course ... its been that way for years ... its like the law of gravity or something

(One sees a note on the ground and picks it up. One is in the center of the crowd. He is totally engrossed in it.)

One: Oh no!!!!

Two: What is it?

Three: Yeah, what is it. You almost gave me a heart attack!

One: I can't believe it!

Three: Come on, tell us already!

One: Not Joey!?

Three: Look ... you tell us something or I'm gonna break your face!

(One is in shock so Four grabs the note and begins to read it out loud to everyone.)

Four: Here let me read it!!! ... Greetings Gang ... I won't be here when you stop by tonight ... I have decided to go to church ... instead... CHURCH!

(Four goes into shock and stops reading the note.)

Three: Here let me have it ... mumble ... mumble ... I have decided to go to church ... it's Sunday and I used to go sometimes when I was a kid ... I didn't realize it till this afternoon when I looked at the calendar ... so tonight I guess you'll have to tear up the town without me ... WHAT!

One: Church ! What if they get all his money?

Girl: What if he meets somebody else?

Three: What if he changes! You know ... like Alex did last year ... he became Mr. Mellow and Smiles ...

Four: Smiles and a Bible ... puke

One: What are we going to do?

(Crowd freezes except for those that come out of the crowd and talk to the audience.)

Five: That's not the question ... we're just fictional characters in a drama ... the real question is ... what are you going to do? ... you're in the very church

that Joey went to ... it's Sunday, isn't it?

Six: Yeah ... our problems stop as soon as the script runs out ... but you ... your problems will go with you wherever you go ... unless ... yeah ... unless...

Seven: Unless you encounter the risen savior that Alex did .. that many of the people here today already have ...

Three: Joey, where are you?

Five: Friends ... where are you?

(Group freezes and waits till the application of this drama is done by one of the cast members or by the speaker)

Another Monday

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Boss

Four Workers

Jack

There are four workers, one boss, and Jack. This is a factory assembly line. All the workers are facing the audience and working on an imaginary line. You can use your imagination to create one or use the audience's imagination to pretend. Seldom do they look up because they are busy on the line. The boss appears from behind and talks to their backs.

Boss: Ok, you drones get to work, we have 10,000 beaded widgets to get out today.

Jack: Ok, Mr. Miller.

(After the boss leaves One mimics Jack's "Mr. Miller.")

One: Ok, Mr. Miller

Two: What's the deal here Jack?! You act like you like working here or something.

Jack: Well I'm grateful for the job and the people I work with.

Four: Like Mr. Miller, right?

Jack: Sure, and that includes you guys too.

One: How could you not love us?!

Two: Yeah ... Mom ... Chevrolet ... and apple pie ... that's us.

One: And one of the only free countries on earth.

Two: Voting and everything!

One: Hey Jack, do you vote?

Two: Yeah... do you vote or are you one of those wacko (*Stops word mid-way*) ... oops

Jack: Wacko what?

One: What Two means is are you one of those fundamental right-wing bible-thumping, cross-carrying, corner-preaching, tract-tossing Christian bigots.

Jack: Well you get three yes's ... and three no's

Two: What?

Jack: I'm carrying the cross that Jesus gave me to carry ... I preach when I'm given the responsibility ... and I usually carry a few tracts to hand out to people ... do you want one?

Three: *(blows off Jack's offer)* So do you vote?

Jack: Yes.

Three: Did any of your candidates win?

Jack: Not many.

Three: So how does that change your outlook on the future?

Jack: Not much at all. How about you guys?

One: Well, now we have a chance for some change, I think?

Two: Yeah, a chance for the little guy to get ahead.

Three: So you guys watch T.V. a lot?

Jack: How about you *(looking at three)*

Three: Not much any more ... not any reason too ... not since
(Boss interrupts)

Boss: You guys are nearly done with the quota ... I'm impressed.

Jack: Thank you, Mr. Miller

(After boss leaves One mimics Jack)

One: Thank you, Mr. Miller

Jack: Look, guys, the day's almost done. The elections are over. The Huskies are in the play-offs. So how about if I ask you a question?

One - Four: Okay.

Jack: What do you know about Jesus?

(a great silence appears)

One: You said you weren't a right-winged fundamental, Bible-thumping, cross-carrying, corner-preaching, tract-tossing, wacko!

Jack: I said I was three for six.

One: Oh, yeah.

Two: What's the deal Jack. You sore about the election results. Give us a break.

Boss: 10,000 beaded widgets ... awesome job, guys ... see you tomorrow.

Jack: Good Night, Mr. Miller

(One mimics Jack after he leaves)

One: Good Night, Mr. Miller

Two: I'm out of here

One: Wait for me

Four: Don't leave me behind

Three: I guess I don't know enough

Jack: Enough about what?

Three: Jesus

(Jack and Three freeze. Voice on microphone off stage says)

Voice: The elections are done. The Huskies lost. Now it's time to get down to the task at hand. The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few.

Are you standing next to someone tomorrow who doesn't know enough about Jesus? You'll never know until you ask.

Standing In Line

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

3 Couples

Setting: This is a drama for street confrontational evangelism. You need three couples and one of the people capable of preaching to the people once the stage is set. It can also be advantageous to have tracts to hand out to people after it's done. In a lot of places this will be a bit of a shock and people may need some time to think about it and have a way to respond later. The tract provides that. Couples get in line together. When the script gives numbers it begins with the first in line as the number One couple. Until the drama is cued they stand in line like anybody else. Ideally they should do the drama while there is still some time before they start taking tickets so it won't move while the drama is going.

C2M=Couple Two Male

C3F=Couple Three Female

C2M: What do you mean you just want to be friends!?!?!?

C2F: Be quiet ... people might start watching.

C2M: Good ... maybe you'll change your mind then.

C2F: I said be quiet.

C2M: I can't!!! You just said the engagement was off!!! We are supposed to get married in three weeks and now you say let's just be friends!!!

C2F: That's right!!! You couldn't expect me to marry a guy who would make a scene in public would you!!!

C2M: Well I wouldn't if I didn't have a reason to!!!

C1F: Let's go ... This is too tense.

C1M: Yeah... don't need to pay money for a good fight ... happens right here.

C2M: Yeah ... go ahead and go, it moves us closer.

C2F: There you go again ... if I wasn't riding with you I'd leave right now.

C3MF: Look we can take you home ... where do you live?

(C2M Steps out as if to leave and then turns around to face the tense crowd.)

C2M: Fortunately this is only a drama. Only the names were omitted to protect the innocent. But for most of us sooner or later this will happen. We are going to get into fights even with the people we think we love and that we thought loved us. So how do you deal with it? When I get angry and relationships don't work then I go to God. He helps me to know what is my fault and how to forgive the other person if it's theirs. Because of that, relationships can work. We have a tract we are passing out now. It talks about knowing God well enough to have him make a difference in your relationships. Look us up after the show we are going to pay for and we would be happy to talk to you about it.

You Be the Judge

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Husband

Wife

Child

Newspaper boy

Construction Worker

Store Clerk

2 audience plants

Thief

Bully

Scam man

Policemen (2)

Jesus

Narrator

Setting: On stage are a family (husband, wife, child), a paper boy on the corner, a construction worker working away, and a store clerk. From the audience will come a thief, bully, scam man, police, Jesus, and narrator. There are some people planted in the audience as well that guide audience responses. While the people are acting out their parts on stage a thief appears dressed in classic thief attire. He steals from each of the four people or groups on stage. Just as he finishes stealing from the last one the police see him.

Police One: You! You're under arrest. Freeze right there.

(Thief is arrested and handcuffed and then escorted by the police to face the audience.)

Police Two: You be the judge. Guilty or not guilty.

(At this point the plants begin the "Guilty" chant and response from the audience)

Police Two: They find you guilty!

(So the thief is taken out of sight and then you hear loud noises as they trash him from there. Meanwhile the scam man has started up towards the people on stage. He has a big poster with the word promise on it. As he approaches each person he points to the sign with great zeal. Soon the people are convinced and they give him money. Then he moves on to the next person. Once he has scammed everyone on stage he laughs at the people and tears up the big promise poster. He starts to run but runs right into the police. They arrest him and bring him out to the front.)

Police One: You be the judge! Guilty or not?!

(Again the plants start the "guilty" chorus.)

Police Two: They find you guilty!

(Scam man is taken off and loud noises are repeated. At this point the bully comes out and begins to bully the people on stage. Just as he finishes with the last one the police come out and arrest him. Then they drag him to the front of the stage and pose the same questions as before.)

Police One: You be the judge. Guilty or not?

(Plants lead chorus of "guilty.")

Police Two: They find you guilty!

(One officer drags the bully off to the same loud noises offstage. Police two stays on stage and faces audience.)

Police Two: I wish it was always that easy. Lot's of witnesses. Speedy trial. Sure justice. But there are still more criminals out there.

(... looks around ... searching for a plant in the audience ... by this time Police One has rejoined him. Finally they spot the plant.)

Police One: You, freeze! You're under arrest!

(The plant is arrested (needs to sit near an aisle) and brought up front.)

Police One: Finally, we have been looking for this one for a long time. Let me read the charges against him. *(Reads the following verses)*

Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' [22] But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to

the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' [28] But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' [34] But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. [36] And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. [37] Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

You be the judge! Guilty or not?!

(another plant tries to get the guilty chant going again. Even stands up to try to get the audience to go with him. When there is a building tension then Jesus stands up.)

Jesus: I'm the one you want. If you want justice in this room take me. If you don't take me, you will have to arrest everyone in this room.

Police Two: Okay ... get him.

(So they toss the arrested man off to the side and go get Jesus. They arrest him and take him off. Again out of sight of the audience the loud noises come as they crucify Jesus off stage. As soon as Jesus disappears from sight the narrator reads Isaiah 52:13-53:12. As the reading is near the end Police Two appears on center stage.)

Narrator:

Isaiah 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely;

Isaiah 52:15 so will he sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*

*Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.*

*Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,*

*yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.*

*Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

*Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

*Isaiah 53:8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
And who can speak of his descendants?*

*For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.*

Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,

*and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

*Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him
to suffer,*

*and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*Isaiah 53:11 After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*

*Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Police Two: Someday we will all stand before God; the judge. And the call will ring out, "Guilty or Not?!"

(Plant gets up and tries to lead people in the guilty chorus.)

Police Two: Satan, the accuser, will try and lead that chorus one more time. But Jesus will stand ... for those who have accepted His sacrifice and served Him, He will silence Satan ... those who have not ... His voice will echo the eternal words of justice ... Guilty!

(Now a preacher needs to come out and give an altar call if the actors don't.)

When You Grow Up

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Teacher

Narrator

Terry: student

Josh: student

Emily: student

Tom: student

Setting: Sunday School classroom setting. The students are in the early grade school years. You have a teacher, a number of students, and a narrator.

Narrator: The world is full of young Christians trying to find God's will for their lives. This journey of exploration can be a very difficult one. Sometimes the biggest obstacles are those who should help us the most.

Teacher: Okay class, today we are going to talk about your future. First we want you to tell us what you think God wants you to be when you grow up.
Okay, who will go first.

(Class eagerly raises hands!)

Terry: *(stutters when they speak and it frustrates the teacher)* lllll ... wa wa wa wa
wa nt nt

Teacher: Terry, are you making fun of the assignment again?

Josh: I want to be a police man!

Teacher: Oh, that's so nice, Josh. Someone to protect our society from the evils of barbaric mankind. So why do you want to be a policeman?

Josh: They carry guns, shoot people, speed in fast cars, and don't get in trouble for any of it!!

Teacher: Oh Josh! Well yes ... I mean no ... dear me

Terry: llllllllllll ... wa wa wa wa wa ... nt nt nt nt

Teacher: Terry, if you don't stop interrupting the class I will have to

discipline you!!!

Emily: I want to be a mommy and raise lots of kids.

Teacher: How sweet Emily. Why do you want to be a mother?

Emily: Cause then I can be the boss ... no more crackers, you little monster! ...
Okay fuzz head, spanking time for you ... hungry? Move the cushions on
the couch maybe there are some crumbs.

Teacher: Oh my ... Emily ... oh my

Terry: IIIIIIIIIII wa wa wa nt nt nt to to to be be a miss miss miss miss

Teacher: Look Terry! I think you just better try to write it down. We don't have
time for your ... problem.

Tom: I want to be a baker!

Teacher: Oh class, we all love doughnuts don't we. So why do you want to be a
baker?

Tom: Cause then I could put ex-lax in the frosting and get back at that bully
Rusty.

Teacher: But ... class, I am speechless at your future plans.

Terry: IIIIIIIIIII wa wa wa wa nt nt nt nt nt to to to to to be be aaaaaa miss
miss miss miss ion ion ion ary.

Teacher: Terry ... Do you know what it takes to be a missionary? Don't you
realize that you will have to tell people about Jesus?

Terry: IIIIIIII do do do do tttttttt ell.

Teacher: Terry ... you are very young ... where did you get this idea?

Terry: G G G G G G od.

Teacher: Terry, I don't want you to get your hopes too high. After all, we know
that not everyone is called to be a missionary. There are all kinds of things
that need to be done in the church. For example, your father is a very
good janitor for this church. He does whatever you tell him and he never
complains or talks back. You could follow in his steps.

Terry: BBBB BBBB But th th th th th th at wwwwwwwww ould bbbbbb e rrrrrre
bbbbbbellion.

Teacher: Look, Terry. I guess I better be the one to tell you. No point in you
getting disappointed later when you grow up. You don't have what it
takes to be a missionary. I'm sorry to be so blunt but you must accept the
fact. You don't have what it takes.

Terry: TTTTTTTTTT eeeeeeeea chchchchch er?

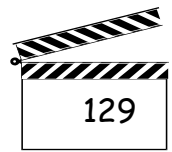
Teacher: Yes Terry?

Terry: Iiiiiiiiiiii'iiiiiiiiiii bbbbbbbbbbbbe prprprprprp aying fffffor yyyyyyyyyou.

Narrator: Have we forgotten? Forgotten that God's call is also His enablement?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:1. Today God may be calling some of you.

Don't let our culture's ideas direct your life. Listen to the Shepherd and obey.



Drama in the Ministry Tool Box Volume Three
Thirty Original Scripts

Mark Schaufler with MST Ministries
P.O. Box 8490 Lacey WA 98509

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ISBN # 1-886904-40-5

www.mstgo.com

Grace

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Person

God

Person: Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the bravest one of all? Don't worry I know. Not me. Let's try this again. Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the smartest one of all? Ok so an I.Q. of eighty two isn't all that great....

Mirror, mirror on the wall who will be the richest one of all? Say that rhymes! But that's all that does. Why do I do this do myself? Every time I look in the mirror I try to be as positive as I can but what I see does not inspire or encourage me at all. All I see is ... Is ... Me. (Loud sound of mirror breaking) Now there's seven years of bad luck on top of my bad looks, stupidity, fear, and poverty!

God: Look at me instead. (Puzzled person looks around) Look at me instead!

Person: Who said that?!

God: I did, your creator. Sounds like you aren't too happy with my work.

Person: I'm going nuts. I've been looking into that mirror too long. Now the broken pieces are talking back to me.

God: No it's me; God.

Person: Can't be ... It isn't Sunday. God is a Sunday kinda guy.

God: No stranger, I have a daily calendar too. You really don't have a clue about life do you?

Person: Wait a minute ... I've tried all kinds of things ... Pretty good at some of them too!

God: Which pink slip were you referring to?

Person: That's right ... You know it all don't you?

God: Well at least you've heard something on those Sunday visits.

Person: What do you mean?

God: Seven times in the last twelve months. Eighteen times in the last five years. Thirty-seven times since you turned eighteen for an average of three point

two times a year. Christmas getting forty-two percent, Easter forty percent, and visiting with family the rest.

Person: Ok ... Ok ... You do know. I'm dust. Now what? Death? Angles?

God: No; Grace.

Person: Not Aunt Gracie. She's always scared me!

God: No, not Aunt Gracie. Grace as in power for life. The opportunity for adoption.

Person: You don't want me. I don't have anything to offer.

God: Yes I do and by grace I've got a lot for you to live.

Person: But I don't have (Interrupted)

God: Grace. I can use it to save you and send you.

Person: But ... Ah ... I do have grace ... At least I say it some times at meals?

God: You don't get it do you?

Person: I guess not.

God: If you will honestly face me, not the mirror, and repent ... I forgive. Then by grace every time you face the real world and deal with it my way, I help you to do it. You get grace to fill in all the holes that you have in your life ... The things you kept seeing in the mirror. I did it for Jesus. My Son? You've heard of Him haven't you?

Person: But what I see in the mirror is real.

God: And I'm not?

Person: Ok .. So how do I get started and what happens next?

Narrator talks to audience: What does happen next? God is ready to begin with you. Are you ready to work with him? Let's leave the mirror behind and look at him instead. What you see in him will prepare you for the real world. The mirror ... Well, it will be on the wall long after you're gone.

Holy Spirit Productions

Written by Mark Schaufler

Monolog

Produced, cast, filmed, directed, all by the Holy Spirit. At least He'd like the option. It is an interview with a movie star looking for a new script that will catapult them to the top. Past examples from the Holy Spirit seemed to be ignored as the movie star laughs off "The Ten Commandments" and "Joseph" as B grade films at best. Hardly believable.

(Phone in Hand)

Person (P): What! You're kidding me. Look I'm no two bit actor. I'm headed to the top. You know tabloid pictures. Kids named after me. Academy Awards. *(Listens)*

P: Ok, Ok, So you got lucky with a couple of films. But I can't rely on luck. I need the basics for a smash hit. Sex, violence, speed, good supporting actors, big budget, incredible sets.

(Listens)

P: No, I didn't know the ten commandments got any awards. Joseph ... Oh yeah ... Did that one too? Huh ... Well those were ... Hardly believable.

(Listens)

P: Ok, Ok, so the sex, violence, speed and perfect people isn't all that believable BUT those movies sell. You can show the world what you've got! That you can act! That you have talent!

(Listens)

P: Dogs act? ... Of course not! ... Sex, violence, speed ... Funny. Look what's the deal? You know the kind of movies I star in .. And they're not the ten commandments or Joseph.

(Listens)

P: You wrote a script just for me. I'm flattered. But obviously you don't know me.

(Listens)

P: Wow you do know me. How? How do you know me anyway. I don't think we've ever met. What was your name again?

(Listens)

P: Holly Spree? Oh, the Latin Director? No? What was it?

(Listens)

P: Oh, Holy Spirit. I have heard of you! You're the guilt guy aren't you?

Narrator: Yes he is the guilt guy but so much more. If we will learn to respond to the guilt he will be able to guide us into the plan God has for every one of us... Tabloid star or regular guy.

Garbage Can Temptation (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Can a piece of trash in the bottom of a can really be tempting?

Cast:

Him

Her

These two love birds get ready to celebrate a special night on the town. Watch what happens as they meet at their favorite rendezvous.

Him: The stars, ... the moon, ... the river, and you. What a perfect night.

Her: Yes, the stars, ... the moon, ... the river, and you with your long arms (*as she admiring looks at one of them drawing it out to full length*).

Him: Long arms?!

Her: Yes, you see there is this little morsel down at the bottom of the garbage can that I can't reach. It has been calling out to me for days. Your long arms could reach it.

Him: Well I was thinking about this little Italian place just down the road. Ten minute walk, reservations, those cool little candle holders with the wax.

Her: I don't want to walk ten minutes, this is here and now. Besides that little Italian place probably costs a lot of money. This is free (*pointing down at the morsel in the bottom of the garbage can*).

Him: Look (in shock not really to sure what to do or say) my dad said there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Her: Well what does your dad know. This is here and it's free. Besides, don't you love me?

Him: I was beginning to think so. In fact I was going to propose (stops mid word "propose"). (*gets a great idea*) I get it. This is just a test right?!

Her: NO! I want it now. It has been calling out to me all week long.

Him: (*he looks down inside*) That one?

Her: (*excitedly*) Yes that one!

Him: That has a bite out of it!

Her: I know. That means its good.

Him: But there are little flies and slime and it stinks?!

Her: Stop that, you're making my knees weak. Don't tease me anymore. Please just get it.

Him: The Italian place?

Her: This *(pointing eagerly)*!

Him: O.K. *(He carefully reaches down and retrieves the morsel and gives it to her)*.

Her: *(grabs it and begins to devour it)* Oh I'm sorry ... do you want some?

It ENDS AT THIS POINT. You have now created a platform to share a variety of truths.

1. How many of us have traded the here and now for what was down the road?

2. We are called to be the bride of Christ. He has proposed to us. Have we made ourselves ready? Or are we trading all He has for us for what the world offers us.

3. Temptation doesn't always seem this ridiculous but the results are just as disastrous. There is always a death to something if we give in to the temptation of sin.

Garbage Can Repentance

Written by Mark Schaufler

Repentance explained based on the experience of some “bums” and the offer of the town crier.

Cast:

Bum #1

Bum #2

Bum #3

Town Crier

Guard

King

Several seventeenth century bums are digging through a garbage can looking for a meal.

Bum #1 (B1): What a find! I hope we can carry this all off!

Bum #2 (B2): Who every invented this thing ... What is it again ... Oh yea ... A Garbage can. Well they sure saved us a lot of work and we don't have to fight with the dogs anymore. What a deal!

Bum #3 (B3): *(Pops out from the garbage can amidst a shower of garbage)* Not a bad place to sleep either.

(Scurry of activity as they go for all the new scraps on the ground)

Town Crier (TC): Hear ye, Hear ye. By order of the Royal Palace. Be it known that at ten o'clock this morning the King is receiving applicants for jobs in the palace. Be it known to all. The King is an equal opportunity employer! Hear ye, Hear ye.

B1: Get a life buddy! You haven't said anything new for the last ... The last .. Well my life time.

B2: Do you think it's true?

B3: What?

B2: That the King would hire us?

B1: Are you kidding? Look at us! We are the ... Well you know what people say about us. Just imagine the laughter as the King took one look at us and roared. They would hear it in the next castle over.

B2: I'm not so sure. I've stood close by before and I've never heard him laugh at anyone.

B3: Are you nuts? And leave all this behind. Freedom. No one telling you what to do. How could you beat this!?

B2: What time is it anyway?

B1: Tower clock says a quarter to ten.

B2: I'm going. *(Drops garbage and heads towards Castle)*

B3: You're nuts. *(Begins to pick up everything he drops)*

B1: Hold on. Let me come too. This should be good. *(Heads off to Castle)*

B2: Look there's the gate and the guard.

B1: Get ready for the worst. We warned you!

B2: I'm here to see the King at the invitation of the Town Crier.

Guard: Welcome. Stand over there; the King will see you shortly.

B1: I'm with him.

Guard: Welcome

B1: Yes, I heard the speech. Thanks.

King: Next!

B2: Ah hi... I was just wondering Ah, Ah ...

King: What do you want from me?

B2: Well, I heard you were hiring?

King: Yes, we are. You can change over there and then enter into the Castle. I have a lifetime of work for you.

B1: Ask some questions. Don't do it. You'll be a slave. Remember the freedom you used to have.

King: Next!

B2: I was just here with my friend but hey, I'm talking to the King. King: What do you want from me?

B2: Wow. You're asking me (*Turns to Audience*) I'm talking to the King!
(*Looking back at King*) Well King, old buddy, old pal, how about some gold. And just to show you what a nice guy I am here is some of the best stuff we found today. Just for you. (*hands him a treasure*)

King: That's all you want? (*As he lays the "treasure down"*)

B1: Do believe it is all I need. (*Gets a bag of it*) Wow! Thanks Kingy! I'm set!
(*Turns back to Audience*) I'd go for the gold if I was you.

Narrator: Unfortunately most people do. They go for the gold. What they can have here and now. Never finding out what kind of life the King had for them. For you.

Hearing God's Voice

Written by Mark Schaufler

From "no" to "now" and how. The progression of hearing God's voice and finding His direction for your life.

Cast:

Student 1

Student 2

From "no" to "now" and everything in between. The progression of hearing God's voice is discussed by two students at a Bible college. They seem to have gotten some varying views on the subject from a variety of typical sources. From the real Bible teachings we will see what answers they come up with.

Student 1 (S1): I'll never pass this test! *(Throwing up his hands in disgust)*

Student 2 (S2): Don't worry. You've been studying, reading, taking notes, you have to be more ready than anyone else I know. Plus you always get "A's," so what's the sweat?

S1: I'm not talking about classes. Those are easy. I'm talking about life. Bible School has stuffed my head with facts BUT real life has stuffed my head with confusion. How do I hear God's voice. How do I know it's him.

S2: Oh ... Yes ... That one ... Well you know what people say.

S1: That's the problem ... People say all kinds of things.

"you'll just know honey"

"I had this feeling"

"Fleeces and signs"

"Dreams, visions, writing on the wall, confirmations"

S2: Well ... those can all be true.

S1: But ... How do I decide what to do when I graduate in a couple of weeks. How do I know if Alissa is the one.

S2: Stop ... Don't make this anymore complicated than it needs to be.

S1: What? You mean it isn't complicated? Then why all these classes and text books and tests.

S2: We're getting tools to help others. They assume you can already hear God's voice. ... Why else would you be here ... Don't you feel called?

S1: Well ya.

S2: How did you know?

S1: I just knew. ... "I just knew."

S2: Ok

S1: Well ... That's different.

S2: What about guilt? Ever feel guilty?

S1: Of course ... Whenever ... Since I was a kid.

S2: That's God saying "NO!"

S1: Oh!

S2: And the Bible. Those are all things that he has said to us as well. That's why we keep reading and remembering it.

S1: But what about Alissa ... She's not in the Bible ... I looked once already.

S2: She's a babe ... But what does she feel called to?

S1: The Bon, Eddie Bauer, ...

S2: You?

S1: The Urban Poor. ... Ok, so maybe it isn't so complicated. I just didn't want to face it.

S2: Don't just face it, feed off it. Following Jesus isn't a tight wire act. He called us to a path. You can fall down on a path and still keep going. Tight wire acts can be fatal.

S1: You're right. ... I have been afraid of making a mistake. I've been frozen. Haven't taken any steps ... Just playing it safe BUT soon it'll get very real ... He'll be there. I know what He's said to me, I know what he's said to all of us and I do know when He says "NO"

S2: (Turns to the Audience) As soon as you leave here it gets very real. Are you ready?

Your Future

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Manny

Sam

A realistic look at your future. A Palm reader who doesn't even look at the people's hands is the main character. Instead they only ask questions and can somehow tell the past of their clients as well as give them a future prediction. Palm reader? I'm sorry I meant a Psalm reader.

Manny: Welcome ... My name is Manny the Magnificent ... Your name please?

Sam: Sam

M: Now Sam, what is your favorite Sunday activity?

Sam: Fishing, hunting, and Football!

M: I see it now ... Your wife has left you ... And you struggle with the kids every other weekend. ... When she left it was a total shock.

Sam: That's incredible ... How did you do that ... You never even *(Interrupted as he begins to push his hand out for Manny to see)*

M: Sam, what is your most vivid memory?

Sam: Oh the confrontation I had with my boss over my work review.

M: I see it now ... You have had many jobs ... You are labeled as a hot head ... People avoid you.

Sam: How can you know all this you *(Interrupted again as he tries to offer his hand)*

M: Sam, what is your most treasured financial memory?

Sam: You mean money?

M: Yes.

Sam: Oh yeah the five hundred dollar scratch ticket I got about five years ago.

M: I see it now ... Credit Card Debt ... You are juggling many payments, alimony, child support and wondering about bankruptcy.

Sam: But how ... Who have you been talking to?

M: And you need glasses but are too proud to wear them.

Sam: Wait a minute. How can you know all this stuff and you have never even looked at my hand once. You've told me everything about myself that I didn't want to hear.

M: Is it true?

Sam: Well yes, but ... But ... Can't you find some unknown inheritance out there or a dream job or a tall blond or something?

M: How is simple, Sam. I'm a Psalm reader, not palm reader. Thus the glasses, your eyes must be horrible; my sign is pretty big. The Psalms are in the Bible and it does a pretty good job of predicting your future based on how you lived your past.

Sam: Wait a minute ... I'm in the Bible?

M: No but your actions are and the future they represent.

Sam: I thought it was just stories ... You know David and the Whale ... Ah ... Ah ... The walls of Jelly Roll ... That stuff.

M: It also predicts our eternity as well.

Sam: Wait a minute. You know when I'm going to die? I don't know if I want to know that?

M: Not when but where you go when you die.

Sam: Hell I (*Interrupted*)

M: That's right.

Sam: What?

M: Hell ... That's where you are headed unless.

Sam: Unless what?

Narrator: What would you tell Sam? Do you know the Gospel well enough to share with that man?

A KROS News Interview and a strange date

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

KROS News Correspondent

Church Attendee 1

Church Attendee 2

Interviews with church-goers who are leaving the church after a missionary speaker. Some don't understand, know, or care. Little do they know that the interview is really just a screening process to find a date.

KROS News Correspondence (KNC): Hi, I'm Jill Roscoe and I'm with KROS News. I'd like to ask you a few questions about the church service you just attended.

1: Make it quick, I'm headed home to a pot roast, that can't wait.

KNC: Fine. Was this your first missions service?

1: Are you kidding me!? I've sat through hundreds! And unfortunately will probably have to endure hundreds more. And the money thing ... Always asking for money. Why can't they just work for a living like everyone else and go to these places on their vacations. And another thing
(Interrupted)

KNC: We do want to keep this brief, remember?

1: Thanks ... (Walks Off)

KNC: Hi, I'm Jill Roscoe and (Interrupted)

2: I heard. And I'd be glad to talk.

KNC: Great. Was this your first mission service?

2: Yes it was. Frankly, I'm shocked. I have always assumed that everyone had a church at the corner and that the Gospel was available to them. I never knew.

KNC: So what do you plan to do about what you heard?

2: That's why I am talking to you. What should I do? I gave what I had but I don't feel like I can stop there. Do I give more, go, pray, all of the above? What

can I do?

KNC: Well honestly, sir, we are only trained to ask questions. I'm on an

Assignment and well ... that is a good question. I've wondered about that myself.

2: The way it seems I ... We ... All of us should do more ... Jesus has always seemed like an equal opportunity employer so who he gets to go really depends on us signing up. For example did you realize that there are still three countries with no known church in them. Countries! Or that more than seventy five countries have less than 1% Christians in them. It would seem like I ... We ... All of us could make a bigger difference. I can't do everything but I think I could learn a lot more and who knows maybe I could even learn to preach if I had to.

KNC: Wow! You have been thinking about this ... You know my name is Jill Roscoe.

2: Yes I remember.

KNC: Well I'm not really on an assignment .. I do work for KROS News but not today. ... It's just so hard to meet single people who love God. Especially in my profession. So I've resorted to this ... You understand ... To clear out the riff: raff of shallow people who go to church.

2: I guess you're right ... But this is kind of strange way to get a date... Besides how did you know I was single?

KNC: No ring, no ring mark, and no one with you on Sunday; therefore, no significant other.

2: You're good but ... What about you and missions. Obviously, you have a career.

KNC: That's why I'm talking to you. I have the same questions you have. There must be more to following Jesus than having a career.

(They join arms and walk out together)

Narrator: What bothers you? Are they the same things that bother Jesus? There is a lost world out there that won't know unless someone goes and tells them through their words and actions that there is a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives.

Parenting with Style

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Sabrina

Richard

Sabrina and Richard are ready to spend a night on the town. They are looking sharp and ready to head out when they get a call on their cell phone. It's the babysitter. Changed phone numbers have allowed the baby being watched to have reached the ripe age of sixteen. How could that be? He was just sixteen months old when they dropped him off earlier in the day.

Richard: Babe, you are looking good tonight.

Sabrina: Not too bad yourself, hunk. You haven't gained a pound since we met.

Richard: Hey you know how it works, use it or lose it. Two hours a day at the gym and I'm as fit as ever. Plus you are looking so good I can't give you any reason to look elsewhere.

Sabrina: Mr. Charm as always. It's not every top line model who can have her husband be her constant escort and not get embarrassed. (*Cell Phone rings*)

Richard: Oh, Hi Sally. How's it going? ... What? ... Wait a minute. You need to talk to Sabrina. ... Here!

Sabrina: What's up honey? ... What? .. What do you mean he's sixteen. ... He was sixteen months when we dropped him off ... and that was just ... just ... a few days ago ... wasn't it? (Richard grabs the phone out of Sabrina's hand)

Richard: Look if this is about money Sally, we can ... yes, we have changed our cell phone number a few times recently ... twenty-two times? ... well, ok ... but there were better deals out there. ... tell you what, ah here's his mother.

Sabrina ... You tried to call. Ok, but why didn't you call us sooner? ... twenty-two times ... oh yea. ... well there were better deals. ... care? Of course we care ... why just last Christmas we bought him the finest toys a toddler could want ... what do you mean he wants to take drivers ed.?! ... he is

only... talk to him? ... he can't talk he can talk. ... Here dear.

(handing him the phone)

Sabrina: Joshie? ... Of course we love you. ... You're our precious Joshie ... We told Sally to call. ... Yes, we did. Twenty-two times ... Yes Joshie ... Ok, Joshua ... we will be right over ... could you put Sally on the phone ... I can't believe this has happened. ... Just where do you live anyway? ... Thanks we'll be right over. *(shuts off phone)*

Richard: We'd better head over there right now. ... Joshua? ... Is this really happening? We were just headed out for the weekend. ... Then my boss called. ... You got the photo shoot opportunity of a lifetime. ... we went to the airport ... cell phones stolen there. ... got a new number, our first new number...

Sabrina: Stop it, Richard. What are we going to do? What can we say to our son. We neglected him ... for almost fifteen years.

STOP THE DRAMA HERE. YOU HAVE A PLATFORM TO SHARE A POINTED MESSAGE TO THE PARENTS IN THE AUDIENCE.

Money-God's Minor Leagues

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

1

2

A discussion between someone who has learned to Biblically handle their finances and one who hasn't. Mr. Hasn't wants to ignore all his friends advice as he stumbles through life and the consequences of those minor league money decisions.

1: Good to see you #2!

2: Yes good to see you!

1: Long time no see!

2: Wow it is good to see you!

1: So what have you been doing?

2: Well you know. 9-5 thing, Monday to Friday, play all weekend, get ready to retire and die!

1: Whoa ... That's it? You don't sound very excited about much.

2: I'm not ... You know the age of realism has hit ... Kids in college ... Second mortgage ... High maintenance wife ... Squeeze in a vacation here and there ... That really isn't much to look forward to considering all the blood, sweat, and tears.

1: But the last time I saw you was, well ... Almost twenty-five years ago. You had just accepted Christ, found your dream girl, and you had all kinds of plans.

2: Well, I still go to church BUT all of the above has changed I'm afraid.

1: Why?

2: Well I guess ... it just got too hard and (Interrupted)

1: It was tithing wasn't it?

2: What!?

1: Well that car of yours isn't cheap, and you said second mortgage, so my guess is that you've never figured out the money thing. And if you don't get that one figured out then you don't get very far with what God has for you.

Money is his minor leagues you know?

2: What?! Minor leagues. Look I run my own business. I'm a deacon. I have all kinds of properties ...

1: And life is a drag because you have done all kinds of things but never God's thing on the money issue. Faith, Grace, Mercy, and Trust are probably a bit confusing too aren't they?

2: Look if I gave ten percent of my income ... Well it would be ... Too much ... I mean, I don't know if I can trust this new pastor ... Too much money and he might make some crazy plans and sink the whole church.

1: How are your kids doing?

2: (Pause with thinking) They're students in some of the best colleges and ... I know you'll ask ... No, they aren't serving God... Quit going to church as soon as we gave them the choice ... Kept talking about hypocrites ... In the church ... Maybe they were just too nice to say it all ... Was more like hypocrites in the house.

What's Sin?

Several small children have a round table discussion of the latest three letter word that they have learned.

1: What does "sin" mean?

2: Zin is what they do in yogi Um ... Um ... Um ...Um.

1: Ok, thanks!

3: No, sin is when the pastor preaches too long and the pot roast burns.

4: No, No, No, sin's the word that gets you a spanking.

1: 2: 3: You got another spanking?

4: Look, right here.

1: 2: 3: No, please ...

4: So sin is the word they use right before you get a spanking?

1: I must never sin because I never get a spanking.

2: 3: 4: Never get a spanking?

1: That's right ... My mom says I'm perfect, I'm an angel.

2: But you've lied to us ... Stolen our candy ... And ... Hit Joey.

1: Mom never saw, so I'm still perfect.

3: Something's not right here.

4: Yeah ... My mom says God sees everything.

2: So God saw it all ... The lying ... The stealing ... The hitting.

1: You don't think he will spank me do you? Do you? If he did, I wonder how big the paddle would be?

Narrator: We know how big the paddle was don't we? It was the size of the cross.

The Menu

Written by Mark Schaufler

Is church on your menu?

Cast:

Joe

Justin

Jessica

Joe: Hey, thanks for inviting me, this church things has been alright so far ...
Friendly people ... Some real babes ... Cute skit ... Hopping live music with
no cover charge ... Not bad.

Justin: Glad you've enjoyed it so far.

Jessica: I think you'll like Pastor Cory's sermon too. He's a real practical guy.

(Silence while they listen intently)

Joe: So far so good ... And he's talking about food ... Restaurants ... One of my
favorite subjects ... Wow! This guy seems to understand me.

(Silence as they listen)

AMEN

Jessica: Are you going to go forward?

Joe: No, these are good seats. You guys did alright.

Justin: She means do you want to receive Christ?

Joe: For what? We aren't hiring right now. Corporate downsizing.

Jessica: Joe have you ever been to church before?

Joe: No ... But this has been good... I might come back sometime.

Justin: We go every Sunday. You're always welcome.

Joe: Every Sunday?

Jessica: It's part of being a Christian. Being part of a local church. In the Bible it
says, "Don't forsake the fellowship of each other."

Joe: Well that's great for you, but I look at life like a menu. You pick and choose.
So today I tried the church selection. It was good.

Justin: Is God on your menu?

Joe: God? Isn't he kind of far out there. Detached. The man upstairs? To distant too be on the menu. ... Is he on your menu?

Jessica: He is the menu.

Joe: That sounds pretty narrow-minded. Very intolerant. Very un-American.

Justin: You're right. Following Christ is called the narrow way.

Jessica: When you said Pastor Cory understands you, what did you mean?

Joe: Well, he was talking about "not doing what you wanted and doing what you shouldn't and the struggle" ... He was getting real personal at times. You didn't talk to him about me did you?

Justin: Pastor Cory was just reading out of the Bible. God's letters to us.

Joe: Oh ... I never knew.

NARRATOR: Do you know? Is this your first time in church?

(Share a simple Gospel message)

The Movie: “Fear” (DVD)

Written by Mark Schaufler

Cast:

Fearful

Faith

Another seat over

Two people are in the theatre watching the movie, “Fear.” Will it work? The discussion rages between one who is growing more and more fearful by the moment and their friend.

Fearful: (*Hiding Eyes*) I can’t watch.

Faith: Why not?

Fearful: This is so scary!

Faith: This is so fake. This isn’t real life. That’s why they call it sci: fi, Science Fiction.

Fearful: But what if it did happen. What if a hand came out of the floor right now?

Faith: (*Grabs friends leg*) You mean like this? (*Squeeze*)

Fearful: (*Muffled Scream*) Not funny!

Faith: You really are afraid aren’t you?

Fearful: Of course I am. I’m surprised you’re not afraid too!?

Faith: What? Why?

Fearful: You’re a Christian right?

Faith: Yes, you know I am, and I keep trying to give you the opportunity to be one too. How about right now?

Fearful: You never give up do you? Anyway, I thought Christians believed in the Devil.

Faith: We do, but what has that got to do with this discussion?

Fearful: Aren’t you afraid of him? The Devil I mean. D-E-V-I-L.

Faith: No. Why should I be?

Fearful: Friend, in the movies he does some major scary things.

Faith: Oh, I know he's real. The Bible talks about him

Fearful: *(Grabs Faith's leg: no response)* How come you didn't scream?

Faith: Why should I?

Fearful: The Devil. ... This movie ... Life.

Faith: God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind.
Something you could use right now.

Fearful: Oh.

Faith: Being a Christian isn't just a Sunday thing. Following Jesus is an everyday deal. He gave me forgiveness so I don't have to be afraid of God. So every day I get his spirit ... A spirit of boldness, love, and a sound mind.

Fearful: What do I have to do to become a Christian?

Faith: "Have to do" more like "Get to do." Be honest with God, be willing to leave all your plans behind for his, and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Fearful: That's what I thought.

Faith: Ready?

Fearful: No ... No yet ... Ah

Another seat over: Well I am!

Faith: Oh ... Hi ...

Another seat over: I'm tired of living afraid of movies, life, failure, success, myself, everyone else and ... God.

Faith: *(Turns to the audience)* Ready?

Alcohol and the Joys of Addiction

The joys of addiction and the simple life are expounded by someone who has grabbed all that, that lifestyle has to offer. “Just you and me babe.” No friends, no family, no God, no job, no health, nothing. What an exclusive relationship.

(Speaking to a bottle)

Well, what do you want to do tonight? Last night was a lot of fun. If I remember right. We sang till the neighbors complained. Or was that last week? Oh well, it doesn't matter. You're the only one I invite to my parties. You never say no. Not like real people. They just don't know what they are missing. Don't miss them at all. As a matter of fact can't even remember who the last rat was who came over to my place. And it's been years since the old lady and the rug rats disappeared. Good riddance to bad rubbish. If we play our cards right baby, we won't even have to go to work anymore. I can play this drinking as a sickness and I'm on the gravy train system. Work a little on the side and I'm set. I won't even have to keep track of the days then. I can forget how to read. What a sweet little life I'm gonna have. And I owe it all to you. You're so jealous. You don't want anyone else in your world. Very possessive and I like it, every minute of incoherent bliss. Don't even have to worry about my future. It will be just like my past. One long hazy memory. Good thing we found a place that has a big window. Sometimes we have to air this place out periodically. You never taste nor smell quite the same the second time I see you. And then there is the biggest one of all. You have erased the God complex right out of my life. Can't hear his voice or feel the conviction after you and I have had a good time together. It's just you and me babe. Just you and me babe.

Let the Good Times Roll

The carefree party vacation lifestyle of earning enough to party and then start all over again. Set as a couple plans their next vacation amid maps and brochures. Somehow the church bulletin is mixed in with them and has a special passage in Matthew chapter nine.

Wife (W): Look at the beaches? Can the water really be this blue?

Husband (H): Probably computer generated but, hey, would be fun to find out.
Now look at this one. Look at all that this cruise has to offer ... Food till you can't walk ... Shopping on board as well as "Shopping at some of the finest reputable establishments on the islands."

W: Can't wait! It makes all the work the rest of the year seem worth it, doesn't it?

H: It's the only reason I put up with the Wicked Witch of the West and the Hunch Back of Notre: Dame.

W: Hey ... Speaking of Paris ... Here's another brochure.

H: Where do you get all these anyway?

W: Online, travel agents, the snail mail. We are probably on every list that exists.

H: What's this? "Pine Valley Church, Missions Opportunities."

W: Like I said we must be on every list that exists. What's it say?

H: Well ... Seems they have opportunities this summer to go to Haiti, Nigeria, and Paraguay.

W: Where are those places?

H: I don't know ... Hey one of these are the exact dates we have set aside for our vacation.

W: Could you imagine us. Those funky hats. Jungle stomping and preaching?

H: What a laugh ... Livingstone I presume?

W: Shots till we couldn't move.

H: Wait, here's a little more on the trips. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

W: Must be their slogan.

H: Pretty lame compared to this stuff. Plus, look here, they don't accept visa.

W: How could you pay for it? You know the motto, play then pay. They are definitely out of touch.

H: I know where we got this thing. Cory gave it to me. He's planning on going on one of them. Thought we might be interested.

W: Are you kidding? Me, myself, and I need some pampering.

H: That's right, if we don't look out for number one who will?

W: That why we are such a happy couple Sam. We know what is important.

H: It's Alex

W: Oops!



The Travel Agent (DVD)

A missionary calls a travel agency to buy some tickets to his country of burden. The travel agent has some other ideas for him.

Caller (C): Hi I'd like to buy some tickets to Macao.

Travel Agent (TA): Why?

C: What?

TA: Why would you want to go there? It's hot, snakes, spiders, primitive.

C: Well, I'm a missionary and God has called me to go there.

TA: For the snakes or the spiders?

C: The people. ... How much are the tickets and are there discounts for kids?

TA: You're going to take your family? What was your name again? I'm going to report you to the child protection agency.

C: Are you for real? Aren't you supposed to sell me tickets?

TA: I'd love to. As a matter of fact we have a great fare in the Caribbean. Only \$495 and children under 12 are \$295. I can throw in a condo on the beach for the whole family for another \$200 and a rental car for \$200 and you are set for an incredible week.

C: Macao. How much are they?

TA: Are you sure? You know my son had a wild idea once that he wanted to be a missionary to Macao. But I talked him out of it. Haven't seen him for a while but that's another story. I've heard he is doing well. Really involved in his church. But is was for his own good. Macao. Yuck. ... Why not the Caribbean?

C: Mom?

TA: (*Silence*)

C: Mom? Are you still there? How much are the tickets?

TA: Why didn't you call another Travel Agent. I ... I ...

C: Mom ... You're still my mom first, not a travel agent. And I want you to know where I am and that I love you but I love God more. He's asked us to go to Macao and so we are. We've been accepted by the mission agency, raised our support, and we're ready.

TA: I'm not ... Never will be ...

C: Why not mom?

TA: Well years ago ... Years ago now, God asked your Father to be a missionary and go to Macao. I convinced him that it wasn't such a good idea.

C: Was that when we quit going to church?

TA: About a year later.

C: And about three years before the divorce?

TA: Yes.

Prison and How to Profit from It

Training you can gain while in the prison system.. No degree necessary. A commentary on the vices in society.

Interviewer (I): This is quite a resume. But you don't look old enough to have ...
Done all these things.

Applicant (A): I didn't say I done all of them, I said I had training in all of them.

I: But it takes years to become a locksmith.

A: I'll show you ... See this book?

I: Where did you get that? I keep one just like it locked in the file cabinet.

A: Remember the receptionist? When you went out to see her I opened the
locked cabinet. If you had been gone any longer I would have had the safe
open too.

I: That's stealing!

A: No that's being a locksmith. And the cartographer? "Map Maker.?"

I: Yes, I know.

A: Look at this.

I: That's this office and the reception desk, the safe ... The safe?

A: Yes, that way if I wanted to come back tonight I wouldn't waste any time.

I: So that must be the efficiency expert you mentioned here?

A: That's right. You don't usually have a lot of time when you're where you don't
belong ... Every second counts

I: Let me guess. Your degree for the State Institution of higher education was a
prison and your BA Stands for (Interrupted)

A: Bad Apple ... You're quick.

I: You know we don't employ people with your background in this field. This is a
company of a very sensitive nature. I hire dozens of people a year and I
don't have time for this ... Good day.

A: What do you mean "my background?"

I: Criminals!

A: So just because I got caught you're better than me?

I: What do you mean?

A: Ever broken the speed limit? Cheated on taxes? Cheated on your wife?
Lied? Stolen company property, time? Hit someone with words? Pealed
off a price sticker and told them the lower price?

I: Good day! I'll be calling security about now.

A: Can't stand the heat? (Rising to leave) Truth too close? (Leaves)

I: (Silent stare)

Boss (B): Tough Interview? I could hear it out in the hallway.

I: Can you believe that guy?

B: He's right you know.

I: What?

B: We've all done something we could go to jail for. (Turns to audience) Haven't
we? The issue isn't guilt. The issue is what do we do with it.

Crime and Job Security

A criminal explains to a judge why they can't stop their criminal activity. As the judge questions and listens they are convinced that keeping the legal system and their job is more important than a justice system.

Judge (J): How do you plead?

Criminal (C): Not guilty of course.

J: Recorder, make a note that the defendant pleads "not guilty."

C: I did do it but it takes longer to get it all settled this way.

J: What?

C: You like your job?

J: Well, yes.

C: What if every creep, sicko, pervo murderer was honest and just confessed it and came clean... No Perry Mason ... No law school ... No Mercedes ... No job ... No need. ... I'm important to your way of life ... The economy ... Your wallet!

J: I never thought about it that way before.

C: Well, you'd better start thinking about it. Cause there are these preachers that show up at the jail on Sunday's and they are talking changing the whole system ... Everything man. Being honest ... Dealing with the past.

J: No Mercedes?

C: Total Change ... No Mercedes.

J: Can't have that can we. Guess I'll need to look at a new law or two.

C: Now you're catching on, "Not Guilty."

Anger, My Pet Sin

Set in a pet store. A client wants to feed their pet, “Anger.” The store clerk begins to caution the client about the dangers of that pet. A volcanic customer shows us typical human reactions as the clerk attempts to deal with the pet and its appetite.

Perry (P): Welcome to Perry’s Pet Emporium. How can we help you?

Customer (C): Shh! Not so loud.

P: Loud? What?

C: Keep it down buddy or you may never talk again.

P: (Silent)

C: Good ... Now here’s the deal. I’ve got this pet see And it’s plenty hungry ...
As a matter of fact it is always hungry.

P: You’re not talking about a teenage son are you?

C: No more humor Perries Pet Emporium or your gonna be Perries Past Tense
Crematorium.

P: (Silence)

C: Good ... Now what do you have for my pet, “Anger.”

P: Anger?

C: Yes.

P: What is “Anger”, a canine, feline, a member of the arachnid family

C: He is my family and he’s hungry!

P: I’m sorry I can’t read your mind.

C: Then read this fist Mr. P.

P: Whoa! We are here to serve but I am not sure how at this point!

C: Here’s the deal. My pet is anger and its (*Gets ready to whisper in ear of Mr. P*) my pet sin.

P: SIN!

C: Quiet Mr. P or you’ll be his next meal!

P: You’re serious aren’t you?

C: Finally catching on ... No wonder you work at a Pet Store, had to find some thing your speed right?

P: Mr. Ah I'm sorry I forgot your name.

C: No you didn't, I never gave it out ... Just call me Mr. A.

P: Ok Mr. A .. First what does "it" normally eat.

C: Hate movies, Gore flicks, Tom and Jerry.

P: Tom and Jerry?

C: Yes the smashing body parts is a fantasy of mine.

P: Look Mr. A ... If I feed this thing it just might ... Ah do something ... Something like smashing body parts as you call it.

C: No ... That would never happen ... I've got it under control ... I keep it right at that threatening ... "You better give him his way" stage ... That suits me just fine.

P: Wait a minute ... You're not Mr. A ... You're Joey Derringer ... You flipped out on that talk show and trashed the place ... You beat your wife ... Your kids ... Even the dog. I'm gonna have to ask you to leave ... Dog beaters are not welcome here.

C: Look Mr. P deal with it. It's my pet and it obeys me just fine.

P: Then why did you just crush that hamster's skull?

C: Smashing body parts?

The Big Game

Mel: Phil, tell your stomach to be quiet. I can't listen to the game its so loud...
And big. Man, you need to go on a serious diet Bud, or you won't be
around for too many more Super-Bowls.

Phil: Off my case Doctor Demento. Since when did you become concerned about
anyone or anything but football. You ragged all the way through this one
and once it is over you'll go into withdrawals till next fall. Slobber ...
Mumbling ... You're scary man.

Steve: Mellow out guys. I'm sending my energy out to my team and you're
distracting me. This karma force thing works. I was reading in my
magazine about this lady whose son never loses because of this. (He sends
it)

Mel: Steve, you are turning into a fruit salad man. Where do you get this stuff?

Socrates: Friends, fellow fans, men of renown.

Phil: Are talking to us? Soc, old buddy, you have really changed since you took
that correspondence course. What was it, "Social Suicide." or
something?

Socrates: My name is Socrates and it was "Social Savvy—A vocabulary for today."

Mel: Did you check the date on that thing. I think today was four hundred years
ago. Where do they get this stuff? Besides you are probably confusing
the new guy. ... Right, Kyle?

Kyle: No, really I've learned a lot today. I think things are really quite clear.

Steve: What do you mean?

Kyle: Well in our last church there weren't any men so I was pretty pumped
when I saw you guys this morning. And I really appreciated the
invitation to watch the game.

Socrates: Our joy has been increased to know that shedding our esoteric
existence has been a blessing to you.

Mel: But what ... There's more right?

Kyle: Well yes ... Not to be rude ... But why do you guys go to church anyway?

Mel: Steve: Socrates: Phil: "Wives!"

Kyle: Not Jesus?

Steve: No, my wife's name is Pam ... She plays the piano, Phil's wife is Marguerite, she is a Sunday School Teacher, Soc's wife is Connie and she is a greeter and Steve's wife ... She was leading the songs.

Kyle: Oh

Mel: So what's your wife do?

Kyle: Nothing, since she died last year.

Socrates: Our sympathy and condolences are issued forth to you.

Steve: Then why do you come?

Kyle: Jesus

Mel: You're not a backslidden preacher are you?

Kyle: No, I work at Dismore's in the sports department.

Phil: That's why you know all about these guys on the teams.

Kyle: No ... I know all about the guys on the teams because I was on one of the teams.

Mel: Steve: Socrates: Phil: "No Way."

Kyle: Retired last season when I found out about my wife's illness. Now I am a working dad there for the kids.

Steve: Kyle Jackson ... Wide receiver ... MVP Super Bowl 31... Three catches for touch downs ... Game winning tackle on an interception ... Always talked about Jesus on the cameras ... You are him, aren't you?

Phil: Dude, you could still be playing. You were at the top of your game.

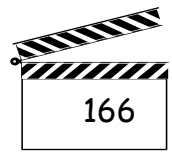
Mel: Kyle Jackson in my living room.

Kyle: Football was a paycheck and a platform. But what about you guys? What about Jesus?

Phil: Are you kidding? That is sissy stuff. No rock em sock em man would ever ... That's sounds dumber the more I keep talking. ... You took some incredible hits in that super bowl game.

SILENCE

Kyle: I've taken bigger hits than what linebackers can dish out. Losing my wife is tough but Jesus' ways have kept me and my kids going through the tough times. Big sister is watching them right now just so I could get away



for the game. I've got a priceless family.

TO AUDIENCE: Who keeps you going? Are you here for someone else? Jesus called disciples, men, from every walk of life. He's calling today. Are you ready to respond?



The Autopsy

1: Done with the autopsy?

2: Yup. No doubt. He is dead.

1: But what killed him?

2: Sin.

1: Which one?

2: Take your pick.

1: From what list? You haven't told me anything yet.

2: Well here is an enlarged fear gland. Forces a spiritual shock. This generosity vein is shriveled up to almost nothing. Stops the flow gradually. Here is where the action adrenal is supposed to be. Nothing. Not even a trace.

1: But how can that be. You can't live without these.

2: He isn't alive is he?

1: Oh yea.

2: When they function, obedience is possible. Without it all the other organs suffer. See this little shriveled lump?

1: Gross

2: That's supposed to be the Patience Reserve. Should be about the size of a grape fruit, not a shriveled grape.

1: This guy was a mess. But what about this guy? Same thing?

2: Oh no! All his organs are in perfect shape.

1: Then why is he dead?

2: Let's see ... Records say he was 92. That would be reason enough.

1: I'm confused. They're both dead! Why?

2: That's not the right question. The right question is did they both live.

One Word “Peace”

1 Halt!

A Who

1 Goes

A There

(PAUSE)

1 Pass

A Word

(Stand Off)

2 What?! (Startled seeing the guns and angry people)

1 Death

A Hate

1 Destruction

A Revenge

2 Why?

1 Death

A Hate

1 Destruction

A Revenge

2 When?

1 Always

A Forever

2 Who?

1 Them (pointing at A)

A Them (pointing at 1)

2 So?

1 So! (pointing gun at 2)

A So! (pointing gun at 2)

2 No! (pushing guns away)

1 What?

2 Love!

A Why?

2 God

1 When?

2 Cross

A Who?

2 Jesus

1 Hate?

2 Jesus

1 Destruction?

2 Jesus

A Revenge?

2 Jesus

1 Pass?

A Word?

2 Jesus (turning to the audience)

2 The password to God is Jesus. Only then can you deal with the tough issues of life, death, hate, destruction, revenge. Are you ready for real life?

Listen, God, I don't Think You Understand!

- 1: Just leave me alone! I don't want your ... Your ... Your anything. God just leave me alone. I don't think you understand.
- 2: That's right! Up there in the clouds. How can you understand what it's like to live down here. Angels everywhere, and I'll bet they even do what you ask them to. How could you understand.
- 3: I hear you're a spirit too. No body. Well look at this one! It hurts all the time. Ever since the accident I haven't gone a day without pain. Even the prescriptions don't help anymore. You just don't understand.
- 1: Then you send your little robots out with their literature and stupid smiles. We don't even have the right to have you ... Leave us alone!
- 2: Or you have those people on TV who don't every stop smiling.
- 3: And those Grandma's ... Praying. Crying. Doing the ultimate guilt trip. Can't you do anything for yourself!
- 1: 2: 3: You just don't understand what it is like down here.

FREEZE

Narrator: Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Narrator: Who doesn't understand?

The Burning House

- 1: *(Stumbles on to stage coughing and wiping eyes)* I made it! I can't believe I am still alive. I thought for sure I was dead!
- 2: *(Stumbles on to stage coughing and wiping eyes)* Boy, was that close. I could see the flames. The smoke. I thought I had passed out. How did I end up here?
- 1: There was some guy pushing you out and then he rushed right back in to get someone else. There must be a hundred people still in there.
- 3: *(Stumbles on to stage coughing and wiping eyes)* Thank you Jesus. I'm alive. God, you can do anything you want with me. From this point on I am yours Lord.
- 4: *(Stumbles on to stage coughing and wiping eyes)* Who was that guy. He must have drug me over a hundred yards to safety. Where is he anyway. I thought he came out with me.
- 1: Somebody helped me too.
- 2: Maybe we should go back in and help. There are a lot of other people in there still.
- 3: Are you kidding? We barely made it out ourselves. What good would we be dead.
- 4: But he keeps going back in for others. Shouldn't we? Somehow he keeps doing it?
- 1: Well let's vote on it. We are all Americans right? All in favor of going back in raise your hand. *(Hands go into pockets)*
- 4: Are you sure this is right?
- 1: It doesn't have to be right. We voted for it and that settles it!

Shh!

1: Shh!

2: (*Quietly*) What?

1: Shh!

2: (*Quietly*) Why?

1: (*Quietly*) They're Listening.

2: (*Quietly*) Who?

1: (*Quietly*) Them.

2: (*Quietly*) Them who?

1: (*Quietly*) It's a conspiracy. We are being watched all the time. They see every move we make.

2: (*In regular voice*) Oh That! Of course I know about "them." That's the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

1: (*Very Insistent*) Shh!

2: Forget it. He hears it all, sees it all, and we have to give account for it all too.

1: (*Agitated*) Shh!

2: You have really lost perspective on this haven't you. You are more worried about people than pleasing God. There isn't much hope for you if you keep this thing up.

1: SHHHHHH!

2: Ok, but don't forget about the devil too. We are supposed to watch out for him too.

1: SHHHHHHHHHH!

2: (*Looking at the audience*) So what has caught your eye? Is it the conspiracy world? Making a quick fortune in the internet gold rush? Fear? Fix your eyes on Jesus and you'll be able to focus on what is important. You just might develop a larger vocabulary than SHH.

The Friendly Stranger

1: Hi!

2: Me?

1: Yes

2: Why?

1: Friend

2: Me?

1: Yes

2: Oh?

1: Gift

2: Me?

1: Yes

2: Oh

1: Here

2: Why?

1: Jesus

2: Fanatic?

1: Free

2: How?

1: Full

2: How?

1: Forgiven

2: Free?

1: Yes

2: Full?

1: Yes

2: Forgiven?

1: Yes!

2: Jesus?

1: Yes!

2: Plans!

1: His?

2: Mine!

1: Why?

2: Expected!

1: Who?

2: Boss

1: So?

2: Wife

1: So?

2: Family

1: So?

2: Oh

1: So?

2: No!

1: Friend

2: Go!

1: No

2: Oh?

1: So?

Freeze and turn to Audience. So?

The Thief: The Real Ramifications

(Judge pounds gavel)

Judge: next

Recorder: Case of State verses Andrew Ruston. Charged with second degree murder in the death of Alex Wilson.

Judge: How do you plead?

Andrew: Murder? Where did that come from? I'm just a thief. I mean I'm innocent.

Judge: Counsel haven't you briefed your client on the severity of the charges?

Counsel: I've tried but he says it is all a frame and a mistake.

Judge: Mr. Ruston, let me assure you this is no "Frame or Mistake." How do you plead?

Thief: Not guilty of course!

Judge: Proceed.

Recorder: On the night of January 18th Mr. Ruston is accused of entering the Wilson residence and stealing a variety of items including Mr. Wilson's midnight seizure medicine. We submit the Video tape of the crime as evidence.

Thief: Video Tape!?

Recorder: Mr. Wilson was under medical surveillance. When he awoke and did not find his medicine he panicked and the resultant seizure was fatal.

Thief: There was nothing wrong with him when I left! You can't put this on me. I'm just a thief.

Judge: Are we to consider that as a confession?

Thief: Murder no! Thief ... Yes!

Judge: Under the new reality laws you can be tried for any consequences arising from your actions. Under this statute you are being charged with murder in the second degree.

Thief: I'm dead.

Judge: No the death penalty isn't one of the possible sentences.

Thief: All my life “I’ve gotten away with “murder.” Not real murder ... But you know ...Not getting what I deserve. So how come it has to catch up with me now?!

Judge: Better now than later.

Thief: What is that supposed to mean?

Judge: I’m just a man in a human system. But some day you will have to stand before the Judge of the universe ... Jesus.

Thief: What a minute you can’t mix church and state you *(Interrupted by judge)*

Judge: I am warning you for your own good. If you are convicted use your time well. You already know about God’s mercy. Take the time to learn about his grace.

Smiley

1: OK, Smiley ... What's the deal?

2: Me?

1: Do you see anyone else smiling?!

2: No, and that bothers me.

1: That they haven't smoked what you smoked, did what you did?

2: Sorta.

1: Do you know these people?

2: No.

1: Then why bother with the grin and wave thing?

2: I'm happy.

1: There's a first. You're not from Mars or anything. This isn't the Hidden Camera is it?

2: You aren't happy are you?

1: Brilliant deduction Watson. Why should I be? I'm on anti: depressants because of the job stress and a sixteen year old daughter who hasn't come home for a week. My wife is getting the paperwork ready for a divorce and the IRS just called today to say that they had "randomly" selected me for an audit.

2: Feel like you are going to die don't you?

1: Yes. How would you know?

2: Don't think you can endure?

1: Maybe you do ... No ... (*Listens intently*)

2: Pressure is squeezing you from all sides?

1: You're not my wife's lawyer are you?

2: No, but I do understand and so does someone more important than me.

1: Ok, I'm listening.

2: (*Reads from 2 Corinthians 1:6: 9a*) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we

despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.
(*Interrupted*)

1: (*Interrupts 2*) What is that, a medical book? What do I have, some terminal disease?

2: No and there's more, listen. "But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead."

1: (*Silence for a while then*) Me ... Myself ... And I.

2: What?

1: The Three Musketeers. All for one and one for all. We've always been able to win the battles before. But now I am losing all the wars.

2: It works that way. But it doesn't have to stay that way.

1: But God ... I mean me ... How? ... Oh I give up.

2: Good. Now you have the chance to turn in your swords ... Me ... Myself ... And I. And rely on God.

1: How?

2: It can start as you offer a prayer but it will end when you have offered your life

1: He ... It is a "He" isn't it?

2: Yes.

1: He won't be getting very much.

2: He never does.

(*Narrator Reads*) 2 Corinthians 1:10-11 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

The Brady Lunch

Son: Dad can I.. *(Loudly interrupted)*

Dad: NO! ... NO! ... NO! ... Whatever it is, No!

Son: *(Silence)* I... *(Loudly interrupted again)*

Dad: NO! Mom talk to him!

Mom: *(Looking at Dad)* What do I say? I think he wanted to say 'Grace.'

Dad: Oh ... Ohhhhhhhhhhh ... I ... Never mind. Go ahead son. I'm sorry.

Son: Father God, we come in Jesus' name and we thank you for this food and Dad's raise *(Dad chokes)* and this day. Help Dad deal with the new stress. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mom: Is something wrong dear?

Daughter: Dad you are wound up tighter than a bowling ball.

Son: What?

Dad: Well I guess now is as good a time as any.

Mom: For what?

Dad: Well the whole raise thing.

Daughter: Yeah! What a deal Dad ... We are keeping up with the Smith's.

Son: What?

Mom: Go on ...

Dad: Well ever since we started to go to church last year, I keep thinking that maybe this CEO corporate climb thing isn't for me. I think maybe God wants me to go into the ministry fulltime. Be a pastor or a missionary or something. But I think about all of you. It would affect all of us. I guess that's why I'm so stressed.

Daughter: Missionary? You mean jungles, snakes, ... No McDonalds?

Mom: No wonder you've been so quiet at church lately.

Son: Cool!

Mom: Cool?

Son: Yeah. I've been realizing that our lifestyle and the Bible don't match up real well sometimes. I think it would be cool to do some of the Bible stuff.

When do we start?

Daughter: No McDonalds?

Dad: I don't know how it all works but I've scheduled an appointment with the pastor for Friday at lunch. I've got a lot of questions.

Mom: Can I come too? I married you for richer or poorer but I don't remember a clergy part in there.

Dad: Of course. ... I was going to talk to you tonight but I guess I never was very good at keeping a secret.

Daughter: No McDonalds?

Son: Maybe just maybe ... No McDonalds.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Mom has a dream, or is it?

Cast: Mom, Dad, Daughter, Son

Mom: *(Is working on paying bills and figuring it all out)* We can't do it! It can't be done!

Dad: Talking to me or yourself or God?

Mom: Well, maybe all three. There is no way we can tithe.

Dad: Oh ... Well it might be a little easier than you think, Here.

Mom: A check? ... You sold your boat? But that was your dream!

Dad: Nightmare really. That pulls almost \$200 a month off the out: go side of the finances. I think the tithe is closer than you think.

Daughter: *(Comes bursting in)* I got it! I got it!

Mom: Got what?

Daughter: Dad, didn't you tell her? I got the job cleaning at the corner grocery. Now I can get my own clothes and you don't have to.

Son: *(Wanders in with a smile on his face)* Here you go Dad. They paid cash. Even got a hundred more than I thought I would. Said it was really clean ... Inside and out.

Mom: Wait a minute ... Did you sell your car?

Son: Sure. Didn't Dad tell you? I saw how much that cost you for insurance. I can wait. Besides I have to start saving for college and that thing ate every penny I every earned.

Mom: There isn't a "For Sale" sign on the house is there?

Dad: No ... While you were helping your mom this weekend we had a family talk. We've talked about tithing for a while and realized that our spending has been our excuse. No excuses now.

Mom: You already have this all figured out. Don't you?

Son: Yeah mom. It's basic Algebra. At some point the two sides of the equation have to match up. Now they do.

Daughter: I'm going to tithe on my job too.

Dad: We should be able to start giving to missions soon too ... Too ... Too ...

(mom nods off to sleep) (everyone disappears)

Dad: Mom?

Mom: *(Wakes up)* It was just a dream. Bummer. I knew it was too good to be true.

Dad: You look tired? Are you ok?

Mom: *(Picks up check)* Yes, the stress of ... What's this? A check? You sold your boat!?

Bungee Jumping, Free Climbing, Hydroplane, and Christian

Who lives the most exciting lifestyle?

Cast: 4 people

BJ: What a jump! Six seconds of free fall. I must have bounced for ten minutes before I got settled. Total Adrenaline.

FC: Well I didn't have any free fall because if I let go of those rocks there is nothing to stop me but the ground. It could get ugly fast. But this weekend was tough. I didn't realize what it would take to climb old baldy. I almost cramped up and went down. What a rush!

HP: Almost hit two hundred miles an hour on the straight this weekend. Until a fluke wave came up. Lucky I was able to shut it down before I flipped. Intensity!

(All eyes look at Christian)

Christian: Stared death in the face this weekend.

BJ: Wait a minute. The last risky thing you did was to ... To ... Was

FC: Leave the house on an icy day.

HP: Open a jar of jam bare handed.

BJ: Don't feel like you have to compete. Boring is cool. Besides it just makes us look that much better.

Christian: No, I did. I spent half an hour with Victor Anderson. The (Interrupted by FC)

FC: The freak who killed half his neighborhood before they caught him.

Christian: Yes. Him. He's on death row. Scheduled to die in about a month.

HP: Why were you talking to him?

BJ: That's a dumb question HP. Christian is well ... Christian. He has to talk to people before they die ... Don't you?

Christian: Want to. Pretty soon Victor is going to stand before a heavenly judge. Without Jesus it will be pretty ugly for him.

FC: He deserves the worst. What a sicko creep.

Christian: We all deserve the worst and eventually we all die. He's the only one of us who knows the date. Who knows, the way you guys push it, old Victor may outlive all three of you.

HP: Don't jinx me Christian and don't roll into your "Please become a Christian Spell." I can see it coming. You have that look on your face.

Christian: You're right and here it goes anyway. Guys, God has a plan for your lives but your own plans, your sin, keep you from knowing God and the plan. Can you be honest about your sin and turn your life over to His way?

FC: BJ: HP: (In unison) NO!

Christian: Well, I will be praying for you. See you next week. Bye!

FC: BJ: HP-See you. Bye guys.

END ACT ONE

Act Two Starts back in the same meeting room

BJ: So how did it go? I mean how was it when he died?

Christian: Well when it was finally all over it was peaceful.

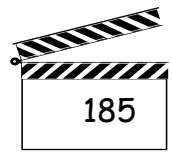
HP: What a way to go. Can't imagine it. Just glad he had another chance to talk to you before he died.

Christian: Me too... As soon as I heard about the fall I came to the hospital. They say it was a miracle he had lived that long. It was over a two hundred foot fall. He did accept Christ before he died. He really did. Just wish Victor could have been as open. He just kept blaming others. Wouldn't acknowledge that he was the one responsible for his actions.

BJ: Can you believe that?

Christian: Sure I can. I get it from you guys every week.

FREEZE HERE



Drama Volume Four
General and Seasonal Scripts
Mark Schaufler with MST Ministries

P.O. Box 8490 Lacey WA 98509
360-456-5624
Email Mark@mstgo.com
Website www.mstgo.com

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ISBN # 1-886904-42-1

THE PRAYER

Praying at work or school can be a chance to witness

3 people eating a meal together

A: Man, am I Hungry!

B: Be still my growling stomach!

C: I'm starving too, but do you think this is going to do it? It ... it ... well what is it?

B: *(bows head to pray)* Lord, thank you for this food and I pray you will help me to use it for your purposes and my health. Amen!

A: Make that two of us!

C: Can you cover this food for me too ... it may need it.

A: You pray before every meal don't you?

B: Yes, even the good ones.

C: Why?

A: Why what?

C: Why the good ones?

B— God can bless those too.

A: God?

C: He means "The Big Man upstairs?"

B: That's not how I would describe.

A: Him? How do you know it's not a her?

C: Or maybe an it?

B: Experience

A: Experience?! I thought maybe you were going to dig out the Bible and try to prove something.

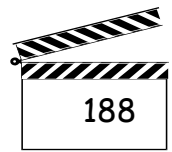
C: Or tell us that's what your parents taught you.

B: Well, both of those helped.

C: I knew it ... another brainwashed ... narrow-minded ... dogmatic bigot

A: Oh no ... another "Dogmatic ...? What's that mean?

- B: No ... you guys have been watching too many talk shows. There are all kinds of spiritual experiences. But all of them can be explained in the Bible.
- A: You mean they are all OK?
- C: That doesn't sound right.
- B: Well you're right ... just because they are explained it doesn't make them good or right.
- C: Then you're a bigot?
- A: So, you think you're the only one with the right answers?
- B: I know that isn't politically correct but it is close to the truth. For example; you two live very Biblical lives with very Biblical outcomes.
- A: Don't be playing with me. I haven't been to church in decades and I know I do things that the Bibles says aren't right or good.
- B: And you feel guilty whenever you do them too, don't you?
- A: Man, you've got a lot of nerve. Why I ought to (*Interrupted by C*)
- C: Save of piece of him for me while you're at it. We can take turns until he passes out or cries for mercy.
- B: That is something else that you both understand really well. God is merciful.
- C: Wait a minute. I don't think you understand me at all.
- A: Yeah, I think you're....
- B: You don't need to finish that one. You know God's mercy because you've done things where you didn't get the full punishment and consequences you could have ... maybe even deserved.
- A: We don't have to listen to this. I'm out of here (*gets up and leaves in a huff*).
- C: You're pushing the limits, buddy.
- B: Sometimes you do too with God. When are you going to pay attention to Him and what He has been saying to you.
- C: He doesn't talk to me.
- B: Remember feeling guilty? That's God saying no. And this whole mercy thing is His idea. He is the same to you as He is to me but you're trying to fight Him off and I'm trying to follow Him.
- C: I should just shut you up.
- B: Me, you could. Him, you can't.



You now have a platform to share a Gospel Message from. You have related to people in the audience and now can share the truth with them. They are ready to listen.

DOCTOR DOOM

Dr. Doom is a psychiatrist with a thriving practice. Let's see how things are going and his clientele today. His first four people have a variety of paranoid issues. See what his prescription is for them as well as the odd fifth patient.

Each patient comes in and makes themselves as comfortable as they can in the seat provided for them. But their outward behavior does mimic some of their inward issues.

DD: So what's on your mind today?

1: Anthrax ... a slow painful death ... My stock portfolio ... another slow painful death ... the world food supply ... another slow painful death ... terrorists ... a fast painful death

DD: You sound normal. How do you feel?

1: I'm normal?

DD: Sure, I have patients like you all the time.

1: Normal?! Wow ... then I feel great. Of course other than ... anthrax ... a slow painful death ... *(Interrupted)*

DD: Well, if you would like to come back next week we could talk about it some more?

1: Thanks ... I'll make an appointment

(Number 2 comes in)

DD: So what's on your mind today?

(#2 sprays and wipes down everything in the office, puts a mask on the doctor and themselves)

2: Germs ... they are everywhere you know ... you can't be too careful about bacteria ... viruses ... mutant strains of hybrid bacterial warfare experiments ...

DD: You sound normal. How do you feel?

2: Normal? I'm normal?

DD: Sure, I have patients like you all the time. So how do you feel?

2: Normal? Wow. Well, other than this thing with bacteria ... germs ... viruses ... feel fine

DD: Great! So would you like to talk about it again next week?

2: Normal! Sure I'll make an appointment for sure. Thanks Doc!

(Here comes #3 who is very concerned about space aliens and the like)

DD: So what's on your mind today?

3: You're not one of them are you doc? ... space aliens I mean ... your body isn't their life support system is it ... I mean ... this office isn't bugged is it ... you're not part of some secret society are you? ... you know where all the milk carton people are? ... I do ... there is a conspiracy and they are all being held *(Interrupted)*

DD: You sound normal. How do you feel?

3: Normal? Did you say normal?

DD: Yes ... I have patients who say just what you said all the time ... So how do you feel?

3: Normal! Wow! Well, other than the thoughts ... you're not messing with my mind are you ... is this being video taped? ... hey, I feel fine.

DD: Normal.

3: Normal!

DD: So would you like to talk about this again next week?

3: Why, yes, this was great. Thanks. See you next week.

(Number four enters with a church problems)

DD: So, what's on your mind today?

4: What if I'm not good enough ... I have pet sins that I don't want to let go of ... they won't keep me out of Heaven will they? ... If God is a God of love surely He won't hold these things against me ... after all I haven't killed anyone.

DD: You sound normal. So how do you feel?

4- Normal! Did you say normal?

DD: Yes, I have patients that come here all the time saying the same thing. So how do you feel?

4: Normal? Other than the thoughts of inadequacy and guilt ... fine. Normal?

DD: Normal!

4: Wow! Normal. Gee thanks Doc.

DD: So do you want to come back next week and talk about it?

4: Yeah, this was great. I'll make an appointment on the way out.

(Number five enters and doesn't fit the "normal" patient, they are obviously looking for someone or something)

DD: So what's on your mind today?

5: What?

DD: So what's on your mind today?

5: Oh well, let's see ... "For God did not give us a spirit of fear but of love and power and a sound mind." "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

DD: Wait a minute ... you're not normal!? I better give you another test.

5: What?

DD: Say the first word that comes to your mind when I say these words; Death

5: Victory

DD: Grave?

5: Resurrection

DD: Devil?

5: Loser

DD: Fear?

5: Boldness

DD: Darkness?

5: Light

DD: I thought so ... and that test proved it ... you're not normal ... you have a life ... you have a future ... I can't help you.

5: Are you sure ... all I want to know is where the bathroom is.

THE CHURCH MINISTRY RUT

The pastor is going to call an active member of the church to see if they will consider working in another area of the church. Let's see how it goes.

Active Member (AM): Well, Hello Pastor!

Pastor (P): Yes, hello ... how are things tonight?

AM: Great!

P: Good ... well I was wondering ... would you consider leading the new young married couples outreach class ... we're looking at starting the ministry in about four months.

AM: But Pastor ... that's going to be on Wednesday night isn't it?

P: That's right ... sounds like you have an interest in it already?

AM: Well, no ... I already lead the Clothing and Food Bank ... and it's on Wednesday nights

P: Yes ... I know.

AM: Pastor ... I founded that ministry six years ago and it's finally strong and stable.

P: Yes ... that's why I am calling

AM: But pastor ... if I don't have that, what will I do ... with all that time I have poured into it?

P: You've done a tremendous job ... it's very stable ... has a good reputation in the community ... you've got lot's of helpers ... it should do just fine without you.

AM- Young Marrieds? We don't have anything going for that age.

P: You're right ... and they are the fastest growing population in our community ... but not our church.

AM: But I can do the clothing and food bank in my sleep ... it has finally become easy.

P: Could you just pray about it for me ... ok? Thanks

AM: Sure, pastor ... I'll pray about it ... Bye

AM: *(pretend to turn and talk to spouse)* Can you believe that guy ... He gets pastor put in front of his name and he becomes a power freak ... me ... not in the clothing ministry? ... That's my identity ... my ministry ... my calling.

P: *(pretend to turn and talk to spouse)* It's a good thing I called ... AM has really gotten into a pretty deep rut ... hope they take the time to listen and see if God wants them out of the rut ... it's too easy to settle into one ... unfortunately as nice as they may make it ... sooner or later it just becomes their grave ... and they're already in it ... just pour a little more dirt on top and it's all done.

CELL PHONE CALL FROM GOD

Person: Hello

God: This is God and I'd like to talk to you.

Person: Sure ... this is joke right? Are there cameras on me somewhere (*starts to groom themselves*)?

God: You don't have to primp, I want to talk to you about the real you anyway.

Person: Sure ... Is this you, Josh? I know it must be Miguel.

God: No, it's me, God. I've tried to get your attention with my creation. The colors, complexity, sunsets all for you, but you have been too busy to appreciate it and start to ask any (*interrupted by the person*).

Person: I know it's Jason

God: Josh is in the backyard finally fixing the fence. Miguel is shopping and Jason is playing soccer at the university.

Person: How do you know all that? Oh yeah, God, right?

God: Then I sent my only Son, Jesus ... you've heard of Him your whole life. You've seen Him on hundreds of crosses and you haven't paid Him anymore attention than you did my creation.

Person: But nobody really takes all that Bible stuff very seriously. Give me a break, "The walls of Jericho, Daniel in the Lions Den, Jesus walking on the water"

God: I do

Person: Well if you're really God (*God interrupts*).

God: Then tell me what I am going to say next.

Person: I don't have to listen to this. You know I could just hang up!"

God: You're right. But I won't stop until the day it's too late.

Person: What do you mean, 'TOO LATE.'

God: After death comes judgment.

Person: Wait a minute ... you don't really think that a God of love would ... judge anyone I mean ... you know ... that Heaven and Hell stuff ... really?

God: So now you're an expert on me?

Person: I can hang up ... then what will you do?

God: Guilt

Person: Guilt?

God: That's me saying 'No.' If you aren't listening at least I can try to stop you from the destructive power that is released when you sin.

Person: Guilt ... that's you?

God: Yes, I sent the Holy Spirit to help guide you towards Jesus and His cross. He's the only way guilt can be taken care of. Something you haven't experienced yet.

Person: But I feel guilty a lot.

God: That's because I have to say 'no' to you a lot. I'd like to say 'yes.' 'Yes, you have a future. Yes, you can be forgiven. Yes, you were created for something important. Yes, you're my son/daughter. But you have to say 'yes' to me first.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel from John 16:5-11 or 1 Samuel 3:1-7

THE SCALE

Much of the world is trying to earn their way into God's Heaven. They hope that they will do enough good to overcome whatever bad they do and thus make it to heaven. The Bible tells us; that isn't possible. Instead, we are saved by grace and the sacrifice that Jesus gave for us. This drama starts where so many people are today: trying to earn their way to Heaven. Then moves them to the truth of the cross.

Props: You will need a scale large enough to double later in the drama as a cross. It needs to be portable and break down for ease of movement. You will also need scales for the ends that receive the good and bad of the person in the drama. These can be buckets that hang on the ends or something similar. A lively music instrumental cd as background.

Person earning their way to heaven (PETWTH): They begin when a progressive music track starts.

PETWTH: Scurries to a variety of settings where they do a good deed.

- *There is an old lady that needs some help.
- *There is a blind man in need of help.
- *Some children are being harassed by a bully.
- *Someone drops something.
- *They give money to a beggar.

After each good deed they run to the man in black (*stands on the bad side of the scales*) who gives them a token to put on the good scale. There is a bit of happiness in this but then back to the grind of good deeds. At the same time the male who represents Christ (standing on the good side of the scale) tries to talk to the person every time they come near the good scale but the PETWTH ignores them.

Interspersed among the good deeds are a few temptations that PETWTH will give into.

- *They get a chance to look at and be drawn to a member of the opposite sex.

- *They steal a little of the money that they find before they give it back.

- *They meet a friend and make fun of the people they have helped.

- *They get frustrated and yell at someone while they are trying to help another.

- *They are very proud as they come back from one of their good deeds.

With each misdeed they do, the black figure puts a token into the bad side of the scale. That is noticed by PETWTH each time with a grimace and a new resolve to do good.

Finally after PETWTH has run the whole gauntlet of good deeds and bad deeds Jesus steps in and stops them. They resist and try to go back to their life of running between good and bad deeds. But Jesus goes to the scales and takes the good pan full of tokens off. Then they do the same with the bad scale.

PETWTH is frantic at this point. He is badgering Jesus and trying to put the scales back on as they try to gather up the good tokens while the black figure is gathering up the bad tokens.

In the midst of the confusion Jesus turns the scales into the cross where He is crucified. At His death cry there is a complete silence. Some of the people come up and take his body down and lay it to rest. All of this takes place in silence.

People gather around Him to mourn Him. While this is happening the PETWTH tries to reconstruct the scale with the help of the person in black. People leave Jesus and things start to go back to the way they were until Jesus rises from the dead. He goes straight to the one in black. Jesus ties up the one in black and then stops the PETWTH. He stands there holding out His palms to the PETWTH and then faces the crowd with His palms open and there is the platform for ministry.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel based on Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

THE CHRISTMAS TRILOGY

This drama can be done by one person who acts the part of a three, thirteen, and thirty-three year old or have three people do the parts. It can then be a monologue or you can have supporting actors in each of the scenes.

Props can be only in the imagination or as elaborate as you like.

THREE YEAR OLD: Full of amazement and wonder at the Christmas world that has suddenly appeared in their home. Everything happens slowly for this one who is having the first Christmas that they can remember or even begin to appreciate. In between statements they are revolving around looking at everything with the biggest eyes and pointing imaginable. They should have some interaction with the audience to draw the most out of this scene.

WOW!

LUK AT THA LITS!

BU ... YEWOA ... BACK ... GEEN

THA TEE IT GROWED SO FAST ... HOW DID DAT DO DAT

WOW COME DA TEES OUTSIDE NO HAVE THA LITS?

LOOKIE GIANT SOCKS ON THA WALL ...

(Turns to shock and then the three year old runs off to hide ... slowly looks around for the giant who must belong to them ... finally the coast is clear and they sneak back out and begin to trust again ... {if someone should make a noise, maybe an audience plant, then the three year scampers back to hide} ...

WHO HAS FEED TAT BIG?

HOW CUM I NO TOUCH THE PRETTIES?

HOW CUM NO TIME FOR ME NOW

LUK AT THE PRETTIES AT THA TEE. WHEN CAN I PAY WIT THEM

FUNNY SQWASH WHEN I GAB IT

HAS ME SEEN TIS FORE?

WHAT IS KISSMUS?

SANA? DO HE WEAR THA BIG SOCKS? ... MOMMY I SCARED!

Ends with three year old and out stretched arms reaching for mom. They freeze in that position and prop people come along and pick them up like a statue and get them off stage.

Narrator: And so time goes forward. Junior has a decade's worth of birthdays and now we find ourselves at the thirteenth Christmas for our young one. In some regards everything has changed and in some regards nothing has.

THIRTEEN YEAR OLD: This is a thirteen year old who is seen a lot and not liking all that they see. They are rattling the presents under the tree.

STINK!

NONE OF THE PRESENTS ARE THE RIGHT SHAPE OR SIZE

WHY CAN'T I GET STUFF LIKE MY FRIENDS.

OH, NO! I GET PRACTICAL JUNK ... OR JUST PLAIN JUNK.

I CAN' BELIEVE THAT ALL MY RELATIVES ARE LIKE MY MOM AND DAD ... BROKE ... AND AFRAID OF ME GROWING UP.

WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO DROP THE SANTA LIE ... I FIGURED THAT OUT YEARS AGO.

WENT ALONG WITH THEM FOR AWHILE JUST TO MAKE THEM HAPPY ... BUT WHY TRY THAT ROUTE ... I DON'T GET A THING OUT OF THAT.

ALL HYPE AND NO SUBSTANCE.

I WONDER WHAT ELSE THEY HAVE TRIED TO SELL ME OVER THE YEARS?

IT'S PATHETIC TOO ... MOM TAKES ANOTHER JOB JUST TO ARRANGE THE WHOLE SICK CHARADE ... HOAX.

SHE NEVER HAS ANYTIME FOR ME ANYWAY, BUT ESPECIALLY NOW.
DUMB TREE NEEDLES ... THEY'RE EVEN IN MY BED
PLUS TWO WEEKS WITHOUT SCHOOL ... OR MY FRIENDS
WHAT'S THE POINT? WHAT IS CHRISTMAS ABOUT ANYWAY?

Freeze with hands in pockets. They come along and pick them up like stage furniture with the handles that the arms in pockets create.

Narrator: As two decades roll by, Junior is now thirty-three years old with all the worries that come along with a big Christmas.

THIRTY-THREE YEAR OLD: Is having a conversation with someone. Perhaps themselves. But it is agitated and thoughtful.

HOW MUCH?
WE CAN'T BE SPENDING MONEY LIKE THIS!
WE ARE STILL PAYING FOR LAST YEARS BUDGET BUSTERS
YES THE HOUSE LOOKS GREAT ... LIKE A MAGAZINE OR SOMETHING ... BUT INSIDE
I AM DYING ... THIS IS EXPENSIVE AND I'M STRESSING THE WHOLE THING
THIS IS ONE EXPENSIVE FANTASY WE'RE TRYING TO MAINTAIN ... *(Reads from receipts in his hand)* \$60 PER TREE ... \$100 FOR OUTSIDE LIGHTS ... \$45 INSIDE
LIGHTS ... \$25 CANDLES?
I DON'T THINK LITTLE JOSHIE HAS A CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON.
ALL WE DO IS SPANK HIM FOR GETTING NEAR THE TREE ... "TEE"
TRAVIS IS NEVER SATISFIED WITH WHAT HE GETS.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME FOR EITHER OF THEM ... LET ALONE EACH OTHER.
WE HAVE THE WHOLE SEASON SCHEDULED AT OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES AS WE
INDULGE THEM IN THEIR FANTASY WORLD AND EAT OUR WAY TOWARDS
ANOTHER PANT SIZE.
WHAT'S THE POINT?
IT'S MORE STRESS THAN ANY OTHER TIME OF THE YEAR AND I DON'T EVEN GET
THE RELIEF OF GOING TO WORK.



CHRISTMAS ... WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ANY WAY?

You now have a platform to share a variety of messages that all come back to the only real sustaining reason for Christmas. Jesus, the original Christmas gift, keeps on giving to all who will seek Him. Christmas ... what's it all about anyway?

That depends on what you do with Jesus.

THE VALENTINES

Centered around picking out the perfect card.

It can be a crowd but they are picking through imaginary Valentine cards. You could even have real or created cards. People can pick one up and then read it out loud to the audience. Some are plain stupid. Others are a bit raw but always stop reading before it goes too far down that road. As they face the audience the main character begins to speak to the audience.

I'm dead.

If I don't find one I'm dead and if I give one of these to him/her (*opposite of main character*) ... well so far I'm dead on that account too.

The only winners in this season are the card makers.

Why can't they say what I want them to say?!

Or at least be blank inside ... so then I could write my own ... but then I couldn't blame anyone but myself ... oh well ... death, taxes, and Valentine Cards.

How can you put on a small piece of paper your feelings towards someone?

Before Jesus it was easy ... hey hey hey ... or ... (*Pause*) you get the picture ... pretty shallow.

But now ... now ...wow!

This love thing has taken on a whole new meaning ... every day it gets deeper ... and wider ... and higher ... it's three dimensional ... not one.

So now I'm stuck ... roses, jewelry, cards, candy, they're ok but they fade ... but real love becomes more vibrant ... alive ... deep.

Fortunately my valentine isn't just a one day event. I married him/her. I've got another three hundred and sixty-four days to try and fill in whatever gaps this card leaves.

I guess it's the same for Him. Jesus. God gave His son and that wasn't all that well understood either.

I'm glad He takes full advantage of the other three hundred and sixty-four days of the year to tell us He loves us.

Well I guess I'll get this one and do the best I can with it ... it will be fun to watch him/her open it ... but more importantly have you opened His valentine to you?

Endings:

#1: It can end like this and be used as a platform for the sermon.

#2: Or a giant card can open that has a cross on it. And then the message of the gospel is shared.

#3: The giant card can open up and Jesus and other actors can walk out and do a short portrayal of His life and the love that He showed to so many.

THE PRESIDENT

President and wife and crowd is there as he finishes being sworn in as President of the United States of America.

Cast: President, President's wife, optional crowd for swearing in portion

President (P) I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States of America, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States.

APPLAUSE erupts from all sides.

P: I can't believe I just said that?!

Wife (W): Didn't think you'd ever get to? ... Too big of a dream?

P: No ... the words ... faithfully ... best of my ability ... preserve ... protect ... defend.

W: So?

P: I don't think I even know what they mean ... let alone ... let alone pull them off.

W: I still don't get it?

P: Ok ... "faithfully" — means "a devoted or loyal follower to a cause ... I don't think me .. Myself and I qualify ... or ... "best of my ability" means "all that one can do; one's utmost or maximum effort" ... I always play it safe ... politically correct ... middle of the road ... "best?" ... never.

W: Why the cold feet? .. We've fought for this for the last twenty years ... you didn't get here because you didn't qualify ... landslide victory ... carried almost every state ... it wasn't even close!

P: But ...

W: What?

P: Well on the campaign trail ... after you were asleep .. I'd read the Bible ... you know the book the Gideon's leave behind?

W: Sure ... we always hid our money there.

P: Right ... well I started to read it and ... it has a lot of information on Presidents or at least Kings and Rulers.

W: But those are just stories ... fairy tales ... aren't they?

P: I don't know ... I was reading about some of the same things I read about in history class in college ... the Bible ... it's historically accurate ... and moreover it sure calls it straight up on the human behavior stuff ... part of the beginning of the book ought to be at least a PG-13 if not R.

W: Hold on ... we ran our whole platform against such nonsense ... antiquated ideas ... narrow-minded concepts .. Why that stuff is the reason
(interrupted by President)

P: Do you even know what you are saying ... or are you just repeating things you've heard other people say all their lives ... have you ever read the Bible?

W: *(Loud Silence)*

P: Besides you should be grateful for what's inside it.

W: *(Quizzical Look)*

P: One of the campaign directors has been looking at me for quite a while. Well, one night she decided it was time for more than a look.

W: Leslie Malcolm!?

P: Yes ... she wanted to ... we could have ... except ... I'd just read something in the Bible the night before that was like taking a cold shower ... all of a sudden there was a right and a wrong and ... well, it was wrong and I chose right.

W: *(Still silent)*

P: I guess the bar has always been higher than I realized ... but this oath ... the Bible ... as near as I can figure it out ... I'm not only accountable to the people of this country I'm accountable to God for the oath ... for everything I say ... do ... even think ... "we" say, do or think.

W: Don't drag me into this ... I haven't been having midnight Bible studies.

P: I don't think ignorance is an excuse that works with Him.

You now have a platform to share from. You can address several issues at this time including but not limited to the following:

#1: How high is your personal standard? Is it God's standard or one you've adopted because it's convenient?

#2: Is ignorance bliss or are you reaping the consequences in your life for it?

#3: You're not the President of the United States. But what oath have you sworn to? Have you said marriage vows? Dedicated your children?

#4: Nightly reading changed his world ... what would it do for yours?

CINCO DE MAYO

Two couples are getting ready for a big party at their house. Follow them as the real party world is exposed.

Cast: Husband 1, Husband 2, Wife 1, Wife 2

Husband One (H1): Remember to get enough food to feed an army!

Husband Two (H2): Yes, a thirsty and hungry one! We invited the whole cubicle jungle to come as well as their significant others.

Wife One (W1): Ok ... do you want to give us an approximate number?

H1: Yes ... I actually did a body count and had the secretarial pool confirm that we will have twenty-seven bogies landing at our place in about seven hours.

W1: Thanks we're going ... bye.

Wife Two (W2): So what does that translate out into real numbers?

W1: Look on the chart ...

W2: You made a chart for this?

W1: Last year ... that way I could learn from the year before.

W2: But some of the numbers are changed ... scribbled on ... and they're smaller.

W1: Right ... I make adjustments ... you know ... more of this ... less of that.

W2: So this year is ... less beer?

W1: Yes

W2: Why less beer? You can always use that later. It won't spoil like ... tomatoes or lettuce or chips.

W1: Vomit.

W2: What?

W1: Vomit ... the next morning I found it in the garage, bathroom, and my roses near the patio

W2: Oh ... I thought it was a great party ... at least that's what I remember ... I think I remember?

W1: It was your vomit out by the roses ... Charlotte, when are you going to wake up! It isn't like it is on TV commercials. You should know that better than any of us.

W2: I don't like to talk about it.

W1— Then just think about it. The party world sent out a drunk driver that killed your parents and sister. Why should we keep the lie alive?

W2: But that's just it. It's all a lie ... the wedding ... the house ... the cars ... the kids ... the vacations ... the career ... they're all lies too. None of this turned out the way its supposed to. I've got it all. We both do. But I'm still empty inside. I'm not happy and I've got everything they say I need to be happy ... plus!

W1: You have been thinking about it.

W2: Too much.

W1: So are you ready to do something about it?

W2: Like what?

W1: Like leave ... I can drain our savings account ... and we'd have almost an hour before they missed us ... we could be out of the state in a couple of hours and...

W2: Trade one set of lies for another? ... That's all it would be ... I've thought about an affair ... but ... some thrill drugs ... but it would all just be a lie.

W1: But I've thought this through ... we could disappear ... I've got clothes from Value Village in the trunk ... we park the car in the woods somewhere ... smear blood on what we've got on ... torch the car and walk to a bus station

W2: You've been watching too many cop shows ... there's no gain, just an exchange.

W1: What's our options then?!

W2: Not much I guess. Keep living the lie. Trade it in for a new one or drive off a cliff somewhere ... or maybe there's something more that we don't know about yet ... just maybe.

You now have a platform to share the truth of the Gospel.

A SINGING MOTHERS DAY SONG

“M is for the many times I miffed her”

Sung to any tune that works for you

M: (Sung by Singer) M is for the many times I miffed her.

(Group of backup singers and actors then act out a son or daughter breaking something special and trying to cover it up when she comes to hear what made that horrible noise.)

O: O is for the other things I did instead.

(Group acts out a son or daughter promising to clean their room and then going out with friends instead.)

T: T is for the times I tested your patience by all I did.

(Group acts out a whining, begging, complaining session with son/daughter and mom)

H: H is for the health I surely took from you.

(Sick son/daughter is up all night while mom faithfully plays nurse.)

E: E is for the endless hours of chauffeuring and cooking that you gave to me.

(Mom is cooking and arranging next five sessions that junior must be on the phone while those around her are reminding her to pick them up at certain times.)

R: R is for how rude I’d be, if I didn’t stop and thank you for all you did for me.

(All actors and singer(s) point to moms and begin to applaud. They dare not stop until all present are standing and applauding the moms.)

REMEMBERING MEMORIAL DAY AGAIN

Two teenagers have a phone call.

Caller One (C1): Hey, what's going on?

Caller Two (C2): Nothing ... what are you doing?

C1: Nothing

C2: So what do you want to do today?

C1: I don't know, that's why I called you!

C2: If you want, you can go with us to the cemetery and put flags on gravesites.

C1: Are you serious?

C2: Yeah ... we do it every year.

C1: Isn't that kind of weird?

C2: Used to be ... but it makes more sense all the time ...

C1: What do you mean?

C2: Well it is Memorial Day ... so you remember ... memorable ... memorial day.

C1: Tricky .. Who taught you that?

C2: No one ... I figured it out on my own ... but it works for me

C1: What do you remember?

C2: Those who died so we could wake up this morning and call each other without the fear of who's listening on the phone and try to figure out what we are going to do with the day ... We see the old guys' graves from Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and there's even one from Afghanistan. There are also a bunch of ones from World War One and Two.

C1: You sound like my history teacher!

C2: Thanks ... I think ... so what do you want to do?

C1: Well, I don't want to think or remember ... no school ... remember?

C2: We'll leave about eleven ... so about an hour ... you can come over early if you want to eat ... probably get back around three.

C1: I think I'll just veg till you get back.

C2: Ok ... but I won't be up to much after three ...

C1: This really gets to you ... doesn't it?

C2: We have so much in this country ... And we take it all for granted ... My great-grandfather died in World War Two and I want to honor him ... them.

C1: Settle down ... that's cool ... You haven't been this worked up since you got back from that mission trip last summer.

C2: I know ... we have so much ... so much because of their deaths ... and so much because of His death.

C1: Your great-grandfather and who?

C2: Jesus ... all of our privileges are the result of someone's sacrifice.

A GRADUATE

4 graduating seniors discuss their future.

1: I'm out of here!

2: What are you gonna do?

1: I don't know ... How can anyone know the future

2: Don't you know?

1: Know what? ...

2: It's the same thing without boundaries

1: Wait a minute ... the same thing?

2: Yeah ... just know the limits ... so most likely you'll do whatever you did in high school and produce a life based on that foundation ... those roots will feed your personal tree of life

1: I'm dust then

2: What do you mean

1: I didn't do anything ... avoided all responsibility ... did the minimum to get by ... and cheated and lied whenever necessary

3: That's because you're a loser ... me ... I'm joining the marines and see the world ... be the first one to the beach and on the battle lines

2: So you were a rebel in High School?

3: What?

2: Couldn't stay on a team because of the coaches?

3: They were all jerks

2: Couldn't keep a job

3: They didn't appreciate me

2: Nothing is going to change for you either

4: What about me? ... You seem to have a crystal ball on everyone

2: It's not me. It's all in the Bible. If you read it you would see yourselves in it. Then you wouldn't have to walk into the future just hoping it will work out. You can know.

4: But you were mister gloom and doom for these guys. What's the point in finding out that the future is going to be real loser?

- 2: The Bible also tells you how to change the future. At least your part in it.
- 4: Man, you are freaking me out. Now your messing with time and history and stuff you don't understand.
- 2: Never claimed to. But I do trust Jesus. He doesn't have any problem with time or history or the future.
- 4: Jesus?
- 2: Jesus said, "If any man hears these words of mine and puts them into practice he is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rains came, the winds blew and the water rose and beat against the house. But it did not fall because it was built on the rock. But if any may hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice (or never bothers to listen) he is like the foolish man who builds his house on the sand. The rains came, the winds blew and the water rose and beat against the house and it fell with a great crash because the house was built on the sand." You can't surf forever. Sooner or later you need some dry ground to call home. If you build on Jesus' words you can have stability. Without that I can predict your future.
- 4: Jesus?

You now have a platform to share from.

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

Two young ladies are slouching on a couch waiting for the right time to leave for another wedding.

1: So what time is the wedding again? *(looking at the clock)*

2: Two PM ... how many times do I have to tell you.

1: Well they're all so phony ... its like "queen for a day" ... or something ... its just an expensive commercial that can't back up the claims ... so ... I guess it doesn't have the impact it did when I was a kid ... then weddings were way cool

2: Yeah ... life sure was simpler then ... at least until my dad split

1: For me it was my mom

2: Do you think you'll ever get married?

1: No ... why bother?

2: Well, if you want kids ... what about then?

1: No way ... I think that's the most irresponsible thing two people can do

2: But if you think that through ... we just might become extinct

1: No loss ... I'll let somebody else figure that one out

2: Somebody like Amy?

1: Why do you hang out with her? ... She's ... she's not anything like us ... perfect upbringing ... perfect husband

2: She's still happily married ... and we are friends

1: Is she really happy ...or is it another one of those commercials

2: No, it's real ... it works ... but that's the deal ... they work at it ... they have tools too

1: Tool?

2: Yeah ... they live by the same set of rules and when they have a conflict they have tools for that too ... they fix everything before they move on

1: Everything?

2: Yes ... and it's not just with each other ... it's with everyone ... even me

- 1: What do you mean?
- 2: She apologized to me once for something she said ... thought it might have hurt me or something ... imagine that ... I couldn't even remember what she had said
- 1: So where does she get these rules ... mom and dad?
- 2: No ... she said she learned a long time ago to go straight to the source ... to avoid secondhand information ... she gets it from the Bible
- 1: The Bible?
- 2: The Bible
- 1: Think it would work for us?
- 2: She said it would
- 1: What time was that wedding again?

You now have a platform to share a Gospel truth

THE THIRD OF JULY

2 people playing with fireworks (don't use real fireworks!)

1: *(trying to light a firecracker ... but the match won't work)*

2: What are you doing? *(startles #1)*

1: *(has a near heart attack)* I didn't hear you coming up on me ... I was so focused on the firecracker ...

2: But the 4th isn't until tomorrow?

1: I figured the 3rd was just as important so I'm celebrating today first ... If I can get this dumb thing to light

2: the 3rd?

1: Yes ... they finished writing it then ...they unveiled it on the 4th ... but all the thinking and writing and realizing happened the days before. So no 3rd ... no 4th.

2: So the real battles began the day before ... or probably even sooner?!

1: You got it ... would they let things slide ... would they care enough to do it for others ... would they risk their lives for what they believed ... we have all the battles that followed the Declaration of Independence in our history books ... but these ones ... they were the incredible victories ... that we never really celebrate.

2: Wow! ... Maybe yesterday should be as famous as today? ...

1: The 2nd?

2: Yeah ... you see yesterday I was going through the same battles ... would I let things slide ... would I care enough to do something for others ... would I risk my life for something I believed in

1: What are you talking about?

2: Here

1: What is it?

2: It could be your declaration of independence ... it's mine

1: *(starts to read)* ... this is about God!

2: Yeah ... He wants you to live for Him ... free from sin ... your past ... your fears

- 1: You spent a lot of time thinking about this didn't you?
- 2: Too long ... I should have given this to you a long time ago.
- 1: I have been trying to figure you out ... now it all makes sense ... you understand me because you used to be like me ... but you're not like me now ... because of this?
- 2: Yes ... my Declaration of Independence came June 24th, 1999 ... there have been plenty of battles since ... but I've been free since then ... how about today for you? July 3rd ... *(Looks at the audience)* ... How about you?

SUMMER VACATION

Characters: Dad, Mom, girl, boy

Dad (D): Are we ready?

Mom (M): Yes ... finally ... well, maybe

Girl (G): How long will it take to get there? ... Can we go swimming today?

M: No ...wait ... what are you doing in that swim suit? *(it's over her other clothes)*
Get some real clothes on ... take those off ...

D: Laughs

M: Don't laugh at her ... she's so sensitive

D: I'm not ... look out the window ... *(laughs some more)*

M: What is he doing?

D: I think he's carrying the kitchen sink ... better go check out the kitchen and see what else is missing ...

M: Where did he get a kitchen sink?

D: I think maybe our "roughing it talk" from last night got to him. At least he was listening even if he wasn't understanding.

M: At this point I'm not sure I understand it all either or if I'm up to it ... or if it is worth it.

D: We all feel like that every year ... then when it's time to come home we never want to leave.

M: *(Starts to panic and remember things)* The Dog!

D: The Kennel

M: The Cat!

D: The Kennel

Mom: The cabin keys!

Dad: In my pocket

(Girl returns)

G: How's this?



M: Much better ... you looking forward to this?

G: No ... if I can't swim or take my friends ... why go?!

Boy (B): Can you guys help me get something packed in the car?

D: We aren't taking the kitchen sink ... besides there isn't any water in the cabin

B: But couldn't we hook it up?

D: No ... we get our water from the well not a pipe.

B: How come I never realized how primitive all this was before? ... we've been going there for ... forever

M: You never cared what you looked like before for ... forever.

D: Ok, crew ... ready to load up and go?

G: Yes

B: Yes

M: I think so ... but ... we always forget something ... I wonder what it is this time?

G: Matches?

D: Got them.

B: Fishing hooks

D: Lots of new ones as well as some lures.

S: Cool

M: Flashlight and batteries

D: Double Checked

M: We just might be ready

G: God?

D: What?

G: God

D: Front seat

B: That's mom's seat?

M: No, Dad means ... God is directing us ... He's really driving our lives now

B: Oh yeah ... "Missionaries to the lost mountain people tribe"

G: That's why we've got Bibles and tracts in the box ... I carried it myself ... it sure was heavy.

D: It should be an adventure ... Many of them will only remember the old us ... beer drunks ... argumentative ... loud ...

M: Embarrassing ... fighting ...

B: Stop there ... they were ugly times

G: Mom, I'm so glad you two don't drink anymore ... you two were ... were ... pathetic

D: You're right ... let's not forget that when we start talking to the other beer drinking ... argumentative ... loud ... embarrassing ... fighting folk

M: Think there's any hope?

B: Just look at us, mom.

You now have a platform to share a Gospel truth

SENIORS AGAIN: High School that Is

2 high school seniors, one with a changed life

1: Stupid Locker!#\$(*% *(kicks and pounds it)* Every year start this way! But this year is going to be different. *(Bows and prays)* Lord Jesus ... I need your help here ... thanks ... amen *(tries lock and it works)* ... Cool! ... Thanks Jesus.

2: Were you just praying?

1: Yeah!

2: I've never seen you pray before?

1: Never have prayed at school before ... never prayed before summer ... I met God this summer.

2: You?!

1: Yeah... me ... I went to a camp thing this summer with a friend ... they had a basketball tournament and water skiing and babes. ... But more importantly God was there too and He's better than anything else.

2: You?!

1: Yes me ... why not me?

2: You are the Jerk of the school and the academic world and the classroom ... man everybody knows you and for all the wrong reasons! ... I can't believe I just said that ... I can't believe you didn't smash me

1: You used to be right ... but I'm not the same anymore ... I guess being a fifth year senior won't be so bad after all.

2: Did God make you smarter too?

1: I don't know ... but I'm going to try now and pay attention ... that will be a first on both counts ... I've got a future now ... I didn't last year.

2: A future

1: God created me for something special ... you too ... and now I'm on a journey to figure it out and do it.

2: Are you sure you don't have a twin brother who is a jerk?

1: No ... it was me.

2: I don't need God ... I'm already a great guy ... I never beat people up ... I'm a good student

1: Who are you trying to convince? ... yourself?

You now have a platform to share from.

FALL FOOTBALL CLASSIC

The team is getting ready to hear the coaches last minute prep talk before the championship game.

Characters: Coach, 4 players, you can have extra people to fill in as the remainder of the team

1: Dude! Are you ready? *(Bang pads and Helmets)*

2: Ready to rumble!!! *(Dance jig and shout)*

1: Chill ... coach is coming ... time for the blood and guts scream fest ...

Coach: This is it ... all the blood and sweat and pain has gotten us here ... we will win it all this game ... we are the best ... we are the winners ... they are the losers ... today the blood will be theirs ... the sweat will be theirs ... the pain will be theirs ... but the victory will be ours!!!

Remainder of Team: We are the winners ... they are the losers ... *(repeated several times in a chant form)*

Coach: Let's GO!!! *(Leads the team out of the locker room with robust vigor)*

Remainder of Team: *(hurries behind)*

(3 and 4 stay behind)

3: I wanna throw up

4: I already did

3: We'd better go ... they are going to miss us pretty soon ... at least you ... you catch everything they throw to you.

4: But why you ... they don't even let you play?

3: I know ... I'm just a tackling dummy for you guys ... but what if they put me in? ... I'm sure I would screw things up ... that's why I'm so nervous.

4: Oh ... for me it's not the game action ... it's the fact that somebody has to lose ... my brother plays for the Wildcats ... you know he and I have always been really tight

3: Oh yeah ... the divorcee custody thing

- 4: Mom and him live on the other side of town ... so today she'll be sitting on the other side of the field.
- 3: So you lose out no matter what happens don't you?
- 4: Yeah ... life's a great game isn't it?

You now have a platform to share from

THANKSGIVING HOSPITAL STYLE

Two Doctors and Two Nurses celebrate their thanksgiving ... at the hospital.

They are standing around chatting with clipboards and pens when a code red goes off and it sends them into action. One nurse rolls in an imaginary gurney with an imaginary patient on it.

DR 1: Gloves!

DR 2: Gloves! Hurry! There isn't much time.

Nurses hurry to cover the upwards pointed hands.

N 1: Gloves.

N 2: Gloves.

DR 1: Scalpel

DR 2: Scalpel

N 1: Scalpel

N 2: Scalpel

DR 1: Time for a Bl: lateral amputation

DR 2: I agree

Nurses catch the parts as they are handed to them.

DR 1: Skin graft

DR 2: Skin graft

DR 2: Total lower abdomen removal

DR 1: Let's do it

Nurses are catching parts frantically

DR 1: Forceps, I'm going inside and taking it all out.

DR 2: I'll assist.

DR 1: Nurse could you wipe my brow please!

Nurse hurries to comply with order

DR 2: Done

DR 1: Record Time too!

N 1: You guys are pathetic

N 2: What was that an audition for ER?

They start to get out of their operating mode and head over to where their clip boards are. Doctors ignore the nurses.

DR 1: So how long until the potatoes and goodies are done?

DR 2: Should be here any moment.

DR 1: Thanksgiving in a hospital doesn't have to lack if you plan ahead.

DR 2: Especially when you can turn a turkey into a bone pile in less than two minutes.

N 1: Here comes the rest of the feast.

N 2: My word, where did they get the china and crystal?

DR 1: From home.

N 1: That is a beautiful set. You have certainly got a lot to be Thankful for.

N 2: Yes, you guys only work two weeks a month and (*interrupted by Dr. 1*)

DR 1: Zip it ok? I'm hungry and I don't need another complaint about how much I get paid and how little I work.

N 1: Then let's say grace and dig in

DR 2: Grace

N 2: Really cute, doc

DR 2: Look I'm hungry and I'm not thankful that I happen to have to be here. Just being honest.

N 1: But you get to leave at the end of the day. Most of the people in here are pretty serious and (*interrupted again*)

DR 1: Look nurse if you want a crusade this isn't the place.

N 2: You guys are prima donnas! You think the whole world revolves around you don't you.

DR 1: At least in this town. You should have seen the real estate lady go to town for us when she found out I was the new doctor in town.

DR 2: In case you hadn't check we are pretty near the top of the food chain.

N 1: Not on His list.

DR 1: Look, can't we just start eating?!

N 1: Go ahead. I'm not stopping you.

DR 2: Not on "His" list?

N 1: God's list.

DR 1: Ignore her (*starts to eat*)

N 2: Tell me then.

DR 2: Not here (*begins to chow*)

N 1: In God's eyes we are all equal. Equally guilty. Equally forgivable. And with the capacity to be equally thankful. God really does a lot more for us than we know.

N 2: Like what?

N 1: Remember yesterday when they brought the kid in from the car accident.

N 2: The one we couldn't stop the bleeding on? We couldn't find the source.

N 1: I prayed; He answered.

N 2: But how do you know it was Him?

N 1: We never find it until I pray.

N 2: So the hemorrhaging old man ...

N 1: The suicide attempt

N 2: Wow!

THE NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

Two people are preparing for the new year with a rough draft of the official New Year's resolution.

- 1: I hereby (*mumbling as they work on the rough draft*) ... resolve ... that I will stop smoking ... drinking ... swearing ... exploding ... speeding ... lying ... and watching dirty movies.
- 2: What are you doing?
- 1: Oh ... I'm working on this years, "New Years Resolution."
- 2: So what do you have in mind?
- 1: How's this sound ... "I hereby resolve that I will stop smoking, drinking, swearing, exploding, speeding, lying, and watching dirty movies." Did I miss anything?
- 2: Well if you're going for the whole list I suppose you could add (*Interrupted*)
- 1: Wait a minute ... I wasn't really serious ... about adding anything ... I'll probably only last ten minutes as it is anyway ...
- 2: What if you work on the cause instead of the symptoms?
- 1: Cause?
- 2: Well since you are thinking about it ... this list (*holding it up*) could all be boiled down to ... W ... O ... R ... R ... Y ... worry. I'd guess you are a first class worrier and this is how you deal with it.
- 1: Worry? ... wow ... I never thought of it that way.
- 2: You worry about failing and past failures so you smoke and drink. Swearing and exploding happens because you worry about being able to express yourself to others ... about being heard ... or keeping them at a distance. Speeding ... lying and dirty movies because you worry about looking bad or getting what you want.
- 1: But I've always prided myself on being the self: made man ..
- 2: You are ... you have accomplished all these by yourself ... alone
- 1: You're not going to tell me I need a woman, are you?
- 2: No, they don't solve anything.

- 1: Are you a shrink? Because you're right on all of these.
- 2: No, just someone who used to worry too.
- 1: Used to? You mean you don't worry anymore?
- 2: Not as much nor for as long.
- 1: Why not?
- 2: I'm not alone anymore.
- 1: What?
- 2: I'm on God's team now and He takes care of His team members
- 1: Me and God on the same team? You're nuts! Didn't you hear my list ... we don't have anything in common.
- 2: But you could have everything in common ... Hear listen to this ... it's Jesus speaking ... Come to me ... all you who are weary and burdened ... and I will give you rest ... take my yoke upon you ... and learn from me ... for I am gentle and humble in heart ... and you will find rest for your souls ... for my yoke is easy ... and my burden is light.
- 1: Me? ... But can He really? ... I mean me? ...
- 2: Yes, He can ... then you won't even need this list you've got started here.
- 1: Sound good to me ... sounds great ... so what do I do?
- 2: Exchange your list for His life.



Drama in the Ministry Tool Box Volume 5

15 Drama Scripts

Mark Schaufler and Shawna Beers

with MST Ministries

P.O. Box 8490 Lacey WA 98509

P-360-456-5624

F-360-438-9058

E-Mark@mstgo.com

Web-www.mstgo.com

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ISBN # 1-886904-52-9

Quiet Time Interrupted

By Shawna Beers, Amy Duchaine, Allie Geesey, David Kramer, Danielle Ritchey,
Lynn Lenzion

Adapted from “Plenty of Time” as seen by ACTS from Northwest College A/G

Theme: Excuses and the struggle to have personal devotions

Setting: In the home of a Christian young man as he prepares for his morning and attempts to spend time with God. There is a chair center stage midway back.

Characters:

Leonard— Christian young man

Amy – head demon, brilliant and frustrated with her two apprentices

Allie – Amy’s apprentice, a little ditzy

Danielle – second apprentice and just doesn’t get what’s going on

Down stage right Leonard faces audience as though looking in mirror. Brushes teeth, washes face, and checks himself out in the mirror during the lines until NBA finals line. All other three are standing to Leonard’s right.

Amy: (Counting down the teeth brushing of Leonard) 3,2,1...and spit.

Allie: (Looking over Amy’s shoulder with clipboard taking notes and awed) Wow!

Amy: Once again we have been given the abhorrent task of overseeing the most tedious mortal on this loathsome planet.

Danielle: I don’t get it.

Amy: For 28 consecutive days, we have been assigned to this foul creature whose daily routine is as predictable as the sun’s eastern ascension.

Leonard is finishing with his morning prep in the mirror. He stands looking in the mirror saying the next line. Amy mouths the words with him, doing his same actions.

Leonard: Hey Jeannette. How you doin’?

Amy: I rest my case.

Leonard: It’s the NBA finals. Game 7.

Danielle & Allie: (excited) He’s doing the basketball thing.

Allie throws away the clipboard. She and Danielle stand together as “cheerleaders” for Leonard.

Leonard: Final seconds of the game. Leonard Bowman steals the ball. He spins past the guard, breaks past the forward. 3, 2...he shoots. BUZZZ. He scores! The Mavericks win the championship...and the crowd goes wild!

Amy: *(Hit D&A)*

Danielle & Allie: Ouch.

Leonard: Now...time for you and me, God. Where’s that Bible of mine?

Amy: Shall we focus our attention to the task at hand?

Allie: Boss...um...we were just thinking...

Amy: Oh, we’re thinking are we?

Allie: Well, yeah. But Boss we were just wondering if we could try something new today.

Danielle: *(begging)* C’mon, Boss. C’mon. Please? Just one or two things.

Allie: Yeah, uh yeah Boss. Just...just give us a chance.

Amy: Alright my little Einsteins. Since you’ve most likely already caused irreparable damage to your cerebellums, I suppose today we can veer from the norm and allow you two the opportunity to amaze me.

Allie: Was that a yes?

Amy: Our positions, shall we?

Allie: Oh yeah. And, uh, thanks, Boss. We won’t let you down.

Leonard is sitting in the chair with his Bible. Danielle and Amy make their way to either side of him.

Danielle: Can I go first? I’ve been waiting for this all morning. Please. Oh, please.

Allie: Alright, already.

Danielle: *(rub hands excitedly. Pause)* What do I do?

Allie: Okay, you go...psst, psst, psst *.(whispers in Danielle’s ear)*

Danielle: Oooh, that’s a good excuse. Leonard, you’re hungry.

Allie: Maybe we should do lunch.

Danielle: A quick trip to McDonald’s. I hear a Big Mac calling.

Allie: Filet o’ Fish

Danielle: Quarter Pounder.

Allie: French Fries.

Danielle and Allie do the McDonald's song with hand gestures.

Danielle & Allie: Icy Coke, thick shakes, sundaes, and apple pies. You deserve a break today...

Amy: *(hitting two apprentices in head)* Focus.

Leonard: *(finishing song)* At McDonald's. *(pause)* WAIT! I can eat later.

Danielle & Allie: Groan.

Amy: Your lack of brilliance astounds me.

Danielle: Why thank you. But, boss, it didn't work.

Allie: Here's an excuse for Leonard. *(pause)* Oh, Leonard. Jea--nette!

All snap head up on --nette

Danielle: Hubba, hubba, hubba.

Allie: Jeanette, Jeanette, Jeanette

Danielle: whistle

Allie: You da man.

Leonard: *(Leonard stands, combs hair, use breath mint spray, etc.)* How you doin'?

Danielle & Allie: *(dancing around Leonard)* Leonard and Jeanette sitting in a tree
k-i-s-s-i-n-g.

Leonard: Stop! *(Beat)* There will always be women.

Danielle & Allie mouths drop open

Amy: Your astutelessness renders me helpless.

Allie: I don't think that was very nice.

Amy: Have you accomplished all you'd set out to do?

Danielle: Not yet.

D&A: Hmmmm...hmmmm...hmmmmmm...hmmmmmm.

Amy: Once again we venture into the world of the mindless.

Allie: I've got it! You're going to like this excuse, boss. Leonard, our future basketball champion, the Mavericks need you.

Leonard stands and starts miming basketball as he did earlier.

Danielle & Allie: *(standing behind chair)* Bang, bang, choo-choo train. Come on, Leonard, do your thing!

Amy: The train has left the station.

Leonard: Time out! I have to win another game first.

Amy: I'm stifled by your overpowering genius. Now, we are finished?

Danielle: Oh, just one more, boss. Please, please, please!

Allie: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah...Yeah!

Amy: I may possibly imperil my sanity, but *(Beat)* proceed.

Danielle: Goody, goody gumdrops.

(Danielle & Allie think)

Amy: Painful, isn't it?

Danielle: OHHHHH! *(whisper to Allie)*

Allie: Screams.

Danielle: *(whisper to Leonard)*

Leonard begins to show discomfort as though he needs to go to the bathroom. Start small and intensify with the following lines from songs by the apprentices.

Allie: Raindrops keep falling on my head.

Danielle: Don't go chasing waterfalls...

Danielle & Allie: Let the river flow, let the river flow...

Leonard: NOOOO! I'm a man. I can hold it.

Danielle & Allie: *(Cry)*

Amy: *(Hit Danielle and Allie on head)*

Allie: *(Gets really smart after smacked)* The two sides of an isosceles triangle are equal to the sum of the remaining side.

Amy: *(hit Allie again)*

Allie: Sniffle. I think we're done, boss.

Danielle: My head hurts.

Amy: While engaging in the use of your *(Beat)* intellect, your gray matter has diminished to a level fit only for an amoeba. So, please, step aside and allow the master of excuses to work.

Allie: You're not going to use that again.

Amy: It is an unfailing method.

Allie: But it's so predictable.

Amy: It fits him so well. Leonard, you don't have to do this now. You can put it off until later. You have plenty of time.

Leonard: I can do this later. I've got plenty of time.

Amy: Yes, plenty of time.

Leonard gets his Bible and stands, begins to walk away stage left. Allie and Danielle follow chanting the following together.

Danielle & Allie: Plenty of time, plenty of time, plenty of time.

Amy: *(to audience)* So, what's your excuse?

Air Band

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Excuses for not changing the world

5 Member Air Band can be boys and/or girls

Entire Band starts with sound effects of band music, jumping around and singing the following words for about 20 seconds "she'd rather fix her make-up than fix what's going on..." (a Switchfoot song)

1: OK, OK

2: I think we're getting it!

3: We almost sound as good as Switchfoot.

4: Let's talk to our youth pastor. He'll let us play.

5: I've got a friend who can record us!

1: No! Listen.

2: We heard ourselves

3: We're great!

4: Ready for the Road!

5: Look out MTV!

1: *(shouts)* NO!! *(2-5 are stunned to silence)* What does the song say?

2-5: *(mumbling as they try to refocus on the words) (singing lyrics)* "She'd rather fix her makeup than fix what's going on...problems keep ringing...even with the cell phone gone"

1: Exactly!!!

2: It's about a chick...

3: How's that relate to us?

1: Where's Jon? There used to be 6 of us in this band *(silence)*

4: He split.

5: He couldn't sing or play.

1: And we can???

2: What's your point?

1: We're a "Christian Band" playing "Christian Music" living any way we want.

2-5 : We're not THAT bad.

1: But we're not that good... Jon could still be a part of this. We could do something Jesus said to do instead of hiding in our garage 24/7. Besides, this whole thing is about us not Him (*pointing up*) or an audience.

3: But we're young, what can you expect?

1: More.

4: So what are we supposed to do?

1: Go into all the world and make disciples.

5: Dude, I've never been out of the state and I'm barely a disciple myself.

1: Honest.

2: That business has been unfinished for almost 2000 years. Who are we to...

1: Why not us. We've been making excuses and hiding in something since Jesus left. We've spent thousands of dollars and time on this band thing.

3: We felt led?

1: It was a great diversion. You guys can go for it but I'm going to go find Jon and do something about the unfinished business.

2-5: (*Watch him leave and start to sing the same song and finish with the last line*) "She'd rather fix her makeup than fix what's going on...problems keep ringing...even with the cell phone gone" (*Freeze*)

1: (*walks back out and speaks to audience*) What's your diversion? (*bows head and goes stage dead*)

Chores

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Preparing to change the world by today's chores

Characters: Mom, son (or daughter), friends (at least 5, can be more)

Mom: No! You're not going anywhere until you clean your room, finish your homework, and take the garbage out! You've known about this all day. You've got unfinished business at this house.

Son: But...

Mom: Not a word...

Son: *(starts to speak and then thinks better of it)*

Mom: I love you son. You get it done and then you can go. There's still time.

Son: *(acknowledges audience and starts to pick up room. Moments later a cell phone rings/vibrates) (quietly) No, (listening) not yet.. (listen) yeah... (listen) room, homework, garbage... (listen) Really? Ok... (calls) Mom! Before you say "no" I've got some friends who will come over and help with my chores and throw in one more of your choice if it's okay with you.*

Mom: *(stunned)* You have friends like that?

Son: Mom...

Mom: Okay. I'd like to see this... and add "The Lawn".

Son: *(about to say something and thinks better of it) Okay.. (defeatedly)(to cell phone) It's a go, but she added "The Lawn" (listens) NO, dude, the lawn is like a football field. It is a football field, full size. (listens)*

(to mom) They're on their way!

(son does homework and mom does housework for about 10 seconds in double time speed)

(Door bell rings and they go back to normal working speed)

Friends 1-8 *(loud, rowdy bunch)*

F1: Hello Mrs. C. Read to let the captive free? As much as it is up to me; the lawn, the room, the trash you'll see.

F2: *(take charge type)* Okay you three *(points to 3 friends)* you unload the lawn mowers and get started. *(they act like the Three Musketeers and do the swords and "all for one and one for all" thing)* Nice

F2: Sam and Ashley; roll on the room. Christine; you go get the garbage.

Mrs. C where would all the waste receptacles in the house be? And where would you like the items to be deposited? Do you recycle anything?

Mom: *(stunned)* I'll draw a map and we don't recycle. *(starts drawing map)*

F2: Justin; inspect Gabe's math but don't do it for him. He must learn from his endeavors in the academic field.

Son: Here it is... Algebra at its finest.

Justin: Let's go look at it.

(all have now left and mom is standing in the middle of the room looking very stunned)

(Students pantomime doing the tasks in double time and in 10 seconds are done)

F2: *(looks at watch as troops gather, when last one is there hits the stop button on the watch)* New record! Great work!

F1: ready for inspection, Mrs. C.

Mom: *(still stunned and unable to speak to this point)* What??

F1: Ready for inspection. I believe we have finished the business here at this house.

Mom: *(quickly looks around)* It's... It's great... perfect homework, lawn *(looks out window)*... I guess you can go son. Wait! Where are you going and what are you going to do? And who are you people?

F1: Your son became a follower of Christ last week.

Mom: So??

F1: That means we have become an active part of the biggest "unfinished business" ever left behind.

Son and Friends 1-8: *(son, stumbling a bit as he speaks, the rest crisp and in unison)* Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" *(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Mom: But what can you do? You're just teenagers (*trails off as she speaks and looks around at all they have done*)

Son and Friends 1-8: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (*Ephesians 2:10*)

F1: Today was just a drill. Tomorrow we deal with the real emergency.

Mom: Son, son, You and your friend go do what we never did.

Son and Friends 1-8: (*unison*) Done! (*freeze, heads down, arms at side*)

The Grudge

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Will forgiveness win in a gang-style grudge?

3 Toughs: gangster types, dressed in trench coats with guns hidden rather obviously designated as Toughs: (all speaking together) T-A, T-B, T-C

4 students: designated by A, B, C, D

Jason and boys: can be 3 or more guys

Toughs: Where are they?!

A: Who?

Toughs: You know... Jason and his boys.

B: Where they always are... by the vending machines *(scared and shaking as he speaks)*

Toughs: Go tell 'em we're coming

C: Gone... *(runs off to tell)*

D: Cool down man.. our school doesn't need this kind of trouble.

Toughs: Too late.... We've got unfinished business to attend to. *(walks to where Jason and boys are)*

(A, B, C, and D follow behind toughs)

Jason: What's the story? Come back for more? *(Jason and boys look tough)*

(Toughs pull out guns, cock them, and point)

(Jason and boys do the same and face off)

Toughs: Time to finish it don't you think?

Jason and Boys: Make your move.

Toughs: *(All put their guns down, unload them, take them apart and give the pieces to those-A,B,C,D that followed)* Throw them in the river.

Jason: That doesn't change anything. You can always get more.

Toughs: But we won't. We're done, from our end the grudge is over.

Jason: That doesn't bring Kyle back or get Eric out of jail.

T-A: You're right. We've got losses, too.

Jason: So, you just gonna walk away? We could shoot you in the back.

Toughs: We considered that. But, no, first..

T-A: We want to ask forgiveness for the death and terror we have caused here
(*starts to break down and cry*)

T-B: Yeah, (*choking up*).. it's like a nightmare and we finally woke up out of it. It's over from our end.

T-C: There' only three of us now. We only wish this had happened when there were seven of us.

Jason: What?! Sick! It can't end this way. Get out of here.

T-B: We're going but, (*choking up*) we won't stop praying for you.

Jason: Doing what?

T-C: Praying.

Jason: You know how?

T-A: We're learning.

Jason: Show me what you know. (*puts gun to T-A's head*)

T-A: (*smiles, eyes closed*) Father God, Thank you that you had mercy on me and Jason. Thank you that I... we... have a second chance. Thank you that Jesus paid the price for my...our... sin. Thank you that I now have a father and a brother and a counselor in you, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Thanks.

Jason: (*silence*) (*gun slowly drops*)

T-A: See you. I've got a few more accounts I have to close. (*all toughs turn to walk out*)

T-C: (*stops and turns to audience*) Do you have any unfinished business you need to take care of?

The Sin

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: When a church boy gets serious

2 young men who have grown up in church are discussing the changes that one of the young men has made in his life

Characters: 2 young men

1: *(visiting a friend who's stoking a fire)* What are you planning here? A Giant Barbeque? Major Yard cleaning?

2: You can help if you like. Just grab the wood from over there.

1: No thanks. I'm clean, lean and loving.

2: Suit yourself. You're already gonna smell like the smoke.

1: My new cologne "I'm on fire, baby"

2: It will get worse once I start burning the CD's.

1: What!

2: And the magazines, liquor, video games, and condoms.

1: What!

2: Look you ought to be doing this, too.

1: What!

2: Look, we're both church boys, been church boys all our lives and it's never worked for either of us.

1: So, who really wanted it to?

2: Me, I guess. And it finally clicked. I never finished what Jesus started. He forgave me but I never cleaned up my act, so I never made any progress. It was always sin...forgiven...sin...forgiven...sin...forgiven. *(goes and gets a box of stuff)*

1: That's worth serious money!

2: That's always been my excuse. It's worth something, but it's not. It would be poison for whoever got it. *(starts throwing things into the fire)*

1: Not... You're nuts!

- 2: Here is a mask, you may need it for the plastic.
- 1: Look I'll give you.. \$200. for all of it... \$300.? ... \$400.?...
- 2: No. It's all burning.
- 1: *(reaching for stuff that's almost in the fire)* Almost got burned.
- 2: No, I think you've already been burned. Wake up, man! What was so great about lying to our parents?
- 1: We got away with it!
- 2: Did we? I think my mom died of a broken heart and I never came clean with her on so much stuff.
- 1: Come on, the girls? What could be wrong with them?
- 2: How about the STD that may make me sterile, or wondering if she was pregnant and got an abortion and just lied to me. Or avoiding the latest conquest so I wouldn't have to look her in the eye and see the disappointment, hurt and betrayal. Great stuff! All unfinished business.
- 1: Drinking and drunk?
- 2: My only arrest, astronomical car insurance, more messed up girls.
- 1: Man, you've been thinking too much.
- 2: Almost done. You haven't been thinking enough.
- 1: Look it's never worked before. Summer camp...Up... First day of school...Down...Wednesday night...Up...Parking lot girls...down.
- 2: I know. See we were always worried about our business. Me, Myself and I.
- 1: Hey I like the 3 Musketeers. One for all and all for one. What else is there?
- 2: His Business. Quite unfinished I might add.
- 1: Not a preacher. They won't let you with a STD and a baby in New Orleans.
- 2: What!
- 1: Uh, oh. You weren't supposed to know. She made me promised not to tell. Stink...
- 2: Which one?
- 1: No more. I already did too much damage.
- 2: Well, I guess I just add one more thing to the list.
- 1: You're over the edge, man.



2: Finally. Taking care of unfinished business.

Flash meets Focused

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Do we fix problems or only put band-aids on them?

2 “super heroes” show different ways of helping people

Characters:

Flash

Focused

Bad Guys and/or Girls

Old Lady and/or Man

(Old Lady or Man is shuffling along w/ several bad guys stalking her/him, Flash and Focus are in back facing away from the audience)

Bad: Now! *(bad guys steal stuff, knock old lady/man to ground, kick and laugh)*

Flash: *(turns around)* Don't you worry, don't you fear, no more stress 'cause Flash is here. *(cheesy and melodramatic)* Pow! Smash! *(etc., Batman style action)*

(Focused turns around and begins hand cuffing them one by one when there are only a few left, they turn and run)

Bad: Let's get out of here.

Flash: Remember to tell your friends, “in your dreams it can't be done after the fight, Flash has won.” *(to old person)* Let me help you, you keeper of wisdom, founder of our future.

Old: God bless you Flash. Why I had just cashed my social security check and was on my way to pay all my bills. I would have starved to death, frozen to death, been kick out of my place to live on the streets if it wasn't for you and your partner.

Flash: Partner? I'm Flash. I don't need a partner!

Old: Well he sure speeded things up. Last month it took you almost 10 minutes to scare them off and this time it was less than 2 minutes. Plus he arrested most of them. I'll bet they don't bother me ever again. Thanks, Flash *(turning to Focused)* and ???

Focused: Focused, my name is Focused.

Flash: What kind of super hero name is that? Besides I've never heard of you.
You're not part of the super hero union are you?

Focused: No, just the regular guy union.

Flash: The what?

Focused; I know you guys don't run in our circle.

Flash: There's more of you?

Focused: Sure. There's Completion, Faithful, Steady, Reliable.

Flash: Boring names. No wonder I've never heard of you. Ever thought of changing them?

Focused: Somebody else names us.

Flash: Oh, ok. Hey, why did you handcuff them. They can't get away then.

Focused: That's right.

Flash: But then I can't fight them and win again. That old man (*or lady*) and I go way back. This has been going on for...(*interrupted by Focus*)

Focused:...8 years and 6 months

Flash: Sure, yeah, well it's part of my life. I make the headlines (*counting on fingers*) get the key to the city, free food from vendors, looks from the pretty girls..

Focused: We call this kind of work "unfinished business". We don't like to leave things half done. You've still got some work for next month. You let three get away

Flash: Three? Only three? That will hardly be worth my presence.

Focused: That's okay, I'll take care of them. Then you can go do something else.

Flash: Hey, this is all I do. Besides enjoy the fruits of my reputation.

Focused: Well, consider this, you're on four week notice. After next month there won't be any danger to this old lady (*man*).

Flash: On No! What will I do? (*thinking*) What will you do?

Focused: I've got a project a day. You can write a book, sell the movie rights, maybe even make it into a series or cartoon. You could become a cultural symbol and maybe even make in onto band aids!

Flash: Thanks, thanks so much. My future is still bright as can be. (*He flashes off*)

Drama in the Ministry Toolbox Volumes 1-7



Focused: *(turns to audience)* So what are you going to do? Write a book? Or
write History?

Practical Jokers

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Is life just one big practical joke or is there something for us to do?

Group of students play practical jokes on another student. Student must learn to respond appropriately.

1-Victim, can be male or female

2-9 Group of practical jokers, numbers are flexible

J-John or Julie, friend from youth group

1: (highly focused on reading something)

2-9: (converge and scare 1) (Roll around laughing and celebrating)

1: You guys?!

2-9: The dream team 15.... The victim 3 (High five each other, etc.)

We watch our back

We watch our side

There's no place that you can hide

Remember, we will be back.

*1: I can't wait. Someday... (struggles to control anger and frustration)
Someday...*

J: They don't give you any space do they?

1: No. Thanks for asking though. What was your name again?

J: John

1: That's right. Sorry I didn't remember. Youth group last night was pretty hectic. Trying to see everyone, get a little homework done and listen to a message is tough to do in an hour and a half. Especially when the youth pastor preaches a major condemnation message..."unfinished business". 3 "b's" no less. B- Bust out of the mold. B-Bring your friend the good news. B-Be ready for God to use you.

J: I'm impressed. I couldn't remember the third B today.

1: Hey, why don't the two of us take on the ten of them?

J: There's only eight.

1: Whatever. I could distract them then you could come in for the kill. *(walks around like he's sneaking up on the first row)* Water balloons, firecrackers, shaving cream...

J: How old are you?

1: What?

J: Aren't you a junior in high school?

1: Yeah, are you my mom's echo?

J: Her, too?

1: Yeah... her...youth pastor...even the Bible...this morning's devotionals. "when I was a child I thought as a child.." *(gets very quiet and reflective)*

2-9: *(sneak up and get ready to attack with squirt guns)*

(everything breaks into SLOW MOTION)

J: Look Out!

1: *(does "matrix" type moves to avoid water)*

2-9: *(run off)*

1 and J: *(Hi Five, fancy hand shake, celebrate and dance)*

(All Back to REGULAR SPEED)

1: You're right!

10: About what?

1: Every one, about all of it. Grow up...Bust out of the mold...Bring your friends the good news...Be ready for God to use you...Take care of unfinished business!

20 Years After High School

By Shawna Beers

Theme: Changed and unchanged lives at the high school reunion

This sketch was written for a Christian High School assembly and can be used in a youth group or school setting.

*Setting: Each person is on a different place on the stage frozen until they come alive. The ** signals the last sentence of one speaker and the first sentence (which is the same) of the next speaker.*

Characters:

Kim – made a mistake in high school with the most popular guy in school...she got pregnant.

Stephen – a popular jock from high school who believes he’s untouchable and hasn’t grown up.

Shandra – was very angry in high school but has seen incredible change in her life.

Mark – financially well off and great businessman, giving generously to charities

Allison – wants the high school romance feelings to return to her life, she has a difficult marriage.

KIM (*nervous*): I can’t believe I’m doing this. What was I thinking? Go and see the old school, the old friends. Yeah right. No one’s going to let me forget what happened. Or has 20 years been long enough? I doubt they’ve forgotten...or forgiven the hugest, stupidest mistake of my life. I don’t know if I can face them again. What are they going to say? I guess I’ll find out soon enough. **It’s time to go.**

STEPHEN (*drinking but not drunk*): **It’s time to go.** One last drink. (*gulp it down*) I’d better stop there. After all this is a “Christian” thing. How do I look? (*Check out mirror*) Still the best looking guy from Northwest “Christian” High School. Eyes are a little blood shot, but who will notice with these good looks? Wait until the babes get a look at me. (*Flex*) Maybe I’d better get one more drink before I go and make an appearance. I wonder if Allison is still married to that jerk? Not that it matters. **Where are my car keys?**

SHANDRA: **Where are my car keys?** I'm so nervous I could be sick. No one's going to believe this is me. Not that they really knew me 20 years ago. Sure they liked me a little, but being so angry and filled with hate it was hard to make and keep friends. What a difference now. They will never believe I live in Africa and work with kids. So much has changed over the past 20 years. What a difference. I guess I would say its **the Peace inside.**

MARK (*on phone*): **The piece inside** the front panel. Ok. Bye. (*phone again*). Hello? Hi Richard. Yes. Yes, I did say another \$500,000 to the Hope Restored Orphanage. Yes the same one in Tanzania. No, you know I don't want my name on the donation. Not the company's either. Just do it for me ok? Thanks. Listen. I have to go. Yes. **Today's the big 20 year reunion.**

ALLISON (*sitting looking in mirror, primping*): **Today's the big 20 year reunion.** It'll be just like old times with everyone together again. Like we never left. I've been waiting for this forever. (*Quickly turn head...angry*) No, Ken, we are not getting the super solar satellite extension with 2000 channels. So, deal with it and stop pouting! (*Turn back to mirror still upset*) Why did I ever marry that stupid male (emphasize this last word)? If only I could be 18 again. I wonder if Stephen will be there.

Everyone with their back to the audience and yell: Go Navigators! Or other school mascot.

All turn around and freeze in next position:

Stephen off stage, enter later.

Mark with Kim talking kind of back a little and off to one side

Allison and Shandra together center stage

A: Can you believe we are actually here? I almost didn't recognize you. You look so happy or something. What have you been doing with your life? How's the family?

SH: Well, actually I am the family. I haven't married, but I have about 200 kids. You see, I...

A (*interrupt*): Look over there! Isn't that Zach? I heard he married Miss America, but I thought it was a joke. I guess it wasn't. Look at her. How did he ever get a wife like that?

SH: She's really great, and they're missionaries in Nigeria! I met her when she was on her tour in Africa. She came to the orphanage I work...

A: Hey. It's Mark & Kim. They're coming this way! Hey you two!

Move to Allison & Shandra

M: It's great to see you guys again. What's been happening with you? How are you Allison?

A: Good. I'm still married to Ken...now that's a miracle. Other than picking up after him, I don't do much else but work. Somebody needs to provide for us. Nothing too exciting. I guess I'm just not one of those great success stories like you.

M: I'm not a great success story. It took me ten years to get my life back in order and stop worrying so much about being the best and having all the money I could get my hands on. It took a big crash and nearly losing my family for me to realize money wasn't everything. God has done a lot with me the past six years to get me back in the race. He had to strip a lot out of my life. You understand a bit about that Kim.

K: Yeah. You all know I do. But who would have thought I would end up in such an incredible marriage with an amazing guy who would love Jonathan and me so much?

SH: How is Jonathan?

K: Great! He's a freshman at WSU this year.

A (*say this distractedly and not really wanting to talk about it*): Wow. That sounds great. Look! I can't believe he really came.

***Stephen enters "building" and starts heading their way.*

SH: Who?

A: Who else? STEPHEN!

K (a little nervous): Oh. I think I'm going to check out the memory corner. (*Don't get away before Stephen comes*).

S: Well, look here, it's the old gang again. Hey Mark, still rich as ever? Shandra, who you out to kill this week? Kim (*said bitterly*). And look at you Allison. You haven't changed at all. Still the best looking girl on campus.

A: (*a little dreamy*) Hi Stephen.

S: So, what's up with everyone? I hear you live in some jungle somewhere, Shandra. The ultimate survivor, huh? Joined the headhunters yet?

SH: Not quite. But I do live in Tanzania working at the Hope Restored Orphanage. We have over 200 children we take care of. It's really incredible.

A: How do you afford to take care of all those kids?

SH: We mostly get donations. We just received another one today for \$500,000. I hadn't told anyone yet, but we need to buy more land and found this great place to expand, but we didn't have the money. The land costs \$500,000. Now we have it and can build another wing and a bigger kitchen.

M (*with a smile. He didn't know she works there and donated the money*): That's totally God.

S: Yeah. Yeah. So, are we going to stay around here all day or head out and have some real fun? I know a great place down the road. Who's with me?

A: I'll go.

S: Any other takers? Too bad Craig's not here, huh Kim? I bet you'd jump at an opportunity to see him again. You guys coming? Well, we're outta here.

(A&S leave)

M (to K): You alright?

K: Yeah. I guess 20 years wasn't long enough.

SH: A lifetime isn't long enough for some people. You know that. It all gets back to our choice. What are we going to do with what we know? With what we've learned and been told? We've all been there. You know I have.

M: And me, too. I just hope it doesn't take as big of a crash as it did for me to get Stephen to wake up.

K: What do you say we go check out the memory book?

-----*Someone steps out and talks here*-----

Lara Croft Meets Indiana Jones: Part ONE

By Shawna Beers and Amy Duchaine

Theme: Pursuing God and leaving the stuff behind

This set of sketches was written for a Jr. High Winter Camp with the theme of "Higher Expectations". This sketch was done for a message on leaving behind the "stuff" of our lives to pursue a greater relationship with God.

Sketch starts on a mountain side, hiking up to a cave.

Characters:

L- Lara Croft

I-Indy (Indiana Jones)

J-Juliet (a bit ditzy)

L: Move or lose it, Indy. We don't have all day and the Ninja Monkeys aren't far behind. We have to reach the summit before they catch us and take the Emmanuel.

I: I'm right behind you, Princess Tomb Raider.

L: You're mocking me, aren't you?

J: Does he have to come along?

L: We didn't have a choice. I couldn't say no to those big brown eyes.

J: Yeah, but look at him.

Indy enters loaded down with all his stuff (a big backpack full and stuff hanging off it to represent things of the world) and playing on his Game boy.

L: I told you we had to be quick on our feet and carry as little as possible for this adventure. Weren't you listening?

I: Hey! A guy has certain needs when traveling, so I wanted to be sure I covered all the bases. There are just certain necessities in life that you can't be expected to leave behind. We might need these.

J: Game boy? We're going to need a Game boy?

L: Listen, buddy. Leave it or stay here. We have to keep moving and quickly. If we get caught, the whole plan will fail. There are more important things than your security blankets.

I: Hey, I'm no sissy. I don't have a security blanket...*(quietly)* with me right now.

J: It's a good thing your thumb is connected to your body. That way it's there when you get scared.

I: Hey, I take offense to that.

L: Offense or no. You have to get rid of all that junk or you won't be able to carry all the priceless artifacts we are going to find. People have been waiting a long time for these things, and we have to bring them back.

J: Wait! I think I hear something. We'd better get moving.

I: You two go ahead. I'll cause a diversion and throw them off our track.

J: What are you going to do? Blink 'em to death with your Game boy light?

L: Come on, Indy, just drop your stuff and let's make a run for it.

I: Indiana Jones does not run away from danger. I laugh in the face of danger.
Ha ha ha ha ha.

Juliet throws down rubber snake and makes a hissing noise.

J: AHHHH! A snake.

I: Why does it always have to be a snake? I hate snakes. Run for your lives.

*Indiana undoes his backpack and lets it drop to the ground and takes off running.
Lara picks up the snake.*

L: Works every time. We should reach the mouth of the summit cave in just a couple hours, especially with Indy moving at that pace. Come along, Juliet, we have work to do.

J: Where's Romeo when I need him?

Lara Croft Meets Indiana Jones: Part TWO

By Shawna Beers and Amy Duchaine

Theme: Choices and decisions are more important than we think

This was the second sketch written for a Jr. High Winter Camp with the theme of "Higher Expectations". This sketch was done for a message about how important our decisions are in the midst of choices put before us.

Characters:

L- Lara Croft

I-Indy (Indiana Jones)

J-Juliet (a bit ditzy)

Ninja Monkeys-group of people dressed in black

Sketch starts in the cave.

L: Alright you guys, keep your eyes peeled. Any one of these tunnels could lead us to the Emmanuel. Indy, your book should help us out, shouldn't it?

J: If he could read it might.

I: Watch it, bubba. *(Digs in pack for book)*

L: Okay, you two. Stay focused. We don't have much of a lead on the Ninja Monkeys. I know this thing can't be too far from here. Stay alert. We never know what might be around the next corner.

I: I've found my book. It says here that we need to pass through three different tests in order to approach. The first being...

NINJA MONKEYS ENTER! Fight ensues.

L: Juliet! Look out!

J: AAAHHHHHH! *(Finds a place to rock back and forth sucking her thumb)*
Romeo, Romeo, where are you, Romeo?

Fight scene. Lara takes on three. Indy gets one. Fight should be over-the-top. Fight ends with Ninja Monkeys on the ground as though dead.

I: Hey, Bubba. Good thing your thumb is attached to your body. That way it's there when you get scared.

J: Leave me alone, you big bully. *(slap Indy on the arm)*

I: That was some good fighting, Princess Tomb Raider.

L: Thanks. Maybe I can teach you a few things when this is over. Let's keep moving.

I: Three tests. One, only a persistent man can pass.

J: What? That says penitent, No Brain.

L: Penitent. Penitent. Humble before God. Kneel!

On the word GOD release the stone/blade. You can create a prop using a plastic blade or just pantomime barely being missed by the trap

I: Whew, that was a close one. Think I lost a couple hairs.

J: Do shut up.

L: Test one accomplished.

I: We rock! Next is the presence of God.

L: Presence of God. Presence of God.

J: Omnipresent?

I: Aura?

L: Presence...being with us. God with us.

ALL: Emmanuel!

I: *(sings song)* Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Wonderful, Counselor...

J: DO SHUT UP! *(He stops)* Don't give up your day job.

I: This is my day job.

J: Oh, Lord, help.

L: Hellllooo. We need to find the stepping stones.

I: Over there!

L: Okay, Emmanuel. Let's start with an

I: E...(steps and begins to fall. Lara catches him.)

L: You imbecile. In the Hebrew, Emmanuel begins with an "I."

ALL: *(Hopscotch across singing)* I M M A N U E L. *(Land on last letter together.)*
EMMANUEL!

I: Two down, one to go.

J: Look up there. Two paths. Which way?

All sit and think. Unsure.

I: Oh, it's this way.

J: Good, you remembered.

I: No, it just doesn't smell as foul this way.

L: That's great logic. Are you sure? This decision is going to affect the whole outcome of our mission. We must be sure we make the right one. And you want to make it based on smell? Come to your senses, Fool.

I: I was using my sense...my sense of smell.

J: Oh, you're funny.

L: I say we go left.

I: I say it's right.

J: I say we go home. I never liked Ninja Monkeys anyway.

L: I'm almost sure it's left. Let's go.

I: I am positive it's right...sort of.

L: If you're positive, we'll go that way. What's the third test?

I: Take the leap of faith.

J: Following you takes more faith than I think I have.

L: Okay, let's leap.

Indy & Lara walk off stage...scream as though falling to their death. Juliet stands looking where they have fallen and has hands on either side of her face also screaming.

Lara Croft Meets Indiana Jones: Part THREE

By Shawna Beers, Amy Duchaine, and Juliet Garcia

Theme: Taking the step of faith and meeting God

This is the third sketch written for a Jr. High Winter Camp with the theme "Higher Expectations". This sketch was done for a message about taking the next step in life...one of faith...that puts us in the presence of God.

Characters:

L- Lara Croft

I-Indy (Indiana Jones)

J-Juliet (a bit ditzy)

Begins in final position of Part TWO. Juliet with hands over mouth after screaming.

J: Oh no! What am I going to do? If only we could go back and change things. If we could just go back. Just back. *(Click heels together, close eyes)*.
There's no place like home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home. *(Beat)* Oh Toto!

Scream and do PART TWO backward to the point of final Hopscotch saying...Emmanuel. Make sure movements and blocking are the same as in Part Two. Start again...

I: Two down, one to go.

J: Look up there. Two paths. Which way?

All sit and think. Unsure.

I: Oh, it's this way.

J: Good, you remembered.

I: No, it just doesn't smell as foul this way.

L: That's great logic. Are you sure? This decision is going to affect the whole outcome of our task. We must be sure we make the right one. And you want to make it based on smell? Come to your senses, Fool.

I: I was using my sense...my sense of smell.

J: Oh, you're funny.

L: I say we go left.

I: I say it's right.

J: I say we go home. I never liked Ninja Monkeys anyway.

L: I'm almost sure it's left. Let's go.

J: Anyone else experiencing a bit of déjà-vu?

I: I am positive it's right...sort of.

L: Sort of? Sort of? So much for your blessed assurance. My gut tells me we need to go left, and we're going left.

J: Yeah.

I: Let me check the book. *(look in book make discovery)* Look here! There should be a symbol on the wall directing us the correct way. We just need to look a little harder.

L: *(feel around, break down cobwebs and overgrowth)* Here it is! It's left.

J: See, she knew. Always trust a woman's intuition, especially Lara Croft's. You just a poor boy. Don't mess with me.

L: Okay, leap of faith time.

Lara & Indiana walk out and Juliet screams as before.

L: What!?

J: It's a snake!

I: Not a snake. I hate snakes. Why does it always have to be a snake? AHHHH!
(runs in one door and out another or through audience to make it look like it's a new room he's entered. He looks around awed by the amazing things he sees, especially the Emmanuel that they have been looking for.) Whoa. Dude. Look where I am. *(look back into room to Lara & Juliet)* Hey, I think I found it.

L: Wow. I can't believe we finally made it. We passed all three tests...penitent, humble before God...

J: And then the name of God, Immanuel

I: With an "I"...and a huge leap of faith that brought us here to find all that we ever needed. I can't believe something so small represents something greater than we could ever imagine.

L: Good job, Indy. Let's get out of here and take this to those who really need it.

Our Father?!?

By Shawna Beers, Allie Geesey, Jamie Gagnon and Amy Duchaine

Theme: Father God and the struggle with our earthly fathers

Setting: Three ladies (teen to adult) sitting in various places on the stage (on the floor, on a stool, in a chair, etc). They are not interacting with each other but sharing their thoughts aloud. They all have a Bible in their hands as though doing devotions and share their feelings about what they are reading.

Characters:

Girl 1 – hesitant to believe God is a father. Her father abandoned her when she was young.

Girl 2 – doesn't dare trust God as father. Her father hurt her when she was young.

Girl 3 – excited about God being a father. Her father was a great example of Jesus love.

ALL: *(reading from the Bible)* Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

G1: Our father? Yeah, right.

G2: Father? No way!

G3: My father? Wow, God you are a father.

G1: I needed you when I was just a little girl and lost my first tooth. How could you walk out on us? I needed you!

G2: I needed you to just be a dad. Someone who would hug me when I had a nightmare, hold me when I was afraid, not be someone I was afraid of. Even though I was unsure of you, I needed you.

G3: I needed you to be there when I learned to ride my bike. I am so glad you held the seat and took care of my scraped knee. You kissed it and made it better. I needed you.

G1: I needed your voice to cheer me at my soccer games, especially at the championship. We won! I don't think you ever knew or even cared. You weren't there. Why? I needed you!

G2: I needed you to teach me, encourage me. I know I wasn't the best driver, especially when I took out that fire hydrant, but your words were so harsh. We could have laughed about it...but instead I was ridiculed. But still...I needed you.

- G3: I needed you when I first realized boys walked this planet. And I loved the fact I could come to you. You were there to give me advice and pull me out of the clouds, planting my feet back on the ground. Thanks, Dad. I needed you.
- G1: I needed your hand on my arm as I walked down the aisle. I needed you to approve of the man I loved and to give me away on such an important day. Dad, I really needed you.
- G2: I needed your help in making such a big decision. I could have chosen any university, but your condemning words rang over and over in my mind. I fear I will never be good enough for you or anyone. Such a crucial time in my life, and I needed you.
- G3: I needed you to show me how to love, and the way you love mom is the greatest example I could ever ask for. Even though I have grown up. I will always need you.
- G1: I need you, God. But will you be there when I need to talk? Will you listen? *(Look back at Bible)* Our father? *(Pause)* I really just don't know.
- G2: I need you so much. God, I am afraid I can't live up to your expectations. I can never be worthy of your love, but I still need you. *(Look back at Bible)* Our father? *(Pause)* I can't. I'm too afraid.
- G3: I need you, Lord, more than I've ever needed anyone. I know that you will never leave me. I know that you will never hurt me. I know you will always love me. *(Look back at Bible)* Our father. *(Pause)* Thanks, dad, for loving me so much.

Jonah in a Round

By Shawna Beers and Faith Assembly of Lacey 2003 Jr. High Winter Camp Leadership

Theme: A quick introduction to Jonah and the whale

Stage: Create a “boat” with chairs. Put “rowers” in the chairs with a cup of water concealed at the front inside leg of each chair...for the end of the drama. The speakers are inside the boat spread out from front to back.

Characters: 7 Speakers

Action: These lines are done in rhythm 1, 2, 1234 – 1 (quick). Speaker One says their lines 2x alone. Speaker Two says their lines 2 times alone and then 2 times together with the previous person. Then the next person says theirs 2x alone, then together 2x with all the previous persons, and so on.

Speaker One: Ready
Go
C’mon let’s row – Heave!

Speaker Two: Cool
A gull
He’s flyin’ really low – Splat!

Speaker Three: No
Poo
A storm’s startin’ to brew – Whoosh!

Speaker Four: Up
Down
I think we’re gonna drown – Ahh!



Speaker Five: Ooh
Look
I think I'm gonna puke – Blah!

Speaker Six: Wait
Stop
We need to cast a lot – Jonah!

Speaker Seven (JONAH): I know
It's me
Throw me out on three – Splash!

After everyone does the final time through, end with all saying the final line together and throw out Jonah.

All: 1, 2, 3 – Splash! *(At the last splash, the rowers pick up their cups and throw the water on the audience.)*

Pick Me!

By Shawna Beers

Theme: Are we ready for Jesus' return?

Setting: Sitting in church. Chairs in two rows with second row off-center from the first row so that everyone can be seen. All four are sitting in their chairs in the midst of service.

Characters:

Jared – teenage boy anxious about what he's read about Jesus coming back.

Ben – Jared's best friend and thinks all the good stuff he does gets him into heaven.

Danielle – skeptical about this Jesus returning stuff.

Nathan – also a bit skeptical that Jesus is coming anytime soon.

Trumpet Player – can be an actual person offstage or sound effect.

Jared: I was reading in Revelation the other day. You know about Jesus coming back and all. Kind of freaked me out.

Ben: What do you mean?

J: How do I know if I'm really gonna go when he comes?

B: Imagine if he came. Wouldn't it be awesome if it happened during science class?

J: Yeah, I'd love to see Mr. Johnson's face! His evolutionary theories would go right out the window. Explain this, Mr. Science Freak.

B: We do have that big test in Algebra tomorrow. Tonight would be great, huh? Or at least before third period tomorrow.

J: Yeah, but...what would you say to Jesus if really did come?

B: I've been ready for that day all my life. I'd just tell him to take me to the golden streets in the sky. After all, I've been obedient to my parents, now and then, and I even took the trash out last night without being asked.

J: What's that got to do with it?

B: I'm just ready that's all.

Danielle: Why are you so worried about this anyway? Our parents, their parents, and their parents before them have all said that Jesus was coming soon. It hasn't happened yet. Don't sweat it.

J: You're not worried?

Nathan: Nah. I've got lots of time. I'm gonna enjoy life to the full (*makes eyes at Danielle*) and worry about it when I'm old.

B: I don't think it works that way.

J: He really could come tonight, you know.

Nathan: Yeah, right. Just because you don't want to take your Algebra test tomorrow.

J: (*A little intense but not too loud, he is in church. Turns in chair facing Danielle and Nathan*) You just wait! That trumpet is gonna blow someday, and you'll be sorry.

Danielle: Yeah. Right.

J: (*Turns back in chair. Give a pause, thinking. Answer thoughtfully almost as if to self*) What if it did happen?

B: What?

J: If it did blow...the trumpet. What would we do? I don't know if I'm ready for this.

B: I don't think it'll blow tonight.

J: Yeah, I just have to calm down and relax. Enjoy the service, don't think about it.

TRUMPET loud and strong note

J: He's here! I told you! He's really here! (*Pause. Stand up*) Jesus! This way! Over here! Pick me! Pick me!

(*Nathan and Danielle fall to their knees by their chairs and start repenting...everything. This is done quietly, but they are obviously upset.*)

B: (*Getting embarrassed*) Jared, sit down!

J: Quick! Give me your pen light.

B: What!?

J: (*Grabs penlight out of Ben's pocket*) I'll signal him my location. Hurry up.

B: But, Jared...

J: You were a Boy Scout. Didn't you learn Morse code? What's SOS? Get your compass! What are our coordinates? Do you think He can see me?

B: Jared! Sit down!

J: Maybe He'll have a better visual if I stand on my chair. *(Get up on chair)*

B: Jared, you're making a fool of yourself.

J: I don't care! I want to go! I'm ready! *(Throws arms out and shouts)* JE---SUS!

B: Well, you're not going tonight! *(Stands and pulls Jared off his chair, but Jared is still standing on ground)*

J: WHAT!?

B: You, idiot! That trumpet isn't Jesus coming.

J: No? *(Looking around to check for himself)*

(Danielle and Nathan hear Ben. Embarrassed they pick themselves up off the floor and brush themselves off while slipping back into their chairs, acting like nothing ever happened.)

B: No, you moron! That was the special music for the offering. Sit down! *(Push Jared into his chair and both sit.)*

J: *(Pause.)* Yeah, well...well, at least I was ready!

Learning to Drive

By Mark Schaufler

Theme: Are we teachable or is our pride setting us up for a fall?

Learning to drive and learning to live. A good start and knowing the rules of the road.

Characters:

Instructor

Student

Others(optional) (pantomiming as other drivers, they are also on stage are stage dead (head down, frozen, waiting for their opportunity to interact))

(Instructor and student sitting down like they are in a car, facing the audience)

I (instructor): Now, let's go over the first lesson checklist one more time.

S (student): Again?!

I: Yes, until you get it right, we can't leave the parking lot.

S: But I'm sure I know how to do everything. I can power-slide on my Play station 2 and... *(interrupted)*

I: Checklist?!

S: Oh...mirrors adjusted, seat adjusted, parking brake on, transmission in, pull to start, turn key and off we go...so, let's go.

I: Nope.

S: What?! I know I said it all!

I: Seat belt.

S: I don't wear them. They.. *(interrupted)*

I: Then we don't go anywhere.

S: But... *(instructor reaches over and gets the keys and starts to leave)* No wait...ok. *(clicks seat belt)*

I: Now you can start the car and we'll go through the next checklist.

S: Another one? *(starts car)*

I: There are quite a few of them. They're there to protect you and everyone else out on the road.

S: You make it sound like I'm a "raving idiot"!

I: Without checklists and rules we would all be "raving idiots".

S: Even you?

I: Even me. Ok, so here's the list.

A-look both ways before you merge with traffic

B-shift car into Drive

C- emergency brake

D-press gas pedal gradually

E-merge into traffic

S: A-look both ways before you merge with traffic

B-shift car into Drive

C- emergency brake

D-press gas pedal gradually

E-merge into traffic

I: Very good. Let's do it.

(Student goes through list and begins to drive BACKWARDS)

(Instructor slams on brake.)

S: What went wrong!?

I: Drive is "D" not "R" Reverse.

S: Oh, I though R was for Race and D was for Duh...

I: Ok.

S: Just kidding, I'm ready now.

I: I'm not remember I do have a brake pedal over here.

S: Ok, here we go...take two. *(slow going out and merge with traffic)*

I: Good...maintain speed and I'll tell you when you need to turn next.

S: Sweet.

I: Very good.

(optional- other drivers come alive)

S: I told you, I'm a natural born driver...a regular *(starts to turn and talk to the instructor) (interrupted)*

I: Look at the road!

S: Relax, it's all under control.

I: Just keep it that way.

S: *(sees other drivers and starts to wave and nod to them, etc.) (optional-other drivers freeze and go dead)*

I: Eyes on the road

S: I can multitask. I can..*(car begins to slow down)*

I: *(instructor is applying the brake)* Pull over and stop.

S: What's the big deal? I was doing great. Who do you think you are anyway?
(begins to press gas pedal very hard)

I: My brake overrides your gas. *(reaches over, turns off car and pulls out key)*

S: Hey, I'm paying real money for this.

I: You'll get a full refund.

S: No! No! You can't do that. I'll sue.

I: No, you'll walk, if you don't get out and trade seats with me. We're done.

S: I...I... I've never...you have to...

I: School teachers have to...parents have to...I don't.

S: But I have to go through you to get my license.

I: That's right.

S: This will scar me for life. I'll be a social reject.

I: You'll get over it and you'll come back with a better attitude.

S: You're the one with the attitude.

I: No, I have the keys. Now we're trading places and going back.

S: But what will I tell my friends and family.

I: How about the truth. *(they get out and exchange seats)*

S: This is humiliating. You're treating me like a child. You'll never get another student. I'll make sure of that.

I: You usually win your little verbal wars, don't you?

S: ...Always.

I: Almost always.

S: Oh yeah. Are you sure you won't reconsider. You know I really respect someone like you who sticks to their guns and doesn't give in and...

I: We're almost there. We'll send your refund check out in the mail tomorrow.

S: But...

I: Look, no one has been doing you a favor by giving in to your verbal assaults. If you can't learn to listen you'll have a very lonely life. *(freeze)*

PLATFORM for someone to step out and make an application on this topic.



Drama in the Ministry Tool Box Volume Six
20 Original Scripts Addressing Key Church Issues

By Mark Schaufler
Published by MST Ministries
P.O. Box 8490 Lacey WA 98509
360-456-5624

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ISBN # 1-886904-55-3

www.mstgo.com
www.finish-the-race.org

Utilizing Platform Drama

Drama has had a place in the church since the beginning when actors used to act out the Bible stories for the majority of the congregation that could not read or used another language as their primary tongue. Like any form of communication, a tool must be mastered before its full impact is realized.

We began using drama in 1984 as an outreach tool but soon realized it had a place in the church as well. In a three-minute drama you can accomplish what would take thirty minutes to preach, since a picture is worth a thousand words. Once that picture is presented the challenge is to utilize it.

A natural response after a drama has concluded is to applaud. Unfortunately, if we let that happen, whatever ministry moment is created by the drama's message is lost. Therefore, as soon as the platform of the drama is created, someone needs to step out and make the application of the message to the audience. While that is taking place, the actors can freeze or quietly walk off with as little distraction as possible to the application of the ministry moment they helped create.

This tends to be the most difficult aspect of learning to use drama well in a service. It can also be a bit intimidating because it isn't at the end of a service. However, some of the best ministry of the service can take place anywhere in the service if that ministry moment is handled well.

If the drama opens up hearts and people are fragile, you can take the time in that ministry moment to pray for people or have people pray for those seated near them. If that kind of moment is created don't follow up the drama with a joke or something that makes light of what just happened. Jesus shows up in ministry moments to minister. Facilitate that ministry.

If the drama is more of an "ouch" type moment then giving people a chance to think it through is appropriate. That could be in silence, the raising of a hand, or filling out a response card.

The point is to use these ministry moments. Follow through on what was created when it is created. Used well, we have seen ministry take place anytime in a service when the ministry moment is created. If you have any questions feel free to contact us. We are in the trenches with you on this. Mark and the crew at www.mstgo.com.

Attack of the Killer Mosquito

Cast:

Slapper: Slapping mosquitoes nonstop

Runner: Runs by and notices the poor guy and circles around him hoping to be able to help

R: Come on, run with me, they aren't very fast.

S: If I stop slapping them, I'm dust. They already have a gallon of my blood, in fact, I am beginning to feel faint.

R: Come on then, take my hand. I'll steady you for the first few steps.

S: I can't spare a hand, if I do I won't be able to stop the final wave of the hungry monsters.

R: They aren't biting me at all. Come on!

S: You better go on ahead and just tell the newspapers that I put up a gallant fight.

R: You are a little melodramatic aren't you?

S: Just don't bring my family back to view the body, it would be a nightmare for anyone who would see me ... vampire attack ... body found without a trace of blood ...

R: The solution is simple ... come run with me.

S: I never have been a good runner ... I only last a little while and then I get so tired I quit and the mosquitoes are back in force.

R: No one starts out able to run for any length of time at all ... it takes practice and time.

S: But you make it look so easy.

R: I started out as a mosquito slapper just like you.

S: No!

R: Yes!

S: Really?

R: Yes, really ... now let's take a few steps.

- S: But ... but ... if I start to run ... then I won't have anything to talk about ... I mean as bad as this can be sometimes at least I know what to expect and it gives me something to talk about (*interrupted by R*)
- R: Take my hand and come run with me.
- S: But what do you do besides run ... that's just hard work ... all I ever see you do is sweat.
- R: I've seen the world ... helped out a ton of people just like you and enjoyed the company of other runners.
- S: There are more of you?
- R: All over the world ... but you're so busy slapping that you can't see much except the mosquitoes and me when I get really close and try to help.
- S: Hey, I do appreciate the thought but if I stop they'll get me and then the headlines will be for real.
- R: Run with me? (*Stretches out the hand to help*)

Platform and possible applications

1. Turn to audience and say run with Jesus.
2. Turn to the audience and ask them what their mosquitoes are and if maybe they need to get on with what is really important and watch the mosquitoes disappear into the past.
3. How easy it is to stay in a difficult position just because we know what to expect even if it isn't great while there is something better out there?

Lazy Good for Nothing?

Cast:

Worker 1: Appears to be lazy because he moves much slower and methodical than #2.

Worker 2: Working quite fast and trying to have a good attitude towards 1.

The two workers are on an assembly line facing the audience. They can have tools/props with them to signify their work.

1: Only seven hours and fifty-three minutes till we punch out.

2: *(a bit exasperated)* Do you really ever punch in? I do three assemblies for every one you do!

1: I did the math once, actually it's more like four to one but who keeps stats like that anyway.

2: What?

1: Nobody is keeping stats ... and as long as you work beside me we still crank out more work than any other pair on the assembly line

2: You're kidding!?

1: No, I hacked into the computers once and it's true. We're their number one team.

2: You mean I'm the number one team and you're the number one ... never mind.

1: This really gets to you doesn't it?

2: You should be a shrink ... and you may drive me to one.

1: Look, you may think that I'm lazy but I do quality work. We have never been red-flagged by the quality control guys and that's to my credit, not yours.

2: Been hacking into the computers again?!

1: Yeah ... we are below the team average for mistakes but ninety five percent of the mistakes we do have come from your work not mine.

2: But ...

- 1: Each mistake they catch costs a bunch and the ones they don't catch cost a lot more (after they get to the consumer).
- 2: The computers tell you all that?
- 1: I could quote you some numbers but that wouldn't really help anything.
- 2: Is that why I haven't been promoted and passed over so many times, but patted on the back at every turn?
- 1: That would make sense ... that kind of thing isn't in the records I have hacked into and I don't know that I am up to looking at personal records. This was just a curiosity issue for me. I needed some data before I made more suggestions for plant improvements.
- 2: So you're the anonymous employee who has gotten all the bonus checks for the great ideas? I have always thought you were lazy ... but really you're quality and I am ... still here because you're my partner ... I guess I should be thanking you instead of all the voodoo dolls and curses I have shot your way.
- 1: Voodoo dolls?
- 2: No ... not really ... but I don't generally think of you in a favorable light.
- 1: I guess it's that old ... "can't judge a book by its cover" deal
- 2: Worse than that ... "judge not lest you also be judged by the measure you judge".
- 1: Who wrote that?
- 2: Jesus said it and Matthew wrote it down for us.
- 1: You know something about Jesus?
- 2: Learning ... but obviously not knowing that much just yet.
- 1: Well, I've been trying to get Him figured out. I've been on the web and there are lots of sites that talk about Him but they aren't consistent and don't make much sense to me just yet.
- 2: Kinda like me ... not consistent. I have cared more about how I looked and felt about my contribution to the company than about the questions you might have. You have always ticked me off because I thought you were lazy and really you were saving my job. Do I have a lot to learn.

- 1: So what do you know about Jesus? I figured out you went to church since you use some of the same language that the websites use. Is there some kind of dictionary that you use to learn those words? I can't find them anywhere.
- 2: No, I guess you just kind of pick them up in time.
- 1: Where do you go to church? Would they let me in or do I have to pass a test or pay dues?
- 2: Do I make church sound like that to you?
- 1: I did kind of pick that up from your comments.

Platform and possible applications

1. What kind of messages are we sending out?
2. How many of us are too quick to judge others?
3. What is really important, how we look or how we are impacting the lives of those around us?

Runners, Take Your Mark

Cast:

Eight Runners ready for a hundred yard dash. They are facing the audience as they practice getting into their starting blocks and are loosening up for the race. Ideally, they are dressed in track clothes. Milling around first, they one by one freeze and pop out to establish their character.

Narrator is the starter.

- 1: In ten seconds I'll be a champion, hero, the man, or ... no one will even know my name if I don't break the tape. I don't know if I can take that ...
- 2: Let's just get this over with ... my head is not in this ... my family is falling apart but I was already signed up for this ... nobody knows what I am going through ...nobody ever will ... they can't.
- 3: Finally ... I have worked so hard to get this far ... and now it could happen ... but you know even if it doesn't happen today ... someday ... someday it will ... I will ... God gave me a talent and now it's up to me to glorify Him with it.
- 4: I don't know why I do this to myself ... I hate this ... even when I win I can't enjoy it ... because I know I'll have to get out and do it again ... and it will never end ... someday I won't even make the finals and then what?
- 5: Why don't I quit ... I haven't won one of these in a year ... they are all faster than me ... I haven't lowered my time in two years ... all my times have done is gotten slower ... but what else would I do? This is all I've ever known ... what else is there? Sometimes I wonder if I shouldn't just have an accident or something and drop out of the scene and have people feel sorry for me or something ... then I wouldn't have to face the humiliation of losing.
- 6: If we don't run this soon I am going to puke. Maybe someday I'll remember not to party my brains out the night before a competition ... but not this time ... I guess I just don't know how to say no ... it's not like I enjoy this feeling or anything ... and I always make a fool out of myself ... I'm not so sure I want to run into anyone from last night either ... especially her

7: As long as I beat the idiot in lane six I don't care what else happens ... he's such a jerk ... last night he was messing with my friend ... she feels like garbage today and it's all his fault. After I beat him here I may look for him afterwards too ... beating him here will only make me feel good ... he needs to learn not to mess with women and treat them like trash.

8: God? ... I don't know if You're real or not ... the guy in three sure seems to act like You're there ... but I always go to bed feeling so alone ... win or lose ... I've lived my whole life alone ... if You're real I'd like to make an appointment?

(The runners get into the running position each time the narrator says "runners to the blocks". As each runner in turn false starts, they all return to the starting position at the narrator's speaking.)

Narrator: Runners to the blocks...Runners to your mark... False start lane 1

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 5

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 2

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 6

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 4

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 8

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 7

Narrator: Runners to the blocks... Runners to your mark...False start lane 3

(everyone freezes again)

1: What is going on ... this is nuts ... eight runners ... eight false starts ... the next one and someone is out ... could even be me ... this pressure is killing me ...

2: This is like the story of my life ... nobody can get it right ... one false start after another ... my parent's marriage ... sister's marriage ... every girlfriend I have ever had ...

3: "Peace my peace I give to you" ... let's go God ... I'm ready.

4: Enough stalling ... win, lose, or draw it doesn't matter ... let's just get this over with.

5: I think I'll just false start again ... that would be one way out ... at least for today.

6: I'm going to false start this next time too ... then I can go throw up and they'll think it was the stress.

7: If he false starts again I'm going to just follow him off and beat him till begs for mercy.

8: God ... this is freaking me out ... but if lane three is still cool then I will trust in you.

(freeze and now you have a platform to share a number of potential issues)

Platform and possible applications

1: How do you make life more than a win or lose reality?

2: Does your family need help?

3: Life is more than a race ... is yours?

4: There is always a price for the party life ... do you want out?

5: Who do you need to forgive ... has this described your life?

The Bills

Cast:

Husband: He is paying the bills at a desk facing the audience.

Wife

Kids

The rest of the family starts offstage.

Husband: Honey?!

Wife: *(enters)* What?

Husband: What are all these charges on the credit card! There is an extra five hundred dollars here that isn't in the budget?!

Wife: We needed all that, and it was all on sale!

Husband: Four hundred rolls of toilet paper? Two hundred batteries?

Wife: Well if we had a power outage, or the economy fails, or the Russians invaded, or you lose your job, or

Husband: Are you serious?

Wife: *(Getting all worked up)* Yes ... and then there's global warming, melting icebergs, and meteorites falling from space, not to mention all the space junk that is up there ... did you know that the chances of getting hit by a satellite falling from space go up every year and *(interrupted)*

Husband: Stop! You have lost it. Come here. *(tries to hug her and calm her down)*

Wife: What did I lose? We can just buy another one.

Husband: What has happened to you?

Wife: What?

Husband: You have let every possible fear known to mankind get to you. Who has been talking to you?

Wife: Everyone ... the news on the radio ... the TV specials ... the newsstand tabloids ... the talk shows ...

Husband: and your mother?

Wife: You know she was right about the stock market in 2000.

Husband: Come here ... you don't look so good. (*Again trying to hug her and calm her down*)

Wife: I don't feel so good, I've been taking so many vitamins that I think I've messed up my digestive process.

Husband: Vitamins? When did you start taking vitamins?

Wife: When I realized that I could decrease the chances of bone problems with calcium, heart attacks with aspirin, zinc for the..

Husband: Okay, so you became a vitamin expert.

Wife: You know really you should be taking...

Husband: Shhhhh. Let me just hold you (*she has a wild look on her face*)

Wife: Aren't you worried?

Husband: About what?

Wife: About everything and even more about the things you don't know about that you should be worrying about?

Husband: Can I pray for you?

Wife: How can you pray? Don't you worry about God not hearing you and...

Husband: No.

(*Kids come in and look worried*)

Kids: Daddy, what's wrong with mommy? Will she be ok? (*they come for a group hug*)

Husband: (*looks towards heaven and prays*) Father, we come only in Jesus' name. We are so grateful that we can come with boldness and confidence in You and what You have said to us. And You have said to us that each day has enough cares of its own. And Father, right now we are carrying the weight of the world and it's killing us. We just ask that You reach down and take the burdens that we have been carrying right now. We let go and let You be God.

Platform and possible applications and ending variations

1. If she lets go and lets God, she could collapse into a puddle of relief with the kids all around hugging her and everyone so grateful for getting mommy

- back. Then you could address the audience and have a time for prayer for the things that they are worried about.
2. She can tighten up and get angry. “Don’t preach at me, If God was so great why would I be going through all this, why, why, why.” Then you have a platform to help others deal with their perception of Father God and how things really work and end it in prayer.
 3. You can leave it here and address the audience. What makes you worry? What do we need?

The Game

Cast:

Coach

Referees 1 and 2

Players 1 through 6

Props: basketball, whistle

Coach: Six seconds left ... this is the season ... we win we go on ... we lose and we watch ... feed #1 because he has the hot hand ... *(hands together)* ... break *(referee 1 hands ball to # 2 and begins to count to three for the inbound pass with his hand)*

2: *(panic-stricken and looks around for someone to throw it to, but can't find an open man and has to call a time out)* Time out!

Coach: Where is the movement? You guys just stood there! This is the season.

3: Why do we have to feed #1? He ...

Coach: What! I am the coach, what is this, mutiny? Get out there and do the play!

4: Not me. I'm sick of feeding #1, if I got fed I could have the hot hand, any of us could, he's the only one who ends up looking good.

Coach: #4 you're out ... #6 you're in. Now get out there and get it done.

(referee 1 hands ball to #2 who immediately throws the ball to #6 who feeds #1 and he shoots the winning shot.)

(referee 2 blows the whistle and signals the end of the game)

(coach and team go wild except for #4 ... after a minute he attacks #1 and the rest of them have to pull off #4)

#4: You ... you ... *(with wild hand gestures and noises)*

Coach: Wrap him up and get him out of here. *(towel gets put over his head and he is carried out. They all discouraged ... they try to celebrate some more but can't and slowly drift towards the locker room with mini celebrations and high fives with imaginary fans ... also some autographs.)*

#1: Coach ... what is going on ... I don't get it ...

Coach: You haven't done anything wrong ... it's all #4.

#1: But coach what have I done? I thought he was my friend ... we've played ball together for years.

Coach: But only one person can handle the ball at a time ... only one person can shoot the ball at any given time ... and he is so insecure it has to be him or he won't be happy.

#1: He could make it to the NBA. He is that good, isn't he?

Coach: Maybe ... honestly you have the best chance. You have more skills and think the game better than he does ... if anyone has a chance.

#1: Coach, I'm not even thinking that way ... the numbers say only one in a million that play high school ball will play in the NBA ... and besides the average career is only a few years and then what? Sell shoes, cars, or something? No thanks.

Coach: But #4 is. He knows that anyone who comes to watch us play is here to watch you not him. I guess tonight he snapped, unfortunately he snapped on national TV and whatever chance he had of making the NBA just slipped away. They can't afford another hot head but you increased your chances by not striking back.

#1: Coach, I know that my life's plan is in God's hand not an NBA scout. I wish #4 would listen to me when I try to talk to him. He has a lot of gifts besides playing ball that could help him find his real purpose in life.

Coach: You don't think about the millions that you could make in a few years in the NBA?

#1: No. Sure the money would be handy but think of all the things that wouldn't get done because I spent a few years throwing a ball around in front of people fool enough to pay to watch ... sorry, coach.

Coach: You don't have to be sorry ... it is ridiculous sometimes ... but why do you play ... in front of the fools?

#1: It's just a season ... it's like Paul in the Bible ... he made tents to keep his mission going. Me, I play ball and it keeps up a scholarship that pays for school and my ministry time here on the campus. As much pressure as college ball has, I still have time for some real life ... the NBA would eliminate that

Coach: How old are you?

#1: Twenty?

Coach: You have wisdom beyond your years.

#1: No I just happen to know the smartest team in all creation ... and they only play three to their team ... that's all they need to beat anyone.

Coach: I'm not quite following you.

#1: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... you ought to get to know them, coach.

Platform and possible applications

1. Life's purpose
2. Jealousy and its groundless base
3. The danger of not dealing with issues
4. Our role in helping those with hopeless goals and lives

The Shopping Spree

Cast:

Checker

Rich Gal

Those waiting in line 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more

Manager

Police

News Reporter

Setting: Checkout at a grocery store, checker is finishing up a large basket from the rich gal.

Checker: That will be two hundred and fifteen dollars and seventeen cents.

Rich Gal: Here's my card.

Checker: Debit or Credit?

Rich Gal: Credit.

(checker tries to run card several times)

1: *(Talking to #2)* I always pick the wrong line for stuff like this.

2: Can you believe that? Over two hundred dollars' worth of stuff and she probably has an expired credit card.

3: She could just hock one of the rings on her finger and buy the whole store.

Checker: I am sorry ma'am but this card won't run. Can you wait while I take care of the other customers?

Rich Gal: That's ridiculous ... try again!

4: It's not going to work, the kid already tried everything, I work at a store too.

5: I'll be late now.

Checker: Can I help these other people first while we get this figured out?

Rich Gal: Certainly not! Get a manager over here right now!

Checker: I already sent a message.

Rich Gal: Then where is he?

Checker: Coming. I can help whoever is next while we wait.

1: Thanks *(starts to load stuff on counter)*

Rich Gal: Stop that right now. You take care of me first and then you can deal with ...them. *(very condescending)*

Checker: Here is the manager *(police are with him)*

Rich Gal: What are the police doing here?!

Manager: Ma'am that's a stolen card and we need to ask you some questions.

Police: Can we have the card please and any other cards you have in your purse?

Rich Gal: Sure you can have it all *(and pulls out a fist full of cards and a gun)* and nobody moves!!! *(she begins to back away)* Put the groceries in the cart and take them out to my car!! *(pointing at the checker)*

Checker: But *(rich gal waves the gun again)* ... ah which one?

Rich Gal: *(pull out the clicker and opens and starts the car)* The Mercedes with the lights on and the open trunk..

Police: Lady, put the gun down. *(starts to go for their gun)*

Rich Gal: Wrong response. *(shoots the police officers three times)*
(Everyone else freaks a bit)

Rich Gal: Everyone else on the floor except you *(pointing to the manager)* Empty the till into a bag!!!

Manager: Ok ... just don't shoot ... just don't shoot *(putting the money in the bag and handing it to her)*

Rich Gal: No one tells me what to do and no one says no to me. *(she shoots the manager two times)*

(Number 5 bolts away from the line and gets shot at by the Rich Gal until the gun clicks empty)

1: *(Grabs the Rich Gal and wrestles her into control)* Call more police and medics!!

(freeze Scene)

News Reporter: *(standing in front of the frozen group)* This is Sylvia Johnson with Channel Seven news. In a strange turn of events a stolen credit card turns into a blood bath here at the Budget Center Market on Main Street. Names have not been released yet but it is reported that a town deputy

officer, store personnel, and one shopper have been wounded when a shopper opened fire after they were caught trying to use a stolen credit card. Early reports indicate that the shooter was a well-dressed woman whose black Mercedes is still in the parking lot behind me. It is hard to believe but we have reliable reports from anonymous sources within the Police Department that the shooter was the wealthy socialite Melissa Maxim. Before opening fire she is quoted as saying, “No one tells me what to do and no one says no to me”

Platform and possible applications

- 1: How do we respond to the word no?
- 2: How do we respond when we are caught doing something wrong?
- 3: Would you be ready to die in the grocery store? Or do you have to wait to get to church to get things right with God?

The New Car

Cast:

Owner: Who received a rare used car he had bought recently.

Neighbors 1, 2, 3, 4: They are standing around the "New Car" admiringly

Owner: Just got it to the house yesterday.

#1: You found this on Ebay?

#2: I didn't know they were still out there and in this good of condition!

#3: Wow!

#4: Where did you find it again?

Owner: In a barn in Kentucky, up in the Appalachian Mountains.

#1: They have electricity up there and computers?

Owner: It seems that a son came up to clean out his mom's house after she died
and he found it in the barn. It had probably been there for decades.

#2: And you paid how much?

Owner: Five hundred dollars.

#3: But it's worth at least ten times that ... or twenty or more.

Owner: You're right.

#4: Well, how did you get it so cheap on Ebay, most things there are overpriced if
anything.

Owner: He labeled it incorrectly on the description ... and I had a hunch so I
followed up on it and called ... got a description and then bought it and
got out there as quick as I could before something changed.

#1: I'll give you ten grand for it.

#2: Twelve

#3: Fifteen

Owner: Do I hear twenty, thirty, or forty? It's not for sale guys.

#1: What are you going to do with it?

Owner: I don't know ... I just know I may never find anything like it again in my lifetime.

#2: I've never even dreamed of a find like this.

#3: That's because nothing like this ever really happens.

#4: I'm not so sure about that ... I think we could all find something of great value anytime we wanted to.

Owner: What are you talking about?

#1: What do you know that we don't?

#4: Well you won't find it on Ebay...

#2: This isn't another pyramid scheme is it?

#3: You don't have a cousin who needs some suckers to invest just a few thousand in a sure deal do you?

Owner: So you have our attention ... what are you talking about?

#4: Jesus.

#1: Look I'm getting angry enough to swear too, just tell us.

#4: Jesus ... church on Sunday ... Bible ... Christmas ... Savior and Lord ... Jesus.

#2: Look, I know that you think you got a good deal when you started to go to church but that was months ago now ... you're becoming a broken record on this Jesus stuff

#4: No. What started a few months ago hasn't stopped, just today while I was praying I had this idea to call my father. I've been praying for him for months now and I just had this hunch, probably like your car hunch, and I called him.

#3: But he hates you?!

#4: Used to hate me. We worked it out today. We didn't go hog wild on everything but we are going to get together later this month. That is priceless to me .

Owner: So are you saying my hunch was a "God thing"?

#4: Wouldn't surprise me. Somewhere in the Bible, it says that it's the goodness of God that leads men to repentance .

#1: I heard it was the big stick of God that got our attention.

#4: I think that is some of the incorrect description that keeps people away from something of incredible value.

Owner: But it was just a hunch ...

#4: Was it just a hunch or did God's goodness just maybe come your way and you didn't know what it was any more than the son did the value of this car?

Platform and possible applications

1. Had any hunches lately? What is He saying to you?
2. Has God's goodness brought change in our lives?

The Sale Shock

Cast:

Driver: He or she is driving a car full of shoppers.

Shoppers 1, 2, 3, and 4: Frustrated shoppers

Setting: A van full of shoppers is being driven past the myriad of shops in full blown sale mode. The driver shows no inclination of stopping and this creates a variety of reactions from the frustrated shoppers.

#1: Quick ... stop ... look 50% off!

#2: Yes, and over there ... going out of business sale!

#3: At least slow down ... driving past these is like waving a beer in front of a drunk or a glass of water in front of someone dying of thirst!

#4: Ohhhhhh ... look at all the sale signs ... Ohhhhhh.

Driver: Now, now, you know as a part of your therapy you cannot shop until you have finished your treatment.

#1: But just one look through a window couldn't hurt ... we wouldn't even go in the door.

#2: Just park in the parking lot ... we'll stay in the car and just...

Driver: No ... no ... no ... it would set you back weeks in your therapy.

#3: You know I was on the internet just yesterday and there are a number of alternative therapies to cure the shop-aholic syndrome and...

Driver: Blah, blah, blah, we are not stopping.

#4: You must have ice water running through your veins ... aren't you even affected by those signs ... those incredible deals ... those "sales end today" signs?

Driver: No.

#1: Liar ... how could anyone not be affected by these. We are. Everyone I know is.

#2: No, not this one. (*pointing at the driver*) They're that much better than us defective therapy patients ... the weaker part of society ... the rejects ... throw aways

Driver: None of the above. I just don't find a draw to these at all. I still buy things but it's more like buying, not shopping, or needing, or desiring, or ...

#3: All the things that have us in the treatment ... need ... desire ... fear ... jealousy... insecurity ...

#4: Be quiet ... this is supposed to be a break from our therapy ... a reward for our progress.

#1: If you can call it that. All I know is that it hurts to face the issues and the past that has gotten us to this point.

#2: But they call it progress so I guess we have to as well ... even though it sure doesn't feel like it.

#3: Who would have believed that the messes of our past would still be haunting us today.

#4: How about terrorizing us ... or controlling us ... or...

Driver: We are almost there, you have done very well on the drive. It sounds like you are beginning to really understand what is going on; after all truth does set people free

#1: Even when it doesn't feel good.

#2: Or isn't fun to face.

#3: Or would be easier to ignore.

#4: Or forces us to face Father God.

Platform and possible applications

1. Is there anything you need to face?
2. Truth doesn't always feel good does it? In this semi-ridiculous example I hope we can learn to deal with the truth regardless of the feelings that follow it.

You Said, I Said, We Said, What was Said?

Two people are distracted (one can be typing, the other changing a diaper, etc.) while they are having a phone conversation. Not giving their full attention does create an interesting conclusion. After each person speaks the other can show some initial confusion but thinks they have it all figured out and proceeds on. It illustrates what a good listener is and isn't.

Chris: Hello Gerry, this is Chris, how are you?

Gerry: Hello Chris, yes, the sky is very blue would you like to go to the beach?

Chris: Well I hadn't given it much thought but maybe I would like to teach. Yes, maybe a career change would be good.

Gerry: Now that you mention it we could use some more wood for the winter. We do burn a lot of it when it gets cold and dark..

Chris: You're right it would be great to teach children about the golden ark. God's word is so important and if we can just plant the seed in children it has a chance to grow!

Gerry: You're right not much can grow in the winter, too cold and dark.

Chris: Were their two golden arks? What do you know, you learn something new every day.

Gerry: Well, the way to the beach is pretty simple. Haven't you been there before?

Chris: Four golden arks! Wow! I'll look forward to getting together with you. You have so much to share with me.

Gerry: Me, too. I think my favorite part about the beach is all the shells you find. That's why I always bring a pail and a small shovel. I keep them in the trunk of the car.

Chris: You found one of the golden arks? Incredible and you keep it in the trunk of your car?

Gerry: It really is a good place to keep things. That way I have it if I ever want to make a quick getaway to the beach.

Chris: Who's chasing you? Are you in serious trouble? Must be some international antiquities thieves that are after you. Kinda like Indiana Jones.

Gerry: No, I haven't ever found any bones. That would be pretty scary.

Chris: I'd be afraid too. Are you sure you want to go out in public? Your life could be in danger.

Gerry: That's a good idea, just tell the park ranger. So when do you want to meet?

Chris: Dead meat? Is that what they said you'd be? Oh no, I'll call the police and be right over.

Gerry: Ok, I'll meet you then, and could you bring a clam gun too?

Chris: I'll bring every gun in the house and all the ammunition I can find. We will be ready for a real battle.

Gerry: Great, it's so good to have friends like you.

Chris: I hope I make it in time, bye!

Gerry: Good idea I'll buy some lime along the way.

Platform and possible applications

1. What happens when we don't listen to friends, family, or God?
2. Who is really at fault here? Both parties are in the wrong.
3. Now you know why we are asked to be quick to listen and slow to speak.
4. What could be the final chapter in this tragic misunderstanding? Police shoot out at the friend's house with the heavily armed friend who made the phone call to the police to warn them unwittingly about themselves?

The Conscience Speedometer

Cast:

Driver (D)

Police (P)

Voice of the Speedometer (VS)

Setting: Someone is driving down the road in their brand new car enjoying all the gadgets.

D: What a car ... *(surveys the interior)* ... what a price ... *(thinks about the great deal they got)* ... what a new car smell ...

VS: 66

D: *(shocked back to reality)* ... who said that?!

VS: me, your talking speedometer ... 67.

D: Wow! What a feature ... *(increases speed slowly)*

VS: 68 ... 69 ... 70

D: This is chronic ... too cool ... *(increases speed quickly)*

VS: 71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79

D: I wonder what eighty will sound like! *(great glee and joy is shattered by the flashing lights of the police coming into view behind them) (he slows and pulls over to the right to sit and wait)*

P: Can I see your license and registration please?

(driver fishes them out and gives them to the officer)

P: Do you know why I pulled you over?

D: *(weakly spoken)* a tail light was out?

P: No, I clocked you at 79 in a 65 ... that's speeding ... reckless driving in fact ... and the ticket will be...

D: Officer, you see this is a new car and I'm not used to it yet and I'm not even sure that the speedometer works. I was late and I had just spilled coffee on my lap and ...

P: Please save the excuses for your court appearance. Sign here please.

D: Here?

P: Yes, should you desire to just pay the fine you may skip your court appearance otherwise I will see you in court.

D: Ok *(waits and watches the officer go back to the car, starts car and drives off slowly and notices that the speedometer isn't talking now)* I knew you were broken ... why I probably wasn't speeding at all.

VS: I only speak when you're breaking the law. You were speeding. You were going 79 and you lied to the officer.

D: What?!?!?!?!?

VS: 66

D: WHAT?!?!?!?

VS: 67, 68 ... you go faster when you get upset, don't you? 69

(driver shaken ... begins to slow down)

VS: I come in all car models but you're hearing me because you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord. That means your conscience and my circuits can communicate and you can hear me.

(driver in stunned silence)

VS: You also lie when you're under pressure. That's one reason why you haven't matured much in the last few years. Only truth will set you free to change and grow to the next level of maturity.

(more stunned silence and dumbfounded looks)

VS: 44

D: WHAT?!?!? Too fast and now too slow?

VS: It is illegal to go less than twenty miles below the speed limit on a major interstate.

D: This is insane ... I'm going insane ... *(he pulls over to the side of the road and stops)*

VS: In fact, you are closer to dealing with the real world than you have been for a long time. You have ignored your Savior, Father, and Holy Spirit guide for a long time now. Long enough to earn a lot of money and buy this new car.

D: Hey, I said this was a blessing from those three.

VS: If you're honest "Those Three" weren't really included in any part of the process were they?

D: You're always right aren't you?

VS: Yes.

D: Look, I've been really busy. I have responsibilities at work and the kids are going ninety miles an hour, never mind, you probably don't like that concept.

VS: Good list of excuses but they won't hold up in HIS court any better than the traffic judge you have to see next Friday.

D: How did you know it was next Friday?! Never mind. Okay, so what do I do now? I don't know how this all happened, I mean finding Christ was awesome and forgiveness and relationships and everything is so incredible. And here I am, sitting alongside the road talking to my car?

VS: If you will take the time now you could be talking to "Those Three."

Platform and possible applications

You now have a teachable moment. Use it to remind people of the basics of following Christ. This shows the daily correction and direction that He gives if we give Him the time to do it.

All Girls

Cast:

5 girls at a youth group committee meeting.

#2 has an agenda to find a guy who has money and will give her everything she's ever wanted. She does a lot of dialogue and interaction with the audience.

1: Where did you get that?

2: Nordstrom's. Half Price! *(winks at audience)*

3: How do you do that? Always a sale, always gorgeous *(all freeze)*

2: *(steps out of freeze and speaks to audience)* I lie a lot. *(steps back)*

4: *(all unfrozen)* You never wear the same thing twice, you must be rich. Can I have your hand-me-downs? *(all freeze)*

2: *(steps out again and speaks to the audience)* I bought clothes there 3 months ago and return them. They have a policy that they have to take them back. So, I just get the current day's outfit. They have a name for me but I can't repeat it in public. *(steps back)*

5: You've sure got Derek looking your way.

2: Really? Isn't he going with Brittney? *(all freeze)*

2: *(steps out and speaks to audience)* That's the point of the game. And I'm going to win this one. Derek has real money; his dad owns every car dealership in the area.

1: OK, Girls! Enough of Barbie and Ken. Pastor Jason asked me to come up with a dozen good ideas for our youth group missions project. I picked each of you because you're from different grades. Let's pray and get started.
"Father, we come in Jesus' name. Thanks for what you've done in our lives and help us to help you with the unfinished business of reaching the world through missions. Amen"

2: How about we ask Derek's dad and see if he'll donate a car? We can sell it at a silent auction.

1: Wow! Great idea. Will you talk to him?

2: Sure! *(all freeze)* *(2 steps out and talk to audience)* What a break. Now I've got an excuse to enter Derek's world big time. They can come up with the other eleven great ideas but I have the key to my future in my hand and I want to use it.

(other girls in background start coming up with their ideas. In about a minute the meeting is over and 2 is alone with a phone)

2: *(speaking on phone, allow for pauses to pantomime listening to other person)*

Mr. Philips? This is _____. ... Yes, I do know Derek... Oh, he has? *(to audience)* I can't believe he knows who I am! Derek has talked about me! *(back to phone)* Well, I'm on the youth missions committee...Oh, you know about it?...Well, yes we could use some donations...two cars?... Of course... tomorrow... yes, I can come pick them out.*(to audience)* 2 cars and Derek will be there too! *(she goes into a dream world for a few seconds until the phone rings and snaps her out of her dream world)* Hi Derek...yes, I can be there tomorrow...I'm looking forward to it, too...So how's Brittany?...Oh, you did? *(to audience)* They broke up! They broke up! *(back to Derek on phone)* She wasn't...yes, I have been at the early prayer meeting and yes I'm on the missions committee...Your dad was impressed that I called? *(to audience)* I've got him eating out of my hand. *(back to phone call)* Sure, you can ask a question. *(fingers crossed)* A missions call?...What do you mean?...Yes...yes...ok...oh, Brittany didn't, ah...where do you feel called?...a desert Muslim country?...which one?...yeah, I'll see you tomorrow.

(to audience) What do I do? I can reel him in with one more lie, but God would have to reel me in first. Don't look at me like that.! I know what you're all about, too. Who's really in charge here? Who knows what's best?

Platform and possible applications

1. Are we busy trying to orchestrate our world or move in obedience to His will.
2. What kind of damage can a life do?

The Fence No More

Cast:

Nine students

Youth Pastor

Setting: The students are listening to a sermon by their youth pastor. They are seated while the youth pastor stands.

YP (youth pastor): That's it...one world, two choices. When we leave this place we've entered into our mission field. If it isn't you then who is it going to be? No rest till the job is done. No unfinished business. Let's pray.*(all bow their heads)* "Father, there's unfinished business out there and it's our work to do it. Students, while you're praying, who will say yes to this challenge? Raise your hands and say Yes, God, I'll finish your business. Yes, I see the hands...all across the room *(all but #9 raises their hand)* Father, thank you that we are all in one accord and ready to work for you. Amen!

1-8 students: Amen *(raise heads and hug each other)*

1: Wow, God rocks.

2: Finally the breakthrough we've needed.

3: Man, can Pastor Matt preach.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8: *(all together)* Unfinished business. Not in our house. *(9 silent and not participating) (2 through 8 leave very excited, in great unity.)*

1: *(looks back at 9)* Come on! Let's go. Great night wasn't it?

9: Go ahead and catch up with the rest. I'm going a different direction.

1: Come hang with us tonight.

9: I'd do that but I'm going a different direction.

1: What are you talking about?!

9: I didn't raise my hand.

1: Oh? ...but...oh...but you're at everything and you were on last year's drama team and...but...

9: I haven't decided yet.

- 1: Oh?
- 9: Jesus didn't throw out a bunch of cute slogans to get people motivated for a while and then look for another one when their motivation wore off.
- 1: You're getting really deep on me.
- 9: Jesus only swam in deep water. If I'm going to go for it, it won't be a slogan that does it. It will be me and Jesus and any others that sign on the dotted line.
- 1: But...the slogans, they're cool and look good on t-shirts and bumper stickers.
- 9: Great. Enjoy the shirt and the stickers. Jesus said we'd "be hated on his account", "guaranteed persecution", "that we'd have to lose our lives to find it". Have you realized that?
- 1: Well, really, I'm keeping my options open. This is cool now, but if something else looks better...why not? Jesus has to forgive me. *(cell phone rings, his other friends asking him where he is)*
- 9: Your piece of "unfinished business"? Go hang with your friends.
- 1: Yeah, guess I will. *(leaves and heads after his friends)*
- 9: *(#9 waits until #1 is out of sight)* Thanks, Jesus. I just couldn't see you and him...them...being on the same page...'cause if you were then it wasn't for me. Slogans and stickers? *(shakes head and drops to knees)* Lord Jesus, let's take care of the first unfinished business

Platform and possible applications

1. Have we been walking a fence? Have we been keeping other options open?
2. What does the real thing look like?

Unfinished Business: Work Ethic

Cast:

3 people (can be male or female)

Boss

Setting: #1 is working (painting) and his two friends come along and try to distract him.

Prop: paint brush

1: Don't touch! *(keeps painting)*

2: Come on DaVinci...you're painting a dog house not the Mona Lisa.

1: But I'm not quite done. Hold on, just five minutes more.

2: The dog won't care if you miss the underside of the eaves.

1: God cares.

2: Who?

3: You know "dog" spelled backwards is "God" so if the dog backs into the house...

1: No, I meant God. He would like us to be in the business...

2: *(interrupts)*..of painting dog houses?

3: He's been sniffing too many fumes.

1: Of finishing what we start. No "unfinished business" laying around. Doing our best...no regrets.

2: You sound like a motivational speaker.

3: Got any posters or plaques out?

2: Look, I work so I can play and I only work because I have to.

3: Bare minimum...don't get fired...do what you have to.

1: Done.

2: Not bad...you know if I was buying a dog house this would be the one I'd pick.

3: You're kidding. Both of you have had too many fumes. Look, let's go.

2: Ok.

1: I'll see you tomorrow. I still have some brushes to clean.

2: You're killing me. We're gone.

3: Out of here. *(2 and 3 leave)*

(#1 cleans brushes)

Boss: *(from behind him)* Nice work. Good attention to detail...thorough...clean work site.

1: *(turns to boss)* Thanks.

Boss: You're a Christian aren't you?

1: Yes, I am.

Boss: How much longer do you think you'll work here?

1: What?

Boss: Weeks? Months? A couple of years?

1: What do you mean?

Boss: I've run this shop for almost thirty years. We can never keep our best workers long and the ones that aren't that great we can't get rid of. I'll guess you've got about 2 months left.

1: What!? How?

Boss: It seems God uses places like this to develop character. And when you get it He moves you on to something more significant. I'm not really the boss after all. So would you consider becoming a manager? Train the troops and raise the quality standard?

1: Well, actually...

Boss: You were thinking about turning in your two week notice early. Gives us a month to replace you so you'd only be able to do it for a month and... how am I doing?

1: *(looks amazed)* Reading my mail...so are you a Christian?

Boss: Yes, I am.

1: Then why are you still here?

Boss: Oh, I've had other dreams...callings even, but I've never developed the "follow through or the "thoroughness" to get it done and get it done right. Too many loose ends.

Platform and possible applications

1. “For many are invited, but few are chosen” Matt. 22:14 Many are called but few are chosen. What have we done to get ready for our call?
2. Have we fallen into the trap of waiting without growing for God’s plan to unfold in our lives?

The Wrong Side of Bed

Scenario Drama: A scenario drama does not have set lines, but directions as to what should happen. This gives the cast members the opportunity to improvise lines and interact with each other.

Cast:

SA: Sleeper

B: bystander with a gun hidden

C: bystander

SO: Sleeper

2: angry bystander with gun

3: bystander

Police

Two contrasting versions of a day from the alarm clock to the really rude awakening later on. Have two cots on stage with the two key actors sleeping.

Sleeper One and A

(alarm sounds)

Sleeper One (SO): Wakes up, smashes the alarm and throws it against the wall
...mumbling glumly *(freeze)*

SA: Alarm sounds, big yawn and drops to knees to pray. *(freeze)*

SO: bumps into 2 and it's a negative encounter w/ hostility and SO leaves 2 upset
(freeze)

A rises from prayer and bumps into B in identical manner as SO & 2 but responds with grace and mercy and B leaves cheerful. *(freeze)*

#2: finds #3 who is an innocent bystander waiting for something. #2 begins to give #3 a bad time and they get hot and a verbal fight breaks out (freeze)

C: B finds C *(identical scenario as 2 & 3)* but blesses and encourages them instead and they end up inviting each other to an upcoming event. C throws his gun away as he leaves as if to say he won't need it. *(freeze)*

#3 pulls out a gun and points it at #2 and forces him to be quiet and walks away incredibly angry with a gun just under his arm. police officer sees #3's gun and calls him to freeze. (*freeze*)

Police approaches #3 cautiously with the idea of taking them captive. It's tense and the police tries to negotiate with #3 but little progress is made. It is an ugly tense standoff.

C: cruises out and sees (police officer) and the suspect with the gun. They talk #3 out of using the gun. They talk #3 into surrendering their gun and giving up.

Platform and possible applications

1. What does it take to have a good day? Can it be as simple as your devotions?
2. John 15:15 says "nothing". This is how you avoid a nothing day.

Just Another Christmas Gift

Cast:

Mom

Dad

Son

Setting: All are opening gifts, all at the same time.

Dad: Oh, dear, that's so special ... another tie!

Mom: And this calendar of warm, dry, places, how thoughtful?

Son: What's this?

Dad: First you put this on your head.

Son: Don't touch the hair Dad!

Dad: Okay, you put it on. Good, now look through these and let's type in any place in the world you want to see.

Mom: I don't remember buying this. How much did it cost?

Dad: I made it from some parts. Got them at a local Radio Shack.

Mom: Oh!

Son: Anywhere?

Mom: Sure, let's do one of the warm, dry, places on my new calendar.

Son: Okay, type in Spain.

Son: Something must be wrong. Nobody is smiling there. They all look like they're sad. Not like the calendar. Are you sure this works, dad?

Mom: Let me try. Type in Argentina. That was last year's calendar. It's summer down there while it's cold and wet up here.

Son: Here goes.

Mom: It happened again. There must be a mistake. These people aren't happy like they look on the calendars. Type in the Philippines it's hot there too, finally, some kids, what? It's an orphanage! No smiles!

Dad: I get it!

Dad: Get what?

Mom: Is this another random thought dear?

Dad: GV Global System ... that stands for God's View. This is what God sees every day, all the time.

Mom: But Christmas is supposed to be a gift time. You know God's gift to us. Opening presents like the wise men brought.

Son: This isn't as cool as I thought it would be

Dad: I guess sometimes we forget that we made this holiday, After all, it isn't in the Bible.

Son: So when do they celebrate in the Bible anyway?

Mom: When one sinner repents, when one son comes back, when the lost finally get to hear the Gospel.

Platform and possible applications

1. In this season are we remembering the real reason for it?
2. While we celebrate the season what is the rest of the world going through?

The Voice of God

Cast:

Max

Voice: speaking through hidden microphone

Setting: Max is sneaking over to the refrigerator and is just about to open it when he is startled by a voice

Voice: Max!

Max: What! Where? What's going on?

Voice: It's simple, you are about to cheat on your diet.

Max: No ... ah ... I was going to check on the temperature. We have been having problems with this old thing for a while now.

Voice: Now you're lying.

Max: Are you calling me a liar?

Voice: Yes, and a thief.

Max: Just who do you think you are anyway?!

Voice: God.

Max: Yeah, right. There is no such thing as God and even if there were one "it" would be off in outer space. After all, if there was a God of love, like some say, why would there be such a mess down here!

Voice: You.

Max: What do you mean, me. First you call me a liar and a thief and now you are trying to put the whole mess down here on me. No way. Whoever you are. I'm a great guy, a family man, hardworking, honest, hey, this is one of those electronic surveillance cameras and hidden microphones right?

Voice: You always talk until the subject is changed don't you?

Max: No way ... ah ... I can take my licks when I've got them coming but I always get the blame for what other people do. It was like this when I was a kid I always got in trouble for my brothers and sisters and...

Voice: You never did any of it. Right? That is your standard line.

Max: Ah, yeah.

Voice: You were the youngest of twelve and your dad ran off when you were five and then your mother was forced to work three jobs and died because of it when you were thirteen and you were forced to support the rest of your family because they were all no good, stay at home, get in trouble with the law, type folk. That's what you say next.

Max: You know?

Voice: Yes, I know that your mother and father are still both alive and still paying for your college education.

Max: If you're God and you're saying all this to me, how come you never spoke to me before? I mean, give me a break. I could have used some help along the way.

Voice: I have, you just didn't like what I was saying. You shut me off. Something you do too well with your wife and kids too.

Max: If you don't mind me saying, could you repeat what you said back then?

Voice: No.

Max: Don't be a spoil-sport. Man, I'm sorry OK? What did you say anyway?

Voice: No. I said no, Max, don't steal that candy from the store. I said no, Max, don't lie to the teacher. I said no, Max, don't hit the new kid. I said no, Max, don't race your parents car.

Max: You would have to bring that up. That old man had no business being in the crosswalk. The light was still yellow when I hit it.

Voice: And him.

Max: Things like that always happen to me. I don't get any of the breaks.

Voice: You got more breaks than Samuel Madison Johnson did.

Max: He was old anyway.

Voice: He was one of mine. He's up here now with me. You see he learned that if he responded to my "no's" that I had some "yes's" for him instead.

Max: There sure were a lot of people at his funeral. Court made me go. How come? He was just an old man.

Voice: He'd spent most of his life doing the "yes's". People respected, loved, admired, were grateful to and they had incredible memories with
(interrupted by Max)

Max: Stop it OK! It was bad enough at the funeral. I didn't sleep for weeks. I still have nightmares sometimes.

Voice: Life has been one regret after another for you hasn't it.

Max: No way, I've made my own little kingdom and it looks pretty good as far as the stockholders are concerned. Just yesterday, our stock split again.

Voice: Two marriages, three live-ins, four kids.

Max: Got you ... you're not God ... I've only got three kids!

Voice: Four ... Alicia didn't have the courage to tell you before she got the abortion. She was afraid of you. They all were. Robby.

Max: Wait a minute. Only my dad calls me that.

Voice: I'm your Father in Heaven. I care more for you than anyone. That's why I have said "no" to you when no one else would. That's why we've had this discussion. From now on I'm going back to basics. Once you've got that down the rest is easy in comparison. Until then you're breaking my heart with your choices and the people you're hurting not to mention all the "Yes's" that you're neglecting. Even if you never listen to me again I don't have a single regret about sending my son to die for you.

Max: That would be Jesus?

Voice: No Regrets.

Platform and possible applications

1. Have we responded to the "no of God?
2. Are we acting on the "yes"?
3. Is there a "no" we need to respond to?

Stewardship of the Dimes

Cast:

Small Boy or Girl looking up at the taller adult

**Implied Mother or Father*

"Mom? Mom? Mom? When I get my allowance this time can you give me the dollar in dimes?

** (child pauses to listen)*

Great!

** (child pauses to listen)*

Why? Well, then it makes it easier to figure it all out.

** (child pauses to listen)*

What all? Oh... Well, the tithe.

** (child pauses to listen)*

Where did I learn that word? Oh at church, you know where you drop me off most Sundays. Well, the dime is one tenth. Then I can give another dime for the orphans..

** (child pauses to listen)*

Yes, we adapted ... adopted ... anyway we are helping an orphan in our Sunday School Class. And then another two dimes for Joey at school.

** (child pauses to listen)*

No mom, he isn't beating me up. He can't afford lunch so some of us are chipping in and helping.

** (child pauses to listen)*

That still leaves me with six dimes. I'll save half that for Christmas presents, one dime for the building project and two dimes for candy.

** (child pauses to listen)*

I don't need much. You and dad take great care of me. Kinda like God takes care of you right?

** (child pauses to listen)*

I'm not worried.

* *(child pauses to listen)*

But mom, I figured it would be okay. Whenever you go to church with me, you always give lots of dimes and pennies and nickels and quarters.

You said it was a great place to get rid of all that loose change, weight, and noise.

Platform and possible applications

1. This fearless child puts his finances in Father God's hands. Have we?
2. He does take good care of us, have we responded in obedience to Him?

The Couch: Take One

Cast:

Psychiatrist

Patient

Setting: A psychiatrist's office, with one doctor and a patient, on the couch.

Doctor: Welcome to our Monday morning session. And how can I help you today?

Patient: Well doc, I was having dreams again last night. I could fly and so I headed over to where the tsunami disaster happened. It was awful. All the smells and the eyes of the people left behind. There was so much destruction!

Doctor: Did you help?

Patient: What?

Doctor: You're an EMT aren't you?

Patient: Yes, but I ... I've never seen anything like this ... it was gross and ... me help? I never thought of that. I guess I could have. But it was just a dream. Help, me?

Doctor: Next time you have a dream like that see what happens if you get involved ... interact ... it just might change your view of the experience. Now was there anything else?

Patient: Yes, it was awful. People kept coming up to me and asking for money and food and all kinds of things. I kept backing up but they kept coming. I tried to tell them I didn't have anything but they kept pointing to my pockets. And when I looked down they were bulging with coins and the coins were falling on to the ground. But I couldn't get away. I was backed into a corner somewhere ... and...

Doctor: *(Interrupts the patient)* Did you give them anything?

Patient: What!?

Doctor: Did you give them anything?

Patient: Doc, these are just dreams ... you don't interact with dreams ... that might make you crazy. I mean who goes off to help in a place that is so messed up and gives stuff to beggars and ...

Doctor: Jesus.

Patient: Doc, I've never known you to swear?

Doctor: No ... Jesus ... savior of the world ... Christmas guy ... you know. We go to the same church ... that Jesus.

Patient: Oh yeah ... but ... but ... I guess you're right. He did do all that ... but ... He is the savior ... the Son of God ... I'm just ... just me ... what could I do?

Doctor: Well, you could go ... I've seen some cheap tickets for those locations if you are going to do disaster relief and your skills could be a big help.

Patient: But doc ... if I leave, everything back here will fall apart ... my finances, my job, my ... everything.

Doctor: Will it? Don't you remember last week's sermon?

Patient: Wait a minute ... have you and the pastor been talking about me ... you're not supposed to talk about your patients ... are you?

Doctor: No, I haven't been talking to the pastor about you but I have been listening to what he's been saying. About our involvement in ministry. About taking our gifts and talents and using them for the Kingdom of God. As a matter of fact I won't be able to see you next Monday. I'm leaving this Friday for Thailand to work with the disaster victims. I think maybe I can help there.

Patient: Doc, nothing personal but maybe you need to be on the couch and I need to be talking to you. You can't leave me here, what will I do without you?

Doctor: Maybe you'll do what God wants and what He seems to be trying to get you to do ... get involved!

Platform and possible applications

1. Are we using our gifts and talents for His work?
2. What's holding us back?

The Couch: Take Two

Cast:

Psychiatrist

Patient

Setting: A psychiatrist's office, with one doctor and a patient on the couch.

Doctor: Welcome to our Monday morning session. And how can I help you today?

Patient: Well doc, I was having dreams again last night. I could fly and so I headed over to where the tsunami disaster happened.

Doctor: *(Shuddering)* Oh that must have been a nightmare!

Patient: Not really, I was there to help. Sure it was bad but I am pretty good with my hands and I was rebuilding homes, and helping with medical needs and ... *(Interrupted)*

Doctor: Now you must not indulge in these fantasies. You must learn to live in the real world. How can you survive if you are running off and saving the world? It's a good thing we have this session on Mondays. I don't know what you would do if I couldn't bring you back to earth.

Patient: But that's not all. I was giving money away too. Whenever something stopped because they ran out of money, I would just reach in my pocket and pull something out.

Doctor: A regular cornucopia of finances. What did you eat on Sunday night? Your imagination is especially active this week isn't it? What about your home, your kids, your car payments? If you really left all this behind it would fall apart without you. You know that don't you!?

Patient: But doc I don't know ... about these dreams. I mean ... I enjoy them. I wake up feeling energized and happy and like maybe I have a reason for being here and...

Doctor: *(Interrupts the patient)* Let's talk about the real world okay? First you need to work here in Seattle (or your town) to support your family and pay me on a regular basis. My fees add up to almost three hundred dollars a

month you know and without me how could you stay balanced and healthy. You would end up quite crazy with all these dreams and ideas.

Patient: But doc, like I said I feel good after these and dreams. As a matter of fact, I was checking on the internet this morning and they have disaster relief tickets for almost nothing if you are going over there and I have plenty of time I could take off and ...

Doctor: Stop right there! I have a prescription that you need to get on right away. You can't drive when you take it but the side effects aren't too bad, a little drooling, a distant stare, but you won't do anything stupid ... anything at all for that matter. And I can promise you that you will feel very good, quite good, almost illegal good.

Patient: Doc ... gee I guess you are right ... you are the trained professional ... boy am I glad I have you to come to on Monday mornings ... somehow ... ever since I started to go to church and began following Christ I just have these urges ... crazy ones I guess ... to make a difference ... that I really could be a part of the solution

Doctor: Yes, that's a common problem with the church crowd ... but for those who come to me I can make sure they never act out any of that deviant behavior and end up ruining life as we now know it.

Patient: Thanks doc ... see you next week.

Doctor: Yes, just check-in with the receptionist and she will schedule your next appointment. Take this prescription and get it filled right away! Don't miss a single dose of this or all this craziness may just come back. *(Checks the notepad ... then looks at audience)* Oh ... do you have some crazy ideas floating around in your head that I can take care of too?

Platform and possible applications

1. Are we living His dream for us or drugged by society's carrot in front of us?
2. Have we written off His ideas as crazy?

Mowing the Lawn

This common occurrence ends with some not so common results.

Cast:

Grateful Neighbor (GN)

Ungrateful-Hateful Neighbor (UGN)

Neglectful Neighbor (NN)

Careless Neighbor (CN)-lawn mower throws rocks and he doesn't care

Environmentally Conscious Neighbor (ECN)

GN: *(Singing out loud)* Oh what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day, I've got a wonderfully feeling, everything's going my way! Boy, what a day to be outside and get this job done. *(freeze)*

UGN: I can't believe how fast this green stuff grows, someday I'll just pour some gas on it and pave and paint it. Done with it once and for all. *(freeze)*

NN: Looks like it might rain out there. I'd better stay in here and check the weather report to see if it is a good day to do something else, like check out the newest fantasy football stats. *(freeze)*

CN: Okay you little mole hill, you are going down, rocks and dirt flying everywhere and no more molehill!!!!!!! *(freeze)*

ECN: Look at those gas-guzzling, ozone-killing, capitalist pigs. No wonder the world is going to die within the decade. *(freeze)*

(CRASH ... as a rock hits GN's front window and turns it into a pile of glass shards)

GN: Is everyone okay? Anyone hurt? Good ... that was close. What was it? Was it a shot or ... *(as he sees the CN neighbor hitting another molehill and ducks to avoid the new rocks that are flying)* *(freeze)*

UGN: 911? Hello, we're being attacked by aliens, send your SWAT teams to 6666 Dark Angel Lane ... yes ... yes ... they're ... they're ... well I haven't actually seen one but they are firing energy photons ... yes, there are dead bodies all over the place ... yes ... no! *(freeze)*

(NN yawns and falls asleep) *(freeze)*

CN: Seven down only three to go ... death to the moles and all rodents of the ground ... die, die, die. *(freeze)*

ECN: There you go you gas guzzling pigs that serves you right for using the personal pollution machines when one of these would do just fine.
(freeze)

GN: *(dodging rocks he approaches the CN Hello neighbor)* I was wondering if I could have a quick word with you. *(freeze)*

UGN: No I'm not crazy ... look you ... oh never mind ... I'll go deal with them myself ... go eat your doughnuts or whatever it is you do to kill off the taxpayer's time. *(as he heads towards the now gathering group) (freeze)*

(NN yawn and makes noises about eating something good in his sleep.)

CN: What ... oh yes what can I do for you? My name's _____ *(reaches out to shake hands) (freeze)*

ECN: Now's my chance to go talk to at least two of them about their evil environmentally practices. I'll show them the error of their ways. *(freeze)*

GN: Good to meet you, my name is _____ Hey, I couldn't help but notice that your lawnmower has a mean fast ball. And like some pitchers not too much control.

CN: What?

GN: My window over there was hit by a rock from your mower.

ECN: I hope your all happy about the destruction and animosity that your weekly exercise in vegetation minimalisticism has caused. You know that this is just the tip of your environmentally wrecking iceberg lifestyles!

CN: What?

GN: What?

ECN: Well, aren't you going to beat him to a pulp or throw the rock through his window or spit and swear or something?

GN: Why?

ECN: What?

CN: Thanks!

GN: You're welcome. Just be a little more careful when you hit the mole hills, then we don't have to worry about making mountains out of them and the problems they can generate.

ECN: That's it? No savagery, no violence, no ...

GN: Are you okay? You're awful upset about something?

ECN: It's you and your kind ... I'm mowing my lawn with an old fashioned non-polluting mower to save the planet and preserve the future for our children.

GN: Thanks.

ECN: What?

GN: I appreciate the effort and thought behind your actions. Obviously you think about why you do what you do. That's good. Life isn't going to be random for you. You will try to accomplish something with your time here.

CN: Nice to meet you but I do have to get back to this. You sure you don't need anything for the window?

GN: Nope, that's why I have insurance. *(As he and ECN walk away).*

ECN: But why do you use a gas powered lawn mower?

GN: Well I'm on a mission too. Only my mission involves the people that live on planet earth. If I can save time doing things like mowing my lawn with power then I have more time to spend with the people who seem to need help.

ECN: Sure people are important but "no planet and no people."

GN: Right but I figure that people who know they are loved and have found healing and purpose in life can change to help the total environment around them, the people and the planet.

ECN: True but it's critical ...

GN: But you have to have an audience with people before they'll listen to you. It's the old "they don't care how much you know until they know how much you care" kinda thing.

ECN: So what do you do anyway?

GN: I'm a youth pastor. Helping teens make it through some of the toughest years of their lives.

ECN: Those were tough years. I got my cause back then but also the fire of anger inside from back then. I'm motivated by anger in almost everything I do.

GN: That could change

ECN: Really?



Platform and possible applications

1. Share a simple Gospel Message
2. Talk about learning to deal with your anger
- 3 Ask what motivates them, and is it a Godly motivation or reaction to something from the past.



Drama Volume Seven

Scenarios and Large Productions

Mark Schaufler with MST Ministries

P.O. Box 8490 Lacey WA 98509

360-456-5624

Email Mark@mstgo.com

Website www.mstgo.com

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New International Version

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ISBN # 1-886904-62-6

UTILIZING SCENARIOS

There are fifteen drama scenarios in this volume. Drama scenarios do not write out specific lines but give theme, blocking, and direction for a drama making them different from standard drama.

Why utilize a drama scenario?

- They allow you to flex in the number of participants you involve
- You can utilize and develop different skill levels
- Without memorization of specific lines, they can be faster to learn
- Encourages your team to improvise and think on their feet
- They can be modified to fit a particular situation and/or setting
- They can be wordless to work in other languages/cultures

How to practice for drama scenario?

- Read through the scenario and discuss the setting and the end goal of the drama. If you need to modify it for your situation, do so now
- Identify which of your team members are going to play characters (or groups of characters)
- Do a general blocking and walk through, discussing where people will come in and where they will do their specific actions
- Help your team members in what they will say and what their character's actions need to portray (if you will be doing this wordless, make sure movements work in whatever culture you are doing this in)
- Record your lines somewhere if you create some good ones so they aren't forgotten by the next practice
- Continue to walk through drama, modifying as needed
- All actions and/or words need to help move the drama to its conclusion. Beware of needless words and movements

THE MONEY MATADOR

Scene resembles a bull fight. Person comes out like a matador and waves to the crowd. Announcer ask for applause. Matador bows to the crowd. His cape is a strange one. It is green instead of red and he doesn't have a sword. Instead he has what appears to be a giant money sign (\$) with two bars going down the middle.

A person comes into the setting and waves to the crowd and acts quite human until they see the green cape and money sign. Then they change and begin to act very bullish. Kicking at the ground with their feet they begin to make passes at the cape and dollars sign. They miss a number of times until they become exhausted.

Now it is time for the final kill. The matador approaches carefully and thrust the \$ sign on the person. It becomes like a jail bars to them as their head sticks out from between them. The crowd goes wild and then the matador takes off his hat and his mask to reveal the fact that he is the devil.

You now have a platform to share from Matthew 6:33 and the surrounding verses that speak about those who eagerly run after all these things and the traps that we open ourselves up to when we do

Minimum Characters: 3: announcer, matador w/ cape, person

Prop Ideas: Green fabric cut in shape of cape with dollar sign cut out of cardboard or stiffened fabric. Holes in dollar sign need to be big enough to fit over the head of the person. Dollar sign could be velcroed onto the cape or just held along with the cape by the matador. Matador could wear 2 masks that fit together, the inner one black or red and the outer one flesh colored. You could also put some face paint on and then put a flesh-colored mask over it.

MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS

Game show called “You see it you can get it” is played by several contestants at the same time. They start on four corners of the play area (Roped off or designated by a taped off area) and at the command start to run after all the things that are in the official area.

Jesus is also in the center and he is offering a Cross of substantial size to the contestants. He is ignored as they pick up car keys, house keys, boats, clothing, kids, awards, etc.

At first the contestant seem to grow in joy as they find a new thing. Initially there are lots of things so there is no competition between everyone but as the volume is reduced they begin to fight over them and drop things and scramble to get what others have dropped.

Jesus has enough crosses for everyone but no one is taking Him up on it. After all they would have to put everything down to take the cross. One person even tries to take the cross and add it to their pile but drops everything and gets mad at the cross and kicks it away as they scramble to reclaim their prizes. Meanwhile the talk show host is counting down the time they have left (The original start was seventy two seconds normal life in years).

Soon, no one is happy only burdened by the things they have and getting more frustrated by the minute for those they can’t seem to attain. Always some things are dropping through their fingers. Finally, one contestant drops all their stuff at Jesus’ feet and picks up the cross.

They are amazed at how light it is and start to show signs of joy and laughter. Soon the others notice and look at the cross and the stuff they have. You can tell they are struggling but don’t seem to want to decide. Meanwhile, the game show host is still counting down. In theory, they still have more time so they go back to the collecting while the joyful cross carrier tries to show them the virtues of the cross instead of all the stuff. But they keep pointing to the clock and how much time is left.

The clock goes to zero. The game is over and the host comes over and takes it all away from the contestants and reveals his true self-the devil.

You now have a platform to share about the trap of life and the truth of life with this powerful illustration from Matthew 6:31-34, “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For

the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of it's own."

Minimum characters: Jesus, Game show host, 3-5 game show contestants

Props: Large Clock; Items representative of cars, boats, jewelry, etc.; Large cross made from cardboard, or wood, or plastic piping.

Blocking Ideas: Set up as a game show

THE HAVE'S AND THE HAVE NOT'S

The rich are parading their wealth and ignoring the other poor people around them. Soon the poor beg but are ignored and refused. They ask to work. No response from the wealthy.

Finally one half of the poor, plan and execute a revolt against the wealthy. They fight and chase them off putting on their discarded symbols of wealth. They rejoice among themselves.

Then the other remaining poor come up to them and beg. They are ignored by the new rich. They beg and are ignored. They ask for work but are ignored. They plan a revolt and repeat what happened the first time.

You now have a platform. When will it stop? Only when Jesus is the Lord of the people of the earth and they follow His ways. Matthew 5:42 "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Characters: Rich people with symbols of their wealth, poor people looking obviously poor

FAMILY DESIRES VERSUS REALITY

The “perfect family” appears for a family portrait with a photographer. He positions them (a bit slapstick in action). They are about ready for the picture when the last child stumbles in all a mess.

The perfect shoot is prevented and then the family must try to fit the odd one in. At this point things begin to unravel. The harmony of the group is gone very quickly. It begins to look like chaos until the photographer remembers something.

He talks to the family and when they agree they pray and then Jesus arrives on the scene. The photographer puts Jesus into the center of the picture and then it is ready for the perfect photo—a real happy family. At the flash you have your platform.

Your platform is set to discuss the family issues that are important to your setting and message.

Characters: Family 4+ people, one child looks obviously out of place, messy and the rest are all tidy; Jesus, Photographer

Props: Camera

ANOREXIA AND BULIMIA

Several people are lined up. More girls than guys. They are a very nervous group. Soon two people come along with measuring tapes and a note pad. They begin to measure the people (*guys with guys and gals with gals*) just like a tailor would for a custom made outfit.

After each measuring session those with the tape act like those measured are no good, faulty. Those measured are discouraged, disgusted and dejected. The tailors walk off after the last person shaking their heads and pointing back at the lineup.

The line begins to feverishly exercise, take pills and force vomiting. About a third of the people do each activity. After a fifteen feverish seconds the tailors come back.

They measure everyone again but with the same results-no one measures up to their standard. So they leave again. This time those in the line trade activities and try those things that the others did. Again, fifteen seconds of activity is done before the tailors come back.

Once again the tailors go to work on the hopeful line up. But they all fail again. Now as the tailors walk off, the lineup tries the only activity they haven't done yet. Fifteen seconds of activity follows. Now they are exhausted.

Our tailors come back. But people in the line are collapsing all around them and dying. Only one person remains and the tailors go through their ritual again with them.

The remaining person fails again. So he/she pulls out a gun and shoot themselves. Then the tailors do a little jig and celebrate over the corpses. They take off their masks to reveal the real devils that they are.

You now have a platform to share the trap that awaits those who let the world set their standards for them from John 8:44, "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

LOOKING GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE

Happy Harry and Smiling Sally enter. It is an award ceremony and they wave to the crowd as the envelope is opened. They are the winners. Applause erupts and they face the crowd waving.

But Harry notices a tear coming out from under Sally's mask. So he hurries her away where they think they are alone. He removes her mask and reveals a very sad face. He takes his off too. He is just as sad.

A smiling Christian comes along. They hurriedly put their masks on and face the Christian. Christian notices and comes towards them with concern. Christian offers them a tract but they show their awards instead and refuse the materials. He is shooed off but as he leaves, looks back, and then drops to his knees and begins to pray.

Harry and Sally drop their masks and awards again. Christian sees them and comes back before they can put their masks back on. He offers them the tract again. This time they touch Christian's face and try to take it off (after all it must be a mask). When they realize it is real; they take the materials.

Your platform now exists share the Gospel from Mark 8:36, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

Characters: Harry, Sally, Crowd, Christian

Props: Envelope, Masks for Harry and Sally (you could pantomime having a mask on instead), Tract

EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY

Eat, drink and be merry becomes a chant that is repeated by all in the drama. It starts with just one but soon all are doing it and getting real musical with it. Harmony and verbal music starts to spring up everywhere but all around the *(you will need one to lead this and the others to work off of their lead)* chant.

Others are attracted to the event. The second group comes up and wants into the merry making. They have to get someone's attention before they can come in. Once they do one by one they enter the merry making. Only as one comes in another is neglected and begins to feel ill and stumbles out of the merry making. Those that stumble out sit down looking worse all the time and finally die.

Then medics come out while the merry making and dying are happening simultaneously all around them. They try to revive people but don't have any success. Finally they hear the chant and then one of them runs to his medic kit and digs out the Bible. He then jumps out and blurts out the rest of the verse, "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame." I Corinthians 15:33-34

Your platform is now set. How many happy party people will die this weekend as they drunkenly drive their way home. When they die will they have had a chance to hear the Gospel before they face the judgment? Are they ignorant because we have not spoken to them?

Characters: Group of party-people, medics

Props: Bible, optional –medic kit

THE MOLD MAKERS

Several people come out talking among themselves. They are all very different but all are a part of a mutual admiration club and seem relaxed and having fun.

Then some very identical people come out. They are dressed the same (*including a mask*) and have the same mannerisms in speech and their motions. They are stiff and awkward in contrast to the other group.

The awkward group surrounds the others and begins to make fun of them. They don't stop until all of the original group have taken the look of the awkward group. (*masks are provided by the original awkward group*)

Now the whole group is one tight, awkward and identical group. Then Jesus arrives. He is alive and in stark contrast to everyone else. They try to make fun of Him and get Him to conform to them but He just smiles and continues to try to get their attention.

They give up on Him but He gets the attention of one of the clones. He puts His hands on their shoulders and talks to them face to face. Obviously they are nervous. Meanwhile the others are making fun of the two. But with them watching Jesus reaches over and takes the mask off the clone.

The others run and hide (*as well as awkward stiff people can*) at this. The exposed clone takes off their uniform and hands it to Jesus. He gives all of his cloned characteristics to Jesus. Now the two of them go towards the pack. They find that most of them avoid them but a few convert as well.

Now the others start to work together and plot against Jesus. They keep talking to one of the recent converts and offering Him money. Meanwhile Jesus is teaching His converts. With the deal made they approach Jesus and capture Him. It is obvious that He lets them. They take Him to a short mock court and point fingers and then carry Him out to be crucified.

The clones mock Jesus. He dies. His people are sad. He is lowered from the cross and covered with a sheet. In about ten seconds someone counts out very loud, 1-2-3. Jesus comes alive and folds the sheet while His people rejoice and the clones stand in bewilderment.

Jesus offers Himself to the clones who run off. His people gather around and He embraces them. Now He turns to the audience. There is a plant in the audience who has the mask on and the awkward people's dress. He points to the plant and the plant comes out and faces Jesus. He starts to pull off the mask and

freezes right there.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel.

Characters: 3-7 people acting as 7 year old children, another group of children that act identical in actions-can wear masks to emphasize sameness, if you use masks have enough for the original group to make them conform. Jesus, audience plant

JESUS CLEANS COMPLETELY

Person wakes up with a yawn and ringing alarm clock. He is dressed in white (*with lots of white Velcro on it*). He quickly combs his hair and washes and is ready for the day.

As soon as he heads out he bumps into someone and they get in a verbal fight and he hits other person (*as soon as he does a black spot appears-it has been placed there on the Velcro during the fight*).

Now as others walk by, they make fun of the spot (*while they try to cover their own black spots on their white shirts*). Soon he is rude to some of them and another black spot appears. Now panic sets in and the person goes ballistic. He is yelling and pointing and spots are appearing all over.

Jesus walks into the situation. He has a large paint brush that is cover in red paint (*blood red and dried but not looking dried*). He offers to paint the spot covered person. Initially he resists but Jesus is persistent and loving. Finally he sees no other way and lets Jesus brush the first spot. It comes off. Then he opens up and offers them all to Him. As He finishes the last spot He turns to the audience and points the brush at them.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel from Hebrews 9:14, “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

Character: Person , group, Jesus

Props: White shirt with velcro dots on it to grab black spots, black spots with matching velcro, large paint brush with glossy red paint on it

VOICES OF LIFE

One person is in the middle of four others who are yelling at them to do things and tugging on a rope that is attached to their hat. When they pull and yell they do it. Outside the circle is Jesus and He is talking to the person in a normal voice.

The person in the middle is getting more frantic and panicked all the time. Jesus continues to talk and then is able to send one of His people into the whole madness with a written message. As soon as the person with the hat gets it they start to read it. At that point everyone else is silent and freezes.

But the note is rejected and the torture starts all over again. Once again the messenger comes in with the same message. Again everyone freezes and the message is read. This time the person ponders the message and then one by one reels in the torturers and ties them up with the rope that had been used to pull him all over the place.

Now without strings they pick up the message that set them free and reads it to the crowd.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel about the great exchange of one tortured life for a real one from Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Characters: 5 people, Jesus, and one or more of Jesus' assistants

Props: 4 ropes attached to a hat long enough to tie up 4 people

WHY AM I HERE?

"Hi my name is Mike!" (Jesus is following Mike and tapping on his shoulder-He tries to tap on everyone's shoulder regularly-but is ignored)

"Me too!" (as many people as you have they all have the same name)

"Me too!"

(Original Mike is frustrated over that)

People get in a line to pick teams. They pick all the way down to the original Mike. Now they fight about who has to take Mike. Finally one relents and takes him.

Now with teams picked Mike tries to give advice but is totally ignored. He is persistent and finally everyone stops to listen to Him. They all laugh and point at him.

Mike is now panicked and frustrated and runs and yells at the audience

WHY!?

WHY AM I HERE?!

WHAT'S THE POINT?!

Dejected he finally notices Jesus tapping him on the shoulder. Initially he is surprised and shocked. Jesus motions for him to follow. Mike doubts and keeps looking around to see if Jesus is motioning to someone else. But he realizes that Jesus is really motioning to him.

As he follows Jesus he helps with several tasks.

1-Helps an old lady with a heavy bag.

2-Helps a kid tie his shoe.

3-Is a peacemaker for two fighting.

4-Picks up something for someone who drops an important paper.

Then Jesus turns to the audience.

WHY?!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

WHAT'S THE POINT?!

You now have a platform to share the Gospel from Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Characters: Original Mike, other people named Mike, Jesus, others to act out tasks with Jesus ie. old lady, kid, 2 fighting

JESUS THE DOOR

There is an imaginary wall that everyone is trying to get past. Some are looking for a crack to pull on. Others are running towards it and smashing into it. Others are trying to hoist someone over the top (the whole time there is a music sound track with a frenzied pace as well as a faint knocking in the background). Others are begging at the wall. Some are giving money. Others are beating themselves. Some have a pious look-like they are waiting for something. Some are threatening and angry.

On the other side of the imaginary wall is Jesus. He is knocking but is unseen by everyone else. Finally in exhaustion and frustration they collapse all around in front of the wall.

At that point the music fades and the knocking becomes more pronounced. Soon one of the exhausted gets up and begins to look around for the source of the sound. He eventually finds it and listens just on the other side of the wall where Jesus is knocking. He feels around and there is a handle that he opens and sees Jesus face to face.

He is startled and closes the door on Jesus and walks away stunned. Others get up to see why he is stunned. He points to the door (*Jesus is back to knocking*). They go over and search for and find the handle too. Slowly and cautiously they open the door. Jesus is there and they all close it and stand next to the originally stunned person.

Jesus continues to knock. They choose by the rock-paper-scissors method and one is selected. Reluctantly they go to the door again and open it. Jesus holds His hand out to take them in to the other side of the door. At Christ's touch the person falls to the ground in shame.

Jesus points to the cross on His chest and has the person rise and they walk through to the other side. There is a transformation of the person and he gets a new white shirt. He is happy. Now he asks if he can go out to where the others are. Jesus agrees and follows him to the door where He starts to knock again.

Now the person in white goes out to the others. Initially they crowd around and admire the white. But then as the person keeps pointing to the door and asks them to listen to the sound he starts to get a variety of reactions from people.

Some go back to trying to get through the wall another way. Others just sit down and give up. But the one in white goes to the door and opens it and

calls to all to come over and go through. They ignore him. Now he turns to the audience and points to the door.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel using Revelation 3:20 as your text. "Here I am! I stand as the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Characters: group of people, Jesus wearing a shirt with a cross painted on it

Note: this could be a speaking or pantomime drama

JESUS UNDERSTANDS

This is a parallel screen activity where one side shows contemporary people going through tough times and Jesus in a similar activity. The point is that Jesus understands. Contemporary scene is acted out while the Jesus scene is read from the scriptures and acted out.

Scene one-Kid being beat by bullies. Matthew 27:27-31

Scene two-Man and woman are divorcing with one in total innocence of the other's actions. Luke 22:1-6

Scene three-Man being tempted to steal something to eat. Matthew 4:1-4

Scene four-Funeral scene with graveside criers. \ John 11:17-36

Scene five-Someone is robbed and angry at what happened. Mark 3:1-5

The robbed person then stands out from the group and addresses the crowd. Pointing to Jesus he says, "Jesus really does understand."

You now have a platform to share the Gospel from Hebrews 4:14-15, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."

Characters: Enough people to act out the 2 sides; people can do more than one scene by heading to back of stage with their back to the audience and then turning around and coming out as a new character.

THE SCALE

(In the back ground is a scale with a white bucket on one end and a black one on the other side.) At the start of the music a frenzied person tries to fill the white bucket by doing good things. He helps people in a variety of ways. They also go to a statue of Christ and beg for mercy. Each time they do the white masked judge hands them an object and tells them which bucket to put it in.

Unfortunately for the person, they mess up too as they are trying to do good. One time he gets upset with someone and had to put something in the black bucket. Another time he looked lustfully at someone. He is under the pressure of the scales and it is showing in his life. He isn't happy or rested or anything.

Then a Christian comes along. The person tries to help them but the Christian instead tries to point them to the statue of Christ. First they are happy to go to the statue but then the Christian goes over and starts to get rid of the scales. The panicky person and the judge stop him.

The Christian tries to explain it to them again by taking them to the cross statue and then trying to remove the scales. This time the person and judge are quite angry and beat them and chase them off.

The judge and the person embrace but as they are doing that the statue comes to life and goes over and takes the buckets off the scales. At this point the white masked judge gets very angry and goes wild with rage at Jesus. In fact, he nails Christ to the scale-now looking more like a cross without the buckets. Then he faces the audience and pulls off the white mask to reveal the devil that he is.

The wounded Christian comes back and points to the cross again and the now revealed Devil to the person. The person finally understands and pushes the Devil out of the way and kneels before Jesus.

You now have a platform to share the Gospel based on Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

THE TIGHT WIRE

Jesus comes to the crowd and calls out for people to follow Him. There is mixed reactions but one does decide to follow. As soon as Jesus turns to go the rope crew runs up and shows the one follower what they must do with the rope. *You need a rope about 15 feet long.* The two deceivers work the rope by blindfolding the person and then promising to help them. *(the person must walk it like a tightrope)*

But they don't help, they deceive. Instead of helping them they get on either side (person puts their hands on their shoulders) and as the person walks the deceivers get shorter and shorter making the person think they are high on a tight-wire.

The walker gets nervous and starts to panic. Meanwhile, Jesus comes back and tries to get their attention. But they are so stressed they don't respond to Jesus. Finally Jesus takes the blindfolds off. The rope-walker is shocked and upset and runs off the deceivers. Then he returns to Jesus where Jesus embraces him and picks up the rope. He takes the rope and cuts it in half and turns it into a path with the rope showing both sides with it.

Then Jesus turns to the audience for a response.

Characters: Jesus, follower, 2 people for rope crew

Props: 15 foot rope

PHIL GRIMMS PROGRESS

Pilgrim's Progress is a classic by John Bunyan on spiritual growth for a Christian. This is an abridged modern version.

Band Member-

Band member-

Evan G. List (EL)-

Phil Grimm (PG)-

GT. Hope (GT)-

Street People-

Jesus-

Bag Lady-

Roscoe-

Technology-[stuff they do] a host of voices and effects

Many voices and effects can be made through tape recordings, cellular phones, pagers, etc. The sin bags on the backs of the people (everyone wears one until they take an honesty walk) will be soft pack back packs filled with balloons or other non-weight articles and then be used for transporting the props when the time comes to travel with them. Concept is similar to Pilgrims Progress but with a contemporary twist and needed message.

SCENE ONE

((&^%&%^\$^#^%\$^#@\$%\$#! Raucous music) (Band finished the last 7 seconds of the latest album)*

PG: Awesome"

[that's a take ... platinum baby here we come]

(band members move off in musician cool strut mode) I'm out of here.

EL: Hi

PG: *(a bit spooked)* Whoa, who are you ... how did you get in here? Look no autographs or dates ok? I'm out of here *(looking at EL a bit strange)* .

EL: No problem, ... don't want anything ... here ... consider it a gift ... to help you celebrate your album

PG: Yes thanks ... what is it?

EL: It's the book.

(PG looks at it)

EL: You can read can't you?

PG: yeah, sure ... do you have it on disk? I usually listen um ... don't read much.

EL: Congratulations

PG: Sure, ... Hey, I got to go

EL: Me too, bye!

EL Leaves and PG drifts off looking at the book

SCENE TWO

(*&^%^^%\$%\$^\$%#@%) (last 3 seconds of song Music ends)

(Band members begin to leave shaking their heads)

“you call that music ... don't come back to this studio”

PG: What's the deal ... sure it's a little different style hey get back here ... ok well, I'll just go solo then ... who needs you anyway

EL: Liked the song

PG: (Turning around) Yeah, well, you're the only one it seems

EL: Been reading the book haven't you?

PG: Yeah ... It's weird ... it keeps talking about me ... kind a like it knows me or something

EL: Does that to anyone who reads it honestly

PG: So what do you want now ... already ruined my career every babe in my black book is changing her number ... isn't a dealer in town trusts me anymore ... can't sleep either

EL: Don't want anything from you, I want to give you something

PG: Look after this book thing no thanks, besides I used to have everything (looking around) you could want.

EL: Everything you knew about anyway

PG: Ok, so what's the offer

EL: Everything you have for the book

PG: Everything?

EL: Yeah, its an "all" kind of thing ... everything for everything ... that's the only way it fits in your life.

PG: Look, just suppose I was interested, what would I have to do?

EL: Go on an honesty walk

PG: Puke ... no way ... twisted ... psycho

EL: Know anyone who takes them?

PG: ... no

EL: Then where are you getting your information?

PG: you know ... net surfing ... channel bopping, ... paper

EL: Well, if you change your mind, I'll be around for a while, ... bye

PG: How do I get a hold of you ?

EL: Number's in the book

PG: right, ok ... *presses a button to start the tape* ... Man, am I a mess... *song starts to play*

"And it's hard to write a love song
when there's no love within,
you start to write the words down,
then you stop and start, again (chorus)
I wondered why it was this way,
and then I looked around,
I saw the way I lived my life
and it really, let me down. (Chorus)

Now I'm disillusioned,
I wonder where to turn,
I look at all the smileless faces,
and deep inside it burns,
deep inside it burns. (Chorus)

Sorry but the song is over ,
no happy endings here,
I'll have to quit the singing now
before it turns to tears bummer"

SCENE THREE

PG: *(on the phone)* Look, Marco, this stuff is hot millions of people must feel the same way I do ... man it will sell ... this could be the third platinum baby ... oh yea ... well remember I've got a contract ... what do you mean "had" a contract ... there was no way you could cut me out other than ok fine ... I don't need you anyway I'm going solo ... man!!!

EL: Hi

PG: You, again ... Look, my life is a mess ... I'm going to starve on a street somewhere playing for handouts ... talk to me then ... ok?!

EL: Been reading the book again haven't you?

PG: Look, enough on this book already ... and besides I finally figured out what's so weird about you ... you don't have one of *(pointing to the pack on his back)* these ... You're a freak

EL: No, I take an honest walk everyday

PG: Sure ... ok ... so what do you do on an honest walk?

EL: You're honest and you meet my boss ... he's awesome ... he would ... he did die for me

PG: Look, I'm not going to go view some corpse

EL: Oh, he's not dead ... you want to go?

PG: No...I can still make it... I don't need any one else in my life right now ... later

EL: OK ... Later *(EL starts to go)*

PG: I'm gonna just pretend that I never saw you or read that book

EL: Then you'll have to pretend for the rest of your life, on the outside nobody will know, but on the inside you'll die a slow death

PG: Wait up

SCENE FOUR

PG: So what's it going to be like ... I mean ... I don't have a clue ... never been on one, ...don't know anyone who has

EL: Well, the first one is the hardest it's hard enough to be honest about today but the first time you have to deal with yesterday ... You're gonna hear voices from the past and..

PG: *(Stops and stares)* come on

PG: You have no idea what you just said .. my past is ... I'm even ashamed of it and I don't blush ... Hey, maybe this isn't for me after all ... it would be ok if we started fresh ... you know like just dealing with today or something ... my past *(slowly starts to follow again)*

EL: Well, if you don't deal with your past you're always going to run into it ... it's like dragging a dead dog around.

PG: Really? ... Man, I'd look like ...a dog pound on death day.

EL: Ok, here we are.

PG: Man, it's too short I can't get through

EL: I know ... you get down on your knees then you fit ... follow me.

PG: OK Here goes

SCENE FIVE

[voice one female] "Philip James Grimm where is the grocery money you should have had over five dollars in change you lied to me again ... what did you do to your little brother ... who broke the vase ... somebody's been in the liquor cabinet ... I'm gonna beat you within an inch of your life for that comment ..."

PG: Mom?

EL: Phil ... you've got to be honest

PG: Mom, it was me ... I lied all the time to you ... I told everyone I had you wrapped around my little finger ... Mom, I did a whole lot more that nobody ever found out about too ... remember the flat tires, I told you it was the gang dudes ... well I just didn't want to go to practice that day ... remember the time you were so sick? I put something in your pills ... I was so mad at you for not letting me go out the night before ... Mom I was an ungrateful jerk ... *starts to get soft* ... sorry mom

EL: Hurts doesn't it?

PG: I haven't thought about being a kid for a long time ... it was a pretty rotten deal so I've tried to live too fast to let it catch up ...

EL: Can't do it, can you?

PG: No ... are we done?

EL: What do you think?

PG: No ... not even close"

[voice two female] "PG ... PG, baby ... where are you going ... you know I need some help with the baby tonight ... You're not going to be gone long are you?"

PG: Rose is that you? ... I'm sorry baby ... I just didn't know what to do with you and a baby ... I had feelings but I couldn't let em show ... if I had you would have hurt me ... probably like I hurt you ... I heard you gave the kid up for adoption ... heard you killed yourself ... is that true ... oh baby I'm sorry ...

[voice three male] PG you pig ... I finally found you and now I'm goin leave you lookin like roadkill ... You're slime man ... how could you mess your best friend ... I was your keyboard man .. remember ... we wrote that first song that hit the charts ... then you gave me some bad stuff ... three years I

spent in a padded room screaming at the lizards on the walls and the bats in the air ... You're worse than slime man

PG: Ivory? ... dude ... I got no excuse ... You're right, I am slime ... Evan ... I don't know if I can go on ... this is bad and it isn't going to get any better

EL: We could stop ... but you've already taken some tough steps ... and you'll miss my boss ... he's at the end of the walk

PG: Ok ... let's keep going

[voice four male] Phil ... this is coach Williams ... you lied, Phil ... I would have understood ... you didn't have to lie to me

PG: Sorry coach ... I didn't trust you ... man this is tough ... boy was I a jerk ... I'm still a jerk

[voice five male child] mister ... can I have my ball back ... I'm sorry it landed in your yard ... please don't yell ... it's my brothers ball ... please mister

PG (*starts to cry*)

EL: It isn't much farther

PG: thanks ... I don't have much left

EL: Good ... remember it's an “all” thing ... you don't need to keep anything

Jesus: alias Jay- EL and PG !

EL: Boss!

PG: Who's that?

EL: It's my boss, Jay

PG: Oh ... hi

Jay: Welcome ... ready for a trade ... everything for everything ... it's an all kinda thing

PG: That is the same thing EL said ... besides I don't ... I can't I OK.

SCENE SIX

PG: No!!!! I mean yes It's gone the beast on my back is gone I'm like you now Evan I'm like you now!!!

Jay: You're right ... and as long as you take an honesty walk everyday and carry out my orders you will always live your life without the hunch on your back.

EL: Way to go, Phil ... see why it was worth it for me to talk to you all these times?

PG: You're right, ... hey I've got to go tell my buddies ... they need to know about this ... Jay you're an alright kinda guy!"

EL: Yes, you do need to go tell your friends ... but before you do let me give you some advice ... they may not listen to you ... remember the way you responded to me?

PG: Yeah, I guess you're right but then what do I do?

Jay: That's my job, PG, when you gave me everything in trade I take that very seriously ... so here is your first task from me ... read the book ... read and apply it ... it's an instruction manual ... didn't seem to help much before because you didn't have space in your life ... and take an honesty walk everyday ... got it?"

PG: You bet man this is awesome (*looking for the lump on his back*) this isn't a dream is it?

SCENE SEVEN

EL: There you are PG

PG: Oh ... It's you ... EL ... I feel miserable ... what happened ... I mean the way I felt when I first met Jay ... It must have been a dream ... EL maybe this isn't for me

EL: PG missed you ... haven't taken an honest walk since the first one have you?

PG: Well ... no ... I kept trying to talk to my friends and work out this recording contract thing and tell all my old cronies and ...

EL: PG, what did Jay say?

PG: Well, he said it might be kind of tough to talk to them that they might not respond and that I should read the book apply it and take an honesty walk and get my orders from Jay I guess I know I didn't do that.

EL: That's why you feel so bad man. Look at your pockets. They are brimmed with junk all that stuff digs into your side and makes like tough ... that's why the honest walk and the instructions from Jay ... you would have had a whole different week if you had"

PG: But well ok ... You're probably right ... you were before ... I have no reason to doubt you man ... I'm sorry but what about Jay ... what will he say to me?

EL: You need to go and find out ... don't you?

SCENE EIGHT

PG –Jay? ... Look, I'm really sorry, ... I'm not used to following someone else's instructions you know ... I'm a big star was a big star ... anyway ... EL was right ... I feel a lot better after the honesty walk I didn't realize I could put so much garbage in my pockets in such a short amount of time Hey, I really am sorry.

Jay: It's good to see you again Phil, missed you this last week

PG: Like I said, I was sorry ... please don't grind it in.

Jay: I'm not grinding it in ... you need to know that I really do miss people who can come to me and don't..... Today I've got some more for you to do besides read and apply ... I have a little journey for you. A journey and someone to go with you.

PG: EL?

Jay: No ... you probably won't see a lot of EL any more.... she plays a very specific role in our family and she does it very well. You'll have her to thank for being there for you.

PG: Yes, and I was hoping to get to know her better.

Jay: Don't worry, you'll see her at the reunion

PG: Reunion? sure ...Great ... So, who is the new person

Jay: GT Hope and she'll help you with your new assignment ... you need to write some new songs and sing."

PG: You call that work? I've been doing that for fun and getting paid sweet

SCENE NINE

GT: Hi, PG

PG: GT Hope?

GT: That's me ... good to meet you, Phil ... so are you ready to get started?

PG: Sure, I brought my guitar and some blank sheets ... even had some lyric ideas
.... listen "death destruction are all around think I'll dig a hole in the
ground, hide away till it goes away, then I'll party till the break of day.

GT: That's something you wrote a while ago isn't it?

PG: Yeah ... I guess I haven't been able to think much about songs since I took my
first honesty walk ... they all seem to be too honest and nobody likes them

GT: Well, nobody has to like them ... nobody but Jay

PG: But if nobody likes them how do I make any money? Who will listen if I can't
ring somebody's bell?

GT: You work for Jay now and he takes care of the finances ... just do what he
asked you to do ... sure it will be different ... but it will be good ... it will be
right.

PG: Ok ... here is one of those ... I just can't get it out of my head ... it's how I feel
... and it's very real for me right now ...

checker boards are black and white
and there's a world of wrong and right,
didn't want to have to choose,
thought that somehow I would lose.

But I chose and it's a brand new day,
found a new heart had come my way,
lost my fear of the past and I can say.

Take an honesty walk
it is the way, (chorus)
don't get caught by the media talk or you'll pay,
Living for Jay now and his task for the day,
Hey hey yea a brand new way ,



Phil Grimm is walking that honesty way."

GT: Awesome

PG: You really think so? ... So, where do I go from here? ... I can't go back to the studio

GT: I know you're not welcome there ... but you already talked about where you need to go next

PG: I did?

GT: Yeah ... the streets

SCENE TEN

PG: That was awesome Jay! Roscoe was so happy he almost broke my ribs with his hug!

Jay: Better than a concert crowd chanting your name?

PG: ... yeah ... different ... and better ... no hangover! So what is on the docket for today?

Jay: Spend some time with Roscoe ... show him the book and help him as he starts to reach out to his friends ... he has a rough crowd he hangs with and he didn't read the book like you did before the honesty walk.

PG: Sure ... be glad to ... but I've got a question ... don't mean to be pushy but ... well ... I'm kicked out of my place and what I have just about equals what I owe and

Jay: *(interrupts)* Hang out with Roscoe and trust me.

PG: *(heads out with GT)* He is kinda mysterious sometimes isn't he?

GT: It seems that way but its just because we don't understand him completely yet ... it always makes sense after a while ... give it time.

PG: Sure ... so where will I find Roscoe?

GT: At his home.

PG: House ... I met him on the streets ... he was hanging with street folk!?

GT: He's got a house: huge ... he had it all paid off before the wreck and his settlement has assured him a place to stay for the rest of his life.

PG: And I was worried about a place to stay ...

SCENE ELEVEN

PG: Ma'am, I want to thank you for stopping to listen and hope that you can find the same joy that I have

BL (Bag Lady): You're Phil Grimm aren't you? Don't you have a couple of big albums? Haven't I seen you on N-TV? What in the world are you doing here on the streets? Are you strung out on drugs or what? Hey Mildred Roscoe ... Willy look it's Phil Grimm ... he's strung out on drugs and is playing for hand outs ... can you believe it ... well I never *(She walks off)*

PG: Never ... I'm never doing this again that's for sure ... wait till I get a chance to talk to Jay about this ... who does he think he is anyway ... I'm Phil Grimm I've got a reputation to think of ... I've..

GT: Phil ... put a sock in it ... look you're following Jay's orders now not your own.... remember EL and the times she kept popping up? Well, she was following Jay's orders and it worked for you ... give it some time ... ok?

Roscoe: You're Phil Grimm aren't you?

PG: Look I can explain ...

Roscoe: Hey, you don't have to explain anything ... I was listening ... what you sang and said hit home ... how do I take an honest walk? ... I used to have it all just like you ... welterweight champion of the world ... then I get in this freak car wreck and can't box anymore think anybody cares? No man ... when the money was gone so were the friends ... but this Jay guy sounds awesome ... so when can we go?

PG: Rap?

Roscoe: Yeah ... can you lay down a rap beat ... Jay has put this song in my heart and it's for my people

PG: Rap?! ... you use the word "rap" and "music" in the same sentence?!

Roscoe: Easy, PG ... I went to one of your concerts one time and could only take about thirty minutes before I had to leave ... and you were getting paid big bucks to do that.

GT: Welcome to the world of the "finger print"

Roscoe & PG: What?!

GT: Everyone has a unique "finger print" ... something that are unique and make us especially suited for Jay ... PG, for you, it's your style of music ... and Roscoe ... well, it's his style of music.

PG: But he was a fighter not a singer?!



GT: No, he was a singer who boxed.

Roscoe: Yeah ... I even have a degree from Brown University in Music.

PG: Rap?

GT: Music

SCENE TWELVE

Roscoe: I think you're getting it ... one more time

PG (*Lays down a rap background*)

Roscoe

Dog eat dog
And I'd been ate
Nothing left of a serious way
Back to the hood
Try to hang with the boys
Nothing doing
They playing with
Death like toys

Outsider talks
Of an honest way
Listen ... why not?
Nothing going my way

Walking Walking Walking Jay's Way
Walking Walking it's a serious Day

Back to my homies
Back to the hood
Back to talk
Of the way that is good

Roscoe: Ready to hit the streets?

PG: That was good ... I mean really good

Roscoe: Thanks man ... Boxing paid the bills but this was always my passion ... I just got lost in all the money grabbing ... fame seeking ... promoter generated ... rat race

PG: Yeah? ... It was exactly the same for me ... it was all what I thought I wanted... but really there were only a few things on the menu ... it was like I only saw part of what was out there ... It's amazing how great something can sound until you get it

Roscoe: I was reading the book this morning ... and here's what it said ... Each man's argument seems right till the other one presents his case ...

PG: Too true ... you know I think that's most of the problem ... most people don't even know the Jay option.

Roscoe: That's why we're going to the streets!

PG: That works for you and your people and even some of mine but what about everyone else?

PG and Roscoe (*turn to the audience*)

PG: Do your people know?

Roscoe: Have they heard about the Jay option?

PLATFORM

This can be the youth leader, pastor, or someone who can take advantage of the platform that has been created. It hold hope for none Christians who have been there but has also been a reminder for the Christian what their live is all about and some of the key factors in it.



EASTER THE EVENT

THE Event

A Dramatization of THE Event
that has influenced HIStory
more than any other
single event.



Guidelines and Suggestions

1. Take the time with each scene to let the audience connect with it. Don't be in a hurry to rush through it.
2. Use as much space as can, or need to, to facilitate the time and space issues.
 - a. Walk down an aisle in the audience
 - b. Have one scene on a far wall of the room
 - c. Have some of the actors in the audience
3. The number of actors can vary based on who you have to work with. Feel free to modify the script as needed to work with your group and setting.

SCENE ONE

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem

John 12:12-19 & Luke 19:28-44

Cast: Crowd, Jesus, Mom with small Child, young Boy, Pharisees, Temple Merchants, Roman Soldier, Donkey (real or prop)

DAYLIGHT

A loud, joyful crowd accompanies Jesus as he enters the gates on a donkey.

They toss greens and repeatedly shout;

Crowd: Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the King of Israel!

Jesus dismounts the donkey and then is greeted by a mom with her small child who tells everyone of the miracle that Jesus performed. He had healed the child of a crippling disease.

A young boy comes up and thanks Jesus for healing his father who had been crippled for several years.

The loud, joyful praises begin again;

Crowd: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Pharisees come into argue over the praise.

Jesus: I tell you, *he replied*, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.

Pharisees leave and Jesus faces the crowd and weeps.

Jesus: If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-- but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

Jesus leaves to go clear out the temple. He is followed by the crowd.

Jesus: "It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers"

The Roman soldier comes out as Jesus leaves to go clear the temple.

Roman Soldier: He didn't make any sense at all. This Jesus.....the Christ.

I laughed at him as he entered the city.

But I couldn't laugh when the miracles were retold.

I'd seen the sick girl and the boy's crippled father.

His muscular frame and sturdy hands tell me he has worked for a living.

But he challenges the teachers and leaders of this Jewish sect with wisdom....wisdom I've never heard.

And now he's in cleaning out the temple again.

He's done this before.

Seems these people love their money more than their religion.

Well, enough of my thoughts.

Tonight the real action begins.



SCENE TWO

Entering the Garden of Gethsemane

John 18:1-14 & Luke 22:39-54

Cast: Jesus, Disciples, Roman Soldier

DARKNESS OF NIGHT

Jesus and his disciples enter singing a hymn; 23rd Psalm.

Jesus challenges the disciples to pray and then goes on farther to pray.

Jesus: Pray that you will not fall into temptation.

Jesus: Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not by will, but yours be done.

(repeat several times, Jesus sweat blood so this can take a while)

Jesus comes and wakes up his disciples.

Judas and the soldiers, priests, Pharisees, arrive and arrest Jesus.

Peter takes out his sword.

Jesus: No more of this.

Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour--when darkness reigns.

Soldier seize and bind Jesus and take him away.

Soldier enters. And begins to share again.

Roman Soldier: He must not have been much of a leader.

One of his own, a man named Judas betrayed his position.

But I can't shake his eyes.

I have not seen fear in his eyes yet.

Even when one of his own disciples almost turned it into a battle with his sword,
there wasn't any fear in his eyes.

I've been afraid.

More than once I've been in battles where only the power of Zeus, or somebody
kept me from the slaughter.

What about you?! How do you deal with your fear, especially at night?!

Jesus, I don't know what you think about him, but I must learn more.

Come with me as we take Jesus to the religious leaders.

SCENE THREE

Annas, Caiaphas, and the Council

John 18:12-23 & Luke 22:63-71 & Mark 14:53-65

Cast: Jesus, Guards, Council, Annas, Caiaphas, Roman Soldier

DARK NIGHT (Low Light, if your fire codes allow and it's safe, use oil lamps, candles, etc.)

Jesus is brought into the council bound and guarded.

Soldier mocks him. They blindfold him. And beat him.

(you can use foam tubular pipe insulation to beat Jesus with a make a lot of noise but no damage)

Guards: Prophecy! Who hit you!

Jesus is questioned by the leaders of the council as many testify against him. But none of their testimonies agree (Taped or live voices). The testimonies would be played during this time

Caiaphas: Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?

Jesus remains silent.

Caiaphas: Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?

Jesus: I am.....And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Annas: Why do we need anymore witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?

They tear their clothes and shout;

Council: He is worthy of death! He is not fit to live!

Now he is blindfolded again and struck with fists and beaten and drug out.

The soldier returns to speak

Roman Soldier: It was all a part of my duty. I was assigned to the religious leadership in Jerusalem.

More than my duty it was my pleasure.

My frustration always came out on others.

I beat people as a part of my job.

But it had become a part of my life; the only way I could deal with my anger.

Oh sure, you think I'm some kind of barbaric animal.

I know you're no different. You beat your wives and children in this country.

But him. I can't shake his eyes. I can't shake his power and peace.

Why didn't he do something. Say something. Defend himself.

Where was that wisdom that had deflated these religious animals before?

They are circling around him like a pack of hungry dogs.

SCENE FOUR

Pilate and the Pratoreum

Mark 15:1-15 & Matthew 27:11-26 & Luke 23:1-25 &

John 18:28-19:16

Cast: Jesus, Pilate, Council, Guards, Crowd, Roman Soldier

MORNING DAYLIGHT

Jesus is bound and hustled in to face Pilate by the council.

Pilate: What charges are you bringing against this man?

Council: If he were not a criminal we would not have handed him over to you

Pilate: Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

Council: But we have no right to execute anyone.

We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: Is that your own idea or did others talk to you about me?

Pilate: Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who hand you over to me. What is it you have done?

Jesus: My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.

Pilate: You are a king then!

Jesus: You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into this world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.

Pilate: What is truth (*speaking to council*) I find no basis for a charge against this man. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release the king of the Jews?

Council: No, not him! Give us Barabbas!

Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Therefore I will punish him and release him.

Jesus is taken away and given 39 lashes, crown of thorns, and mocked by the soldiers in the Pratoreum. The shouts never cease. Jesus is brought back in a bloody mess.

Pilate: Here is the man!

Crowd: Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!

Crucify him! Crucify him!

Pilate: You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.

Council: We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claims to be the Son of God.

Pilate: Where do you come from? Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?

Jesus: You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

Council: If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.

Crowd: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Here is your King.

Crowd: Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!

Pilate: Shall I crucify your king?

Crowd: We have no king but Caesar.

Pilate: I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility.

Crowd: Let his blood be on us and on our children!

Jesus is led off and then the soldier returns to speak.

Roman Soldier: He must be about my age....Although I look a lot better than he does right now. Of course these aren't for beauty treatments (*Holds up whip*)

Except for his eyes I would never know who he was.

Most men break under this kind of abuse.

But then I don't think that he is like most men.

I'm not even sure he is human.

Oh yes he bleeds.

But besides the blood, he bleeds love.

Now it's my job to crucify him.

SCENE FIVE

The cross and the death walk

Mark 15:21-41 & Matthew 27:32-56

Cast: Jesus, Women, Soldiers, Thief 1, Thief 2, Roman Soldier

Jesus enters carrying the cross.

Women are crying.

Jesus stumbles and Simon is forced to pick it up and carry it for Jesus.

Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;

weep for yourselves and for your children.

For the time will come when you will say.

' Blessed are the barren women,

the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!

Then they will say to the mountains, fall on us!

and to the hills, Cover us"

For if men do these things when the tree is green,

what will happen when it is dry?"

The group makes its way to the front where Jesus is laid down and crucified. Sounds of the nails ring out. The cross is propped up.

Jesus: My God My God why have you forsaken me?

Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

Dear woman, here is your son, John, Here is your mother!

Thief 1: Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!

Thief 2: Don't you fear God,
since you are under the same sentence?
We are punished justly,
for we are getting what our deeds deserve.
But this man has done nothing wrong.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus: I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise
DARKNESS COMES

Jesus: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.
It is finished

Soldier walks out again.

Roman Soldier: Surely this man was a righteous man.
Surely he was the Son of God!"
And I have beaten and crucified him.
What will be my fate?
Or yours?



Drama Games
by Shawna Beers
Copyright 2004

ISBN # 1-886904-51-0

Published by MST Ministries
PO Box 8490
Lacey WA 98509

www.mstgo.com

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Ah Um

Number of participants: 2 or more

Purpose: Thinking on your feet when the words just don't come. Good preparation for improvisation.

Description: Divide into groups of two or three people. Instruct each group that each person will have 30 seconds to fulfill the following task. They simply have to talk about a subject...one that is chosen by the leader. The speaking person of each team must talk for the entire 30 seconds without pausing. The trick? They aren't allowed to say "Ah" or "Um" during their 30 seconds of talking. The others in the group are to keep track of how many Ah and Ums are said.

Ideas:

Weather

Hamburgers

Microsoft

Egypt pyramids

Honda

Invention of Electricity

Movies

Picture Frame

Gym

Pizza Hut

Cartoon

Oriental Rugs



Alphabet Race

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Teamwork, group participation

Description: Divide into two or more teams. Designate a “caller”, the leader. The caller yells out a letter or number and the team must become that letter or number as quickly as possible. The catch: every team member must be a part of the letter or number. Let the teams make their alphabet anyway they can, just as long as everyone is a part of it. The team members can lie on the ground or stand to make the letters. Keep score for the fastest letter and/or number, which must be done correctly. After achieving great letters, try words with the entire group.



Can You Be...?

Number of participants: 2 or more

Purpose: Build improvisational skills having to think on your feet .

Description: This is a simple game of quick-thinking and spontaneous action and requires creativity. This can be done with the whole group acting or one to five people at a time. One person, the leader, is the “caller”. The caller yells out different items and each person must become that item. The items can be anything...see list below for ideas. There can also be the life of an item...a piece of gum, a piece of gum being chewed, a piece of gum blown into a bubble, POP! There is no “right” action just that everyone does something.

Object ideas:

Car	Lamp	Spoon
Balloon	Lemon	Shoes
Scooter	Any color	Bear rug
Tree in wind storm	Giraffe	Rag doll
Sandwich	Lawnmower	Planet Saturn
TV remote control	Clown	Bug
Snake	Chair	Bug being chased
Airplane	Candle	Bug stepped on



Fire Swamp

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Institute teamwork, follow instructions.

Description: Time to travel across the fire swamp. Divide into teams of five to seven people. Each team must get every person from the dock “beginning point” to safety “ending point.” Put these two points approximately 12 feet apart. Each team receives three pieces of fire-proof paper (8.5 x 11). These are the only items they can use to get their team across the Fire Swamp. If anyone’s foot, hand, leg touches off the paper, they instantly die in the Fire Swamp. This must be done very dramatically. The team must still get the “deceased” person’s body to safety, but the “deceased” person is unable to help them in any way. The goal is to get the entire team across the Fire Swamp to safety.



Fog in the Forest

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Warm up the body with creative movement specific to a given described scene.

Description: Time for a little adventure, as we walk through the forest. Walk the group through the forest. Stand in a circle and begin walking clockwise. Have a leader in your group call out where you are walking, running, climbing, or crawling. Each person needs to respond appropriately to what's called out. The leader can increase a situation's intensity. Example: walk through the mud and it gets thicker and thicker until one can barely walk.

Ideas:

Over a stump

Through the mud

Chased by a bear

Hit a tree

Slapped by a branch

Fall in quicksand

Under a fallen tree

Through thick brush

Stub your toe

Snakes



Freeze

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: A challenge in improvisation and creativity, scene and character building, learning to own one's lines and allow space for other actors.

Description: Two people (A and B) start on stage acting out a scene they have created. This can be anything from cooking in a kitchen to cheerleading to rowing a boat. A and B act out their scene until someone (C) calls, "Freeze." They both freeze where they are. C, the person who called out freeze, then taps one person (A or B) on the shoulder and takes their exact position. C then starts a new and *completely different* scene. Continue until each person has an opportunity to participate. If people are hesitant to jump in, simply call, "Freeze" and the name of who is to join next or make an order of who goes when.

Ideas:

Sitting in a classroom

Playing leapfrog

Working on a car

Children eating bugs

Surfing

Big time wrestling

Parent and child

Shopping

Arguing over chocolate

Watching tennis



Ice Sculpture

Number of participants: Any number

Purpose: Develop body control

Description: Play music or simply get the team moving around. Everyone should walk, dance, move creatively. At any point, yell, “Freeze.” Each person freezes wherever they are and is now an ice sculpture. Then slowly the room begins to “heat up” and the statues melt from their head to their toes. Each phase of melting should show the change from stiff ice to fluid water. The statues melt all the way to the floor until they become a puddle. This puddle then becomes water for a seed. Each person turns into the seed and slowly begins to grow becoming a flower, which blooms.



Machines

Number of participants: 4 or more

Purpose: Allow the team opportunity to create together and stretch the imagination.

Description: Divide into groups of four to six people. Give each group a time limit of 10-30 seconds and have them build a working machine using only themselves. The rules: *Everyone* in the group must be part of the machine. All machines have *movement* and *sound*. As the teams catch on to the idea shorten the creating time.

Ideas:

Lawnmower

Washing machine

Fan

Dishwasher

Copy machine

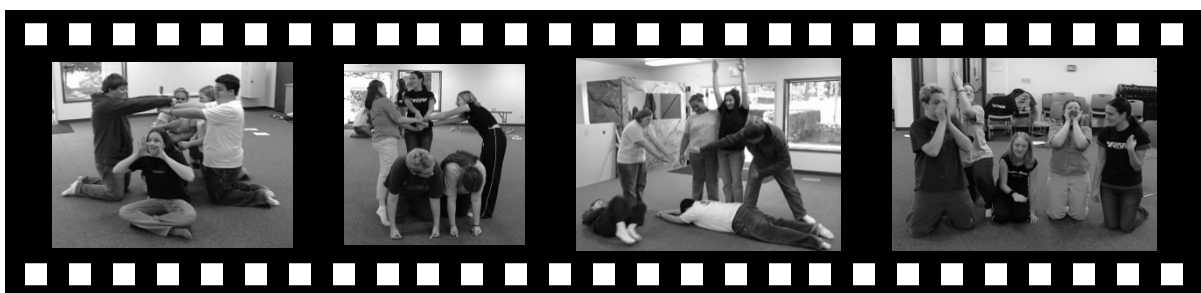
Telephone

CD player

Blender

TV

Car



Mirror, Mirror

Number of participants: 2 or more

Purpose: A simple warm-up exercise that helps get the body moving and develop facial expressions

Description: Have each person find a partner and stand facing each other. Choose one person of each pair to be the leader and the other to be the image. This person then makes motions or movements and the other person must then follow, acting as though they are the mirrored image of the lead person. If the lead person raises their right hand, the mirror image raises their left. Encourage facial expressions, extending the body, raising arms or legs. Big movements are best. After a minute or so, switch image and leader.

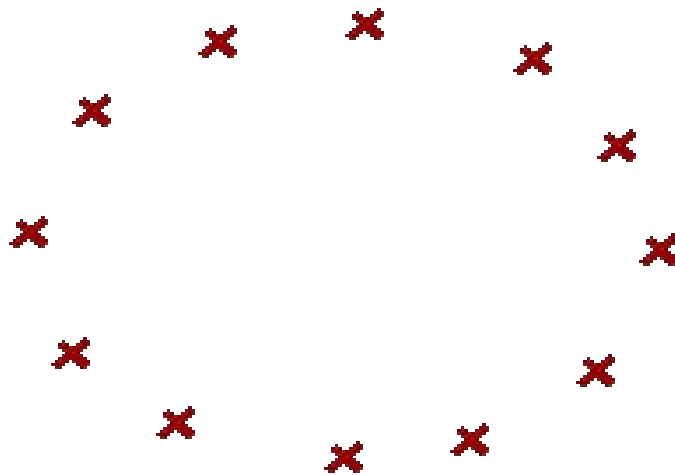


Name Game

Number of participants: 5 or more

Pupose: Acquaint team members with each other. Also, observe creativity, memory, and quick-thinking.

Description: stand in a circle. Choose someone to go first. Person One says their name and does an action. The action can be anything from jumping up and down; raising their hands; waving; somersault, etc. Person Two then says the name of Person One and does their action, then they say their own name and do their own action. Person Three starts with Person One, Person Two then, their own. Goes all the way around the circle. Person One then does the entire group. Person One is the first and last person of the game.



On the Farm

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Challenge memory and practice miming objects.

Description: One by one each person enters a barn. Each person brings one item with them into the barn (cow, reigns, bucket, rake, etc.) and puts it away. Each person must make reference to every item that has been placed inside the barn. If Person One brings in a cow, when Person Two enters they must put away their item and also make reference to the cow (touch it, milk it, pat its head, etc.). Be sure when items are brought in the people in the audience can identify each item as it is mimed.

Object Ideas:

Reigns	Hay	Saddle
Cow	Feed trough	Tractor
Stool	Hose	Pitch fork
Rake	Pig	Leaking milk bucket
Shovel	Apple	Chicken
Horse	Barrel	Mower



Say the Phrase

Number of participants: 1 or more

Purpose: Character development, defining and expressing emotion and character voices.

Description: This can be done as a group or individually. Give the team a phrase, example: "Sunshine makes me smile." Each person, or the group, then says this phrase as though they are a certain person or with a particular emotion.

Ideas:

Say this phrase

New York is awesome.

My mom is the best cook.

Friends cause laughter.

The LA Times are overrated.

Kitty cats are cute creatures.

People adore me.

As though you were

A football linebacker

3, 15, 80 years old

A referee counting for a knock out

Someone in love

Have peanut butter stuck on the roof
of your mouth

Angry at your dog

Crying

Hyperventilating



Something New

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Stretch the creative imagination and build improvisational skills.

Description: Divide into teams of three to six people. Give each team a different object, anything you have lying around. The teams must now create a short sketch involving this item, but the item must not be used in its normal fashion. Example: A team takes its platter and turns it into a shield for jousting. Two people become horses and the other two ride the horses, one with the shield.

Ideas:

Object

Ball

Ruler

Chair

Cup

Blanket

New use

Pillow, wheel

Bat, pointer, flute, toothbrush

Podium, bush, tunnel

Telephone, binoculars

Parachute, cape



Space Jump

Number of participants: 5 or more

Purpose: A variation to Freeze, character development, improvisational skills.

Description: *Space Jump* –One or two people (A and B) start on stage acting out a scene they have created. Someone, C, then calls out, “Freeze.” A and B freeze where they are and C joins them on stage and creates a brand new scene. At the first word from C, A & B come alive and join the new scene. This continues until there are five people on stage, A, B, C, D, and E. E is the last to arrive with their new scene. They must then find an appropriate reason to leave the scene they have created. If E has joined the stage and changes the scene to kids playing leapfrog, a legitimate reason to leave would be their mother calling or they have fallen down. The scene then changes back to the scene person D created. D finds a good reason to leave, and the scene changes to person C’s scene. C finds a legitimate reason to leave, down to scene A & B. They then find an appropriate ending to their scene.

Example: A & B are in the kitchen cooking a cake and start having a food fight. C calls freeze and joins them, changing the scene to the army. C is the commander and A & B the recruits. A & B start doing push-ups and D then calls freeze, changing the scene to swimming practice. E freezes the group and changes the scene to leapfrog. E gets hurt and leaves. Back to swimming. D gets tired and goes to take a shower. Back to the army. C finishes the work out and goes to the mess hall. Back to the kitchen. A & B continue the food fight until someone gets flour in their eyes and has to quit. They go home. Space Jump is now ended and ready for the next team to start



Taxi

Number of participants: 5 or more

Purpose: Character development, teamwork, allowing space for other actors.

Description: Four chairs are set up in a box to represent a car/taxi. There are four spots in the car: driver, passenger one, passenger two, passenger three. Other actors are left outside the taxi prepared to hail the taxi and enter the fun. When a new taxi rider enters the taxi, they bring with them a new personality or characteristic. All those already in the taxi take on this new characteristic and act accordingly. Someone on the outside calls taxi, everyone moves seats and the new person changes the scene inside the taxi. Play until everyone has had at least one opportunity to come into the taxi and bring a new characteristic. This is a good learning experience for actors to give each other space and take ownership for their lines, even though it's adlib.

Character Ideas:

Giddy

Dog putting head out the window

Crying

Use Your Imagination

Ditzy Blonde/Valley Girl

Rock Star

Looking for a Lost Dog

Late for a Meeting





Walk of Life

Number of participants: 3 or more

Purpose: Character development

Description: Gather the group in a circle and begin to walk slowly in a circle. As you walk, have a leader call out different stages of life starting as a little child until becoming quite old. Look for differences in people's interpretation of the various stages of life. Encourage the changes in age differences. Talking is allowed as long as the conversation fits the year of life. Variations to this exercise: do more than just a walk of aging but also different nationalities or varying economic backgrounds.

