

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION BIBLE SKITS

The Life of Jesus As Told In The Four Gospels



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TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Lights, Camera, Action Bible Skits—the Life of Jesus as Told in the Four Gospels, is presented here in skit format, inspired from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I hope you find these skits to be meaningful and fun, and inspire the children in your ministry to “act on their faith”!

Staging and costuming is not required. However, you may opt to have children participate in decorating background scenes* as part of their hands-on Bible skit experience. You may want to provide a costume box, clothes rack or costume closet for the actors. If your church cannot afford Bible-time costumes, then use various wide strips of cloth, towels, bathrobes, or smocks to drape over shoulders and heads and tie off with cloth belts. Wigs, beards, and costume jewelry are also fun accessories to include for your actors. Using theater makeup is also an option. If you do not want to use costumes, then simply assign parts and/or pin nametags on the actors to indicate the characters they are portraying.

Whenever possible, and before handing out the scripts to the actors, read or explain the Bible story, or parts of the Bible story, from a child-friendly Bible. After you’ve read the story, choose your actors and then have them highlight their parts. Allow plenty of time for practice. The length of each script varies, with some having two and three parts in order to tell the story narrative. You may also want to act out several skits consecutively during class time. If appropriate, and depending on the story, encourage actors to ham it up or keep it serious. Help children emphasize words and phrases correctly and pronounce difficult words before beginning. Ideally, your children should be able to read their parts. However, some of the skits have little to no speaking parts for younger children who cannot read or for children who do not want to speak. If younger children are participating and cannot read, the Director can give instruction for the child to pantomime the part. For example, if the skit reads, “John says, ‘I want to follow Jesus.’” the Director might say, “John wants to follow Jesus.”, then say to the child, “John, follow Jesus.” The teacher/director is not only saying the part, but also giving direction to the actor.

Videotaping your skits makes class time even more fun, reinforces the Bible lesson when children watch it, and provides a “living Bible” memory-maker for your church!

The amount of time you put into the skits is determined by how elaborate you want to make them. You could easily spend several weeks creating the sets, costumes, and memorizing parts, or spend no time at all with that aspect of it.

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For smaller classes, children may act out more than one part. For larger classes, I have intentionally written certain parts such as “crowd, disciple, or Pharisee,” so that more than one actor could play those parts. Before beginning, you would split, number, or combine parts depending on how many actors you have. Larger classes could also “produce” the same skit with different groups, and then perform and film them separately.

You may also decide to have one group of children perform one skit, have another group proceed to the next skit, and then perform them consecutively for your “living Bible” video.

DIRECTORS, ACTORS AND BACKSTAGE HANDS:

- ❖ Director is always the teacher, who instructs actors during practice.
- ❖ Narrator can be the teacher or an older child who reads well.
- ❖ Actors read their parts or pantomime them, according to the Director’s decision.
- ❖ Cameraperson should be an adult, or an older, responsible child.
- ❖ Lighting - This is a perfect position for a child or children who do not want a speaking part. Use spotlights or large flashlights to shine on the actors during practices and performances.
- ❖ Set Design* - Read the story, or part of the story, from the Bible passage first, and then allow the class to imagine and create what should be part of the background scene for your stage. I’ve also included prop ideas with most of the skits. An actual stage is not necessary, but an alternative is to use a large area rug for your “stage.” All the actors can design background scenes using large sheets of butcher paper and colored markers and crayons. You can copy pictures onto overhead sheets and then project them onto large sheets of paper or drop cloths for children to trace and color or paint the scenes. Improvisation is the key! (See note, below.)

Have fun teaching your kids to *act on their faith!*

For Jesus and his Kingdom,



Sarah A. Keith <><
SundaySchoolNetwork.com

*In my book, *Lights, Camera, Action Bible Skits, based on the Gospel According to Mark*, I have included three patterns with instructions on how to create your own Bible-time background scenes. Learn more at:

<https://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/set-design.htm>

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SCENE 8: BORN AGAIN... SAY WHAT?

Jesus and Nicodemus (Jn 3)

Choose Your Actors: Narrator, Jesus, Disciples (one or more actors, number and assign parts), Nicodemus.

Director: Lights, Camera, Action!

(Jesus and his disciples are sitting in a circle. Jesus is talking to them.)

Jesus: God loves you so much; he sent me to save you.

Disciple: Does he love only us?

Disciple: Is that why you chose us?

Jesus: I chose you to go tell everyone the good news.

Disciple: What should we say?

Jesus: I want you to tell people that God loves them. Whoever believes in me shall not die, but will have eternal life.

Disciple: Aren't you going to punish people for their sins?

Jesus: God sent me to save the world, not condemn it. Whoever believes in me is not condemned, but whoever does not believe, is condemned already.

Narrator: Later that evening, one of the Pharisees, an important religious ruler named Nicodemus, came to ask Jesus a question.

(Nicodemus enters and sits down with the disciples)

Nicodemus: Teacher, we know God sent you. No one else could do such great miracles without God's power and approval!

Jesus: You are right. What you say is true. But no one can see the kingdom of God, unless he is born again.

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Nicodemus: Say what? How can that be? I'm too big! I can't fit in my mom's tummy!

Jesus: That's true. People are first born physically. However, to get into God's Kingdom you must also be born spiritually!

Nicodemus: Say what? How can that be?

Jesus: This shouldn't surprise you! When the wind blows, you hear its sound. But you can't tell where it comes from or where it's going next. Right?

Nicodemus: Uh, yes. But what does that have to do with being born spiritually?

Jesus: God's Spirit is like the wind. We can't see his Spirit, but we can see what his Spirit does. God gives new life—eternal life—to people who trust and follow him; he changes them to become like him. In other words, they're born from above—they're born again spiritually!

Nicodemus: But, but, I still don't get it.

Jesus: You're one of Israel's teachers, but you don't understand these basic things? I've told you about earthly things, but you don't believe me. How will you ever understand heavenly things?

Nicodemus: Help me, sir!

Jesus: What does God's Word say happened when Moses lifted up the bronze snake in the desert?

Nicodemus: If a poisonous snake bit people, they would look at Moses' bronze snake and wouldn't die—they lived; they were saved.

Jesus: Yes, that is right. The same is true for me, the Son of Man. I too must be lifted up, so that everyone who looks to me will live eternally.

Narrator: Then Jesus and his disciples left and went out to the countryside, where they spent some time together.

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Watch the Video

Discussion Time

- 1) Who sent Jesus into this world? (Father God)
- 2) What did Jesus say was the reason he was sent by the Father? (To save the world)
- 3) What did Jesus say that Nicodemus needed to do? (Be born again)
- 4) What does it mean to be born again? (Spiritual birth)
- 5) How are people born spiritually? (Through God's Spirit)
- 6) How can we be born again? (By believing, trusting in Jesus. Read John 3:1-7; 16-18)
- 7) What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (To trust or rely on him, to understand that God came into the world to save us; through Jesus we can be forgiven of our sins. We cannot save ourselves.)
- 8) What do you think Jesus meant when he compared his being "lifted up" to the bronze snake that Moses lifted up? (Read Numbers 21:1-8; if people were bit by a poisonous snake, God had instructed Moses to hold up a bronze metal snake for them to look up at and be saved. Jesus compared this to how he would be lifted up and crucified on a cross. His death pays the punishment for people's sins—so that whoever *looks* to Jesus will be saved from God's punishment and live with him forever.)

Pray

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SCENE 14: WEED IT AND WEEP

Parable of the Weeds (Mt 13:24-30; 36-43)

Choose Your Actors: Narrator, Jesus, Disciples, Farmer, Enemy, Servants, Master, Narrator.

Props: paper bags, one with “Wheat Seeds” written on it and one with “Weed Seeds” written on it; name tags to identify: Farmer, Enemy, Servants, and Master.

Director: Lights, Camera, Action!

Jesus: I want to tell you another parable.

Disciple: Yes! We love these stories about God’s kingdom.

Jesus: God’s kingdom is like a man who sowed good wheat seed in his field.

Farmer: (walks along “spreading” wheat seed in the field)

Jesus: But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat.

Enemy: (walks and spreads weed seeds in the field)

Disciple: That’s not good!

Jesus: Then the Enemy went away.

Disciple: That’s good!

Jesus: Yes, but when the wheat plants grew up so did the weeds.

Disciple: That’s not good!

Jesus: Now listen to what the Servant and Master have to say to one another.

Servant: Master, there are weeds growing in the field! There must have been something wrong with that wheat seed.

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Master: No, an enemy planted those weeds!

Servant: Do you want us to pick out the weeds before the wheat gets taller?

Master: No, because you might accidentally pull up the good wheat. Let the wheat and weeds grow together until harvest time. I will then tell the reapers to gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, and then bring the wheat into my barn.

Narrator: After Jesus finished teaching the crowds, he went home.

(Jesus sitting down.)

Disciples: (knocking on Jesus' door)

Jesus: Hi, guys, come in. What's up?

Disciple: We've been trying to understand that wheat and weeds parables. Please explain it to us.

End of sample.

Purchase this skit at:

<https://www.sundayschoolnetwork.com/Bible-skits-Jesus.html>